

**Economic Opportunities Council
Of Indian River County, Inc.**

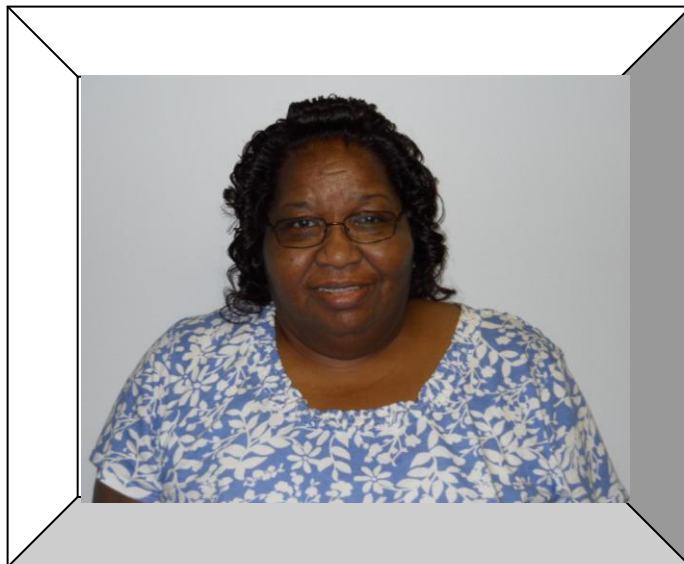
Annual Report

Program Year 2010-2011



**Proudly Serving
Indian River & Okeechobee
Counties**

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR



As Chair of the Economic Opportunities Council (EOC) Board of Directors, I am pleased to report on another remarkable year of work and achievements by the Board, staff, and our families! Highlights this year included:

- An unannounced 4 day visit by the Department of Health & Human Services Head Start monitoring team resulted in a successful site review with no findings. The team comprehensively assessed all components of the Head Start Program, finances, and administration and clearly demonstrated that staff consistently maintains a quality program for our children.
- We organized the First Annual Health Fair for our Head Start families and the community.
- We welcomed several new Board members to EOC: Dr. Mark Wade, Dr. Beverly Whiteley, Miriam Gross, and Reuben Lane and Linda Stewart representing the Policy Council. We appreciate their willingness to share their time and talents with EOC.
- We moved the administrative offices to a beautiful facility at 2455 St. Lucie Avenue (14th Avenue) at the end of June. The facility provides a professional atmosphere in which to serve our clients, provides room to grow and is more economically feasible for us.

I want to thank everyone for their on-going support of EOC.

Sincerely,

Geraldine Faison-Abraham
Chair, EOC Board of Directors

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The current economic climate is causing many new families to come to EOC for help. One can hear almost an apology in their voice as they come to the office and say: *"I've never had to ask for help before, but my utilities are going to be shut off and I can't afford to pay them."* For the first time since the beginning of the industrial revolution, the middle class is declining and need help to meet their basic daily living needs.

Poverty is a complicated issue which will require multiple, concurrent efforts to address in our community. The mission of EOC directs us to be on the forefront of mobilizing all aspects of the community to come together in the common cause. This year, EOC provided a one day community workshop titled: ***"Bridges Out of Poverty"*** which stimulated 150 people to come together to learn more about the experience and challenges faced by those in poverty.

We graduated the first class of ***"Getting Ahead in a Just Getting By World,"*** a 15 session class to help low-income people investigate and understand the poverty experience and what they can do to help themselves out of poverty. This insightful educational journey facilitates changes in thinking, behaviors, and self-direction.

Staff participates in many community councils, forums, and boards to give a voice to the issues of poverty. Working on behalf of the homeless, disadvantaged families, the elderly, people with mental illness and disabilities, and incarcerated people EOC staff seek to collaborate and provide leadership to the many facets of poverty.

I want to thank the staff for their tireless work to help our families; the Board for their leadership and support; and our clients for their patience, perseverance and resilience. There is much to be done to make our community prosperous for all but together *"we can be the change we want to see."*

