



Early Head Start and Head Start: Santa Barbara County

Community Action Commission
of Santa Barbara County
5638 Hollister Avenue, Ste. 230
Goleta, CA 93117
(805) 964-8857



Synopsis
2008-2009



Overview

Community Action Commission of Santa Barbara County (CAC) is dedicated to providing high-quality, culturally appropriate services and opportunities for low-income people of all ages as they maintain or achieve self-sufficiency while retaining their dignity and self-esteem. CAC's programs include Children's Services, Energy Services, Nutrition Services, and Family and Youth Services.

CAC's Early Head Start and Head Start

Early Head Start and Head Start are part of the Children's Services department at CAC and have been in operation for over 40 years. The programs provide high-quality early care and education services to children 0 to 5 years old, pregnant women, and expectant fathers who are considered at-risk due primarily to socioeconomic factors.

In 2008-2009, CAC's Early Head Start and Head Start programs reached over 1,300 qualifying families at 36 sites and family childcare homes across Santa Barbara County. Throughout the year, assessments were made to help CAC identify potential needs and monitor children's progress. CAC staff then used a variety of strategies to promote community and family development and learning based on relationship building, observations, and ongoing assessments of each child and family.

The following report presents a synopsis of Community Action Commission's current program. It utilizes data from the 2008-2009 Program Information Report (PIR), which provides comprehensive data on the services, staff, children and families served by Early Head Start and Head Start programs. This information is collected on an annual basis by the Administration of Children and Families within the federal Department of Health and Human Services. In addition to the PIR, this report also utilizes information from the state of California's Desired Results Developmental Profile, an observational assessment tool used to review and evaluate children's progress.

Our Children and Families

Last year, out of 1,385 people served

- 1,167 were children from ages 3 to 5 (Head Start)
- 207 were children from ages 0 to 3 (Early Head Start)
- 11 were pregnant women (Early Head Start)

Recruitment takes place year-round, with particular concentration in areas identified in a community assessment as having a high concentration of low-income families, as well as from input from current parents and community partners.

Out of 1,310 families

- 989 parents or guardians were employed
- 321 parents or guardians were unemployed, retired, or disabled
- 651 were single-parent families
- 98 parents were in job training or in school
- 57% spoke Spanish at home
- 48 experienced homelessness

Out of 1,374 children between 0-5 years old

- 1,123 lived at or below the federal poverty line
- 312 received public assistance
- 31 were foster children

Parents participate in the decision-making process of their child's program through various means. All parents form parent committees and parent representatives are elected to the Head Start Policy Council. In 2008-2009, the Policy Council worked closely with staff on program planning, budget, and personnel decisions. Several Policy Council representatives were also seated as full voting members on the CAC Board of Directors.

Our Staff

Out of a total of 290 staff members

- 85 are current or former Head Start parents
- 21 are contracted Family Childcare Providers

In addition, 2,489 people served as volunteers, 1,735 of whom had children enrolled in Head Start or Early Head Start (over 70%).

Our Child Development Staff

Our child development staff is made up of classroom teachers, associate teachers, home visitors, family child care teachers, and site supervisors.

Out of these 161 child development staff members

- 117 are proficient in a language other than English
- 114 are of Hispanic or Latino origin
- 95% hold professional credentials
- 80 hold an Associate's degree in Early Childhood Education
- 47 hold or are currently enrolled in Bachelor's degree programs



Our Guadalupe Staff

Our Services

Early Head Start and Head Start programs aim to support school readiness by improving access to comprehensive preventive and primary health care services. We believe that each child's ability to participate in and enjoy success in early childhood education programs is supported through the provision of health, educational, nutritional, social, and other services that are determined, based on family needs assessments, to be necessary.¹

Medical

Out of 1,374 children between 0-5 years old

- 1,353 were determined to be up-to-date on immunizations/check-ups
- 176 received treatment for a chronic condition (most prevalent: obesity)
- 140 children & families received on-site mental health services

Out of 11 pregnant women enrolled in Early Head Start

- 11 received prenatal and postpartum care
- 8 received a professional dental examination
- 5 received mental health services
- 4 were determined to be a high-risk pregnancy by a physician

CAC has an extensive on-site Family Wellness program, which provides early intervention services to children identified as at-risk for mental health issues. Through a contract with the County of Santa Barbara Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health Services, CAC provides mental health assessments and referrals for children enrolled in Early Head Start and Head Start. Services include rehabilitation services, case management services, and child/family therapy.

Dental

Out of all of the 1,167 children enrolled in Head Start

- 1,112 received preventive dental care
- 416 needed follow-up dental care/384 received additional treatment

¹ From ACF's "Accessing Professional Medical and Dental Services," Information Referendum, 2009. http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ohs/policy/im2009/acfimhs_09_05.html

Our Services - Continued

Services for Children with Disabilities

Of the children enrolled in Head Start

- 171 had a diagnosed disability (two most prevalent: speech and language impairment, Autism)
- 100% of eligible children received special education services

Child Outcomes

Community Action Commission tracks the academic progress of the children using the Desired Results Developmental Profile, which provides additional information in four developmental domains, i.e., cognitive, social-emotional, language, and physical development.

Of all of the children enrolled in Head Start

- 71% of 3-5 year olds improved in their ability to speak English
- 77% of 3 year olds made gains in letter and word knowledge
- 76% of 3 year olds increased using language in conversations
- 85% of 4 year olds made gains in numbers and math operations
- 84% of 4 year olds made gains in writing

Additional Services

Of 1,310 families

- 1,117 received emergency/crisis intervention services
- 620 participated in parenting education
- 460 fathers actively participated in the education of their child
- 239 received English as a Second Language Training

For more information, please contact Mattie Gadsby, Director of Children's Services, at mgadsby@cacsb.com or visit <http://www.cacsb.com>