

Coastal Plain Area Economic
Opportunity Authority, Inc.



Annual Report

April 1, 2010 through March 31, 2011



Table of Contents

Heritage	3
Mission	3
Vision	3
Service Area	4
Executive Director	5
Board of Directors	6
Management Team	7
Organization Chart	8
Community Service Centers	9
Crisis Intervention Services	10
Minor Home Repair Program	11
Prescription Drug Assistance	11
Energy Assistance Services	12
USDA Surplus Commodities	13
Employment/ Job Readiness	14
Weatherization	15-16
Head Start	17
Education	18-19
Nutrition and Health	20-21
Disabilities and Mental Health	22
Transition and Literacy	23
Parent Involvement	24-25
Community Partnerships	26
Transportation	26
Head Start Centers	27
Community Centers	28
Funding Analysis	29-31

Helping People Help Themselves

Coastal Plain Area EOA, Inc. began as a Program Development Grant from the Office of Economic Opportunity. The grant was awarded to the Coastal Plain Area Planning and Development Commission on January 14, 1965.

This led to the incorporation of the Coastal Plain Area Economic Opportunity Authority, Inc.(CPAEOA, Inc.) on April 8, 1966 as a private non-profit corporation serving the ten counties of the Coastal Plain area of Georgia. The Agency replaced the Area Planning and Development Commission as the Office of Economic Opportunity grantee.

As a human services program for the past 44 years, CPAEOA, Inc. has invested over \$215 million of federal, state, and local funds into the ten counties which it serves. This has helped the poor and elderly residents to overcome the hardships and constraints of poverty. The Agency has been instrumental in mobilizing local, state, federal and private resources to keep services in step with the communities needs, and has provided funding and administrative expertise to numerous community service organizations and institutions in the Coastal Plain area.

The goal of CPAEOA, Inc. is to promote the social and economic development of the citizens of the 2nd and 8th U.S. Congressional Districts of the State of Georgia, as they are presently apportioned. Our concern is particularly with respect to those citizens who are impoverished or otherwise depressed or deprived of benefits. We strive to provide general economic stability and well-being in the service areas.

In pursuance of this goal, it is the purpose of the Agency to provide services and assistance which are designed to reduce and eliminate poverty and its causes in the Coastal Plain area. This is done by developing employment opportunities, improving human performance, and being a motivating factor in the lives of those whom we serve. This serves to better the conditions under which people in the service areas live, learn and work.

Executive Director, Patricia Smith, is employed by the Board of Directors to be responsible for directing daily operations and ensuring that accountability for services is maintained. Board oversight ensures that all counties in the service area have equal opportunity for their voices to be heard.

The four major Agency programs which define the variety of services provided are as follows:

- Community Services
- Crisis Intervention
- Housing and Energy
- Child Development

The Agency stands prepared to respond in an effective and timely manner to ongoing needs within the community and in crisis situations such as natural disasters. The combination of non-profit status, experience in administering a variety of service programs, long standing relations with federal and state funding sources, and ongoing community partnerships enables the Agency to quickly mobilize resources to help those most in need.

At Coastal Plain Area E.O.A, Inc., “Helping People Help Themselves” is more than a motto - for 44 years it has been a way of life!

