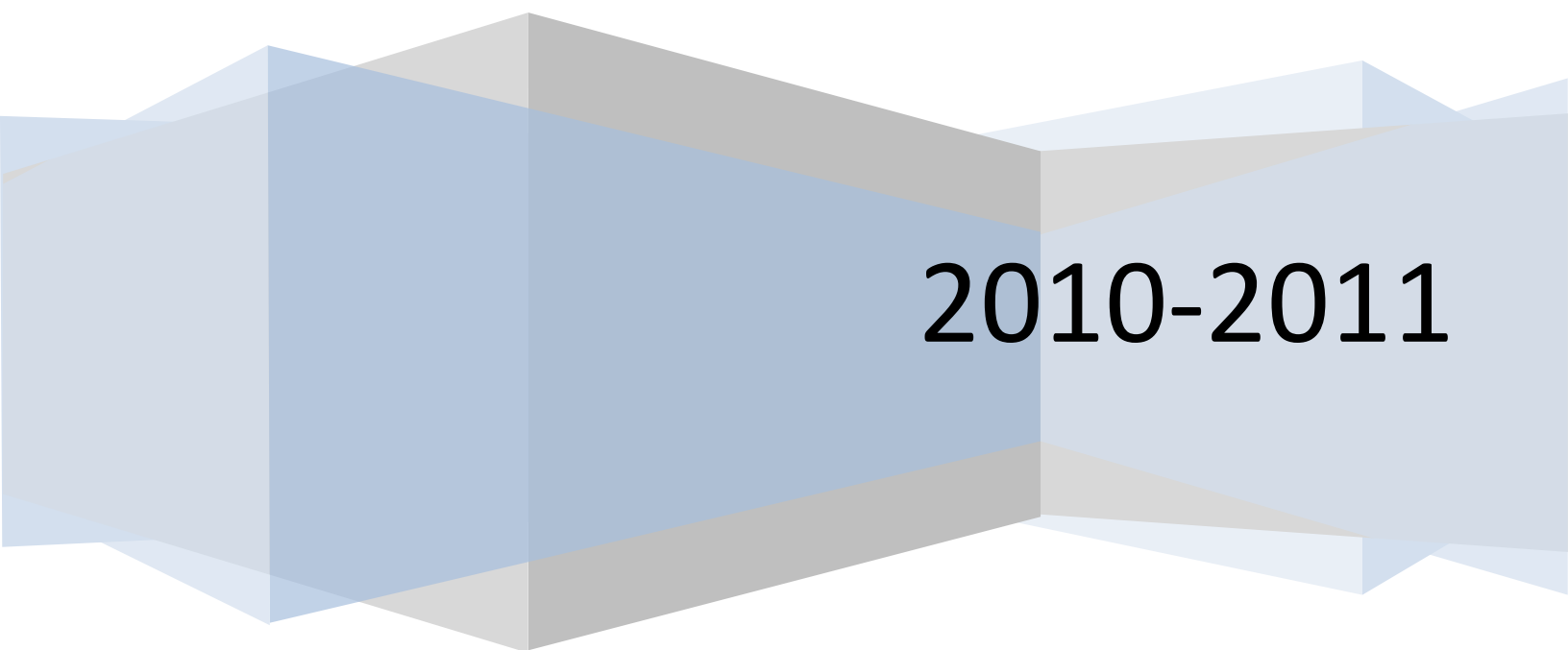


Duluth Public Schools

# Community Assessment

Duluth Head Start Program

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2010-2011

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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 334 children. 270 of those children are three or four years old and are served in six centers all located in Duluth (ISD 709) elementary schools. 64 of those children (37 age birth to two, 27 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 than 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 <sup>st</sup> Avenue West Duluth, MN 55808
Laura MacArthur Elementary	727 North Central Avenue Duluth, MN 55807
Lincoln Park Elementary	2424 West 5 <sup>th</sup> Street Duluth, MN 55806
Nettleton Elementary	108 East 6 <sup>th</sup> Street Duluth, MN 55805
Barnes Early Childhood Center	2102 N. Blackman Avenue, Duluth, MN 55811
YWCA Childcare-Downtown	202 West 2 <sup>nd</sup> Street Duluth, MN 55802
YWCA Childcare- Spirit Valley	411 North 57 <sup>th</sup> Avenue West Duluth, MN 55807
Families in Transition (FIT)	2102 N. 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 MOST CURRENT US CENSUS COMMUNITY SURVEY** figures for 2009, 25.1% of individuals in Duluth live at or below 100% of the federal poverty level. This is a significant increase from 20.9% in 2008.

