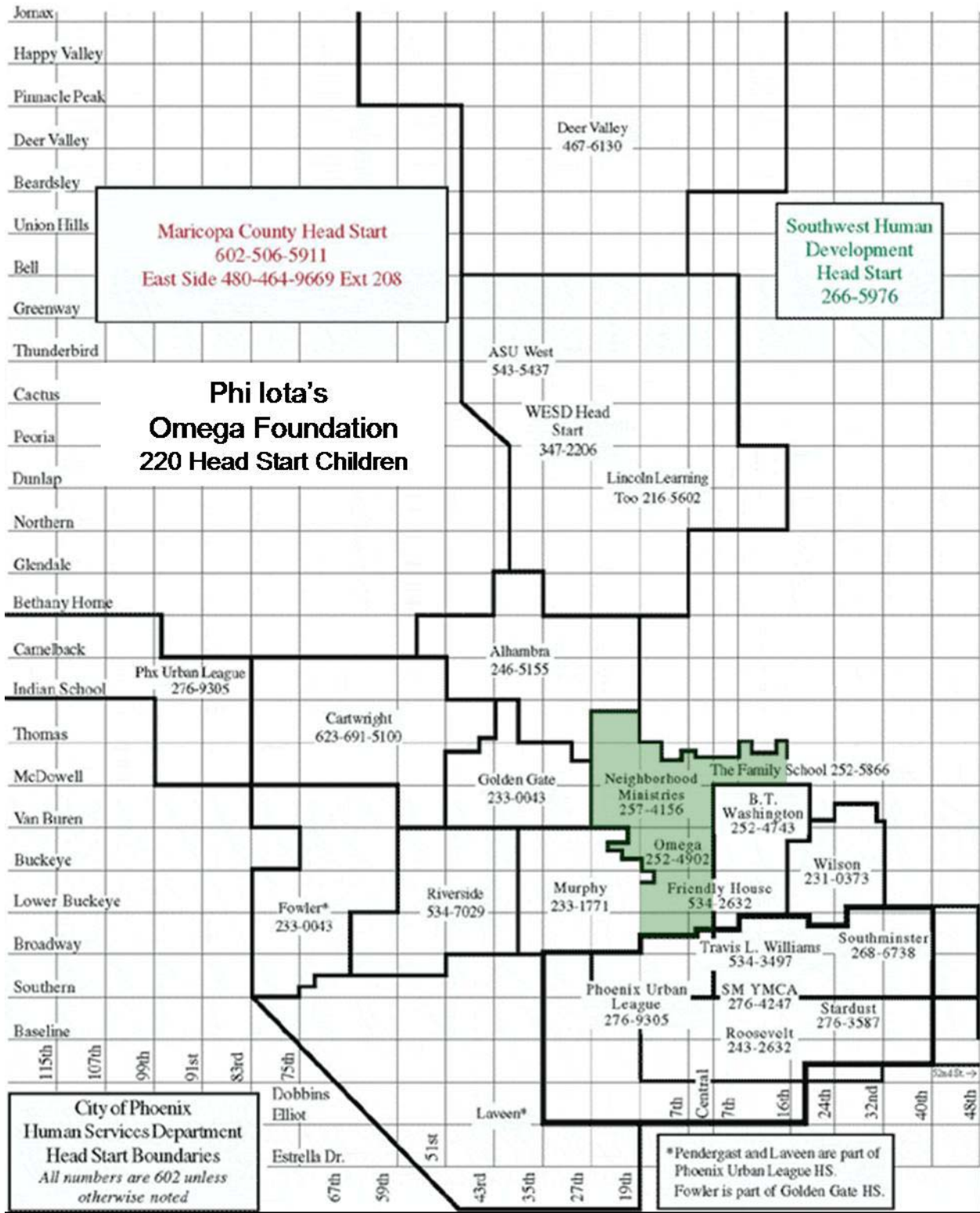


Phi Iota's Omega Foundation, Inc.

**City of Phoenix Head Start Map Showing Individual Delegate Agencies
Phi Iota's Omega Foundation, Inc.**



City of Phoenix Head Start

Program Approvals

Program Year 39 (2004-2005)

Community Assessments, Goals, Objectives, and Action Plan

Delegate Agency Name: Phi Iota's Omega Foundation, Inc.
Address: 707 W. Grant St., Rm. 119
Phoenix, AZ 85007

APPROVED: _____ Date: _____
Board Chairperson/Executive Director

APPROVED: _____ Date: _____
Delegate Agency Director

APPROVED: _____ Date: _____
Policy Committee Chairperson

Phi Iota's Omega Foundation, Inc.
Refunding Application
Program Year 39 (2004-2005)

Profile

Omega Head Start program is located within the inner city of Phoenix Arizona, a large metropolitan area that exhibits all the good and bad features related to big city living.

