



Serving the counties of Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Saline, Seward, Thayer and York in Nebraska and Smith in Kansas with Head Start and Early Head Start services.



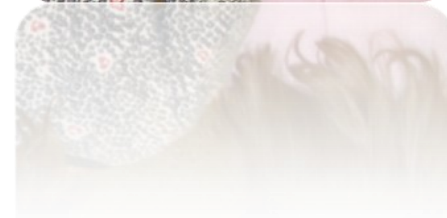
HEAD START

ANNUAL REPORT • 2011-2012



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Head Start 0-5

Blue Valley Community Action Partnership's Head Start 0-5 program delivers comprehensive and high quality services designed to foster healthy development in low-income and at risk children. Head Start takes a unique approach in preparing children and their families for later academic and personal success in life. Head Start services are responsive and appropriate to each child's and family's developmental, ethnic, cultural and linguistic heritage and experience. Head Start provides a range of individualized services in the areas of:

- Education
- Special Education
- Nutrition
- Medical, Dental and Mental Health
- Social Services

Blue Valley Community Action operates a home-based Early Head Start Program serving 90 children ages 0-3 and prenatal mothers. Families receive weekly home visits for 1½ hours and two socialization opportunities a month. The primary focus of the Early Head Start program is child development, parenting, goals to strengthen the family, and self sufficiency.

Blue Valley Community Action provides center-based Head Start services to 249 children ages 3-5. In the 2011-2012 program year, Blue Valley Community Action Partnership's Head Start Program collaborated with Beatrice Public School, Crete Public School, Deshler Public School, Jefferson Public School, Thayer Central Public School and York Public School in an effort to provide quality preschool services to more at risk children in these communities. The program provides 3½ hours of class time, four days a week. The program is at no cost to families and provides one-third of a child's daily nutritional requirement.



Parent Involvement

Parents are children's first and most important teachers. To assist Head Start and Early Head Start parents in taking an active role in their children's education, both now and in the future, the program emphasizes parent involvement and family engagement. We teach parents about the stages of child development and what they can do to nurture development at each stage. Head Start and Early Head Start parents are encouraged to work with their children at home and to volunteer in the program. We provide a variety of opportunities for parent involvement, so that they might become involved to the level to which they are able. Some of these opportunities include:

- Welcoming parent participation in classrooms, whether merely as observers or as volunteers who help with daily activities.
- Working with parents to schedule home visits and socializations at a time when they are best able to fully participate.
- Participating in parent/teacher conferences throughout the year.
- Providing input for implementation of curriculum goals and planning.
- Participation in literacy goals and individual development goals through home activities.
- Participating in and taking leadership roles in parent committee meetings and parent activities.
- Representing their parent committee while serving on the Policy Council.
- Working with other community groups.
- Attending parenting classes and other trainings given by the program throughout the year.

Three hundred forty-six families received Head Start services in 2011-2012. Two hundred forty-six Head Start families and 73 Early Head Start families participated in a Family Partnership Agreement process, setting goals for their child and family. We serve our families with emergency crisis intervention, housing assistance, mental health services, ESL training, adult education programs, job training, substance abuse prevention and training, child abuse and neglect services, domestic violence services, child support assistance, health education, assistance to families of incarcerated individuals, parenting education, and marriage education. Out of these families, 319 received at least one service for their family.

Blue Valley Community Action Partnership is dedicated to father and male involvement in the Head Start Program. We recognize that fathers or male figures that are involved in raising their children make a positive difference in a child's life. One hundred and nineteen fathers or male figures participated in activities in the 2011-2012 program year. We provide opportunities for fathers or male figures to become involved with and to strengthen the relationship with their child. Some of these opportunities include:

- Donuts for Dads: Fathers and male figures are invited to eat breakfast and participate in classroom activities.
- Career Day: Fathers and male figures share with the information about their careers with the children; they read books to the children about different careers.
- Tailgate Party: Fathers and male figures play games, do art projects, scavenger hunts and picnic.





Preparing Children for Kindergarten

Blue Valley Community Action Partnership's Head Start programs help to prepare children for kindergarten by getting parents involved in their child's education at an early age and by nurturing their overall development. Preschoolers are learning all of the time. They learn best through being active and having hands-on experiences.

Blue Valley Community Action Partnership's Early Head Start program uses Beautiful Beginnings and Parents as Teachers as its curriculum for prenatal women and children 0–3 in the Home Based Program. Teaching Strategies Creative Curriculum GOLD is utilized to prepare children for kindergarten in five areas: Social/Emotional Development, Physical Development, Cognitive Development, Approaches to Learning, and Language Development.

