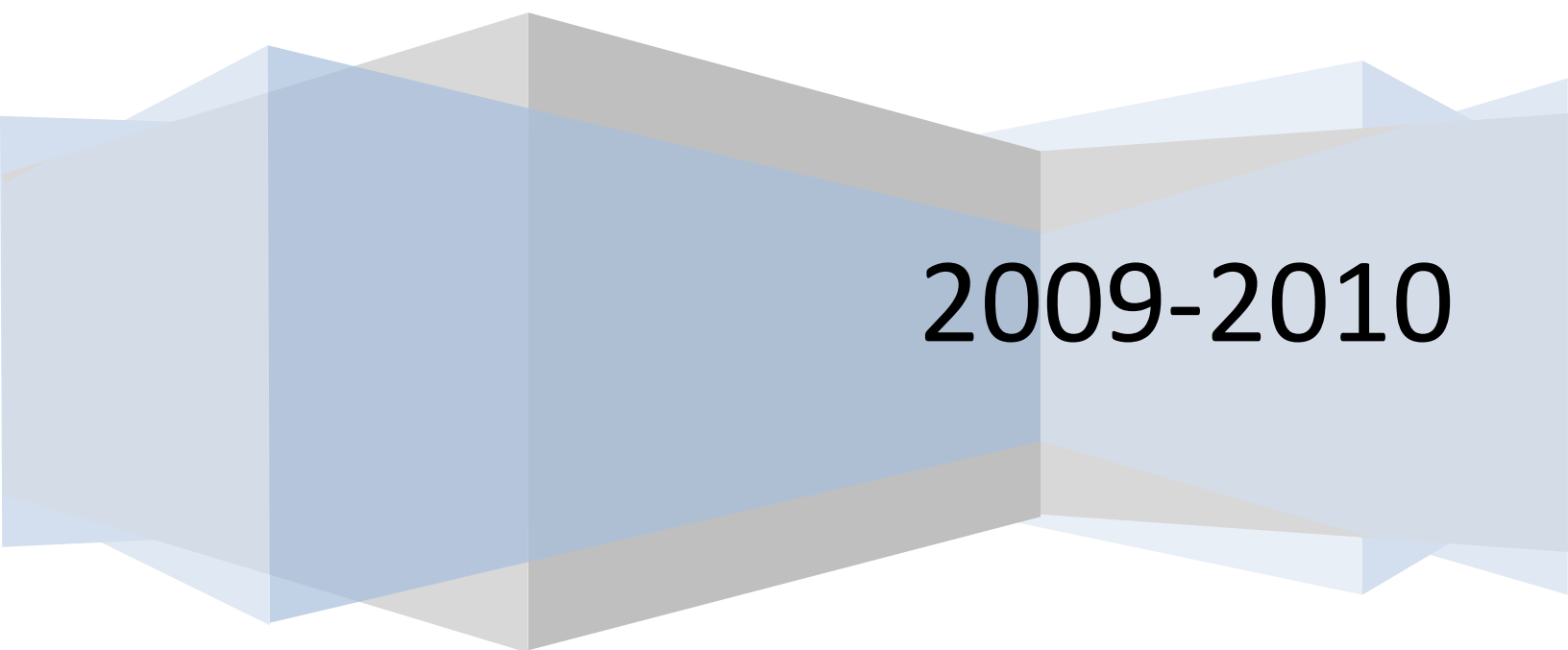


Duluth Public Schools

Community Assessment

Duluth Head Start Program



2009-2010

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Introduction to Community Assessment

MISSION:

The mission of Duluth Head Start is to provide services for income eligible preschool children and their families. These services include opportunities to enhance social and cognitive skills, increase health and wellness and build upon family strengths.

Our mission guides our work with families. To that end we have service area staff that supports the work of our teaching staff and family advocates who assist parents with accessing community resources as well as providing support and education to parent groups on a monthly basis.

OVERVIEW OF DULUTH HEAD START

Duluth Head Start is a comprehensive program that includes services available to Head Start families in the areas of health, nutrition, education, mental health, disabilities, parent involvement and family advocacy.

The Duluth Head Start program serves Minnesota resident families of birth to four-year-old children living within the Duluth city limits or enrolled in a day care situation within the city limits. Our funded enrollment is 371 children. 298 of those children are three or four years old and are served in six centers all located in Duluth (ISD 709) elementary schools. 73 of those children (55 age birth to two, 18 age three to four) are served by a state of Minnesota Head Start innovative grant collaborating with three childcare partners and the Families in Transition Program designed specifically to meet the needs of families experiencing homelessness with Head Start age children. Duluth Head Start is part of ISD #709.

What makes it difficult to live in Duluth is the lack of living wage jobs, limited public transportation, expensive rental housing, lack of affordable childcare and activities for kids, lack of diversity, racial discrimination and the feeling of insider exclusiveness. A high percentage of residents in this region struggle financially because it costs more to meet economic needs that they earn.

The city of Duluth is a geographically unique city with a population of 86,918. It is located on the most southwestern shore of Lake Superior. Duluth is long and narrow, spreading across approximately 25 miles of varied terrain. The steep hills and natural beauty are part of the geographic uniqueness that draws tourists to the area. Tourism is a large part of Duluth's economy.

Surveys by the United Way of Greater Duluth show that residents say what they like about living in Duluth is the natural beauty, the low crime rate, lack of traffic, cultural vitality and small town feel. Three universities, two community colleges and other career-oriented schools serve the Duluth area. A large number of students live in Duluth—2000 Census data show that the 20-24 year-old age range is the largest population in Duluth.

The positive relationship established with our grantee, Independent School District (ISD) #709, is a positive strength for Duluth Head Start. The district recognizes Head Start as an asset to the community's educational efforts as Head Start children transition to other schools in the district. Teachers and principals value children's participation in Head Start before they go to kindergarten. Many Head Start families have older children in elementary schools where a younger sibling attends. This strengthens parental involvement in their children's education when they participate in school related activities for their children at the same school.

CENTER LOCATIONS

CURRENT PROGRAM INFORMATION FOR DULUTH HEAD START	
Site Name	Site Address
Stowe Elementary School	715-101 st Avenue West Duluth, MN 55808
Laura MacArthur Elementary	727 North Central Avenue Duluth, MN 55807
Lincoln Park Elementary	2424 West 5 th Street Duluth, MN 55806
Grant Elementary	1027 North 8 th Avenue East Duluth, MN 55805
Nettleton Elementary	108 East 6 th Street Duluth, MN 55805
Barnes Early Childhood Center	2102 N. Blackman Avenue, Duluth, MN 55811
YWCA Childcare-Downtown	202 West 2 nd Street Duluth, MN 55802
YWCA Childcare- Spirit Valley	411 North 57 th Avenue West Duluth, MN 55807
Little Treasures Child and Family Center	1100 E Superior Street Duluth, MN 55802
Families in Transition (FIT)	2102 North Blackman Avenue Duluth, MN 55811

1. THE DEMOGRAPHIC MAKE-UP OF HEAD START ELIGIBLE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES, INCLUDING THEIR ESTIMATED NUMBER, GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION, AND RACIAL AND ETHNIC COMPOSITION.