### **2010 US CENSUS**

In 2009, the overall poverty rate in Duluth is 25.1%, nearly twice the state of Minnesota rate of 11%. Poverty disproportionately affects people of color, single parent families and young children. The overall poverty rate in Duluth for American Indians is about 55%, for African Americans is about 50% and for children under age five, 27.6%. Single mothers living below the poverty level with children under the age of 5 is 82.4%

### **JOBS NOW COALITION**

On July 24, 2009, Minnesota minimum wage increased to \$7.25 per hour, the first increase since August 2005. In greater Minnesota, 15% of the jobs pay less than \$7.75 per hour.

- The average annual cost of meeting basic needs for a family of four with two workers in MN is about \$58,000. To cover these costs each worker must earn \$14.03 per hour.
- Thirty-nine percent of jobs in MN – more than a million jobs – pay less than a family-supporting wage of \$14.03 per hour.
- In St. Louis County, the average annual cost of meeting basic needs for a family of four with 2 workers is about \$52,400. To cover these costs each worker must earn \$12.60 per hour.
- Forty-Three percent of jobs in St. Louis County – more than 61,000 jobs pay less than a family-supporting wage of \$12.60 per hour.
- At the minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour, a couple with two children would have to work 139 hours a week to meet basic needs.
- If the purchasing power of the minimum wage had kept pace with inflation since the late 1960's, it would be \$9.95 per hour. In Northeast MN, 27% of jobs – more than 39,000 jobs – pay less than \$9.95 per hour.

### **MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT 2008 WAGE DATA**

In Minnesota:

- 42 percent of all job openings are part-time. Job seekers outnumber full-time job openings by 8 to 1
- Only one in the six largest occupational groups (healthcare practitioners & technical occupations) offers a median wage higher than \$11.06 per hour
- The other five occupational groups with the most openings are sales & related, office & administrative support, food preparation & serving, healthcare support, and building & grounds cleaning & maintenance. These groups offer a combined median wage of \$8.80 per hour
- The median wage for all openings is \$10.19 per hour
- MN has lost almost 9500 jobs in residential construction since 2005

In St. Louis County:

- The Median Income is \$44,125.00 annually. In Duluth, it is \$35,341.

- There are 13,000 unemployed workers competing for 3,100 unfilled jobs. Job seekers now outnumber job openings by 4 to 1.
- During the past year, job openings have doubled; but even after this sharp increase in openings, the region still has less than half as many opening as it had nine years ago.
- Sixty percent of all openings are full-time. Since only 1,850 job openings are full-time, job seekers outnumber full-time openings by 7 to 1.
- Median wage for all openings is \$9.00/hr
- Nearly two thirds of all openings require no education or training beyond high school
- Occupational groups that have the most openings in St. Louis County
  - Transportation and material moving, Sales and related, Healthcare support.<sup>i</sup>
- The unemployment rate in St. Louis County was 5.8% in July 2007, 10% in July 2009 and 9% in November 2010.
- January Unemployment in Minnesota:

◦	◦ 2009	◦ 2010	◦ Change
◦ Twin Cities	◦ 6.6%	◦ 6.1	◦ -.5
◦ Rochester	◦ 5.9%	◦ 5.5	◦ -.4
◦ St. Cloud	◦ 6.8%	◦ 6.4	◦ -.4

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**

- According to HUD standards, 45.1% of households renting in St. Louis County paid more than they could afford on rent in 2009.
- In 2009, 8.2% of St. Louis County residents paid more than half their income on housing, compared to 6.5% in 2000.<sup>ii</sup>
- On a single day in 2009, 214 people were known to be homeless in our region including 98 children and youth.

