



City of Rockford Human Services Department Head Start

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Head Start Annual Report

2008- 2009

To the Citizens of Winnebago County:

Head Start services have been provided to families in Winnebago County since 1965. In 1975 the City of Rockford received the federal award from the Department of Health and Human Services to operate Head Start in Winnebago County. Each subsequent year continuation grants have been funded to provide comprehensive education and health services to children from low-income families. Parents and caretakers are provided services, information and referrals to help to meet the needs and goals of the entire family.

City of Rockford Head Start employs 82 full and part-time staff, 28 are former or current parents. The annual budget of \$4.7 million is primarily spent in the community through salaries, materials and services.

Eligibility for Head Start services is based on family income. The program strives to maximize a child's strengths, provide a rich learning environment and prepare children for success in their home, school and community.

Joanne Lewis, Director

**Funded enrollment:
591 children**

669- Children Served

602- Families Served

112—Two Parent Families

490—Single Parent Families

41-Homeless Families Served

99.5% - Average Monthly Enrollment

85% - Average Daily Attendance

Head Start Locations

**Human Services Department
Administration Office**
612 N. Church Street
Rockford, IL 61103

Fairgrounds Head Start
902 Acorn Street
Funded Enrollment: 136
Home Base Option: 24

Henrietta Head Start
200 N. Johnston Ave
Funded Enrollment: 224

Orton Keyes Head Start
653 Ranger Street
Funded Enrollment: 156

Circles of Learning, Child Care Partner
2909 N Main Street
Funded Enrollment: 51

Health Services

Children must be healthy to grow and learn. Head Start works with each family to provide medical and dental services, immunizations and other health assessments.

With support during the 2008-09 school year:

- 99% of enrolled children had an ongoing source of continuous and accessible, routine, preventive and acute medical care.
- 95% of children were determined by a health professional to be up-to-date on all immunizations appropriate for their age.
- 96% of children had an ongoing source of continuous and accessible, routine, preventive and acute dental care.
- 76% of children completed a professional dental exam during the operating period or within the last 12 months.

Social Services

Family Resource Workers support families' goals and needs. Families make their own decisions concerning resources they choose to utilize and options they choose to exercise. In some cases, support is provided to families in crisis.

75% of families (452) received at least one of the services listed.

The number of families who received the following services during the 2008 – 09 program year:

Emergency/crisis intervention (addressing immediate need for food, clothing or shelter):	136	Adult education (GED programs, college selection, etc)	181
Mental Health Services	19	Domestic violence services	10
Marriage education services	27	Child support assistance	21
Housing assistance (subsidies, utilities, repair, etc)	61	Health education	181
English as a Second Language (ESL) training	88	Assistance to families of incarcerated individuals	4
Child Abuse and Neglect service	14	Parenting education	69
Job training	79	Substance abuse prevention or treatments	6

Parent Involvement

Head Start parents:

- Participate in their child's education and development
- Make decisions and offer suggestions that will contribute to program quality
- Volunteer in the classroom and on field trips
- Develop their skills as their child's first and most important teacher and advocate

Additional opportunities are available to all parents:

Policy Council is an elected body of parents and community representatives who participate in all important decisions affecting the program. Parent participants are elected at the site or program options and make up the majority of the membership.

Parent Committees are organized at the site level, the committee keeps parents informed about activities and makes recommendations for program plans.

Family Partnerships identify and support the interests, goals, needs and strengths of the family.

Parent education and training is provided at the site level and through community resources. Topics include family literacy, health, child development and self-sufficiency. Nine parent education events were held during the program year and 124 parents participated.

Family Fun Nights are held regularly at the site level. Family-centered events are fun and informative. All members of the family are welcome to participate. Eighteen Family Fun Nights were held in 2008—2009 and 505 family members participated in the events.

