

2010/2011



COMMUNITY ACTION

CORPORATION OF SOUTH TEXAS

Head Start & Early Head Start Programs
Annual Report

Collaboration · Excellence · Diversity · Inclusiveness · Innovation · Social Relevance

2010-2011

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Mission of the Program

The mission of the Head Start and Early Head Start programs are to provide comprehensive child development services to children from birth to age 5, pregnant women and their families. Head Start is a national program that promotes school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through the provision of educational, health, nutritional, social and other services to enrolled children and families. We are a child-focused and family-centered program, and have an overall goal of increasing the social competence of young children in low-income families.

For the past 30 years, the Community Action Corporation of South Texas has been providing Head Start and Early Head Start services to low-income families of South Texas. Our programs operate in 7 south Texas counties, including Aransas, Brooks, Duval, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Kleberg and San Patricio Counties. Exceeding our funded enrollment, we served 1,869 families and children in our service area.

A Message From the Director

2010-2011 Policy Council

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Melinda Ybarra

Community Representatives
Victoriano "Vic" Casas, Jr.
Becky Dominguez
Odilia "Dee Dee" Krebs

2011 was a great year for the CACOST Head Start and Early Head Start Programs, with many exciting things taking place. We are pleased to announce that 17 of our staff are now Classroom Assessment Scoring System Reliable (CLASS) certified. Enrollment stayed over 100% throughout the year in both programs, and we successfully transitioned over 25% of our Head Start Children to kindergarten.

In May we had our triennial Federal Monitoring, hosting 18 personnel for a week-long monitoring by the Office of Head Start. We passed with flying colors and no material weaknesses were reported. Using non-federal resources, CACOST purchased the Nolan Boyd Child Development Center in Alice. The center currently serves as a 0-5 Head Start Center, serving 4 infants, 8 toddlers and 17 pre-school children aged 3-5.

We are looking forward to what 2012 has to offer, and we extend a sincere thank you to everyone that has contributed to the success of the Program.

Nori B. Colecio
Child Development Director



2010 - 2011 Funding

The Agency's Head Start Programs are supported by a stream of both Federal and non-Federal dollars, as well as in-kind dollars donated to the program through various forms of volunteerism or donations. A look into the financials for the fiscal year is detailed:

	Federal HS	Non-Federal HS	Federal EHS	Non-Federal EHS
Personnel:	6,085,029.00	1,733,342.00	1,787,091.00	466,404.00
Fringe Benefits:	1,805,838.00	622,404.00	491,357.00	167,475.00
Travel:	52,820.00	0.00	9,750.00	0.00
Supplies:	288,071.00	0.00	75,402.00	0.00
Other (Vehicles, Space, etc.):	1,707,607.00	129,096.00	338,955.00	41,760.00
	9,939,365.00	2,484,842.00	2,702,555.00	675,639.00
Totals:	12,424,207.00		3,378,194.00	

