



Regina Coeli
Child Development Center

Head Start and Early Head Start

Annual Report

2016-2017

Head Start and Early Head Start Federal Grant

Since 1969, Regina Coeli Child Development Center has been impacting the lives of thousands of children in Southeast Louisiana by providing education, health, nutrition, social and special needs services to low income families. Our program provides early childhood services to over 1600 children and employs over 500 people in a five-parish area.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Regina Coeli is to provide the highest quality of service to children and families through a community team effort based on the question: "Is it good for children?"



2016-2017 Board of Directors

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2016-2017 Policy Council

Latisha Barnes, Bogalusa HS & EHS
Norma Cabriaes, Central Tangi HS
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Christopher Wallace, Lacombe/Mandeville HS
Cindy Dykes, Livingston HS
Tara Williams, North Tangi, HS
Amanda Larson, Pearl River HS
Marcus Jackson, Robert HS
Heather Logarbo, Robert EHS
Macile Kuracka, Slidell HS
Akia Laurent, Slidell EHS
Stacy Addison, SLU HS
Jon'vielle Williams, SLU EHS
Malia Blankenship, Springfield HS
Victoria Jackson, St. Helena HS & EHS

RCCDC Upper Management

Executive Director:
Dr. Susan Spring
Program Director:
Kim Harrell-Jones
Program Director:
Ola Magee
Controller:
Philip Morris
Human Resources Director:
Sandra Flad
Facilities & Maintenance Manager:
Reginald Knox

A Word from the Director

The program year began in June 2016 with plans to build a new website, buy new buses, provide training for teachers on classroom management, and to add more Conscious Discipline techniques to the classrooms. We received additional funding for Duration Expansion to increase the number of hours Head Start and Early Head Start children receive services during the year and the final group of employees received raises through the reduction in cost of Workers' Compensation insurance. The number of accidents over the year continued to decrease and therefore, reduce the rating for RCCDC as a company.

Training for all employees began on August 1 as it does every year and the preparations were ready to hold the annual Preservice training on August 11, 2016. Unfortunately, it had been raining for several days from Baton Rouge to Covington and as the rain grew worse, the rivers overflowed, flooding streets and towns which had never flooded previously. This was the second flooding in the same general area in less than a year and many people whose homes flooded in March 2016 began to flood again. In order to avoid employees traveling in the rain, we canceled the Preservice training.

By August 13, the office and classrooms in the Robert and the Livingston center were flooded and remained flooded for three to four days. In addition, the homes and property of many employees and Head Start families flooded. We spent the remainder of the program year renovating the buildings in Robert and Walker and replacing the items lost in the flood. We were fortunate to have volunteers to help, community donations and committed employees who came to work during the day and repaired their own homes in the evening and on weekends.

The floods of 2016 were devastating for many and provided new opportunities for others, including Regina Coeli but with everyone working together with support from the community, almost everything was back to normal by the end of the program year.

2016 ~ 2017 Children & Families Served

Head Start (3-5 years)	
Children Served	Families Served
1580	1481

Early Head Start (6wks-3 years)	
Children Served	Families Served
355	309

HEALTH

Children who begin school with untreated health concerns are likely to experience difficulty in their academic endeavors. For this reason, the program coordinates health-related services for children such as speech screenings, hearing tests, dental exams, immunizations, and physicals.

RCCDC Centers are participating in the I'm Moving, I'm Learning project which seeks to add physical movement to the child's day at school and improve healthy food choices at school and for life. The chart details how many enrolled children received physical and dental exams.

PHYSICALS		DENTALS	
Head Start:	94%	Head Start:	89%
Early Head Start:	92%	Early Head Start:	87%

NUTRITION

RCCDC provides carefully planned foods to help meet the children's daily nutritional needs serving a healthy breakfast, lunch and snack every day. Children and adults eat together in family style meals served in classrooms. Children are encouraged to make nutritious food choices and try foods new to them.

A monthly menu plan is provided to families to help in planning and sharing ideas for meals. Nutrition counseling is available to parents or guardians to assist with any nutrition concerns.