### **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.



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

LANGUAGE	08-09	09-10	10-11
English	99.7	99.7	99.5
Asian/Pacific Island (Hmong)	.3	.3	2.5
Spanish	0	0	0
Indo-European (Kurdish)	0	0	0
Hindi			.25

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

<i>2009 City of Duluth LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME</i>			
<b>Population 5 years and over</b>		<b>88,495</b>	<b>%</b>
English only		84,071	95
Language other than English		4,424	.5
Speak English less than 'very well		1,422	1.5
Spanish		1,235	1.4
Speak English less than "very well"		416	.5
Other Indo-European languages		1,947	2.2
Speak English less than "very well"		501	.6
Asian and Pacific Island languages		775	.9
Speak English less than "very well"		417	.5

#### **Duluth Head Start Program Ethnicity Counts**

Race/Ethnicity	Percent 08-09	Percent 09-10	Percent 10-11
American Indian	9.2	10.2	10.24
Asian/ Pacific Islander	1.09	.68	.24
Hispanic	0	.23	0
Black/ African American	12.5	12.7	11.9
White	47.4	47.39	51.66
Multi Racial	27.2	24.04	21.9
Unspecified/ Other	1.09	4.76	3.8

The US Census Bureau provides **RACE AND ETHNICITY**, which indicates a largely homogenous population. Less than 7 percent of the entire population of Duluth is considered “minority”.

2008-2009 Race and Ethnicity: DULUTH, MN	Population	Percent
Total Population	88,495	
White	82,300	93
African American	1,769	2
Native American	1,769	2
Asian	885	1
Hawaiian	0	0
Other/Mixed	1,769	2

**THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY UPDATE OF 2010** 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 63 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	4,453	13.1%
High school graduate/GED	15,605	28.7%
Some college,/Associate's degree	17,393	32
Bachelor's/Graduate/ Professional Degree	17,006	31.2

#### PRELIMINARY STATISTICS ON FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN ENROLLED IN THE PROGRAM FOR THE 2010-2011 YEAR

HEAD START HOUSEHOLD EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT 2010-2011		
Level of Education	Count	Percent
Less than High School Grad	51	13.1%
High School Grad or GED	154	39.5%
Some College/ Associates	150	38.5%
Bachelors or Higher	22	5.6%
Unreported	13	3.3%

The overall on-time graduation rate for Duluth Public Schools is 74.7%. While 80.5% of Caucasian students graduated on time, only 34.33% of American Indian, 49.15% of African American students did the same. Compared to the population of Duluth, Head Start parents are twice as likely not to have graduated from High School.

## ELIGIBLE AND AVAILABLE CHILDREN

According to current census data there are 4,643 children under the age of five within the Duluth city limits. Community Action of Duluth reports that 38.9% of these children live in poverty in Duluth. .

Total Population	84,419	Percent
<b>SEX AND AGE</b>		
Male	40,766	48.3
Female	43,653	51.7
Under 5 years	4,643	5.5
18 years & over	6,837	8
65 years & over	11312	13.4

## 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 43% of the population of St. Louis County resides in the Duluth area.

YEAR	BIRTHS IN ST. LOUIS COUNTY	BIRTHS IN DULUTH 43% of Total
2008	3453	2071
2009	3443	2065
2010	3321	1428

## WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT OUR FAMILIES SO FAR:

51% of Duluth Head Start Families are families of color, 44% of families are white, 5% unspecified  
99% of families speak English as the primary language at home.  
62% of Duluth Head Start families are single parent households.  
38% of Duluth Head Start families are two parent households.  
23% of one-parent households are employed.  
21% of two parent households has one parent employed, 22% has both parents employed.  
10.3% of all Head Start parents are in job training or school  
22% 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 2009 CHILD CARE SURVEY

28% of households that are eligible for childcare subsidy are not aware of their eligibility. Only 14% 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 Minnesota the unmet need for eligible children is 72%
- In the 2008-2009 school year, 10.6% of 3-year-olds and 15.7% of 4-year-olds were enrolled in state funded preschool programs in Minnesota.
- In 2009, 17,058 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 72%.<sup>1</sup>
- 2,047 children with developmental delays participated.
- 18% of participating families had a high school diploma/GED or less.
- 18% of participating families statewide are families of color.
- 4% of participating families spoke a primary language other than English.
- 31% of families participating were low-income, up from 22% in 2004, 10% of the families have annual incomes below \$20,000

### **MINNESOTA CHILDCARE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL NETWORK 2006 REPORT**

#### In Minnesota:

- 2009 childcare survey reports: 14% of households with low incomes report currently receiving childcare subsidy.
- 60% of households with low incomes receiving a subsidy have some out-of-pocket childcare expenses.
- 72% of households with low incomes are aware of the state subsidies to help pay for childcare.
- 46% of households with low incomes receiving childcare subsidy use center based care as their primary arrangement.

