

## **CESA #11 Head Start/Early Head Start Annual Report 2009-2010**

The CESA #11 Head Start/Early Head Start Program provides early childhood educational, health and nutrition, and family services to 561 Head Start and 203 Early Head Start income eligible children in the seven (7) northwestern Wisconsin counties of: Barron, Chippewa, Dunn, Pepin, Pierce, Polk, and St. Croix. Funding for these services comes from the federal office of Health and Human Services totaling \$5,946,767, ARRA funds to support COLA and quality improvement - \$430,597, and supplemental WI State funds totaling \$427,350.

The CESA #11 Head Start program's mission is: "Empower, Support, Educate, and Lead". The vision statement, "To create relationships and build collaborative partnerships within our communities which support, empower and develop the unique potential of each Head Start child, family, and staff member to promote a healthy promising future for all enrolled children and families", provides direction for the program along with the program's core values it lives by. The following overall program goals have been established to direct the work and allocation of program resources of time and money:

1. Provide the highest quality of services utilizing the Federal Head Start Bureau's educational outcomes and locally developed family outcomes.
2. Become a full partner in the community's safety net for low income children and families.
3. Develop effective site based work teams.
4. Secure alternative funding sources and resources.
5. Create and support a comprehensive and effective staff development process.

Long and short term component goals can be found in the Programmatic Strategic Plan.

The CESA# 11 HS program integrates research on best practice, recommendations from parents and staff on quality services, Federal Head Start Performance Standards, Brighter Futures – National Health Standards, the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Requirements, the WI State Day Care Regulations, The Wisconsin Model for Early Learning Standards, and the Governor's KidsFirst agenda, along with partnering with local community agencies to effectively serve as a community safety net for low income children and their families. In November, 2009 Governor Doyle nominated CESA #11 Head Start as a Center of Excellence in Early Childhood.

In the CESA #11 HS/EHS service area, there are estimated to be over 3,700 low income, eligible birth to 5 year olds, which continues to show an increase of children living in poverty from previous years. The HS/EHS program projects that it is able to serve approximately 8% of the income eligible infants and toddlers and 44% of the income eligible 3 and 4 year olds in this seven county service area. Currently there are over 110 three and four year olds and 70 infants, toddlers and pregnant women on the program's waiting list. During this program year, 610 three and four year old children from 553

families received Head Start services and 312 birth to three year olds from 210 families received Early Head Start services.

Head Start/Early Head Start Services are offered in a variety of program options in an effort to best meet the needs of the children and their families. These options include:

Center Based Classroom Services which provides classroom based Head Start services to 434 three and four year olds for 3.5 hours per day, 130 days per year.

Home Based Option provides 32 Home Visits 1.5 hours in length and 16 classroom experiences 3.5 hours in length for 22 three and four year olds.

Combination Option provides services to 27 three year olds or four year olds that are isolated by distance from the center by providing 24 Home Visits 1.5 hours in length and 32-36 classroom experiences 3.5 hours in length. 78 three year olds attend classes 2 days per week, 3.5 hours in duration, and receive 16 Home Visits.

Early Head Start Combination Option is provided to 203 children birth to three years old (20 of which are filled with enrollees of the School Age Parent Program) and their families. This year-round option provides 48 weeks of services utilizing the support of two Family Partners (Teachers), one child focused and one family focused, providing direct services to the child and family both in the classroom setting of which there are 32-36 socializations, 3.5 hours in length, and in the child's home during each of the 24 Home Visits.

School Age Parent Program (part of the EHS Combination Option) provides parenting and early childhood development classes to 20 school age parents. Pregnant adolescents are enrolled immediately upon being diagnosed as pregnant and may remain in the School Age Parent option until they have successfully graduated from High School.

Pre-K4 School District Collaboration which provides PreK services to income eligible Head Start enrolled children in the school districts of Barron, Cadott, Cameron, Chippewa Falls, Ellsworth, Frederic, Luck, Menomonie, New Richmond, Osceola, Rice Lake, St. Croix Falls, and Stanley-Boyd.

The school districts contract with the CESA # 11 Head Start program to provide the district's Pre-K4 program within the Head Start classroom, which allows for extended services for these children in the summer. Utilizing district funding, enrolled children participate in activities prior to Head Start beginning in the fall to become more familiar and comfortable in their new HS setting. These transitional HS activities provide the educational staff an enhanced opportunity to get to know each child better and complete developmental screenings. When the Head Start classroom ends in May, these Pre-K4 children participate in a Head Start summer school program designed to successfully transition them into a full day Kindergarten program in the fall. At the end of the Head Start summer experience, these children and their families are also provided a free field trip by chartered bus to the Minnesota Children's Museum. Following the trip each child receives backpack for school, a box of classroom supplies that they will need specifically for the Kindergarten classroom they will be attending, along with a book about Kindergarten. Memorandums of Understanding are in place with all school districts in the service area that have PreK, but do not have a formal collaboration with the Head Start program to assure successful transitions to Kindergarten.

The average monthly enrollment for the Head Start/ Early Head Start program was 100% of the funded enrollment. Of the total children served, 83% fell below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level, 11% were between 100%-130% FPL, 5% were over 130% FPL and 1% were eligible due to their status as a foster child. All enrolled children are provided access to dental services through onsite visits by the CESA #11 Rural Health Dental Clinic, which includes referral support to 2 pediatric dentists when necessary. 95% of all enrolled children received a dental exam and preventive dental services. 31% of these children were diagnosed as needing treatment, of which 91% received the necessary follow-up care. 90% of all enrolled children were up-to-date with their age-appropriate preventive and primary health care. 99% of the 16% diagnosed with a health condition received the necessary follow-up medical care. 100% of the enrolled children were up-to-date with their immunizations.

Each family enrolled receives Parent/Family Handbooks to assist the families in understanding program requirements and opportunities. The program has implemented a new approach to better serve parents by providing numerous opportunities for parent training sessions based upon program identified needs. Parents receive a stipend of \$10 per training session when they attend which helps cover their costs for child care and transportation. Parent committees are held monthly, during the school year, with parent's receiving a stipend to participate in this opportunity also. Each center's Parent Committee follows their center's parent committee by-laws when conducting the work of this group as well as voting in a representative to serve as a Policy Council member. Each center is responsible to select a community service project to demonstrate to the community that they appreciate the community support Head Start receives. It also helps parents understand that they are an important resource for their community and may help them develop an ethic of giving and actively participating in the affairs of their community and school. The CESA # 11 Head Start Program has sponsored a locally developed "Healthy Child" initiative at each center which is organized and implemented by the parents at that center. This effort was designed to build upon a state initiative sponsored by the Governor to encourage all families to eliminate exposure of their children to second hand smoke. The program increased the Healthy Child focus to include the elimination of violence in HS homes such as language, TV viewing, domestic abuse, child rearing practices etc.

The CESA #11 Head Start program has already met and exceeded the staffing requirements for classroom teachers, education supervisors, and teacher assistants as set forth in the 2007 Head Start Act. The CESA #11 HS/EHS program has also established a new mission team to develop comprehensive dual language learner policies and procedures to meet the expanding dual language learner population.

The CESA #11 Head Start/Early Head Start program completed a successful triennial review by the Office of Head Start in November, 2008 and CESA #11, as grantee, once again received an "unqualified" audit rating during its annual financial audit.