ACCORDING TO THE MINNESOTA STATE DEMOGRAPHER'S OFFICE figures for 2009, 20.9% of individuals in Duluth live at or below 100% of the federal poverty level.

2007 US CENSUS

In 2007, the overall poverty rate in Duluth is 18.3%, nearly twice the state of Minnesota rate of 9.6%. Poverty disproportionately affects people of color, single parent families and young children. The overall poverty rate in Duluth for American Indians is about 50%, for African Americans is about 46% and for children under age five, 20.2%. Current figures from the American Community Survey conducted in 2006 for Minnesota and St Louis County show increased poverty rates from previous surveys; however data is not available for Duluth.

JOBS NOW COALITION 2006-2008 JOB GAP STUDY

On July 24, 2009, Minnesota minimum wage increased to \$7.25 per hour, the first increase since August 2005. More than 300,000 jobs in Minnesota pay less the \$7.75 per hour.

- In greater Minnesota, 15% of the jobs pay less than \$7.75 per hour.
- Minnesota workers hold just 41% of the State's jobs; they hold 56% of the jobs that pay less than \$7.75 per hour.
- The average annual cost of meeting the basic needs for a family of four with two workers in St. Louis County was \$49,524 annually. To cover these costs each worker must earn at least \$11.91 per hour. 37% of the jobs in Minnesota pay less.
- At the state minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour, a couple with two children in Minnesota would have to work almost four full-time jobs or 159 hours a week—to make basic needs.
- If the value of the minimum wage kept pace with inflation since the late 1960s, it would be \$9.27 per hour today!¹

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT 2008 WAGE DATA

In St. Louis County:

- The Median Income is \$41,810 annually.
- The Family supporting wage is \$10.53/hr. (two worker family must earn to support a family of four)
- 19.3% of jobs pay below \$7.75/hr
- 11.8 % more job openings than one year ago
- Median wage for all openings is \$13.95/hr
- 54% of openings require more than high school diploma

¹ www.census.gov. federal poverty level.

- Occupational groups have the most openings:
 - Transportation and material moving
 - Sales and related
 - Healthcare support.²
- The unemployment rate in St. Louis County was 5.8% in July 2007 and 10% in July 2009.
- A labor market analysis for Minnesota Department of Employment and Economical Development, “This is the worst unemployment we’ve seen in 20-25 years.”
- January Unemployment in Minnesota:

	2008	2009	Change
Twin Cities	7.8%	6.6%	-1.2
Rochester	7%	5.9%	-1.1
St. Cloud	9.4%	6.8%	-2.6

Current public transportation routes and schedules do not cover all the geographic areas where jobs are located. Travel is difficult or impossible during the late night and early morning hours that job schedules may require. Even when the bus is an option, the time required to wait for transfers to get to their destination is prohibitive. The Duluth Transit Authority (DTA) works to plan routes and schedules to accommodate the higher concentration work places. They recently added new routes to accommodate employees at United Health Care which did not have access to public transportation.

MINNESOTA HOUSING PARTNERSHIP

- In 2009, 22.5% of households renting in St. Louis County paid more than 50% of their income on rent.
- In 2009, 8.2% of St. Louis County residents paid more than half their income on housing, compared to 6.5% in 2000.³

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The Minnesota Department of Education Work Sampling Study indicates that nearly 50% of Minnesota children are considered not ready for kindergarten.

DULUTH HEAD START PROGRAM ETHNICITY COUNTS			
Race/Ethnicity	Percent 07-08	Percent 08-09	Percent 09-10
American Indian	8.4	9.2	10.2
Asian/ Pacific Islander	1.4	1.09	.68
Hispanic	.4	0	.23
Black/ African American	12.4	12.5	12.7
White	51.8	47.4	47.39
Multi Racial	25.2	27.2	24.04
Unspecified/ Other	.4	1.09	4.76

² Jobs now coalition online. Jan 2008

³ Minnesota Housing Partnership Online. Jan 2009.

HEAD START PROGRAM PRIMARY LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME preliminary data is largely consistent with these statistics:

HEAD START PROGRAM PRIMARY LANGUAGE AT HOME			
LANGUAGE	07-08	08-09	09-10
English	99.2	99.7	99.7
Asian/Pacific Island (Hmong)	.8	.3	.3
Spanish	0	0	0
Indo-European (Kurdish)	0	0	0

LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME is statistical information data taken directly from US Census Bureau, indicating a primary English speaking population.

<i>2000 City of Duluth LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME</i>		
Population 5 years and over	82,144	%
English only	77,615	94.5
Language other than English	4,529	5.5
Speak English less than 'very well	1,216	1.5
Spanish	1,229	1.5
Speak English less than "very well"	373	0.5
Other Indo-European languages	1,804	2.2
Speak English less than "very well"	382	0.5
Asian and Pacific Island languages	740	0.9
Speak English less than "very well"	285	0.3

This is in contrast to preliminary data gathered in **DULUTH HEAD START PROGRAM 2007-2008 ETHNICITY COUNTS**. In the Duluth Head Start Program, low income children of color “over-represent” their percentage of the population.

The US Census Bureau provides **2006-2008 RACE AND ETHNICITY**, which indicates a largely homogenous population. Less than 8 percent of the entire population of Duluth is considered “minority”.

2006-2008 Race and Ethnicity: DULUTH, MN	Population	Percent
One race	84,527	98.3
White	79,037	91.6
Black or African American	1,783	2.1
American Indian and Alaska Native	2,306	2.7
Asian	1,280	1.5
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0	0
Some other race	121	0.1
Two or more races	1760	2.0
HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE	949	1.1

THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY OF 2006 provides us with the data in **EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT IN DULUTH**, which summarizes the educational attainment of residents of Duluth over the age of 25. Over 60 percent of the general population has taken college level classes or received advanced degrees.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT IN DULUTH		
Level of Education	Count	Percent
Less than High School Grad	4348	8.4%
High school graduate/GED	14,751	28.5%
Some college,/Associate's degree	16,466	31.8%
Bachelor's/Graduate/ Professional Degree	16247	31.3%

PRELIMINARY STATISTICS ON FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN ENROLLED IN THE PROGRAM FOR THE 2009-2010 YEAR

HEAD START HOUSEHOLD EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT 2009-2010		
Level of Education	Count	Percent
Less than High School Grad	62	15.4%
High School Grad or GED	144	35.8%
Some College/ Associates	171	42.5%
Bachelors or Higher	14	3.5%
Unreported	11	2.7%

The overall on-time graduation rate for Duluth Public Schools is 65.8%. While 70% of Caucasian students graduated on-time, only 21% of American Indian, 40% of African American students and 42% of lower-income students did the same.