Blue Valley Community Action's Head Start program has actively collaborated with public schools within the service area to establish program goals for improving school readiness of children participating in the program. These goals align with the Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework, State early learning standards and the requirements and expectations of the schools to the extent that they apply to the ages of children participating in the program. The following illustrates Blue Valley Community Action's School Readiness Goals and Outcomes:

READINESS GOALS FOR SOCIAL EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

BVCA 0-3:

- Children will demonstrate responsive interactions and relationships with others.
- Children will begin to develop control over some feelings and behaviors.
- Children will begin to internalize some rules, routines and directions.

BVCA 3-5:

- Children will demonstrate healthy regulation of emotional expressions and behaviors.
- Children will establish and sustain positive relationships.
- Children will participate cooperatively and constructively in group settings at school, in the community, and with family.

READINESS GOALS FOR PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

BVCA 0-3:

- Children will develop control of large muscles for movement, navigation and balance.
- Children will demonstrate coordination of small muscles by using hands and fingers to control objects and increase fine motor skills.
- Children will begin to identify and practice healthy and safe habits.

BVCA 3-5:

- Children will progress in traveling skills to move purposely in their environment and demonstrate more coordinated movements (such as balance, throwing, catching) in play and games
- Children will demonstrate control of small muscles for such purposes as using utensils, self care, building and exploring.

READINESS GOALS FOR COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT

BVCA 0-3:

- Children will begin to use math concepts in daily routines, including:
 - * shapes and their properties
 - * counting using one-to-one correspondence
 - * awareness of numbers and quantities up to 3
- Children will use their senses to explore and discover their surroundings, including:
 - * characteristics of living things (e.g. self, family, plants, animals)
 - * knowledge of physical properties of materials (e.g. shape, color, texture, sensory)
- Children will begin to connect new experiences with what they remember.

BVCA 3-5:

- Children will use number concepts and operations in daily routines including:
 - * identifying shapes, their properties, and how they are related to one another
 - * counting using one-to-one correspondence
 - * quantifying objects
 - * demonstrating knowledge of patterns
- Children will use scientific inquiry to gain understanding of their surroundings, including:
 - * characteristics of living things (e.g. self, family, plants, animals)
 - * knowledge of physical properties of materials (e.g. shape, color, texture, sensory)
 - * children will demonstrate comprehension of their community, earth's environment and nature

READINESS GOALS FOR APPROACHES TO LEARNING

BVCA 0-3:

- Children will show an interest in varied topics and activities, desire to learn, creativeness, and persistence, independence in learning. Indicators of positive approaches include:
 - * attending, engaging, and persisting
 - * displaying creativity in the arts (music, movement, drama, art, play)
 - * solving problems
 - * curiosity and motivation
 - * flexibility and inventiveness

BVCA 3-5:

- Children will show an interest in varied topics and activities, desire to learn, creativeness, and independence in learning. Indicators of positive approaches include:
 - * attending, engaging and persisting
 - * displaying creativity in the arts (music, movement, drama, art, play)
 - * solving problems
 - * curiosity and motivation
 - * flexibility and inventiveness





Helping People . . . Changing Lives

READINESS GOALS FOR LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

BVCA 0-3:

- Children will understand and use expressive language for conversations and communicating needs.
- Children will demonstrate phonological awareness by joining in rhyming songs, games and activities.
- Children will begin to identify and name letters common in their environment.
- Children will begin to learn and show how print works (books, environmental print, other text).
- Children will engage with stories, books, and environmental print, beginning to learn how pictures, symbols and print are used.
- Children will use scribble, shapes, pictures or emergent or pretend writing for purposeful representation of thoughts.
- English Language Learning children will demonstrate an increasing ability to comprehend and speak English, while maintaining their home/primary language.

BVCA 3-5:

- Children will comprehend and use expressive language for conversations and communicating needs.
- Children will demonstrate phonological awareness including:
 - * discriminating rhymes
 - * discriminating alliteration
- Children will identify and name letters.
- Children demonstrate knowledge of print and its uses (books, environmental print, other text).
- Children will use emergent writing skills in their daily routines and environment.
- English Language Learning children will demonstrate an increasing ability to comprehend and speak English, while maintaining their home/primary language.

