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

Name of Center: MICA Head Start-High Street **Enrollment:** 50 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 16512

Street: 206 W High St **City:** Marshalltown Iowa **Zip** 50158 **County:** Marshall

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

Director's Name: Nicole Ramirez **Phone Number:** 641-691-7046

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

Date(s) of Visit: 05-30-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 04-19-2024

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

Date Inspected: 12-16-2021

Comments : Fire inspections are due at least every three years//Wait for updated fire inspection

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: X 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*	*Summary Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	10	10	40		60
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 4

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 06-01-2024 to 06-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 06-11-2025

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced off year visit was completed 5-30-25; the on-site supervisor was involved in an activity; the food aide and various staff were available to help during this 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 is one of the Head Start programs offered through MICA. The administrative office is located in Marshalltown. Carrie Sodders is the Program Director and has been with MICA for many years and meets the 100 points required to be a director. Listed as the director at all the sites is Nicole Ramirez, who is the Early Childhood Programs Coordinator. She too has been with MICA for many years and meets the 100 points to be director. Each site has a lead teacher who meets the 100 points.

This building was constructed in 2002 specifically for Head Start. This site is a year round program, only stopping for approximately two weeks in August. They provide care to children starting at six weeks up through age five. There are four enclosed classrooms. Children attend Monday-Friday. The hours of operation are 6:30 am-4:30 pm.

The staff were in ratio and taking children on a walk or outside during the visit; there was good structure with content children. The classrooms each offered a variety of toys and play centers; the classrooms displayed several different projects that staff had lead children to complete. The classrooms are nicely arranged and offered restrooms easily accessible to the children.

This program is enrolled in the CACFP food program; with menus crafted/provided by the school with food aides to complete on-site preparation. Meals/snacks are served family style.

The playground is enclosed with chain link fence; with small and medium play equipment with artificial turf, grass or cement surfacing. The playgrounds are separated by ages and have natural and/or a shade structure. The playgrounds were in good repair.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This center has attained Level 4 in IQ4K (Iowa Quality for Kids (IQ4K®) is Iowa's new Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) for Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) licensed Child Care Centers and preschools, registered Child Development Homes and programs operating under the authority of an accredited school district or nonpublic school. IQ4K® provides five levels of quality (building blocks) that programs can achieve and continue to improve on).

Each classroom has at least one bilingual staff person.

This site provides both Early Head Start programming and Head Start programming which is a benefit to families in the area.

This site usually provides a higher ratio standard than what is required by State licensing.

The children are ready for kindergarten when they leave this program.

The staff are professional and are invested in providing good, quality care.

The staff are trained in Conscious Discipline and the program has implemented these tools in the classrooms to help re-direct children during times of disruptive behaviors.

The center has strong communication with families, the parents feel comfortable and safe with their children in this program.

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

There were not aspects of operation identified that fall below standards reviewed.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing was completed in October of 2021. All rooms tested fell below the 4.0 cutoff. Radon testing is now due every five years if testing is under the 4.0 cutoff.

The staff were consistently observed to be nurturing while maintaining structure with the children; who were content.

*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.