



Gateway Early Head Start and Head Start Programs



The mission of Gateway Early Head Start and Head Start is to provide quality early childhood, health, and family partnership programs that promote self-sufficiency and strengthens the family.

Budgetary expenditures and proposed budget

Gateway Early Head Start and Head Start is funded primarily through the Administration for Children and Families. In addition, Gateway works in collaboration with four school districts through which funding for state-funded preschool is received: Bridgeton, Millville, Pleasantville, and Vineland. Gateway also actively

pursues grant opportunities to enhance program services. At the end of 2013, Gateway expanded services to include Atlantic and Cape May counties.

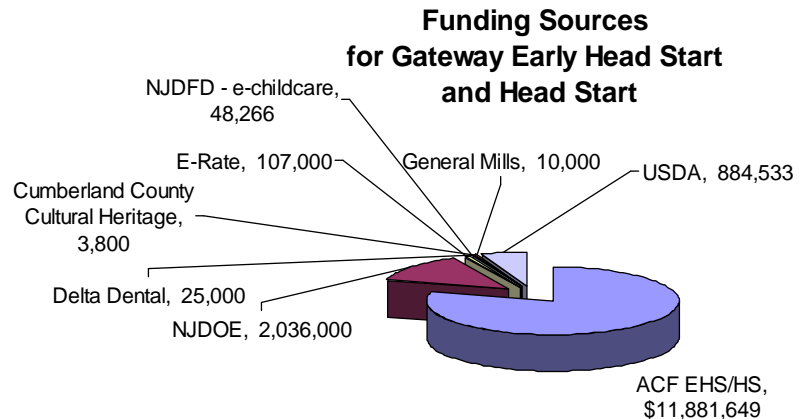
Gateway Early Head Start and Head Start supports staff efforts through salaries that are comparable to similar positions in the community: teaching staff, managing staff including specialists and directors, family advocates, and other support staff. The organizational structure is aligned with goals for Head Start's Early Learning Framework and Family Engagement, as well as being compliant with the Head Start Act and Head Start Performance Standards. Gateway collaborates with community services to recruit and retain high performing staff, manage expenditures, and address community need for full-day services, ensuring high-quality services for children and families. Gateway ensures staff has access to supportive benefits including medical with vision, dental, employee assistance program, and life insurance.

Gateway ensures that classrooms have educational materials to support implementation of the curriculum and child assessment, providing high quality school readiness services including furnishings, art supplies, and other learning center materials. Gateway ensures classrooms are equipped with first aid kits, toothbrushes/toothpaste/gum-wipes, diapers and other medical and dental supplies ensuring safety and health and support children's overall development in the classroom. Gateway ensures that children with disabilities receive accommodations, including modified materials, promoting full participation in the classroom.

Gateway Head Start ensures transportation for 14 centers, with bus services contracted for four of the centers. Gateway also maintains a leased vehicle for traveling to the various sites and for attending meetings as well as several utility vehicles and vans. Gateway operates a fleet of buses, vans and trucks. Gateway transports children to/from Head Start, for dental appointments, and for field trips. Vans and trucks are used for food and other supply delivery. Maintenance uses the pick-up truck to hold equipment for maintaining the various sites

Gateway collaborates with child care providers in Mercer, and Cumberland Counties to provide extended day-extended year child care. Gateway had also worked with a site in Gloucester County, but due to temporary reductions in funding, Gateway had to reduce the number of collaborations with child care.

Children receive 2/3 of their daily nutritional requirements. USDA funds pays for a majority of child meal-related expenses, with Head Start funds also used to maintain menus that are nutritious and reflect diversity.



Gateway accesses consultants to provide services to children and to assist staff with projects. Gateway currently contracts with 3 certified mental health consultants and a speech therapist.

Gateway contracts with consultants to provide services to children with disabilities and assist with the Early Intervention Program and Child Study Teams through the development of memorandums of understanding.

