

Fairfax County Head Start Program

2009-2010 Annual Report



ONE PROGRAM, STRONG PARTNERS

Overview

The Fairfax County Office for Children Head Start and Early Head Start program provides quality services to income-eligible families in Early Head Start — which serves infants, toddlers and expectant parents — and Head Start which serves 3 - 5 year-old children. Services are provided in family homes, family child care provider homes, and in classrooms in Fairfax County Public Schools and child care centers. Families participating in the program receive assistance with:

- Child education and development;
- Social services;
- Health services (medical, dental, nutrition, mental health and prenatal care);
- Parent education;
- Family literacy and English for Speakers of Other Languages.

Number of Children Served

In the Fairfax County Office for Children Head Start and Early Head Start program, services are provided at Greater Mt. Vernon Community Head Start in Alexandria, Higher Horizons Day Care Center, Inc. in Bailey's Crossroads, in Fairfax County Public Schools and in family child care homes throughout the county.

The program is funded to serve 1,798 children and the composition is as follows:

- Greater Mt. Vernon Community Head Start and family child care homes:
 - 144 Early Head Start
 - 158 Head Start;
- Higher Horizons Day Care Center, Inc:
 - 52 Early Head Start
 - 172 Head Start;
- Fairfax County Public Schools:
 - 56 Early Head Start and
 - 1,216 Head Start.

The enrollment number for Fairfax County Public Schools includes 774 children for whom the school day is extended using Virginia Preschool Initiative funding. Thirty Early Head Start family child care providers receive reimbursement from the Child Care Assistance and Referral program.

During program year 2009-10, turnover in enrollment allowed the program to actually serve a total of 1,895 children ages birth to 5.





Megan Lebowitz

My name is Megan Lebowitz. I am a mother of three children, all of whom have been part of the Head Start and Early Head Start program. In 2006, I enrolled my oldest child in Head Start. At the time, I was working part-time, and going to school for the prerequisites for nursing. I immediately got involved in the classroom. The classroom volunteering put me in contact with the Fairfax County Public Schools' Policy Committee, which led to learning about the Head Start Policy Council. After attending one council meeting, I ran for policy council chairperson.

In 2007, I had my second child, and he was enrolled in the Early Head Start family child care option and has now transitioned to Head Start.

Over the course of the past four years, I was able to complete nursing school and obtain a job as an RN. Without the availability of HS/EHS, I do not know that I would have been able to accomplish so much.

Head Start Mission:

The Head Start program promotes school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through the provision of culturally inclusive educational, health, nutritional, social and other services to Head Start-eligible children, their families, and pregnant women

Parent Involvement

Twenty-eight former Head Start parents have participated in training opportunities, pursued certification and/or degrees and are now employed as Head Start teachers, family services workers, and other administrative positions.

Family Involvement

Head Start involves families in many learning and advocacy activities. Families can volunteer in their child's classroom and attend field trips, participate in parent education activities and also serve on policy decision-making committees. The total number of parent and community volunteers was 657 for 2009-10.

I Can Grant

Over 300 parents participated in the I Can Help My Child Stay Healthy Johnson & Johnson's Project. The project was designed to help educate parents on how to properly manage the health care needs of their children and reduce the number of visits to the emergency room for common conditions such as fever, earache and runny nose. Pre- and post-test results of the project showed a significant number of parents developed skills to address their children's common illnesses at home rather than going directly to the emergency room.

Head Start Vision:

All Head Start-eligible children, their families, and pregnant women have access to quality educational, health, nutritional, social and other services that promote school readiness and family self-sufficiency.

Professional Development

Staff receive ongoing training and coaching to meet the federal Head Start mandate of a minimum of 15 clock hours of professional development per year. Head Start schedules professional development events throughout the year on topics reflecting current trends, issues in the field, and identified needs of staff. Additionally, each person who works directly with children has an individualized professional development plan. Staff continue to work toward earning child care credentials by taking college course work through scholarships and grants.

