2015

Kids' Corps, Inc. Annual Report

"We provide a head start for families with children who need it most."

Kids' Corps, Inc.

Kids' Corps, Inc.
Head Start & Early Head Start

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

May, 2016

Head Start celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2015. Starting in 1965 as an 8 week summer enrichment program for economically at-risk children who would be entering kindergarten that fall, Head Start and Early Head Start today serve one million children annually in thousands of communities across the country. At Kids' Corps, we are proud to provide Head Start and Early Head Start programs for the children and families of Anchorage. Much has changed over the decades, but our commitment to provide all children, regardless of the circumstances of their birth, with the opportunity to realize his or her unique potential remains the foundation of everything we do.

The information that follows provides a summary of the comprehensive services we provided and the results we achieved in 2015. The positive outcomes reviewed here represent the impact of parents, staff and our friends and partners working together to support the healthy growth and development of our children and to strengthen family well-being. We are honored to share our work with you, and look forward to continuing to provide a head start to families with children who need it most in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

Dirk Shumaker
Executive Director

ABOUT KIDS' CORPS, INC.

WHO WE ARE

Kids' Corps, Inc. is a Head Start and Early Head Start grantee operating centers in eight Anchorage locations. Head Start is a comprehensive child development program that serves children 3 to 5 years old and their families. Kids' Corps, Inc. also provides Early Head Start services for children birth-3 years old. Our goal is to prepare children for success in school and life by supporting their social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development.

Kids' Corps, Inc. (KCI) is governed by both a Board of Directors and a Policy Council. The executive director and four managers oversee the daily operations and administration of KCI.

HISTORY

Kids' Corps, Inc. has been in existence for 26 years. Originally formed as a delegate agency providing Head Start services under the administration of RurAL CAP, Kids' Corps became an independent Head Start grantee in 1990. The following timeline provides a brief overview of KCI's history.

1987 Incorporated as a 501(c) (3) non-profit agency
1988 Davis Center acquired from the Municipality of Anchorage
1989 Kids' Corps becomes a Head Start delegate agency under RurAL CAP
1990 Kids' Corps awarded grantee status, allowing the agency to receive direct federal and state funding to provide Head Start services for 133 children. Classrooms are located in public schools.
1991 East Center opened. Classrooms are relocated from public school sites at the start of the 1991/1992 program year
1997 Kids' Corps becomes a United Way agency. Increased federal funding expands enrollment to 358 children.
1999 Muldoon Center opened in collaboration with the Muldoon Community Development Corporation. Full day Head Start services provided at a site in the Muldoon Job Center.
2000 South Center is opened to provide full day and part day Head Start services to families who live or work in south Anchorage.
2001 Mountain View Center is opened as part of the United Way's "Success by Six" initiative.
2009 In partnership with the Anchorage Schools District, KCI opens three Head Start classrooms in public schools
2010 Early Head Start program begins. A Federal "stimulus" grant and a Community Development Block Grant result in creation of new classroom at East Center, expanding enrollment by 17 children.
2013 Federal sequestration budget cuts result in the closure of South Center and the loss of 20 enrollment slots in August.
2014 KCI opens a 4th partnership site with the Anchorage School District at Chester Valley Elementary School
2015 426 children enrolled in Head Start and Early Start during the program year

WHO WE SERVE

KCI provides Head Start or Early Head Start programs at eight locations in Anchorage. More information can be obtained by contacting the center directly or by visiting the KCI website at www.kcialaska.org. The funded Head Start enrollment is 316 children. There are 16 federally funded Early Head Start slots at KCI. All slots are federally funded; a state Head Start grant allows us to meet our required federal match.

Full Day, Full Year Program: Children ages 3 to 5 attend Monday through Friday while parents work or go to school. Hours of operation are 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

- Muldoon Center – 1251 Muldoon Road, Anchorage, 333-5433

Part Day, Part Year Program: Children ages 3 to 5 years attend classes either four or five days a week for three and one-half hours per day.

- Davis Center – 101 Davis Street, Anchorage, 333-1441 (5 days/week)
- East Center – 3710 E. 20th, Suite 2, Anchorage, 272-0133 (4 days/week)
- Mt. View Center – 3350 Commercial Drive, Anchorage 646-7884 (5 days/week)
- Gladys Wood Elementary School—7001 Cranberry, Anchorage, 742-6760 (5 days/week)

Part Day, Part Year Anchorage School District Collaboration: Children 4 and 5 years old attend classes Monday-Friday for 4 hours per day.

- Chester Valley Elementary School—1751 Patterson, Anchorage, 742-0335
- Creekside Park Elementary School--7500 E. 6th, Anchorage, 742-1550
- Willow Crest Elementary School—1004 W. Tudor Road, Anchorage, 742-1000

Early Head Start Center Based Program: Children ages 4 months to 3 years attend Monday through Friday while parents work or go to school. Program operates year-round.

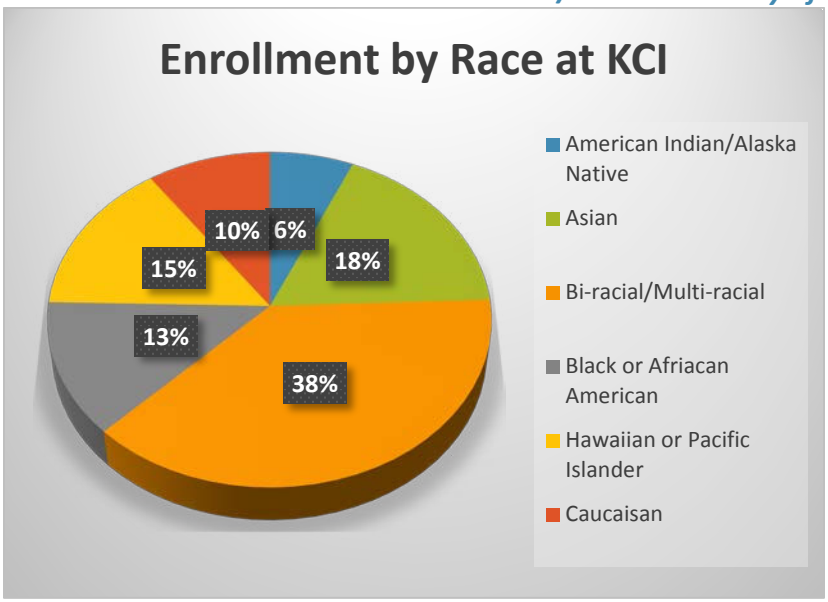
Early Head Start Home Based Program: Expectant families and families with children birth to 3 years of age receive weekly home visits with a trained parent educator. Home visits focus on child and family development and strengthening the parent-child bonds in families. Program operates year-round.