Sue Rux, MSW
Executive Director of EOC

History of Community Action

- The Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 created community action organizations and charged them with mobilizing human and financial resources to combat poverty in the U.S.
- With this legislation, President Lyndon Johnson declared “war on poverty”. Poverty programs included the creation of: Head Start, Legal Services, Job Corps, Neighborhood Centers, Community Health Centers, Foster Grandparents, and Adult Basic Education Programs.
- President Ford replaced the Economic Opportunity Act with the Community Service Act which decreased the importance of the focus on underlying causes of poverty and emphasized “services.”
- In 1981 the Community Service Act was replaced with the Community Service Act creating Community Service Block Grants (CSBG). This Act continued CAAs and established more criteria for program effectiveness and public accountability.
- CSBG established six (6) national goals with a standardized reporting process. The goals focus on community, family, and the agency and include the following:
 - Goal 1 – Low-income people become self-sufficient.
 - Goal 2 – The conditions in which low-income people live are improved.
 - Goal 3 – Low income people own a stake in their community.
 - Goal 4 – Partnerships among supporters and providers of services to low-income people are achieved.
 - Goal 5 – Agencies increase their capacity to achieve results.
 - Goal 6 – Low income people, especially vulnerable populations, achieve their potential by strengthening family and other supportive systems.
- There continue to be approximately 1000 Community Action Agencies (CAA) nationwide. Each CAA is unique to the needs, resources and service authority of their individual communities.

Vision Statement: The Economic Opportunities Council (EOC) of Indian River County, Inc. will partner in the creation of a community wherein low-income people, especially vulnerable populations, will have the opportunity to become self sufficient; improve conditions in which they live; own a stake in their community; and achieve their full potential.

Mission Statement: A Community Action Agency working to empower low-income families and strengthen our community.

Head Start Mission Statement: A comprehensive school readiness program designed to meet individual needs of pre-schoolers and their families.

Currently, the Economic Opportunities Council of Indian River County, Inc. sponsors the Head Start Program, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, Family Self-Sufficiency Program, Community Services Block Grant Program, and the Florida Volunteer Pre-Kindergarten.



Douglas Head Start Center amused residents of Palm Gardens of Vero

**ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES COUNCIL
PROGRAMS & SERVICES
(FY 2010/2011)**

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

The LIHEAP Program assists low-income households in Indian River and Okeechobee Counties in meeting the electric cost of heating and cooling their homes. Regular home energy support and "crisis" support is provided. This is a federally funded program administered by the Department of Community Affairs.

There were **1891** households assisted.

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) & ARRA

These are federally funded programs administered by the Department of Community Affairs. Clients were assisted with: **107** food and rent; **14** through the Family Self-Sufficiency Program; and **95** received short-term vocational training and supportive services. Federal Emergency Management Act Funds (FEMA) assisted **34** clients with rent and utility assistance. Thus, a total of **250** households received help. It should be noted that the CSBG/ARRA funds were one-time funds under the Federal Stimulus Package.

Volunteers in Tax Assistance (VITA)

Individuals earning \$49,000 or less may receive free tax preparation assistance. During this time period, **51** clients filed their taxes through EOC.

Head Start

This program is a comprehensive school readiness program which enhances the social, physical, and cognitive development of children. Children learn language and literacy, early math, social and emotional development, nature and science, creative arts, fine and gross motor skills, physical health practices and nutrition. Six (6) Centers in Indian River and Okeechobee Counties served **377** children. All Centers completed and earned the National Association for the Education of Young Children Accreditation and the "Gold Seal of Excellence" from the Florida Department of Children & Families. The program is funded by the Department of Health & Human Services.

"Helping Families, Changing Lives"

Economic Opportunities Council Of Indian River County, Inc.

FY10 REVENUES

CSBG	121,479.00
CSBG-ARRA	330,685.00
DHHS	2,573,731.00
DHHS (COLA)	77,886.00
HEAD START (ARRA)	46,833.00
HEAD START (QI)	128,495.00
JOHNS ISLAND	5,000.00
LIHEAP	816,258.00
UNITED WAY	14,500.00
USDA	22,517.00
VPK-PROGRAM	<u>587,274.00</u>
TOTAL	4,724,658.00

REVENUES

Used for hands up, not hand out!

Human Resources

Total # of Head Start Staff	91
Director	1
Specialists	5
Secretary	1
Data/Technology Specialist	1
Eligibility Intake Coordinator	1
Site-managers	8
Teachers	45
Cooks	5
Bus Drivers	6
Bus Monitors/Extended Day	1
Maintenance Worker	1
Custodians	2 (part-time)
Custodian	1 (full time)

Educational Level of Head Start Staff

Management Staff with Master's Degree	2
Management Staff with Bachelor's Degree	4
Management Staff with Associate's Degree	5
Teachers with Doctoral Degree	1
Teachers with Master's Degree	0
Teachers with Bachelor's Degree	8
Teachers with Associate's Degree	18
Teachers with Child Development Credential	17
Teachers with High School Diploma	1

Family and Community Partnership

Some of the challenges identified by Head Start families were continued education, adult literacy, employment, home ownership, parenting, transportation and counseling. Resource books containing information on where to turn to for assistance were given to families. Staff coached families and acted as mentors. Referral follow-ups and Family Assessment updates continued throughout the year.