Program Options

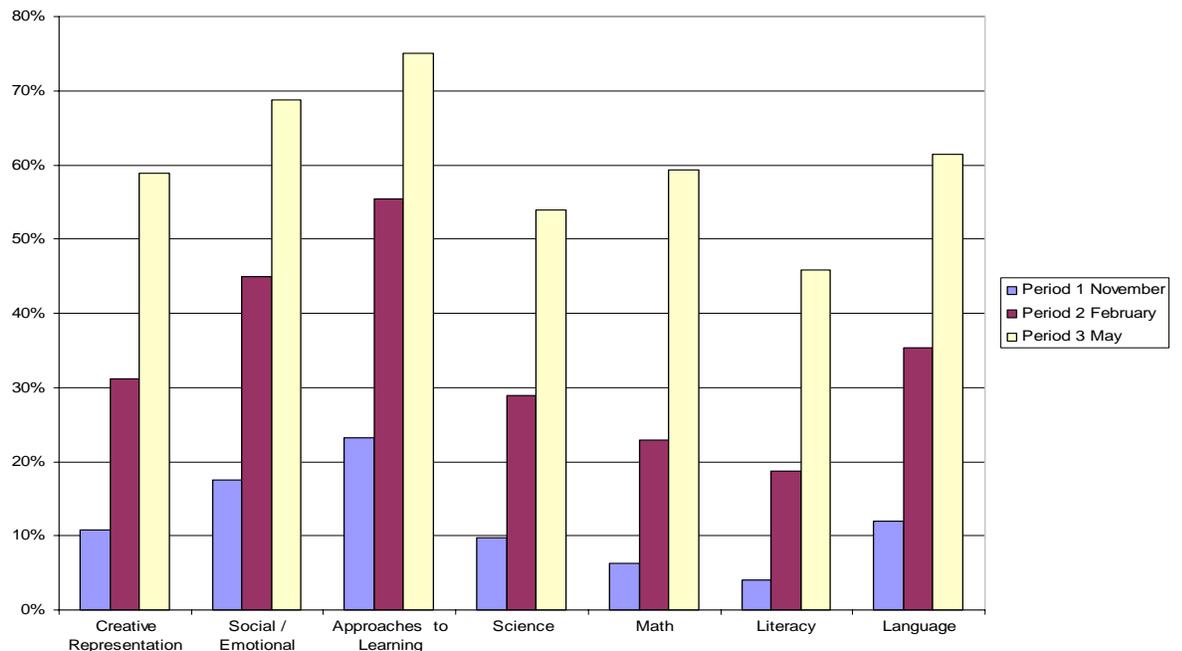
Four program options are available to families:

Part-day (3.5 hours per day, four days a week)	Home-base (Home visit 1.5 hours a week)
Full-day center based (8 hours per day, five days a week, during the school year)	Full-day, full-year (Full-day, year round services, provided through a child care partner)

Education

Teachers serve as educators and partners with families. They focus on a child's individual development. Ongoing child assessments are shared with parents to review progress and set goals. A variety of experiences and materials promote children's development in key areas.

Child Outcomes in 2008-09 demonstrate significant progress. The grid shows the increase in the percentage of children who scored at the highest level of competency. Assessments are completed three times during the school year: November, February and May.



Transportation

Head Start provides door-to-door transportation for the majority of children attending part day, center based classes. All children are securely seated in safety vests.

