

Public Report on the Local Early Head Start and Head Start Programs, Santa Barbara County: 2009-2010



Celebrating NAEYC Accreditation



Field Trip to the Discovery Museum

Early Head Start and Head Start Services are provided by:



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Agency 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 socio-economic factors.

In 2009-2010, 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.

The following report presents a synopsis of Community Action Commission's current program. It utilizes data from the 2009-2010 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 annually 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 (DRDP), an observational assessment tool used to review and evaluate children's progress and additional information required for public review and access.

Children and Families

Last year, 1,375 people were served

- 1,152 children from ages 3 to 5 (Head Start)
- 223 children from ages 0 to 3 (Early Head Start)
- 12 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.

Of 1,318 families

- 979 parents or guardians were employed (74%)
- 339 parents or guardians were unemployed, retired, or disabled (26%)
- 620 are single parent families (47%)
- 106 parents were in job training or in school (8%)
- 61% spoke Spanish at home
- 57 experienced homelessness during the year (4%)

Of 1,375 children between 0-5 years old

- 1,040 of the children lived at or below the federal poverty line (75%)
- 301 received public assistance (22%)
- 59 were foster children (4%)

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 2009-2010, 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

Of a total of 299 staff members

- 77 are current or former Head Start parents (26%)
- 16 are contracted Family Child Providers (5%)

In addition, 2,934 people served as volunteers, including 1,503 parents (over 51%).

Our Child Development Staff

Each classroom has a teacher with either a BA degree or AA degree in Early Childhood Education. All staff persons hold the appropriate teaching permit from the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing.

Of these 185 child development staff members

- 117 were proficient in a language other than English (63%)
- 132 were of Hispanic or Latino origin (71%)
- 93% hold professional credentials
- 57 hold an Associate's degree in Early Childhood Education (40%)



Fillmore Staff celebrating NAEYC accreditation

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 Care

Of 1,375 children between 0-5 years old

- 1,345 were determined to be up-to-date on immunizations/check-ups (97%)
- 236 received treatment for a chronic condition (most prevalent- obesity) (17%)
- 213 children & families received on-site mental health services (15%)

Of 12 pregnant women enrolled in Early Head Start

- 9 received prenatal and postpartum care (75%)
- 6 received a professional dental examination (50%)
- 1 determined to be a high risk pregnancy by a physician (8%)

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 provided mental health assessments and referrals for children enrolled in Early Head Start and Head Start. Services included rehabilitation services, case management services, and child/family therapy.

Dental Care

Of all of the 1,152 children enrolled in Head Start

- 1,101 received preventive dental care (96%)
- 424 (37%) needed follow-up dental care/398 (35%) received additional treatment

Services for Children with Disabilities

Of the children enrolled in Head Start

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

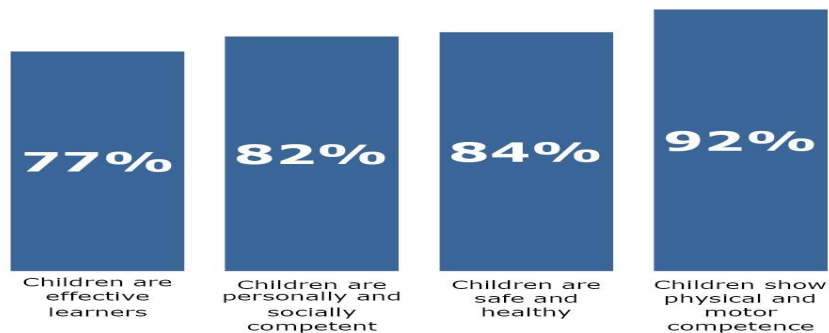
¹ From ACF's "Accessing Professional Medical and Dental Services," Information Referendum, 2009. http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ohs/policy/im2009/acfimhs_09_05.html

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.

PREPARING CHILDREN FOR KINDERGARTEN

CAC helps Children to be Better Prepared for School
% Pre-Kindergarten Children in the Higher Developmental Levels for each Desired Result