FUNDED ENROLLMENT	340
ACTUAL ENROLLMENT	358
VOLUNTARY PRE-K ENROLLMENT (CUMULATIVE)	201
OVER GUIDELINES	15
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP ENROLLMENT	34
FAMILY ASSESSMENTS	379
FAMILY CONTACTS	4269
LEAVING FOR KINDERGARTEN (CUMULATIVE)	286
APPLICATIONS FOR 2010-/2011	407



EOC participants in the Annual Strives against Breast Cancer Event held in Sebastian, Florida (October 2010)

The fore mentioned requested services were compiled, analyzed, and aggregated to determine a segment of the families' outcomes. The following are some of the agencies that the Head Start Program has partnered with to provide services for our families:

- Indian River/Okeechobee School District - provides Speech/Language services and food services.
- Indian River/Okeechobee Public Health Unit - provides physicals, immunizations, and dental services, among other services.
- Indian River State College - provides further education for parents and staff and training space.
- St. Vincent De Paul - provides utility and rental assistance, clothing and furniture.
- Salvation Army - provides clothing and furniture.
- Department of Children and Families - provides food stamps, TANF and extended day care.
- Behavioral Health Center - provides counseling for children and families.
- Workforce Solutions - provides services for obtaining a GED and job training and placement.
- Treasure Coast Food Bank - provides emergency food.
- Habitat for Humanity - provides assistance in building a home.
- Senior Resource Association - provides public transportation.
- Indian River Extension Office - provides parent training.
- Indian River/Okeechobee Public Library - provides reading programs and training space.
- VNA Van - provides health services to families.
- Safe Space - Domestic Violence Services
- Red Cross - Emergency Assistance
- Kidz Closet Charities
- Plumbago Volunteer Services
- Healthy Families
- Healthy Start
- E.O.C. (LIHEAP and other Family Services)
- Harvest Outreach
- Treasure Coast Community Health Center
- Back Pack Buddies

Services Provided:

Emergency Crisis	14%
Basic Needs (Food, Clothing, Housing)	68%
Transportation (Public)	22%
Counseling or Family Mental Wellness	9%
Education (Formal Training)	47%
Adult Literacy (GED)	29%
Family Literacy	75%
Employment	18%

Parent Participation in Education Service Area

	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
#of Parents who sent snacks	12	195	10	160	8	127	11	56	17
#of Parents who attended Parent Meetings	162	131	77	84	45	79	56	61	10
#of Parents who had breakfast, lunch or snack	3	27	8	2	2	2	4	8	14
#of Parents who volunteered in the classroom	11	39	15	12	3	8	23	11	12
#of Parents who went with class on a field trip	0	59	8	9	8	11	6	34	18
#of Parents who read a story	263	283	264	187	243	198	193	153	152
#of Parents who donated supplies	5	10	2	3	2	1	3	32	0
#of Parents who volunteered for class parties	1	44	2	37	1	0	0	2	0
#of Parents who made things at home	10	77	74	13	9	11	0	12	8
#of Parents who reviewed and approved lesson plans	70	58	55	41	56	46	54	55	21
#of parents who participated in fund raisers	55	114	7	0	2	3	80	205	2

Disabilities Service Delivery Area

Federal law requires a minimum of ten percent (10%) of the Head Start enrollment opportunities be made available to children professionally diagnosed as disabled. Each diagnosed child must fall into one of the eleven (11) Head Start disability categories which includes children that may require speech/language services, are physically impaired, or visually impaired, etc.

The E.O.C. Head Start Program exceeded the mandated ten percent of children with disabilities and served thirteen percent (13) of the total funded enrollment. The children received services provided by the contracted local school district to assist them in meeting their Individual Education Plan (IEP) at their individual centers. The children with disabilities participated (as much as possible) in the same kindergarten readiness activities that were provided to all children in the classroom.

Number of children identified through screenings needing further testing for a suspected Disability	68
Number of children diagnosed and services provided by Contracted Providers	57
Number of children dismissed from services	1
Number of children transitioned to Kindergarten with services	42

Mental Health Service Delivery Area

The E.O.C. Head Start Program contracts with one (1) Licensed Mental Health Consultant and one (1) Certified Behaviorist. The agency partners with Family Preservation, Sun Coast Mental Health, Center for Emotional and Behavioral Health and Family Castle for Mental Wellness support services. Support services may include: classroom observations, individual child observations, individual and family counseling and staff support.