As compared to the population of Duluth, Head Start parents are twice as likely not to have graduated from High School.

ELIGIBLE AND AVAILABLE CHILDREN

Statistics gathered from a variety of sources, The US Census Bureau, Children's Defense Fund Minnesota, Minnesota Community Action Association, United Way Community Assessment indicate a range of 20% - 23.5% children under the age of five living in poverty in Duluth. The US Census Bureau provides **2005-2007 SEX AND AGE DEMOGRAPHICS, CITY OF DULUTH** which indicates that there are 5,088 children under age five within the Duluth city limits.

Total population	86,287	Percent
SEX AND AGE		
Male	42,129	48.8
Female	44,158	51.2
Under 5 years	5,088	5.6
18 years & over	69,404	80.4
65 years & over	11,349	13.2

ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Over the past five years the births in St. Louis County have slightly decreased. Using the Live Birth figures from St. Louis County, we can project an approximate number of eligible and available children for Head Start. St. Louis County authorities estimate that approximately 60% of the population of St. Louis County resides in the Duluth area. (*United Way 2007 Community Assessment figure of 20.9% of people below 100% poverty*)

YEAR	BIRTHS IN ST. LOUIS COUNTY	BIRTHS IN DULUTH 60% of Total
2007	3495	2097
2008	3453	2071
2009	3443	2065

WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT OUR FAMILIES SO FAR:

48% of Duluth Head Start Families are families of color, 47% of families are white, 5% unspecified
99% of families speak English as the primary language at home.
67% of Duluth Head Start families are single parent households.
33% of Duluth Head Start families are two parent households.
39% of one parent households are employed.
50% of two parent households has one parent employed, 22% has both parents employed.
2% of all Head Start parents are in job training or school
29% of Duluth Head Start families experienced homelessness in the last year

2. OTHER CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND CHILD CARE PROGRAMS SERVING HEAD START ELIGIBLE CHILDREN.

ACCORDING TO MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES 2004 CHILD CARE SURVEY

35% of households that are eligible for childcare subsidy are not aware of their eligibility. Only 19% of low-income households report receiving a childcare subsidy. Households with low incomes receiving subsidies choose childcare based on quality rather than cost, compared to those households that do not receive subsidies.

Children who do not participate in high-quality early education have higher rates of juvenile delinquency, arrests, and juvenile court petitions.

Early Childhood:

- In the 2004-2005 school year, 11.8% of 3-year-olds and 18.2% of 4-year-olds were enrolled in state funded preschool programs in Minnesota.
- In 2005, 10,332 children were enrolled in Head Start and Early Head Start in Minnesota.
- Percent of children under the age of six with all parents in the labor force: 64.9%.⁴
- 11,909 classes were offered to families. Of these classes, 32% were for children three years old, 11% were children four and five years old and 48% mixed age classrooms.
- 2,997 children with developmental delays participated.
- Employed parents constituted 61% of participants. Another 6% were seeking employment.

⁴ Children's Defense Fund online. 2007.

- 18% of participating families had a high school diploma/GED or less.
- 17% of participating families state wide are families of color.
- 9% of participating families spoke a primary language other than English.
- 21% of participating families statewide had house hold incomes of less the \$30,000. 13 % had incomes less than \$20,000 and more than 7% had incomes under \$10,000.⁵

MINNESOTA CHILD CARE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL NETWORK 2006 REPORT

- Low income families in St Louis County spent 28% of their income on childcare.
- 5000 Minnesota families were on the waiting list to receive childcare assistance

In Minnesota:

- 2004 child care survey reports: 19% of households with low incomes report currently receiving child care subsidy.
- Three-quarters of households with low incomes receiving a subsidy have some out-of-pocket child care expenses, compared with half of households with low incomes without subsidy.
- 72% of households with low incomes are aware of the state subsidies to help pay for child care.
- 35% of households eligible but not receiving a child care subsidy say they are not aware of the subsidy.
- 57% of households with low incomes receiving child care subsidy use center based care as their primary arrangement.

Child Care Stats:

- 75% of Minnesota families use child care.
- 28% of children are in child care full time (35 or more hours a week).
- In Minnesota, the average cost of full-time center care for two children is 81% of the median income for single mothers.
- *A family of four with two young children, one preschooler and one infant, enrolled full-time in a child care center can expect to pay around \$24,000 annually for child care in the metro area and around \$16,000 in greater Minnesota. The same family could expect to pay around \$15,045 in the metro areas and around \$12,000 in greater Minnesota for family childcare.*
- College tuition for the 2007-2008 school year at the University of Minnesota totals about \$9,600 annually.
- 75% of Minnesota children spend some portion of their day in a licensed child care setting.
- On average, licensed family child care providers provide child care 11 hours per day, five days per week and 50 weeks per year.⁶

ST LOUIS COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES-CHILDCARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Effective November 1, 2007 there is no longer a waiting list for Basic Sliding Fee Child Care. They do not anticipate a waiting list through 2008 due to an increased allocation next year. The program assists low income parents (not on MFIP public assistance) who are working at least 20 hours per week, job searching or in an approved education plan. Income eligibility for Basic Sliding Fee Child Care is 175% of poverty for applications, and families may remain on the program until they reach 250% of poverty.

⁵ MN Department of Education. Parent Questionnaire and Annual Report. 1/20/09.

⁶ Mnchildcare.org

Basic Sliding Fee Priorities for Service:

- Two parent Families in which one parent works a minimum of 20 hours per week and one parent is a post-secondary student.
- Two parent families with combinations of jobs search and post secondary activities, or two parent families in which both are in job search activities.⁷

The supervisor for the Child Care Assistance Program in South St. Louis County stated that the 1,200-1,300 child care providers registered with the county through family, friends and neighbors have remained fairly stable. Some report any declines mainly to families losing their jobs.

ISD 709 PROGRAMS OFFERED FOR 3 AND 4 YEAR OLDS

SCHOOL READINESS

School Readiness is a program offered through ISD #709 which serves three and four-year-olds. In 2008-2009 they served 85 children, so far this year they have 81 children. They service three times per week at three sites: Stowe, Lincoln, and Rockridge. School Readiness staff indicated that approximately 13 families attending their program could be considered a family with a low-income. They have had more requests this year to waive their program's sliding fee due to unexpected unemployment than other years.

