



Gulf Regional Early Childhood Services

Leading the Way to a Brighter Future for Children

2013 Annual Report

OUR MISSION.

*Leading the Way to a
Brighter Future for Children*



When we look back at 2013, the picture we see could be compared to a child's simple drawing of a stormy day. Sequestration was the storm we had to weather. In that drawing, our sequestration rain cloud will be colored dark and stormy, within it the images of thousands of little chairs, sadly empty. These represent a stark reminder of the lost opportunities for children across our nation last year. Over 70,000 children were deprived of a critical year of learning in Head Start and Early Head Start, even as research continues to confirm the importance of early learning to our nation's future. Yet something can be seen peeking around the edge of that dark cloud... the faint rays of light, growing brighter as if the sun is ready to burst through!

Was it the sequestration crisis that focused our policy makers' attention on these critical services? While we will never be sure of that, what we do know is that in the waning days of 2013, we could see the momentum growing to safeguard programs like Early Head Start.

Encouraged by a brighter forecast of sunnier days ahead, we are beginning 2014 with great hope and renewed resolve. We are committed to our mission and will continue to do our part. Together, we are investing in the strength of our community and leading the way to a brighter future for children!

Ms. Wanda B. Rahman
2013 President, Board of Directors

Wendy McEarchern
Executive Director

WE'RE DEDICATED TO RESPONSIBLE SPENDING.

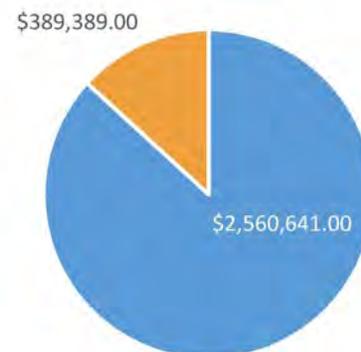
2013 SOURCES OF FUNDING



■ Federal Grant ■ State Grants ■ Private Contributions & Other Income

Total Revenue - \$2,860,013

2013 OPERATIONAL EXPENSES



■ Program Expenses ■ Administration

Total Expense - \$2,950,030

TEACH Early Childhood Education Professionals

- Early Care and Education Professional Development Programs
- Online and Web-based Courses with CEU Credit
- Quarterly Newsletters and Event Announcements
- Informational Articles
- Reproducible Parent and Staff Resource Pages
- Support Services for Alabama Pathways to Quality Care and Education Statewide Career Lattice

LEARN Together ~ Families and Teachers

- Lending Library, Teacher Work Room, and Reusable Resource Materials
- Caring for the Caregiver Programs to Prevent Abuse & Neglect
- Reading Is Fundamental Early Literacy Initiative
- Bright Beginnings for a Bright Future Parenting Education and Home Visitation Program



SUPPORT Communities, Build Partnerships

- Early Head Start Mobile - Comprehensive services for 104 infants and toddlers of families who live in poverty
- Families In Transition - Short-term child care scholarships for families in crisis
- PNC Grow Up Great Grant - promoting early science and math learning

*Pictures above depict Poarch Band of Creek Indians' Literacy Day, partnership with Mobile Museum of Art, & Kaboom! Playground Build at Goodwill Easter Seals.

EARLY HEAD START MOBILE!