Early Childhood Education and Development

Head Start is an early childhood program that prepares children to start school ready to succeed. During program year 2009-10, the Fairfax County Head Start program prepared 1,229 4-year-old children for kindergarten. Children who entered kindergarten in September 2010 were prepared and knew the following:

- 92 percent could identify at least 10 letters of the alphabet;
- 93 percent could associate sounds with written words;
- 92 percent could recognize a word as a unit of print;
- 91 percent could count in sequence to 10 and beyond.

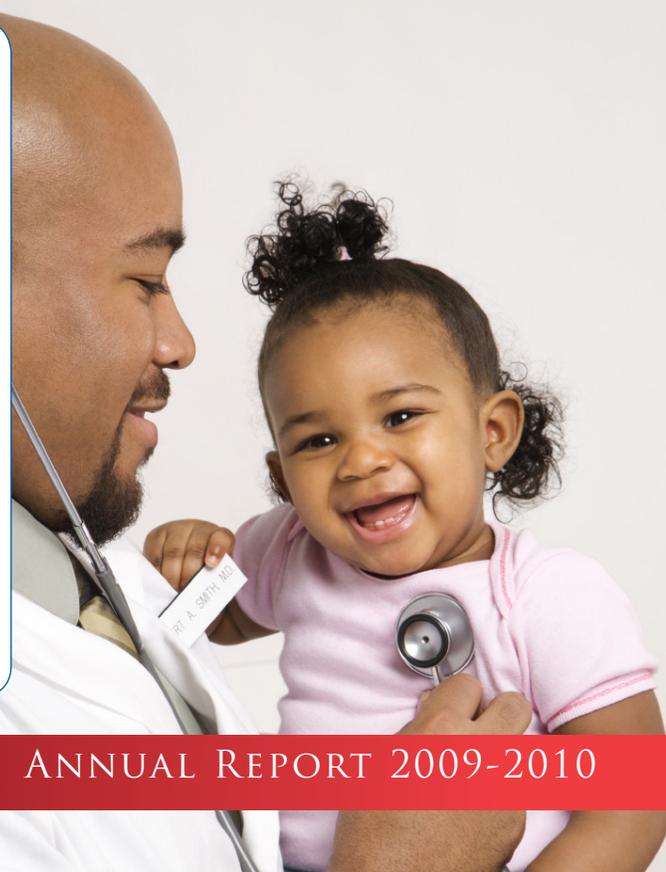
The curricula used in Head Start are aligned with the Fairfax County Public Schools Program of Studies, which helps ensure that children are able to make a smooth transition from preschool into kindergarten.

Health Services

Of the 1,573 children served in Head Start this program year, the following were up-to-date on their health requirements:

- 90 percent were current on age-appropriate preventive and primary health care according to the Virginia Early Periodic Diagnosis Screening and Treatment schedule for well-child care;
- 96 percent of children had a professional dental exam;
- 94 percent had all immunizations for their age.

In addition, staff assist parents of infants and toddlers in the Early Head Start program with getting their children well-baby checks, dentist screenings and immunizations.



Major Accomplishments

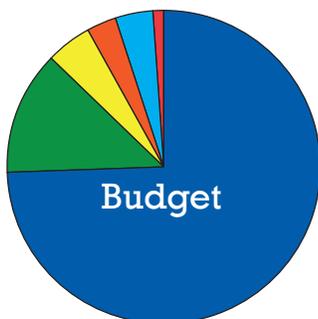
- Expanded the Early Head Start program in the Fairfax County Public Schools and family child care homes.
- Implemented an online child assessment data collection and reporting system using CreativeCurriculum.net and Teaching Strategies Gold.
- Participated in a national training video on helping preschoolers with disabilities.
- Participated in the Virginia Star Quality Rating and Improvement System.
- Developed an e-training course on health and nutrition practices for children and families.
- All family child care providers have received their Child Development Associate credential or are taking the necessary classes to complete the CDA requirement.
- In the 2008 triennial federal audit, the program was reviewed and no deficiencies were found.

