

“It will be the goal of this administration to ensure that every child has access to a complete and competitive education—from the day they are born to the day they begin a career...We have dramatically expanded early childhood education and will continue to improve its quality, because we know that the most formative learning comes in those first years of life.”

-President Barack Obama -address to joint session of Congress, February 24,

Clay-Wilkin Head Start 2008-2009 Annual Report to the Community



Head Start is a nation-wide early education program that provides comprehensive early childhood development services to low-income preschool children and support to their families.

Comprehensive services include education, nutrition, health, medical, dental, parental involvement, and social services.

Clay-Wilkin Head Start served 320 children and families in 11 Centers and Home Base programs in Clay and Wilkin Counties.

Head Start is among the best Early Childhood Development programs in the nation. Clay-Wilkin Head start provides high-quality, comprehensive services for children and families by providing developmentally appropriate, supportive learning environments for children.

Head Start welcomes diversity and supports families as they become self-reliant.

Head Start believes in providing professional development opportunities for all staff and supports employee wellness.

Collaborative partnerships and teamwork are the foundation for the work of Head Start.

**Head Start's Mission:
Teaching Children,
Supporting Families.**



“In the beginning when someone first contacted me, Head Start was a resource that I didn’t even know existed. They personalized it so much for me and my family. Head Start has been there in the best of times and the worst of times. During the flood I was contacted several times to see if we needed anything—it just meant so much to us.

It’s just a feeling like someone out there cares. Head Start is the whole package—it’s more than just educating the child or the parents—it’s like a family of friends.”

Michele Mortenson, Home Base Parent

93% of all enrolled families welcome Head start staff into their home for an educational home visit. Teachers are able to share information about how the child is doing in the classroom and parents are able to share information about how the child is doing at home.



Disabilities

72 children received special education services

23% of total enrollment

Head Start is mandated to serve at least 10% of children with disabilities. Head Start staff, in collaboration with the LEA (Local Education Association) staff, work toward children's independence and individualize so children are able to advance in achieving their goals.

Mental Health

Head Start contracted to provide services to children and their families.

Our goal is that the consultants:

- Ensure responsive, predictable and sensitive environments that meet the mental health needs of all children and families.
- Help in building the capacity of staff, families and the Head start program systems to prevent, identify, and reduce the impact of mental health problems among children and their families.

"If we're serious about reclaiming that dream, we have to do more in our own lives, our own families, and our own communities. That starts with providing the guidance our children need, turning off the TV, and putting away the video games; attending those parent-teacher conferences, helping our children with their homework, and setting a good example."

Barack

Parent Involvement

- 76 parents attended Family Night in their child's classroom each month
- Head Start Policy Council established a quorum 11 out of 12 monthly meetings



Nutrition

Nutritious meals and snacks are a part of every Head Start school day. This past year Clay-Wilkin Head Start served 11,453 breakfasts, 23,582 lunches and 13,887 snacks. This amounted to \$91,392.95 in reimbursement from the USDA's Child and Adult Care Food Program. The children enjoyed healthy meals and snacks filled with color and variety. Jicama was a new vegetable on our menu that the children enjoyed learning about and eating. We are helping to establish healthy eating habits at a young age.

Promoting good nutrition is just one of the ways Clay-Wilkin Head Start is working to combat childhood obesity. We have also implemented more activity into the children's day with a National Head Start program called *I am Moving, I am Learning* (IMIL). For optimal brain development preschoolers need a minimum of one hour of structured and several hours of unstructured physical activity each day. In addition to playground and gym time, we have worked moderate to vigorous physical activity into our curriculum throughout the school day. Children can be seen learning to make letters on the floor with thick yarn, to catch scarves and yarn balls in the air above their heads, and to skip, march and sing about eating healthy to IMIL music.

In partnership with our Head Start families, IMIL is going home as we share easy, no cost ways to be active and eat well during daily family life. Reducing childhood obesity requires a partnership that goes beyond the family and school and extends into the community, media, government and social organizations. It is an exciting time as we help children grow and learn through healthy and active routines.

Health & Wellness

Head Start embraces a comprehensive vision of health for children, families and staff, which assures that basic health needs are met, encourages practices that prevent future illnesses or injuries, and promotes positive, culturally relevant health behaviors that enhance life-long well-being.

Head Start believes that children who are healthy are children who are ready to learn!

Clay-Wilkin Head Start partners with community medical and dental providers who offer preventive and treatment services to enrolled children. As a result, during the 2008-2009 program year:

- 96%** of children served by Head Start left with an ongoing source of accessible medical care.
- 92%** were up-to-date with all required medical screenings
- 97%** left with an ongoing source of dental care.
- 93%** were up-to-date on dental exams.
- 99%** of children who were enrolled at least 45 days had their vision and hearing checked.
- 96%** of children were up-to-date on their immunizations at the end of enrollment.
(4% could not access a needed immunization due to an HIB vaccine shortage.)



