



# City of Oakland Head Start



2009 - 10  
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Annual Report

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## Letter from Andrea Youngdahl, DHS Director

Dear Community Partners,

The Department of Human Services has been the grantee for the Head Start Program for over 30 years. We have had the privilege to watch the community benefit from these services and to grow the many partnerships that help support the development and education of young children. We remain committed to supporting Oakland families and their children in reaching their dreams, helping our City grow strong.

Head Start has grown and changed to meet the needs of Oakland residents by addressing gaps in services. Head Start connects families with mental health services, dental screenings, flu shots, disability services, nutrition services, and intervention services for homeless families and children. We have implemented a violence prevention curriculum for preschoolers and developed innovative teacher training and support programs.

We are excited to share our Annual Report with you and hope that it will enlighten and brighten your day.

On behalf of the staff of the Department of Human Services, Head Start Program, we thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrea Youngdahl". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Andrea Youngdahl  
Director  
Department of Human Services





## Letter from Usana Pulliam, Head Start Director

Dear Parents, Partners & Community Members,

At Oakland Head Start, we take pride in being a part of the Oakland community. Each year, parents entrust us with the care and education of over 1,800 children. We believe that each child has the right to learn, explore, and develop at his or her own pace. Our responsibility is to create an environment that encourages this exploration.

Head Start is a comprehensive program, one that works with children and families both inside and outside the classroom. We establish family partnerships with all Head Start families, and Family Advocates connect them with community resources to help them thrive. Community partnerships allow us to provide nutritional education, health education, comprehensive child development, and support services to Head Start families.

We support and encourage parents as their children's first and primary teacher. We recognize that parents and families have the most significant impact on the growth and development of their child, and seek to empower families to be the most powerful advocates for their children's education.

With parents, community partners, and Head Start staff working in concert, the results speak for themselves. As you will read in this annual report, Oakland Head Start children are developing important readiness skills for success in preschool, kindergarten, and beyond.

Thank you for your continued partnership!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "U. Pulliam". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Usana Pulliam

Head Start Director



# Head Start



**Mission:** To enrich the lives of children and families today and tomorrow.

**OUR VISION** is to promote school readiness for children by providing activities that foster children's social, emotional, and cognitive skills, and their physical health.

**Philosophy** We believe that each child has the right to learn, explore, and develop at his or her own pace and to be provided with activities which enhance and promote school readiness. Recognizing that parents and families have the most significant impact on the growth and development of their child, Oakland Head Start seeks to establish family partnerships and to promote parents as the first and primary teacher of their children.



# About Us

Head Start is a national, federally-funded 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. The Office of Head Start provides grants to local public and private non-profit and for-profit agencies to provide comprehensive child development services to economically disadvantaged children and families.

The City of Oakland has been a grantee of the Head Start Program since 1972. The program is located within the Department of Human Services - Early Childhood and Family Services Division. In 1988, the City entered into a delegate agency relationship with the Unity Council, a non-profit community development organization, to serve children in the Fruitvale District.

In 2009, the City of Oakland was a recipient of an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Early Head Start Expansion Grant. Today, the City of Oakland and Unity Council serve 1,873 children each year - 1,374 in Head Start and 499 in Early Head Start (EHS):

City of Oakland		Delegate - Unity Council		
Head Start Slots 1,061	ARRA EHS Slots 204	Head Start Slots 313	EHS Slots 200	ARRA EHS Slots 95

Parents are given the choice of full-day or part-day center-based, home-based, and family child care program options. All Oakland Head Start program sites are licensed by the State of California Community Care Licensing Department. Classrooms are staffed with highly trained infant/toddler and early childhood education instructors.



# Head Start Services

Oakland Head Start supports enrolled families by providing a comprehensive range of early childhood and family services, including:

\* **Education** - In order to support kindergarten readiness, the City of Oakland's early education program employs the Creative Curriculum for Preschoolers and Infants/Toddlers to build on a child's interests, strengths, and emerging abilities to develop competency in:

- Language and Literacy
- Mathematics and Science
- Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Health and Development
- Creative Arts

\* **Health & Nutrition Services** - Head Start supports the development of the whole child by:

- Supplying a nutritious breakfast, lunch, and snack each school day
- Administering developmental screenings and assessments
- Providing vision and health screenings
- Supplying referrals for health, dental, and follow-up care





\* **Family Services** - Head Start provides comprehensive support for children and families through services that address challenges and special situations outside the classroom, including:

