



**Gila River Head Start &
Early Head Start Annual
Report 2012-2013**

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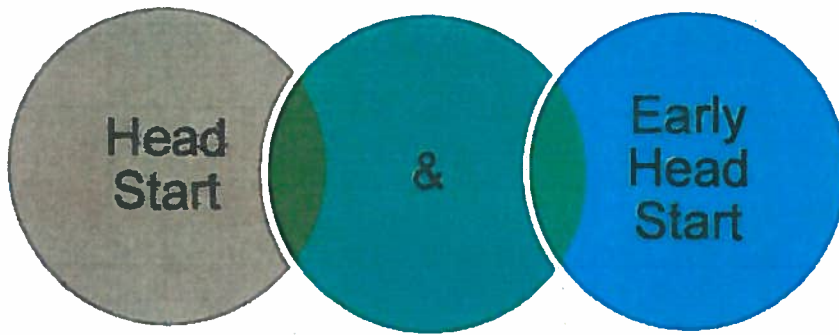
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INTRODUCTION |

Gila River Head Start & Early Head Start Program services are designed to provide all children with a safe, nurturing, engaging, enjoyable, and secure learning environment. Head Start is a school year program that offers a full day-full year center-based option that is federally funded to serve 203 children. The program currently operates five days a week (Monday - Friday) from 7:00am – 6:00pm. Breakfast, Lunch and an afternoon snack are provided for the children in a family-style setting. Teachers work from 6:30am-6:00pm during the days of operation to allow time for sanitation and preparation.

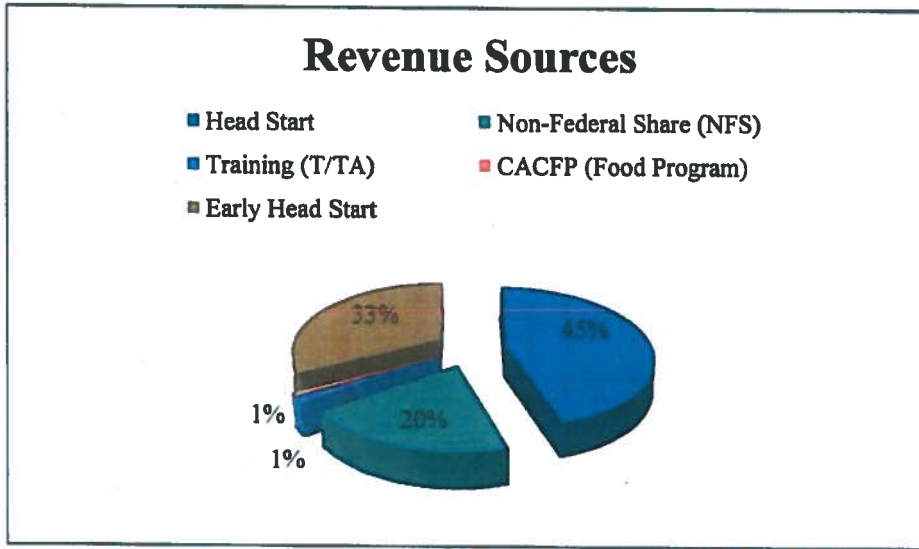
The Gila River Head Start Program is committed to laying the foundation for positive growth and development of our children, families, staff and Community by providing and maintaining a safe and nurturing environment. This is accomplished through direct services in the home and the center, the educational and empowerment process, and through working in partnership with parents and existing community agencies.

The Gila River Head Start Program provides services to Gila River Indian Community Head Start eligible children living in Districts 2-7 within the Community as our first priority, and GRIC children living outside the Community our second priority if space is available. Head Start is funded to provide services for 203 preschool age children and Early Head Start (EHS) services to 92 infants and toddlers and pregnant women. Our Head Start Centers are located in Sacaton, providing services to families living in Districts 2 and 3, Santan in District 4, Vah-Ki in District 5, and District 6, providing services to families living in Districts 6 and 7. We have 1 EHS classrooms at the VHM High School location providing services to families in District 3 while giving priority to students attending VHM High School, 3 EHS classrooms at Vah-Ki providing services to families living in Districts 5, 3 classrooms at Santan providing services to families living in District 4 and 5 EHS classrooms at D6, providing services to families living in Districts 6 and 7.