#### Childcare Stats:

- 75% of Minnesota families use childcare.
- 25% of children are in childcare full time (35 or more hours a week).
- The percentage of annual income that pays for childcare decreases as household income rises. Among households that pay for child care, those with annual incomes below \$20,000 pay 29 percent of their income, and those with incomes from \$20,000 to \$44,999 pay 18 percent, compared with 9 percent for those with incomes from \$45,000 to \$74,999 and 8 percent for those with household incomes of \$75,000 and above.
- College tuition for the 2010-2011 school year at the University of Minnesota totals about \$11,808 annually.
- 75% of Minnesota children spend some portion of their day in a licensed childcare setting.
- On average, randomly selected children are in childcare nearly 22 hours per week.

### **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 due to an increased allocation. 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 47% of the state median income (32,944 for a family of 3). They may remain on the program until their income is 67% of the state median income 46,963 for a family of 3) or when their copayment exceeds their cost of care.

## **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 2009-2010, they served 84 children; so far this year they have 85 children. They provide service three times per week at three sites: Stowe, Lincoln, and Rockridge. School Readiness staff indicated that approximately 29.3 families attending their program this year 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 more unexpected unemployment than other years.

### **EARLY CHILDHOOD FAMILY EDUCATION (ECFE)**

ECFE is a program providing information and support for parents and their young children (from birth through age 3). In the 2009-2010 school year, they served 425 families. This year they anticipate the same and have 381 families so far. The ISD #709 program had 76 slots available for three-year-olds each year with options at Stowe, Lincoln/Piedmont, Rockridge and Washington Center.

### **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 12:00-2:00. They are in session from the middle of October thru the end of May. In the 2009-2010 year they served 29 students. This year they serve 34 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 83 students. The majority of the children are not living in poverty.

### **SUMMARY**

Most of the child development and child care programs in Duluth work as partners to meet the needs of families. With the Early Reading First grant, Duluth Head Start offered programming for 6 ½ hours per day. Since it ended 2 years ago, Duluth Head Start now offers ½ day sessions 4 days a week. This has made it necessary for many families to utilize childcare resources in the area. These may include Kid Connection, Family Day Care, Child Care centers or relative childcare. The preference for families has been to enroll in Head Start and supplement their childcare needs with other childcare options as needed. There is very little competition keeping 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 2010 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 19.8.

<b>FUNDED ENROLLMENT AND CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES SERVED TO DATE</b>			
YEAR	CHILDREN FUNDED	CHILDREN W/DISABILITIES	PERCENT
2011	342	48	14%
2010	373	44	12.0
2009	373	76	20.3
2008	371	61	16.4

#### THREE-YEAR COMPARISON OF DULUTH PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS RECEIVING SPECIAL SERVICES AS OF February 1, 2010

<b>Birth to Five</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
Speech Language	63	56	39
Developmental Cognitive Disorders – Mild to Moderate	2	2	1
Developmental Cognitive Disorders – Mild	0	0	0
Physically Impaired	2	2	1
Hearing Impaired	3	3	3
Visually Impaired	2	2	1
EBD	5	0	1
Other Health Impaired	0	0	0
Autistic	14	10	11
Deaf Blind	0	0	0
TBI	0	0	0
Developmental Delay	186	215	241
Severely Multiple Impaired			1
<b>TOTAL BIRTH TO 5</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>299</b>

## CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES BY AGE

The following tables show profiles Head Start children with disabilities, their age groups, and the numbers of students by age level receiving special education services as reported by the Duluth Public Schools on 02/01/11.

<b>CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES BY AGE Head Start</b>		
<b>Age</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>In Evaluation</b>
Less than 1 year old	0	0
1	0	0
2	0	0
3	6	4
4&5	36	10
<b>Totals</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>14</b>

<b>NUMBER OF STUDENTS Duluth Public Schools</b>	
Under 12 Months	20
Age 1	42
Age 2	54
Age 3	40
Age 4	61
Age 5	82

## DISABILITY/MENTAL HEATH STATISTICS OF DULUTH HEAD START ENROLLED CHILDREN 02/01/11

<b>SITE</b>	<b>Number of Students with IEP/IFSP</b>	<b>Number of Evaluations in Progress</b>	<b>Mental Health Observations for Non IEP Students</b>	<b>Mental Health Observations for IEP Students</b>
Lincoln	14	2	7	1
Barnes	1	0	0	0
MacArthur	5	5	2	0
Nettleton	13	3	5	0
Stowe	4	2	1	1
Y-Spirit Valley	2	0	0	0
Y-Downtown	2	1	5	0
FIT	1	1	2	1
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>3</b>

