

Blue Grass Child Development Programs
 Head Start and Day Care
 Annual Report

During the 2008-2009 school year, Blue Grass Head Start, sponsored by Blue Grass Community Action Partnership, Incorporated, received a budget of \$2,043,981 for general operating costs and \$25,901 for college courses and training from the Department of Health and Human Services/Administration for Children and Families. The United States Department of Agriculture/Child Care Food Program reimbursed the Head Start program \$165,134 for expenditures made to provide nutritional services to over 400 children during the year. The Head Start program served over 303 children and their families in the six-county service area, and the day care program served over 70 children. Average monthly attendance exceeded 95%. The Head Start budget remained flat funded during this school year; therefore, the staff did not receive pay increases, and the other operating categories remained budgeted at the same funding level as the previous year. With rising costs in the prices of gas, utilities, supplies, food, medical and dental services, vehicle and building maintenance and the other needs for operating a child development program, it was one of the most challenging years since the inception of the agency in 1966.

The 2008-2009 budget categories for Blue Grass Head Start for the grant award of \$2,069,882 were as follows:

Program Account 20:	
College courses for staff	\$ 21,464
Training fees	<u>\$ 4,437</u>
Total PA 20:	\$ 25,901
Program Account 22:	
Personnel Costs (70 employees)	\$1,171,137
Fringe Benefits	\$ 325,527
Travel (out-of-town)	\$ 14,807
Supplies – classroom, medical & dental, disability, social services & parent involvement & food	\$ 53,027
	\$ 15,675
Mental Health Services Contract	
Other – medical & dental care, nutrition consultant, employee travel, maintenance of vehicles, fuel & oil, parent activity funds, licensing & regulations, utilities, telephone, bldg. maintenance, insurance, printing & advertising and Policy Council	\$ 254,424
Indirect costs	<u>\$ 209,384</u>
Total PA 22:	\$2,043,981

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Total PA20:	\$ 25,091
Total PA 22:	\$ 2,043,981
Total Federal	\$ 2,069,882
Total Nonfederal (volunteers)	\$ 517,470
Total Grant	\$ 2,587,351

Blue Grass Head Start has six Head Start centers in the counties of Anderson, Boyle, Franklin, Jessamine, Mercer, and Woodford. There are two options offered in the Head Start centers: 1) part-day/part-year services, and 2) full-day/full year services. Blue Grass Community Action Agency operates two day care centers in Anderson and Franklin counties. All of the Head Start and Day Care Centers are nationally accredited through the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) or in the process of renewing their accreditation. All of the centers are licensed through the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Office of Inspector General, Cabinet for Health and Family Services. Further, the centers are participating in the state voluntary quality child-care rating system that has been named "STARS" funded through the state KIDS NOW initiative. By participating in all of these quality rating systems, and complying with all Performance Standards, Head Start requirements, federal, state, and local regulations, the centers are providing high quality services to the Head Start and day care children and their families.

Turnover in staff for the program continues to be very low. The majority of the staff has been employed with the Agency for a minimum of ten years. Almost seventy-five percent of the staff is in college either working on CDA credential, AA, BA, or master's degree. Hiring preferences have continued to be given to past and present Head Start parents for entry level positions. Thirty-five percent of the current Blue Grass Head Start staff consists of former or current Head Start parents and even past Head Start children.

The Blue Grass Head Start program has partnerships with Kentucky State University, University of Kentucky, Eastern Kentucky University, Morehead State University, Chapel Hill University and the Bluegrass Community and Technical College. Head Start staff attends these universities which are located near their centers or have satellite programs nearby. Students from these universities also serve their internships in the Blue Grass Head Start program thus contributing to the enhanced services to children and families. Blue Grass Head Start has collaborative programs with the University of Kentucky for the Healthy Marriage initiative; and such innovation programs as: Kentucky State University with a preventing childhood obesity project, and also the children with incarcerated parents project; plus a music project in conjunction with a school music teacher and Chapel Hill University.

Local Agreements have been developed, signed, and implemented in cooperation with Blue Grass Head Start and the local educational agencies (LEA's). There are nine school districts in the six-county service area. The Local Agreements meet the requirements of the *Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007*, passed by Congress in December 2007. The new Head Start Act places an increased emphasis on enhanced collaboration and coordination by Head Start grantees with public school and state funded preschool programs. Transition plans

are developed to prepare Head Start children and their parents for entry into the public school system.

The Blue Grass Head Start program has aligned their curriculum with the LEAs and has adopted the state screening tool, DIAL-3, and the state-approved assessment, LAP-3. Web-based results are shared and transition plans are developed and implemented with each of the nine school districts located within the six-county Blue Grass Head Start service area. Head Start provides children with a learning environment and a variety of experiences designed to stimulate learning in all areas – physical, social, emotional, and intellectual. All activities are planned following developmentally appropriate practices. The Blue Grass Head Start program focuses on areas of development in: language development, literacy, mathematics, science, creative arts, social & emotional development, approaches to learning, and physical health & development. These domains are legislatively mandated in the Head Start Child Outcomes Framework and progress is followed on each child to insure a strong academic foundation. By focusing on these outcomes, the children will have a smoother transition into kindergarten.

The Head Start parents participate in Parent Committees in each center and are elected to represent the parents on the Head Start Policy Council. Community representatives of different organizations, agencies, former parents and other advocates for Head Start are approved by the Policy Council to serve as members. Election of parent representatives complied with the regulation stating that over 51% of members of the Policy Council must be parents of currently enrolled Head Start children. Training was provided in many areas, e.g., parenting skills, food preparation, nutrition, interviewing techniques, teaching ideas, home and car safety, sanitation, personal grooming, play as learning, being an advocate for your school and child, and other locally designed sessions as requested by the parents.

The Blue Grass Head Start program received the Certificate of Excellence award after the last federal on-site monitoring. This excellent rating signifies that the program is in compliance with the Performance Standards and all Head Start regulations. Blue Grass Head Start has always maintained full enrollment and continuously has a waiting list. The Blue Grass Head Start program has an excellent reputation and parents are anxious to have their children attend the program.

**Blue Grass Head Start
Medical Information**

Percentage (%) of children up to date on a schedule of preventive and primary health care per the state's EPSDT schedule	104.73%
Percentage (%) of children diagnosed as needing medical treatment	28.92%
Percentage (%) of children receiving medical treatment	100.00%
Percentage of children with up-to-date immunizations or all possible immunizations to date	104.73%
Percentage (%) of preschool children completing professional dental exams	104.73%
Percentage (%) of preschool children needing professional dental treatment	18.37%
Percentage (%) of preschool children receiving dental treatment	100.00%
Percentage (%) of funded enrollment reported as children with an IEP	8.25%
Percentage (%) of preschool children that received special education or related services for a primary disability	100.00%