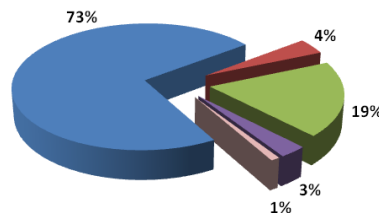


In 2011-2012 Blue Valley Community Action Partnership served 137 Kindergarten-bound children with the following demographics:

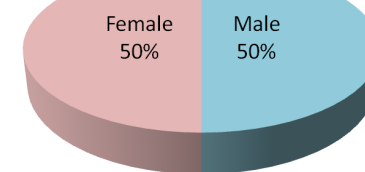
Disabilities:	Without IEPs 83%	With IEPs 17%
Primary Language:	English 81%	Spanish 19%

Ethnicity

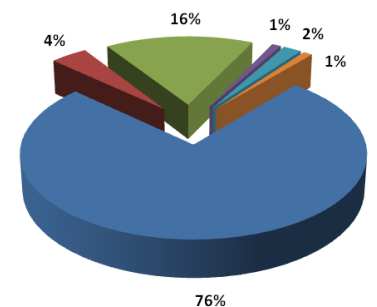
- Not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino
- Mexican
- Unknown Hispanic
- Unknown
- Other Hispanic



Gender



Race



- Caucasian
- Unknown
- Other Race
- African American or Caucasian & African American
- All Other Combinations
- American Indian or Alaskan

OVER 95% OF KINDERGARTEN-BOUND CHILDREN MET OR EXCELLED IN THE READINESS GOALS OF:



Writing Their Names



Retelling Stories



Interacting with Peers



Using Writing Tools



Inventiveness of Thinking



Patterning



Thinking Symbolically



Appreciating Books





Federal Review

In March 2012, the Administration for Children and Families conducted an on-site monitoring review of Blue Valley Community Action Partnership's Head Start and Early Head Start programs. The protocol utilized during the review measures seven areas of grantee performance and contains key indicators that are used to assess each grantee. Performance areas are centered around select Head Start Program Performance Standards, Head Start Act citations, and fiscal regulations. All performance areas include a series of key indicators, compliance measures, and targeted questions to consider that are used by the Monitoring Review Team to better evaluate each grantee.

Based on the information gathered the Head Start and Early Head Start program was found out of compliance in one area. The review team found that Blue Valley Community Action did not obtain a Federal Criminal Record Check (CRC) prior to hiring individuals within the mandated time frame. During the desk audit ACF reviewed a staff roster finding ten new employees were hired since the March review. A review of the personnel records of the new employees was conducted by ACF in which they found each new employee had a CRC on file completed prior to date of hire. A phone interview was conducted with Blue Valley Community Action's CEO, the Human Resource Manager, and the Children Services Director to finalize the desk audit. Blue Valley Community Action received a letter from the Administration for Children and Families on December 18, 2012 stating that no further corrective action is required and that the review was closed.

The education component scores on the Class Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) were in the area or above that of the national average. Blue Valley Community Action received the following CLASS scores: Emotional Support 5.97; Classroom Organization 5.6467; and Instructional Support 2.84. According to federal monitoring guidelines, a minimum of 4, 3 and 2 respectively are necessary to avoid re-competition. Blue Valley Community Action is well above those thresholds.

The Monitoring Review team also noted the follow areas of strength:

- **Community Collaborations:** Blue Valley Community Action in partnership with the local hospital, police department, fire department and public health established a Safe Kids Chapter. Through this partnership car seats, smoke detectors, bike helmets and bike safety training was provided for families as well as car seat safety check up events being provided.
- **Knowledge and Understanding of Teaching Strategies GOLD:** Staff were fully trained on the use and purpose of the tool. Blue Valley Community Action utilizes the results from Teaching Strategies GOLD assessment as a component of the program's Self-Assessment, in writing School Readiness goals, planning teacher and home visitor training, and determining individual children's needs.
- **Responsive to the scarcity of Mental Health Services:** Blue Valley Community Action purchased a screening instrument to be utilized by the Head Start Health/Mental Health Officer who is a licensed Nurse. The tool allows the nurse to administer a mental health screening in the privacy of clients' homes.

Agency Audit

The agency audit was completed by McDermott & Miller. The audit was conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. It is the opinion of McDermott & Miller, that the financial statements referred to in the audit present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Blue Valley Community Action, as of September 30, 2012, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flow for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. It is also their opinion that Blue Valley Community Action complied, in all material respects, with the compliance requirements that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs for the year ended September 30, 2012.