The Gila River Indian Community is the government entity with Head Start being a program under the Tribal Education Department within its organization. The Gila River Indian Community Council is composed of 17 members. Elections are held yearly in April. Each Council member serves a Three-year term. There are currently 21,277 enrolled Gila River tribal members. The Gila River Indian Community, located on 577 square miles, or 372,000 acres of land, on the southern boundary of the Phoenix

metropolitan area in Maricopa and Pinal Counties of southern Arizona. Our Policy Council is comprised of parents of currently enrolled children and a community representative. Our parent representation is from Head Start and Early Head Start. During the year 2012-2013, the following individuals served on the Parent Policy Council: Leslie Jackson, Celeste Jackson, Ceidra Ugalde, Saralee Rodriguez, Elisia Manuel, Erika Hernandez, Kristen Mercado, and Felicia Lewis.

FUNDING |



CATEGORY	HS	EHS	TTA	NFS	CACFP	TOTAL
a. Personnel	\$780,891	\$470,067	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,250,958
b. Fringe Benefits	\$428,479	\$ 285,006	\$0	\$840,323	\$0	\$1,553,808
c. Travel	\$87,144	\$ 70,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$157,144
d. Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
e. Supplies	\$120,000	\$85,000	\$0	\$0	\$88,318	\$205,000
f. Contractual	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
g. Construction	\$0	\$ 0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
h. Other	\$497,793	\$479,863	\$57,048	\$0	\$0	\$1,034,704
i. Total Direct Charges	\$1,914,307	\$1,389,936	\$57,048	\$840,323	\$88,318	\$4,201,614
j. Indirect Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
k. Total (a -j)	\$1,914,307	\$1,389,936	\$57,048	\$840,323	\$88,318	\$4,201,614

ENROLLMENT |

Program	Children Served	% of Eligible Children Served	Funded Enrollment	Average Monthly Enrollment
Early Head Start	92	29%	92	100%
Head Start	203	30%	203	100%
Sacaton- IIS	60	9%		100%
Santan- IIS	52	8%		100%
Vah Ki- IIS	40	6%		100%
D6- IIS	51	7%		100%
VHVI- IIS	8	Varies		100%
Santan- IIS	24	8%		100%
Vah Ki- IIS	24	8%		100%
D6- IIS	32	10%		100%
Pregnant Moms	4	N/A		100%

AUDITS |

During this year a Follow Up Review was Reported on 6/19/2012 this report confirmed that the 6 findings identified in the 2011 year had been rectified. At this time the Head Start Program was found to be out of compliance in one additional applicable Head Start Program Performance Standard in the area of Child Health Requirements and was given 120 days to correct. The Head Start Program was able to correct that finding within the time allotted.

MEDICAL AND DENTAL |

Health Statistics:

Percent complete within 45 day deadline:

Hearing: 100%

Vision: 100%

Head Start:

Early Head Start:

Physical Exams: 100%

Physical Exams: 100%

Nutrition: 100%

Nutrition: 100%

Immunizations: 97%

Immunizations: 100%

PARENT INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES |

From the very first meeting with the families, which is usually our Open House, parents are offered the opportunity to be involved with the program. We provide each family a copy of our Parent Handbook.

As their child's first and most important teacher, parents have an important role in the program. We reach out to the parents to learn more about their family culture and norms. We talk with parents about their goals for their children so that we can better help them reach those goals.

Parents attend site parent meetings, serve on Policy Council, Health Service Advisory Committee, Curriculum Committee, Fundraising Committee (benefit bingo, bake sales, etc.).

Along with regular site and committee meetings, we provided monthly parent meetings for parents/guardians, staff, substitutes and volunteers along with family socials. We also provide three (3) Literacy events (RIF book give-aways) and an end-of-the-year Family Fun Day that is for all families in the program.

