Mobile Community Action, Inc.

Head Start

Annual Report

Program Year 2016-17

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Mobile Community Action, Inc.

Elige Jones, Executive Director
Mobile Community Action, Inc.

Freda Henderson, Chairperson
Mobile Community Action, Inc. Board of Directors
The 2016-17 program year was an exciting and productive year for Mobile Community Action Head Start. We had the final two of our five federal reviews. We received notification that we were in compliance in all areas and would be able to re-apply for our new Head Start five-year grant without competition. We applied for and were approved to start planning for Early Head Start enrollment for the 2017-18 school year. Lots of planning; lots of achievement!!!

MCA Head Start is funded by the federal government’s Administration for Children and Families a division of the Department of Health and Human Services to provide comprehensive child development school readiness services to children and families in Mobile and Washington counties.

During the 2016-17 school year Mobile Community Action Head Start had 16 sites. We employed 254 individuals, 135 (53%) of whom were former Head Start parents and 17 were former Head Start children.

As a comprehensive school readiness program, we provide health, dental, mental wellness services, nutrition, and disability services as well as education services for children. MCA Head Start also provides education, training, and social services support for our Head Start families.

Our school readiness goals for 2016-17:

- Children possess the skills, knowledge and attitudes for success in school, and for later learning in life;
- Parents and families engaged in the life-long success of their children’s learning;
- Head Start, schools and families work together in transitioning children to kindergarten and;
- Staff has the skills, materials, and information to provide a comprehensive supportive learning experience for children and families.
MCA Head Start 2016-17 Five Year Goals

MCA Head Start’s program operations are guided by our five-year goals:

**Goal 1**: To provide comprehensive, culturally appropriate, Head Start school readiness services to 1291 children in Mobile and Washington counties.

**Goal 2**: To support parents/guardians in their roles as primary care givers and educators of their children, in meeting their family goals, and in achieving good health, wellness, self-reliance, and self-sufficiency.

**Goal 3**: To build a collaborative, comprehensive seamless network of services that shares responsibility for assisting children and families to reach their full potential.

**Goal 4**: To provide an interdisciplinary, in-depth and ongoing training and professional development program for Head Start staff in order to establish and maintain high quality services to and relationships with children and their families.

**Goal 5**: To manage program operations and monitor ongoing activities, using a child and family tracking system and program procedures to ensure the delivery of high quality services and access to relevant information for decision making.

**Goal 6**: Provide technology and technology support in all Head Start sites that is adequate for the recordkeeping, communication, and management tasks that are dependent on computers, computer networks, electronic data systems and internet access.

**Goal 7**: To manage fiscal operations and monitor ongoing activities, using computerized tracking systems and tested procedures to ensure the delivery of sound financial management ensuring that operations are cost-effective, federal funds are safeguarded, and management has access to relevant information for decision making.

We made great strides during the 2016-17 school year in meeting these goals through the hard work and dedication of the Head Start staff, families, and our community partners.
MCA Head Start 2016-17 Funding

MCA Head Start saw an increase in 2016-17 federal funding due to the addition $165,082 cost-of-living funds (1%) and $56,372 to increase the number of days for some of our sites.

We were successful in our application to the Alabama Department of Early Childhood Office of School Readiness (OSR) for supplemental Pre-K funding for three more classrooms ($135,000).

We made some adjustments in the number of classrooms we opened and the number of children we served. We had Office of Head Start permission to drop enrollment from 1363 children to 1243 children in anticipation of the conversion of 120 Head Start enrollment slots to 48 Early Head Start enrollment slots. Our application for Early Head Start enrollment slots went to the Office of Head Start during program year 2016-17 and was approved for us to enroll infants and toddlers into our new Early Head Start program starting with the 2017-18 program year.

July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017 Funding

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal</td>
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<tr>
<td>State OSR Pre-K</td>
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<tr>
<td>USDA-CACFP</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td>Non-Federal Match (In-kind)</td>
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2016-17 Head Start Federal Funds

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<td>Travel</td>
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<td>Supplies</td>
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<td>Contractual</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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<td>Direct Costs</td>
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<td>Indirect Costs (13.5%)</td>
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<td><strong>Total Budget</strong></td>
<td><strong>$9,500,269</strong></td>
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The results of our most recent federal reviews and audit

MCA Head Start has completed all of the federal reviews. We are in compliance in all areas. We received notification from HHS Administration for Children and Families we can apply for our next five-year grant without having to go through the competition process.

Audit
The most recent MCA agency-wide audit (2016) had no significant findings.

