



Alexandria Head Start
and
Campagna Early Head Start
Annual Report to the Public
November 2012

Program Overview

Alexandria Head Start (AHS) and Campagna Early Head Start provide high quality early childhood education, along with family support (including health, nutrition, mental health and case management services). AHS provides services for 309 children, from 3 to 5 years of age, and EHS provides services for 108 infants, toddlers and pregnant women.

The City of Alexandria is the grantee for the Alexandria Head Start (AHS) program. Since the inception of the grant in 1966, The Campagna Center (TCC) has been the delegate agency. The Alexandria City Council has delegated the daily operation of the Alexandria Head Start program to TCC and the responsibilities of the governing body to The Campagna Center Board of Directors. TCC's governing board is responsible for the governance of the program, with annual reporting to City Council.

The monitoring and oversight of the delegate agency is shared between the Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) and the Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS). The Department of Community and Human Services oversees and monitors all financial responsibilities of the delegate agency and ACPS oversees and monitors the programmatic responsibilities of the delegate agency. Specific responsibilities are outlined in the delegation agreement with the City and ACPS.

In the fall of 2002, The Campagna Center was awarded a grant from the Federal Government to operate an Early Head Start (EHS) Program designed to serve families with children under three years of age and to pregnant women and teens. This program provides the same kind of comprehensive child development and family support services provided to Head Start families. These services include: home visits, health and nutrition support and other family support services.

The Campagna Center

Our Vision

The vision of The Campagna Center is to create a vibrant, effective community for all.

Our Mission

The Campagna Center draws together the resources of the Alexandria community to strengthen families and provide programs that help children become caring, productive adults.

Program Outcomes

There are two primary long-term outcomes for the Alexandria Head Start and Campagna Early Head Start programs, respectively:

Alexandria Head Start:

- That children enrolled in the Head Start program develop those skills in the areas of language and cognitive development, early reading and mathematics, socio-emotional development, and physical development necessary for school readiness; and
- That all families served by the Head Start program become self-sufficient and full partners in their child's education.

Campagna Early Head Start:

- Children enrolled in Early Head Start will develop foundational skills in the areas of physical development and health, social and emotional development, approaches to learning, language and literacy, and cognitive and general knowledge that support preschool and school readiness; and
- Families served by the Early Head Start program will become self-sufficient and full partners in their child's education.

Alexandria Head Start and Campagna Early Head Start understand that the ultimate goal of Head Start as a national program is to ensure that children served by the program demonstrate growth across all domains of development to support school readiness. Part 1307 of the Head Start Performance Standards makes clear that programs must establish program goals for improving the school readiness of children participating in its program.

School readiness goals are defined as the expectations of children's status and progress across domains of language and literacy development, cognition and general knowledge, approaches to learning, physical well-

being and motor development, and social and emotional development that will improve their readiness for kindergarten.

Campagna Early Head Start understands that developing “school readiness” goals for children under the age of 3 is a task that must be approached carefully for many reasons. First, growth within and across domains is *naturally* uneven and varies greatly during the first three years of life. Second, reliable, valid, and affordable assessments tools to track developmental progress are limited for this age group compared to resources available for preschool children. Finally, and most importantly, very young children develop in the context of relationships and any framework articulating goals for this age group must reflect that principle.

To guide our work we have articulated the following definition of school readiness for our Early Head Start program: *Establishing foundational skills across all domains of development (language/literacy, social and emotional, physical health, approaches to learning, and cognitive/general knowledge), through responsive relationships with adults, that are necessary for success in preschool and kindergarten.*

While the goals reflect core areas of competence that develop over the first three years of life, how these competencies are expressed will vary based on a child’s age/developmental status. Our framework focuses on the broad areas of competence; we understand that very young children must accomplish many milestones along the way.

In order to prepare children to be successful when they enter school, Alexandria Head Start has articulated high expectations for the progress children will attain while participating in the program. The program has implemented an integrated curriculum that aligns with the essential domains of school readiness in the Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework to address the aforementioned needs of all children, including those that are dual language learners and children with disabilities.

