



**Child Development Council of Franklin County, Inc.**  
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Brenda Rivers, President & CEO

## NEWS Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Largest Head Start Program in Central Ohio to Open on Monday June 8, 2020 under Responsible Restart Ohio Guidelines**

Columbus, Ohio – The Child Development Council of Franklin County, Inc. (“CDCFC”) will open four locations, including its Mattie B. James Center (“MBJC”) at 999 Crupper Avenue, to children beginning at 8:00am on Monday, June 8, 2020, as it resumes Head Start Early Childhood Education Services.

CDCFC will welcome over 150 students - 38 at the MBJC with decreased ratios – 9 students to Head Start classrooms and 6 infants/toddlers to Early Head Start classrooms. Centers will be open from 8:00am – 5:00pm.

In order to enact the Responsible RestartOhio guidelines from Governor Mike DeWine, CDCFC has established Project Safe Return (“PSR”). CDCFC’s PSR was established by President & CEO Brenda Rivers to safely open and prevent the spread of COVID-19 as it reopens. CDCFC’s PSR is comprised of CDCFC leadership and staff, health professionals, human resource professionals, and legal professionals that establish and implement protocols in alignment with Responsible RestartOhio and federal guidance.

To date, CDCFC has trained over 200 employees on new safety procedures and operations that include uniform guidance on health screenings and classroom procedures. And, CDCFC has held multiple virtual townhalls for over 100 families sharing new CDCFC COVID-19 practices. CDCFC will provide over 500 COVID-19 care packages for staff and families, which includes personal protective equipment.

Facilities have undergone thorough cleaning, disinfecting and sanitizing. Enhanced procedures include no-contact barriers, markers for physical distancing and limiting visitors who need to enter

the building. CDCFC staff will meet children and parents for no-contact check-in and check-out to lessen touchpoints and spreading COVID-19.

CDCFC is celebrating 35 years of service to children and families in the Central Ohio area, serving over 2,500 children and families. CDCFC employs over 400 dedicated professionals and its mission is to enrich the lives of children and families