

## CAP Services' Head Start Development Enhancement Project – Final Report ARRA (Community Services Block Grant) - \$69,472 allocation

### ***Head Start Family Development Enhancement Project:***

Head Start families are among the lowest-income households served by CAP. The organization developed its “Family Development Partnership Toolkit” to better identify and measure progress toward self-sufficiency by families served in CAP’s various programs. The Toolkit allows placement on self-sufficiency continuums in 11 areas: employment; education; academic skills, income, housing, child care, transportation, mental and physical health, access to health care, legal issues, and family unity. Staff supports families in identifying and prioritizing the goals they wish to work on and create action steps and timelines to achieve them.

Head Start’s Family Service staff caseloads were decreased during the ARRA period, and summer services added in 2009 and 2010, resulting in 120 families receiving more intensive services. Goals included: at least 60% of those served will increase their economic self-sufficiency by one poverty level; and 75% of families will make progress in at least two Family Development Areas during their enrollment period.

### **Results:**

118 families (179 adults) received more intensive family development services. 38 obtained a job or a better paying job during the project period.

\$3,967 was used to support access to skills training by 22 Head Start parents. Educational opportunities included: GED/HSED testing (5); certified nursing assistant testing (6); registered nursing classes (2) and textbooks (1); elementary education teaching certificate; manufacturing techniques course; biology course; and, coursework toward a human resources degree.



*Family development goal areas: employment; education; academic skills, income, housing, child care, transportation, mental and physical health, access to health care, legal issues, and family unity.*

- 83 (70%) of families *reached* at least one goal identified on their Partnership agreement
- 53 (45%) demonstrated progress in two or more family development goal areas – goal 75%;
- 80 (68%) achieved progress in at least one family development area, and,
- 15 (13%) of families moved up a poverty level (i.e. 125% of federal poverty guidelines to 150%) – goal was 60% or 70 families. The economy and lack of jobs contributed to this target.

Families report the value of the program:

*“This program made a big difference to my children and to our family...It’s meant the “edge” for my kids that they have not had otherwise. The Head Start Program is preparing our kids for public schooling and the rest of their academic careers. I feel they’ve become more comfortable and confident in life because of their time spent with the program. The staff treats my family with the most respect, compassion and helpfulness... Not only has this enhanced the lives of my children, but now I want to be, and do better for myself as well. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for believing in my children...It’s because of this my children really do have the stepping stones toward a brighter future.*

*I believe working with Sarah more has been extremely beneficial. It has helped keep goals set on track and has also given our family a great tool to use for any concerns that may arise. Meeting more often has allowed me to continuously receive information and tools I need to better myself and family life and environment. Without this, I don’t think things would have gone as smoothly and I don’t think I would feel as comfortable addressing any concerns.”*