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Media Alert

Early Education Leader Next Door Awarded \$22 Million Federal Grant to Lead Partnership

Milwaukee – (December 10, 2014) – Next Door, a leader in early education services in Milwaukee’s central city, announced today they have been awarded a Federal Early Head Start Child Care Partnership grant of \$22 million over 4.5 years. The funds will be used to lead support programs and services designed to raise the quality of care for low-income families with infants and toddlers who are served by early education partners in ten locations in Milwaukee and Ozaukee Counties.

In addition to Next Door, partners include: Child Development Center of St. Joseph’s; COA; Neighborhood House; Kindercare West Allis, Malaika Early Learning Center; and St. Ann Center for Intergenerational Care in Milwaukee County. In Ozaukee County, Stepping Stones Children’s Center will provide care for an under-served population of low-income families at its two sites.

At an education summit in Washington today, President Obama announced \$250 million in Preschool Development Grants and \$500 million in Early Head Start Child Care Partnership awards. These grants and awards are intended to enhance and expand early education programs and to improve access to high-quality infant and toddler care in high-need communities. Only four agencies in Wisconsin were granted awards; Next Door received the largest sum and was also one of the top independent center awardees in the country.

As part of the grant to Next Door, \$1.2 million of community support will be required. This will be accomplished through a combination of fundraising and gifts in kind.

“Next Door’s 45 years of experience serving low-income families allows us to bring proven strategies to these partner programs,” said Next Door Executive Director Carol Keintz. “Research shows that the earlier a child is enrolled in a quality education program the more likely they are to succeed in school and beyond. We are excited to lead this effort and bring these partners together to better serve the community. We intend to create a hub of comprehensive services by leveraging the strengths of each of our esteemed partners. With our combined expertise and experience, we can provide impactful services to young children in the region’s most impoverished neighborhoods.”

[About Next Door](#)

Next Door has served children and families in Milwaukee’s central city since 1969. Our mission is to support the intellectual, physical, spiritual and emotional development of children so they become self-sufficient, contributing members of the community. We provide school-readiness through a high-quality early educational environment, parent engagement and a focus on family wellness. Programs: Early Head Start Home and center based and traditional Head Start programs, K(4) and K(5) charter school, and Educare of Milwaukee for children 6-weeks to 5 years. Supporting programs: Books for Kids, Adult Basic Education, and Fatherhood Enrichment. Next Door serves families bounded by Silver Spring Drive to North Avenue, and the Milwaukee River to 76th Street in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Visit us at nextdoormil.org.