EARLY CHILDHOOD FAMILY EDUCATION (ECFE)

ECFE is a program for three and four-year-olds in Duluth. In the 2007-2008 school year, they served 104 three-year-olds. This year they anticipate the same. The ISD #709 program had 76 slots available for three-year-olds each year with options at Copeland (2), Lincoln (4), Rockridge (4), and Stowe (2).

KINDER KORNER

Kinder Korner is based out of Duluth Publics Schools SECONDARY TECHNICAL CENTER. They serve ages three and four. They are private pay and open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. They have an AM session from 8:45-10:45 and a PM session from 12:00-3:00. They are in session from the middle of October thru the end of May. In the 2008-2009 year they served 35 students. This year they serve 29 children.

COMMUNITY ED PRESCHOOL

Community Ed Preschool is based out of two Duluth locations, Homecroft Elementary School, and Laura MacArthur Elementary School. Homecroft has Monday/Wednesday/Thursday AM and PM sessions. Laura MacArthur is open Monday thru Friday 9-11:30. MacArthur has Monday/Wednesday/Friday AM and Tuesday/Thursday AM sessions. To date they have served approximately 98 students. The majority of the children are not living in poverty.

KID CONNECTION

Kid Connection has served 24 Head Start families so far this year.

SUMMARY

Most of the child development and child care programs in Duluth work as partners to meet the needs of families. Over the past three years, with a special Early Reading First grant, Duluth Head Start has provided programming for 6 ½ hours per day. With the ERF grant gone, DHS now offers ½ day sessions 4 days a week. This has made it necessary for many families to utilize childcare resources

⁷ St. Louis County Website

in the area. These may include Kid Connection, Family Day Care, Child Care centers or relative child care. Less than 10 families have turned down enrollment or terminated their enrollment in Head Start due to child care alone. In most cases, the obstacle has been work schedule conflict. The preference for families has been to enroll in Head Start and supplement their child care needs with other child care options as needed. There is very little competition that keeps eligible families from enrolling Head Start.

3. THE ESTIMATED NUMBER OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES FOUR YEARS OLD OR YOUNGER.

FUNDED ENROLLMENT AND CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES SERVED through the Duluth Head Start Program indicate the percentage of children qualifying for special services.

The 2009 count does not include children currently in evaluation. If **ALL** children currently in evaluation require special services, the percent of Head Start children receiving special services will be 19.6.

FUNDED ENROLLMENT AND CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES SERVED TO DATE			
YEAR	CHILDREN FUNDED	CHILDREN W/DISABILITIES	PERCENT
2010	373	44	12.0
2009	373	76	20.3
2008	371	61	16.4
2007	372	40	10.7

THREE YEAR COMPARISON OF DULUTH PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS RECEIVING SPECIAL SERVICES AS OF JANUARY 28, 2010

Birth to Five	2007	2008	2009
Speech Language	77	63	56
Developmental Cognitive Disorders – Mild to Moderate	1	2	2
Developmental Cognitive Disorders – Mild	0	0	0
Physically Impaired	1	2	2
Hearing Impaired	2	3	3
Visually Impaired	0	2	2
EBD	5	5	0
Other Health Impaired	1	0	0
Autistic	13	14	10
Deaf Blind	0	0	0
TBI	0	0	0
Developmental Delay	155	186	215
TOTAL BIRTH TO 5	255	277	292

CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES BY AGE

The following tables show profiles Head Start children with disabilities and their age groups and the numbers of students by age level receiving special education services as reported by the Duluth Public Schools on 02/01/10.

CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES BY AGE Head Start		
Age	Count	In Evaluation
Less than 1 year old	0	0
1	0	1
2	2	2
3	4	3
4&5	38	9
Totals	44	15

NUMBER OF STUDENTS Duluth Public Schools	
Under 12 Months	13
Age 1	30
Age 2	45
Age 3	48
Age 4	63
Age 5	93

DISABILITY/MENTAL HEATH STATISTICS OF DULUTH HEAD START ENROLLED CHILDREN 02/22/10

SITE	Number of Students with IEP/IFSP	Number of Evaluations in Progress	Mental Health Observations for Non IEP Students	Mental Health Observations for IEP Students
Grant	7	0	1	0
Lincoln	10	6	6	0
Lowell	3	2	5	1
MacArthur	5	2	1	0
Nettleton	11	0	6	1
Stowe	2	2	1	0
Y-Spirit Valley	2	0	1	0
Y-Downtown	5	1	2	0
Little Treasures	1	1	0	0
FIT	0	2	2	0
TOTALS	46	16	25	2

CHILD FIND

Child Find is the initial point of contact in the city of Duluth for any question about children ages birth to twenty-one. If the question is about a suspected developmental delay, Child Find staff helps with appropriate referrals. Child Find also helps families access needed services for children who have medically diagnosed conditions or have conditions with a high probability of resulting in developmental delay. Depending on the questions and the needs of the child, the initial request may result in developmental screening and/or in- depth evaluation. Special education services may be an option if the child meets the Minnesota state special education criteria. Services include speech, physical and occupational therapy, service coordination, special instruction, vision, hearing and nurse services. All services provided through the school system are free of charge.

SUMMARY

Head Start performance standards require that 10% of enrollment includes children with disabilities. We have assigned priority points to these students to ensure that we reach our required enrollment. Since 1998 Duluth Head Start has exceeded this requirement, with enrollment of children with disabilities nearing 20% in the last few years. We also have increased numbers of students needing special attention in the social/emotional/behavioral area of development. In addition to the 15% of students identified with disabilities in the current school year, 14% (or 52 mental contacts to date) of our students have required services from our mental health professionals to assist with S/E/B issues. Our ability to meet the needs of the students with increased needs in our centers is challenged on a daily basis. To address this issue, we are currently considering modifications to our priority list once our 10% enrollment of children with disabilities has been reached.

4. DATA REGARDING THE EDUCATION, HEALTH, NUTRITION AND SOCIAL SERVICE NEEDS OF HEAD START ELIGIBLE CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES.

