Region VII Head Start Association

ANN LINEHAN SAFETY AWARD

The Region VII Head Start Association (R7HSA) established the Ann Linehan Safety Award in honor of Ms. Linehan on the announcement of her 2021 retirement as the Deputy Director of the Office of Head Start, ending her longstanding career with the Administration for Children and Families.

One only has to read Ms. Linehan's letter to grantees dated January 3, 2018, to understand the depth of her concern and passion for providing children a safe, nurturing, and loving environment. The letter contains a difficult but important message shared with grantees regarding an alarming increase in reported number of child incidents while children were in the care of a Head Start/Early Head Start Program.

The *Ann Linehan Safety Award* builds on the R7HSA *Safe in Hand* Campaign launched in 2019 in response to Ms. Linehan's letter for the purpose of raising awareness and the importance of providing a safe indoor and outdoor classroom setting including transportation services, where provided, for every child handed off by a parent/caregiver to a Head Start/Early Head Start staff member is always the programs highest priority.

2022 marks the first year the Ann Linehan Safety Award was open for applications. The award will continue to be offered annually and awarded at an R7HSA annual event contingent upon receipt of qualifying recipient applications.

Award submissions will be reviewed by an impartial panel of experienced Head Start/Early Head Start professionals with former or current direct field program supervisory/management level experience.

Submit online application here: Ann Linehan Safety Award

DUE DATE: March 1, 2027.

R7HSA Salutes

ANN LINEHAN

for

40 Years of Service

with the Head Start Program.

2022 Awardee

South Central Iowa Community Action Program

Region VII Head Start Association
IOWA | KANSAS | MISSOURI | NEBRASKA

www.R7HSA.com • 816.705.6545
312 SW Greenwich Dr., Ste. 105, Lee's Summit, MO 64082

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CRITERIA: Criteria for the award is set at the highest level in an effort to recognize a recipient who has demonstrated the following:

1. The recipient meets and exceeds 45 CFR §1302.47 of the Head Start Program Performance Standards by establishing a system of health and safety practices ensuring children are kept safe at all times.
2. The recipient can describe how they have exercised due diligence in their response to serving infants, toddler, children, and families mitigating the spread of communicable diseases.
3. The recipient meets state Child Care licensing regulations.
4. The recipient has been incident free for the last twelve months and has not been cited as non-compliant on their most current Focus Area Two 2 monitoring review in respect to Performance Measure 4 (PM4) Safety Practices.
5. For programs involved in child care partnerships, please describe how your program has successfully supported partners in providing safe and developmentally appropriate environments designed to protect the health and safety of children, families, and staff. Please expand on resources, professional development, including partners in program planning activities as well as other direct support your program has provided to ensure they are successful in implementing comprehensive services that promote the well-being of all children in your care.

In addition to the criteria previously listed, the recipient must include a one-to-two-page self-reflection narrative describing how their program has used innovation to go beyond regulations and requirements, mirroring the message in Ms. Linehan's January 3, 2018, letter, *"Keeping Every Child safe, and feeling loved Every Moment while in our care, which is foundational to Head Start and Early Head Start programs."*

DUE DATE: March 1, 2027 Submit online application here: Ann Linehan Safety Award

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