Parents are always welcome in the classroom by helping with or leading activities or projects, attending learning trips, planning classroom activities with the teaching staff, and introducing or sharing their culture with the class.

There are a number of ways that parents can help teaching staff by sharing opinions, ideas and thoughts, working on projects at home, communicating with the staff, helping other parents feel welcome, and reinforcing learning at home. Teachers also conduct two (2) home visits and two (2) parent/teacher conferences during the school year.

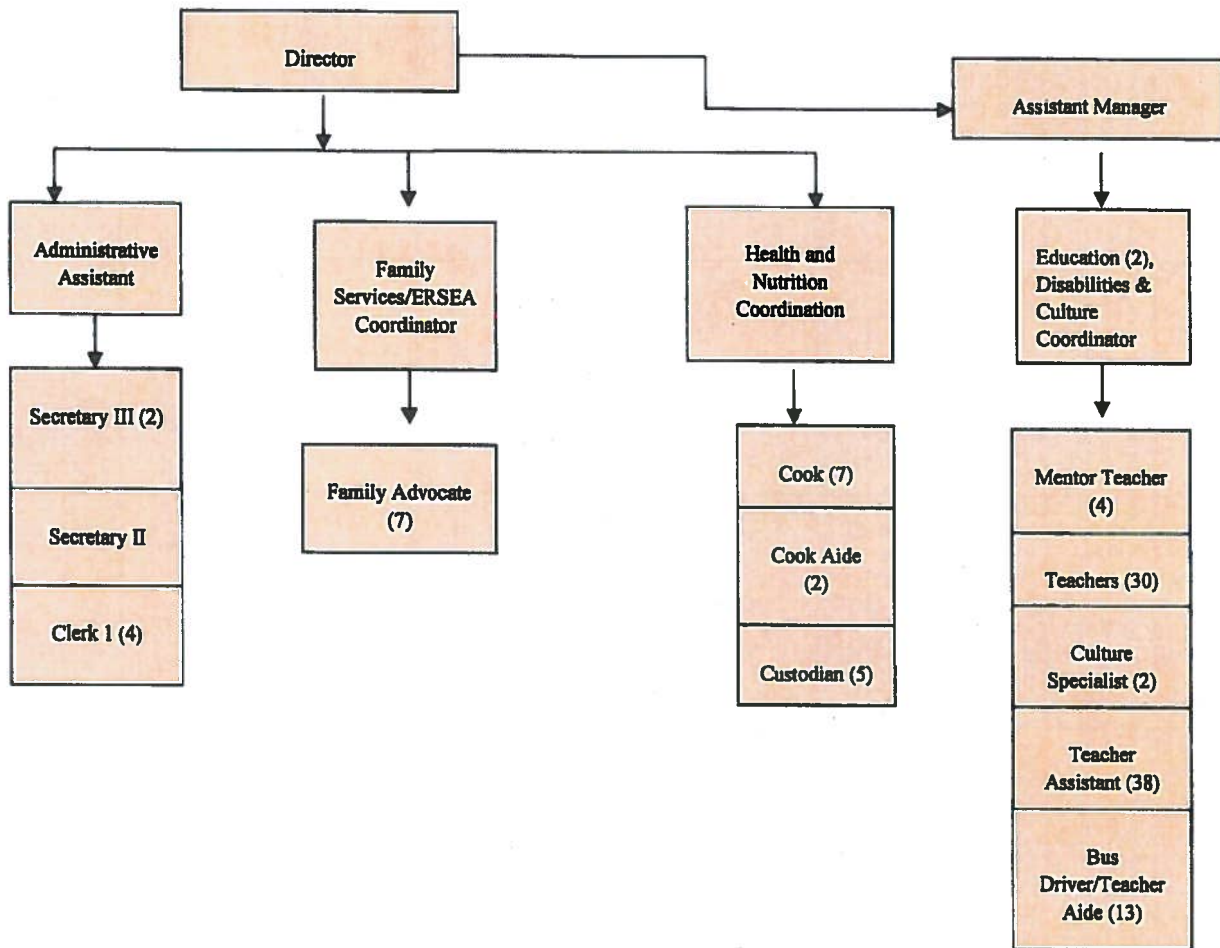
CURRICULUM |

The education curriculum we use is Creative Curriculum for Head Start and Early Head Start, which is a comprehensive, scientifically-based early childhood educational system that has been shown to promote the cognitive, language, social/emotional, and physical development of young children.