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Health Insurance Coverage in Minnesota: Trends from 2007”

As of 2007:

- 7.2% of people in Minnesota do not have health insurance.
- 62.5% of people in Minnesota have group or employee health insurance.
- 6% of children ages 0-17 are uninsured.
- 18.7% of young adults ages 18-24 are uninsured.
- In 2001, 6.1% of all people were uninsured, in 2004, 7.7% of all people were uninsured. So the rate of people uninsured has dropped but 0.5% in the last 3 years.
- 17.9% of people who are at 0-100% of poverty or below are uninsured. While only 2.2% of people 401% above the poverty line are uninsured.⁸

According to an article in *USA TODAY* on Wednesday, August 27, 2008, “The number of people without health insurance dropped 1.3 million to 45.7 million. The uninsured fell to 15.3% from 15.8%. The primary reason for decline: More people, especially children, are covered by government-sponsored insurance.”⁹

DENTAL STATEMENT AS OF JANUARY 2010

Oral health is a priority for Head Start, although there are challenges in finding providers for Head Start children. We have established partnerships with various providers and organizations to serve the greatest number of children. Duluth Head Start has a long standing relationship with Lake Superior College Community Dental clinic. Volunteer dentists and the dental hygiene students provide several “dental days” that serve only Head Start children. This year the day was November 6, 2009. They, along with 5 other dental clinics, provided service free of charge on “Give Kids a Smile Day,” February 5, 2010. A new program, Children’s Dental Services of Minnesota, provides a dental screening in the school building, by a calibrated dental hygienist. All children who have a completed consent form qualify to receive services. Services include cleanings, fluoride treatments and sealants. Any concerns found on this screening are then referred to Lake Superior Community Health Center

⁸ MN Department of Health online. April 2008.

⁹ Article “Number of uninsured Americans drops,” by Dennis Cauchon and Julie Applebee

Dental Clinic for care. Children can also access prophylactic care from this facility. A local pediatric dentist will also take referrals from the Head Start Health Services' coordinator for specially determined circumstances. These new and existing programs help facilitate oral health care for children and meet the expectations of the Head Start performance standards. Challenges remain in finding a "dental home" for children due to the state reimbursement rate for dental care for children on state insurance programs. Looming state budget issues and possible cuts to dental care funding indicate that challenges will remain in providing dental care for Head Start children.

MINNESOTA FAMILY INVESTMENT PROGRAM (MFIP)

In St. Louis county MFIP had 1,413 cases which equaled 3,474 people where as the City of Duluth estimated 60% of the numbers. The City of Duluth had 848 cases with a total of 2,084 people.

According to an article in the Star Tribune:

- *In 1986, a single mother with one child received \$437 a month and would receive the same amount today. A parent with two children would receive \$532.*

The Highest and Lowest Paying States¹⁰

2008 Monthly welfare benefit for a single-parent family of three:

State	Rank*	Welfare Paid/Month	State	Rank*	Welfare Paid/Month
Alaska	1	\$923	Louisiana	46	\$240
California	2	\$723	Alabama	47	\$215
Vermont	3	\$709	Arkansas	48	\$204
New York	4	\$738	Tennessee	49	\$185
Connecticut	5	\$674	Mississippi	50	\$170
Minnesota	16	\$532			

Source: Center on Budget and Policy *Rank 1 is highest.

SUMMARY

The demand for mental health services for children and youth has dramatically increased and the supply of resources is down. Focus needs to be directed to screening, prevention health promotion, early intervention, medication services, peer to peer support groups, supply of psychiatric services and outpatient programs, support to families with mentally ill parents, and targeted services for uninsured people.

¹⁰ Star Tribune-table.

5.THE EDUCATION, HEALTH, NUTRITION AND SOCIAL SERVICE NEEDS OF HEAD START ELIGIBLE CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES, AS DEFINED BY FAMILIES OF HEAD START ELIGIBLE CHILDREN AND BY INSTITUTIONS IN THE COMMUNITY THAT SERVE YOUNG CHILDREN

HEAD START STUDENTS BY AGE AND ENROLLMENT

HEAD START STUDENTS BY AGE AND ENROLLMENT				
Age	Number of Students	Enrolled	Waiting	Terminated
Under 1 year	10	9	0	1
1 Year	17	11	0	6
2 years	37	20	2	15
3 Years	101	44	40	20
4 & 5 Years	378	278	49	58
Totals	543	362	91	100

HEAD START APPLICATION CHARACTERISTICS

	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010
Income	270	219	237
Over Income	45	39	43
Homeless	3	45	115
Foster Care	31	38	47
Public Assistance	128	102	73

TOTAL APPLICATIONS BY ELIGIBILITY STATISTICS

	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010
Total Applications	497	558	548
Medical Assistance	372	409	359
TANF	162	156	160

ENROLLED STUDENTS AND NUMBER OF YEARS IN HEAD START

	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010
First Year	372	378	251
Second Year	113	122	100
Third Year	2	11	20

As of September 1, 2009 the ISD 709 census indicated 689 kindergarteners enrolled in ISD 709 schools. This is an increase of 186 students from last year.

2009-2010 Kindergarten Enrollment	
All Day	437
Morning Only	129
Afternoon Only	19
Children with Disabilities	104
Under 5 as of September 1	0
TOTAL	689

FAMILY NEEDS IDENTIFIED 2009-2010 (TO DATE)

	Barnes	Grant	Lincoln	Little Treasures	MacArthur	Nettleton	Stowe	Y-DT	Y-SV	Total
Food	6	1	6	0	0	3	0	2	2	20
Housing	10	4	15	1	3	8	0	2	0	43
Clothing	26	29	50	2	40	48	11	7	0	221
Transp	21	19	33	2	21	18	11	7	0	132
Mental Health	17	7	5	0	2	2	0	1	2	36
Substance Abuse	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Child Abuse/Neglect	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	4
Domestic Violence	9	1	2	0	1	2	0	0	0	15

FAMILY SERVICES details the Program Information Report information for Duluth Head Start year 2009-2010.

FAMILY SERVICES			To Date
	07-08	08-09	09-10
Parenting Education	231 (1)	80 (2)	176
Health education	128 (4)	50 (4)	84
Emergency/crisis intervention (food, clothing, shelter)	198 (2)	92 (1)	262
Transportation assistance	152 (3)	60 (3)	152
Mental Health Services	36 (5)	19 (5)	38
Domestic violence services	21	0	17
Housing assistance	31	7	41
Adult Education	13	10	32
Substance Abuse and prevention	6	1	2
Child abuse and neglect services	10	1	4
Assistance to families of Incarcerated Ind.	1	3	4
Child Support assistance	4	0	4
Marriage Education	6	3	2
English as a Second Language	2	0	1
Job Training	21	4	23
Totals	903	238	842

ISD 709 FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH STATISTICS is the preliminary report for ISD 709 which indicates that Duluth Head Start Centers are located in Elementary schools with the highest percentages of children receiving Free and Reduced Lunch services.

41.5% of Duluth school children are eligible for Free and Reduced Price Lunch Program, 25% higher than the Minnesota Average.

2009-2010

School Name	Enrolled	Reduced	+Free	Total	Percentage
Grant Magnet Elementary	260	4	177	181	87.9
Homecroft Elementary	368	38	67	105	28.5
Lakewood Elementary	284	33	42	75	26.4
Lester Park Elementary	322	20	42	62	19.3
Lincoln Park Elementary	362	26	204	230	63.5
Lowell Music Magnet Elementary	494	43	146	189	38.3
Laura MacArthur Elementary	441	53	270	323	73.2
Nettleton Magnet Elementary	399	23	294	317	79.4
Rockridge Elementary	175	11	23	34	19.4
Stowe Elementary	345	49	168	217	62.9
Early Childhood Special Education	213	6	39	45	21.1

HOMELESSNESS

In the 2009-2010 school year, Duluth Head Start served a total of 101 children experiencing homelessness.

