



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Community Action Council Closing Early Childhood Education Centers and Collapsing Operations at One Neighborhood Community Center Amid COVID-19 Concerns

Lexington, KY—Late Friday evening, Community Action Council (the Council) notified all of their Head Start parents, families, and all staff members, that all direct-managed early childhood education centers, known as Prep Academies, will be closed beginning Monday, March 16, 2020.

The Council operates Early Head Start and/or Head Start in 13 counties and, as of now, all of its Early Head Start and Head Start programs will reopen on the day the local county school district reopens.

In advance of their decision, Council staff began making plans to ensure that their Head Start families will continue to have access to items provided for infants and toddlers during the school day, such as baby formula, diapers and wipes. Parents and families will be contacted directly with details regarding distribution of these items.

The Council also operates seven neighborhood community centers throughout its four-county core service area of Bourbon, Harrison, Lexington-Fayette and Nicholas. Beginning Monday, March 16, 2020, one of the Council's neighborhood community centers will be closed: Russell School Community Services Center, located at 520 Toner Street in Lexington. This location shares space with another organization that provides housing to senior adults. Out of an abundance of caution for the health and safety of community residents, this location will be closed until further notice.

As of now, all other community centers will remain open and operational during the normal business hours of 8:30AM-5:00PM. The Council is working quickly with its funding and community partners to develop strategies that will allow the Council to continue to deliver critical services and support to community residents while adhering to the guidance from public health officials regarding social distancing and reducing community spread.

Said executive director Sharon Price, "We know the impact the coronavirus may have on individuals and families living in or near poverty and we are working hard to ensure that we can continue to meet their most pressing needs in the safest ways possible. Who we are is in our name—community action. We will continue to be a reliable resource for our community."

As information changes or becomes known, the Council will update its social media pages and website. You can find them on Facebook by searching for Community Action Council. Their website is www.commaction.org.

Community Action Council is a private, non-profit organization with nearly 55 years of experience preventing, reducing and eliminating poverty. Working extensively in its four core counties, the Council works alongside more than 20,000 individuals each year in the areas of emergency services, education, employment, housing, and youth services.

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