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**For immediate release: June 23, 2017**

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**Black Belt Community Foundation selected as Head Start Grantee for Dallas, Choctaw, Marengo and Wilcox Counties**

*Selma-based organization will provide high-quality services to the children and families of the Black Belt region. Will host community information sessions.*

**June 23, 2017 (Selma, AL)** The Black Belt Community Foundation (BBCF) has been awarded over \$1.4 million by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to oversee the Head Start programs in Dallas, Choctaw, Marengo, and Wilcox counties in Alabama. With the help of this grant, an estimated 307 children in Alabama's Black Belt will be able to receive critical investment in their early educational development through high-quality program options.

Founded in 2004 with the idea that those living and working in the Black Belt of Alabama best know the area's challenges and opportunities, the BBCF raises funds and distributes grants to nonprofits that are making a difference in local communities.

BBCF President Felecia Lucky states: "We are excited to be selected as a first-time Head Start grantee to provide high-quality Head Start services to children and families in the Black Belt region. With our programs, we have served over 50,000 children and families. Like Head Start, our programs emphasize the importance of starting early and working closely with families to improve academic outcomes. We were happy to answer the call to serve the community in this way, and we are ready to build on both the work of the Head Start organizations who have come before us and our successful track record of service in the region."

U.S. Congresswoman Terri Sewell of Alabama states: "This is outstanding news for children and families in the Black Belt region. It is so important that our children are supported at an early age with educational programs such as Head Start so that their learning capabilities can be cultivated throughout their formative years. With this grant, the Black Belt Community Foundation will be able to bring valuable program offerings to children in the state that need this support the most."

Below is the information for next week's organizational sessions in Selma:

**LOCATION: Concordia College, Wright Complex, Selma, Alabama  
1804 Green Street, Selma, AL 36701 (ph: 334-874-5700)**

- **June 27: 12pm-1:30pm and 4pm-5:30pm** Informational meeting for current Head Start staff. This meeting will provide an overview of next steps. The goal of this meeting is to help provide a clear view to the staff the process BBCF will follow in moving forward.
- **June 28: 8am-5:30pm** Job Fair. Head Start job applicants can complete their job applications.
- **June 29: 8am-5:30pm** Call Back Interviews (Attendees will be notified in advance.)