STAFF SURVEY QUESTIONS 2009-2010 - CONDUCTED IN FEBRUARY 2010.

What recent changes have you noticed in the children and families you work with?

RECENT CHANGES
More families out of work
More homelessness
More stress/less resources
Mental Health issues
Child Support issues
Child Care
Child behaviors seem to be more intense
Single Dads
Problems with ½ day sessions- transportation, child care & less time to connect with families & to each other
See parents sharing conversation and being involved in classroom

1. What do you see as the three most pressing needs within the Head Start community?

MOST PRESSING NEEDS
Transportation
Child Care
Health Care Access
Mental Health
Affordable housing
Length of day
Lack of funding
Future of Head Start within ISD 709 & Red Plan
Juggling schedules
Place for families to gather and learn

2. Are there any other services you would like to see Head Start provide?

SERVICES
Meeting Place/Resource Center
Social Worker
More inclusive measures to help those with mental health/domestic abuse
Management staff at open houses to meet families
Transportation
Childcare at all sites

HEAD START TRANSPORTATION SURVEY

The transportation survey conducted in March of 2009 is based on how transportation affects the families in using Head Start. The parents who filled out the survey commented on the need for bussing as a solution to the transportation problem. Out of all the families, 87% returned their survey at Grant, 40% at Lincoln, 22% at Lowell, 63% at Laura MacArthur, 16% at Nettleton, and 53% at Stowe. An average of 43% percent of all families in Head Start returned their survey.

1. How easy or difficult is it for you to get your child to and from Head Start?

	VERY EASY		EASY		DIFFICULT		VERY DIFFICULT	
	Responses	Percent	Responses	Percent	Responses	Percent	Responses	Percent
SCHOOLS								
Grant	4	10%	13	32%	20	49%	7	17%
Lincoln	2	7%	8	29%	13	46%	5	18%
Lowell	3	43%	4	57%	0	0%	0	0%
MacArthur	6	15%	20	50%	13	33%	14	35%
Nettleton	3	30%	4	40%	1	10%	1	10%
Stowe	4	24%	9	53%	4	24%	1	6%
OVERALL	22	13%	58	37%	51	32%	28	18%

2. Have problems with transportation prevented you from using Head Start?

SCHOOLS	YES		NO	
	Responses	Percent	Responses	Percent
Grant	17	41%	23	56%
Lincoln	12	43%	16	57%
Lowell	0	0%	7	100%
MacArthur	11	28%	29	73%
Nettleton	1	10%	9	90%
Stowe	4	24%	13	76%
OVERALL	45	31%	97	69%

3. Have problems with transportation prevented anyone you know from using Head Start?

SCHOOLS	YES		NO	
	Responses	Percent	Responses	Percent
Grant	17	41%	22	54%
Lincoln	16	57%	12	43%
Lowell	4	57%	3	43%
MacArthur	18	45%	22	55%
Nettleton	2	20%	8	80%
Stowe	5	29%	13	76%
OVERALL	62	44%	80	56%

4. Would you be willing and able to offer reliable transportation for a carpooling program

SCHOOLS	YES		NO	
	Responses	Percent	Responses	Percent
Grant	12	29%	28	68%
Lincoln	9	32%	18	64%
Lowell	4	57%	3	43%
MacArthur	13	33%	24	60%
Nettleton	4	40%	6	60%
Stowe	7	41%	8	47%
OVERALL	49	45%	60	55%

5. Would you use a carpooling program if it was offered?

SCHOOLS	YES		NO	
	Responses	Percent	Responses	Percent
Grant	23	56%	11	27%
Lincoln	14	50%	13	46%
Lowell	1	14%	6	86%
MacArthur	23	58%	18	45%
Nettleton	5	50%	5	50%
Stowe	8	47%	7	41%
OVERALL	74	55%	60	45%

Why or why not?

Some parents answered maybe, with trust being their main issue.

6. What other problems do you experience getting your child to and from Head Start?

Problems	Grant		Lincoln		Lowell		MacArthur		Nettleton		Stowe		TOTAL	
	Res.	%	Res.	%	Res.	%	Res.	%	Res.	%	Res.	%	Res.	%
Scheduling	7	17%	8	21%	4	57%	11	28%	0	0%	2	12%	32	13%
Weather	27	66%	18	64%	3	43%	15	38%	5	50%	8	47%	76	30%
Reliable Transportation	18	44%	11	39%	0	0%	12	30%	1	10%	2	12%	44	18%
Public Transportation Bus Schedules	12	29%	4	14%	0	0%	3	8%	2	20%	2	12%	23	10%
Public Transportation Bus Routes	5	12%	1	4%	0	0%	0	0%	1	10%	1	6%	8	3%
Personal Schedule	15	37%	9	32%	14	14%	14	35%	2	20%	6	35%	60	24%
Other— Infants and Children	2	2%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	2	5%	4	2%

7. Do you have any ideas/opinions about the transportation problem or possible solution of carpooling?

- “I have 7 other kids and sometimes we have lots of appointments. Drop off is easier than pickup, but both can be hard.”- Grant
- “We live very close.”- MacArthur
- “Sometimes he’ll miss days because I can’t get him to and from school.”- Grant
- “It would make life a lot easier if there were a bus to pick her up and drop her off.”- Lincoln
- “Sometimes when it is really cold I let Lenah stay home, so I will not have to walk her to school with my newborn baby.”- Lincoln
- “We live in the same building and we all walk.”- Nettleton
- “I have 4 other children at different school times. I couldn’t commit”- Grant
- “Have no car but will offer gas money.”- Grant
- “That would be great! It makes no sense for everyone to drive separately every day.”- Stowe
- “I don’t feel that that method is reliable enough.”- Grant
- “It depends on how well I know the driver.”- Stowe
- “The gas card helps me a lot. Carpooling is a great idea.” –Grant
- “Buses just seem safer and logical.”- Grant
- “Bring the buses back! 😊”- Grant
- “Buses need to be a part of Head Start again!”- Stowe
- “Put reminders everywhere, plan and follow through!”- Lincoln
- “I think carpooling would be a great idea. I am willing to help with this when I get a car.”- Lincoln
- “Couldn’t the money put toward carpooling be used to get yellow bus service?”- Lincoln

