

SDC Head Start 2009-2010 Annual Report

About the CR- Social Development Commission HEAD START PROGRAM

The Federal Guidelines state that Head Start programs were created to promote the school readiness of low-income children by enhancing their cognitive, social, and emotional development in a learning environment that supports children's growth in language, literacy, mathematics, science, social and emotional functioning, creative arts, physical skills, and approaches to learning; and 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.

For 45 years, the Social Development Commission (SDC) Head Start program has provided those quality services to the children and families in the Milwaukee community. We have been governed by a tri-part Board of Commissioners as the county's Community Action Agency (CAA). The agency, as the Grantee, is a 20 million dollar Head Start program that has successfully prepared low-income children for kindergarten. Services were provided to over 3,061 children and their families during the 2009-2010 school year. SDC's Head Start program is the largest in the Wisconsin.

Several program options are offered:

- A Full Day (10 hours)/Full Year Center Based Head Start for parents working or enrolled in an education or job-training program.
- A Part Day (3.5 hours) Center Based Head Start
- A Part Day Center Based Head Start with a Day Care wrap-around program
- A Head Start Program on-site with Child Care Partners
- A Home Based option for Hmong families in the community

SDC directly operates 10 centers and contracts with 5 Delegate Agencies to provide services. Additionally, 6 Child Care programs participated in the grantee ECHO program (Enhanced Childcare, Head Start Option).

QUALITY ASSURANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The SDC Central Office Staff provides training and technical assistance to all programs. Additionally this team of 15 area specialist staff monitors performance, compliance, and accomplishments to ensure that all programs, delegates as well as site operations, meet or exceed local, state and federal requirements and that they conduct themselves in an effective and efficient manner.

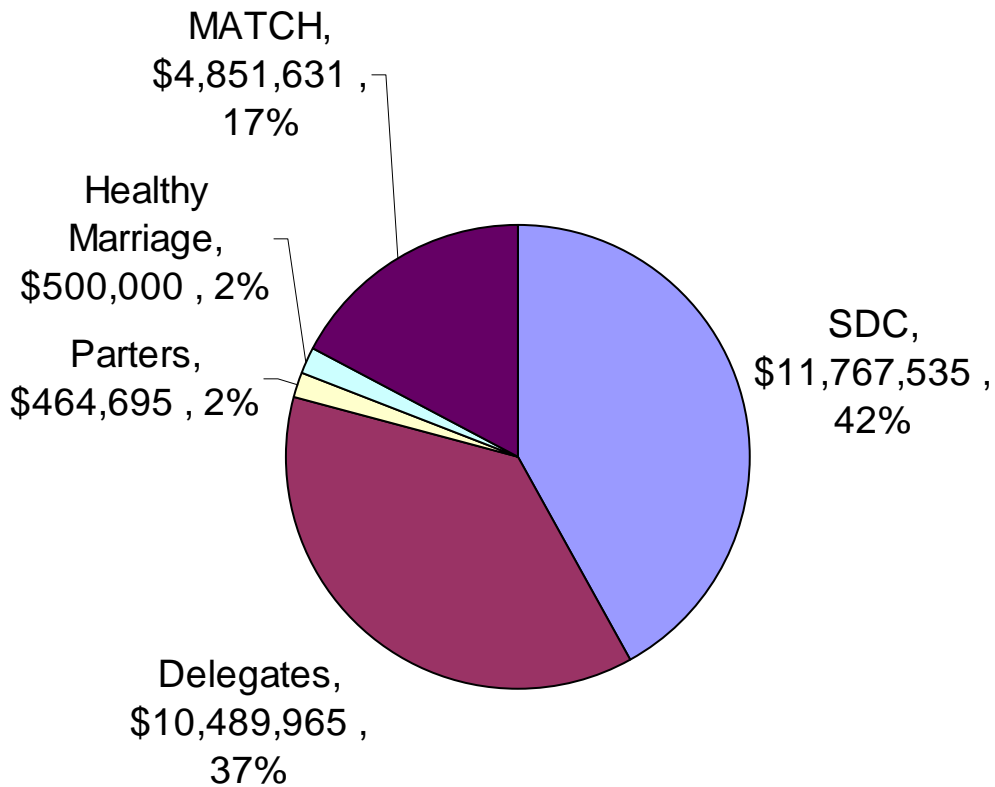
Tools and assessments used to ensure the quality of the SDC site operations include:

- **An Annual Self-Assessment** is conducted to ensure compliance with the Federal Performance Standards. A corrective action plan is developed and all issues are corrected.
- **Child Plus**, the Head Start database program helped Head Start track services to children and families.
- **High Scope and the COR Assessment Tool** is used to document, track, and report information on children in the areas of Language and Literacy, Creative Arts, Early Math, Social & Emotional Development, Nature and Science, Approaches to Learning, Fine and Gross Motor and Physical Health. Patterns of progress for individual children and groups of children are reviewed.
- **Triennial Federal Review and Audit** is conducted to determine if the Federal Head Start Performance Standards are being met. The program will be reviewed in FY 2010. The 2007 triennial review identified two areas for improvement – 1. Staff physical exams and parent policy committee participation at a delegate level.
- **Fiscal Audit** – An independent auditor assesses the program to ensure it is fiscally sound and following all regulations.
- **Quality Assurance Department** – The agency has a quality assurance department responsible to assist programs in meeting local, state and federal guidelines
- **Internal Audit Department** – The agency staffs an internal audit department who annually reviews various programs and services in the agency. The Audit is available for review on the Agency website: www.cr-sdc.org
- **Program Information Report (PIR)** – The annual Head Start program Information Report (PIR) is an OMB (Federal Office of Management & Budget) approved report that collects comprehensive data on nearly 2,700 Head Start and Early Head Start programs nationwide. This information assists in determining strengths and weaknesses.

The SDC Central Office service area staff conducts **Ongoing Monitoring** throughout the year of its' Delegate Agencies, Child Care Partners and its own operation by each service area and when necessary helps to develop a corrective action plan to ensure compliance is met. The team uses the most current federal review instrument as well as checklists designed to reflect best practices in the field.

FINANCIALS

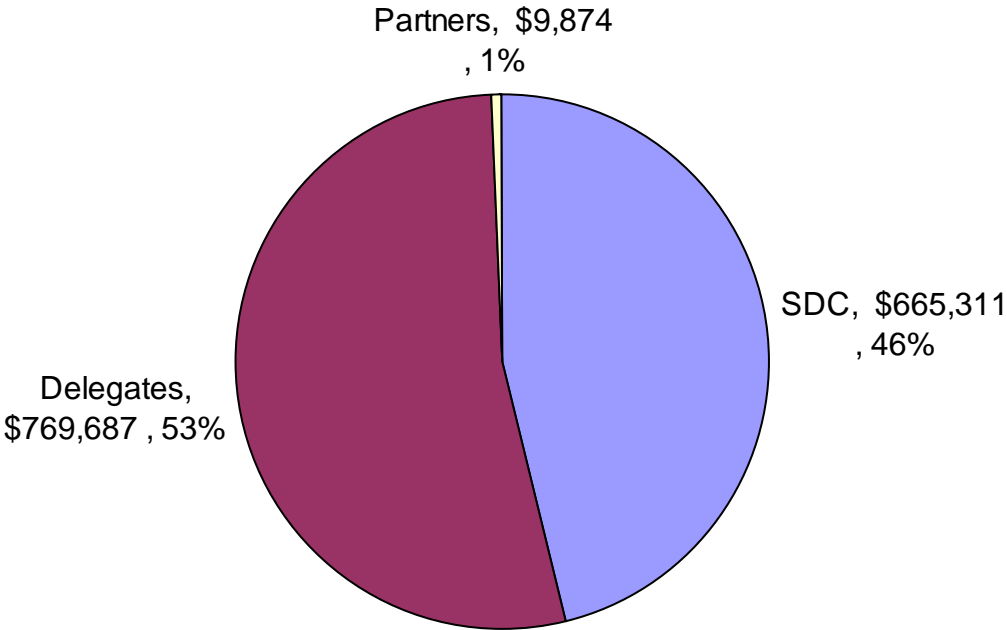
SDC Head Start Program City-Wide Total Funding FY 2010 \$28,073,826



■ SDC ■ Delegates ■ Parters ■ Healthy Marriage ■ MATCH

Head Start ARRA Program Funding 2010

ARRA FY 2010 FUNDING



■ SDC ■ Delegates ■ Partners

**Projected Program Funding
2009-2010**

No Changes are expected for the FY2011

The SDC PA 22 budget is as follows:

Personnel	4,268,889
Fringe Benefits	1,908,696
Travel	34,756
Equipment	0
Supplies	115,962
Contractual	
Delegates	9,144,221
Partners	454,821
Construction	0
Other	1,139,608
Total Direct Charges	17,066,953
Indirect Charges	2,119,195
Total	\$19,186,148