Gateway actively seeks funding and avenues for accessing insurance to address dental/medical services. When other funding sources are not available, Gateway assists parents with dental-related costs (Delta Dental funding) for their HS children, along with dental education and promoting good oral health. Gateway assists with medical services, addressing lice and bedbugs, rashes, or more serious issues such as diabetes or seizures. Gateway purchases medications or pays doctor fees not covered by insurance.

Gateway operated at 19 sites at the beginning of 2013, ending the year with 30 centers. The other 2 sites are child care providers. Gateway owns 6 of the sites and has complete responsibility for repair, maintenance, janitorial, extermination, and trash, keeping the center safe and sanitary for staff children, and families. At 11 of the sites, Gateway works with the landlord to maintain the facility, providing the janitorial service, exterminator, and trash removal. At the other sites, the landlord maintains the facility, provides janitorial and extermination, Gateway pays for the trash removal. Two sites are leased as donation to the program from the municipalities, City of Vineland and Borough of Woodbine. Gateway pays rent or cost allocated rent (shared with EHS) at 20 sites, along with utilities such as gas, water, sewage, phones, internet (computers for data gathering and reporting), and electricity. Five sites have mortgages, with space costs, including all utilities, allocated by program as needed (Head Start, GCAP Social Services, WIC). The remaining sites have no mortgage or rent, but other spaces costs such as utilities are cost allocated across programs, as appropriate. Gateway accesses E-rate funding which offsets phone/internet expenses, up to 90%.

Gateway Head Start provides opportunities for field trips, expanding the child's world beyond the center and the home. Parents and other involved family members are encouraged to be a part of their child's education.

Gateway promotes family engagement in the centers and in program governance. Policy Council works with centers to budget funds for parent-lead events such as male involvement activities, parent committee events and end-of-the-year family activities. Policy Council has a process for reimbursing parents involved in program governance; ensuring parents are able to commit to being advocates for their children and part of promoting a high-quality program.

On a limited basis, Gateway Early Head Start accesses temp staff who has received 40 hours of early childhood training, have credentials, have completed background checks, and have submitted appropriate health documentation.

Gateway pays for college tuition and related expenses for staff and for parent training to become staff.

Gateway invests in professional development for its staff through conferences and in-services.

Total Number of Children and Families Served

Gateway Early Head Start and Head Start provides services through 19 centers and collaborated with eight child care centers. Early Head Start maintained 100 percent enrollment for the full year, a total funded enrollment of 307, serving 463 infants, toddlers and pregnant women during the year. Gateway Head Start also maintained 100 percent funded enrollment for September through June, a total funded enrollment of 1,174 children, serving 1,293 preschool

children during the year. Head Start also provided limited summer services for an additional 50 children. Of the more than 16,000 eligible Head Start and Early Head Start children living in the Mercer, Gloucester, Salem, Cumberland, Sicklerville, and Germantown-Lehigh area, only 11 percent were served through Gateway.

2010 Monitoring Review Results

In January 2011, Gateway Early Head Start and Head Start completed its triennial monitoring review process, resulting in full compliance. Gateway excelled in the area of recordkeeping as it relates to recruitment, enrollment, and attendance. It has a strong education program with teachers demonstrating skills in individualizing for children. It strengthened its mental health services developing relationships with several consultants and pediatric services, as well as hiring a team of master degreed specialists.

Designation Renewal System Results

Gateway Early Head Start and Head Start entered into the Designation Renewal System in December 2011, submitting proposals in Spring 2012 to renew its current grant as well as to expand services into Atlantic and Cape May counties. In April 2013, Gateway Community Action Partnership received notification that it was being awarded both grants. Gateway entered into a five-year grant award period in 2013 for Mercer, Cumberland, Gloucester, Salem, Atlantic and Cape May counties.

Financial Audit

Gateway Community Action Partnership's Annual Audit was deemed a low-risk auditee, and as a result, an unqualified opinion and no audit findings.

