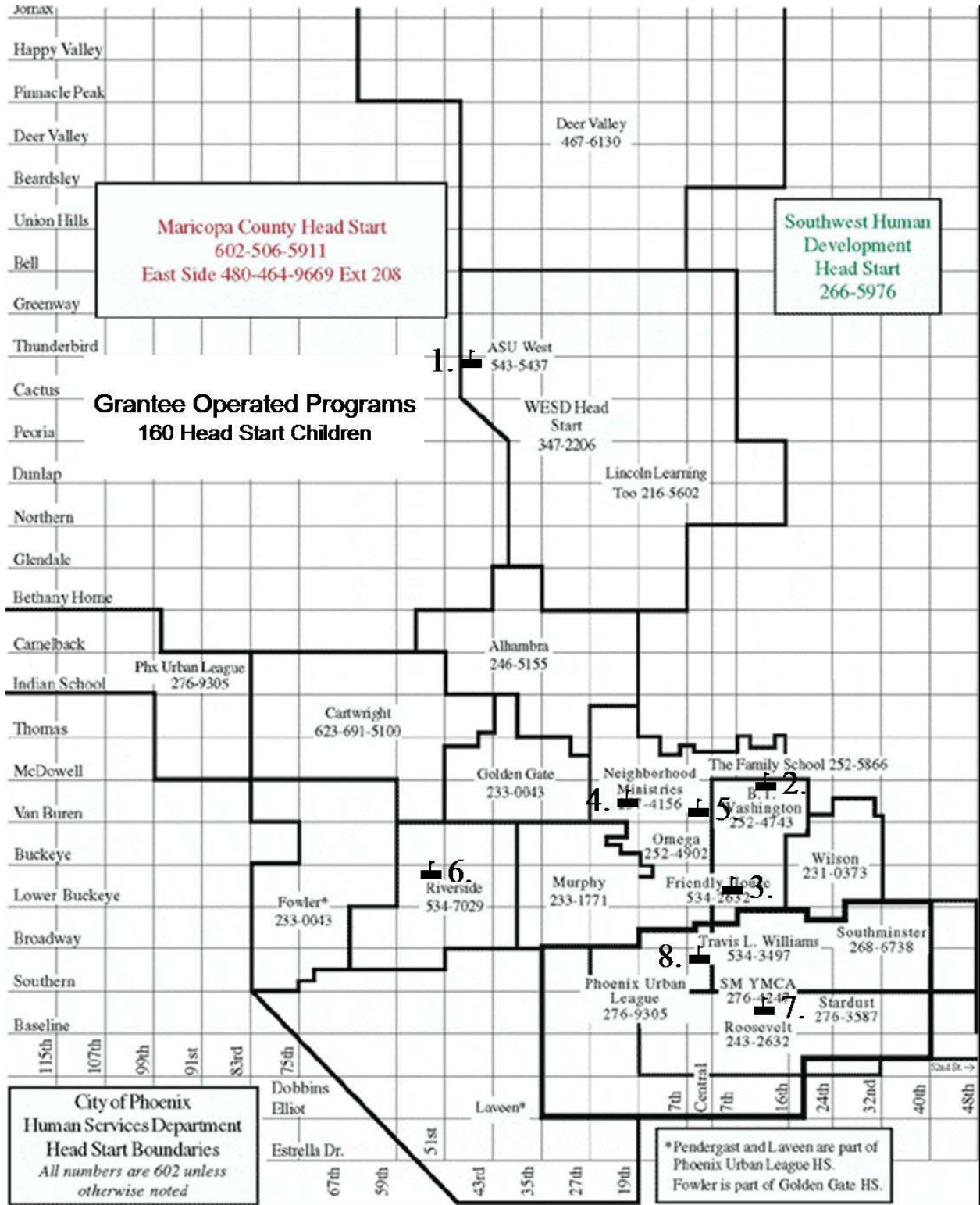


City of Phoenix Grantee Operated Programs

City of Phoenix Head Start Map Showing Individual Delegate Agencies Grantee Operated Programs



Grantee Operated Sites Refunding Application Program Year 39 (2004-2005)

Background

The City of Phoenix responded to the Welfare Reform Act by increasing efforts to make full-day, full-year childcare available to all low-income families who need it. Head Start is a comprehensive early childhood program for three- and four-year-olds from low-income families. The City of Phoenix is one of seven regional grantees that receive federal funding to deliver Head Start services in Arizona. In addition to early childhood education, Head Start provides medical, dental and nutritional care, social services and many involvement opportunities for families. The City of Phoenix has delivered Head Start services to low-income children and families since 1965. The Grantee Operated Head Start program is administered by the Human Services Department's Education Division.

Today the City of Phoenix directly operates eight Head Start classrooms throughout the city, providing convenient access to extended day care. By providing stable and consistent environments for children, with convenience for parents and access to Head Start's comprehensive services, the City fully supports the social and emotional well-being of children.

Mission

The mission of the City of Phoenix Head Start program is: "To promote self-sufficiency and well-being by providing quality comprehensive child & family development services."

Philosophy Statement

It is the practice of City of Phoenix Head Start to enhance the early childhood development of all our children. In order to effectively enhance each child's growth and development, we:

- Respect and celebrate diversity.
- Engage in a respectful partnership with each child's family.
- View each child as a capable and competent learner.
- Believe in fostering the development of the whole child.
- Provide children with meaningful active learning experiences, and provide for interaction with other children, adults and open-ended materials in a safe, healthy, and joyful learning environment.
- Ensure all learning experiences are developmentally appropriate and focused on the needs, strengths, interests and abilities of the children.
- Teach skills and concepts while exploring content-rich subjects such as the arts, the sciences, literature and the social sciences.
- Provide a carefully arranged learning environment that has the potential to engage children in learning and is cared for and valued by the children and adults.
- View all adults as life learners and researchers.