PREPARING CHILDREN FOR SCHOOL |

The Gila River Head Start Program's Child Outcome Measures is a compilation of ongoing monitoring and assessment of children used to help ensure effective teaching, individualization, purposeful planning, and facilitation of appropriate learning goals for all children. The continuous process is an effort to move children to a level of school readiness. The assessment tools are aligned with all state and federal mandates. The assessment requires on-going monitoring to occur in the classroom and for the objectives of goals to be progressive. Children can show gain by moving to the next skill level of each goal.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



SCHOOL READINESS |

Our staff begins to prepare our children for Kindergarten during the first Home Visit before children even enter their classroom. The Teaching Team discusses realistic goals and activities to achieve those goals with each family and together create an individualized goal plan for each child. Developmental screenings are completed within the first 45 days of school, giving Teaching Teams needed information for each child. Disability needs are also identified and services begun to help children achieve the highest possible level of success while in Head Start.

Head Start uses the Creative Curriculum for Preschool and Infant and Toddlers. This curriculum helps Teaching Teams plan and implement a developmentally appropriate learning environment for each child within the entire group, on a daily and weekly basis. Teaching Teams used focused observations to specifically address individual goals and learning styles for all of their children. Creative Curriculum helps prepare our children for school readiness by addressing Head Start and Arizona standards in the areas of literacy, math, science, social studies, art, technology and the social skills necessary to get along with others and solve problems.

Creative Curriculum also has a strong parent component. At Gila River Head Start, we believe that parents are their children's most important teacher. This curriculum encourages parents to be a partner in every aspect of their children's learning. By conducting home visits and parent/teacher conferences at least 4 times each year, parents help the Teaching Team set realistic goals and they see the results of their child's progress and success. We welcome parents into our Centers and classrooms every day; they join their child for meals and playful learning. They join other parents in working at the Center and learning more about Head Start and the curriculum. Parents of special needs children play an important role in transition to Head Start and Kindergarten by attending the IEP transition meetings and many have become strong advocates for their child.

Gila River Head Start includes a unique culture curriculum reflective of Akimel O'odham and Pee Posh language, culture and traditions. This curriculum was developed under the guidance of our Elders and is implemented into each classroom. Children begin school with words, pictures and symbols placed appropriately in their classrooms. Their

teachers begin speaking simple words and phrases in the language and children are soon speaking and responding in the language. Our children also learn traditional social dances and songs and perform these for the Elders, Community Council, their families, at Community events and at events outside the Community, such as invitations to other schools and sporting events.

To help children make a smooth adjustment to Kindergarten, the Head Start Program and 3 Community elementary schools conduct a month-long Kinder Transition during June. Each Head Start child who will begin Kindergarten in August has the opportunity to attend daily classes in a classroom of their elementary school. The Kindergarten teacher and Head Start teachers work as a teaching team and conduct a typical Kindergarten day. Children ride the elementary school bus, eat breakfast and lunch in the cafeteria, work at desks and tables on a typical Kindergarten schedule and have outdoor recess; all on a half-day schedule. Head Start and the elementary schools work together with our parents to enroll their child into Kindergarten before June, so the child attends the transition month and is already enrolled for the upcoming school year. We also work with the School Nurse Services program to ensure that all children are current on immunizations and any health needs that should be addressed before entering Kindergarten.

Reports from the Kindergarten teachers and Principals state that our Head Start children are ready to learn, know the basics for further instruction and are socially ready for Kindergarten.