

ECONOMIC IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL, INC.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

712 VIRGINIA ROAD

P.O. BOX 549

EDENTON, NORTH CAROLINA 27932

PHONE (252) 482-4458 FAX (252) 482-0328

www.eiccaa.org



Mr. ROBERT WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. LANDON B. MASON SR.,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

To whom it may concern:

The Economic Improvement Council is a community action agency that operates out of Edenton, NC with active grant programs that cover 13 counties making us one of the largest community action agencies in North Carolina. Through our various services offered, our sole purpose is to help low-income, underprivileged families rise above the poverty line into a higher, more sustainable standard of living. Our Head Start and Early Head Start programs help give financially impoverished children the essential tools to break patterns inhibiting their lives by bringing them to a more level playing field socially, nutritionally, and academically as to excel amongst their peers. These centers serve a multitude of children varying from all different backgrounds to help bring stability and emotional support molding these children into beings of higher self-worth, purpose, and success they may struggle to receive at home due to socio-economic status.

The efforts presented by the FCC in 2015 to allow the initiation of E-rate has been essential in the growth of our programs to provide top-tier education to each and every student within our Head Start centers. Through E-rate and this budget sourcing, we have utilized the implementation of higher quality communication services that were once not available in the lower-income communities we actively serve. It has been a major source to our success as a community action agency and the families we help.

Unfortunately, the \$150 per student budget was not enough to cover our needs, and consequently, we exceeded our Category Two budget. This resulted in reductions each budget year until it finally exhausted all Category Two funds by the end of the 2018 year. We exceeded our budget by \$23,027 in the 2017 budget year—over a 5 year period this would amass to \$115,138. Dividing this amount by each of our Head Start centers, we would exceed our Category Two budget for each center by \$5,233 over the 5 year allotted time period.

To operate efficiently and to continue effectively serving these lower-income communities, it is not only necessary, but essential, that there is an increase in Category Two funding. This not only brings access to higher quality communication networks to our centers, but as well gives access to these services to the underprivileged neighborhoods that surround us.

"AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER"

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940-1282	338-7720	482-4458	232-2882	473-3149	357-0555	926-4651	789-1181	335-5493	426-7868	355-0028	796-3711	793-3142



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We are asking that you please consider raising the Category Two cap limits for the betterment of not only our community action agency, but as well the communities that are positively affected all around the country by the E-rate program.

We thank you for your time and consideration during this decision process and are confident in your ability to make an appropriate and informed decision for the overall good of the public. Thank you again.

Sincerely,


Christian Taylor
Fiscal Administrative Assistant
ERATE Executor


Dr. Landon Mason
Executive Director

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