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

Name of Center: MICA Head Start-Nevada **Enrollment:** 12 **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): Sarah Flores-Ovando **E-Mail:** nicole.ramirez@micaonline.org

Date(s) of Visit: 12-16-2022

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 11-12-2021

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 01-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Debbie Hammer **Date:** 12-22-2022

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An off-year visit was conducted on 12/16/22. The On-Site supervisor was present for the 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. Sarah Flores-Ovando is the on-site supervisor for this location, starting in this role in November of 2022. Sarah has a Bachelor's degree in Child, Adult and Family services and prior experience in childcare settings.

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 has 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.

Almost three years have passed since the pandemic began. The program continues to follow all DHS guidelines pertaining to Covid-19. The program has experienced staffing shortages, as many programs have experienced in the past year. Due to staffing shortages, this program was only open for a short time in September at the beginning of the school year and then closed until the 1st of December.

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 program has a lead teacher (On-Site Supervisor) that speaks Spanish and this helps with some language barriers.

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.

Head Start has a strong team of lead teachers and assistant teachers. The Head Start programs in the five surrounding counties have monthly meetings for lead teachers and assistant teachers. During the pandemic, the meetings are held virtually.

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:

109.12(4): Sufficient toilet articles are provided for handwashing. Sufficient and safe indoor play equipment, materials, and furniture that conforms with CPSC or ASTM. Play equipment, materials, and furniture meet the developmental, activity, and special needs of the children. Room's arrangement does not obstruct the direct observation of children .Individual covered mats, beds, or cots, and appropriate bedding is provided for all children who nap. Procedures are developed and implemented to maintain equipment and materials in a sanitary manner. Sufficient spacing is maintained between equipment to reduce transmission of disease and allow ease of movement by children and staff to respond to activities and care needs. Sanitary procedures are followed for use and storage of personal hygiene articles.

Additional concerns: Blankets were overlapping and touching on the cots that were stacked, increasing the risk of transmission of illness and transmission of such things as lice or bed bugs.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing is due every two years. The last test was completed in October of 2021 and fell below the 4.0 cutoff.

The menus reflect the program is following CACFP guidelines.

The furnace is inspected annually.

Discussion took place regarding storing the bedding for the cots in individual bags for each child.

*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.