- Intervention services for homeless families and children, including assisting with housing acquisition
- A wide range of family services, including Family Literacy programming and parent education
- Regularly scheduled activities designed to involve fathers and father figures in Head Start and Early Head Start

\* **Services to Children with Disabilities** - The Head Start program reserves a minimum of 10% of its enrollment slots for children with special needs, including:

- Children with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) or Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)
- Children with high risk factors and/or disabling conditions (such as autism and emotional/behavioral disabilities; hearing, orthopedic, and visual impairments; speech, language, and learning disabilities; mental retardation; traumatic brain injuries; and developmental delays)



In 2009-10, more than 1800 families received Family Services, which included:

Emergency/Crisis Intervention*	Domestic Violence Prevention Services	Health Education
Adult Education	Parenting Education	Housing Assistance
Mental Health Services	ESL Training	Marriage Education

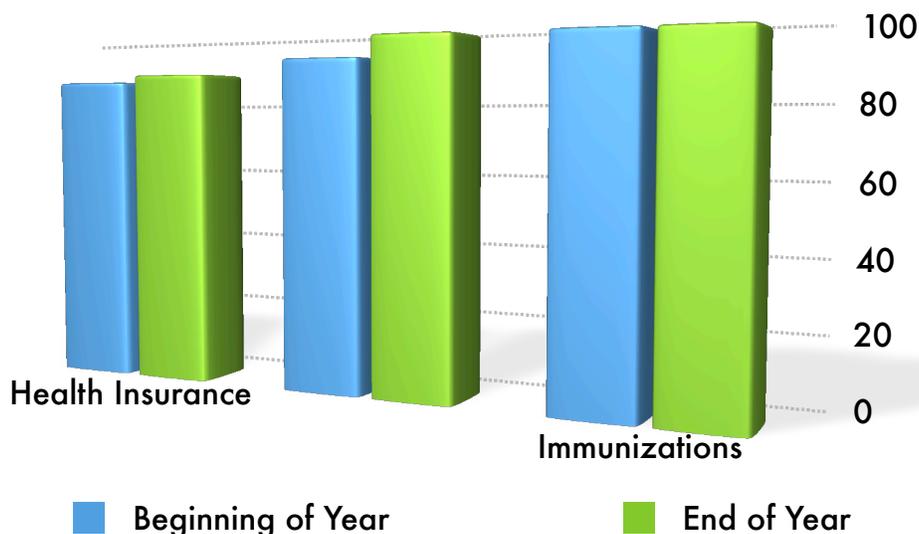
\*Including meeting immediate needs for food, clothing, and shelter

## COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY

Oakland Head Start/Early Head Start serves a large culturally, ethnically, and linguistically diverse community of children and families. As such, we welcome, support, and celebrate cultural diversity throughout the program. Over 28% of teachers and family advocates in programs administered directly by the City of Oakland are bilingual; in programs administered by the Unity Council, **over 80% of teachers and family advocates are bilingual.**



# Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds



**Health Insurance:** Oakland Head Start strives to connect families in need with proper medical insurance and referrals in the community. At the end of the program year, 89% of the children enrolled in the Oakland Head Start Program had access to an ongoing source of medical care.

**Dental Services:** Access to preventative pediatric dental services continues to be a constant challenge in the Oakland community due to the lack of pediatric dentists in Alameda County. Even with this challenge, at the end of the program year, 99% of the enrolled Head Start children had access to continuous dental services.