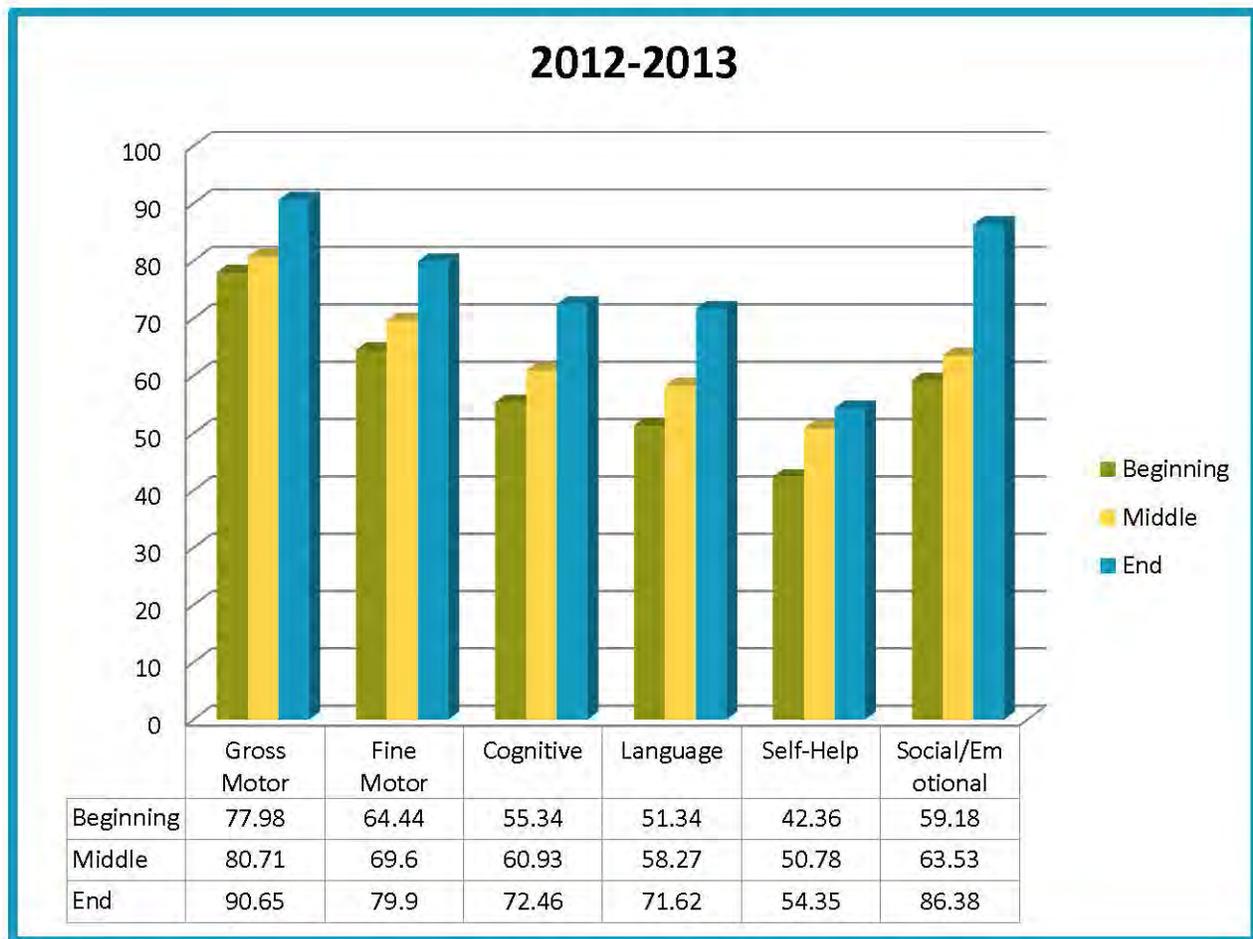
The goal of the program is to improve child and family outcomes, including school readiness, by providing a continuum of comprehensive services that support children's development and family functioning.



Early childhood programs are about investing in a child's future. The growth that takes place in these early years is tremendous and cannot be compared with any other age. That is why we need to do everything we can to prepare children for kindergarten. Whether we're talking about a 2 year-old and helping the parent learn how to read books with them every night... or a 4 year-old who is learning to write letters: it's all about making sure these young children are ready for kindergarten. And making sure that their parents know how to be their ongoing teachers and advocates.

During this school year, we worked on our School Readiness goals, required as a part of the federal Head Start Act. The School Readiness goals help us to clearly focus on specific learning goals that children should be achieving based on their age. The goals are developmentally appropriate and align with the State of Alabama's Early Learning Guidelines and with Head Start's Framework for Infants and Toddlers. Early Head Start Mobile! uses the Early Learning Accomplishment Profile (E-LAP) to measure children's progress 3 times each year. During 2012-2013, our infants and toddlers showed significant gains in each developmental domain.