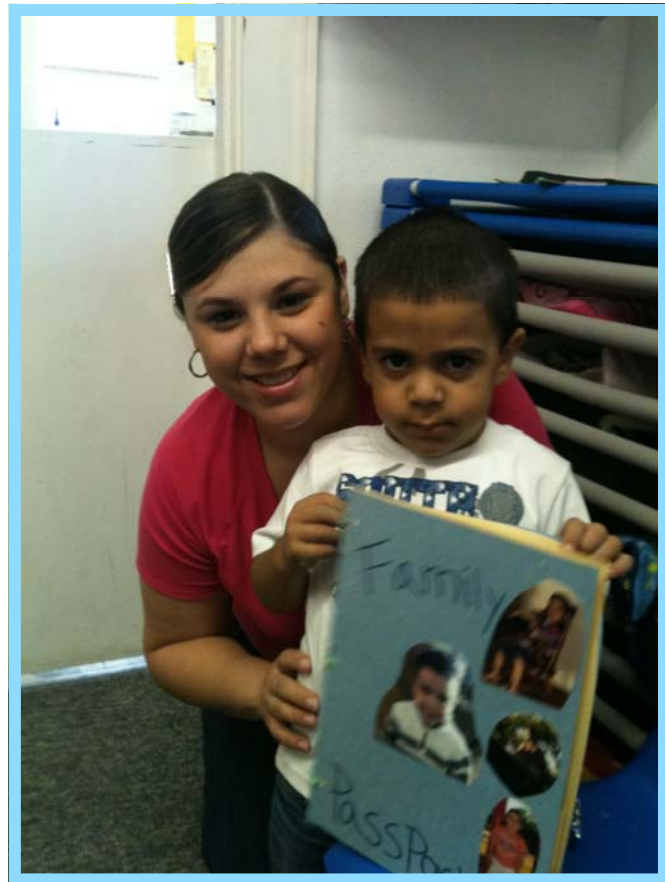
2010 - 2011 Enrollment

Our recruitment and enrollment efforts were successful, with both Head Start and Early Head Start meeting enrollment goals. The overwhelming majority of enrolled children were from families below the Federal Poverty Level and our program successfully provided comprehensive services. This was made possible by our dedicated staff members and volunteer service by committed parents and community members, the majority of which are current or former Head Start parents. The program accomplishments are quantified below:

Enrollment Data	Head Start	Early Head Start
Total Children Served	1,543	326
Total Enrolled (funded)	1,306	223
Below 100% of Federal Poverty Line	90%	96%
% Receiving Medical Screenings	96%	83%
% Receiving Dental Screenings	97%	83%
Children Transitioning to Kindergarten	352	-
Total Staff	265	140
Total Volunteers	2,247	432
% Current or Former Head Start Parents	91%	91%

Transitioning to Kindergarten

In order to comply with Head Start Performance Standards, Section 642(d), CACOST's Head Start children begin preparing for their transition to kindergarten from day one. Not only do we recognize the vital importance of the children's smooth transition, we understand that parental involvement and support is just as important for a successful transition. Throughout the school year, 6 critical steps are taken to promote a successful and smooth transition for children and families as they move into an early childhood experience.



Safety Education

- Transportation and Pedestrian Safety Training provided to parents within the first 30 days of enrollment
- Children will learn about safety based on the Safety Curriculum covering Units 1-5

3-Week Management

- Completed 3 weeks after a child has transition into the Head Start Program

Transition & Goal Setting Plan, and On-Going Transition & Goal Setting Plan

- Developed and Implemented by the Transition Specialist, the parent and the Family and Children's Services Coordinator

Parent Rights & Responsibilities

- Education and training is provided to parents/guardians about parental rights and responsibilities concerning the education of their children as they transition into the public school setting

Transition Activities

- Transition activities are conducted towards the end of the Head Start school year (March - May) for children who are transitioning into the public school setting

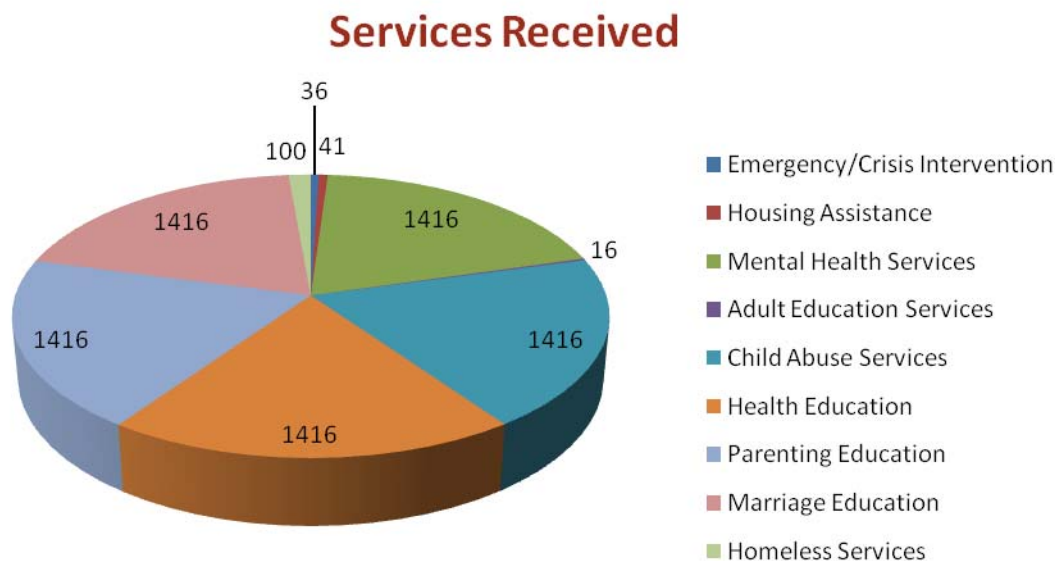
Transition Portfolio

- Public schools within the service areas receive a portfolio, with parental consent, outlining the child's progress throughout the school year