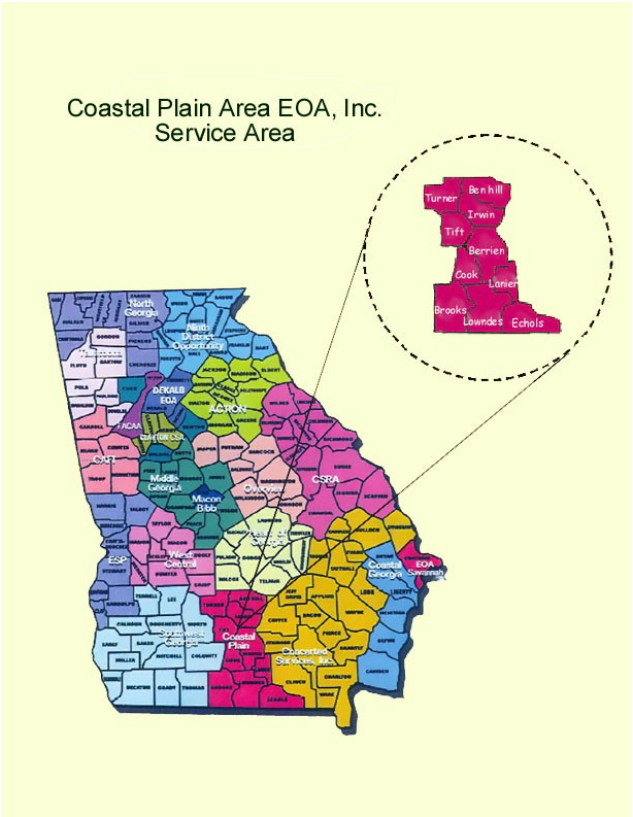
Our Mission.....

... provide services and resources to assist low-income individuals to achieve self –sufficiency

Our Vision.....

... for all families in South Georgia to be self-sufficient.

Service Area



Center	Total#	White	Black	Native Am.	Asian	Other	Hispanic
Ben Hill	17,635	65.5%	33.1%	0.2%	0.3%	0.8%	7.6%
Berrien	17,058	86.1%	12.0%	0.3%	0.4%	1.1%	3.3%
Brooks	16,425	61.8%	36.4%	0.3%	0.5%	1.1%	4.6%
Cook	16,608	70.4%	27.8%	0.2%	0.7%	0.8%	4.8%
Irwin	10,231	71.4%	27.4%	0.2%	0.6%	0.5%	3.3%
Lanier	8,277	73.4%	24.4%	0.5%	0.4%	1.3%	3.5%
Lowndes	104,583	62.7%	34.3%	0.4%	1.2%	1.3%	3.2%
Tift	42,434	70.4%	27.4%	0.2%	1.3%	0.6%	11.2%
Turner	9,228	57.6%	41.3%	0.2%	0.4%	0.6%	3.9%
Echols	4,063	90.8%	7.3%	1.1%	0.1%	0.7%	29.0%
Totals	242,943						

Executive Director

Dear Fellow Citizens:

It is with great pleasure that we present to you our Annual Report for fiscal year 2009 - 2010. As you review this report we hope you will share our pride in the services provided to those who are experiencing economic hardships.

The need for our services continues to grow at an alarming rate. The economic forecast for 2010- 2011 presents an even greater challenge for our communities. This keeps us focused on the mission of this Agency as we continue to explore new and better options to meet these needs.

The independent public accounting firm of Ronald D. Hudson issued its financial and compliance audit for year ending March 31, 2009. The audit found Coastal Plain to be well managed, financially sound, and in compliance with all terms and conditions under which it is funded. As a result, the Board of Directors, along with dedicated staff, volunteers and community partners, are motivated to ensure that Coastal Plain will continue to reach out to the communities which we serve, and provide relief for the residents.

As you review this annual report, we hope that you will remember the efforts of our clients as they struggle to overcome adverse situations.

Sincerely,

Patricia Smith

Patricia Smith
Executive Director

Board of Directors

Board of Directors

- John Pruitt –Chairman
- Johnny Hall– Berrien
- Samuel Brown-Turner
- Rose Adams-Hahira
- Cam Jordon– Ben Hill
- James Maxwell-Brooks
- Scott Fountain-Lanier
- Roosevelt Russell-Tifton
- Kathy Roberts-Irwin
- Irene Parks-Cook
- Earl Eady-Berrien
- L.C. McRae-Cook
- Calvin Willis-Lowndes
- Tyrone Smith-Irwin
- Carl Lee McMath-Turner
- Terry Cole-Ben Hill
- Calvin Bryant-Brooks
- Libby Yawn– Irwin
- Janice Jarvis-Brooks
- Marian Wells-Lowndes
- Renee Gaskins-Berrien
- Willie F. Mathis-Lanier
- Annette Cole-Watson
- William Holman-Ben Hill
- Betty Willis-Tifton
- Becky Ratts-Cook
- Attorney John Croley-Ben Hill
- Micheal L. Cleghoen-Turner