Percentage of Enrolled Children that Received Medical/Dental Exams

Gateway Early Head Start and Head Start programs ensure that children receive medical and dental screenings, exams, treatment and education. In the summer of 2013 the Germantown-Lehigh Early Head Start held a Health and Recruitment Fair providing health screenings and educational services to Early Head Start eligible children and their families.



Gateway worked with families to ensure children were up-to-date with early screening, prevention, and diagnosis. At the Germantown-Lehigh center, 63 percent of infants and toddlers received medical exams, with 100percent up-to-date with immunizations. In addition families received dental education from Temple University. 52 percent established dental homes for their infants and toddlers.

In New Jersey, 66 percent of Head Start children were up-to-date with early screening, prevention, and diagnosis, with 99 percent of children up-to-date with immunizations. 62 percent of Early Head Start children were up-to-date with medical examinations with 100 percent of

children up-to-date with immunizations.

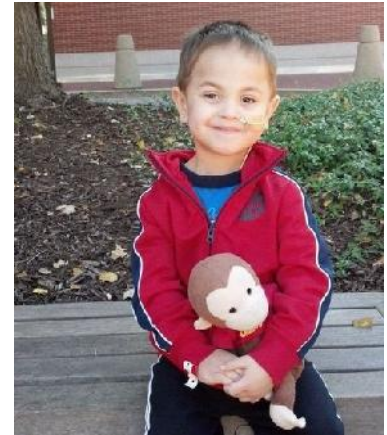
Gateway has provided education and support to families whose children have special medical needs including feeding tubes and nebulizers.

Like many preschoolers, Alexander Cuevas heads off to school every morning wearing his trusty backpack.

But Alexander's is no ordinary bag packed with books and crayons. His backpack provides crucial life support, supporting his digestive system with a pump that feeds him through a nasal tube.

. . . Alexander was born prematurely, and was initially "nothing out of the ordinary," his mother said — until he developed necrotizing enterocolitis, the most common gastrointestinal disorder in premature infants.

. . . Alexander has been under the care of doctors at the Children's Hospital of Pennsylvania and is a student at a Head Start program in Hamilton. Rivera said the school is perfect for her son. . . .



The Times of Trenton

Parent Involvement Activities

Gateway Early Head Start and Head Start parents supported their children's learning through participation in home visits, parent-teacher conferences, volunteering in the classroom, engaging in school-to-home activities, field trips, parent committee activities, and program governance.



Parents participated in program governance training, using their training to provide leadership through Gateway's Policy Council and Board as well as at the Head Start center's parent committees.

Parents also participated in Health Literacy training, learning about when to take a child to the emergency room and how to ensure children are taking proper medication.

Parents participated in activities such as Hightstown's Pancakes for Pop where dads came together to cook breakfast. Glassboro held its annual softball day for men. Paulsboro

