



Gulf Regional
Early Childhood Services



2016 ANNUAL REPORT

2016

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REPORT

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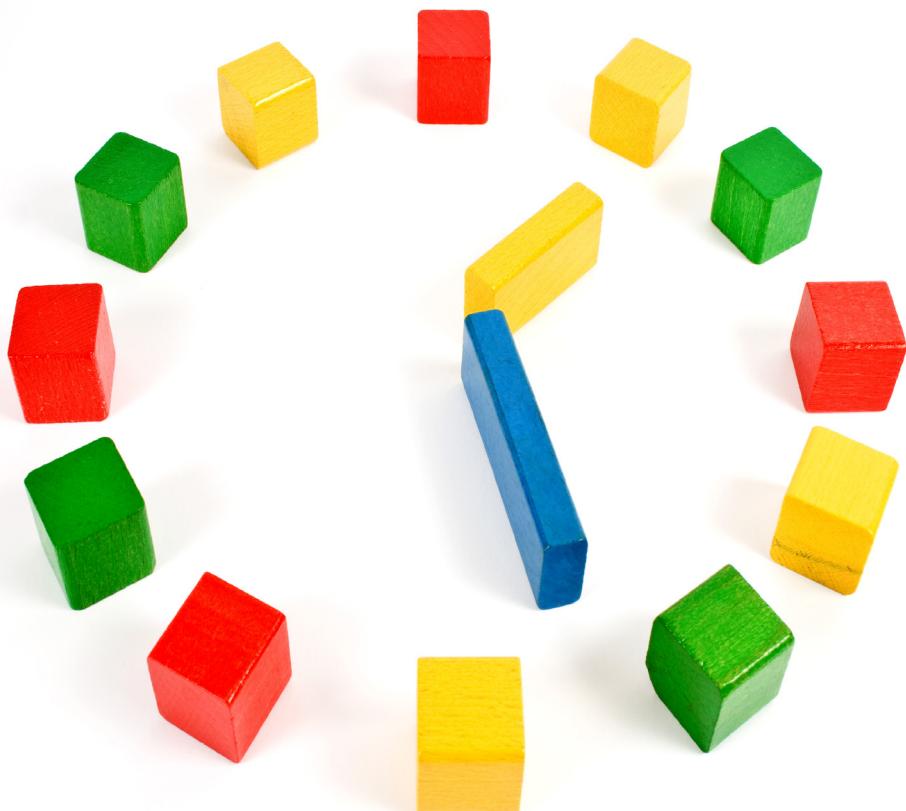
DEFINING WHO WE ARE IN A TIME OF GREAT CHANGE

Gulf Regional Early Childhood Services is a private, non-profit corporation with a 501(c)(3) IRS tax status governed by a volunteer Board of Directors made up of educators, health care and mental health care experts, accountants, non-profit management professionals and Early Head Start (EHS) parent representation. An EHS parent policy council is also included in our organizational structure. This council works with our board to ensure excellence in programming and EHS Performance Standards compliance. GRECS is a United Way partner agency and an IACET (International Association for Continuing Education and Training) Accredited Provider of Continuing Education Units.

In this time of great change on national, state and local levels, we know that now more than ever our community is depending on us to be successful so that important programs and services continue to be available.

Where do we begin? Foundational, mission-driven, strategic and comprehensive planning by management staff and program leaders is ongoing. Planning ensures successful integration across all services and activities, and includes the use of a variety of data sets and program evaluation measurements.

The result? Programs are strengthened, services enhanced, and resources are maximized.



2016

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

EARLY HEAD START – Comprehensive services for infants and toddlers of families who live in poverty

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
– Face-to-face workshops and training events; Online and distance learning courses for CEU credit; Quarterly newsletters; Reproducible resources for parents and Early Childhood Education professionals

THE RESOURCE PLACE – A lending library of developmentally appropriate materials, teacher workroom and reusable resource materials

ALABAMA PATHWAYS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REGISTRY – Support services for state-wide Professional Development Registry for those programs eligible to participate in Alabama Quality Stars

CARING FOR THE CAREGIVER – Programs to prevent the abuse and neglect of children

READING IS FUNDAMENTAL – Early literacy initiative that provides books and resources to over 2,000 children annually

FAMILIES IN TRANSITION – Short-term child care scholarships for families in crisis

High-quality programs enable upward mobility through effective building of early skills. Much more can be done to understand how these programs work and how to make them better,
but the evidence overwhelmingly points to the value of investing in quality early childhood development from birth to age five.



Professor James Heckman, Nobel Laureate in Economics



EARLY HEAD START

Every year we learn new information about the importance of a child's early years. Brains are built and grow through touch, talk, sight and sound in early childhood experiences. This experiential learning starts long before a child steps foot into kindergarten. Every child needs effective early childhood education and development from birth and research shows that low-income children are the least likely to get it.

Created in 1994, Early Head Start programs provide family-centered services for low-income families with very young children. These programs are designed to promote the development of the children, and to enable their parents to fulfill their roles as parents and to move toward self-sufficiency.