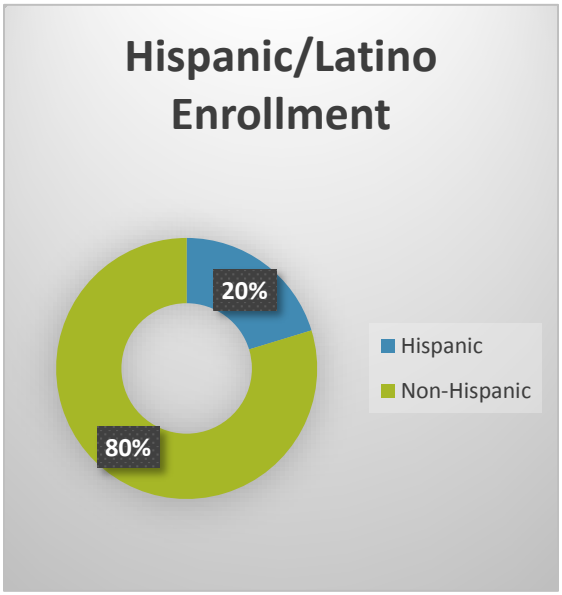
- Early HS Center & Home Based – 3350 Commercial Drive, Anchorage, 222-1222

There were 390 *three to five-year-olds* who participated in Kids' Corps Head Start programs during the 2014-2015 program year. This number represents about 33% of the Head Start eligible children in Anchorage. *26 children* and pregnant women participated in the Early Head Start program.

- *96%* met federal poverty guidelines
- *21%* of enrolled children had a diagnosed disability
- *60%* primary language is English

Ethnic/ Racial Diversity of Enrollment





SERVICES

SERVICES THAT CHILDREN AND FAMILIES RECEIVE IN ALL KCI PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

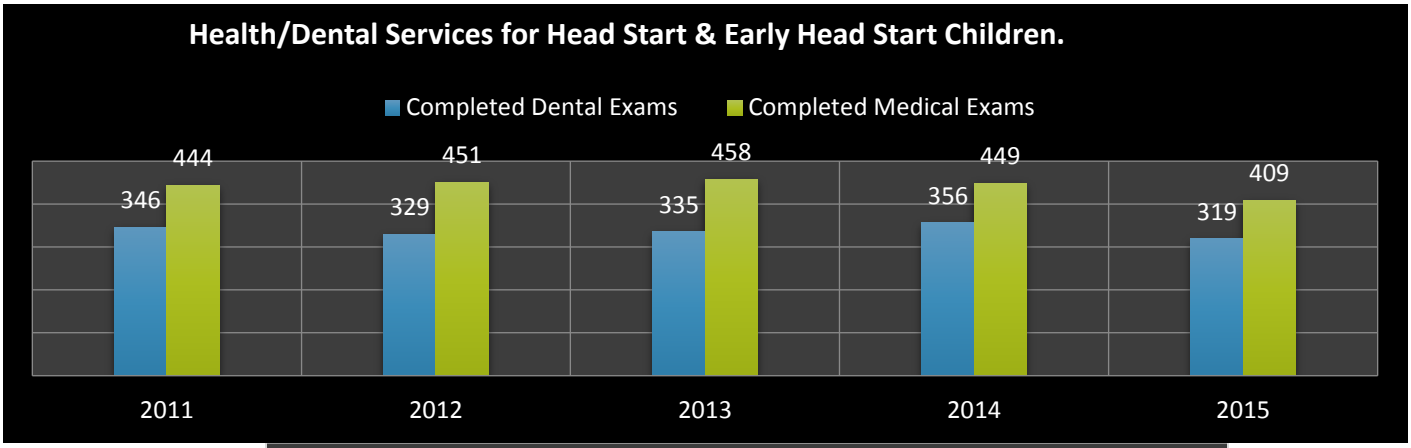
- Hot lunch, snack and/or breakfast
- Health screenings twice a year – height, weight, hearing and vision
- Quarterly developmental observations by trained classroom staff
- An individualized learning plan for every child
- Annual developmental screenings for all children
- Classroom observations by a child psychologist
- Speech/Language therapy (for children who qualify)
- Dental examinations & screenings
- Bus transportation (for approximately 130 children)
- Field trips
- Classroom instruction and home visits by certified early childhood educators
- Comprehensive developmental assessment in collaboration with Anchorage School District for children with suspected but undiagnosed disabilities. Eligible children receive ASD Care Team support.

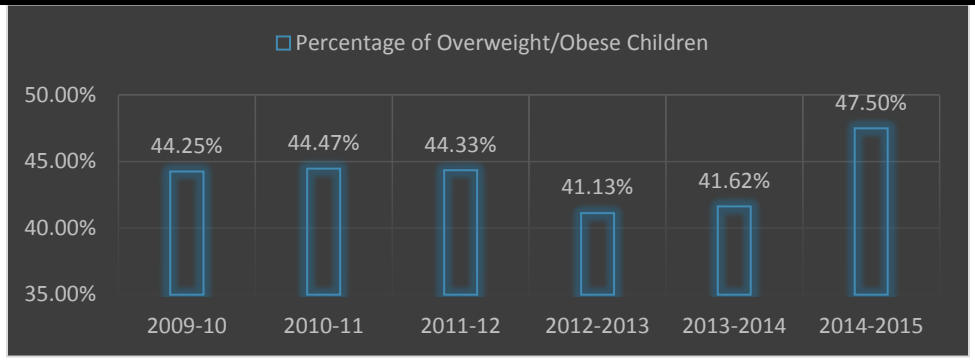
SERVICES FOR PARENTS INCLUDE:

