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

Name of Center: HACAP Head Start-Urban **Enrollment:** 16 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 25056

Street: 1328 2nd Ave SE **City:** Cedar Rapids Iowa **Zip** 52403 **County:** Linn

Mailing Address: 1328 2nd Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA, 52403

Director's Name: Lacy Blackhawk **Phone Number:** 319-366-7632

On-Site Supervisor(s): Lisa Nagel **E-Mail:** lblackhawk@hacap.org

Date(s) of Visit: 08-29-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 01-03-2023

Comments :

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 X NAEYC NSACA Other NA

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

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	4	16	20		40
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 09-01-2022 to 09-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons **Date:** 09-14-2023

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

Not applicable.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

HACAP Head Start (HHS) - Urban is located inside a building which also provides community services to families including WIC. This program operates year-round and includes an early head start (EHS) classroom as well as a head start (HS) classroom. The program serves older infants through preschool-age children. Current enrollment is 16.

Multi-site HHS early childhood program executive director is Christi Regan. Ms. Regan has a BA degree in elementary education with early childhood reading, has been employed with head start for over 20 years, and continues to participate in much child development related training. HHS - Urban's site specific director is Lacy Blackhawk. Ms. Blackhawk is a multi-site director who has been in this position since December 2020. Ms. Blackhawk has a BA degree in early childhood education, has over 20 years of experience working with children at head start, and continues to participate in much child development related training. The program's on-site supervisor Lisa Nagel has a BA degree in elementary education, has 24 years of experience working with head start children, and continues to participate in much child development related training.

On 8/29/2023, program space was observed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

HACAP is a community action agency currently providing head start services throughout 9 Iowa counties. HACAP began in 1968 serving families in Johnson, Jones, and Linn Counties. From 1973-1981, HACAP expanded to provide services in Benton, Iowa, and Washington Counties. Then, in fall of 2020, HACAP again expanded to provide services in Delaware, Dubuque, and Jackson Counties. Specifically, HHS- Urban is located in a predominantly urban area and has been in operation for several years.

HACAP's mission and goal is "...helping people develop skills to become successful and build strong communities..." and "...to bring about a greater degree of social competence in the young children..."

HACAP has community support and operates under a Board of Directors. HACAP has the following website for families and the community to learn more about their programs including early learning programs: http://www.hacap.org.

HHS - Urban has a history of participation in quality initiatives. The program has previously participated in national accreditation, QRS and local quality initiatives.

Executive management of HHS has remained consistent. In December 2023, Ms. Blackhawk will be celebrating 3 years of being with HHS. This program's management team (e.g. Ms. Regan, Ms. Blackhawk, Ms. Nagel) has systems of organization in place to help ensure administrative items are completed as required and maintained in a confidential manner. Management is knowledgeable of licensing guidelines as well as their own program's policies and procedures.

HHS - Urban has retained many seasoned staff as well as hired a few new ones. Staff are celebrating 38 years and 24 years

with HHS. Congratulations on the longevity! All staff have at least a CDA and/or are working towards a CDA. Many staff have advanced degrees in education and early childhood development. Documentation indicates employees receive training that exceeds Iowa Code requirements.

HHS has a Parent Committee, Policy Council, and bilingual family support workers. There are parent boards with required postings, community resources, and program reminders. There are additional posting areas for community resources in the area of nutrition, upcoming area events, skill building, and community involvement opportunities. Family involvement is highly encouraged including participation in the HHS Parent Committee, home-conference visits and family events.

HHS - Urban is located in a building with agencies that provide various community services to families including WIC. Building and grounds are maintained. A monthly facility checklist is completed. HHS does have a maintenance team which assists with building projects and repairs as well as helps ensure program space is sanitary and hazard free each day. Kitchen is organized and sanitary. The program does receive food service from Horizons a Family Service Alliance provider. Since the last review, the program received outdoor fencing repairs.

HHS does participate in an annual shutdown week in order to prepare for each new academic year. Creative Curriculum is the primary curriculum with goals to move online for enhancing teaching strategies and project approach.

HHS - Urban collaborates well with many community partners including local area access, local school districts, local businesses, CCR&R and health professionals. There is also a partnership among all HHS sites that allows for the sharing of staff training, ideas and resources.

HHS - Urban has emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. The program has successfully navigated through the 2008 Linn County flood, 2019 Polar Vortex, 8/10/2020 Derecho Storm event, 2019 (health) pandemic and 2023 noted air quality.

Each child is engaged in a daily health check upon arrival for early detection of apparent illness, communicable disease, or unusual condition or behavior which may adversely affect the child or the group. HHS has policies and procedures in place for hand washing, cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting. Staff were able to verbalize and engage in these processes. Cleaning checklists and daily sanitation reminders were observed to be posted in various areas of the center.

On the day of the monitoring visit, staff were nurturing and attentive to the children's needs. Staff were observed warmly greeting children and families as they arrived for the day. Children had access to materials (e.g. books, imaginative play options, building materials) that encouraged innovative play. Activities observed were many including book reading "I am a Rainbow" incorporating head start staff/child discussions about emotions, early head start gathering circle event (e.g. greeting one another, finger plays, discussion about day's events), Elmo inspired toothbrushing in the early head start and outdoor large gross motor events. Staff provided a companionable presence allowing children to have many choices in their play experiences. Staff communicated well with children verbally, with picture cues and through modeling. Many high 5s and hugs were observed to be shared! Routine transitions (e.g. clean-up, food service/breakfast activities) worked smoothly into the program's welcoming and cooperative play environment. Staff were overheard providing children with many words of encouragement and engaging children in much meaningful discussion (e.g. discussion about day's events). Children responded well to staff and appeared to be truly enjoying their day.

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

109.11(7)c All centers: Annual inspection prior to heating season of all fuel-burning appliances to reduce risk of carbon monoxide poisoning and shall install one carbon monoxide detector on each floor that conforms to UL Standard 2034.
- Documentation of a current annual all fuel burning appliance inspection was not found on the day of the monitoring visit. Most recent all fuel burning appliance inspection found was dated 10/27/2021.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Please repair/replace the doorbell/camera entry system so that it is fully functional.

The program's license remains in full status. Thank you for the visit.

*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.