Agency bylaws dictate that a tripartite Board of Directors comprised of representation from the low-income, private and public sectors of the 10 county primary service area provide oversight. Board oversight is crucial to maintain the foundation for and focus on accountability both fiscal and programmatic.

We are thankful for the dedicated service and diverse areas of expertise that the Board provides to keep the Agency focused on meeting the most pertinent needs of the low-income population throughout the service area.

Greetings my fellow citizens:

On behalf of the Board of Directors, it is with great pleasure and pride that I present the 2009-2010 Annual Report for Coastal Plain Area Economic Opportunity Authority, Inc. For the past 44 years the primary goal of our Agency has been to help the less fortunate citizens of South Georgia to rise from dependency to self-sufficiency. This report will show the successes we have had in reaching our goal for this fiscal year.

The independent fiscal auditors have consistently rated CPAEOA as one of the most efficiently managed service delivery models in the state of Georgia. The Agency is not only committed but is passionate in its superior delivery of the many services which are provided. Furthermore, CPAEOA is an important contributor to the economic engine in South Georgia.

As you review this report, I would ask that you pay particular attention to the assistance which has been provided to individuals and families who have needed a (temporary) helping hand to traverse through difficult times as a result of the present unstable economy. I call upon the citizens in the ten-county service area, especially political and business leaders, to thoroughly review this report. I invite you to get more involved with us as we continue to strive to “ help people help themselves.”

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the present Board of Directors, and thank the counties that have appointed board members from your elected body. I also want to thank the Head Start Policy Council for their excellence in shared governance of the Head Start Program, and special thanks to the local churches, businesses and individuals for your support.

Upon your review of this Annual Report, I have no doubt that you will agree with the Board of Directors that Coastal Plain Area E.O.A, Inc. is an organization of which we can all be proud.

Sincerely,

John Pruitt
Chairman

* Board Meetings are held at the Tifton Neighborhood Center at 7:30 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday in the months of February, April, June, August, October, December.