- Community resource and referral information
- An opportunity to consult with a child psychologist at no cost
- Opportunity to join the Head Start Policy Council
- Opportunities to participate in the "Man to Man" male involvement group
- Opportunities to set and meet personal and family goals
- Monthly opportunities to participate in adult learning activities on a variety of subjects
- Regular parent/teacher conferences

HEALTH SERVICES

Hundreds of children receive hearing, vision, height/weight and dental screenings at Kids' Corps each year. KCI plays a vital role in helping many families to find medical and dental providers for their children. (See chart below):





NUTRITION SERVICES

Following is a typical weeklong menu at KCI

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Breakfast				
Banana Tortilla Roll-up Yogurt	Raisin Bran Strawberries	Bagel Cream Cheese Apple Sauce	Waffles Triple Berry Blend	English Muffins Fruit Preserves Apple Slices
Lunch				
Meatballs with Sweet & Sour Rice Snap Peas Peaches	Turkey & Cheese Sandwich On wheat bread Romaine Salad w/ranch Bananas	Ground beef and macaroni Orange slices Zucchini Squash	Arroz con queso Corn and pepper blend Tropical fruit	Roasted diced chicken Wheat rolls carrots, broccoli, cauliflower Mandarin Oranges
Snack				
Soft Pretzel Cheddar Cheese Sauce Pears	Graham Crackers Cream Cheese Pineapple	Ritz Crackers Cottage Cheese Carrots	Cheerios Triple Berry Blend	Turkey & Cheese Rollups Orange Slices

Milk is served with every meal – all meals served meet CACFP daily meal requirements and are low in fat, sugar, and salt content. During the 2014/2015 program year Kids' Corps, Inc. served *83,800 meals*.

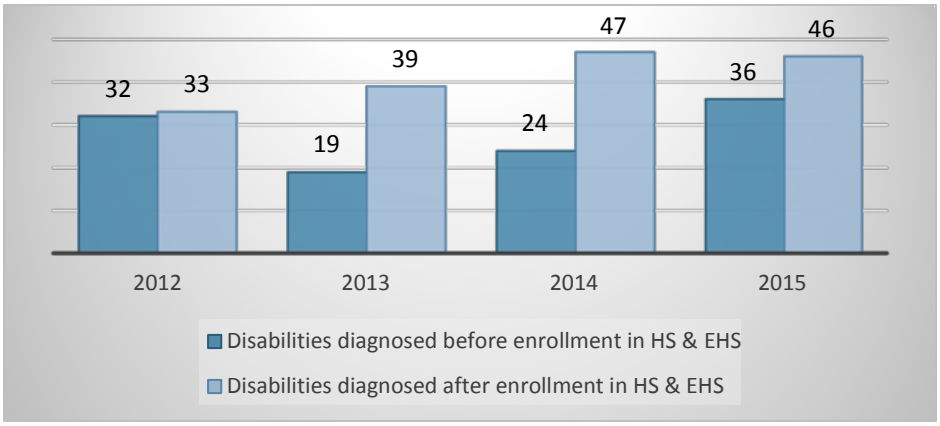
RESULTS

BENEFITS OF KIDS' CORPS, INC.

EARLY INTERVENTION

Kids' Corps, Inc. has effective systems for identifying children with disabilities and connecting them with special education services.

As the chart at right illustrates, it is likely that many of these children would have entered kindergarten with undiagnosed disabilities if they had not attended Head Start. In 2015, 82 children received special education services.



FEDERAL REVIEW RESULTS

From 4/21/2014 to 4/25/2014 the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) conducted an on-site monitoring review of the Kids' Corps, Inc. Early Head Start and Head Start programs. Based on the information gathered, the review team determined that the Early Head Start program is in compliance with all applicable Head Start Standards, laws, regulations and policy requirements.

The Head Start program was found to be out of compliances with CFR 1304.20 (c)(3)(ii) that states "Dental follow up and treatment must include other necessary preventive measures and further dental treatment as recommended by the dental professional." The review report declares that "a review of 21 files of children requiring additional dental services found the grantee did not arrange treatment for 1 child….The grantee did not ensure each child with a known dental problem received further treatment as recommended by the dental professional; therefore it was not in compliance with the regulation."

After KCI submitted a corrective action plan, ACF conducted a follow up monitoring review on 11-21-2014 to determine whether KCI had corrected this finding. Based on the review, ACF stated: "The grantee ensured each child with a known dental problem received further treatment as recommended by the dental professional. The area of noncompliance is corrected."

SCHOOL READINESS EFFORTS

One of the primary purposes of Head Start is to prepare children for future educational success. KCI's school readiness goals and accomplishments are summarized below.

KCI has joined with the Alaska Head Start Association (AHSA) and Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) to develop an outcomes report that assesses school readiness for children leaving Head Start for kindergarten. DEED completes a state-wide school readiness report annually.

DEED has established state identifier numbers for Head Start children. For the first time, Head Start children have an identifying number that will allow Head Start programs, school districts and parents to learn how children are progressing over time as they leave Head Start for further education. The information will be available in compiled form only and will not identify individual children.

KCI has recognized that educational success is linked to quality teaching. Therefore, KCI has implemented a mentor-coach process to assure that each staff member who has direct contact with children and families receives individualized assistance that will strengthen their instructional support skills.

Classroom staff uses ECERS (Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale) results, CLASS (Classroom Assessment Scoring System) assessments, and Teaching Strategies Gold individual child assessment data to improve classroom management and assure developmental appropriateness of activities and schedules. The overall goal is to assure that every child demonstrates appropriate growth throughout their enrollment and that each child's unique learning needs are taken into consideration.

