

Gateway Community Action Partnership  
 Our business is improving lives.



2010

# Head Start Program

Fairfield

Glassboro

Millville

Paulsboro

Penns Grove

Penns Grove II

Port Norris

River's Edge

Seabrook

Sicklerville

Swedesboro

Vineland II

Vineland III

Williamstown

Woodbury

Child Care Partners

## Funding Sources

Tri-County Head Start receives funding from multiple sources:

DHHS/Administration for Children and Families	\$8,573,489
DHHS/Administration for Children and Families/ARRA	\$544,543
DHHS/Administration for Children and Families/EHS Expansion/ARRA	\$806,758
Head Start Body Start	\$5,000
New Jersey Division of Family Development (Abbott Wrap)	\$892,701
USDA/Child Care Food Program	\$743,552
Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission	\$ 3,428
New Jersey Department of Education (Abbott)	\$1,042,000
Delta Dental	\$ 25,000



## Overview of Budget

Gateway Early Head Start and Head Start's structure aligns itself with the federal monitoring protocol, ensuring that systems are in place to ensure the delivery of services to children and families through local Early Head Start and Head Start centers. Gateway Head Start has continued to look at cost-saving measures, grant opportunities, and collaborations as a way of helping to support personnel costs, related fringe, and ensure that classrooms and centers are well staffed for the benefit of the children and families. Gateway also seeks funding opportunities to assist in offering competitive wages to teaching staff.

Gateway Head Start takes advantage of nearly all training provided by the Region II T/TA system, including bringing the T/TA Specialist on-site to provide training to the staff. Trainings often bring opportunities to work with other Head Start staff with vast knowledge from their own programs or the opportunity to hear a speaker or trainer that has been part ground breaking research in the field of early childhood.

Gateway Head Start has used Head Start funds, New Jersey Department of Education funds, and New Jersey Department of Human Services funds to ensure classrooms have appropriate supplies and materials. During the last three years, the focus has been on upgrading classrooms, replacing furnishings to create a more welcoming environment and ensuring safe playgrounds.

Gateway has been working to improve its delivery of services, particularly health services through tracking services given and needed. Gateway purchases the services of Genesis Earth for training and the maintenance of a web-based data base that improves reporting and service delivery. Gateway also utilizes Creative Curriculum.net and HighScope.net. Gateway continues to ensure staff has efficient computers to improve communication and support service delivery.

Every program has office supplies costs that support the efforts of the organization, from copy paper to folders for children's files. As we continue to modify systems to increase efficiency and quality, supplies are needed to support these efforts. Gateway Head Start ensures every classroom is stocked with first aid supplies. We provide diapers for children, including supplies such as gloves and paper for the changing table. Gateway also strives to ensure that it has a clean, sanitary, and welcoming environment. An environment that supports the special needs of children, that promotes a family style approach to meal services, and that supports children's overall development.

Gateway Head Start contracts with Student Transportation of America to provide bus services to Head Start children at four centers. These buses supplement the services that we provide through our own bus fleet and through partnerships with districts.

Families in the three-county area have had difficulty in accessing dental services. The creation of the Toothmobile by Gateway Community Action Partnership has provided more access to dental services, particularly in the area of treatment. In addition, we are transporting more children to collaboration dentists and community health care dental programs. Gateway Head Start assists families in accessing Medicaid and other



insurance to pay for dental services whenever possible. Delta Dental funds have been used to provide education and to pay for dental treatment.

Most mental health services are provided for within the Gateway Head Start program through a team effort with our certified mental health consultants and mental health/disabilities specialist. When appropriate, Gateway Head Start accesses Complete Care and other community agencies for child appropriate mental health services, ensuring that children and families have access to appropriate services.

Gateway Head Start maintains a fleet of buses to transport children to and from the centers, to transport children to medical and dental appointments, and for field trips. In addition we have vehicles for delivering food, supplies, and technical support.