Enrollment

Funded Enrollment:

Early Head Start	90
Head Start	249

Actual Enrollment:

Early Head Start Prenatal 0-3	101
Head Start	285

Enrollment by Eligibility:

Income Eligibility	307	77%
Over Income	25	6%
Receipt of Public Assistance	34	9%
Foster Children	6	2%
Homeless	25	6%

Average Monthly Enrollment:

Early Head Start	100%
Head Start	100%

Number of Families Served:

Early Head Start	80
Head Start	266

Enrollment by Ethnicity:

Hispanic or Latino Origin	55	14%
Non-Hispanic or Latino Origin	342	86%

Health Services

Health Insurance:

Children with Health Insurance	254	89%
Combined SCHIP/Medicaid	230	81%
Private Health Insurance	24	8%
Children without Health Insurance	31	11%

Medical Services:

Completed Dental Examinations (Head Start)	269	94%
Needed and Received Follow-up Treatment	38	
Completed Dental Screening (Early Head Start)	89	88%
Completed Physical Examination (Head Start 0-5)	365	95%
Needed and Received Follow-up Treatment	51	

Funding and Budgets

HEAD START 0-5 BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDING APRIL 30, 2012

EXPENSES:

Salaries, Wages, Fringe Benefits	\$1,791,700.66
Contractual Services	\$42,741.22
Travel and Transportation	\$67,187.21
Insurance	\$32,027.97
Space and Other Rents	\$97,383.71
Supplies	\$99,347.91
Utilities	\$34,085.81
Equipment	\$13,000.00
Other Direct Costs	\$166,018.06
Indirect Costs	<u>\$392,382.45</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$2,735,875.00</u>

REVENUES:

Federal Funds	\$2,735,875.00
Child & Adult Care Food Program	\$81,551.18
Non Federal Contributions	<u>\$696,650.36</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$3,514,076.54</u>

PROJECTED HEAD START 0-5 BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDING APRIL 30, 2012

EXPENSES:

Salaries, Wages, Fringe Benefits	\$2,021,409.00
Contractual Services	\$100,800.00
Travel and Transportation	\$63,717.00
Insurance	\$35,448.00
Space and Other Rents	\$115,686.00
Supplies	\$50,673.00
Utilities	\$38,142.00
Equipment	\$0.00
Other Direct Costs	\$138,439.00
Indirect Costs	<u>\$446,285.00</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$3,010,679.00</u>

REVENUES:

Federal Funds	\$3,010,679.00
Child & Adult Care Food Program	\$80,000.00
Non Federal Contributions	<u>\$752,670.00</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$3,843,349.00</u>

NON FEDERAL MATCH: \$752,670.00





ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES OF BVCA PARTNERSHIP

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WEBSITE: www.bvca.net E-MAIL: changinglives@bvca.net

CHILDREN SERVICES FIELD OFFICES

FILLMORE COUNTY HEAD START 0-5

1600 "I" STREET

GENEVA NE 68361

PHONE: (402) 759-3699

fillmorehs@bvca.net

GAGE COUNTY HEAD START 3-5

WYMORE CENTER

517 NORTH 12TH STREET

WYMORE NE 68466

PHONE: (402) 645-3441

wymorehs@bvca.net

SMITH COUNTY HEAD START 3-5

221½ MAIN STREET

SMITH CENTER KS 66967

PHONE: (785) 282-6011

smithhs@bvca.net

STEP AHEAD

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM

JEFFERSON COUNTY 0-5

1303 "B" STREET • P.O. BOX 403

FAIRBURY NE 68352

PHONE: (402) 729-2161

jeffersonhs@bvca.net

GAGE COUNTY HEAD START 0-5

BEATRICE CENTER

5109 WEST SCOTT RD • SUITE 412

BEATRICE NE 68310

HEAD START:

(402) 223-6035

beatricehs@bvca.net

Early Head Start:

(402) 223-6056

beatriceehs@bvca.net

DESHLER RISING STARS

THAYER COUNTY 3-5

1411 THIRD STREET

DESHLER NE 68340

THAYER CENTRAL RISING STARS

THAYER COUNTY 3-5

610 JEFFERSON AVENUE

HEBRON NE 68370

THAYER HEAD START OFFICE

335 EADS AVENUE

HEBRON NE 68370

PHONE: (402) 768-6727

thayerhs@bvca.net

SALINE COUNTY HEAD START 0-5

Head Start:

325 EAST 9TH STREET

CRETE NE 68333

(402) 826-5221

salinehs@bvca.net

Early Head Start:

1540 Grove Street • P.O. Box 352

Crete NE 68333

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salineehs@bvca.net

SEWARD COUNTY HEAD START 3-5

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P.L.A.Y.

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