

Blue Grass Child Development Programs
 Head Start and Day Care
 Annual Report
 Agency website: Bluegrasscommunityaction.org
 Head Start Services

During the 2018-2019 school year, Blue Grass Head Start, sponsored by Blue Grass Community Action Partnership, Incorporated, received a budget of \$2,592,352 for general operating costs, Blue Grass Head Start also received \$30,630 for college courses and training from the Department of Health and Human Services/Administration for Children and Families. During the past fiscal year, the United States Department of Agriculture/Child Care Food Program reimbursed the Head Start program \$216,835.02 for expenditures made to provide nutritional services to over 400 children. The Head Start program served over 303 children and their families in the six-county service area, and the day care program served over 70 children. Average monthly child attendance exceeded 90%. Over 90% of the children enrolled were from families with incomes below the poverty guidelines. The Head Start staff was given COLA increase of 2.6%

The 2018-2019 budget categories for Blue Grass Head Start for the grant award of \$2,592,352 were as follows:

Approved budget:

Personnel Costs (75 employees)	\$1,418,484
Fringe Benefits	\$ 469,774
Travel (out-of-town)	\$ 15,509
Equipment (\$5,000 + 1 yr.)	\$ 0
Classroom, Health & Food Supplies	\$ 50,125
Contractual (Mental Health)	\$ 5,189
Medical / Dental care, disability, Social services, parent involvement, Vehicle maintenance, insurance, licensing & regulation, Policy Council	\$307,362

Indirect costs	<u>\$ 230,362</u>
Total approved budget PA22	<u>\$2,496,805</u>

PA20 (Training & college courses)	\$ 29,861
TOTAL	<u>\$2,526,666</u>

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Total Federal	\$2,504,396
Total Nonfederal (volunteers)	<u>\$ 626,099</u>
Total Grant (Federal + Nonfederal)	\$3,130,495

Blue Grass Head Start has five Head Start centers and serves the counties of Anderson, Boyle, Franklin, Jessamine, Mercer, and Woodford. Blue Grass Community Action Agency operates a day care center in Anderson County. Blue Grass Head Start operates six full day classrooms we

have three in Franklin county, two in Woodford County and one in Mercer/ Boyle County. Franklin County has a wraparound session that parents can drop children off early and pick up after work. All the centers are licensed through the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Office of Inspector General, and Cabinet for Health and Family Services. Further, the centers are participating in the state voluntary quality child-care rating system that has been named "STARS" funded through the state KIDS NOW initiative. By participating in these quality rating systems, and complying with all Performance Standards, Head Start requirements, federal, state, and local regulations, the centers are providing high quality services to the Head Start and day care children and their families. Currently all Head Start Centers are 5 STARS.

Turnover in staff for the program continues to be low. Most of the staff members have been employed with the Agency for a minimum of ten years. All the teachers have an AA, BA/BS, or master's degree. The assistant teachers have a CDA credential or are enrolled in the CDA program and some have degrees. Hiring preferences have continued to be given to past and present Head Start parents for entry level positions. Over thirty percent of the current Blue Grass Head Start staff consists of former or current Head Start parents and even past Head Start children. We had four Family Service Workers complete the class to obtain their Family Service Credential.

The Blue Grass Head Start program has partnerships with Kentucky State University, University of Kentucky, Eastern Kentucky University, Morehead State University, Chapel Hill University and the Bluegrass Community and Technical College. Head Start staff members attend these universities which are located near their centers or have satellite programs nearby. Students from these universities also serve their internships in the Blue Grass Head Start program thus contributing to the enhanced services to children and families. Blue Grass Head Start has had collaborative programs with the University of Kentucky for the Healthy Marriage initiative; and such innovative programs as Kentucky State University with a preventing childhood obesity project, and the children with incarcerated parents project; plus, a music project in conjunction with a school music teacher and Chapel Hill University.

Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) and State Local Agreements have been developed, signed, and implemented in cooperation with Blue Grass Head Start and the local educational agencies (LEA's). There are nine school districts in the six-county service area. The Local Agreements meet the requirements of the *Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007*, passed by Congress in December 2007. The new Head Start Act places an increased

emphasis on enhanced collaboration and coordination by Head Start grantees with public school and state funded preschool programs. Transition plans are developed to prepare Head Start children and their parents for entry into the public school system.

All of the children enrolled in the Blue Grass Head Start program received medical and dental exams. The Program Information Report (PIR) submitted to Washington documented the results of the screenings, exams, and follow-up care at 100%.

The Blue Grass Head Start program received a review from Administration for Children and Families (ACF) in December 2015 and February 2016. It was determined that Blue Grass Head

