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NEIGHBORS IN NEED OF SERVICES, INC.

NINOS EXPRESS

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Welcome Head Start/Early Head Start Parents

It has been a month and a few days since we opened our doors to the Head Start families we are serving for the 2018-2019 school year. We hope you have taken the time to visit your local Head Start Center and have met the center staff. At one time or another, your child will be supervised by all of the teachers and teacher aides; so please get to know all the teaching staff at your center.

Unfortunately, because of my work as the head of NINOS, Inc., I am not able to meet each one of you, but I can introduce myself to you in this letter. I have directed the Head Start Program since 1978, and I have been the Executive/Head

Start Director since the inception of NINOS, Inc. I always make my decisions in the best interest of your children. I firmly believe in partnering with the parents, families, and communities we serve. May this year be the beginning, but not the end, of a positive relationship with your child's teachers!

In our 28 years of service in Head Start/Early Head Start, we have served over 65,000 children. We have very strong support from our parents since we have

helped many families through our partnerships. We strive to make our program the best, as demonstrated by the award we received from the federal government as a Program of Excellence.

Please help us continue to excel. We need your help, your guidance, your communication, and your trust. We want you to know that we will nurture, respect, care for, love, and educate your children.



Proposed Conversion of Head Start Services

The NINOS, Inc. Head Start/Early Head Start Program is proposing to convert 160 Head Start enrollment slots into 80 Early Head Start enrollment slots. The Head Start funded enrollment would decrease from 2,706 to 2,546 slots, while the Early Head Start funded enrollment would increase from 208 to 288 slots.

After analyzing the increase of Pre-K services in the local school districts, charter schools, and the Child Care Management Services (CCMS) program, the need

of services shifted from the three and four-year-old age group (Head Start) to the 0 to 36 months age group (Early Head Start). NINOS, Inc. is proposing to convert approximately 10 Head Start classrooms into 10 EHS transitional classrooms to enroll children who are currently two but would turn three during the year. These children would be allowed to remain in EHS for the full year if they continue to qualify for services. The family's verification of eligibility would be determined six months before their third birthday. The following year, these children will transition into the Head Start classrooms serving three-year-old

children.

Based on the community needs, the 10 proposed EHS transitional classrooms will be located at the following centers:

1. Rio Hondo HS
2. Otis Klar HS/EHS
3. Santa Rosa HS
4. Las Palmas HS
5. Zavala HS
6. La Villita HS
7. Browne HS
8. Rancho del Cielo HS
9. Burns HS
10. Beacon Bay HS

Emergency Contact Information

To be prepared for emergencies, we need to be able to communicate with you as soon as possible. It is very important that you keep us informed of any change of

address and/or telephone number at all times. Please give us a name and number of a person (s) to notify in case of an emergency.



Mosquitoes

A mosquito's lifecycle has four stages – egg, larva, pupa and adult. All mosquitoes need water to breed and spend their larval and pupal stages in water. This is why it is important to prevent stagnant water from standing around your home.

Flood-water mosquitoes, which include some species of the *Psorophora*, *Ochlerotatus* and *Aedes* genera, lay eggs above the waterline in ditches, ponds, tanks and other places where water collects. The eggs can remain in dry conditions for several months. After floods or heavy rains when the water level rises, the eggs hatch and in a few days produce swarms of aggressive and hungry mosquitoes. Another wave of mosquitoes occurs later – typically 10 to 14 days after the rains stop. These mosquitoes are a big

nuisance but rarely cause illnesses.

Other kinds of mosquitoes, including the *Culex* genus, lay eggs on the standing water left by flooding or heavy rains. These mosquitoes may transmit viruses such as West Nile virus, St. Louis encephalitis or dengue fever.

Adult flying mosquitoes frequently rest in grass, shrubbery or other foliage.

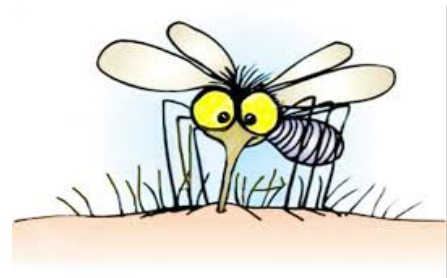
Mosquitoes can be controlled around the home by getting rid of standing water, in which mosquitoes can breed. If there are any places around your home where water collects such as water-holding containers, house cooler drains and ponds, you may be raising mosquitoes. Take the following steps to help cut down on the mosquito population:

- Empty or get rid of cans, buckets, bottles, old tires,

empty pots, plant saucers and other containers that hold water.

- Keep gutters clear of debris and standing water. Remove standing water around structures and from flat roofs.
- Change water in pet dishes at least once a day. Change water in wading pools and bird baths several times a week.
- Fill in low areas in the yard and holes in trees that catch water.
- Cover trash containers so they will not collect water.

Source: Texas Department of State Health Services



NINOS, Inc. Administration Contacts

NINOS, Inc. has over 550 employees over a two county area and it's impossible to name them all in this newsletter. Visit the agency's website at www.ninosinc.org so you can familiarize yourself with NINOS, Inc. The program is directed by Manuela Rendon,

Executive/Head Start Director. The Assistant Head Start Director, Lusila Ortega is responsible for Family Services, Parent Involvement and the Head Start center's operation. The content area directors are Eric Tejada-Director of Children Services, David Kowalski-Director of Hu-

man Resources, Tracy Torres-Director of Finance and Marco Herrera-Director of Children's Health and Safety.