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**ECONOMIC
SECURITY
CORPORATION**



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Made in America! Coming in the Next 30 Days - 3 “NEW” Public/Private Child Care Partnerships! The first to open is Footprints and Friends Too! This Partnership was made possible by Economic Security Corporation’s new Early Head Start Child Care Partnership Grant.

The collaboration has helped expand a local Woman-Owned Business, created new jobs, provided high-quality child care training, and added a new, NO-COST, Licensed Child Care classroom!

Joplin, MO, Economic Security Corporation’s Early Head Start (EHS) program is excited to announce Footprints and Friends Too private childcare has opened their EHS partnership classroom. This is the first owner-operated childcare partnership that has opened with the new grant. Making this the 7th Southwest Missouri community to expand high-quality, licensed and no cost child care. Within 9 months, these public and private partnerships have created 40 jobs, 149 childcare professionals trained, 1 licensed child care expansion and 1 new business owner.

Footprints and Friends Too Open House, Ribbon Cutting with the Webb City Chamber of Commerce:

- Wednesday, December 20th from 8:00-9:00 a.m. Address: 5601 N. Main Street, Joplin, MO 64801
- Webb City Chamber of Commerce’s ribbon cutting ceremony at 8:30am.
- Donuts and coffee will be served.

Economic Security Corporation’s (ESC) Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership (EHS-CCP) grant is funded by the federal Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and encourages public/private partnerships to provide quality licensed, no cost child care for infants and toddlers. ESC applied for the grant after a recent community needs assessment showed a lack of child care in various communities for the youngest of children. According to the American Community Survey 2007, U.S. Census Bureau, child care is a critical workforce support in Missouri, allowing 175,000 parents to go to work every day. Because 90% of a human’s brain structure develops before the age of 5, early childhood experiences are critical for success in school and later life.

Helping people. Changing lives.

This early childhood opportunity focuses on serving children ages zero to 3 years. An additional seventy-four children will receive high-quality, comprehensive licensed child care services. The grant targets families who are working or going to school. The grant award will provide \$6 million dollars over a 5 year period. Over 50 new jobs will be created once the grant is fully implemented.

The Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership initiative brings together the best of Early Head Start and child care through layered funding. Federal Early Head Start funds are combined with Child Care Development Funds (CCDF) administered by the State of Missouri. The additional funds allow child care providers to meet higher standards which benefit all children attending the center.

Economic Security Corporation's Early Head Start program was the only program in the Region VII Head Start to receive the child care partnership grant. Region VII consists of Missouri, Kansas, Iowa and Nebraska.

Interested in applying for child care, contact Travis Crusa at 417-627-2056 or tcrusa@escswa.org.

About Economic Security Corporation: Since 1965, Economic Security Corporation has been a leader in developing solutions and bringing resources to Barton, Jasper, Newton and McDonald County. It offers a diversity of services meeting basic human needs for food and shelter, while enriching people's lives by providing access to increased education, skills, and building relationships for the future. ESC is a private nonprofit organization that receives federal, state and local funding, foundation grants and donations from individuals and businesses in our community. To learn more about Economic Security Corporation please visit www.escswa.org.

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