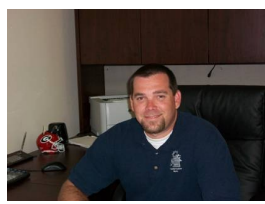
Management Team



Patricia Smith
Executive Director



Andy Wortham
CSBG Director



Scott Blankenship
Weatherization
Director



Tanya Thomas
Head Start Director



Natalie Ceasar
Executive Secretary

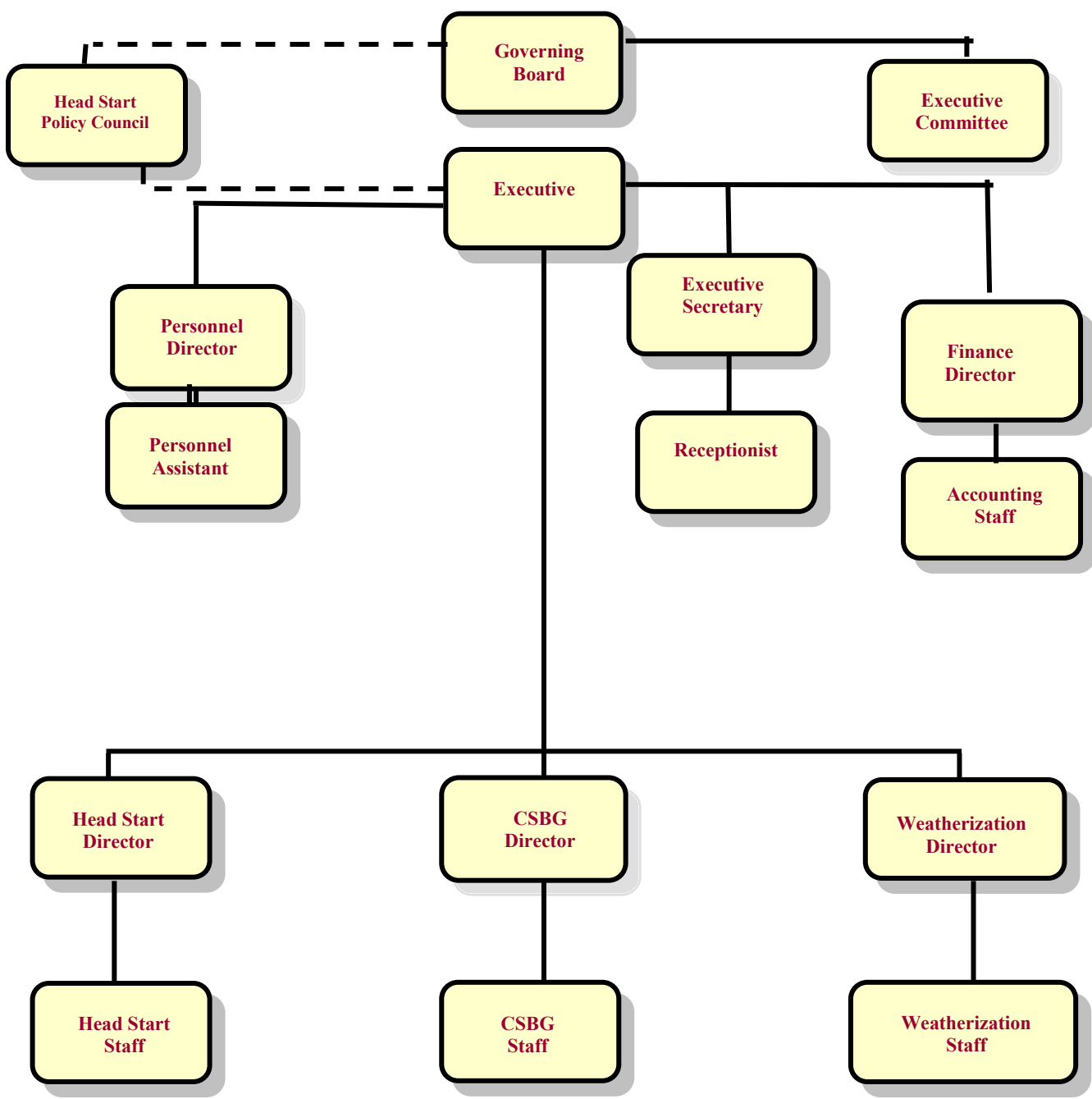


Rose Ann Hudson
Personnel Director



Bruni Hudson
Finance Director

Organization Chart



This organizational chart defines the reporting relationships within CPAEOA. Solid lines indicate direct reporting relationships. Dotted lines indicate indirect reporting relationships. The Head Start Policy Council represents an approval/disapproval relationship regarding specific decisions made within the organization. Decision specifics are described in 45 CFR Part 1304.50.

Community Service Centers

All direct services other than Head Start services are provided through a network of ten Community Service Centers (CSC). CSC's are located in each of the ten counties within the Agency's primary service area (Refer to the map on page 4). Each CSC is an active part of the local community, and provides a variety of community services for individuals of all ages.

A major strength of the CSC's is that no two are alike. Each one provides its own array of services to meet the specific needs that are unique to each county in the service area. With primary funding thorough the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), services range from job skills training to management counseling and crisis intervention.

