

The Early Childhood Council of the San Luis Valley  
 609 Main Street, Suite 101, Alamosa, CO 81101  
 P: 719.587.5363  
 www.eccslv.org

# 2013 Early Head Start Annual Report



"We are a community working together to ensure that all children are valued, healthy & thriving in school and life."



## School Readiness for Infants & Toddlers

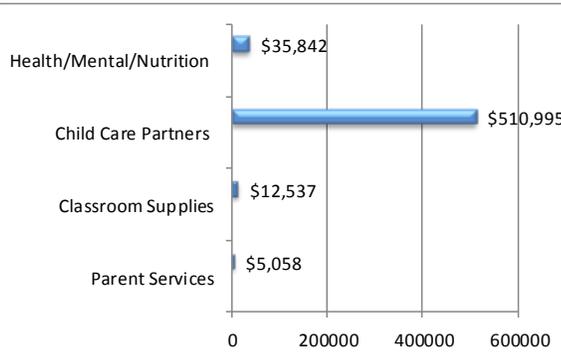
February of 2013 marked the first of quarterly School Readiness Focus Group Meetings. This group of site Directors, parents and EHS staff looks at data relevant to program improvement and has worked to establish School Readiness Goals for the Early Head Start program. These goals are specific to children ages birth to 3, their families, and program staff. EHS School Readiness Goals, data, and progress is shared out through the SR Focus Group. The expectation is that members distribute information to teachers and other interested community members.

### Total number of children and families served

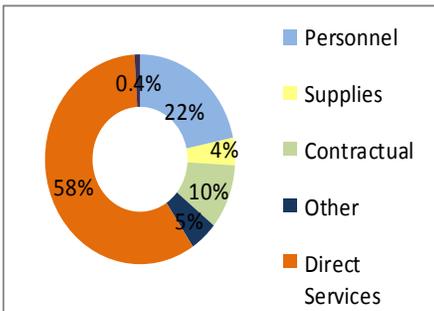
From January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013, Early Head Start Services were provided to 124 children and families in the San Luis Valley. That is 19% of the approximate 650 eligible children ages birth to three in the San Luis Valley. Our current funded enrollment is 72 children being served in 12 classrooms, at 7 childcare partner sites located across 4 counties. Monthly average enrollment was 100%

### Funds used to support programs directly

Proposed spending for Early Head Start of the San Luis Valley for Fiscal Year 2014.



Of the \$872,366 directly from the Federal Funding expended January 01, 2013 through December 31, 2013 only 8.3% went to Administrative Support.



We are required to obtain a 25% non-federal match on every federal dollar expended in our budget. During FY 2013, our local total was \$230,383.

## Audit Report

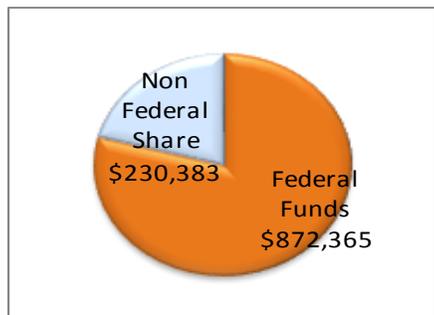
Wall, Smith, Bateman & Associates, Inc. Certified Public Accounts audited the financial statements for the ECCSLV EHS for the 18 month December 31, 2013 and the year than ended June 30, 2011. They issued their report thereon dated March 19, 2013. The report was received by the federal audit Clearinghouse on March 20th, 2013. In the opinion of the Clearinghouse "based on our initial review we believe the audit, performed by WALL, SMITH, BATEMAN, INC., Certified Public Accountants, met Federal audit requirements. There were no findings associated with this report that were identified for formal resolution action by the Department of Health and Human Services." We are currently engaged in the 2013 Audit

## Self-Assessment

The EHS annual Self-Assessment was completed in June of 2013. The Self-Assessment was completed with input from EHS staff, teachers, program directors, Policy Council and Board Members, and members from various community agencies.

