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

Name of Center: HACAP Head Start-Olivet **Enrollment:** 26 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 25058

Street: 230 10th St NW **City:** Cedar Rapids Iowa **Zip** 52404 **County:** Linn

Mailing Address: 230 10th St NW, Cedar Rapids, IA, 52404

Director's Name: Sherry Shrader **Phone Number:** 319-221-1484

On-Site Supervisor(s): Sherry Shrader **E-Mail:** cregan@hacap.org

Date(s) of Visit: 04-18-2024

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: 01-25-2024

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 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: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General			32		32
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 06-01-2023 to 06-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons **Date:** 04-22-2024

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

Not applicable

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

HACAP Head Start (HHS) – Olivet is located inside the Olivet Neighborhood Mission House. HHS - Olivet has been in operation for many years. This program includes two separate classrooms. Room 1 is an extended day, extended year classroom. Room 2 is a part-day school-year only classroom. Each classroom serves a combined-age group of children aged 3 to 5-years-old. Current enrollment is 26 children.

Multi-site HACAP Head Start early childhood program 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. Combined site specific director/on-site supervisor Sherry Shrader has a BA degree in early childhood education, over 3 years experience working with children and continues to participate in much child development related training.

On 4/18/2024, 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 - Olivet is located in a predominately urban neighborhood 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..." HHS has community support and operates under a Board of Directors. HHS has the following website for families and the community to learn more about the program: http://www.hacap.org.

HHS locations have a history of participation in quality initiatives including QRS/IQ4K, national accreditation, and local quality initiatives.

Executive management of HHS has remained consistent. Combined director/on-site supervisor Sherry Shrader has been with HHS since 2022 and specifically HHS - Olivet for over 2 years. This program's management team (e.g. Ms. Regan, Ms. Shrader, family support worker) 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. Ms. Shrader discussed being extremely proud of the "...sense of peace..." their staff and site have been able to provide to families and the community through supports and programming.

Since the last monitoring visit, HHS - Olivet has retained some seasoned staff. One staff reported being employed by HHS for over 28 years. This is impressive and congratulations! 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 that employees often complete annual professional growth 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, family/program conferences and family events.

HHS- Olivet collaborates well with many community partners including local area access, CCR&R, local school districts, other early learning programs, local businesses, and health professionals. HHS - Olivet receives food service from Horizons Family Service Alliance Provider.

HHS – Olivet program is located inside the Olivet Neighborhood Mission House. Since the 1970s, the mission has continued to be a solid pillar of community support offering a variety of assistance to persons in need. How the mission came to fruition and evolved to present day is impressive! Persons within the mission help ensure head start program space is sanitary and hazard free each day. A monthly facility checklist is completed. HHS does have a maintenance team which assists with building projects and repairs as well as also helps ensure program space is sanitary and hazard free each day. HHS - Olivet has access to the on-site kitchen to dish wash and keep food warm.

HHS participates in an annual all site shutdown week in order to prepare for each new academic year. Children's accomplishments (e.g. artwork, lovely individual easel painting!) are nicely displayed in various areas. HHS - Olivet classrooms continue to be arranged in a thoughtful manner with learning at the forefront. Materials are accessible to children. Creative Curriculum is the primary curriculum with online goals for enhancing teaching strategies and a project approach. Ms. Shrader and staff discussed a current gardening enrichment that is happening through a collaboration with ISU to include on-site composting experiences, planting seeds, Monarch butterfly release and child friendly planting gear and tools. As part of this enrichment, each child will have an opportunity to join the "garden club" creating their own unique gardening hat.

HHS programs have emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. HHS sites have successfully navigated through various County flooding events, 2019 winter Polar Vortex, 2019 health (covid-19) pandemic, 8/10/20 Derecho Storm, 2021 food supply issues, 2022 infant formula shortages and 2023 air quality alerts.

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. The program has policies and procedures in place for hand washing, diapering, cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting. 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 families and children upon arrival. Children had access to an array of materials (e.g. books, imaginative play options, building materials, puzzles, sensory items, crafts) that encouraged innovation and playful learning. Activities observed were many (e.g. group discussion with pattern work, center play). In the full-day classroom, for example, child friendly music could be heard quietly playing as children engaged in art creation with colored glue! Other highly enjoyed play experiences throughout both rooms included dramatic play (e.g. baby dolls, cooking in the kitchen), puzzles, car racing, and reusable sticker scene creations. Many opportunities for one-on-one learning were happening that inspired insightful conversation! Routine transitions (e.g. restroom breaks, hand washing, breakfast rituals) worked smoothly into the program's welcoming and cooperative play environment. Staff were overheard providing children with many words of encouragement, utilizing positive redirection when needed and facilitating the use of social graces. 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:

None noted.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

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.