Iowa Department of Human Services
CHILD CARE CENTER EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE

Name of Center: MICA Head Start-Nevada **Enrollment:** 11 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 18058

Street: 1037 8th St **City:** Nevada Iowa **Zip** 50201 **County:** Story

Mailing Address: 1001 S 18th Ave, Marshalltown, IA, 50158

Director's Name: Nicole Ramirez **Phone Number:** 515-485-8246

On-Site Supervisor(s): Taylor Madison **E-Mail:** nicole.ramirez@micaonline.org

Date(s) of Visit: 12-21-2023

X **Licensing Visit** X **Unannounced Visit** **Off Year Visit** **Administrative Change**

LICENSING VISITS

New Application X **Re-Application** **NA**

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 11-08-2023

FIRE INSPECTION X **State** **Local** **NA** **Is Fire Inspection Approved?** X **Yes** **No** **NA**

Date Inspected: 09-21-2021

Comments : Fire inspections are due at least every three years.

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: Profit X Non-Profit NA

Accredition: Accredited NAEYC NSACA Other X NA

Program Serves: Infants (0-23 mo.) 2 Years X Preschool-Age School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: Year-round X School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General			20		20
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 4

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 01-01-2022 to 01-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 01-11-2024

I. IF CURRENT LICENSE IS PROVISIONAL, IDENTIFY THE CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced full licensing visit was completed on 12-21-23. The on-site supervisor was present through the entire visit.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

This program is operated through MICA Head Start. The administrative offices are located in Marshalltown. Nicole Ramirez is the Early Childhood Program Coordinator, and is listed as the director over all the sites. Each site has a lead teacher who meets the 100 points required to be a director. Taylor Madison is the on-site supervisor. She has prior child care experience and in-home child care experience. She has a CDA and is working toward an associates degree.

This program is in operation only during the school year, opening in September and closing in May. Children attend Monday-Friday from 7:00 am-4:00 pm.

Head Start uses space in the lower level of the NCRC (Nevada Community Resource Center) building. Some remodeling had been done so they have an approved secondary exit, a chair lift has been installed, new windows in the classroom, and remodeled bathrooms. They limit their enrollment to 16 children. They use the school playground which is located one block over.

The classroom was clean and nicely organized. There is a variety of age/developmentally appropriate toys/activities. Staff are in ratio today and were leading a group activity. There was a good structure maintained and staff were engaged with the children. The program uses Frog Street Curriculum and childplus to sign in/out using email to communicate with parents. There are restrooms available adjacent to the program area. There are are handwashing posters hung and Tornado/Fire exit plans posted.

The program offers lunch/snack that is catered by Fareway with a menu in line with CACFP guidelines and that is rotated. This is served family-style in the classroom.

Medication is kept securely and there are backpack type first aid kits readily available. Fire/Tornado Drills were documented having been completed as required. HVAC was professionally inspected 11-6-23. There is a carbon monoxide detector in the hallway leading to the program space.

The children walk for fieldtrips; the program does not offer transportation. Playground is located on the school property, just adjacent to the center. This playground is new and maintained by the school.

Information for mandatory reporter, handbook accessibility, license, fire/tornado plans, and non-smoking signs were conspicuously posted. Two child files were reviewed and contained all required information. Employee files are kept at the central office and 2 files were requested for review; reviewed and contained all required information.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

MICA Head Start continues to provide a strong and consistent program that meets the needs of many of the families in the community. They offer monthly family activities that many families participate in. This has not taken place during the pandemic.

This MICA Head Start is the only MICA in Story County and serves families from surrounding areas.

The room is set up well with many activity centers.

The program partners well with the school district and with the Resource Center where the program is located.

The program offers all day care which is a benefit for families.

The children are ready for kindergarten.

The program addresses the social/emotional component with children and this has been beneficial for the children.

The staff are trained in PBIS and Conscious Discipline. The staff provide for positive interactions with the children and provide a safe environment for the children.

IV. IDENTIFY THE ASPECTS OF OPERATION THAT FALL BELOW THE STANDARDS REVIEWED:

There were no aspects of operation that fall below standards reviewed. Employee records are electronic and have been requested for review.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing is due every two years. The last test was completed in 3/2022 and fell below the 4.0 cutoff.

The menus reflect the program is following CACFP guidelines.

The furnace is inspected annually.

*Note: If you are the Child Care Center Director and you feel something is unclear or unjustly cited, please contact your DHS Licensing Consultant to discuss the issue. The child care director may also send a response which will be placed in the licensing file.

*Note: If you are a member of the general public, there may be additional information contained in the public file. You may contact the DHS Licensing Consultant to inquire.