Gateway owns five Head Start centers and rents an additional nine centers. In addition, we have four office spaces located throughout our service area. Each of these spaces has phones, faxes, computer systems. Each is insured and maintained for smooth Head Start operations. A majority of the Head Start centers are a decade or older, requiring maintenance and repairs. Centers require painting every one to two years. Carpets and floors are maintained to promote a healthy environment. Some of the oldest facilities require more costly repairs such as roofing and HVAC systems updated.

Children benefit from exploring their world. Children go on a minimum of two paid field trips per year, and additional free field trips in their community.

Gateway Head Start partners with area Child Care Resource and Referral programs and local child care centers to provide quality, comprehensive early childhood Head Start programming. Tri-County Head Start has developed a cost sharing approach with Tri-County Community Action Partnership's Child Care programs to provide Head Start services. In addition, Tri-County Head Start partners with other local child care centers, providing minimal funding for a 10 month period, along with supplies, services, and training.

Gateway Head Start covers a 1152-square-mile area with 14 Head Start centers and 8 partnership centers. With the rising costs of fuel, and an increase in the federal mileage reimbursement rate, travel costs will continue to rise. Management and Content Area specialists visits centers regularly to provide direct services, to provide training, and to monitor implementation of Head Start Performance Standards. Funds are also utilized to pay for travel costs related to meetings, both locally and outside Tri-County Head Start's service area that support quality improvement, improve networking, and increase services to children and families.

Gateway Head Start partners with many community programs, including the school districts, volunteer organizations, and colleges. Federal funds only provide for 80% of the costs involved in serving children and families, the remaining 20% of non-federal resources ensures a quality Head Start program.



### Enrollment

Gateway Early Head Start and Head Start has provided services and developed community partnerships that have annually touched the lives of 1360 children, their families, volunteers, and staff. Gateway Head Start has averaged 100% enrollment on a monthly basis while serving 24% of the eligible preschool children and 6% of eligible infants and toddlers in the three county area, showing a growing need for Head Start services.

### Monitoring

Gateway Head Start was reviewed in January of 2011 and was found to be fully compliant. This year's audit reflected that this agency is a low-risk auditee.

### Medical and Dental

Gateway Head Start children received health services, with 1243 having a complete physical and lead screenings. 1321 children were fully immunized. 930 Head Start children received dental examinations, while 39 Early Head Start infants and toddlers saw a dentist.

### Family and Parent Involvement

Gateway Early Head Start and Head Start parents have been active in their children's educational experience. They have been active in program governance, serving on the agency board and policy council. They have participated in the state association and in opportunities at the national level to impact policy. Gateway Early Head Start and Head Start recognizes that parents are a child's first teacher, that their participation is integral to ensuring quality, comprehensive early childhood and social services.

Gateway Early Head Start and Head Start families are involved in their child's early childhood experience. Early in the child's year, families visited their child's center, learning all about the Early Head Start and Head Start experience. Parents have been involved in field trips, parent meetings, father involvement activities, family style meals, and workshops. Early Head Start and Head Start centers are a welcoming environment that strives to strengthen the family.

### School Readiness

Tri-County Early Head Start and Head Start primarily use the research based Creative Curriculum. The curriculum supports children's learning in the areas of social-emotional, intellectual, and physical development. In addition, one center, in partnership with the Bridgeton School District, uses Tools of the Mind, a curriculum that emphasizes the development of social-emotional skills as the foundation for all learning. The Vineland School District works with three of our centers, implementing the High/Scope approach to learning, with an emphasis on cognitive development. At the heart of all these curriculums is the teacher's role to facilitate learning through play and helping children make progress toward kindergarten readiness.

### Continued Growth

Gateway Early Head Start and Head Start has been looking to the future, striving to expand services to the community. In November 2009 received a federal award to serve an additional 72 infants, toddlers, and pregnant women. By the spring of 2010 7 new classrooms were opened and 22 children were being served through a home visiting program.