Family Services

Head Start parents are encouraged by Teachers and Teacher Aides to visit or volunteer at their child's center. By doing this parents become more involved in their children's daily activities, forming a closer family-unit. Parents that become involved can also be eligible for employment by Head Start after they are qualified.

Other parental involvement activities include enhancing parenting skills by providing training sessions, parent participation in in-home activities, and parental involvement in policy making. In addition, Fatherhood sessions and Healthy Marriage Sessions are also provided to the Head Start parents. Family services provided to HS and EHS parents can be found in the chart below.



2010 - 2011 Audit Review

The Community Action Corporation of South Texas's Financial Audit was prepared by Raul Hernandez & Company, P.C., for the year ended January 31, 2011. CACOST was found to have no material weaknesses, questioned costs or significant deficiencies in the financial review, and is qualified as a low-risk auditee.

Self Assessment & Looking Forward

Over the summer the Agency performed a self-assessment, reviewing the Program's previous 5 year Strategic Plan and determining the Program's ability to meet it's goals. The results are as follows:

"During the 5 year period of 2006-2010, the CACOST Head Start Program experienced significant growth not only in enrolled children but also funding amounts, qualified teaching staff, classroom numbers, and services provided. A look at the Program's previous strategic plan evidences our ability to meet and exceed our proposed goals, while still effectively administering the increased funding levels provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act from July 2009 through September 2010 ."

Due to the release dates of the 2010 Census data, the Program decided to operate on a two-year interim Strategic Plan through the end of FY2012, instead of it's typical five-year plan. The expected population shifts throughout our service area that will be reflected in the new Census data will likely have significant implications for center and service locations. Accordingly, one of the main focuses of the Program with the release of this data will be the reorganization and relocation of Head Start Centers throughout our service area to adapt to these changing demographics, allowing us to more efficiently and effectively serve our families. At the end of FY2012 the interim plan will be evaluated and a formal five-year plan will be developed and implemented.

2011 - 2012 Head Start Strategic Direction

- **Goal I:** Develop an ongoing process of Policy Council training and development to promote more active participation in the Program.
- **Goal II:** Begin compiling, explicating and planning the Program's 2013-2017 strategic direction based on 2010 Census data.
- **Goal III:** Continue the BRIDGE Healthy Marriage and Family Initiative Program and develop and implement a program for Responsible Fatherhood.

Executive Director:

Mr. Rafael Treviño, Jr.

*204 East 1st Street
P.O. Drawer 1820
Alice, TX 78333-1820
(361) 664-0145 ext. 225
Fax: (361) 664-8982*

Child Development Director:

Ms. Nori B. Colecio

Satellite Offices:

Alice Resource Office
*(Serving Alice, Ben Bolt & Orange
Grove)*
412 E. Main St, Alice, TX 78332
(361) 396-0025

Falfurrias Resource Office
(Serving Falfurrias & Premont)
121 E. Rice St, Falfurrias, TX 78355
(361) 325-9737

Kingsville Resource Office
(Serving Kingsville)
1020 S. 14th St, Suite B,
Kingsville, TX 78363
(361) 592-0125

Sinton Resource Office
*(Serving Sinton, Odem, Mathis,
Taft, Aransas Pass, Rockport,
Ingleside, Gregory & Portland)*
1133 E. Sinton St.
Sinton, TX 78387
(361) 264-0505

San Diego Resource Office
*(Serving Benavides, Freer,
Hebbronville & San Diego)*
103 W. Gravis St.
San Diego, TX 78384
(361)279-8884

Prepared by: Tanner J. Klemcke, Planner