In addition, both programs have articulated family engagement and participation expectations including how the program will support and work with families on an ongoing basis so that they can in turn support growth in their own children across all domains. We believe that parent participation and input is paramount to a child’s school readiness success.

The programs provides our children and families with a rich array of services and resources to ensure that the program meet the aforementioned outcomes.

To that end, in addition to the high quality early childhood education provided to the children of Head Start and Early Head Start, the program also provides comprehensive family support in the areas of health, nutrition, mental health and case management.

ENROLLMENT AND SITE INFORMATION

Alexandria Head Start:

AHS is funded to serve 252 children through the base grant and 57 children through an ARRA grant for a total of 309 funded slots. In FY 2012, the ARRA dollars become part of the Alexandria Head Start base grant.

During program year 2011-12, turnover in enrollment allowed the program to actually serve 352 unique children.

The following outcomes meet or exceed Head Start requirements.

Total Enrollment for the program year 2011-12: 352

Average Monthly Enrollment: 99.5%

All vacated slots were filled immediately by families on the waiting list that averaged more than 150 throughout the program year.

Percentage of eligible children served: 94%

This year, the 6% of families that were considered over-income but served by AHS were families with children with IEP's or other priority status such as foster care, involved with Child Protective Services. Homeless families are considered categorically eligible for the AHS program according to the McKinney-Vento Act.

Percentage of children with disabilities (IEP's) served: 11%

This year, the program exceeded the federal requirement of 10%. In addition, the program participated in an inclusion classroom partnership with ACPS Pre-School Special Education at John Adams.

AHS has a total of 17 classrooms across eight sites:

Cora Kelly Elementary	Northern Virginia Community College*
George Washington Middle School	Patrick Henry Elementary
Jefferson Houston Elementary	St. Paul's Episcopal Church*
John Adams Elementary School	TC Williams "Tiny Titans"

**Classroom space at NVCC and St. Paul's is provided through in-kind donations from Northern Virginia Community College and St. Paul's Episcopal Church, respectively. All other classroom space is provided through in-kind donations from Alexandria City Public Schools.*

Campagna Early Head Start:

EHS is funded to serve 60 children through the base grant and 48 children through an ARRA grant for a total of 108 funded slots. In FY 2012, the ARRA dollars become part of the Early Head Start base grant.

During program year 2011-12, turnover in enrollment allowed the program to actually serve 173 unique children.

The following outcomes meet or exceed Head Start requirements.

Total Enrollment for the program year 2011-12: 173

Average Monthly Enrollment: 98.1%

All vacated slots were filled immediately by families on the waiting list that averaged more than 145 throughout the program year.

Percentage of eligible children served: 97%

This year, the 3% of families that were considered over-income but served by AHS were families with children with IEP's or other priority status such as foster care, involved with Child Protective Services. Homeless families are considered categorically eligible for the AHS program according to the McKinney-Vento Act.

Percentage of children with disabilities (IEP's) served: 10%

This year, the program met the federal requirement of 10% and has enhanced its recruitment activities held in conjunction with the Part C Provider for the City of Alexandria, Parent Infant Education (PIE) in order to ensure that the 10% is consistently met.

EHS has a total of 3 infant and 3 toddler classrooms at three sites:

George Washington Middle School

TC Williams "Tiny Titans"

Jefferson Houston Elementary

In addition, the program provides family child care services for 12 children at 3 sites and serves 48 children through the home visitor option.

FAMILY SUPPORT

AHS and EHS staff members work in partnership with parents to ensure that Head Start children receive the necessary health and dental care and to assist families to keep up with required immunizations and ongoing or follow-up health and dental care when indicated.

The following outcomes meet or exceed Head Start requirements.

Percentage of enrolled children that received medical and dental exams:

Alexandria Head Start:

90% of total number of children enrolled received medical exams

95% of total number of children enrolled received dental exams

Children that did not receive the required exams left the program before the 45 day screening window ended.

Campagna Early Head Start:

92% of total number of children enrolled received medical exams

35% of total number of children enrolled received dental exams

Children that did not receive the required exams left the program before the 45 day screening window ended. Also, it should be noted that many of the children that did not receive dental exams were infants at the time.