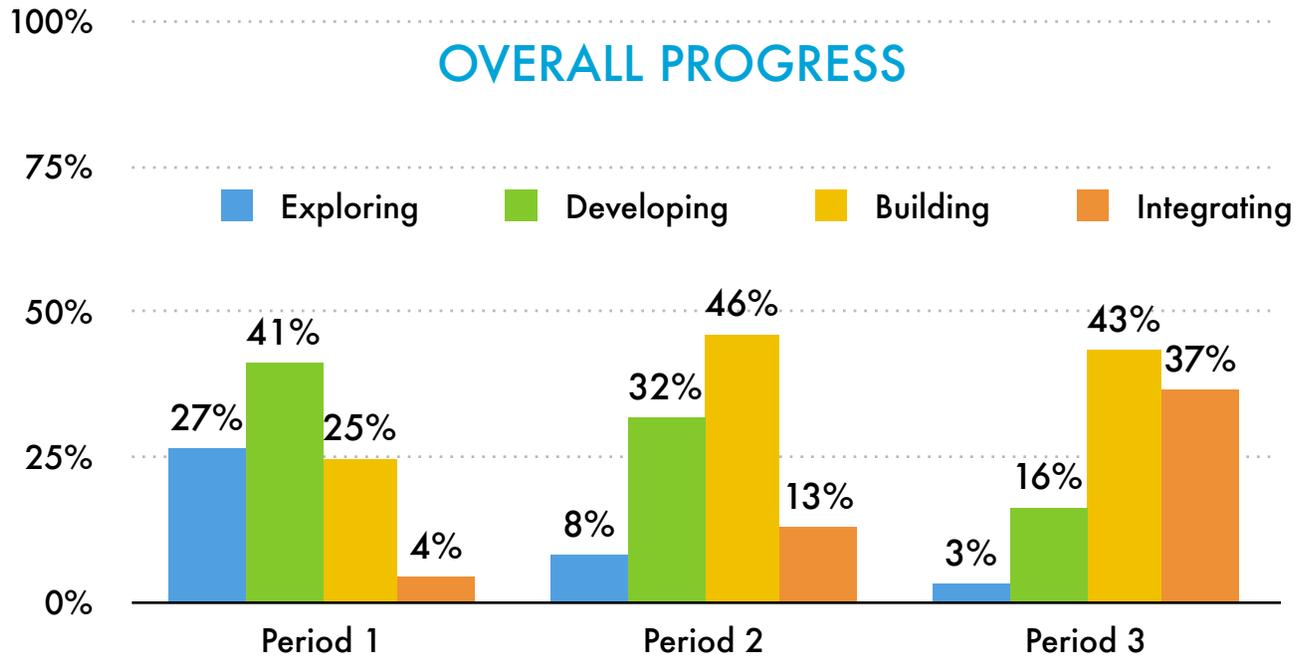
**Immunization Compliance:** Oakland Head Start ended the program year with a 99% compliance rate in immunizations. This is due to the success of community partnerships and collaborations in Alameda County which clearly demonstrates the strength and power of the Oakland community.



# Assessment

Over the course of the 2009-10 program year, three- and four-year-olds' developmental progress was assessed using the Desired Results Developmental Profile-Revised (DRDP-R) assessment tool across 39 specific areas, including: Personal and Social Competence; Effective Learning; Physical and Motor Competence; and Safety and Health. Their level of mastery in any given area was assessed as one of the following developmental stages: "Exploring," "Developing," "Building," or "Integrating." The following graph summarizes Head Start three- and four-year-olds' overall progress during the 2009-10 program year at three separate assessment periods at the beginning, middle, and end of the year.





As you can see in the preceding graph, the number of Head Start students exhibiting “Exploring” and “Developing” mastery decreases over the course of the year, while the number of students demonstrating “Building” or “Integrating” mastery in each area increases. By the end of the program year, 80% of Head Start students are “Building” or “Integrating” overall, a significant increase from 29% at the start of the year.

Overall, the three- and four-year-olds showed progressive development and gains across all four Desired Results (“Children are Personally and Socially Competent,” “Children are Effective Learners,” “Children Show Physical and Motor Competence,” and “Children are Safe and Healthy”), 39 specific learning measures, and 13 Legislatively Mandated Indicators (LMI’s).

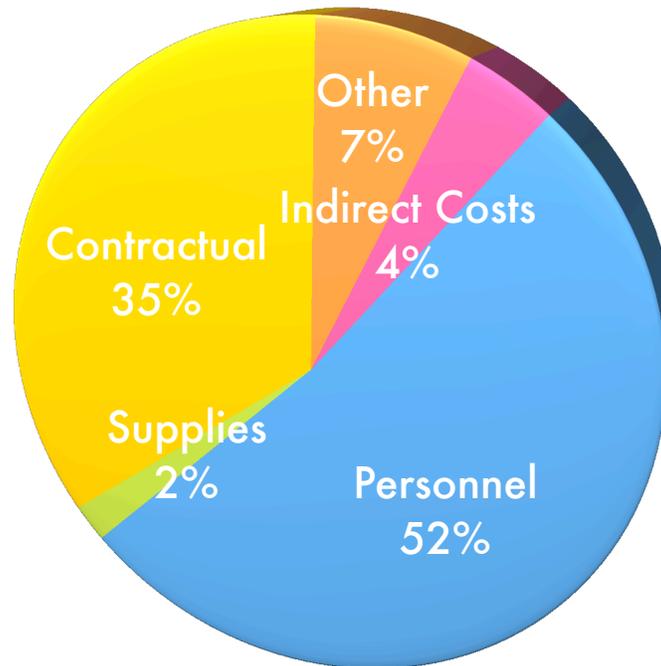
This means that by participating in Head Start, children are developing readiness skills for continued preschool success, as well as important skills for Kindergarten entry and later school success.



