



**Regina Coeli**  
Child Development Center

*Head Start and Early Head Start*

**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

**2020-2021**

Since 1969, Regina Coeli Child Development Center has impacted the lives of thousands of children and their families in Southeast Louisiana. Head Start provides education, health, nutrition, social and special needs services to low income and at-risk families. The program is funded to provide 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?”



## 2020-2021 Board of Directors

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## 2020-2021 Policy Council

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Robyn Hutchinson  
Roslyn Jones  
Shannon Shannon  
Tanner Cittadino

## RCCDC Management

**Executive Director:**  
Susan Spring PhD

**Program Director:**  
Charlotte Landry  
Josalyn Robinson PhD  
Ola Magee

**Financial Controller:**  
Philip Morris

**Human Resources**  
Sandra Flad SHRM-CP-  
PHR

**Facilities & Maintenance**  
**Manager:**  
Renginald Knox

## *A Message from the Executive Director*

The year 2020-2021 makes me think of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde because we started off with a bang, lots of excitement, new Early Head Start centers opening, and more children being served. We crossed mid-year with energy and when March 2020 arrived, the world changed for everyone.

As you know the virus Covid-19 spread quickly and the response was to close schools and many businesses, people were instructed to work from home where possible. Early Child care licensing limited the number of children allowed in a classroom, and Regina Coeli responded by serving children remotely using telephones, email, Facebook, Facetime and product new to many of us called Zoom.

We served children remotely through the end of the year and returned to our offices in May to complete the program year. This was not a typical year and therefore, this is not a typical annual report. The most important thing is the work we did to serve children and families.



# 2020-2021 Enrollment

**Head Start (3-5 years)**

**Early Head Start (6wks-3 years)**

**Pregnant Women's Program**

|  | Head Start  | Early Head Start | Pregnant Women |
|--|-------------|------------------|----------------|
| Number of children served              | <b>1361</b> | <b>298</b>       | <b>32</b>      |
| Children returned to class after March | no          | no               | no             |
| Number enrolled on February 28, 2021   | <b>1198</b> | <b>237</b>       | <b>10</b>      |
| Number enrolled on April 30, 2020      | <b>1189</b> | <b>234</b>       | <b>9</b>       |

**Total Number of  
Children Served:**

**1,423**



# Education & Special Needs Services

Our teachers use 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 set goals and prepare the individual child for the next school setting.

RCCDC Head Start teachers use Creative Curriculum, a comprehensive, research-based curriculum designed to address 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, plans and decisions in the learning process. Adults expand children's critical thinking skills through supportive teaching strategies. Teachers send home activities for parent engagement and preparation for school.

Head Start and Early Head Start teachers use the Teaching Strategies Assessment to measure the child's ability in the beginning of the year, and the child's progress on a variety of skills. The results are shared with parents and used to determine appropriate learning activities and goals for each child throughout the year. The child's progress is tracked by comparing the final assessment to the earlier assessments and all are share with the child's parent.



## Results from the Teaching Strategies

RCCDC child outcomes are assessed across all domains.

- ◆ Social Emotional increased
- ◆ Physical Development increased
- ◆ Language Development increased
- ◆ Cognitive Development increased
- ◆ Literacy Development increased
- ◆ Mathematic increased by **4%**



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

# Health Services

In spite of the difficult year Head Start and Early Head Start continued to work with children and parents to screen children for any health concerns and ensure parents were able to obtain the necessary follow up care

## PHYSICALS

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Head Start:       | 99% |
| Early Head Start: | 98% |
| EHS Expansion:    | 68% |
| Pregnant Women:   | 56% |

## DENTALS

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Head Start:       | 93% |
| Early Head Start: | 93% |
| EHS Expansion:    | 61% |
| Pregnant Women:   | 19% |

# Nutrition



Providing food and nutritional meals for children has always been a high point of the Head Start program. The focus on providing healthy food in classrooms operated normally at the beginning of the year and continued throughout the program year until May. Regina Coeli provided food for the family for an entire week.

# Mental Health

Mental Health services were especially critical over the 2019-2020 program year. Head Start staff worked with children and families to identify sources of stress and to provide resources or access to counselors, as needed. Teachers provided activities for parents to do with their children and support mental health for the family.

# Parent Involvement Activities

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 spite of most of these being held by Zoom.

- Community Network Events
- Fall Festival
- Head Start Awareness Activities
- Cultural Awareness Activities
- Red Ribbon Week Activities
- Grandparents Day
- Monthly Parent Committee Meetings
- Monthly Parent Workshops
- Literacy Festivals



# Funding & Budget

## Office of Head Start Federal Funding

|                        | HEAD START | EARLY HEAD START | T & TA HEAD START | T & TA EARLY HEAD START | Nonfederal | TOTAL BUDGET |
|------------------------|------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|------------|--------------|
| Award Amount 2019-2020 | 11,767,317 | 3,855,976        | 130,495           | 83,340                  | 3,959,282  | 19,796,410   |
| Award Amount 2020-2021 |            |                  |                   |                         |            |              |

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| <b>Non-Federal Funding Match Required</b> | \$ 3,959,282 |
| <b>Generated</b>                          | \$ 2,425,449 |

Regina Coeli Child Development Center receives grants from the Administration for Children and Families of 80% required to operate the program. The remaining 20% is generated through the donation of time, services, goods, and funds from the community. Unfortunately due to serving fewer children remotely the total required was not met. However, the Office of Head Start provided waivers for the unmet portion

### Budget 2020-2021

| Operating Budget Category | Budget              |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Personnel                 | 10,627,159          |
| Fringe Benefits           | 1,976,105           |
| Occupancy                 | 993,847             |
| Child Travel              | 119,347             |
| Insurance-Commercial      | 222,416             |
| Supplies                  | 447,443             |
| Other Costs               | 270,179             |
| Staff Travel              | 125,411             |
| Child Services            | 45,016              |
| Parent Services           | 51,406              |
| Training and TA           | 213,835             |
| Food costs transfers      | 458,309             |
| One time funds            | 286,627             |
| <b>TOTAL</b>              | <b>\$15,837,128</b> |

## Audit Opinion

The final opinion from Poslethwaite & Neterville, A Professional Accounting Corporation states that Regina Coeli Child Development Center has complied, in all material respects, with the compliance requirements as listed by the uniform guidance that could have a direct and material effect on the major federal program for the year ended May 31, 2020.