Each classroom is housed on campuses in the Phoenix Elementary School District #1 attendance area. This school district has 14 schools; Omega Head Start classes are located at eight of these campuses. A partnership with the school district allows Omega to be a community service that helps to benefit the preschool population and the larger community. Because the schools are a center of their community, the program weaves out to include and benefit from all of the programs offered by a large inner-city school district.

The Omega attendance areas are diverse and unique. The eastern area is made up of manufacturing companies, community based businesses, mom & pop thrift stores, old established neighborhoods and newly-built condominium gated communities. This new construction changed the face of this area and displaced some of the older homes within the last few years.

The northern area has remained constant physically, while "new immigrants" move into the old established apartment and condominium complexes. This new migration has helped add to the ethnic diversity of the Omega Head Start program.

The western area finds new houses, trailer parks, and project houses. This area has a highly-transient population.

The center of Omega's attendance area is the downtown Phoenix business district, the hub of the business, government and courts communities and a social gathering place. America West Arena houses the Phoenix Suns basketball team, recently remodeled to accommodate cultural events. Next door is Bank One Ballpark, home of the Arizona Diamondbacks baseball team. The area houses several theaters, restaurants and taverns. The Phoenix Civic Plaza and Convention Center is scheduled to be doubled in size to accommodate more, bigger and more diverse meetings. An additional new major hotel is anticipated to be built in response to the larger Convention Center

This area is a major service employment district and a significant percentage of Omega Head Start families work in this community's service industry.

Bethune Site

The southern boundary site is the Bethune community. This area exhibits older homes that were built about in the immediate post-war era. The original owners have moved out and most homes are rented. A number of houses are abandoned and boarded up. Within the last 3 years, some small efficiency apartments have been built. This older community has changed from a once stable area, to a highly-transient younger population.

Capitol Site

This attendance area is located two blocks from the Arizona State Capitol, which has been renovated within the last three years. This school site was also renovated to upgrade the facility and to help with removing blight in

| Site | Head Start Classrooms | Head Start Enrollment | Types of Programs | Total School Enrollment |
|---------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Bethune | 2 | 40 | Morning & afternoon | 582 |
| Capitol | 1 | 20 | Morning | 428 |
| Emerson | 1 | 20 | Morning | 516 |
| Heard | 2 | 40 | Morning & extended | 776 |
| Kenilworth | 1 | 20 | Morning | 557 |
| Lowell | 2 | 40 | Morning | 619 |
| Monterey Park | 1 | 20 | Morning | |
| Whittier | 1 | 20 | Morning & Extended | 467 |
| Totals | 10 | 220 | | |

this community. Several new affordable sliding scale apartments have been built in this area. Several homeless shelters within this community add another standard of living.

Emerson Site

This catchment area has undergone a major renovation and community beautification, effort within the last few years. Many homes have been refurbished and are for sale. These homes have become less affordable for the Head Start families, and are being purchased by others able to afford the homes. This fact has had an effect on our program enrollment also. This school's total enrollment has increased; however the number of eligible preschool children has decreased.

Heard Site

This school site has found an increase in refugee families with the last few years. Apartment complexes have been designated to handle the new immigrants that are coming to the Phoenix area. This fact has changed the ethnic composition of the area and the family cultural dynamics that lead to a more diverse community. This school has established programs to meet the diverse needs of this changing community. The Head Start classroom recently moved into a new facility at this campus as a partnership between our program, the Principal and the School Board.

Kenilworth Site

The Kenilworth school site is on the National Historic Register. This community has many older single dwelling homes that are being renovated and refurbished to create a community of beauty and purpose. A very active community organization strongly advocates for change in this community. New business are being opened and may create local area jobs.

This school community has experienced a change in recent years in the economic and ethnic groups that live in this area. This school site has proven to be more stable and constant enrollment site in recent years.

Lowell Site

This school attendance area continues to maintain a constant enrollment. Families in this area tend to stay in this area and make full use of the resources that are familiar and near. A close-knit community, most local businesses modify their services to accommodate the culture, language and other needs of the people in the community. Projects house many of Omega Head Start's children, who are able to walk to school. The classroom that continues to be fully enrolled and calls are constant for this site. This area is labeled "The Barrio" because of the high percentage of low-income Hispanic groups in this area.

Monterey Park Site

This is a very unique site that we have occupied a classroom for only 2 years. On this site is located in the gifted students program, special education speech therapy offices and testing services and Omega Head Start program. The school district is committed to providing services to a special population to help in the development of intellectual, emotional, social and developmentally appropriate activities.