Ella Grant Head Start children celebrate Dr. Seuss’s birthday with Cat in the Hat hats.
MCA Head Start 2016-17 Services

During the 2016-17 program year we had 69 classrooms located at 17 sites. Ten of our sites were Head Start centers only; five of our sites were located in Mobile County Public School System elementary schools; one site at the Chickasaw Public Schools’ Early Learning Center; and one site was a partnership with a privately-owned child care facility.

We were funded to serve 1,243 children. We actually served 1,466 children for the program year.

Medical and Dental Services

MCA Head Start provides medical and dental screening and services to our enrolled children by a combination of referral and direct services.

By the end of the 2016-17 school year:

1,326 children had health insurance;
1,268 children had a medical home;
1,465 children were up-to-date in their immunizations;
1,338 children were up-to-date in their physicals and screenings;
1,338 children had dental exams and related follow-up where needed.

Mental Health Services

We provided mental health services which includes wellness activities, intervention.

All 69 classrooms were observed twice by a mental health professional on contract to MCA Head Start.

Consultations, referrals and training were provided for families around behavior and other issues that impact children’s social and emotional development.
Disabilities Services

Head Start regulations require that at least 10% our enrollment includes children with disabilities. 136 children with disabilities were enrolled in MCA Head Start during the 2016-17 school year, this was 11% of our funded enrollment.

All of the enrolled children with disabilities had Individual Education Plans (IEPs); they received therapy services; their parents received training.

Mobile Community Action, Inc. Head Start has collaboration agreements with all five of the school districts in Mobile and Washington Counties for the referral, diagnosis and services for the children with disabilities.

Nutrition Services

Head Start meals supply a total of two thirds of the child’s daily nutritional requirements. We make an effort to introduce children to healthy foods, a variety of foods, and to foods that are low in fat and processed sugars. Our Head Start nutrition staff and the Mobile Public School System nutrition staff prepare meals for our Head Start children. During the 2016-17 school year we served:

161,438 breakfasts; 162,757 lunches; and 154,957 snacks to our children.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Child and Adult Care Feeding Program (CACFP) reimbursed us $961,068 for the meals. These funds cover our cost for groceries, milk, bread, and part of the salaries of our food services personnel.
**Education Services**

MSA Head Start had 69 classrooms during the 2016-17 school year. All of the classroom teachers had a Bachelor’s degree or higher, all of the Assistant Teachers had either an Associate’s degree in Early Childhood or a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential.

All of our centers are licensed by the Alabama Department of Human Resources (DHR) and inspected regularly by the Board of Health.

Nine of the ten Head Start sites we administer ourselves are accredited by the National Association for the Education of the Young Child (NAEYC).

Three of our centers received STAR ratings as part of the new Alabama Quality Rating System.

Our goal for children is that they possess skills, knowledge and attitudes necessary for success in school and for later learning and life.

All of our curriculum, classroom activities, teaching strategies, materials, and special events are directed at the objective that children are ready for school in the following areas:

- Physical development and health
- Social and emotional behaviors
- Approaches to learning
- Language development
- Literacy knowledge and skills
- Mathematics knowledge and skills
- Science knowledge and skills
- Creative Arts Expression

Our school readiness goals are aligned with the *Alabama Pre-K Standards* and the *Head Start Early Learning Framework*.

MCA Head Start Teaching Strategies’ *Creative Curriculum 5th Edition* serves as the core curriculum. The heart of the *Creative Curriculum* is knowledge of child development theory and careful consideration of the latest research in the field of early childhood education.

This research based curriculum ensures that teachers know not only what and how to teach children but why particular practices are effective. The *Creative Curriculum* highlights the important balance between applying a general knowledge of child development with the particular knowledge a teacher gains by forming a relationship with each child and family.
MCA Head Start Children’s Learning Outcomes for 2016-17

All of our children had individual learning goals. Children’s knowledge is assessed three times a year.

The table below summarizes progress of children enrolled in MCA Head Start during the 2016-17 school year. The domain areas are identified by the federal Office of Head Start in the Head Start Child Outcomes Framework. Teaching Strategies’ GOLD Assessment System is used as the ongoing assessment tool.

Data is gathered three times a year at the same point in time for each child. Staff analyzes data by individual child, by classroom, by center and by the entire program.

Each score represents the average number of milestones achieved shown as a percentage of the total number of milestones in each domain for each age group.

GOLD Performance and Growth 2016-17 Three-Year-Olds

GOLD Performance and Growth 2016-17 Four-Year-Olds
Family Engagement Activities

Our goal for families is that parents and families are engaged in the long-term, lifelong success of their child through:

- Family well being
- Positive parent-child relationships
- Life-long learning
- Family engagement in transitions
- Connections to peers and community
- As advocates and learners

Workshops for families were held in the areas of child development, mental health, nutrition, health and safety, literacy, family budgeting, transition to public schools, disabilities services, and advocacy.