Advocacy: A priority for the CSC's is to serve as advocates on local public health issues, such as affordable housing, utility rates and health care. Help is also provided on behalf of the low-income residents who are not Medicare-eligible in applying for discount prescription medication programs.



Crisis Intervention Services



Crisis Intervention Services are provided to assist with payment of utility bills and deposits, purchase of food and clothing, prevention of utility disconnections, minimize malnutrition, and circumvent incidences of eviction. Funding is provided primarily through Community Services Block Grant(CSBG) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

CSC personnel are trained to provide practical case management services for families receiving emergency services. We seek to assist clients in recognizing and strengthening any life skill weaknesses that contribute to their emergency situations so the family will not be in a state of ongoing crisis. Depending on the family, case management may range from assisting in development of a family budget to housing relocation to providing job seeking or retention tips.

From April 1, 2009, to March 31, 2010, a total number of 8,486 families (comprised of 14,040 individuals) benefited directly from CSBG Funding. More than \$356,550.00, was expended on Crisis Intervention Services. Established and well supplied food pantries located within the Community Services Centers assisted families with food boxes which contained a substantial quantity of food products.

Emergency Utility Assistance (non LIHEAP related) was provided to more than 286 families. This assistance involved case management and provided up to a \$200.00 benefit for families in crisis. The total amount expended on this program was \$38,283.00. There were 147 applications processed and approved for the SCANA Regulated Marketer Referral Program (RMRP). This program allows income eligible individuals to receive natural gas from SCANA at a fixed rather than variable rate.

The Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program (EF&S), funded through FEMA, is administered in six counties. Local Boards select organizations to receive funding and determine service priorities based on the particular needs of their county. Board composition must be in compliance with established EF&S guidelines, including membership of a homeless or formerly homeless individual or homeless advocate. Through the guidance of these boards, assistance in the amount of \$64,118.02 was dispersed to 520 households to relieve emergency need for utilities and rental assistance.

Minor Home Repair Program

The Minor Home Repair Program is concerned with helping the elderly and disabled homeowners. Much needed work is done on their homes to ensure that they are safer and more accessible. Repairs include the installation of handicapped toilets and grab bars, construction of steps and front porches, the installation of wood doors, replacement of faucets and sinks, and repairing of holes in floors, doors, walls, and ceiling. A conscious effort is made to ensure that clients in all ten counties benefit from this program.

From April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010, sixty-two (62) families had their homes repaired through the Minor Home Repair Program. More than \$16,000.00 from the CSBG was expended to purchase construction materials to ensure the safety of these homes.



BEFORE AND AFTER

Prescription Drug Assistance

Prescription Drug Assistance was provided to 570 individuals from April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010. The average amount expended on each person was \$100.00 for a total amount of \$57,307.33.

This benefit is well received by clients, and it allows families to use household resources on other necessities such as shelter, utilities, clothing, and food. The CSC's in all service areas work closely with local pharmacies, and utilize other resources (such as discount programs) which are offered by pharmaceutical companies, Walgreens, Wal-Mart, Rite Aid, and Harvey's Super Market.

Applications and information on these programs can be obtained at local Community Service Centers.



Energy Assistance Services

With funding through the Department of Human Resources, the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) assists low income families in offsetting the increased costs of energy for winter home heating. Priority is given to households comprised entirely of those who are aged 65 years and older, those who are home bound, as well as disabled clients. Funding is also set aside for those with life threatening medical conditions. In some cases, the federal government will release funds to assist elderly and homebound households with cooling assistance.



LIHEAP provides the following benefits within our community:

- reduces the incidents of health problems attributable to winter cold;
- enables elderly and those with life threatening medical conditions to maintain independence while preserving peace of mind;
- stimulates the local economy through funds put into circulation for the payment of heating fuel bills;
- helps keep heating fuel costs for the general public from rising by reducing billing write-offs for heating fuel suppliers;
- circumvents heating fuel cut-offs for homebound, elderly, and low-income households.