KCI's transition advisory committee has expanded its collaboration with the Anchorage School District to ensure that families are prepared to make the transition from Head Start to kindergarten. This collaboration includes hosting kindergarten transition information fair to be staffed jointly by KCI and ASD staff to provide relevant information about the transition process and to link families with resources available within in the Anchorage School District. Through the information fair, families will be provided with information on topics such as home schools, the registration process, documentation needed to enroll a child, summer transition activities families can do at home to prepare their child, and much more.

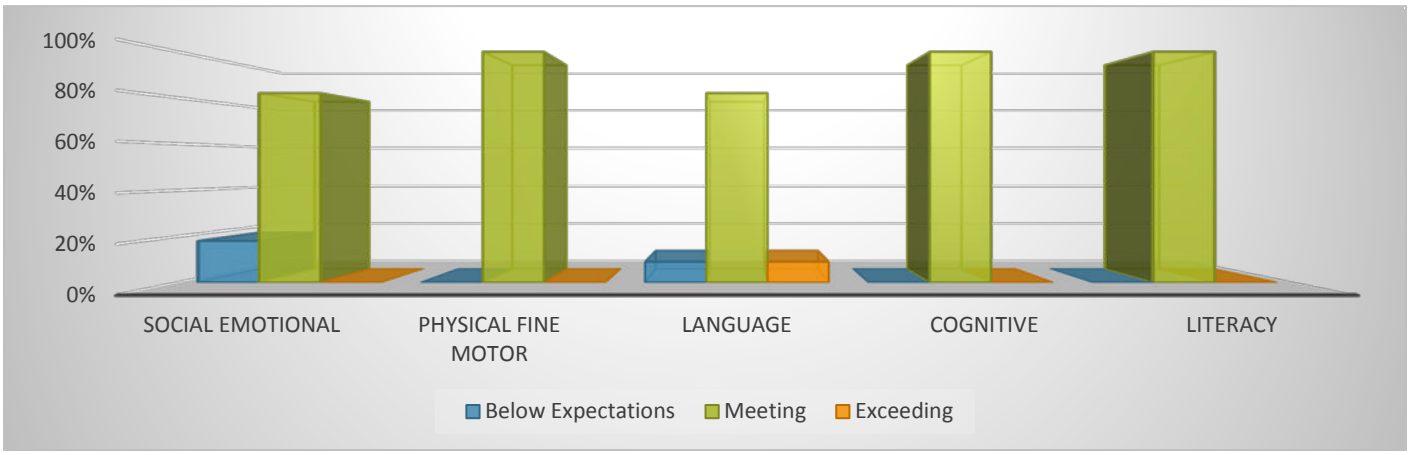
CHILD ASSESSMENT OUTCOMES

Only KCI children eligible for kindergarten in August 2015 are included in the following table. Extensive research supports the view that these indicators are predictive of children's future school success. They also closely align with Alaska's Early Learning Guidelines. The following chart shows the children's growth between fall 2014 and spring of 2015.

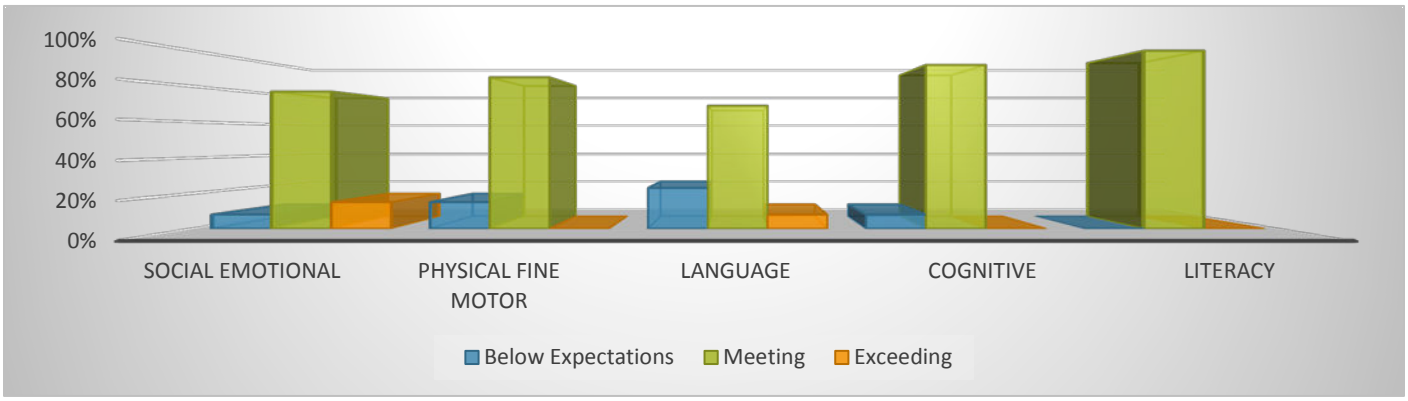
Indicator	# of children who are ready for kindergarten		% of children who are ready for kindergarten	
	Fall 2014	Spring 2015	Fall 2014 (total=196)	Spring 2015 (total=207)
Follows limits and expectations	88	176	45%	85%
Balances rights and needs of self and others	33	116	17%	56%
Gross motor manipulative skills	104	157	53%	76%
Uses fingers and hands	112	164	57%	79%
Comprehends language	82	170	42%	82%
Uses an expanding expressive vocabulary	63	143	32%	69%
Attends and engages	57	132	29%	64%
Curiosity and motivation	41	122	21%	59%
Classifies	22	89	11%	43%
Thinks symbolically	20	97	10%	47%
Notices and discriminates rhyme	25	73	13%	37%
Identifies and names letters	51	122	26%	59%
Writes name	59	161	30%	78%
Counts	69	170	35%	82%
Compares and measures	108	190	55%	92%