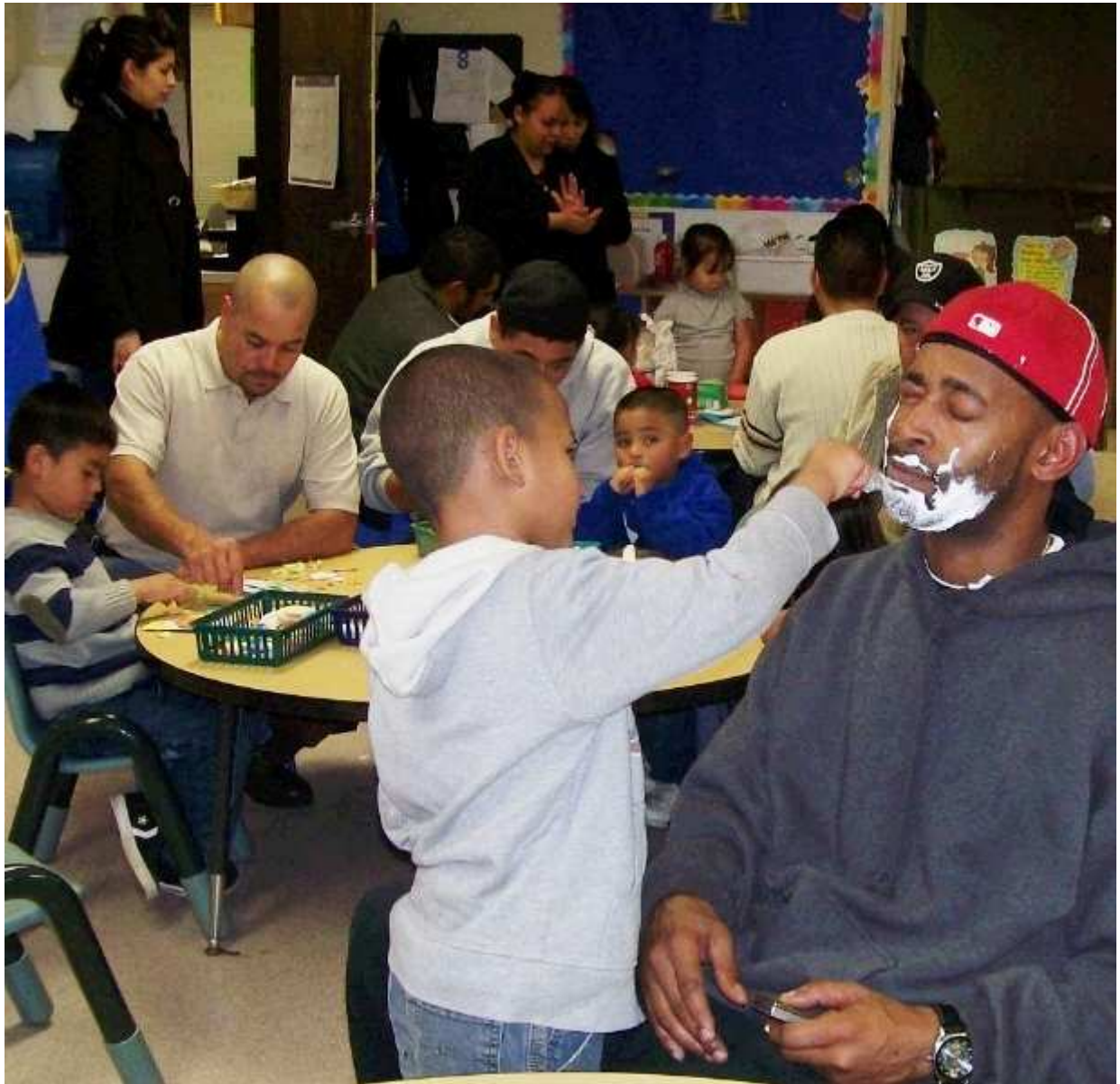


1. **Head Start staff meets with Elementary School Staff.** Regular meetings with public school staff are held to ensure the transition of Head Start children is smooth and that Head Start preparation of the child is in keeping with the educational expectations of public school teachers.
2. **Head Start programming emphases.** Head Start curriculum emphasizes letter recognition, numerical literacy, reading, and phonics to help the child transition into the kindergarten classroom easily. Also, Head Start places a great emphasis on cooperation, group activities, socialization, getting along, and emotional control which makes the transition smooth.
3. **Visits to the kindergarten classroom.** In the spring Head Start children visit the kindergarten classroom that they will be going to in the fall for an orientation to the building, the classroom, and especially the teacher. These orientation visits make the transition easier for the child and the parent.

