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

Name of Center: MICA Head Start-Iowa Falls **Enrollment:** 23 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 16214

Street: 637 S Oak St **City:** Iowa Falls Iowa **Zip** 50126 **County:** Hardin

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

Director's Name: Jayni Hirth **Phone Number:** 641-640-8759

On-Site Supervisor(s): Diane Wearda **E-Mail:** jayni.hirth@micaonline.org

Date(s) of Visit: 11-01-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 12-16-2022

Comments : Note: Inspection report issued 11/22 identified corrections to be completed and submitted with date of all corrections completed by 12/16/22.

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		12	38		50
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 4

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 11-01-2023 to 11-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 11-27-2023

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was made to the MICA (Mid Iowa Community Action) Head Start program located in Iowa Falls on 11-01-23 where I met with on-site supervisor and lead teacher Diane Wearda. This program offers Early Head Start, Head Start, and other community services to the families in Iowa Falls. The program is operated as a non-profit overseen by a board of directors and is one of several site locations. There are currently 23 children enrolled in the program between the two classes served by 5 teachers. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed during this visit.

The physical structure and layout of the program and classrooms remains the same as in prior visits. The program operates in two classrooms with one for the Early Head Start with younger 2-3 year old children, and one for the Head Start program with 4 year old children. Both classrooms have sinks and toilet facilities located just off the main programming space and the Early Head Start room also makes use of a changing station for younger children that may not be fully toilet trained or who may have an accident. Each room has a secondary exit providing direct access to the outdoors. All emergency exits were maintained so that they were clear of obstruction and opened easily. Both classrooms have large banks of windows along the exterior walls that provide natural light, a view of the outdoors, and ventilation. Both room were observed to be clean with no issues noted due to design or maintenance. Each room makes of furniture, shelves, and play structures to create activity centers. The equipment is arranged so as not to create any blind areas.

Both classrooms have center options of large/small manipulatives, art/crafts, puzzles, experience tables, reading, and dramatic play. The regular head start classroom also provides centers for math, and science. There was a good supply of toys and materials to accompany the centers and the items present were in good repair and appropriate to the ages of the children in each room. A daily schedules and curriculum is posted in each classroom. The center is now making use of the Frog Street curriculum with each classroom identifying their own learning focus. The early head start classroom had a focus of Homes, and the other classroom had a focus of Family/Friends. The materials in the classroom were reflective of the planned curriculum with books and other materials. Good interactions were observed with the teachers being actively engaged with the children and implementing the planned curriculum. The teachers continue too do an excellent job of using positive behavior supports with recognizing and identifying positive behaviors, redirecting and helping children identify appropriate problem solving options.

Good health and hygiene practices were observed with the teachers reminding children to wash their hands, and assisting them when needed. Assistance was also provided in restrooms for the early head start classroom. During the visit a child in the head start classroom did have a toileting accident and the teacher did follow good standing diapering procedures when assisting the child. When cleaning tables the teachers would wait for the children to be out of the immediate area before using chemical cleaners. Each classrooms maintains a well stocked first aid kit and the teachers do take these out to the playground. Chemical cleaners, first aid kits, personal belongings and other items that could pose a safety risk to children were stored where they were not accessible to children. There were no children taking any medications. Children with an identified allergy did have allergy response plans in place.

The center does have a small kitchen space on-site where breakfast and snacks are prepared. Lunch is prepared by a local

vendor and then shipped frozen or refrigerated. The program typically receives prepared meals for 2-3 days at a time which are then stored and reheated at the center. Good food handling, service, and storage practices were observed on the day of my visit.

The center has two playground spaces. The playground area used by the older children has a climbing structure and a shed where other toys and materials are stored. Rubber mulch is used for fall surfacing and sufficient depth of material was present. The equipment was observed to be in good repair and appropriate to the ages of the children that use the space. The other playground space is smaller and used for the younger children in the Early Head Start program. This space has some small residential grade climbers and uses foam tiles for fall surfacing. Again the equipment was observed to be in good repair with no safety issues noted. Both spaces are enclosed by fencing. Mature trees provide shade for the large playground, and the building and play structures provide shade for the other. During the visit a maintenance crew was present and working to address maintenance concerns for the building and playground spaces.

All required postings were present and available to all visitors. The children's files were reviewed and found to contain all required documentation.
Staff files are maintained at the program's central office and were reviewed electronically. All staff files were found to contain all required documentation. All required inspection logs and certificates were available and current with the exception of Radon testing for which a renewed test was being conducted at the time of the visit. It is noted that the center does have an installed mitigation system. It was reviewed with Diane that a recent change to testing requirements does allow that if a mitigation system has been installed and found to be maintaining safe levels at the 2 year post installation re-check that subsequent re-checks can be extended to 5 year intervals.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center is currently participating in the IQ4K program which seeks to implement best practice recommendations and is currently rated a Level 4 program out of a possible 5 level scale.

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

None Cited.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended at this time. Please provide a written response to the licensing consultant identifying a plan of action to correct and maintain those aspects cited as not meeting licensing standards and identifying an anticipated date of compliance. At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

*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.