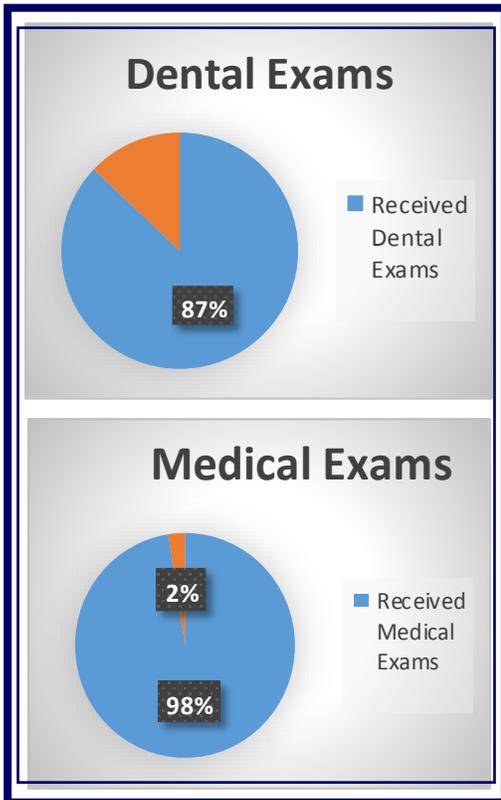
Through the Self-Assessment process the EHS staff identified both program strengths and areas of need.

Continuous Quality Improvement Plans were developed to address the identified areas of need and shared with the Policy Council and Board of Directors.



## EHS Children are prepared for Kindergarten in a Variety of ways!

- The ECCSLV Early Head Start helps prepare children and their families for success in Kindergarten, and throughout life, in five areas of School Readiness identified by the Office of Head Start. These areas are: Social and Emotional Development, Language and Literacy Development, Approaches to Learning, Cognition and General Knowledge, and Physical Well-Being and Motor Development.
- Families are encouraged to be involved as their child's first teacher. Working together, the EHS staff and families develop children's individual goals during Home Visits and Family/Teacher Conferences. This lays a foundation of parental interaction and involvement as parents begin to value themselves as lifelong partners in the education of their children.
- By building responsive, respectful, reflective relationships children learn to trust their caregivers helping them to develop positive social emotional skills.
- The more children are read to and spoken to, the more language they learn. A child's home language is included in EHS classrooms and teachers work to provide consistency with the child's home whenever possible.
- Children's individual interests are observed and planned for by the qualified classroom staff and the child's families. This encourages development and promotes the child's individual approach to learning. Children with disabilities are included in the classrooms whenever possible.
- Both indoor and outdoor activities are provided to encourage children's gross motor development. Art, shape sorters, rattles and many other age appropriate materials are provided in the classrooms to encourage the development of fine motor skills.
- Children are involved in simple personal hygiene tasks and the EHS program works with families to provide the best nutritional information for the child and the family unit.
- Using this team approach and addressing children's own strengths, interests, and needs helps prepare the individual child for success in Kindergarten and throughout their life.



### Parent Involvement

The Early Head Start Policy Council is made up of parents of EHS enrolled children and community members.

Policy Council members participate in policy making and other decision making regarding the program.

8 parents and 2 community members served on the Policy Council in FY 2013

Policy Council members relay information from PC Meetings to Parent Committee Meetings at childcare partner sites.

Through Parent Committees, parents and families have the opportunity to provide input on programming and family support and help plan educational and family program events.

Parents and EHS Staff develop Family Partnerships which focus on achieving family and child-centered goals.

### Community Partnership

EHS has given us the opportunity to create community partnerships that bring families, children, and child care providers together to create a more cohesive support network in the following areas:

- Transitioning between programs
- Finding quality childcare
- Providing services to children with disabilities
- Referrals
- Collaborative support for families

### Federal Review

Just 7 months after starting the NEW San Luis Valley EHS Program, The Administration for Children and Families (AFC) conducted an on-site monitoring review of the ECCSLV ARRA funded EHS program from 11-28-2010 to 12-3-2010. The "overview or finding" report was received on March 15, 2011. There were NO findings in fiscal management and child safety. The program was found out of compliance in these areas coverings:

- Covering child accident insurance
- Program monitoring
- Mental health services for home-based option families
- Transition plans
- Regular policy council meetings
- Policy council and parent committee structure
- Annual report
- 10% of children enrolled with disabilities
- Conducting a comprehensive self-assessment

The ECCSLV took corrective action immediately and all areas of non-compliance were corrected within the 120 day window. A follow up review was conducted in August of 2011. The final report was received in February 2012 and verifies that all items have been corrected. ECCSLV is anticipating a Federal Triennial Review in April of 2014.