CHILD OUTCOMES TOWARD SCHOOL READINESS



FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Early Head Start Mobile! recognizes that the well-being of the entire family is essential to the development of a child. A strength-based approach is used to work with families, encouraging parent engagement in all aspects of the program. We work to build positive relationships with families that support family well-being, strong parent-child relationships and ongoing learning and development. Through positive, goal-oriented relationships with families and the utilization of community resources, staff assist families in moving toward economic and emotional self-sufficiency. Positive family outcomes support optimal child outcomes which enhance school readiness.

Early Head Start Mobile! offers a variety of venues for family engagement. Monthly meetings at each center provide opportunities for parents to share their experience and knowledge, as well as interact with community partners in areas of interest. Topics addressed are a result of input from parents at enrollment and orientation. Specific topics and interests are identified through an enrollment interest survey, input from center committee meetings and individual contacts with families. Early Head Start Mobile! Family Engagement staff work with each site to provide technical assistance and monitor all family support activities in the center. These activities include leadership opportunities such as Policy Council and Parent Committee Meetings, goal setting for each child's educational plan, volunteering opportunities in the classrooms and centers, fatherhood activities such as Breakfast with Dad, family literacy activities, participation in community initiatives such as March of Dimes Walk-a-thon, attending local and regional conferences, and participating in home visitation programs.

- 158** Children and Pregnant Women Served
- 122** Families Served
- 104** Funded Enrollment
- 104** Average Monthly Enrollment
- 29** Children with Disabilities Served
- 12** Pregnant Women Served
- 11** Homeless Families Served
- 100%** Pregnant Women Receiving Prenatal Care
- 100%** Children Receiving Developmental Screening
- 100%** Children Receiving Medical Exams
- 100%** Children Receiving Dental/Oral Exams



*Children pictured attend local child care programs in Mobile, Baldwin & Escambia Counties.

EHS FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

October 1, 2012 - September 30, 2013

Total Income	\$2,103,769
Total Expenses	\$2,066,268
Personnel	\$466,187
Travel	\$6,548
Supplies	\$33,771
Contractual	\$1,441,669
Training	\$32,580
Other	\$85,513

2014 Projected Budget

Grant Award	\$1,490,986
Total Expenses	\$1,490,986
Personnel	\$488,566
Travel	\$26,218
Supplies	\$63,710
Contractual	\$788,606
Other	\$87,976
Training & Technical Assistance	\$35,910

*Does not include non-federal share of \$372,747.

Federal Program Review

The Administration for Families and Children (ACF) conducted an on-site monitoring review of our Early Head Start program. As a result of the most recent review, the agency was designated as a program in good standing and had no findings of non-compliance with the Federal Head Start Performance Standards.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Research indicates that outcomes for children are directly related to the quality of care and teaching they receive in their earliest years. In fact, findings are almost uniform in demonstrating significant and meaningful benefits to children when teacher-child interactions are supportive, organized, and cognitively stimulating. It is critically important that early childhood teachers have the knowledge and skills needed to support young children's healthy growth and development.

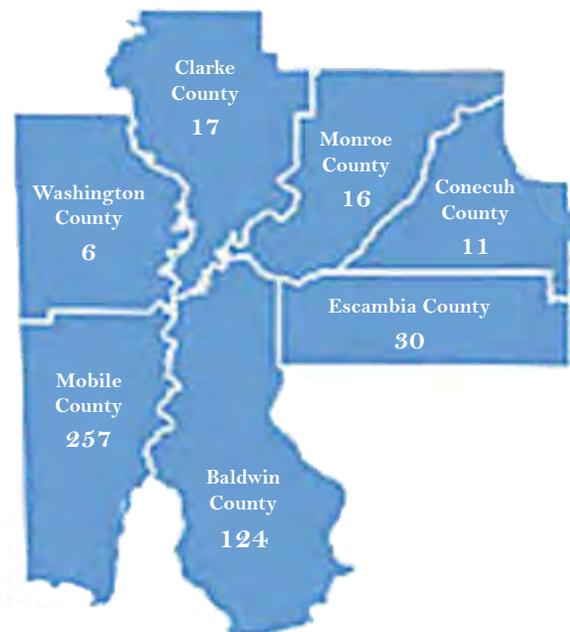
Because preparing effective, qualified teaching staff is crucial to ensuring high quality early childhood practices, GRECS is committed to providing evidence-based training and professional development activities that have been shown to result in improved teacher practices and educational benefits for children.