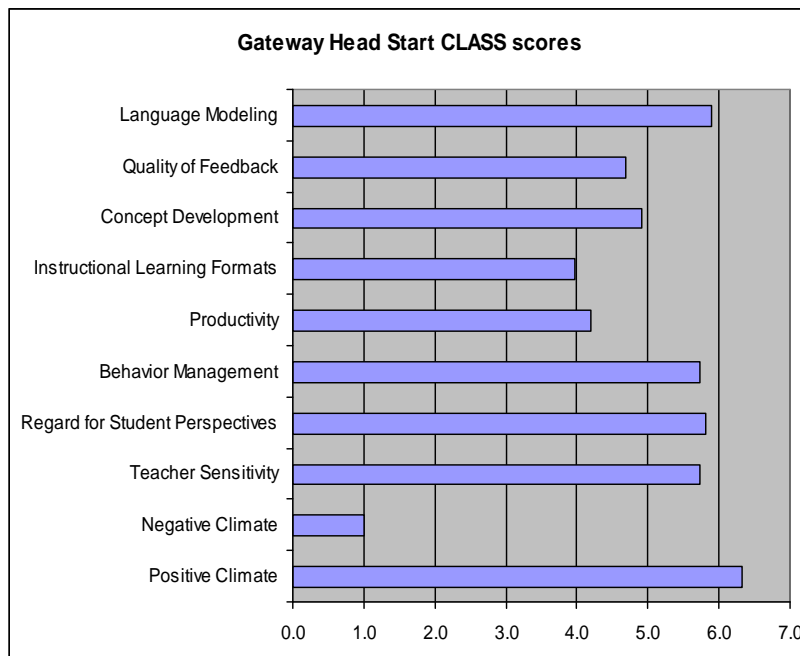
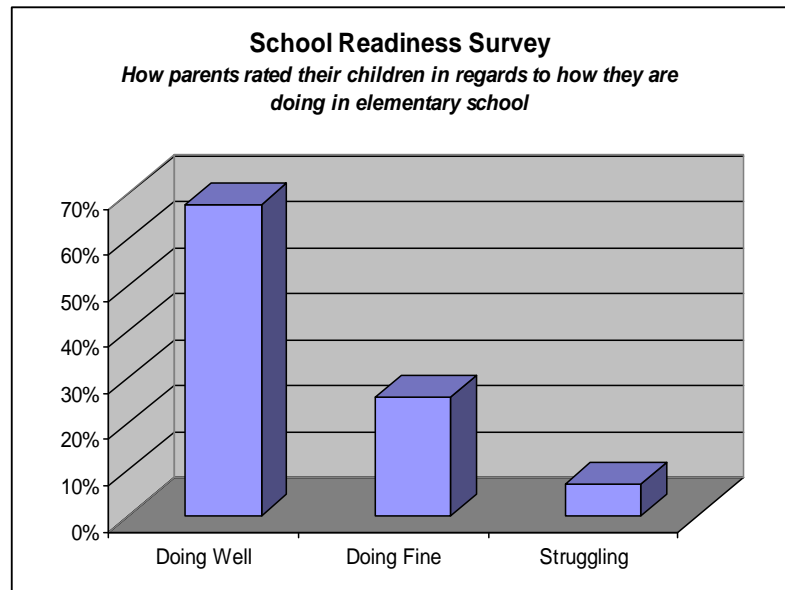
came together with the community to plant a garden with the children of the center. Several centers invited parents to read aloud to the class. In Vineland, parents attended a workshop on nutrition followed by an Olympic Day with their child. Gateway Early Head Start parents and community volunteers donated more than 39,541 hours of time to support the success of their child's Head Start experience.

Preparing Children for Kindergarten

Gateway has adopted *Creative Curriculum* as its primary curriculum. In its collaborations with districts it also uses *Tools of the Mind* and *High/Scope*. As teachers develop lesson plans they are able to access data on the child's development through the use of *Teaching Strategies GOLD* (or *COR* or *Work Sampling*). In addition to teacher's weekly planning, Gateway reviews aggregate child outcomes data three times per year. The mid-year review allows for the program to make mid-year decisions for improving the program.

Gateway has regularly scheduled meetings at the center level, management level, and program governance level. As part of these meetings, periodically, the results of the data analysis is shared as well as used for planning.

Gateway uses the aggregate data to plan trainings for staff, bringing in experts from the early education field as well as from *Teaching Strategies*. The districts have also provided access to trainers related to *High/Scope* and *Tools of the Mind*.



The curriculums selected are aligned with state early learning standards as well as the Head Start Early Learning Child Outcomes Framework. In addition, Gateway has begun aligning family engagement goals with child outcomes.

This year, Gateway has identified mathematics and literacy as areas to assist teachers with curriculum implementation improvements. Gateway continues to provide supportive social-emotional services to children and has shown that children continue make good progress in the area of cognitive development.