GRECS' Early Head Start program partners with select local early education programs to provide families with increased access to high-quality early learning experiences. These partnerships support working families by providing a full-day program so that children have the healthy and enriching early experiences they need, ensuring that a child's entire day in non-parental care takes place in a safe, healthy environment.

In addition to early learning opportunities, Early Head Start's comprehensive programs provide children and families with access to a range of services such as health screenings, referrals and follow-up support, parenting resources, and social services.



The Early Head Start program ensures that all children are prepared for school success by providing high quality, individualized educational program for its children. Teaching Strategies GOLD is used to assess children's progress toward school success.



There are approximately 10,000 children in Mobile County that are eligible for the Early Head Start program. GRECS serves less than 1% of the eligible population. Our Early Head Start program maintained full enrollment throughout the 2015 - 2016 program year. The average monthly enrollment was 104.

As part of the Five Year Aligned Monitoring System, GRECS participated in the Differential Monitoring Review used by the Office of Head Start for programs with a history of compliance. This review included the Head Start Key Indicators-Compliant Review and the Environmental Head and Safety Review. The program was found to be in compliant with all performance standards and with the 2007 Head Start Act.

- Funded Enrollment: 192 (104 - EHS Mobile; 88 - AL Partnership)
- Number of homeless children served: 9
- Number of Foster Children served: 3
- Number of families receiving SSI/TANF served: 40
- Number of children with disabilities served: 24
- Number of families whose home language is something other than English: 8
- Number of pregnant women served: 4
- Total number and children served for 2015-2016 program year: 236
- Average Daily Attendance: 85%
- Number of Families Receiving Emergency Services to meet immediate needs: 18
- Number of Families receiving Second Language Training: 11
- Number of Parents enrolled in Adult Education Programs: 19
- Number of Parents receiving job training: 4
- Number of Families experiencing domestic violence: 6
- Number of Parents receiving asset building training: 99
- Number of Parents receiving health education: 109
- Number of Parents receiving parenting education: 116
- Number of Fathers engaged in parenting, governance, goal setting activities,etc.: 84
- Percentage of children with Medical and Dental Homes: 99%
- Percentage of children with Health Insurance: 100%
- Percentage of newly enrolled children with developmental, sensory, and behavioral screenings: 100%



A fatherhood initiative event was held at Morrison's Cafeteria. Fathers were treated to a delicious meal and gained invaluable information from community leaders and special guests.



GRECS staff spend time modeling appropriate techniques for reading to infants & toddlers. (Mallory Blanchard pictured above at Lighthouse Academy of Excellence.)



As a proud partner with United Way of Southwest Alabama's 2016 Diaper Drive, Early Head Start was able to provide over 4800 diapers, wipes and training pants to families in need.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

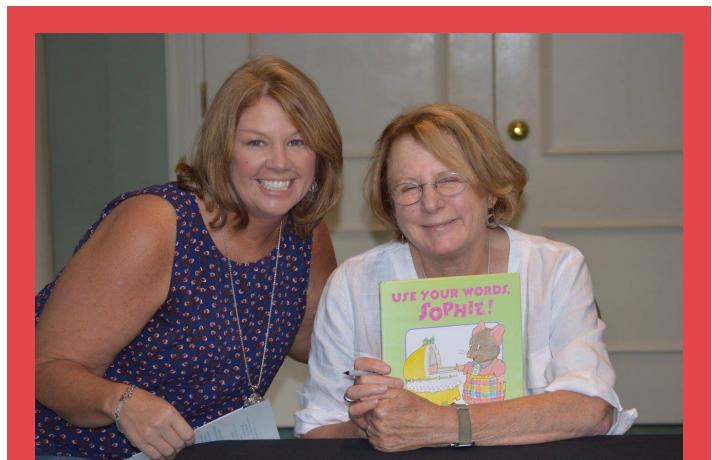
Increased awareness of how early experiences impact a child's development has resulted in a consistently growing emphasis on the professional development and training of early childhood educators and caregivers. Studies have shown that sustained professional development for early educators is directly related to more meaningful, substantive interactions and positive child outcomes.

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. Our professional development opportunities are designed to help educators master content, hone teaching skills and address challenges faced in the classroom all in accordance with developmentally appropriate practices.

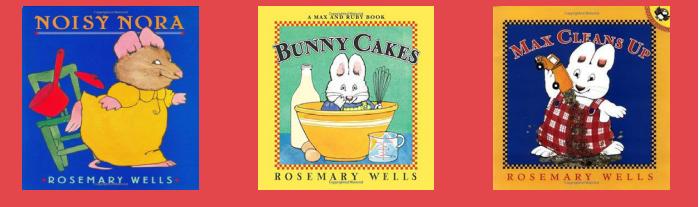
The training and technical assistance programs offered at GRECS are the primary resource in our area for community-based early childhood education training. We provide the essential information that early educators need to grow and learn. Our educational programs meet the highest standards for continuing education and training, earning our agency the distinction of being awarded Accredited Provider status by the International Association of Continuing Education and Training, the accrediting organization for Continuing Education Training credit (CEU).