The continuing training and education programs offered at our Mobile facility, and at sites throughout our service region, provide the essential information that early care and education professionals need and seek to improve their skills. Our educational programs meet the highest standards for continuing education and training, earning our agency the distinction of being awarded Authorized Provider status by the International Association of Continuing Education and Training, the accrediting organization for Continuing Education and Training credit (CEU).

Our educational programs are the primary resource in our area for community based early childhood education training, serving 461 centers and family child care homes regionally, with staffing numbers ranging from 2500 to 3000 individuals employed in a variety of positions. Additionally, personnel employed in licensed child programs use our training to meet Alabama Department of Human Resources' mandated child care regulations for staff qualification required as part of the licensing process. Of the centers located in our service region, 148 are licensed. There are 243 licensed family child care homes.



NUMBER OF CHILD CARE PROVIDERS IN SERVICE AREA



"I learned new ways to be a more effective teacher. Thank you so much for these free training classes!"

"Thank you for offering this class. I learned the signs of abuse & neglect are consistent. I've been caring for children for a long time & learned something new today."

"I was reminded that children do learn at different rates and that I need to be patient and encouraging. These are not exact words from the session, but my personal conviction after taking this class."

"This class was a great reminder that I need to always be looking for new ways to make classrooms fun, enjoyable places for children."



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT NUMBERS OF NOTE

513

Non-CEU
Training Credit
Hours Given

1433.95

Continuing
Education
Units (CEU)
Awarded

2703

Online
Training Classes
Completed

675

Items Loaned
from the
Lending
Library

4353

People Came
to Training
Events



213

Training
Sessions
Offered

1612

Technical Assistance
Visits On-Site in Early
Learning Programs

4962

Issues of "Early Learning
News" Distributed to Early
Learning Programs

11,345

Copyright-Free
Resource Distributed to
Parents & Educators

16,208

Emails sent to subscribers
of Monthly E-Newsletters



2013 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ms. Wanda B. Rahman, President

Mrs. Abby Stimpson, Vice President

Dr. Abigail Baxter, Treasurer

Mrs. Patricia Vanderpool, Secretary

Mr. Eric B. Jefferson, Dr. Taralyn W. McMullan,

Dr. Steven Pugh, Mr. Jim Smith,

Dr. Katrina Trammell, M.D., Ms. Ayanna Payton,

Mrs. Voncile Jackson, Dr. Cheryl Robinson



Pictured Above - Board members Eric Jefferson, Wanda Rahman, Abigail Baxter, Abby Stimpson, & Patricia Vanderpool

2013 EARLY HEAD START POLICY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Ayanna Payton, Chairperson

Shara Gulley, Co-Chairperson

Rita Saysanasy, Secretary

Chasity Veazey, Carl Zwitt, Cleon Gulley

Ciera Turner, Allison Andrews, Rachel Alexander

Tiffany Griffin, Bridgette Kennerson,

Elizabeth Cummings, Shanavia Smith,

Brandy Watkins, Suzanne Doll, Kenia Criminale,

Akareem Spears

EARLY HEAD START PARTNER CENTERS

Dearborn YMCA Community Center

Colette Huff - Director

Vandoris Bridgett - Assistant

Goodwill Easter Seals CDC

Christy Jones - Director

Georgia Baker - Assistant

Lighthouse Academy of Excellence

Tejuania Nelson-Gill - Center Director

Melody Patterson - Early Head Start Supervisor

Nina Nicks Joseph CDC

Leslie Fuller - Center Director

Thelma Johnson - Early Head Start Supervisor

FUNDERS

Alabama Department of Human Resources

Community Foundation of South Alabama

PNC Grow Up Great

United Way of Southwest Alabama

US Department of Health & Human Services -
Head Start Bureau

Alabama Department of Child Abuse and Neglect

SENIOR MANAGEMENT

Wendy McEarchern, Executive Director

Cheryl Gwin, Finance Director

Frida Schnitzler-Carrio, Comptroller

Kym Carroll, Early Head Start Director

*Catherine Kreger, Director of Continuing Education
and Training*

