



For Immediate Release  
January 14, 2009

**MAYOR DELLUMS & THE UNITY COUNCIL ANNOUNCE  
RECOVERY ACT FUNDING FOR EARLY HEAD START PROGRAMS**  
*Oakland to Receive a Collective Award of \$6.8 Million; Grants to Generate Approx. 48 Jobs*

**OAKLAND** – Mayor Ron Dellums, Councilmembers Ignacio De La Fuente and Jean Quan, the Department of Human Services Head Start Program, The Unity Council, community partners and other city staff announced today that Oakland will receive an award of \$6.8 million from the American Recovery Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to bolster Early Head Start programs. These funds will enable 299 families to engage in employment or educational opportunities by providing safe, nurturing centers for their children. The funds will create approximately 48 jobs at Early Head Start sites.

The total funds represent two separate competitive grants: \$5.7 million received by the City of Oakland and \$1.1 million received by The Unity Council. The funds will provide 299 infants and toddlers (ages 0-3) with safe, nurturing and comprehensive early care and education services, including pregnant teen parent programs, in community-based facilities and home-based settings.

“These funds simultaneously address two critical needs for Oakland residents,” said Mayor Dellums. “By providing much-needed jobs and child care services for vulnerable families, we can put people back to work, while relieving some of the pressure for families who are trying to meet the demands of their current employment and education needs. I want to thank city staff and our community partners for making this allocation possible. During an unprecedented time of shrinking local and state budgets, the federal stimulus dollars are supporting critical community services and programs.”

“With this grant award, we strengthen Oakland’s capacity to provide enhanced educational and social services to parents who desire a better life for themselves and their children,” stated Gilda Gonzales, CEO of The Unity Council.

“Currently, the demand for quality infant care support continues to be greater than the supply. This expansion of the City of Oakland’s Early Head Start program, will give us the opportunity to help meet this demand through quality community-based programs,” said Andrea Youngdahl, Director of Human Services.

Community partners for these efforts include: Children’s Hospital and Research Center, Alameda County Office of Education, Brighter Beginnings, YMCA, Oakland Ready to Learn, and Lotus Bloom Child & Family Resource Center.

Thus far, the City of Oakland has brought in over \$65 million in stimulus funds, including over \$35 million from competitive grants. Grants have been awarded for public safety, economic development, workforce training, and public infrastructure projects.

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**About The Unity Council:** The Unity Council (also known as The Spanish Speaking Unity Council) was founded in 1964, incorporated in 1967 and received 501(c) (3) tax-exempt status in 1968. Over the years, it has been a non-profit community development organization committed to enriching the quality of life of families in the Fruitvale district of Oakland. Its primary focus has been to create a healthier and safer community for families and residents.

**For more information on Mayor Ron Dellums and the City of Oakland, please visit and bookmark the following Web accounts:**

: <http://www.youtube.com/ronalddellums>

: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Ron-Dellums/98961200747>

: <http://www.twitter.com> "Mayor Dellums"

<http://www.nualerts.com/clubs/mayordellums/>