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## **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Does Not Approve a Boulder Head Start Program**

Helena MT. Earlier this winter, officials at Rocky Mountain Development Council, Inc., (RMDC) learned that the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, did not approve their application to launch a Head Start program in Boulder. “We’re very disappointed,” says Patty Dahl, Head Start Director for Lewis & Clark, Jefferson, and Broadwater counties. “We felt as if we submitted a strong application.”

Dahl expressed her heartfelt appreciation for the breadth of Boulder community support for this comprehensive early childhood development program. “Given how many community members and organizations provided us with information and encouragement as we crafted the application, I continue to be very surprised and saddened that the grant was not approved,” Dahl said. “The community worked so very hard to attract this program.”

Had it been awarded, the grant would have provided 16 slots for Boulder children and their families. Head Start is a national program that promotes school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children as it provides educational, health, nutritional, social and other services to enrolled children and families. The program’s success in meeting this goal, even as other educational strategies fail, remains outstanding.

“We want to express our thanks to so many in Boulder for supporting this grant effort and really helping us with a lot of homework,” Dahl explained. “As soon as the federal Department of Health and Human Services offers expansion monies again, we will be ready to reapply.”

For additional information, contact Patty Director, RMDC Head Start, 406-457-7335, or [pdahl@rmdc.net](mailto:pdahl@rmdc.net).

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