Early Head Start Teaching Strategies Gold Check Point Data

FALL 2014 CHECKPOINT 11 CHILDREN



SPRING 2015 CHECKPOINT 13 CHILDREN

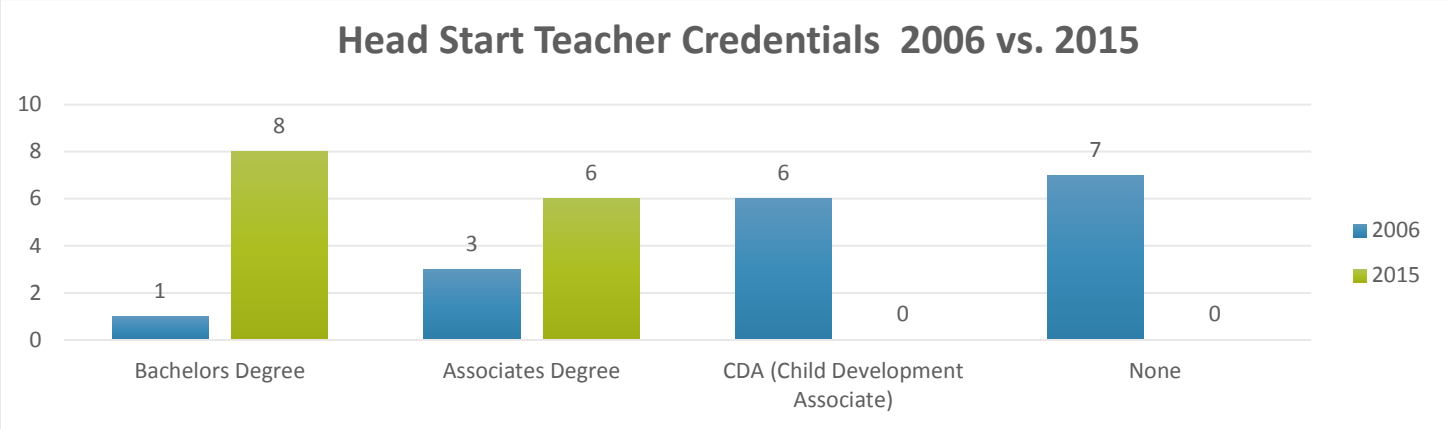


QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION SERVICES

Research shows that well-trained preschool teachers are a key component of high quality child development programs. Teacher qualifications have significantly increased over the past nine years at KCI.

KCI Early Head Start care teachers are highly qualified. 1 EHS care teacher has a 2-year degree in early childhood. 1 EHS care teacher has her Infant and Toddler CDA and is actively working toward obtaining a related 4-year degree.

KCI is actively working to improve the qualifications of assistant teachers in the classrooms. In 2015, 3 of KCI's assistant teachers had CDA credentials, 5 assistant teachers had 2-year degrees, and 1 assistant teacher had a related 4-year degree. All assistant teachers are working toward CDAs with the support of a mentor coach.



EARLY HEAD START 2014-2015 SNAPSHOT

PROGRAM OPTIONS:

Home-based: 8 funded slots
Center-based: 8 funded slots

ENROLLMENT:

20 children served
5 expecting teen mothers received prenatal home visits
8 children were returning children from the 2013-2014 program year

CHILD DEVELOPMENT:

Staff work with all parents to complete the ASQ & ASQ SE for all children within 45 days of enrollment. This allows the program to identify potential concerns and provide follow-up learning activities and/or referrals to PIC in a timely manner.

The center-based program option uses the Creative Curriculum. The home-based program uses the Parents as Teachers home visit curriculum. Both options use Teaching Strategies Gold as an ongoing assessment tool. A review of the end of the year data showed that enrolled children showed growth across all domains.

FAMILY SERVICES

11 families enrolled experienced homelessness during the program year
2 children transitioned to Head Start at the end of the program year
9 families had active father (or male role model) participation in the program

HEALTH SERVICES:

All 20 children enrolled had medical insurance and/or Indian Health Services
All 5 pregnant mothers had medical insurance and/or Indian Health Services and received regular prenatal health care
11 children had dental exams sometime after their first birthday

KEY EARLY HEAD START PARTNERSHIPS:

Crossroads (ASD High School for pregnant and parenting teens)
Program for Infants and Children (PIC)
Passage House (Shelter for young mothers)

PARENTS & FAMILIES

Family involvement is an important aspect of Head Start. Kids' Corps staff strive to build relationships with families that support family well-being, strong parent/child relationships and ongoing learning and development for both parents and children.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE PROGRAM YEAR

- Screening Week for all eligible children on the waiting list
- Center specific Family Orientation Night
- Open House held at each center
- Monthly Parent Volunteer Days held at each center
- Monthly Parent Committee Meetings/Family Nights held at each center
- Group Socializations for Early Head Start Home-based families.
- Ready for Kindergarten Workshops
- International Pilots Association (IPA) Foundation for Alaska's Kids Holiday Event
- Book Fairs held twice a year at each center
- Kindergarten Information and Orientation Fair (will be held in partnership with ASD)
- Teacher and Family Advocate Home Visits
- Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Advisory Committees and Policy Council

PARENTS R US

- Introduction to Curriculum
- Physical Activity ideas for Families
- Language Development Across Cultures
- CPR Certification
- Positive Discipline, Love & Logic
- Continuing Education
- Tax preparation
- Cooking low-cost healthy meals with EFNEP
- Home buying, budgeting and saving
- Talking about feelings and personal safety with children
- Kindergarten Transition Information Fair
- Community Resource Fair