The children were historically offered transportation to this area and as soon as funds permit Omega will partner with the school district as a part of program improvement funds to provide transportation for Head Start families.

Whittier Site

This site was established from the last three-year community needs assessment. Families in the community advocated to ensure that Omega Head Start was able to provide services in this area. Because of an identified need, the Principal at this site agreed to allow Omega to offer extended day service for working families.

The community has older single dwelling homes that have been renovated, remodeled, and are selling at a higher price than Head Start families are able to afford. This area has many businesses and provides employment opportunities for Head Start families.

Challenges

Omega Head Start has been in this community for over 37 years and is now seeing third generation children through the program. Research has shown that early learning years play a crucial role in the development of the intellect, self-esteem and self confidence in children. Omega's goal is to provide the most comprehensive learning environment and to meet the needs of the children and families and extend these vital services to the community. This has proven to be a strength of the program.

The program has managed to keep abreast of many nuances that have occurred in Head Start over the last few years.

Enrollment

Omega Head Start faces a challenge of enrollment because of the many other pre-school opportunities that are becoming available within the community. Competition comes from charter schools, district sponsored pre-school, day care homes, and other grantee operated programs in our area.

Housing Projects Transition

Omega faces another challenge in its catchment area. The school site where the administrative offices are housed is experiencing a dilemma within the next three to four years. An aggressive City of Phoenix partnership plan called Hope VI Project is planning to demolish the Mathew Henson housing projects to build another public housing facility. The completed project is stated to house more families than the original community. This school year the majority of the families had to relocate during the pre-construction phase in December. The school district had to restructure its school plan to accommodate the transient school population. The children that once lived in the Mathew Henson project housing attend Head Start at the Monterey Park site. Last school year the district bused children to Monterey Park; this year those logistics could not be provided. Consequently, enrollment at Monterey Park has been low because the parents are responsible for transporting the children. Omega will continue to work with the Hope VI project, the PESD #1 District and Dunbar School to help to provide an alternative to serve the children that still live near this community.

Health

Another challenge for Omega Head Start is the continually growing population of undocumented and uninsured persons. Children are coming to the program without means to comply with the program's health requirements. Arizona has a Kid Care program benefiting children that meet the criteria for this program. The School District has also established school-based health clinics at four of the Omega schools. These programs are funded by Tobacco Tax funds and private foundations. Services are offered to children not eligible for government or private insurance programs.

Special Needs

Omega Head Start has a long standing partnership with P.E.S.D. #1 to provide a quality learning environment, inclusive services and a sound strengths-based educational program for children with disabilities. Omega program typically serves a high number of children with disabilities and has provided a classroom in collaboration with the School District and Southwest Human Development, an agency specializing in services with children with disabilities at all levels,

| Other Child Care Facilities By Zip Code⁷ | | |
|--|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| Omega Head Start Site | Zip Code | Licensed Child Care Facilities |
| Bethune | 85007 | 4 |
| Capitol | 85007 | 4 |
| Emerson | 85006 | 7 |
| Heard | 85015 | 19 |
| Kenilworth | 85003 | 5 |
| Lowell | 85003 | 5 |
| Monterey Park | 85004 | 10 |
| Whittier | 85006 | 7 |

⁷ Information based on Arizona Department of Health Services web site, licensed day care centers by zip code.

including: Pre-School Moderate Delay; Pre-School Severe Delay; Pre-School Speech/Language and Children/Family Receiving Mental Health Services.

Projected/Anticipated number of Pre-School Children with Disabilities.

Maricopa County has the largest concentration of Head Start programs. The inner city of Phoenix has the most diverse, ethnic, and culturally diverse population. The ethnicity of Omega's students reflects the total population in regards to the percentage of culture represented.

Overall Summary

Assessment of Need

The Omega Head Start Program is one of two Head Start programs located in the Phoenix Elementary School District #1. Omega is located in the inner City of Phoenix where the population is highly concentrated. Omega services three housing projects, which provide the highest number of Head Start children.

Projections

- Next Year incoming student population: Total 9,530
- Incoming Pre School Children: Total 568
- Anticipated Pre School Special Needs Children: Total 29

Community Strengths

1. Many old established residences and neighborhoods.
2. Schools are located in local neighborhoods.
3. City of Phoenix Housing Projects are well maintained.
4. Head Start Program in close proximity to local residents.
5. Omega and Booker T. Washington Head Start have been located in community for more than thirty combined years.

Community Resources:

Many identified resources are in the community, but some essential services are located outside the community, posing a problem for local transportation services.

Key Community Needs:

1. Affordable housing
2. Affordable, quality day care
3. Adequate transportation
4. Crime prevention strategies
5. Affordable, adequate and accessible health care
6. Summer recreational activities for children (all ages).