

A Bright Start with Head Start!



**Family YMCA of Greater Augusta
YMCA Child Development Academy (CDA) Head Start, LLC
2016 – 2017 Annual Report**

Program Overview

The Family YMCA of Greater Augusta, YMCA Child Development Academy (CDA) Head Start provides a comprehensive child and family development program for qualified children three to age 5 and their families. In addition to the early childhood education, children and families receive health and nutrition services, family development support, access to mental health services, as well as support for children with disabilities.

The goal of the program is to improve children and family outcomes including school readiness, by providing a continuum of comprehensive services that support children's development and family functioning. Overall the everyday goal of every staff member, parent volunteer and community partner is to prepare children for kindergarten and beyond. This means that children are ready for school, families are ready to support their children's learning and schools are ready for children.

YMCA CDA Head Start serves qualified preschool children who live in the Aiken and Barnwell counties in South Carolina. Head Start is funded through federal and state grants and The Family YMCA of Greater Augusta has been a Head Start grantee since 2015. Our children participate in a full day center-based preschool program at seven Head Start sites.

Our Program Today

- There were 495 children enrolled and served in the 7 Head Start sites between Aiken and Barnwell Counties in school year 2016-2017.
- Average monthly enrollment was 455 children (96% of funded enrollment) due to request for an enrollment reduction.
- 97% of children served were either income or categorically eligible for services.
- All 495 children served are up to date on a schedule of age-appropriate preventive and primary health care IAW SC EPSDT schedule for well-child care.
- 495 (100%) of children received medical exams during school year 2016-2017.
- 476 (96%) of children received dental exams during school year 2016-2017.

Preparing for Kindergarten

The Family YMCA of Greater Augusta, YMCA CDA Head Start's education in early childhood development services ensure that children have varied experiences which will help them develop socially, intellectually and emotionally. The services are customized to the individual needs of children, considering each child's temperament, interest and learning styles. The growth that takes place in these early years is tremendous and cannot be compared with any other age. This is why we need to do everything we can to prepare children for kindergarten and making sure that their parents know how to be there ongoing teachers and advocates.

During the school year, we work on our School Readiness goals. The School Readiness goals help us to clearly focus on specific learning goals that children should be achieving based on their age. We collaborate with our local school systems on these goals. Head Start Program Performance Standards specify class-size, adult – child ratio and teacher education qualifications. Head Start utilizes the Creative Curriculum for Pre-School that promotes child-directed, hands-on learning that encourages reinforcement by parents at home. Head Start utilizes Teaching Strategies Gold as our assessment tool and for behavior and development this year were the Eyberg and Brigance.

Parent Engagement

The Family YMCA of Greater Augusta, YMCA CDA Head Start values the parent as the first and most important teacher of their children. Therefore, parents are involved in every aspect of our program. They are our volunteers, our committee and board members and our social service clients. Parent engagement is encouraged in every aspect of Head Start.

Maintaining positive relationships with families, communicating regularly with families, and encouraging family involvement were relative strengths for the Head Start classrooms. Many families enjoy volunteering at their child's Head Start site. This includes such things as volunteering in their child's classroom, attending our YMCA Safety Around Water (SAW) lessons, or attending committee and board meetings.

Parents had the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational and social activities in their centers. Monthly Parent Education workshops were offered on topics such as Parents as Partners; Fatherhood; Literacy; Job Preparedness and Human Resources; Healthy Eating and Physical Activities; Volunteer and Nutrition; Managing Finances and Family Wellness.

Financial Information

The YMCA Child Development Academy (CDA) Head Start’s current budget is 3.5 million. Head Start funds are 3.2 million received from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, and 345,000.00 from Child & Adult Care Food Program (CACFP U.S. Department of Agriculture). The YMCA CDA Head Start consistently receives high marks from its auditors for internal controls and other accounting policies and procedures, and received an unqualified audit opinion for the most recent audit.

<i>Budget Expenditures</i>	
Personnel	\$1,793,915.00
Fringe Benefits	\$379,022.00
Travel	\$10,999.00
Equipment	\$16,812.00
Supplies	\$82,911.00
Training and Technical Assistance	\$42,486.00
Contractual	\$94,298.00
Construction	\$0.00
Facilities	\$251,145.00
Other	\$229,817.00
Indirect Charges	\$333,672.00
Total	\$3,235,077.00
Non-Federal Share	\$808,769.00
Total	\$4,043,846.00