MAN TO MAN

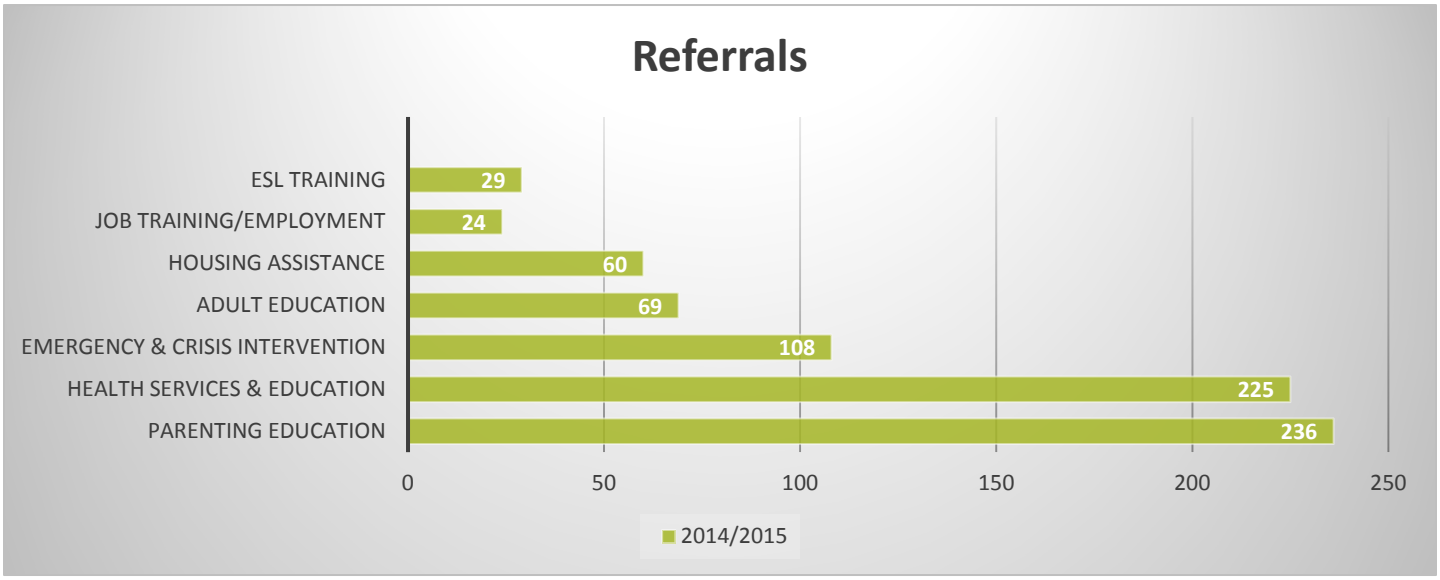
- Building Wooden Toys
- Costume Party
- Building Treasure Boxes & Bird Houses

JUST FOR MOMS

- Mini Manicures
- Homemade Spa
- Personal Wellness/Stress Reduction

FAMILY SERVICES

Family advocates work in partnership with parents to provide training and assure resources in the community meet family needs. The graphic below illustrates the types and numbers of specific referrals and services received during the 2014/2015 program year.



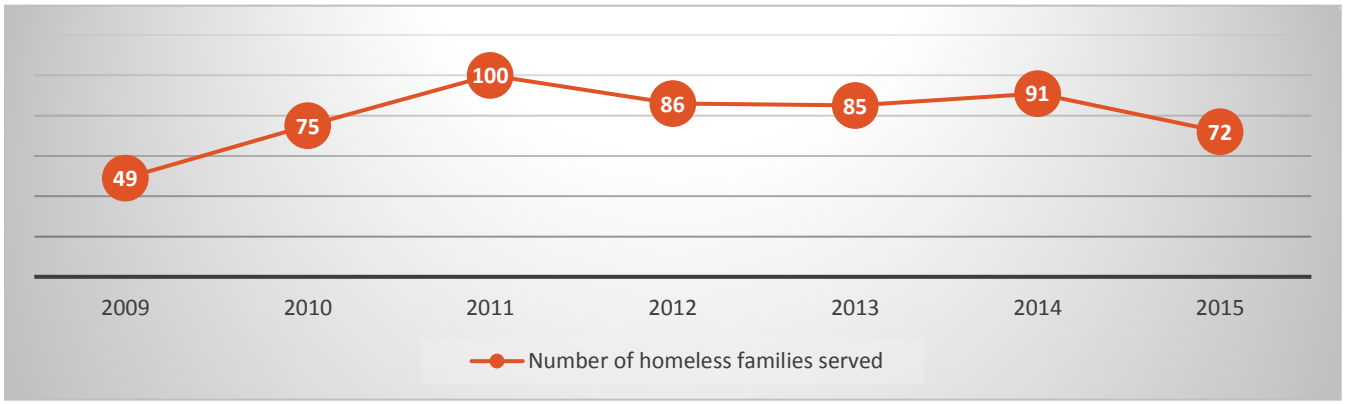
FAMILY PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS

Family Services staff partner with families to establish family partnership agreements based on goals identified by each family. Goals are highly individualized and outline how the family and KCI will work together to achieve the identified goal.

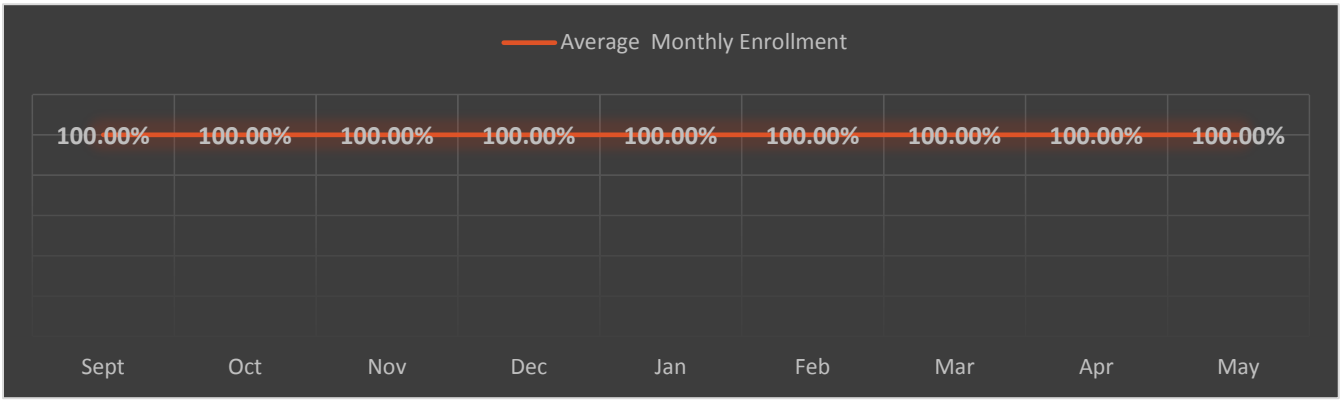
- At the end of the 2014-2015 program year, 83% of enrolled families were participating in the family partnership agreement process.
- 32% of all established goals had been completed and 68% were in progress.