## HELP ME GROW

Help Me Grow is the initial point of contact in the city of Duluth for health and development questions about children ages birth to twenty-one. If the question is about a suspected developmental delay, Help Me Grow staff helps with appropriate referrals. They also help 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 15% 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 14% of students identified with disabilities in the current school year, 22% (or 72 mental health contacts to date) of our students have required services from our mental health professionals to assist with Social/Emotional/Behavior 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 modified our enrollment policy to change 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**

- Duluth has the highest number of uninsured children in the state; 13.74% of the children in Duluth lack health care coverage
- 8.2% of people in Minnesota do not have health insurance.
- 78.4% of people in Minnesota have group or employee health insurance.
- 52% of people who are at 0-200% of poverty or below are uninsured. While 24.2% of people above the poverty line are uninsured. The overall population of uninsured in MN has increased by more than 100,000 since 2007.

##### **DENTAL STATEMENT AS OF JANUARY 2011**

Oral health is a priority for Head Start, although challenges continue in finding providers for Head Start children. We have established partnerships with various providers and organizations to serve our children. Duluth Head Start has a long-standing relationship with Lake Superior College Community Dental Clinic. Volunteer dentists and dental hygiene students provide a yearly “dental day” to serve only Head Start children. This year, the date was November 5, 2010. Lake Superior College, along with several other providers, provided dental care free of charge to many of our children on “Give Kids a Smile Day” on February 4, 2011. We continue to expand our relationship with Lake Superior Community Health Dental clinic. Head Start children are given a priority appointment if they indicate they are enrolled in Head Start. We continue to collaborate on a limited basis with Children’s Dental services. Due a change in the collaborative practice agreement, the model of care has changed requiring CDS to send a dentist to Duluth. Dr. Do, a CDS dentist, serviced Duluth Head Start children in their schools on November 3, 4, and 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010. A local pediatric dentist will also take referrals from the Head Start Health coordinator for specially determined circumstances. These 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 all children due to the state reimbursement rate for dental care for children in state insurance programs. Looming state budget issues and changes and possible cuts to dental care funding indicate that challenges 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 States<sup>2</sup>

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			

\*Rank 1 is highest.

*Source: Center on Budget and Policy*

## **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.

## **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**

CURRENT HEAD START STUDENTS BY AGE AND ENROLLMENT 2/1/11				
Age	Number of Students	Enrolled	Waiting	Terminated
Under 1 year	8	6	1	1
1 Year	20	11	0	9
2 years	19	14	0	5
3 Years	93	33	46	17
4 & 5 Years	376	268	41	73
Totals	516	332	88	105

## HEAD START APPLICATION CHARACTERISTICS

	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011
Total Applications	558	548	430
Medical Assistance	409	359	390
TANF	156	160	123

## TOTAL APPLICATIONS BY ELIGIBILITY STATUS

	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011
Income	219	237	204
Over Income	39	43	25
Homeless	45	115	99
Foster Care	38	47	40
Public Assistance	102	73	61

## ENROLLED STUDENTS AND NUMBER OF YEARS IN HEAD START

	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011
First Year	378	251	208
Second Year	122	100	107
Third Year	11	20	8
Fourth Year			10

## ENROLLED KINDERGARTNERS - ISD 709

This is an increase of 169 from last year

2010-2011 Kindergarten Enrollment	
All Day	740
Morning Only	12
Afternoon Only	0
Children with Disabilities	106
Under 5 as of September 1	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>858</b>

## **FAMILY NEEDS IDENTIFIED 2010-2011 (TO DATE)**

	Barnes	Lincoln	MacArthur	Nettleton	Stowe	Y-DT	Y-SV	Total
Food	2	58	8	2	2	2	3	77
Housing	15	15	14	7	12	11	4	68
Clothing	24	56	42	55	17	12	20	226
Transp	16	16	17	22	15	12	1	99
Mental Health	7	10	7	7	6	6	1	44
Substance Abuse	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	4
Child Abuse/Neglect	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
Domestic Violence	9	2	0	5	1	4	0	21

## **FAMILY SERVICES received to date as detailed in the Program Information Report for Duluth Head Start - year 2010-2011.**

