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MEDIA ALERT

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For Immediate Release

HOME START AWARDED \$100,000 TO START NEW PROGRAM

San Diego –Home Start was one of four San Diego nonprofit organizations that were awarded a collective \$505,000 by the Local Initiatives Support Corp. (LISC) to open and expand Financial Opportunity Centers (FOC) designed to help low- and moderate-income families achieve financial stability and progress. Home Start was awarded a total of \$100,000 and will open the new FOC at the Jacobs Center.

Funding for the grants came from the Obama Administration's Social Innovation Fund (SIF), created to help solve social challenges by investing in community-based resources.

The grants were announced at a national LISC meeting in San Diego attended by Mayor Jerry Sanders. The SIF is managed by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), which awarded LISC nationally \$4.2 million in SIF grants to support the expansion of the Financial Opportunity Centers in San Diego and eight other metro areas.

The Financial Opportunity Centers bundle financial counseling, employment placement and career advancement services to help working families increase their incomes and raise their standards of living. The bundled approach, which helps families build their net worth and net income, is three to four times more effective in helping families achieve major economic goals.

*Founded in 1972, Home Start, Inc. is a 501 (C) (3) non-profit agency that provides services to children from low income families who require immediate, comprehensive solutions to ensure their safety and healthy development. Our mission is dedicated to child abuse prevention and family strengthening services. Today, Home Start reaches at-risk children right where it counts -- in the home, and then extends the helping hand to schools and the community. Some of our programs include: **Family Support Services** - Parents are taught accurate expectations of their children, how to interact with them and use positive, appropriate discipline. As a result, families are less isolated, more nurturing and cohesive. Parents are strengthened and are better able to protect their children in the future. **Therapeutic Counseling Services** are provided in the home or at our counseling centers. Services are provided on a sliding-fee scale or through the Victim Compensation Fund. **Family Self-Sufficiency Services** provide a "hand-up" rather than a handout by stabilizing families in crisis. Families are helped to move from welfare-to-work, many for the first time in their lives.*

For more information about Home Start and our programs please visit us online at www.home-start.org or call (619) 692-0727

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