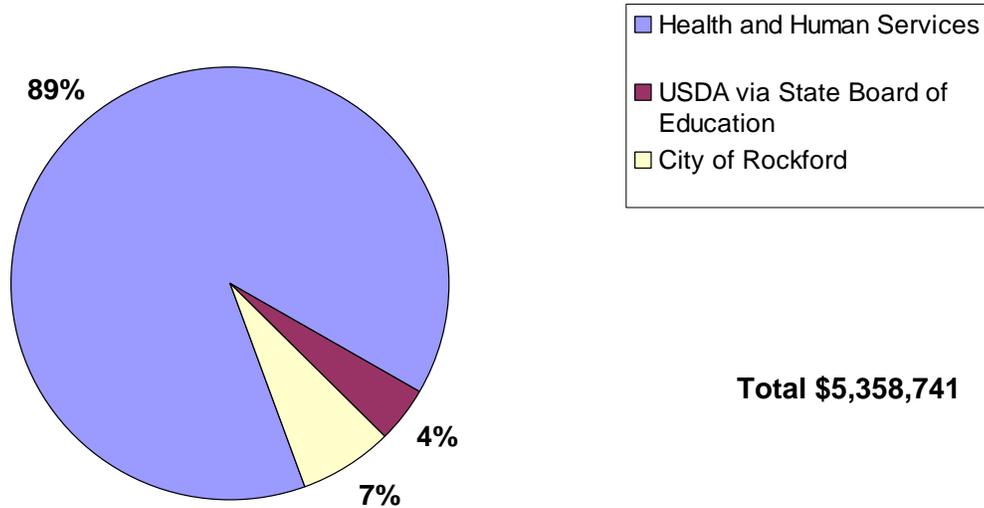
435	15	19	34
Children transported in 2008 - 09	Bus Drivers employed by Head Start	Buses owned by Head Start	Routes run each day Monday - Thursday

Transition—310 children were eligible to enter kindergarten the following year.

Services are offered to families with children who are transitioning to kindergarten.

- Families are assisted in registering their child for kindergarten
- Children take field trips to kindergarten classrooms.
- Parents participate in field trips to kindergarten buildings to meet staff and view classrooms.

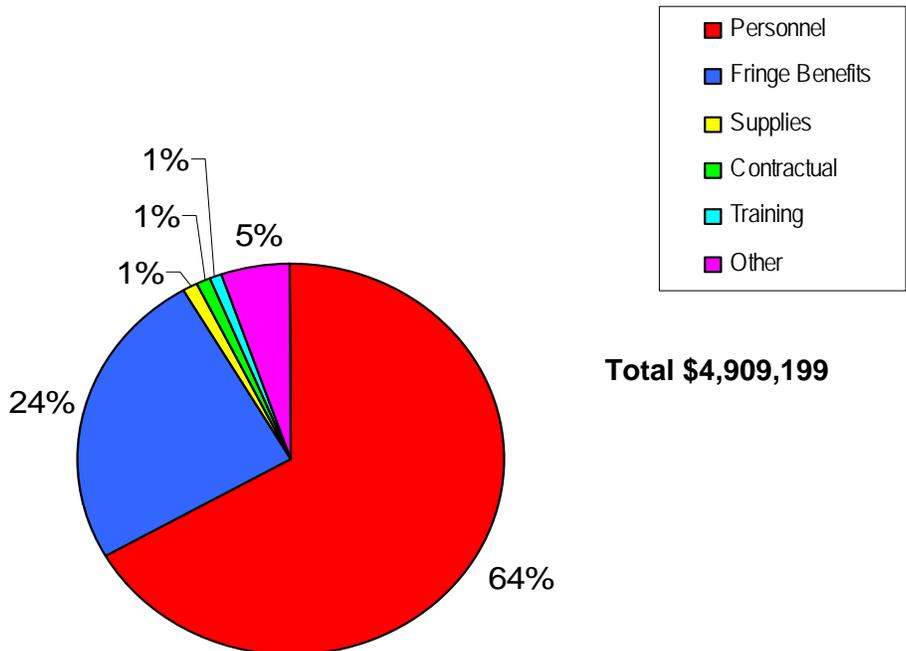
Head Start Sources of Funds



Federal Review

Effective December 2007, the Office of Head Start acknowledged that the City of Rockford Human Services Department, Head Start is in full compliance with all applicable Head Start Performance Standards, laws, regulations and policy requirements.

Projected Budget 2009 - 2010



Audit

Lauterbach & Amen conducted the annual financial audit for the year ending December 31, 2008. City of Rockford is in compliance with the requirements described in the U.S. Office of Management Budget (OMB) Circular A-133. There were no findings specific to the Head Start program.