# 2009-10 Budget

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families (ACF) awarded the City of Oakland - Department of Human Services \$15,223,282 in funding for its Head Start Program. This included \$895,396 in one-time federal stimulus funding (American Recovery & Reinvestment Act - ARRA) that supported program quality improvement, enhancing the experiences of all the preschoolers served by the City of Oakland.

## HEAD START

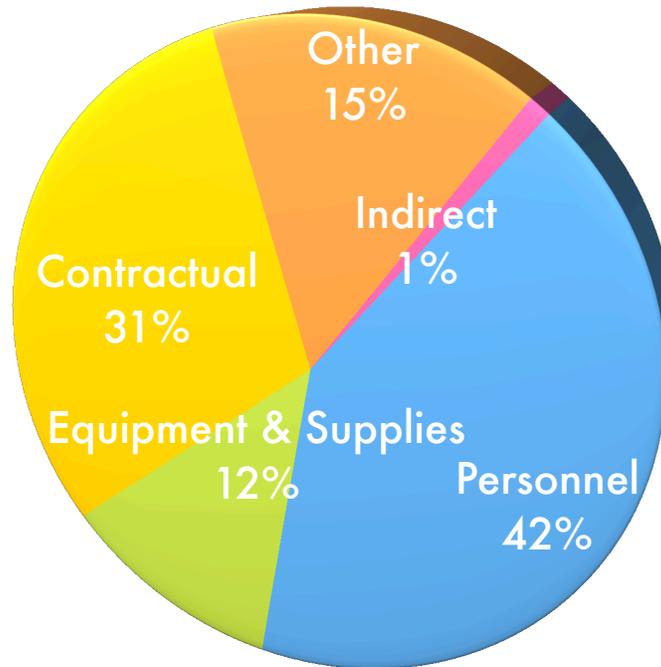


● Personnel ● Supplies ● Contractual ● Other ● Indirect Costs



## ARRA EARLY HEAD START EXPANSION

An additional \$5,651,167 in ARRA funds supported a two-year expansion of the Early Head Start (EHS) program to serve an additional 204 infants.



● Personnel   ● Equipment & Supplies   ● Contractual   ● Other   ● Indirect

### AUDIT FINDINGS

The City of Oakland's Head Start program was reviewed in May 2008 and was found to be in good standing with all applicable Head Start Performance Standards, laws, regulations, and policy requirements.



# Policy Council



## Program Governance

The role of the Head Start Policy Council is defined by the Head Start Program Performance Standards and includes shared governance responsibility with the Oakland Head Start Policy Council, Advisory Panel, and City Council regarding decisions about program goals and plans, budget allocations, and personnel functions.

Head Start parents are elected by their local center committees to serve as Policy Council representatives and make up the majority of the Policy Council (at least 51%), while past parents and representatives of community agencies serve in the remaining slots.



# A Head Start Family



*Head Start has helped Leann Reynolds raise academically successful and emotionally healthy children. The mother of four former Head Start children, Leanne has been a City of Oakland Head Start Policy Council member for three years and is currently serving as Policy Council Chairperson. Even while attending nursing school, Leanne found time to be a classroom volunteer who was “often mistaken for Head Start staff,” joining in for field trips and classroom*

*activities. She credits Head Start parent conferences for helping her learn how to deal with challenges as a parent.*

**“To me, the best thing about Head Start is the education component – the chance to learn more about parenting and raising successful children. Parent involvement is a key to successful outcomes for children, and Head Start helps parents and families be more involved and more aware. My motto is, ‘It takes a village to raise a child,’ and **Head Start is a part of the village.**”**

**– Leann Reynolds, Former Head Start Parent/Current Policy Council Member**



# Partnerships

The success of Oakland Head Start stems from strong partnerships with families and communities. The City of Oakland Head Start Program takes affirmative steps to establish and maintain ongoing collaborative partnerships with community-based organizations to both promote access to community services that are responsive to the needs of children and families and to provide greater support for parents on their road to self-sufficiency.