Outcome Framework

Language Development

Listening & Understanding
Speaking & Communicating

Creative Arts

Art
Music
Movement
Dramatic Play

Literacy

Phonological Awareness
Book Knowledge & Concepts
Early Writing
Alphabet Knowledge

Mathematics

Number & Operations
Geometry & Spatial Sense
Patterns * & Measurement

Science

Scientific Skills & Methods

Social & Emotional Development

Self-Concept
Self-Control
Cooperation
Social Relationships
Knowledge of Families & Communities

Approaches to Learning

Initiative & Curiosity
Engagement & Persistence
Reasoning & Problem-Solving

Physical Health & Development

Gross Motor Skills
Fine Motor Skills
Health Status & Practices

2008-2009 Enrollment

Funded for 273 children

Served 320 children

(including drops and new enrollees)

57 At-Risk/Disability referrals

75 Children stayed on the waiting list

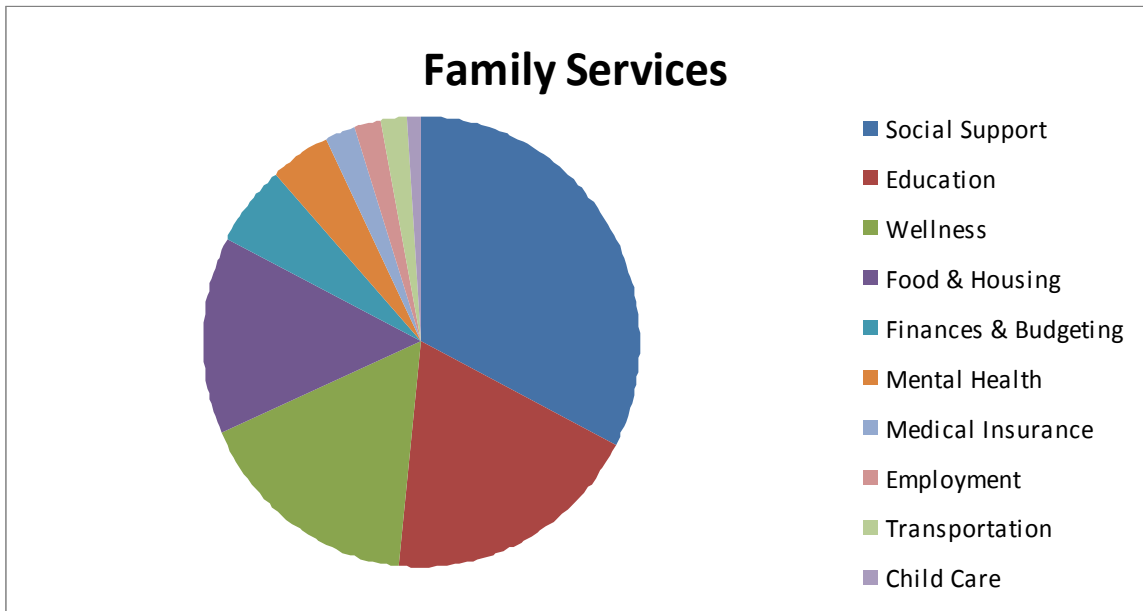
We were not able to serve 19% of the children that applied.

“Studies show that children in early childhood education programs are more likely to score higher in reading and math, more likely to graduate from high school and attend college, more likely to hold a job, and more likely to earn more in that job. For every dollar we invest in these programs, we get nearly \$10 back in reduced welfare rolls, fewer health care costs, and less crime.”

Barack Obama

Family Services Provided:

- 99% of families set a goal during the school year
- 66 families were helped with crisis needs (food, shelter, clothing)
- 1300 referrals were made to community agencies
- 3688 services were provided to families throughout the program year including the following areas:



Kindergarten Transition

Moorhead Schools	127
D-G-F Schools	15
Breckenridge	15
Campbell	5
Barnesville	1

Make sure our children are prepared for kindergarten: one of the most critical times to influence learning in a child's life is the period before he or she reaches kindergarten. We will invest in early childhood education, by dramatically expanding Head start and other programs to ensure that all of our young children are ready to enter kindergarten.

Barack Obama



Project Approach

Clay-Wilkin Head Start classroom curriculum is **Project Approach**. This curriculum is child or teacher initiated with an in-depth look at a specific topic. Teachers, children, and parents research to find answers to questions about the classroom topic. Topics included music, snakes, fish, and food.



Partnerships

Head Start partners with over 50 community organizations, agencies, and service providers.



“Of all the rocks upon which we build our lives, we are reminded today that family is the most important. And we are called to recognize and honor how critical every father is to that foundation. They are teachers and coaches. They are mentors and role models. They are examples of success and the men who constantly push us toward it.”

Barack Obama



2009-2010 Head Start Income Guidelines

Family Size	100% FPG
2	14,570
3	18,310
4	22,050
5	25,790
6	29,530
7	33,270
8	37,010
Each additional person	3,740

If a family is over 100% of the Federal Poverty Guideline, they may still qualify if any of the following pertain to their family:

- Any family receiving assistance through the MFIP program.
- Any family receiving SSI (Supplemental Security Income).
- Any child in Foster Care is automatically qualified.
- Any family that is Homeless is automatically qualified.

HEAD START AS A COMMUNITY BUSINESS

\$781,855.00 paid to 50 employees in salary
 \$109,000.00 spent locally for food
 \$ 36, 500.00 spent in bus fuel and maintenance
 \$248,412.00 spent in facility and utility costs

In Kind: Parent & Community Participation

Volunteers	705	
Hours	28,375	
Value	\$419,911	
Donations	\$74,870	
Total Volunteer & Donations		\$494,781

Budget Information:

United States Department of Health and Human Services	1,715,817.00
Minnesota Department of Education	336,516.00
United States Department of Agriculture	<u>91,392.00</u>
	2,143,725.00

Program Expenditures

Personnel Services	1,482,614.00
Operating	661,111.00
Audit: Kern, DeWenter, Viere, LTD. St. Cloud, MN	

Lakes & Prairies Community Action Partnership Inc.'s mission is to eliminate poverty, empower families, and engage communities.



Clay-Wilkin Head Start
 A program of Lakes & Prairies Community Action Partnership
 715 11th St N, Suite 104, Moorhead, MN 56560
 218-299-7021
www.lakesandprairies.net/headstart