The following chart will show a breakdown per county of Energy Assistance Services for this fiscal year:

COUNTY	BENEFITS EXPENDED	HOUSEHOLDS SERVED
Ben Hill	\$318,526	935
Berrien	\$215,943	633
Brooks	\$293,343	861
Cook	\$266,319	782
Echols	\$79,441	233
Irwin	\$159,327	467
Lanier	\$182,365	535
Lowndes	\$593,398	1736
Tift	\$415,945	1110
Turner	\$211,599	620
Total	\$2,736,206.00	7912

USDA Surplus Commodities

Distribution of USDA Surplus Commodities in South Georgia was provided by the Agency through the Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). Food items valued at \$423,000.00 helped 16,920 low-income households reduce their food bills while having nutritious food items made available to them. The surplus food items included peanut butter, canned vegetables, canned soups, canned juices and fruit, instant milk instant potatoes, dry goods like black eye peas, pinto beans, great northern beans, grits, dry cereals. Canned meats like tuna, chunky beef stew, canned salmon, pork, and chicken are typically included in the food distributions.



Distribution Recap April 1, 2009 through March 31, 2010

Households Served	16,920
Value of Food Items	\$423,000.00
Value of Food Bag	\$25.00
Weight of the Food	380,000 pounds (183.75 tons)
Weight of the Food Bag	25 pounds

Commodity food distributions includes much more than just issuing surplus food items . The University of Georgia County Extension Service provides information with regard to health conscious recipes and dietary health pointers which are included with each issue of food. The Department of Family and Children Services in each county have provided information on applying for food stamps, prescription medication assistance programs, and have invited other social service organizations to include information with regard to services which they offer.

The process of distributing surplus commodities is very time consuming due to the applicant eligibility determination process, storage of commodities, transportation, and the actual distribution of the items throughout the ten-county service delivery area. In spite of this, there is an unwavering commitment to serve those in need in a safe and efficient manner. We are grateful to the local city and county governments, and to the local volunteers who logged in over 2,170 community service hours in the distribution process. They provide the manpower which was necessary to ensure that each county was prepared for the distribution to the thousands of eligible households.

Employment/ Job Readiness

Coastal Plain Area E.O.A., Inc. has made a substantial contribution in South Georgia through our Job Readiness Program. In recent years, welfare reform has focused on the need for those receiving public assistance and are capable of working to end reliance on public assistance and enter the workforce. This focus brings a variety of challenges as we assist clients in obtaining necessary education, training, work experience, and work ethics in order to be gainfully employed. With this in mind, we also offer personal budgeting assistance.

This program is designed to:

- assist the unemployed to learn essential job retention skills, gain practical work experience, and obtain full-time employment;
- help those who are presently employed to maintain employment and seek advancement by teaching them essential job retention skills;
- providing support services such as GED training and post-secondary education, transportation, child care, and housing.

Valuable Life Skills Training is provided in addition to budgeting and money management in order to help clients develop wise spending habits and learn to manage their resources more efficiently.

During this fiscal year, Life Skills Training was provided to over 650 Georgia Department of Corrections inmates at Robert Patten Detention Center in Lakeland, Southwest Probation Detention Center in Moultrie, and Valdosta Transitional Center in Lowndes County.



Weatherization

Mission Statement

"To reduce energy cost for low- income families, (particularly for the elderly, people with disabilities, and children) by improving the energy efficiency of their homes while ensuring their health and safety."

History

The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) was created in 1976 to assist low- income families who lacked resources to invest in energy efficiency. Today, funds are used to improve the energy efficiency of homes by using the most advanced technologies and testing protocols available in the housing industry. This conservation of energy helps our country reduce its dependency on foreign oil and decreases the cost of energy for families in need in our area.

Facts

Weatherization saved an average of 32% in gas space heating . This comprises a total fuel consumption reduction of 23% with net savings for each weatherized home averaging 30.5 MTBU'S per year. Weatherization measures reduce national energy demand by the equivalent of 18 million barrels of oil per year.

