



## Children's Home Society of Florida's Home Visitor Receives State Award from the Florida Head Start Association

For Immediate Release

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**TALLAHASSEE, FL – September 5, 2023** – Zaida Rojas of Children's Home Society of Florida's (CHS) Early Head Start Program has been selected as the Florida Head Start Association (FHSA) Teacher of the Year.

Ms. Rojas is a University of Central Florida graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Development and Education. She has been employed with CHS for over five years, beginning her career as an intern in their Early Head Start program. She has attended several early learning professional development courses to further her educational goals.

Zaida creates a rich learning experience for the children and families, leading to high socialization attendance rates, family engagement, and positive outcomes. She does this by providing education, health, nutrition, and other services to her enrolled children and families. She also supports families in serving as their child's first teacher, setting family well-being goals to return to school and the workforce, and building financial stability to maintain stable housing. She collaborates with families, conducts developmental screenings, and monitors child development by planning with families' teachable moments within the child's daily routine.

AnnaMaria Alvarado, Assistant Program Director of CHS of Florida, stated, "Zaidia's passion and commitment to scaffolding families towards self-sufficiency has a positive impact that changes the trajectory of family outcomes. We are honored and grateful to have Zaida on our Early Head Start Team!"

The Head Start Grantee Recipient selects nominees and is evaluated by a panel of peers and chosen by the FHSA awards committee. Recipients will be honored during the FHSA annual awards luncheon at the Westin Cape Coral Resort at Marina Village in Cape Coral, Florida, on October 27. Complete details are available on our website, [www.FLHeadStart.org](http://www.FLHeadStart.org).

### **About FHSA**

*The Florida Head Start Association is a nonprofit organization working on behalf of the 42,014 children and families in Florida. Head Start is an innovative federal-to-local program delivering services from school readiness, comprehensive health, and family support services. The Head Start Program Performance Standards drive programs to strengthen and improve the quality to ensure that all children start school ready to succeed. FHSA has been the voice for Florida's most vulnerable children and families since 1999 and is committed to enhancing and supporting the capability of local Head Start programs in the delivery of high-quality services for our children and families.*

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