



Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Grant-Funded Judy Center Opened at Hall's Cross Roads Elementary School

The second Judy Center established in Harford County Public Schools

Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) is excited to announce it has recently been awarded a \$330,000 Judith P. Hoyer Early Care and Education Center (Judy Center Early Learning Hub) Grant for fiscal year 2022 to serve the Hall's Cross Roads Elementary School community. Judy Centers provide comprehensive early care and education services for young children and their families to promote continuous improvement towards school readiness.

As the school year continues, Hall's Cross Roads Elementary School is celebrating the Judy Center coming to their school, which is specifically designed to boost kindergarten readiness for their youngest learners. This initiative has already shown kindergarten readiness gains at Magnolia Elementary School, Harford County's first Judy Center location. Hall's Cross Roads Elementary School Principal Christina Douglas is thrilled to bring this opportunity to her school's families.

"The Judy Center at Hall's Cross Roads will provide the youngest children in our school community (birth to 5 years old) wraparound services and integrated programs to support social and emotional development, school readiness skills, physical development, and family connectedness to our school. It is our mission to ensure every child who enters kindergarten demonstrates a readiness for school and that every family entering our school feels welcome and supported," said Ms. Douglas.

The Judy Center program is funded through a grant from the Maryland State Department of Education and has a formalized partnership with local agencies, organizations, and businesses in the community. HCPS and Hall's Cross Roads Elementary School are grateful for the support from the following Harford County and Aberdeen-area partners:

- Aberdeen Proving Ground Federal Credit Union
- Abilities Network/Project ACT
- Babes in Tot Land Daycare, LLC
- Catholic Charities Early Head Start
- Child Development Centers of APG
- Empowering Minds Resource Center
- Harford Community Action Agency
- Harford Community College
- Harford County Department of Social Services
- Harford County Health Department

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PAGE TWO: JUDY CENTER AT HALL'S CROSS ROADS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- Harford County Public Library
- Harford County Public Schools Infants and Toddlers Program
- Harford County Public Schools Title I Office
- Key Point Health Services of Harford County
- Maryland Physicians Care
- MRDC Head Start
- Office of Childcare

The Judy Center concept was created by the late Judith Hoyer, who was an early childhood advocate in Prince George's County. Each county in Maryland has a Judy Center Program that provides early interventions for children birth through age 5. The Maryland Commission on Innovation & Excellence in Education's ("the Kirwan Commission") vision is to expand funding the network of Judy Center and family support centers so that all families can access supports for infants, toddlers, and children with disabilities.

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