Programs Operated

Following is a profile of each of the City of Phoenix Grantee Operated programs. Numbers reference the corresponding locations on the map.

1. ASU West CDC

One of the first partnerships, beginning in 1998, still provides Head Start and childcare services to college students. Arizona State University West Child Development Center fully integrates 20 Head Start students into four exemplary child development classrooms. Full-day services are provided to parents enrolled in school, training programs or working, from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

2. The Family School

With an increase in the number of mental health referrals for Head Start children, the Grantee Operated Program partnered with The Family School, a nonprofit center providing education, prevention, intervention and support programs to a diverse population ages 18 months to 7 years of age and their families. About 30% of the students have a diagnosis or history designating them at-risk for future school and mental health problems. The Family School, with a high adult-to-child ratio, is able to offer a flexible program that integrates mental health and special education interventions into the daily activities. Many of the young children enrolled have already “failed” in other group settings. The provision of Head Start in this integrated setting allows comprehensive services to be available for the children and families.

3. Friendly House CDC at Academia del Pueblo Charter School

Another partnership offering Head Start in a childcare setting is Friendly House Child Development Center at Academia del Pueblo Charter School. The Head Start classroom moved into the new center in 2000. The families at Friendly House Head Start have the opportunity of childcare services from infancy through eighth grade. Friendly House Head Start is a four-hour program with childcare services provided before and after Head Start, from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. This partnership offers convenient access to childcare and Head Start for all siblings.

4. Neighborhood Ministries

The Grantee Operated Program embarked on its first faith-based partnership meeting the early childhood needs of an open door fellowship church for urban poor families called Neighborhood Ministries. The Head Start classroom is located at the neighborhood center, which offers Head Start families and others a food bank, clothing bank, summer camp, mentoring program for teen mothers, bicycle shop, volunteer tutoring for school-age children, and an incentive-based stay-in-school program for students in 5th-through-12th grades. One night a week over 350 kids look for the bus that brings them to the neighborhood center where they spend time in creative activities, sports, bible stories, and small group sharing. Many of the families at the Neighborhood Ministries site are considered homeless and very transient. Neighborhood Ministries recently opened its doors to The Neighborhood Christian Clinic; the Head Start children were the first to receive services. Each child was given a physical and dental check-up.

5. Thomas J. Pappas School

The newest partnership is with the Thomas J. Pappas School, serving children of homeless families. Pappas Head Start provides a nurturing environment for preschool age siblings of children already enrolled in the School. Head Start and Pappas together stepped up to the challenge of providing services to families as they transition from shelters to homes throughout the city. Pappas is providing transportation to and from Head Start. Located on campus, Head Start children have access to medical and dental services, clothing room, food, once a month birthday activities, and a wealth of donated items such as shoes and book bags.

6. Riverside

Riverside Head Start continues to provide opportunities to families living in the Riverside School District. Children attend a four-hour Head Start program and then ride the bus home where a family member cares for them.

7. Stardust Foundation

Another unique Grantee Operated Head Start site is Stardust Head Start. This site is located in the Habitat for Humanity's South Ranch Community. Stardust Foundation is a non-profit organization which supports this Head Start classroom as one of their many community philanthropic endeavors. Families in this neighborhood have access to after school programs for school-age children, adult education programs including budgeting, GED, ESL, and computer time in the lab. The majority of families enrolled in this Head Start classroom come from within the neighborhood. Because the parents live in the neighborhood, this classroom usually has 90% parent participation. Stardust Head Start is a four-hour program with the option of extended-day Head Start until 4:30 p.m. for working parents.

8. Travis L. Williams

The Travis L. Williams Head Start classroom is located in one of the City-owned Family Services Center. TLW Head Start is a full-day program 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for families who work or are in school or training. The multipurpose social services center provides the public with social services, education, health, advocacy, and any other social or human services needs.

Profile

Because the Grantee Operated Head Start Program encompasses so many different areas and neighborhoods of Phoenix, statistics reflect many different aspects of the City itself. Arizona is one of the fastest growing states in the country, with Maricopa County increasing by approximately 45% in the past ten years.

- 37.5% of single moms with children under age of 5 are below the poverty level
- 16% of two-parent families with children under age 5 are below the poverty level

In a report entitled Working but still Poor (Children's Action Alliance, 1997) data reveal that most poor Arizona families with children are not relying primarily on welfare, but are working full or part-time, minimum wage jobs. Three out of four families in Arizona include parents who work. For almost one-third of all families with children, wages are so low that their family income remains below the federal poverty levels. Moreover, this percentage of families classified as "working poor" increased 54% during the past two decades. Among Arizona families identified as poor under the federal poverty standard, only 22% depend on welfare as their major source of income, while 63% rely primarily on wages.

Three years ago, community assessments showed that the critical need was quality affordable childcare. The City of Phoenix Head Start program has responded to this need by providing full-day, full-year Head Start or Head Start with childcare services wrapped around it to make a full-day of services for families. These full-day classrooms are reserved for parents who are employed, in school or in a job training program. The results of the more recent community assessment showed that childcare is no longer one of the top critical needs of families. Among the survey reports from the Grantee Operated sites this year families feel we need more services for dental care, utility assistance, and housing.