Oakland Head Start collaborative partners include, but are not limited to:

**Children’s Hospital** – Dedicated to connecting early, continuous, intensive, and comprehensive child development and family support services to infants, toddlers, and pregnant women.

**Brighter Beginnings** – Supports healthy births and children’s successful development by partnering with teen parents, strengthening families, and helping to build strong communities.

**Regional Center** – A private, non-profit corporation under contract with the California Department of Developmental Services that coordinates services to support people with developmental disabilities.

**Kerry’s Kids** – A non-profit, volunteer-driven organization whose mission is to provide free health education and care to under-served children in their neighborhoods, and to facilitate each child ultimately receiving care in a permanent medical home.

**Oakland Ready to Learn** – Promotes educational equity and success by increasing parent/caregiver access to quality information, family literacy activities, and materials to promote school success through socialization.



**Alameda County Nutrition Services** – County agency that operates Alameda County’s Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program, a national nutrition education program that promotes healthy eating. WIC clients receive nutrition advice, help with breast-feeding, referrals to other community services, and special vouchers to buy healthy food items such as milk, cheese, cereal, pure juice, and eggs. Studies show that clients who receive WIC have healthier pregnancies and healthier children.

**Safe Passages** – Provides violence prevention education through the implementation of the Second Step violence prevention curriculum.

**Ramsell Public Health** – Provides Ramsell Pharmacy Drug Discount Card to Head Start families, which reduces the cost of prescription drugs by 10% to 85%.

**Henry Robinson, Multi-Service Center** – A transitional housing program that serves homeless families for up to two years. While families live in on-site apartments, they have access to three meals a day, a comprehensive children’s services program, and various additional support services.

**Through the Looking Glass** – A nationally-recognized center that has pioneered research, training, and services for families in which a child, parent or grandparent has a disability or medical issue. TLG provides both empowerment and early intervention services for families.



# Teach Flu a Lesson!



In 2008-09, the Oakland Head Start Program created the “Teach Flu a Lesson” initiative, becoming the first Head Start agency on the West Coast, and the third in the nation, to conduct on-site flu clinics. In 2009-10, over 350 doses of the FluMist flu vaccine were administered to children at 17 Head Start school sites.

In addition to overseeing the program and sites, Oakland Head Start Program disseminated consent forms and parent education materials. Oakland Head Start collaborated with the Alameda County Department of Public Health to manage medical staff and vaccine availability, as well as vaccine storage and a vaccination registry for participating children. Nursing students from Samuel Merritt University acted as vaccine administrators.

The success of “Teach Flu a Lesson” was due to the collaborations and partnerships Oakland Head Start was able to develop with the Alameda County Department of Public Health, the Samuel Merritt School of Nursing, and MedImmune, the vendors of the FluMist vaccine.

Oakland Head Start  
builds partnerships to  
keep kids healthy



# Eligibility & Enrollment

Oakland Head Start offers free quality education and comprehensive services to pregnant women, infants, toddlers, and pre-schoolers, ages birth to five years, throughout the City of Oakland. Services also include an Infant/Toddler and Early Childhood Development Program. Program options include:

\* Full Day \* Part Day

\* Center-Based \* Home-Based \* Family Child Care

Documents needed to qualify for EHS/Head Start services:

- Head Start Application
- Proof of Annual Income
- Copy of the child's birth certificate
- Current Immunization Records

Families who automatically qualify for Early Head Start/Head Start services:

- Homeless families
- Children in Foster Care
- Families receiving CalWORKS (Cash Aid)
- Families receiving Supplemental Social Security Income benefits (SSI)
- Children who have an I.F.S.P. or I.E.P. at the time of enrollment

To apply, please visit or call:



City of Oakland, Head Start  
150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Suite 5352  
Oakland, CA 94612  
Main Office: 510/238-3165  
TDD: 510/238-7417  
[www.oaklandhumanservices.org](http://www.oaklandhumanservices.org)



# City of Oakland - Head Start Locations

The City of Oakland serves 1,374 preschool children and 499 infants and toddlers at 31 Oakland Head Start/Early Head Start centers located throughout the city, in areas of greatest need. Program options include full-day or part-day, center-based, home-based, and family child care. Center locations and program type are marked on the map below.





City of Oakland Head Start / Early Head Start

Contact us!

510/238-3165

[www.oaklandhumanservices.org/services/children/headstart.htm](http://www.oaklandhumanservices.org/services/children/headstart.htm)

Head Start

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