Number of families experiencing homelessness who acquired housing during the 2014/2015 Program year:

21



AVERAGE MONTHLY ENROLLMENT—FUNDED ENROLLMENT=332.



STAFF

Classroom: KCI employs teachers and assistant teachers in its classrooms who are highly skilled professionals that understand the importance of individualizing to meet the unique needs of each child enrolled in the program.

Early Head Start: KCI employs an EHS home visitor; EHS center director/family advocate, and highly qualified EHS infant/toddler care teachers and EHS assistant teachers. The EHS team provides comprehensive center and home-based services for families who are expecting or have infants and toddlers under three years of age.

Family Services: KCI employs family advocates, an enrollment specialist, a family and community engagement specialist and a family services coordinator to strengthen and support parenting through relationships, access to resources, and goal setting

Disabilities Services: KCI employs a disabilities coordinator to work with families whose children experience disabilities or developmental concerns.

Health Services: KCI employs a health and nutrition coordinator and a health assistant to promote positive health, nutrition, and dental programs for children and families.

Child Development: KCI employs a child development coordinator to coordinate mental health services for enrolled children.

Center Directors: KCI employees center directors to supervise center activities, facilities, and staff.

Mentor Coach: The Early Childhood Mentor/Coach helps Head Start teachers, assistant teachers and center directors develop new skills and continuously improve their early childhood teaching practices

Program Support: KCI employs program support associates who provide reception and data entry services. A bookkeeper who assists with fiscal operations. An Administrative Assistant provides logistical support for the management team.

Janitorial: 2 janitors assure the health and sanitation of KCI's facilities.

- In 2015, KCI had 72 full time employees and 1 part time employee. 36% are current or former Head Start parents.
- KCI's workforce is diverse. 48% of KCI's employees speak a primary language other than English. Languages spoken include Spanish, Hmong, Tagalog, Laotian, and Samoan.
- KCI strives to recruit, train, and retain the most highly qualified staff available in all positions. All teachers hold at least an Associate's Degree in Early Childhood or a related field.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

KCI believes strongly in developing partnerships with parents, families, and the larger community of service providers, businesses and other organizations we are grateful to all our friends and collaborative partners who help us provide comprehensive services to children and families.

KIDS' CORPS, INC. HAS MEMORANDA OF AGREEMENT WITH THE FOLLOWING

- Anchorage School District/Child in Transition
- Cook Inlet Housing Authority
- Foster Grandparents
- Office of Children's Services (OCS)
- Program for Infants and Children (PIC)
- thread
- United Way of Anchorage
- University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) Student Practicum and FUSION (new student orientation-volunteer opportunities in the local communities)
- Women, Infants & Children (Municipality of Anchorage)

COMMUNITY EVENTS WE WERE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN INCLUDE:

- National Night Out
- Mt. View Street Fair
- MDA Hop-a-Thon for disability awareness
- Project Homeless Connect
- Health Fairs throughout the Anchorage area
- Fairview Block Party