Number of children that the Contracted Mental Health Professionals Consulted with Program Staff	48
Number of children that the Contracted Mental Health Professional provided three or more consultations with program staff	3
Number of children the Contracted Mental Health Professional provided three or more consultations with a parent	0
Number of children, with parent permission, that received an Individual Mental Health Observation	0
Number of families that were referred for Community Support Services	0

Health and Nutrition

Dental services for Head Start enrolled children in Indian River and Okeechobee Counties were provided by the following dentists: Dr. Lydia Alonso, Dental Clinic Director, Pediatric Dentistry, Indian River County Health Department, Dermody Pediatric Dentistry and Orthodontics, and Dr. Hall of Seaside Smiles in Vero Beach

Dr. Diaz, Florida Community Health Center provided services for Okeechobee only.

All children completed their dental screening and examinations. Eight children were completed in out patient surgery by Dr. Dermody under the Medicaid program. Head Start assisted with the payment of \$200.00, per patient, the doctor's fees are not covered by Medicaid.

The Vision for Students Plan provided ten (10) vision examinations and glasses during this program year.

Three children were referred for concerns with their **hearing** and were found to have either an ear infection or heavy wax build up which affected their hearing ability.

A total of 150 Individual Health Plans (IHP), Nutrition Care Notes (NCN) and/or Health Care Notes (HCN) were written primarily at the start of the school year.

Nutrition:

Obesity statistics for both counties is at 10%
Parents receiving WIC was found to be 198 families

Insurance:

Medicaid recipients - 271
Florida Kid Care (FKC) recipients - 18
Private Insurance - 24
No insurance - 52

The parents continue to state that they do not have insurance, such as Florida Kid Care, some stated that they were over the guidelines for Medicaid and could not afford the monthly premium for Florida Kid Care. Some stated it was easier to use the sliding scales offered at the local clinics. The numbers for Medicaid rose from 222 to 271 and the “no insurance” category dropped from 79 to 52.

Back Pack Buddies - Continued for another year. Nineteen hundred and fifty (1,950) bags representing 3,900 children’s week end meals were distributed on Friday afternoon from September 1st, 2010-June, 2011. We receive the food at no cost to our Program.

USDA children’s meals served from August 2010 through June 7th, 2011 were:

Breakfast-	39,573
Lunch -	39,487
Snack-	38,573
Total-	117,633

Meals served to Teachers:

Breakfast-	6,442
Lunch-	6,428
Snack-	5,835
Total-	18,705

Number of children with a declared **dental** home at time of application = 118

Number of children with a dental home at the close of the year = 358

Number of children completing all health screenings (includes drops)	382
Number of children with completed immunizations	330
Number of children with current immunizations	28
Number of children with completed dental screenings (includes drops)	388
Number of children diagnosed as needing treatment	179
Number of children who has completed treatment	173
Percentage of children overweight according to their BMI-Indian River	10%
Percentage of children overweight according to their BMI-Okeechobee	10%

Three children in Okeechobee have been referred to Specialists for restoration as they need sedation and that is not available at the Florida Community Health Center Dental Clinic. Three children in Indian River County are in the process of completion.

Early Childhood Education

The Galileo Assessment System was used to gather information and document outcomes of children’s growth in eight (8) domains at all Centers. We plan to continue utilizing this system for on-going assessments. Information was recorded in the domains listed:

Domain/Scale	Dev Level (500 Average)	Percentile (100%)	Standard Score	Normal Curve Equivalent
Approaches to Learning	571	93.20	1.49	81.38
Creative Arts	561	90.13	1.29	77.17
Early Math	542	81.42	0.89	68.80
Fine and Gross Motor	583	96.35	1.80	87.88
Language and Literacy	525	70.46	0.54	61.30
Nature and Science	514	61.96	0.30	56.37
Physical Health Pract.	542	81.44	0.90	68.87
Social and Emotional Development	505	54.95	0.12	52.60

The Early Childhood Education Content Area also completed the following services to children and families:

Number of Teacher Home Visits	782
Number of Parent/Teacher Conferences	754
Number of Field Trips	108
Number of Health/Nutrition Activities	6,267
Number of Assessments	958
Number of Parent/Teacher Journals	3,444

Transition Services

The Head Start Program transitions children in and out of the program. The following records are sent to the school district: immunization records, physicals, and Pre-K transition forms. We also assist parents in completing enrollment forms to enter public school.

In addition, enrollees leaving, going into public kindergarten are taken to area elementary schools where they participate in a tour and are orientated on kindergarten expectations.