<b>FAMILY SERVICES</b>			To Date
	08-09	09-10	10-11
Parenting Education	80 (2)	176	301
Health education	50 (4)	84	300
Emergency/crisis intervention (food, clothing, shelter)	92 (1)	262	229
Transportation assistance	60 (3)	152	90
Mental Health Services	19 (5)	38	42
Domestic violence services	0	17	22
Housing assistance	7	41	69
Adult Education	10	32	89
Substance Abuse and prevention	1	2	5
Child abuse and neglect services	1	4	5
Assistance to families of Incarcerated Ind.	3	4	17
Child Support assistance	0	4	2
Marriage Education	3	2	0
English as a Second Language	0	1	2
Job Training	4	23	38
Totals	238	842	1215

**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.

2010 – 2011

*42.9% of Duluth school children are eligible for the Free and Reduced Price Lunch Program*

School Name	Enrolled	Reduced/Free	Percentage
Homecroft Elementary	390	102	26.2
Lakewood Elementary	287	91	31.7
Lester Park Elementary	335	68	20.3
Lincoln Park Elementary*	424	297	70.0
Lowell Music Magnet Elementary*	482	207	42.9
Laura MacArthur Elementary*	458	340	74.2
Nettleton Magnet Elementary*	450	363	80.7
Rockridge Elementary	184	49	26.6
Stowe Elementary*	359	240	66.9
Early Childhood Special Education	208	24	11.5

\*Schools where Head Start classrooms are located.

## HOMELESSNESS

In the 2010-2011 school year, Duluth Head Start served a total of 118 children experiencing homelessness to date.

## STAFF SURVEY QUESTIONS 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?

<b>SERVICES</b>
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

## 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

The alarming upward trend continues at MN food shelves. From the beginning of the financial crisis (Fall 2008) to this fall, there was a 62% jump in people seeking emergency grocery assistance statewide. That translates to 1.8 million individual visits for emergency grocery assistance at the 300 food shelves in MN.

Minnesota families miss 125 million meals per year. Hunger related costs in MN amount to \$1.2 billion annually.

80,000 Minnesotans receive food assistance every week. So far this year, 88% of callers to Hunger Solutions MN's Food HelpLine were eligible for food stamps but were not yet enrolled. 18% of all callers had children in the home.

The MN participation rate for food stamps is 66% in 2010 compared to 43% in 2007. The participation rate in St Louis County is 56.9%

40% of school lunches served in MN are free or reduced price

## **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 2010, they distributed 3.9 million pounds of food, provided \$3.1 million in meals, served 43,000 people and rescued \$6.2 million worth of food. We are collaborating with the SNAP, (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) outreach worker to ensure that families who qualify for food support receive it if they choose to.

## **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.

<b>DEMOGRAPHICS OF FOOD SHELF</b>	<b>PERCENT</b>
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
- Food Stamps
- Reduced or Free School Lunch
- MFIP
- Fuel Assistance
- SSI-Client
- Ready Work

<b>WIC MONTHLY ENROLLMENT</b>	
2008	2,485
2009	2,669
2010	2,650

So far this year, 269 children enrolled in Head Start are receiving WIC services.

## **MOTHERS AND CHILDREN (MAC)**

MAC is a free food program for children age 5 and women who are postpartum 6-12 months and not breast feeding. 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 549 people in 2010.

## **COMMUNITY ACTION DULUTH – The Reality of Poverty in Duluth (2009 American Community Survey updated in December 2010)**

- The poverty rate was up sharply in 2009 to just over 25% of all Duluthians
- The poverty rate in Duluth has risen by almost 10% since 2006. The following is a look at the percentage of all Duluthians who were at or below 100% of Federal Poverty in the past 4 years:
  - 2009: 25.1%
  - 2008: 20.9%
  - 2007: 18.3%
  - 2006: 15.8
- MN as a whole had an 11% poverty rate in 2009. The poverty rate for Duluth is more than double the rate for the state overall.
- A family of one child and one parent is at or below the poverty guideline if they lived on less than \$14,560 annually
- In 2009, 47.2% of all Duluthians were at or below 200% of Federal Poverty guidelines. This was up from 40.7% in 2008.
- A massive percentage of single mothers in Duluth live in poverty. Families with only a woman present and a related child under the age of 5 had a poverty rate of 82.4%
- All families (1 or 2 parents in the home) with children under 5 have a poverty rate of 38.9%

## **SUMMARY:**

The basic needs data gathered from Head Start families on the initial home visit indicates the top five needs as food, 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. 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 coordinate car pooling at centers 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.