Our friends from California, Dr. Belinda Karge and Roxane Moore, have become a favorite among training participants over the years. In 2016, we were thrilled to offer training on Dr. Karge's newly published materials, "Engage Early Learners: Instructional Strategies to Foster Oral Language".



Award-winning, beloved children's author Rosemary Wells held two workshops for early childhood educators. Mrs. Wells spoke about the importance of early childhood education and shared techniques for fostering children's creative processes. She also made time for a book signing event after the workshop.



As an additional resource for early childhood educators, GRECS continues to maintain a responsive website that includes copyright-free document library with information on industry-related topics, a calendar of events, and other resources for parents and educators. Our convenient, affordable online training programs give educators access to customized training and learning opportunities, and most importantly, improve classroom experiences for children.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT NUMBERS THAT STACK UP!

392

Credit Hours of Training Offered

534

Online Training Classes Completed

4812

Issues of “Early Learning News”
Newsletter Distributed

541

Technical Assistance Visits in Early
Learning Programs

3115

People that Attended Training
Events

9624

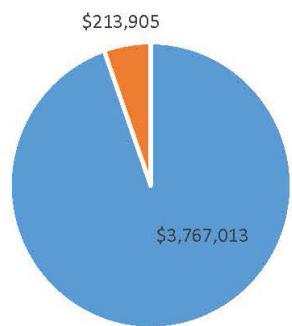
Copyright-Free Resources
Distributed to Parents & Educators



STEWARDSHIP – DEDICATION TO RESPONSIBLE SPENDING

An annual A-133 financial audit was conducted by Smith, Dukes & Buckalew, L.L.P. in accordance with Government Auditing Standards. The audit included all expenditures from October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016 and indicates no findings or questioned costs.

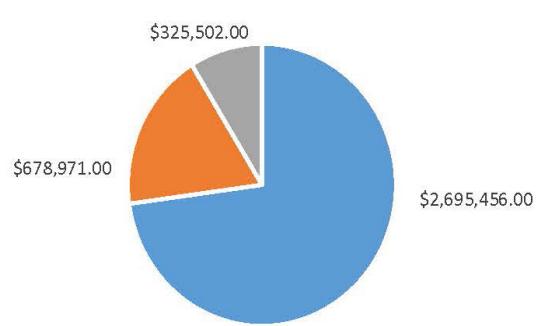
2016 Operational Expenses



Total Expenses - \$3,980,918

■ Program Expenses ■ Administration

2016 Sources of Funding



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

FEDERAL PROGRAM REVIEW

The Administration for Families and Children (ACF) conducted on-site monitoring reviews of our Early Head Start program in January and March of 2016. 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.

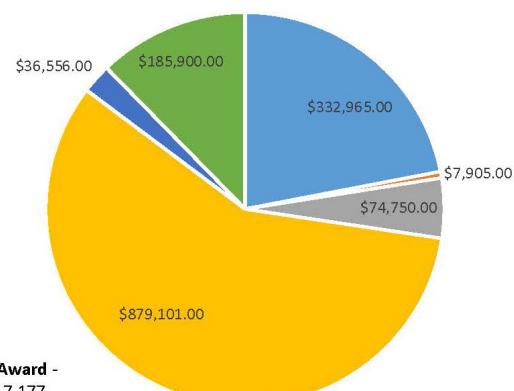
Early Head Start Financial Activities
January 1, 2016 - December 31, 2016



Grant Award -
\$1,517,177
Does not include Non-Federal share

■ Personnel ■ Travel ■ Supplies ■ Contractual ■ Training ■ Other

2017 Projected Budget



Grant Award -
\$1,517,177
Does not include Non-Federal share

■ Personnel ■ Travel ■ Supplies ■ Contractual ■ Training ■ Other

OUR TEAM AND OUR PARTNERS

2016 Board of Directors

Dr. Abigail Baxter, President
Mr. Eric B. Jefferson, Vice President
Ms. Alex Garrett, Secretary
Ms. Suzy Hardy, Treasurer
Ms. Linda Blassingame
Ms. Penny Dendy
Mr. Cleon Gulley
Dr. Katrina Trammell, M.D.
Mr. Micah Wheeler
Mrs. Patricia Vanderpool (Emeritus)

Wendy McEachern, Executive Director



2015 - 2016 Early Head Start Policy Council

Bradley Tanner; Xavier Henderson
Gerald Crockett, Jr.; Suqera Gibby
Cleon Gulley; Kelly Tyus
Olga D. Smith; Sheena Billingsly
Jerica Longmire; Jessica Bannister
Martha Joiner; Jade Harris



Early Head Start Partner Centers

Dearborn YMCA Community Center
Goodwill Easter Seals CDC
Lighthouse Academy of Excellence
Nina Nicks Joseph CDC
Soaring Eagles Child Development Center
Starlight Child Development Center
Small Wonders Child Care & Learning Center

Funders

Alabama Department of Human Resources

United Way of Southwest Alabama

US Department of Health & Human Services - Head Start Bureau

Alabama Department of Child Abuse and Neglect