With respect to case management and referrals, the program has developed and maintained a myriad of strong community partnerships to ensure that parents are given resources for the services they require to meet their partnership goals, become self-sufficient and thrive.

The percentage of families receiving specific referrals:

Alexandria Head Start:

Emergency/Crisis intervention such as meeting needs for food, clothing, or shelter	8%
Housing assistance (e.g., subsidies, utilities, repairs, etc.)	5%
Mental health services	2%
English as a Second Language (ESL) training	4%
Adult education such as GED programs and college selection	8%
Job training	2%
Assistance in seeking child support	13%
Health education	36%

Parenting education	34%
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Campagna Early Head Start:

Emergency/Crisis intervention such as meeting needs for food, clothing, or shelter	14%
Housing assistance (e.g., subsidies, utilities, repairs, etc.)	8%
Mental health services	2%
English as a Second Language (ESL) training	4%
Adult education such as GED programs and college selection	12%
Job training	6%
Assistance in seeking child support	7%
Health education	27%
Parenting education	47%

AHS and EHS involve parents in their child’s education through parent involvement activities such as:

- Monthly Parent Meetings
- Bi-Monthly “Men About Head Start” Meetings
- Regular opportunities for parents to volunteer in the classroom and participate in activities such as: reading in their home language to the children, field trips, Policy Council and Site Program Committees, twice a year Health, Family and Community Partnership and Education Advisory Meetings.
- In addition, EHS also provides “Open Time Centers” (staff-facilitated play groups) throughout the month at various locations throughout the City to encourage parents participating in the home visitor program and parents from the community to come together to socialize, network and learn. The program holds an average of 3 Open Time Centers a month at 3 different sites.

• Total Number of Alexandria Head Start Parent Volunteers:	130
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Total Number of Early Head Start Parent Volunteers:	22
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A variety of special events were held for families:

Fall Festival

Thanksgiving Luncheons

Holiday Store

Winter Celebrations

Scottish Christmas Walk Parade

Kindergarten Institute

Multicultural Festival

Mother's and Father's Day luncheons

End of Year Classroom Celebrations

In addition, Alexandria Head Start works to prepare children and their parents for transition to kindergarten using several strategies:

- From the beginning of the program year, information is distributed to families on kindergarten fairs, kindergarten registration and how to prepare their child for kindergarten.
- Throughout the spring, teachers and kindergarten bound children visit the kindergarten classrooms at their respective schools to familiarize the children with the classroom set-up, the teachers and basic expectations.
- The program partners with ACPS to conduct parent meetings in the fall and spring on what to expect at kindergarten registration and how to navigate the registration system.
- Staff help parents through the process of registering their child for K-Prep, a summer institute held by ACPS to give kindergarten teachers and kindergarten bound children the opportunity to get to know each other before the school year begins.
- An Annual Kindergarten Institute is held to give parents the opportunity to meet with ACPS officials and kindergarten teachers to learn and ask questions about the expectations for children entering kindergarten and for their parents. Parents participate in workshops designed to help them develop an understanding of the differences between preschool and kindergarten and how to continue to prepare their child over the summer months.
- Over the summer family service specialists contact parents to remind them of K-Prep and make themselves available to parents through the first half of the new school year to answer questions or provide needed resources to help parents advocate for their child within the school system.
- Information on each child entering Kindergarten is provided to the teachers to help them understand the child's progress made in Head Start, including fall and spring assessment scores, and prepare them for that child's entry into their classroom.

Other 2011-12 Program Highlights:

Alexandria Head Start:

- End of program year curriculum assessments indicate that average scores in all domains assessed (Language and Literacy, Math, Science, Creative Arts, Physical Development, Approaches to Learning and Social Emotional) increased from a benchmark of either “Not Yet” or early “Emerging” to “Emerging” or “Proficient.”
- PALS-Pre-K (a screening, diagnostic, and progress monitoring tool for measuring the fundamental components of literacy) scores indicate that there was at least a 23-50% increase in student scores from Fall to Spring.
- The program participated in successful triennial federal review through The Office of Head Start.
- All classrooms were re-rated by Virginia QRIS and scored either 3 or 4 stars.
- Two Family Service Specialists trained as trainers for Abriendos Puertos, a family engagement curriculum, presented at the Virginia Head Start Association Conference.

