Mobile Community Action, Inc.

Head Start

Annual Report

Program Year 2017-18

Janet Buckley, Head Start Director
Mobile Community Action, Inc.

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Mobile Community Action, Inc.

Freda Henderson, Chairperson
Mobile Community Action, Inc. Board of Directors
Cover picture: Early Head Start children plant a garden at Frankie Briggs Center

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The 2017-18 program year was an exciting and productive year for Mobile Community Action Head Start. It was the last year of our five-year grant. 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 going through the competition process. We achieved our long-planned goal of having Early Head Start and opened our first six Early Head Start classrooms. We received additional funds to extend our school year to match the public schools’ year.

MCA Head Start/Early 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 2017-18 school year Mobile Community Action Head Start/Early Head Start provided services at 17 locations. 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 and early Head Start families.

Our school readiness goals for 2017-18:

- 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/Early Head Start 2017-18 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 and Early 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 2017-18 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/Early Head Start 2017-18 Funding

MCA Head Start/Early Head Start received a total of $9,697,037 in HHS Head Start funds to serve 1243 Head Start children and 48 Early Head Start children. We saw an increase in 2017-18 federal funding due to the additional $93,363 cost-of-living funds (1%) and $56,372 to increase the number of days for some of our sites.

We made some adjustments in the number of classrooms we opened and the number of children we served. Our successful Early Head Start conversion reduced our Head Start enrollment to 1243 and added 48 Early Head Start children.

In addition to the HHS Head Start funds, MCA received $495,000 in Alabama Office of School Readiness funds for eleven Pre-K classrooms and $845,932 in USDA CACFP reimbursement funds for children’s meals.

2017-18 Head Start/Early Head Start Federal Funds

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>HS Budget</th>
<th>HS T/TA</th>
<th>HS COLA (1%)</th>
<th>EHS Budget</th>
<th>EHS T/TA</th>
<th>EHS COLA (1%)</th>
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<td>$85,143</td>
<td>$822,000</td>
<td>$20,550</td>
<td>$8,220</td>
<td>$9,697,037</td>
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Mobile Community Action, Inc.
Head Start Annual Report 2017-18
MCA Head Start/Early Head Start 2017-18 Services

During the 2017-18 program year we had 69 classrooms located at 17 sites. Ten of our sites were Head Start centers only, three of these sites served both Head Start and Early Head Start children; 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 Head Start children and 48 Early Head Start children. We actually served 1,455 Head Start children and 77 Early Head Start children during 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 2017-18 school year:

1,213 Head Start children and 74 Early Head Start children had health insurance;

1,107 Head Start children and 73 Early Head Start children had a medical home;

1,428 Head Start children and 70 Early Head Start children were up-to-date in their immunizations;

1,452 Head Start children and 69 Early Head Start children were up-to-date in their physicals and screenings;

1,362 Head Start children and 57 Early Head Start children had dental exams and related follow-up where needed.

Mental Health Services

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

Our 69 Head Start and six Early Head Start 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% of our enrollment includes children with disabilities. 136 Head Start children and four Early Head Start children with disabilities were enrolled in MCA Head Start during the 2017-18 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 County Public School System nutrition staff prepare meals for our Head Start children. During the 2017-18 school year we served:

158,038 breakfasts; 158,909 lunches; and 152,037 snacks to our children.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Child and Adult Care Feeding Program (CACFP) reimbursed $845,932 for the meals. These funds cover our cost for groceries, milk, bread, and part of the salaries of our food services personnel.
Education Services

MCA Head Start had 69 classrooms during the 2017-18 school year. All of the Head Start classroom teachers had a Bachelor’s degree or higher, all of the Head Start Assistant Teachers had either an Associate’s degree in Early Childhood or a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential. Our 12 new Early Head Start teachers all have an Infant/Toddler CDA.

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

Three of our centers received STAR ratings as part of the new Alabama Quality Rating System. The other centers are working on achieving their STARs for 2018-19.

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 for both Head Start and Early Head Start. 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 2017-18

All of our children had individual learning goals. Children’s knowledge is assessed three times a year. Teaching Strategies’ GOLD Assessment System is used as the ongoing assessment tool.

The table below summarizes progress of children enrolled in MCA Head Start during the 2017-18 school year. The domain areas are identified by the federal Office of Head Start in the Head Start Child Outcomes Framework.

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.

This report chart shows the percentage of MCA children who meet and/or are above the expectation for school readiness goals.
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 559 families. A total of 1,552 units of assistance were given.

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

The MCA Policy Council had 37 parents serve as representatives and alternates. Five representatives from community agencies including one MCA Board member also served on the Head Start/Early Head Start Policy Council during 2017-18.

Head Start had a total of 5,496 individuals volunteer their time to the program, 4,722 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 15,502 hours of volunteer time which we were able to report as $194,512 of in-kind toward our local matching dollars.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Volunteers</th>
<th>5,496</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent or Former Parent Volunteers</td>
<td>4,722</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Volunteer Dollars</th>
<th>$194,512</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent or Former Parent Volunteer Dollars</td>
<td>$159,514</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Volunteer Hours</th>
<th>15,502</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent or Former Parent Volunteer Hours</td>
<td>12,733</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 7 “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 774 community members volunteer a total of 4,010 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.
## Location of MCA Head Start Centers 2017-18 School Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Center Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bayou La Batre Center</strong></td>
<td>775 Deakle Road  Irvington, AL 36544</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ella Grant Center</strong></td>
<td>535 Easterling Street  Prichard, AL 36610</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Leona B. Warren Center</strong></td>
<td>310 Mobile Street  Mobile, AL 36607</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Breitling Center</strong></td>
<td>8350 Grand Bay-Wilmer Road  Grand Bay, AL 36541</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Florence Howard</strong></td>
<td>957 Dr. Martin L King Jr Ave  Mobile AL 36603-5922</td>
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<td><strong>Mt. Vernon Center</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Burroughs Center</strong></td>
<td>6875 Burroughs Ln  Theodore AL 36582-2101</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fonvielle Center</strong></td>
<td>461 Donald Street  Mobile, AL 36617</td>
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<td><strong>Prichard Infracare Center</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Citronelle Center</strong></td>
<td>19275 Fourth Street  Citronelle, AL 36522</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Frankie J. Briggs Center</strong></td>
<td>3728 Topton Road  McIntosh, AL 36553</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>South Brookley Center</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Chickasaw Center</strong></td>
<td>201 N. Craft Highway  Chickasaw, AL 36611</td>
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<td><strong>Howard Johnson Center</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Spencer-Westlawn Center</strong></td>
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<td><strong>E. A. Palmer Center</strong></td>
<td>628A So. Dr. ML King Drive  Prichard, AL 36610</td>
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<td><strong>Jimmy Knight Center</strong></td>
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