Additional Services

Of 1,318 families

- 1,141 received emergency/crisis intervention services (87%)
- 525 participated in parenting education (40%)
- 496 fathers actively participated in the education of their child (38%)
- 245 received English as a Second Language Training (19%)



TOTAL AMOUNT OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE FUNDS

Expenses	Actual 2008-09	Budgeted 2009-10
Head Start Grant 2008-09		
DIRECT SERVICES		
Basic Head Start Program	\$ 8,848,900	\$ 8,935,857
Children's Meal Program	\$ 645,767	\$ 595,600
Calif. Dept of Education	\$ 2,049,270	\$ 2,310,915
Other Revenue	\$ 48,114	\$ 158,996
TOTAL Head Start DIRECT SERVICES	\$ 11,592,051	\$ 12,001,368
Indirect Expense	\$ 850,893	\$ 836,712
Total Head Start Expenses	\$ 12,442,944	\$ 12,838,080

Early Head Start Grant 2008-09

DIRECT SERVICES

Basic Early Head Start Program	\$ 1,345,099	\$ 1,342,631
Children's Meal Program	\$ 64,908	\$ 66,716
Other Revenue	\$ 266,866	\$ 189,636
Total Early Head Start Direct Services	\$ 1,676,873	\$ 1,598,983
Indirect Expenses	\$ 127,226	\$ 127,513
Total Early Head Start Expenses:	\$ 1,804,099	\$ 1,726,496

Head Start Training and Technical Assistance

DIRECT SERVICES	\$ 66,833	\$ 75,372
Indirect Services:	\$ 5,413	\$ 6,105
Total Head Start Expenses	\$ 72,246	\$ 81,477

Head Start Training and Technical Assistance

DIRECT SERVICES	\$ 27,846	\$ 31,051
Indirect Services:	\$ 2,255	\$ 2,515
Total Early Head Start Expenses	\$ 30,101	\$ 33,566

Income by Source

Federal Funds	\$ 10,606,344	\$ 11,220,652
State Funds	\$ 2,352,856	\$ 2,049,409
Local Gov't	\$ 768,935	\$ 512,861
Private Funds	\$ 276,671	\$ 23,900
Other Funds	\$ 207,149	\$ 252,570
In-Kind	\$ 1,641,501	\$ 1,427,600
TOTALS	\$ 15,853,456	\$ 15,486,992

<i>MEASURE</i>	<i>QUANTITY</i>
<i>Total number of Children Served</i>	1,375
<i>Total number of Families Served</i>	1,318
<i>Average Mo. Enrollment/funded enrollment</i>	100%
<i>Estimated Percentage of Children Eligible for services in Santa Barbara county served</i>	54%
<i>Percentage enrolled receiving medical exams</i>	100%
<i>Percentage enrolled receiving dental exams</i>	95%

RESULTS OF THE 2008 FEDERAL REVIEW BY THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

The 2008 review found no Areas of Non-Compliance in:

1. Health
2. Nutrition
3. Safe Environments
4. Mental Health
5. Disabilities
6. Family and Community Partnerships
7. Transportation
8. Program Management

Areas Needing Correction

1. Class size requirement meant that two centers needed to reconfigure their classrooms to conform to class size of 17-20 children.
2. In addition classrooms cannot have more than 50% 3 year olds enrolled without reducing the class size to 15-17 children. A monitoring system was implemented to avoid.
3. Need adequate records for building and renovation contractors' compliance with federal prevailing wages for all employees. New record keeping procedures were instituted.

RESULTS OF THE MOST RECENT FINANCIAL AUDIT

CAC's most recent financial audit (2009) was "unqualified" (clean audit).

PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN THE HEAD START PROGRAM

Parents are partners at every level of the Head Start program:

1. **Participation in the Policy Council.** Each of the 26 Head Start centers has a monthly Parent Committee meeting to which all parents and others are invited. These parent groups elect officers and a representative to the Policy Council which also meets monthly. The Parent Committee makes basic decisions about activities, volunteers, scheduling and other service issues. The representative to the Policy Council meets regularly with other PC representatives to make larger decisions about the Head Start program including budgetary issues, hiring and termination issues and election of a member to represent the parents on the CAC Board of Directors.
2. **Volunteering at the centers where their child is a student.** Parents are strongly encouraged to participate in the classroom as volunteers and give many thousands of hours to this activity enriching the classroom and providing individual attention.
3. **Parent education.** Classes are offered regularly to parents on a variety of subjects including financial literacy, child development, parenting, discipline, English as a second language, and parent as the primary teacher. This last year a total of 488 Parents participated in Parent Education classes in order to learn about their role as their child's most important teacher and to support them in their family relationships and positive child discipline
4. **Regular events at the centers involving fathers with their child.** These activities pull the fathers and the children together in common activities involving fun learning and teaching events.
5. **Home visits.** All families receive regular home visits by Head Start staff to review the child's progress and the family goals progress set up during the enrollment process. These goals often include financial, educational and health goals that the family works on together with the Head Start educator.

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