Campagna Early Head Start:

- The program opened a new Open Time Center (socialization group) in conjunction with Child Protective Services for the residents of Brent Place (in addition to existing Open Time Centers).
- The program participated in a home visitor/socialization training video for the Early Head Start National Resource Center.
- All toddler classrooms were re-rated by Virginia QRIS and scored either 3 or 4 stars. Two Family Child Care Providers were rated as 5 Stars through the Virginia QRIS System.

RESULTS OF THE MOST RECENT REVIEW

BY THE SECRETARY AND THE FINANCIAL AUDIT

Alexandria Head Start:

- The most recent Health and Human Services triennial federal review was held in December 2011. Only one non-compliance, subsequently corrected, was found.

Campagna Early Head Start:

- The most recent Health and Human Services triennial federal review was held in November 2010 (during the 2010-11 program year). No deficiencies were noted. The next federal review is scheduled for program year 2013-14.

- The most recent financial audit was for the year ended August 31, 2011. No findings were noted.

PROGRAM GOVERNANCE INFORMATION

Head Start regulations require that the Governing Board, with oversight for the Head Start and Early Head Start programs, meet the following composition requirements.

The Campagna Center Board meets said requirements as follows:

One member with a background and expertise in fiscal management or accounting:

Mike Gaffney, EDG Partners; Alden Philbrick, Oxford Finance; Bob Bell, AFBA.

One member with a background and expertise in early childhood and development:

Kris Clark, former ACPS Executive Director for Elementary Programs; Tammy L. Mann, PhD (Ex-Officio).

One member will be a licensed attorney familiar with issues that come before the governing body:

Maureen Cooney, Sr. Legal Officer, Sprint/Nextel; Lonnie Rich, Partner, Rich, Rosenthal, Brincefield, Manitta, Dzuben and Kroeger.

Additional members will reflect the community to be served and include parents of children who are currently, or were formerly enrolled in the Head Start programs and are selected for expertise in education, business administration or community affairs.

Yitbarek Arefe-Aine, Former Head Start parent; Adrienne Fox-Luscombe, Point Communication Services; Walter Lukens, The Lukens Company; Francesca Trigiani-Noone, Mercer-Trigiani.

FINANCE OVERVIEW

ALEXANDRIA HEAD START

Total amount of public and private funds received and the amount from each source:

Revenue and Support:

Federal:	\$2,155,262
City of Alexandria:	\$196,541
USDA:	\$231,063
In-Kind:	\$726,674
Other Income	\$300
Total:	\$3,309,840

An explanation of budgetary expenditures and proposed budget for the fiscal year:

Salaries and Benefits	\$1,793,852
Professional Services	\$77,572
In-Kind Expenses	\$726,674
Food Expenses	\$244,006
Supplies:	\$68,187
Telephone and Technology	\$69,349
Training and Development	\$11,500
Insurance	\$3,765
Program Activities	\$24,061
Travel	\$2,011
Equipment, Repairs and Maintenance	\$14,603
Postage	\$1,264
Printing	\$1,380
Licensing and Permits	\$7,176

Occupancy	\$120
Other	\$3,055
Overhead	\$260,406
Total:	\$3,008,981
<u>Net:</u>	<u>\$859</u>

CAMPAGNA EARLY HEAD START

Revenue and Support:

Federal:	\$1,299,581
USDA:	\$40,864
In-Kind:	\$357,851
Other:	\$1,216
Total:	\$1,699,512

An explanation of budgetary expenditures for the fiscal year:

Salaries and Benefits	\$1,235,198
Professional Services	\$42,471
In-Kind Expenses	\$357,851
Food Expenses	\$63,618
Supplies:	\$915
Telephone and Technology	\$10,549
Training and Development	\$2,127
Insurance	\$6,945
Program Activities	\$8,359
Travel	\$1,730
Equipment, Repairs and Maintenance	\$2,643
Postage	\$336

Printing	\$0
Licensing and Permits	\$1,784
Other	\$290
Overhead	\$17,047
Total:	\$1,751,864
<u>(Net Deficit)</u>	<u>- \$52,352</u>