Financials

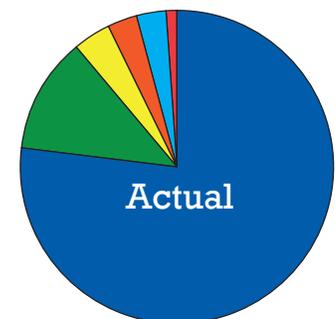
FY 2010
Total Funds Received:
\$26.6 million

Source	Amount
U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services	\$7.1m
U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services—American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA)	\$0.7m
U.S. Department of Agriculture	\$1.0m
Local County Board	\$7.1m
Local School District	\$8.1m
State	\$2.2m
In-Kind	\$0.4m

Budget and Actual Expenditures



Delegates	77%
Personnel	12%
Contractual	4%
Fringe Benefits	3%
Other	3%
Supplies	1%
Travel	0%



Board of Supervisors 2008-2011

From Left to right:

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Hunter Mill District

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Sully District

John C. Cook

Braddock District

Gerald W. Hyland

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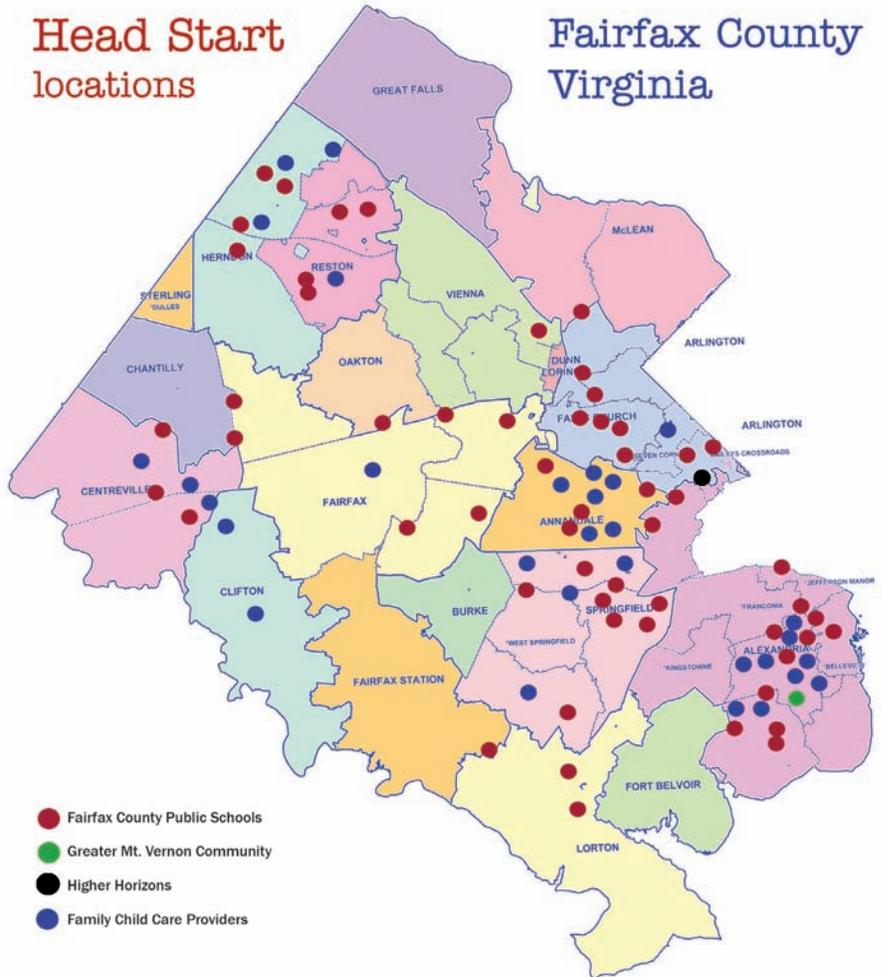
Linda Q. Smyth

Providence District



Head Start locations

Fairfax County Virginia



Fairfax County
Department of Family Services
Office for Children
12011 Government Center Parkway
Suite 920
Fairfax, VA 22035

703-324-8000
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ofc



 Reasonable accommodations made upon request; call 703-324-8290 or TTY 711.



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