Program Accomplishments

HEALTHY MARRIAGE INITIATIVE PROJECT GRANT

The grant was received on September 30, 2007 from the U.S. Department of HHS, ACF Office of Head Start a Head Start Healthy Marriage Initiative Project Grant in the amount of \$500,000 for five (5) years. The program was one of only 24 programs nationwide to receive this grant out of a possible 2,700 applicants. The HMI program (Healthy Marriage Initiative/Building Blocks To Healthy Relationships) was created to provide SDC Head Start Families with workshops & educational trainings that are proven family educational programs that teach skills for healthy living! This program will support couples, individuals, families and those who work with them to promote healthy relationships.

The SDC Head Start is celebrating the fourth year of its Healthy Relationships & Marriage Enhancement Program (Healthy Relationships Program). The goal of the Healthy Relationships & Marriage Enhancement Program is to provide relationship education for individuals, unmarried couples, and married couples. The program strengthens and promotes healthy relationships and helps build family connections by enriching each partner and their children. Program delivery is comprised of men-only, women-only, and couple-only class sessions.

Practical skills were taught through *the Family Wellness & Within My Reach* curriculums based on proven principles that strengthen, uphold and empower individuals, couples and families. Many families & individuals benefited from this program as evidenced by their positive feedback. This year alone we have provided over 600 units of training. We received National recognition and were selected to pilot an exciting new Fatherhood curriculum called "*On My Shoulders.*" The On My Shoulders program is improving the quality of father/child and co-parenting relationships among Milwaukee area families. The program is one of only a few pilot efforts being offered around the country.



NATIONAL ACCREDITATIONS

Two (2) of the SDC Head Start centers in the County are credentialed by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

PROJECT EMERGE

For the past five years, SDC Head Start has maintained a flourishing partnership with the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee and Madison. Through funding from the Early Reading First Program, Classrooms receive the support of the University system by an increase in classroom books and supplies, an intensive literacy training program and on-site weekly teacher mentoring. The project will end in 2010 however the University of Wisconsin –Milwaukee is seeking other funding to continue the wonderful collaboration we have developed.

HEALTH HEELERS



The past years have seen a wonderful innovative program introduced in several of the Head Start classrooms. Health Heelers is a professional therapy dog service that customizes Animal-Assisted Therapy programs to meet the specific needs of facilities and organizations in the greater Milwaukee area. Health Heelers is a full service therapy dog organization and uses trained team of handlers and dogs to enhance classroom activities and child/animal interactions. The joy on the faces of the children when the dogs visit the classroom is a true testament to the benefits on animal assisted therapy.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

To meet or exceed the Head Start Reauthorization Act of 2007 mandates regarding staff qualifications, the program continues to expand on partnerships with local colleges and universities. This assists the program to improve the quality and credentials of

program staff. SDC currently has staff enrolled at the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee, Cardinal Stritch University and the Milwaukee Area Technical College. Additionally, SDC contracts for a CDA support class for all Teacher Assistants. The goal of the program is to ensure that all teachers obtain their Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood, all teacher assistants obtain at least their CDA, and all Family Advocate staff receives additional credentials and support when working with families.

FACILITIES

During 2010 there was no major change to facilities

Challenges Faced by the Program



Dental services for children of the working poor are difficult to find. Issues related to dental care for the Head Start children were found due to a limited number of pedodontists in the community. The program is proactively working with our Health Advisory Committee, the State of Wisconsin, Marquette Dental School and other health organizations in the community to bring services to the children.

EFFORTS TO PREPARE CHILDREN FOR KINDERGARTEN

In 2009-2010 Head Start children transitioned to kindergarten. Teaching staff works with the children throughout the school year in activities that will help with transition. They take the children to visit a kindergarten class and communicate with kindergarten staff. They work with the parents on preparing the children for kindergarten. The parents of transitioning children received a Transition Newsletter that included useful information

on what transition is, how to prepare for it, documents needed to register for kindergarten, and skills that help to ease the process. In addition, every child transitioning receives a transition backpack.

Child Outcome Data Analysis:

SDC Head Start utilizes the High/Scope COR Assessment, which aligns with the Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards. These developmentally appropriate expectations are a framework that prepares our children for success in kindergarten. The Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework aligns with the COR Assessment.