Special activities to involve fathers and other male adults in children’s lives were held at all centers.

All of the MCA parents were encouraged to set goals and staff assisted parents in identifying resources to meet those goals.

Families were linked with community services including: GED classes, food stamps, energy assistance, food assistance, family counseling services, housing assistance and job search. We provide social services to a total of 932 families. A total of 2,032 units of assistance were given.

Families received a minimum of two home visits from Family Advocates and teaching staff and participated in at least two parent/teacher conferences.

The MCA Head Start Spring 2016 Parent Conference had 163 participants attend.
Volunteers

Parents volunteered as classroom aides, field trip monitors, assisted with housekeeping chores, provided curriculum support, and as center decision makers. Every center held monthly Parent Committee meetings. A total of 160 Parent Committee meetings were held throughout MCA Head Start.

MCA Head Start Policy Council had 32 parents serve as representatives and alternates. Five representatives from community agencies including one MCA Board member also served on the Head Start Policy Council during 2016-17.

Head Start had a total of 2,543 individuals volunteer their time to the program, 2,278 of these volunteers were current or former Head Start parents. Parents helped with classroom activities, center activities, they supported their child’s learning by documenting home activities that supported the curriculum. We had 49,512 hours of volunteer time which we were able to report as $663,786 of in-kind toward our local matching dollars.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Volunteers</th>
<th>2,543</th>
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<tr>
<td>Parent or Former Parent Volunteers</td>
<td>2,278</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Volunteer Dollars</th>
<th>$663,786</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent or Former Parent Volunteer Dollars</td>
<td>$620,796</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Volunteer Hours</th>
<th>49,512</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent or Former Parent Volunteer Hours</td>
<td>46,766</td>
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Partnerships with the Community

MCA Head Start has many partners in the community.

Thanks to the Kiwanis Clubs’ Reading is Fundamental project, our partnership with FirstBook and other community organizations, all of the Head Start children got at least 6 books to take home and keep. Community partners and our Foster Grandparents came in to read to the children. Our collaboration with the Foster Grandparents Program brought 13 “grannies” into our classrooms on a regular schedule providing much needed one-on-one assistance with children needing special help.

Story tellers, exercise instructors, actors, and musicians came out to provide volunteer services to our classrooms.

We had 265 community members volunteer a total of 2,746 hours of their time in the Head Start centers.

For every four federal dollars we receive we have to match with one local dollar. We met our required non-federal match of over $2 million through:

- Donations of the use of buildings;
- Volunteer hours; including serving on our Board, Policy Council and Parent Committees;
- Partnership with the Foster Grandparents Program;
- Parent Home Activities;
- Donations of goods and services; and
- Donations of cash by other organizations or businesses for special program or center projects.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Location of MCA Head Start Centers 2016-17 School Year</th>
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| **Bayou La Batre Center**  
775 Deakle Road  
Irvington, AL 36544 | **Ella Grant Center**  
535 Easterling Street  
Prichard, AL 36610 | **Leona B. Warren Center**  
310 Mobile Street  
Mobile, AL 36607 |
| **Breitling Center**  
8350 Grand Bay-Wilmer Road  
Grand Bay, AL 36541 | **Florence Howard**  
957 Dr. Martin L King Jr Ave  
Mobile AL 36603-5922 | **Mt. Vernon Center**  
1200 Parks Street  
Mt. Vernon, AL 36560 |
| **Burroughs Center**  
6875 Burroughs Ln  
Theodore AL 36582-2101 | **Fonvielle Center**  
461 Donald Street  
Mobile, AL 36617 | **Prichard Infracare Center**  
520 Escambia Street  
Prichard, AL 36610 |
| **Citronelle Center**  
19275 Fourth Street  
Citronelle, AL 36522 | **Frankie J. Briggs Center**  
3728 Topton Road  
McIntosh, AL 36553 | **South Brookley Center**  
1600 Boykin Boulevard  
Mobile, AL 36605 |
| **Chickasaw Center**  
201 N. Craft Highway  
Chickasaw, AL 36611 | **Howard Johnson Center**  
102 Border Circle, East  
Mobile, AL 36608 | **Spencer-Westlawn Center**  
3071 Ralston Road  
Mobile, AL 36606 |
| **E. A. Palmer Center**  
628A So. Dr. ML King Drive  
Prichard, AL 36610 | **Jimmy Knight Center**  
7296 Tenth Street  
Mobile, AL 36608 |