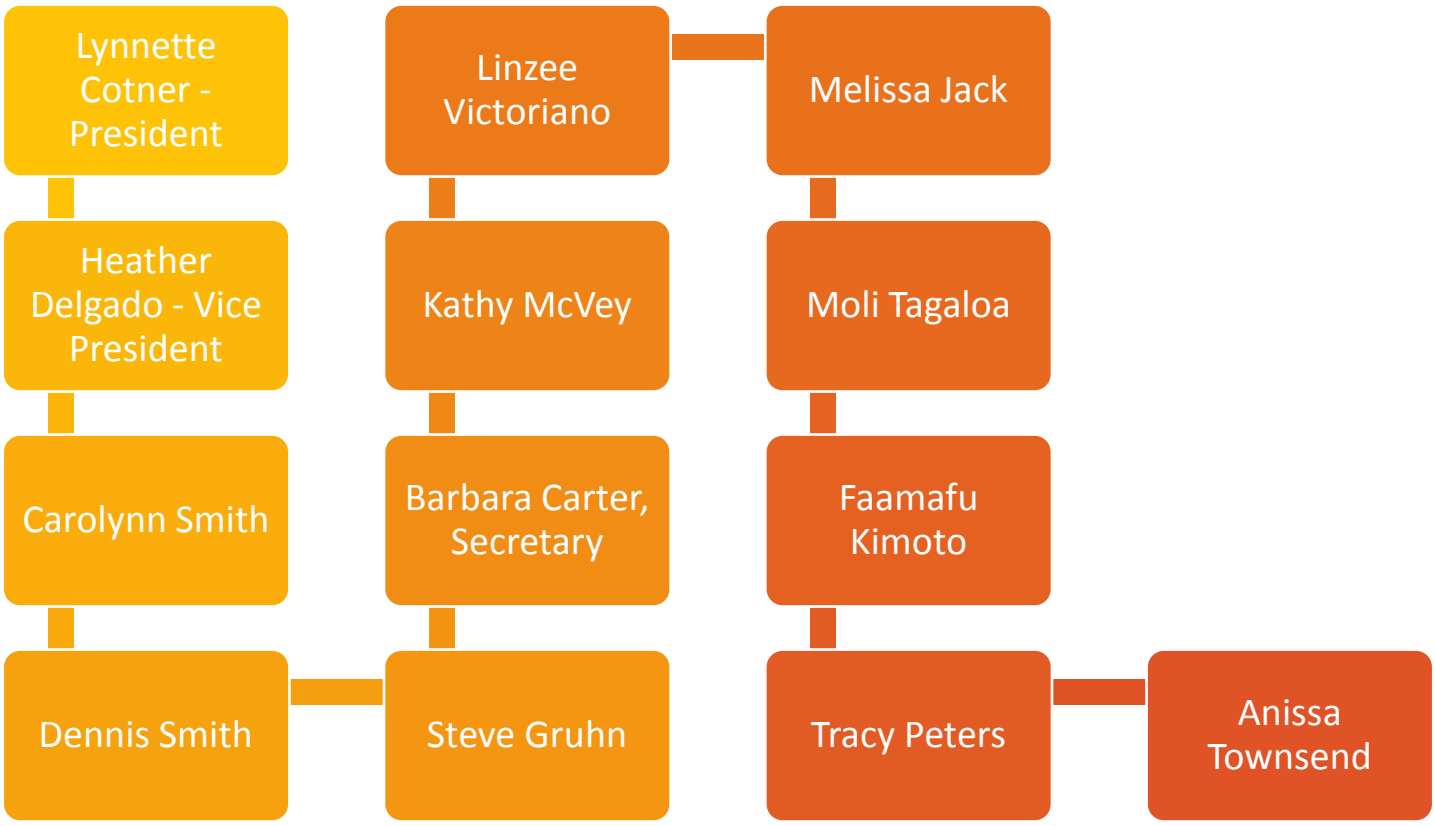
DONORS & SUPPORTERS

Kids' Corps thanks our many volunteers and donors. In addition to our parents and other family members of enrolled children who have given so much to the program, as well as all of the individuals and organizations who provided material, in-kind and financial support during the 2014/2015 program year.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ronnie Taylor - President	Shana Kim, Director	Susan Hale - Accountant Board Treasurer	Beth Snyder ECE Specialist
Lynnette Cotner, Policy Council President	Sally Tugman Attorney	Anissa Townsend	Suzanne Whittle - Director

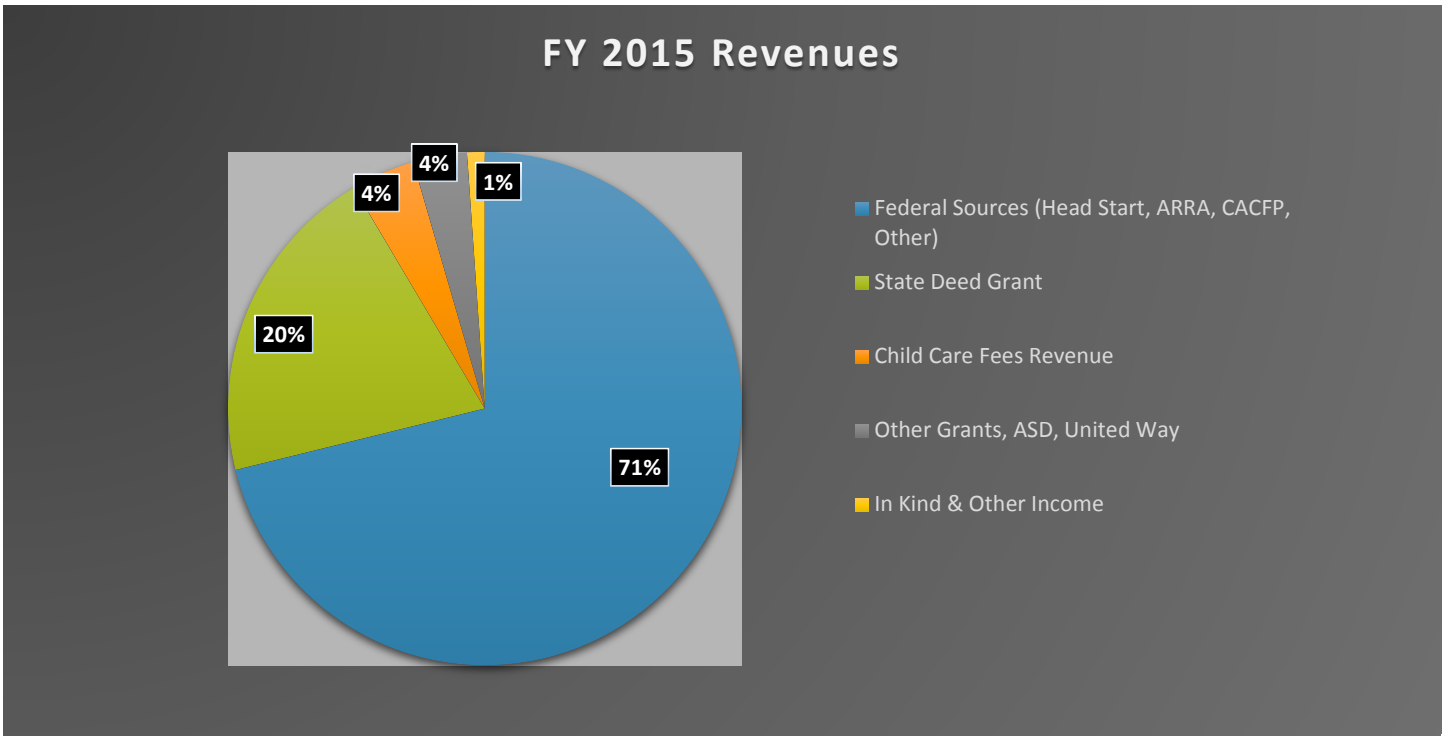
POLICY COUNCIL



FINANCIALS

FINANCIAL REPORTS

FY 2015 Revenues



Federal Sources (Head Start, ARRA, CACFP, Other)	3,300,730
State Deed Grant	943,199
Child Care Fees Revenue	186,207
Anchorage School District	79,769
United Way Grant	77,964
Play Space Grant	0
Contributions	6,675
Other Revenue	5,799
In-Kind Revenue	42,722
Total Revenue	4,643,065

Expenditures	2015 Expenses	2015 Budget	Difference
Salaries & Benefits	2,957,434	2,960,301	(2,867)
Contractual	425,864	479,865	(54,001)
Repairs & Maintenance	126,027	107,400	18,627
Rent & Utilities	489,738	491,356	(1,618)
Travel & Training	89,305	91,838	(2,533)
Supplies	266,773	205,253	61,520
Other	178,233	194,054	(15,821)
Insurance	51,684	43,065	8,619
Total Expenditures	4,585,058	4,573,173	11,921

KCI is audited annually and received an unqualified opinion (no exceptions noted) on its most recent audit. The audited financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2015 are available at www.kcialaska.org.