- “I believe that there should be reliable transportation for a student so that they can get an education.”- Nettleton
- “Carpooling is a good idea although that could get hectic trying to figure out all the different schedules. What kind of insurance would be needed?”- Lowell
- “...I am glad we offer a low income preschool (Head Start) as my kids would not be going to school right now because I wouldn’t be able to afford it but transportation is a big problem for me and for others. More kids would be able to attend if there was bussing. I would even be ok if bussing was done one way, but I would prefer after school or both ways.”- MacArthur
- “Let the government know that if our children are our future, part of the beginning starts in Head Start, and for those of use whom are low income trying to make it out here to support our families and survive, well then the transportation for our little “Head Starters” should be a #1 priority, because education is very much important and our children learn quick.”- MacArthur

SAFE SCHOOLS HEALTHY STUDENTS

Safe Schools Healthy Students is a three year grant from federal funding to Duluth, Hermantown and Proctor school districts that will end after the 2009-2010 school year. The objective is to strengthen a partnership within the community that will promote students overall wellbeing and lifelong learning. The group works under the element of the grant E-4, which provides early childhood mental health professionals to all school-district sponsored early childhood programs, including Head Start and its collaboration partners, Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE), School Readiness, Early Childhood Screening and Child Find (ECSE).

As part of this element, a group of early childhood professionals also took CASEL (Collaborative for Academic Social Emotional Learning) training in early 2009. The purpose of the training was to help administrators and early childhood teachers implement high-quality social emotional learning programming that is integrated into every aspect of a school's functioning.

A core of Head Start teachers and the education coordinator also participated in Active Learning training and we received equipment for 6 classrooms.

MINNESOTA THRIVE INITIATIVE

In January 2007 the Northland Foundation and the five other Minnesota Initiative Foundations launched the *Minnesota Thrive Initiative: Promoting the Healthy Social and Emotional Development of Our Youngest Children*. The overall goal of the initiative is to create systems or networks of local services that support the healthy social and emotional well-being of young children, ages birth to five, and their families. Through this effort, Duluth/Hermantown/Proctor participated in a multi-step process to gather information, raise awareness, encourage discussion, create a vision, and identify strategies to strengthen early childhood mental health resources and services. In the second year of the Initiative, funding was provided for 8 early childhood sites to launch a reflective supervision project. Duluth Head Start is one of those sites. Two Head Start classrooms participate in this project.

HUNGER SOLUTIONS MINNESOTA

- In 2007, the 300 Minnesota food shelves were visited 1.9 million times and they provided 47 million pounds of food to hungry families and seniors.
- 55% of families that rely on food shelf assistance are working, but cannot make ends meet.

- Between 2000-2007 food shelf visits in Minnesota increased from 1.2 million to 1.9 million (60%).¹¹

Child Hunger in Minnesota

- 111,540 or 59% of children receive food stamps.
- 588,907 children in School Lunch Programs
- 123,269 Women and children receiving WIC.¹²

SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK

Second Harvest is a nonprofit food bank serving Northeastern Minnesota and Northwestern Wisconsin. It distributes food to the region’s soup kitchens, food shelves and shelters. They also provide food directly to over 1,000 per month as part of their direct service programs. In 2009, they distributed 3.4 million pounds of food, provided \$2.7 million in meals, served 43,000 people and rescued \$5.4 million worth of food.

CHURCHES UNITED IN MINISTRY’S EMERGENCY FOOD SHELVES

In 2009, CHUM served 5,573 households which totaled 13,711 people and 211,027 pounds of food. This amounted to 205,665 total meals served. Each family receives a 5 day supply of food for the number of people in the household. Over the last year, 35% of people who visited the Food Shelf only visited once. 36% of the total people served were children 0-17 years of age. One third of the people served in 2009 were new to the food shelf. Approximately 35% of the food received at the food shelf comes from Second Harvest Food Bank; the remaining 65% comes from donations.

DEMOGRAPHICS OF FOOD SHELF	PERCENT
Caucasian	54%
American Indian	20%
African American	17%
Asian	2%

WIC: WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN

The mission of WIC is to safeguard the health of low-income women, infants, and children up to age 5 who are at nutritional risk by providing nutritious foods to supplement diets, information on healthy eating, and referrals to health care. WIC accepts women, infants, and children who are at or below 185% of poverty. They receive a three month voucher when they make an appointment. WIC has presumptive eligibility up to 275% when they sign up for medical assistance or Minnesota Care within two weeks.

Automatic Qualifiers for the WIC Program:

- Head Start
- Minnesota Care/Medical Assistance
- MFIP
- Fuel Assistance
- SSI-Client
- Ready Work

WIC MONTHLY ENROLLMENT	
2007	2,221
2008	2,485
2009	2,669

So far this year, 314 children enrolled in Head Start are receiving WIC services.

¹¹ Hungersolutions.org

¹² Child’s Defense Fund online. May 2006.

MOTHERS AND CHILDREN (MAC)

MAC is a free food program for children age 5 and women who are postpartum 6-12 months.

To qualify you must:

Meet income guidelines

Live in Minnesota

Provide proof of age

Not be receiving WIC (One family member may receive WIC and another MAC but the same person cannot receive both.)

MAC distributes fruits, vegetables, juice, milk, cheese, cereal, meat, dry beans, peanut butter, rice and pasta. The four Duluth sites have served 474 people in 2009.

COMMUNITY ACTION DULUTH POVERTY QUIZ:

- 1. What percent of Duluth students receive free or reduced lunches?**
34% of Duluth Students receive free or reduced lunches.
- 2. What is the number of Duluthians living in poverty according to the federal poverty guidelines? (Family of 2 = \$12,490/year; family of 3 = \$15,670/year)**
12,000 Duluthians live in poverty, according to the federal poverty guidelines.
- 3. What is the percentage of decrease in new jobs in Duluth in the past three years?**
There has been a 50% decrease in new jobs in Duluth over the past three years.
- 4. What percentage of all working Duluthians hold a bachelor's degree or higher?**
28.2% of all working Duluthians hold a bachelor's degree or higher.
- 5. What is the percentage of job openings in our region that require a 4-year degree?**
7% of all job openings in our region require a four-year degree.
- 6. What is the average rent for a one-bedroom apartment in Duluth?**
\$572 is the average rent for a one-bedroom Duluth Apartment.
- 7. What is the average rent for a three-bedroom apartment in Duluth?**
The average rent for a three-bedroom Duluth Apartment is \$990.
- 8. What percentage of all Duluth working adults earn less than \$15 an hour?**
58% of all working adults in Duluth earn less the \$15 an hour.
- 9. What is the average hourly wage in Duluth?**
The average hourly wage in Duluth is \$12.
- 10. What is the hourly wage needed to support a family of three in our region?**
To support a family of three in our area, you need to make at least \$16.18 per hour.

Sources: Duluth School District, 2000 Census, Jobs NOW Coalition, Minnesota Workforce Center, Wilder Research Study.

