

Head Start ACTION Inc. of Delaware County Annual Report 2008-2009

Our mission is making a difference in the lives of eligible young children and their families. We provide a quality school readiness program to enhance the intellectual, physical, emotional, and social development of young children. We offer support services and educational opportunities for parent involvement. Honesty, accountability, respect, trust, teamwork and confidentiality are key components as we partner with families and the community. We believe in helping families get a "head start" on the road to life long learning.

Head Start is a federally funded child development program for low-income young children and their families. Head Start began in Delaware County in 1967. Since then, continuations grants have been funded to provide a comprehensive preschool program to children and families.

The target population for Head Start is children between the ages of 3-5 from families living below the federal poverty line. Head Start programs are funded through the Federal Department of Health and Human Services directly to local community agencies.

The Head Start program is based on the premise that all children share certain needs, and the children from low income families, in particular, can benefit from a comprehensive, and community-based program to address developmental goals for children, support for parents in their work and child-rearing roles, and collaborates with other community resources.

Tri-annual Federal Review

As a result of the Federal Review held the week of December 7-12, 2008, this Head Start program only had 4 areas of non-compliance. All non-compliances were corrected within the required 120 days.

Audit

Krueger and Associates, CPAs LLC
December 31, 2008

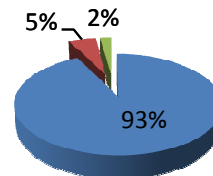
Funding and Budget

Revenues

Head Start	1,475,755
USDA	82,667
Fund Raising	33,752
Total Revenues	1,592,174

2008-2009 Program Year

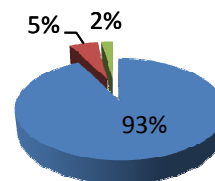
■ Head Start ■ USDA ■ Fund Raising



The non-federal share of revenue which is in-kind is matched annually through donations and volunteer hours that are generated by parents and other community members.

2008-2009 Program Year

■ Head Start ■ USDA ■ Other Expenditures



Expenditures

Head Start	1,475,755
USDA	82,667
Other Expenditures	33,752
Total Expenditures	1,592,174

Program Information

Total Funded Enrollment	257
Applications received	453
Eligible Children served	315
Eligible Families served	293

Average monthly Enrollment	100%
Eligible children served with special needs was 28%	72

Medical and Dental Exams

Number of children who received preventative dental care	288
Number of children who meet age appropriate preventative and primary health care	297
Number of children with up-to-date immunizations	305

Volunteers

Total number of volunteers	631
Number of volunteers who are current or former Head Start parents	402

Staff

Total number of staff	64
Number of staff who are current or former Head Start parents	31

EFFORTS TO PREPARE CHILDREN FOR KINDERGARTEN

Efforts to prepare children for kindergarten begin as soon as a child is enrolled in one of our Head Start programs. The staff, along with the parents, reviews the child's health and nutrition history, as well as completes the required development screen within the first 45 days of enrollment. Our program encourages parent participation in the screening process by using the Ages and Stages Social/Emotional Questionnaires as our behavior screen.

Throughout the program year, our teaching staff implements the research-based early childhood curriculum of Preschool First and Letter People. These curricula promote school readiness in the areas of language and cognitive development, early reading and math skills, social emotional development, physical development and approaches to learning. Both curricula are based on scientifically valid research and have standardized training procedures and curriculum materials to support implementation. These curricula are aligned with the Head Start Outcomes Framework.

Preschool First is linked to comprehensive, ongoing assessment with developmental and learning goals with measurable objectives. The assessment is organized into three observation periods throughout the program year. At the end of each observation period, the teaching staff completes the assessment paperwork and writes a narrative report to share with the parents during home visits or parent conferences. The teaching staff, along with parents, will develop an individual plan for each child that will facilitate plans for individualization to support and encourage the development of skills that will prepare the child to enter kindergarten.

Our Head Start program addresses the importance of promoting effective transition from our program to the local educational agency's kindergarten classes by providing transition visits to our local schools. The program has a collaboration agreement with our local education agencies that outlines comprehensive transition policies and procedures that support the children transitioning from Head Start to kindergarten. The transition visit provides an opportunity for the Head Start Program, the schools, and the child's family to collaborate and facilitate a positive transition for every child into kindergarten.

EDUCATION SERVICES

Early childhood education services are delivered through several program options including, combination home based, center based half-day, and center based full-day. Each class is staffed by a teacher and assistant teacher. Head Start Performance Standards require that the early childhood classroom program be developmentally and culturally appropriate for children and families enrolled. In addition, parent education activities are provided to help parents support their children's development and education. In the Combination Home Based model, education services are also delivered through monthly, parent-focused, home visits. Additionally, a minimum of 10% of children enrolled must be children with a diagnosed disability.

EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES

The graphs referenced at <http://headstartmuncie.org/community.php> show student gains from fall to spring. The fall is represented by Period 1, winter is Period 2, and spring is Period 3.

STAFF QUALIFICATIONS

Our Lead teachers have Associates degree in Early Childhood and are working on obtaining their BA degrees.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

Head Start Action Inc. of Delaware County encourages parent participation in virtually every area of Head Start programming. From the very first meeting with the family, parents are offered the opportunity to be involved with the program. Parents attend parent meetings, life start, trainings and serve on Policy Council, and the Nutrition Advisory Council. Parents are always welcome in the classroom by helping with activities or projects, attending field trips, planning classroom activities with the teaching staff, and introducing or sharing their culture with the class. There are a number of ways that parents can help teaching staff by sharing opinions, ideas and thoughts, working on projects at home, communicating with the staff, helping other parents feel welcome, and reinforcing learning at home.

As their child's first and most important teacher, parents have an important role in the program. We reach out to our parents for whom English is their second language to help them feel included in activities and meetings by providing interpreters and culturally sensitive activities. Along with regular parent meetings, there are Family Nights several times throughout the year and an Octoberfest that is for all families in the program.

SOCIAL SERVICES

Head Start social service staff assist parents to meet their needs through education, advocacy, and referral. Staff help parents assess family needs, develop strategies, access resources, and solve problems. Staff also serve as a link to other community agencies, helping them better understand and meet the needs of Head Start families.

67% of enrolled families received social services through their involvement with Head Start.