



HEAD START of Greater Dallas, Inc. Fact Sheet

Head Start of Greater Dallas provides disadvantaged preschool age children with the foundation of skills and knowledge they need to be successful in school and life and fosters self-reliant families and communities. The agency provides comprehensive child development services, including complete medical and dental health care, education, nutritious meals and social services.

Head Start also works with each child's family to assess their needs and then draft a Family Partnership Agreement outlining how Head Start and the family will work together to meet those needs. Head Start helps parents find placement in educational programs, provides counseling and substance abuse education and refers families to agencies that offer GED, literacy and English-as-a-second-language classes.

Established in 1968, Head Start of Greater Dallas operated under the auspices of several different agencies until 1989, when the organization incorporated as an independent nonprofit agency serving 1,090 children. Today, Head Start of Greater Dallas serves 4,259 children and their families. Head Start of Greater Dallas has served more than 55,000 children and families to date.

Head Start of Greater Dallas operates 35 full-day, early childhood development centers throughout Dallas County, including two Early Head Start centers for 98 infants, toddlers and pregnant women. Centers are open from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Children with disabilities are fully integrated into Head Start classrooms and make up 10 percent of enrollment.

Head Start of Greater Dallas employs more than 700 full-time staff and receives most of its operating funds (\$33 million) from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Federal regulations require Head Start to raise an additional \$8 million in local community support.

In addition to preparing children for school, the Head Start program gives children a solid foundation for future success in life. Studies show that children who have participated in the Head Start program are more likely to remain in school, avoid teenage pregnancy and involvement in juvenile crime, and find meaningful employment later in life. One dollar invested in Head Start of Greater Dallas generates as much as \$17 in benefits to society.

For more information about Head Start of Greater Dallas, Inc., please visit our website at www.hsgd.org.