The COR categories with the highest scores:

Fall	1. Physical Development & Health 2. Creative Arts Expression 3. Approaches to Learning/Language Development
Winter	1. Physical Development & Health 2. Creative Arts Expression 3. Approaches to Learning
Spring	1. Physical Development & Health 2. Creative Arts Expression 3. Approaches to Learning

The areas in which children made the greatest progress:

1. English Language Development

Although the number of non-English speaking children is small, the effort to hire staff that speaks the native language of the children served throughout the program has resulted in significant progress in the area of English Language Development. The program has made a concerted effort to provide materials for the children in both English and Spanish. Staff takes the initiative to learn from the families of non-English speaking children, the key words and/or phrases that are important to working with their children and meeting their children's needs. Parental support towards the goal of non-English speaking children learning to speak English is of tremendous importance in this success.

2. Social Studies Knowledge and Skills

The sense of community in our classrooms and consistent, daily routines foster the development of skills in the area of Social Studies. Our families bring a variety of cultures, beliefs and values to our Head Start program. Together, we respect, appreciate and celebrate these differences. Families are involved in all aspects of the program including the development of individualized goals for their children.

3. Science Knowledge and Skills

The High/Scope Curriculum capitalizes on children's innate curiosity resulting in the development of observation skills, and the awareness and understanding of science concepts. The areas of physical and perceptual motor development influence the development of Science Knowledge and Skills.

Readiness Goals:

There was an emphasis on Social Emotional Development as evidenced by: Weekly implementation of the Second Step Curriculum in the classrooms as documented on the lesson plans. Data from the High Scope COR Assessment show that in the area of Social and Emotional Development our children progressed from a Time 1 score of 2.32 to a Time 3 score of 3.53.

Professional Development Training Emphasis:

The professional development training emphasis was on children's Social Emotional Development. SDC Head Start teachers attended the City-Wide Social Emotional Institute. The teachers also participated in the two-part training on "Mental Health Supports for the Early Childhood Classroom".

Percentage of Children Served:

The Head Start Community Needs Assessment update reports that approximately 8,490 children, ages 3-5 were eligible for Head Start in 2010. Our City Wide Head Start program is funded for 3,061 children thus allowing us to serve 36% of the eligible children. The SDC site operations is funded for 1,368 children and served 16% of the eligible Head Start children.

SDC Site Operations Program Statistics 2009-2010

Funded Enrollment:

Federal Slots	1,235
State Slots	133
Total Funded Enrollment	1,368

Total Actual Enrollment

Total Number of Families	1,553
Families receiving Social Services	1,176
Children receiving Physical Exams	1,154
Children receiving Dental Exams	1,356
Children diagnosed with a Disability	138

Community members/ Parents participating in the program	900
Children completing behavioral Screenings	1,368
Children transitioned to Kindergarten	219
Number of Fathers participating	455

Enrollment by Eligibility Type

The SDC Head Start program begins its recruitment and enrollment process in the spring before the start of a new school year. Eligibility is determined by a variety of factors, the primary factors being income level and age.

Diversity in SDC Head Start Children

Our program embraces ethnic, cultural and linguistic diversity. Throughout its programming, Opportunities for children and families to learn about different cultures and customs are provided. The program builds upon skills and culture that each child and family brings to the program.

City Wide Head Start Program Monthly Enrollment

September 2009 = 2,852
 October 2009 = 2,918
 November 2009 = 2,898
 December 2009 = 2,887
 January 2010 = 2,909
 February 2010 = 2,949
 March 2010 = 3,014
 April 2010 = 3,001
 May 2010 = 3,001

Parent Involvement

Head Start believes parents are the most important influence on a child's development. Parent involvement is essential to program planning and decision-making:

- The Healthy Marriage Initiative • Parent Policy Council Training
- Parent Meetings Once a Month • City Wide Parent Training Days
- Parents Volunteering in Centers • Early Childhood Classes for Parents
- Parents hired as Staff • Parent Activities

Education Level of Parents

Parents of the children in the SDC Head Start program are encouraged and

supported to better themselves. A formal partnership agreement established with each family is developed to include goals in areas such as parenting, health, housing, as well as educational and vocational aspirations. Certificate classes are offered in Early Childhood and parents completing the program qualify for entry level positions in the program.

Employment Status of Parents

In order for families to participate in the full-day, full-year program the parents must work or be enrolled in an education or job-training program while parents of children enrolled in the half day program do not have to work.