### SAFE HAVEN WOMEN'S SHELTER

In 2010, 274 women and 241 children were seen at intake. Safe Haven had a 95.2% occupancy rate in 2010. This was the highest rate in the program's history. The Women's Shelter and the Family Justice Center, their legal advocacy program, served 1740 people served in 2010. The Family Justice Center served 1164 families who reported a new incidence of abuse with 946 being unduplicated women. 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.

**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 2009, Kids Café fed over 500 children (5,021 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 2010, the Soup Kitchen served 109,381 meals. This is the largest on-site meal program in Duluth.
- **Damiano Social Services**, our emergency assistance, information and referral program. In 2010, Damiano Social Services helped over 1600 individuals and families find solutions to a variety of crises.
- **The Clothing Exchange**, Duluth's only free store, provides clothing and household goods. In 2010, the Clothing Exchange distributed over 468,000 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 2009, Clothes That Work distributed over 12,000 articles of clothing.

### 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

After many years of collaborating with United Way of Greater Duluth to maintain and distribute a community resource guide, Duluth Head Start has decided to publish its own resource guide. Staff is revising and simplifying the existing "Twin Ports Connections Directory" to include resources that are more pertinent to our families. Duluth Head Start is committed to the distribution of the directory and gives a copy to every family recruited for Duluth Head Start, not just those who are 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

Community Action received a grant of \$182,750 to open a new financial support program at their Lincoln Park office in March 2011. The new program will bundle many services together – such as employment training and placement, budgeting and debt reduction, etc. into one.

## **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 for the 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. Complete data from the 2010 Census was not available at the time this Community Assessment was completed. New census data will be reflected in the Community Assessment compiled for 2011.

## RESOURCES

### Online Sources

American Community Survey Update of 2010 ([www.census.gov/acs](http://www.census.gov/acs))  
Citydata.com  
Children'sDefense.org  
Communityactionduluth.org  
Covertheuninsured.org  
Duluth Population & Demographics Diversity Data ([diversitydata.sph.harvard.edu](http://diversitydata.sph.harvard.edu))  
Duluth Prosperity Update 11/10 ([duluthmn.gov/Duluth\\_prosperity\\_agenda/](http://duluthmn.gov/Duluth_prosperity_agenda/))  
Hunger Solutions.org  
Jobs Now Coalition 9/10 ([jobsnowcoalition.org](http://jobsnowcoalition.org))  
Kids Count MN 2010 Fact Sheet ([datacenter.kidscount.org/databook/2010](http://datacenter.kidscount.org/databook/2010))  
Minnesota Department of Education Work Sampling Study ([education.state.mn.us](http://education.state.mn.us))  
Minnesota Department of Education, Parent Questionnaire and Annual Report 1/20/09 ([education.state.mn.us](http://education.state.mn.us))  
Minnesota Housing Partnership 1/11 ([mhponline.org](http://mhponline.org))  
MN Childcare.org  
MN Daily.com  
MN Department of Employment and Economic Development –Positively MN 12/10 ([positivelyminnesota.com](http://positivelyminnesota.com))  
MN Department of Health and Human Services ([dhs.state.mn.us](http://dhs.state.mn.us))  
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MN Head Start Facts & Stats 2007-2009 ([mnheadstart.org](http://mnheadstart.org))  
MN Head Start Facts 2011 ([mnheadstart.org](http://mnheadstart.org))  
MN Thrive Initiative ([smifoundation.org/files/thrive](http://smifoundation.org/files/thrive))  
Second Harvest Food Bank ([northernlakesfoodbank.org](http://northernlakesfoodbank.org))  
Shoreview Post News (12/10) ([shoreviewpost.com](http://shoreviewpost.com))  
St. Louis County Vital Statistics ([co.st-louiscounty.mn.us](http://co.st-louiscounty.mn.us))  
Statewide Household ChildCare Survey 2009 ([dhs.state.mn.us](http://dhs.state.mn.us))  
United Way Community Impact Report 2010 ([unitedwayduluth.org](http://unitedwayduluth.org))  
US Census 2010 ([census.gov](http://census.gov))  
US Census Quickfacts 2009 ([census.gov](http://census.gov))  
WIC ([health.state.mn.us](http://health.state.mn.us))

### Other Sources

Budgeteer News 3/21/10  
Duluth Head Start ChildPlus DataBase  
Second Harvest Northern Lakes Food Bank – Newsletter Winter 2010  
ISD709

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