SUMMARY:

The basic needs data gathered from Head Start families on the initial home visit indicates the top four needs as transportation, clothing, housing and mental health. Family Advocates keep that data for individual families and use it in their family partnership process and goal setting with parents.

All indications show that the number of families living in poverty continues to increase in the Duluth area with the current economic conditions. In a staff survey, Duluth Head Start staff identified the top four most pressing needs of Head Start families to be transportation, child care, health care access, and mental health. The top three services staff would like Head Start to provide are extended child care, transportation and parenting classes.

Head Start parents, who completed a transportation survey in the spring of 2009, stated that weather and personal schedules were by far the biggest reasons for problems getting their child to Head Start.

55% of the parents indicated “yes” they would use a car pooling program if it were available. Duluth Head Start continues to work closely with the community based Head Start Transportation Collaborative to explore implementing a car pool program and work with them to continue the support the Collaborative has provided to Head Start families with gas cards and bus passes. Staff and families recognize the affects of the elimination of transportation due to budget constraints and continue to work with other community agencies to address the transportation issues that are barriers for families living in poverty.

6.RESOURCES IN THE COMMUNITY THAT COULD BE USED TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF HEAD START ELIGIBLE CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES, INCLUDING ASSESSMENTS OF THEIR AVAILABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY.

CHILDREN REQUIRING CARE FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DIFFERENCE IN DULUTH RECEIVE THEM FROM THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES:

- ❑ Duluth Public Schools,
- ❑ Polinsky,
- ❑ Scottish Rite Clinic,
- ❑ UMD Speech and Hearing,
- ❑ Lake Superior Physical Therapy Clinic,
- ❑ St Scholastica Occupational Therapy,
- ❑ SMDC
- ❑ St. Lukes Clinic

SAFE HAVEN WOMEN’S SHELTER

In 2008, 644 women and children were at intake. Both the Women’s Shelter and their legal advocacy program had 1,139 people served in 2008. Safe Haven Women’s Shelter continues to see an increase need for the services they provide for women and children seeking safety from domestic abuse, Duluth Head Start works closely with Safe Haven staff to provide services to families who have Head Start eligible children.

YEAR	BED DAYS
2009	12,449
2008	12,134
2007	11,883

The Damiano Center is a community organization that provides emergency services for low-income people. They operate six programs for low-income residents of our area:

- **Kids Café** is an after school and summertime meal and nutrition education program for neighborhood children. In 2008, Kids Café fed 470 children (4,935 meals) at risk of malnutrition and hunger and provided a safe place for them to learn and have fun.
- **The Soup Kitchen** serves seven hot meals five days a week. In 2008 the Soup Kitchen served 91,593 meals. This is the largest on-site meal program in Duluth.

- **Damiano Social Services**, our emergency assistance, information and referral program. In 2008 Damiano Social Services helped over 2,000 individuals and families find solutions to a variety of crises.
- **The Clothing Exchange**, Duluth's only free store, provides clothing and household goods. In 2008, the Clothing Exchange distributed over 422,000 items.
- **Clothes That Work**, a free clothing program that helps clothe people looking for work or in need of professional attire in order to maintain work. In 2008 Clothes That Work served 975 new customers and 970 returning customers.
- **The Housing Access Program** provides information, referrals, education, and mediation services to people who need help finding and keeping housing. Last year, the program served almost 500 people.

CHURCHES UNITED IN MINISTRY (CHUM)

- CHUM is a faith based organization to serve those who are homeless and living in poverty. They are there to meet basic needs in crisis while achieving stability and self-sufficiency. They are building the community by addressing barriers that separate us.

COMMUNITY RESOURCE GUIDE

Duluth Head Start has a community partnership with United Way of Grater Duluth to maintain and distribute a community resource guide that can be used by the entire community. The partnership developed out of an effort to create one resource guide that was comprehensive, user friendly, and available to a wide segment of the Duluth population. United Way of Greater Duluth and Duluth Head Start initially worked together to publish the "Twin Ports Connections Directory". The partnership includes meeting annually to update, revise and print a new guide each year. The agreement includes United Way of Greater Duluth maintaining the data base as well as the updating and Duluth Head Start provides revisions and review as well as printing of the guide. The "Twin Ports Connections Directory" is recognized and used in the community by many agencies. Duluth Head Start is committed to the distribution of the directory and gives a copy to every family who is recruited for Duluth Head Start, not just those who get enrolled.

PROGRAMS BY COMMUNITY ACTION OF DULUTH

FREE TAX SITE

Free income tax service for individuals and families earning up to \$40,000 a year.

CIRCLES OF SUPPORT

An education based program designed to erase the impact of isolation that accompanies poverty by linking community members from all classes, races, ages, genders and walks of life together to support individuals or families who want to make a positive change in their life.

PROJECT HOPE

Project Hope is a program that uses family strengths and talents to help participants get off MFIP.

FAMILY EMPLOYMENT ADVOCACY

An advocate works with participants to determine family and employment goals and work together to address and overcome challenges based on needs and desires.

COMMON CENTS: THE MONEY CLASS

This class covers various aspects of budgeting and finances. This class meets the 12 hour Financial Education requirement for all matched savings programs.

JUMPSTART DULUTH

Jumpstart Duluth assists qualified individuals in the purchase of reliable, fuel-efficient vehicles. Offering low interest loans, down payment assistance, and case management support.

The *Family Assets for Independence in Minnesota Individual Development Account* (FAIM IDA) is a matched savings account designed to help families save money to achieve dreams of owning a home, going to college or starting a business. When money is deposited into a FAIM account, the program matches the savings 3:1 from public and private sources. For every \$1 saved FAIM matches it with \$3.

DULUTH SAVES

Duluth Saves is open to anyone in Duluth who wants to improve their saving habits. Participants on FAIM waiting list receive 1st priority for matched savings slots. The program provides financial coaches, “The four Cornerstones of Financial Literacy” workshop, free tax prep, ongoing credit counseling, business planning, and housing counseling as needed. Participants can use this account to partially fund their FAIM account.

DULUTH’S BLUEPRINT TO END POVERTY

A community based initiative to bring Duluthians together to determine what it will take to end poverty in our city. Their goal is to bring economic prosperity and hope to every citizen in Duluth.

SUMMARY

Duluth Head Start continually works to increase and strengthen community partnerships as a way to more effectively support Head Start families. Duluth is a resource rich community that demonstrates efforts to collaborate between agencies enhancement of services to all families living in poverty. Head Start staff, through their community contacts, receives up to date information on service delivery and community resources.

Duluth Head Start’s Community Resource Guide illustrates the depth of resources available to all families in our community and is considered the most thorough and current listing of resources in the Duluth area.