Number of Enrollment Forms Completed	129
Number of Pre-K Transition Forms Completed	194
Parent Initiated Transition Forms Completed	114



Transportation

All modes of transportation operated by the agency met the federal mandates as related to seat belts and restraints. All vehicles are inspected weekly for mechanical maintenance. The busses are DOT inspected annually. All bus drivers have CDL licenses and undergo annual DOT physicals. One hundred and twenty eight (128) children were transported daily by bus for one hundred and seventy nine (179) days of school. Buses transported children to 102 field trips. Buses and vans transported 86 children to dental appointments. Parents were transported in vans to Policy Council and Parent Meetings and Training Sessions as needed. The buses traveled an estimated 46,299 miles for supportive services.



Parent Volunteer Assisting on the bus of Head Start Enrollees



Results of Parent Surveys

Parents were surveyed at the end of the year to receive input as to how effective their experiences have been this year. Parents returned 336 surveys, which yielded the following results:

1. Did you have the opportunity to be involved in the Head Start Center?
Always 66% Often 13% Sometimes 20%

2. Have we met your expectations pertaining to your child's pre-school education?
Always 99.5% Often .5% Sometimes .0%

3. Do you feel your child/family needs were met (received needed services)?
Always 99% Often .6% Sometimes .4%

4. Do you think planned field trips were age appropriate and a good learning experience for you child?
Always 99.5% Often .5% Sometimes .5%

5. Do you feel your child's classroom was warm and inviting?
Always 99% Often .5% Sometimes .5%

6. Do you feel that confidentiality was kept regarding your child and family?
Always 99% Often .5% Sometimes .5%

7. Do you feel staff is approachable and available for your child and family?
Always 99% Often .5% Sometimes .5%

8. Would you recommend this program to other parents?
Always 99.6% Often .3% Sometimes .1%



Head Start Parents planning and discussing program outcomes

Parent Comments:

I am grateful for the Head Start Program because it was very good for me and my son. He learned a lot and I am very grateful. There are not enough words to express my gratitude for how they helped my child learn.

I love the Head Start Program and have seen my daughter grow in so many aspects. I recommend this program to anyone and everyone!!! I speak very highly of the program and teachers involved.

My son had awesome teachers. He loves his school and his teacher as well. I would recommend this school to anyone. Great School.

Head Start is a great learning experience for children. My son has improved his discipline at school and at home and also has improved his social skills, by learning from the teachers and being around other children.

I love the Head Start Program. My daughter has learned so much being here. The staff is very helpful and friendly.

I thank my daughter's teachers for everything that they have done with her. All the reading and homework we do together have been a success for her. Thanks a lot!!

As a second time Head Start Program Parent, I had the opportunity to involve myself as well as my child in activities that have helped him learn and prepare himself for kindergarten.

My child learned everyday. I did not get a chance to participate much but it was always available when my career allowed it.

This Head Start was very beneficial. There are some things that could have been better but all in all it was great.

I have a novel idea. Instead of just posting events next to sign out sheets maybe you could try sending a note home. I know this makes to much sense but you should try it. That way parents could be involved in there child's learning and trips.

I love this program. Two of my four girls have been through it and both are doing great!

I would strongly recommend the Head Start Program to everyone I know because my experience with my child has been excellent.

The program and teachers were warm and inviting, classroom was always neat and welcoming. Excellent program, I would definitely recommend to other parents.

Some teachers are not approachable but others were very inviting.

I am very pleased with the Head Start Program with the teachers and also with the staff from the main office! I know that my child is more than prepared for kindergarten!!!

Florida Department of Education 2009-2010 Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Readiness Rate Report

The minimum School Readiness Rate score is 130 and the maximum in 200. Our centers scores were as follows:

- Citrus 170
- Highlands 178
- Douglas 177
- St. Helen's 164
- Fellsmere 143
- Northside 173

Our scores have improved and we strive to continue to make gains yearly. We are implementing a new curriculum, Beyond Centers and Circle Time at two sites and plan to extend it to the other four in the fall of 2010. We have also developed a new monitoring tool for our VPK Program. We believe that these measures will improve our scores throughout the program.

NAEYC Accreditation

All of our Head Start Centers have earned NAEYC Accreditation. Annual Reports were completed and submitted to the Academy for our NAEYC Accredited Centers. We will continue to carry the torch and provide high quality experiences to the children and families we serve.



Douglas Head Start students
visit to local Fire Station to learn about Fire Prevention



Friends for life!



What a RIDE!

The Promise of Community Action

"Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live.

We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other."

**Proudly Serving
Indian River & Okeechobee
Counties**

***A NEW CYCLE...
A NEW BEGINNING...
A NEW HEAD START***

