

AWSYC Head Start Program Sequestration Impacts Approach

When we received the news of the Sequestration and were told to plan for a 5.27% cut in allotted grant dollars, our school district began to calculate what total amount would be cut from our program. Our total grant is for \$1,283,443. After we were given our reduced level of \$1,216,921, we then met with our district finance department to brainstorm options. We knew that our first priority would be to maintain a quality program and to continue to serve our 193 Head Start students. Our local school board supports the importance of Early Education and wants us to be able to continue to make an impact in Denton County. We therefore knew that we could not make cuts in the area of instructional staff if we were going to continue serving the same amount of students. The only areas left to cut were members of our program team and our supply money. After a lot of thought and problem solving, our proposed plan to meet our reduced level of funding was to first cut the majority of our supplies which would equal \$17,043. The district will in turn allow us to use our local campus budget to cover this cost. Next we are going to cut two positions on our program team. One position is our Child Services Aide with a salary of \$26,782. The other is an Office Aide with the salary of \$22,697. We will have other program team members ready and trained to assume the responsibilities of the staff members that we are losing in order to not affect the quality of our program. These 3 cuts will result in a dollar amount of \$66,522 which will meet the required cut. Our district does not want staff members to be without a job so they are willing to help them to find another position within the school district. We are very fortunate to have our Superintendent's and School Board's support through the sequestration process.

SUMMARY:

The AWSYC Head Start Program was asked by its Policy Council and Governing Board to make every effort to minimize the impact of sequestration on the students we serve. Because our first priority would be to maintain a quality program and to continue to serve our 193 Head Start students, reductions could only come from the program team positions and the materials budget. The following sequestration decisions were made:

- ❖ \$17,043 in Supplies; Local/Denton ISD dollars will be used to purchase necessary supplies for the 2013-14 school year.
- ❖ \$26,782 Child Services Aide position; Program Team job responsibilities will be adjusted to insure the effect on the program is minimized.
- ❖ \$22,697 Office Aide position; Program Team job responsibilities will be adjusted to insure the effect on the program is minimized.

The Denton Independent School district made the commitment to find appropriate positions for any displaced employees.