MENTAL HEALTH

Mental health and wellness for children is important for success in school and life. RCCDC programs help children feel good about themselves, develop healthy relationships, manage daily stress, and solve problems. Mental health classroom activities provide children with the social and emotional skills they will need throughout the life span. RCCDC staff provides materials and opportunities for each child to explore, experiment, create, question, and make sense of the world around them. Our programs can help both children and families with the necessary skills to help them cope with adverse and stressful events, as well as assist families during times of needs or crisis.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Access to education, training, and support services is just as important for parents and other family members as it is for children. Over the past year, parents supported the program through involvement at the program level through the Policy Council, School Readiness Committee, the Nutrition Advisory Committee, and the Health Services Advisory Committee. In addition, parents support the individual centers by volunteering for classroom activities, home to school activities, male involvement activities, fundraising activities, and even working in the kitchen or as a custodian. Staff members also meet with families to address needs including vocational education, counseling, and parenting skills. Some of the activities include:

- Read for the Record
- Community Network Events
- Fall Festival
- Head Start Awareness Activities
- Cultural Awareness Activities
- Muffins for Moms
- Donuts for Dads
- Grandparents Day
- Festival of the Young Child
- Monthly Parent Committee Meetings
- Monthly Parent Workshops
- Literacy Festivals
- Red Ribbon Week Activities



Education & Special Needs Services

The educational program has a developmentally appropriate curriculum designed to improve emergent literacy, numeracy, language, general cognitive and motor skills in a positive learning environment. Children are prepared for kindergarten through classroom activities, field trips to the kindergarten, parent meetings with school representatives, and periodic assessments to determine goals to best prepare the individual child for the next school setting.

CLASS, or the Classroom Assessment Scoring System, is an observational measure that looks at interactions between teachers and students. These ratings are categorized into three areas: Emotional Support, Classroom Organization, and Instructional Support. The CLASS scores results for RCCDC are shown in the table below where the overall score is higher than the National Head Start average.



HEAD START	Emotional Support	Classroom Management	Instructional Support	Total Domain Average
OHS National Average	6.00	5.73	2.83	4.85
RCCDC Head Start Average	6.21	5.76	4.13	5.37
OHS Monitoring Average—RCCDC	6.01	5.75	2.97	4.91
TODDLER	Emotional & Behavioral Support		Engaged Support for Learning	Total Domain Average
RCCDC	6.14		4.47	5.30

RCCDC Head Start teachers use the Creative Curriculum, a comprehensive, research-based curriculum which addresses the needs of the whole child. Children are active learners participating in direct, hands-on experiences with people, objects, events, and ideas. Children make choices and follow through on their plans and decisions. Adults expand children's critical thinking skills through the use of diverse materials and supportive teaching strategies. Teachers send home activities for parents to share with the child which also helps to prepare the parents for school.

Head Start and Early Head Start teachers utilize the Teaching Strategies GOLD Assessment to measure ongoing progress of the child throughout the year for all areas of development and learning with performance tasks selected for predictors of school success. Observational data is analyzed at three checkpoints and used to document children's learning, develop appropriate learning activities and goals for each child, and identify at-risk children. Children's progress between checkpoints are compared and shared with parents. Overall classroom results are used to identify strengths of the program and areas needing improvement.

Disabilities: Teachers work with children who have identified special needs just as they work with typical children to accommodate the needs of the children in order to provide a successful learning environment. Over 17% of the enrolled children had disabilities with 10% of those being significant disabilities.



Funding & Budget

Office of Head Start Federal Funding

	HEAD START	EARLY HEAD START	T & TA HEAD START	T & TA EARLY HEAD START	TOTAL BUDGET
Total Award Amount 2017-2018	\$10,415,154	\$3,198,893	\$117,392	\$77,550	\$13,808,989
New Early Head Start Grant		\$1,404,753		\$35,119	\$1,439,872
Startup Funds 3/1/17		\$286,330		\$35,119	\$321,449
					\$15,008,141

Non-Federal Funding

DONOR	ADDRESS	AMOUNT	TYPE
Capital Area United Way	700 Laurel St, Baton Rouge, LA 70802	\$20,420	Grant
United Way SELA	2515 Canal St., New Orleans, LA 70119	\$25,000	Grant
United Way SELA	2515 Canal St., New Orleans, LA 70119	\$15,000	Flood Relief
Capital Area United Way	700 Laurel St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802	\$50,000	Flood Relief
Northshore Foundation, Weather Relief Fund	610 Hollycrest Blvd., Covington, LA 70433	\$10,000	Flood Relief
Total Contributions & Grants over \$5,000		\$120,420	

Expenses

Operating Budget Category	Budget
Personnel	\$9,443,192
Fringe	\$1,676,174
Occupancy	\$1,044,654
Child Travel	\$130,790
Insurance—Commercial	\$279,349
Insurance—Workers' Compensation	\$313,889
Supplies	\$437,836
Other Costs	\$120,550
Staff Travel	\$90,832
Child Services	\$29,500
Parent Services	\$47,282
T & TA	\$194,941
Total	\$13,808,989

Audit Opinion

The final opinion from Poslethwaite & Neterville, A Professional Accounting Corporation states that the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of RCCDCC as of May 31, 2016 and the changes in the net assets and cash flow for the year ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States.