

EPISCOPAL COMMUNITY SERVICES
HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START
2007 – 2008
ANNUAL REPORT

Head Start is a federally funded program that started in 1965 as part of the war on poverty. It is funded through the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Administration for Children and Families (ACF). It serves all 50 states, District of Columbia, Pacific Insular areas and the trust territories. Head Start serves over one million families through over 3,000 grants awarded annually to grantees, typically one or two per county or area.

It is the purpose of Head Start to promote the school readiness of low-income children by enhancing their cognitive, social, and emotional development –

- (1) in a learning environment that supports children’s growth in language, literacy, mathematics, science, and emotional functioning, creative arts, physical skills, and approaches to learning; and
- (2) through the provision to low-income children and their families of health, educational, nutritional, social, and other services that are determined, based on family needs assessments, to be necessary.

The ECS Head Start Service Region is all of South County San Diego; from National City South to the border there are six centers in National City, five centers in Chula Vista, three centers in the City of San Diego near the Mexican border and three centers in Imperial Beach.

ECS Head Start/EHS provides half-day, full-day, and family child care to 1,795 children and operates 17 centers.

- Year-round and part-year services are available in the early morning through the late evening,
- ECS Head Start and Early Head Start have over 230 people employed in South County.
- More than 15% of ECS Head Start staff are current or former Head Start parents.

ECS Head Start provides the following:

- Educational curriculum for children 0-2 years, Early Head Start, and 3-5 years, Head Start, including developmental assessments.
- Nutritious meals and snacks, provided by ECS food services.
- Family goal development and achievement assistance
- Medical, dental and mental health referrals
- Parent training and education
- Parent involvement program, including male involvement activities
- Special assistance to children with disabilities to ensure their full participation in the program and access to community services
- Family crisis intervention

HEAD START ACT

Section 644 (2):

(A) The total amount of public and private funds received and the amount from each source: *Refer to “ ECS Statement of Activities 6/30/08 & 6/30/07”; “ECS Operations by Program 6/30/08”; and “Schedule of Federal Awards”.*

(B) An explanation of budgetary expenditures and proposed budget for fiscal year: *Refer to attachment “Head Start Budget”.*

(C) The total number of children and families served, the average monthly enrollment (as a percentage of funded enrollment), and the percentage of eligible children served:

In program year 42; July 2007 – June 2008; ECS Head Start/EHS provided services for 2,002 children and 1,919 families. The program maintained 100% enrollment throughout the year. Most of the children served were income eligible, 91.3% of Head Start and 99.1% of EHS.

(D) The results of the most recent review by the Secretary and the financial audit: *Refer to attachments: “PRISM Report 2007”; “ ECS Statement of Financial Position @ 6/30/08 & 6/30/07”; “ECS Statement of Activities 6/30/08 & 6/30/07”; and ” Schedule of Findings & Questioned Costs 6/30/08”.*

(E) The percentage of enrolled children that received medical and dental exams:

As required all children are referred for medical and dental exams. Head Start was able to achieve a 98% success rate for complete medicals and a 92% success rate for complete dentals. In Early Head Start we achieved a 92% success rate for medicals. (Complete dentals are not required for EHS children)

(F) Information about Parent Involvement Activities:

Our Parent Involvement program had a very busy year. The center committees were busy with fund raisers, field trips and holiday celebrations for children and families. The Policy Committee stayed busy with reviewing and approving monthly action items in personnel, finance and program activities. The parents and children participated in the annual Chula Vista Starlight parade, making their own costumes and representing Head Start as the cutest Snowflakes! The Policy Committee was active in planning and participating in the annual Family Fest, an all program day in the park. Our Male Involvement Committee was very active and held several events for “significant males” to participate in with their children.

(G) The agencies efforts to prepare children for kindergarten:

In compliance with the overall goal of school readiness ECS Head Start is concerned with preparing our children to enter Kindergarten. Our efforts include:

- *Meeting with the Local Education Agencies to determine their expectations for Kindergarten readiness.*
- *Working with individual school districts to arrange for kindergarten classroom visits with the children*
- *Parent education on Kindergarten transitioning.*
- *Developing children's cognitive and social skills such as pre-reading, pre-math, and sustained attention ability*
- *Supporting parents in the Kindergarten registration process.*