Reducing Whole House Energy Usage

The Weatherization program consists of cost-effective energy efficiency measures for low income households. The entire home is assessed to provide a wide variety of energy savings measures that address the heating and cooling systems, electrical, walls, attics and energy consuming appliances. These analyses take the whole-house approach, which maximizes energy savings and reduces energy cost for clients.

Base Load Reduction

Cleaning, repairing or replacing appliances in the home with Energy Star Rated high efficiency products helps to reduce the utility consumption in client homes. A load monitor is used to determine if an electric appliance is using too many kilowatts based on a year's usage. By using the load chart to determine optimal usage, it is decided whether cleaning, tune-up or replacement is necessary.



Weatherization

Health and Safety

All gas systems are tested for carbon monoxide spillage. Carbon monoxide is a serious heath risk for our clients. All unvented space heaters are removed from the client’s home and primary heat is replaced with vented forced draft space heaters or condensing furnace systems and new duct work. All appliances exhibiting dangerous levels of carbon monoxide are repaired or replaced.

Moisture and Mold

Exhaust fans are installed in the homes in order to prevent mold and moisture build-up. All exhaust fans are vented to the outside of the building structure and homes without exhaust fans have new energy- efficient exhaust fans installed and vented.



Auditors using advanced technology “blower door” to determine the air-flow throughout the home.



Weatherization Technicians.



Weatherization Technicians at work

Weatherization Households Completed April 1, 2009 through March 31, 2010			
Contract	Clients Served	Materials Installed	Contracted Labor
D.O. E.	23	\$59,632.54	\$12,619.10
H.H.S.	37	\$59,949.08	\$15,456.19
Georgia Power	79	\$ 127,453.64	\$23,637.53
Atlanta Gas & Light	3	\$3,015.98	0.00
Health & Safety	47	\$62,610.12	\$4,106.63
ARRA	126	\$372,778.83	\$90,942.50
Total	315	\$685,440.19	\$146,761.95

Head Start

Head Start is a comprehensive child development program designed for pre-school children 3 to 5 years of age. Funding for Head Start is provided by the *Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)* through the *Administration for Children and Families (ACF)*.

The Agency became a Head Start grantee in 1966 and began with an enrollment of approximately 100 children. CPAEOA, Inc. is funded to provide Head Start services in nine counties to 912 preschool children (ages 3-5) and their families. Head Start services are provided through a network of 13 Child Development Centers

Head Start Age and Income Eligible Children						
County	Pre-K Age Eligible	HS & Pre-K Age Eligible	Head Start Enrollment	% of Children 0-17 Below Federal Poverty Level	Total Population Below Federal Poverty Level	Per Capita Income
Ben Hill	178	258	94	29.7%	3,427	24,502
Berrien	140	217	71	26.3%	2,853	23,843
Brooks	98	158	54	31.7%	3,488	22,728
Cook	200	280	68	26.4%	2,962	19,663
Irwin	120	160	34	26.6%	1,707	20,607
Lanier	100	157	54	27.4%	1,380	22,187
Lowndes	802	1129	322	24.3%	16,212	25,729
Tift	419	554	165*	26.7%	7,316	24,589
Turner	115	171	50	33.6%	2,164	21,504
Totals	2172	3084	913*	19.4%	1,217,686	32,095

Head Start is a federally funded program that has served low income children and their families since 1966. Head Start programs serve children whose families have income at or below the federal poverty level. Head Start consists of two programs: Head Start (serving preschool children and their families) and Early Head Start (established in 1994 and serving children prenatal to age three, pregnant women, and their families). Funding goes directly from the federal government to local grantees. The federal government provides 80% of the annual cost to operate the program, and the remaining 20% comes from a *local match* or *in-kind* contributions. These contributions may be in the form of monetary contributions, donations of goods or services, or volunteer hours.



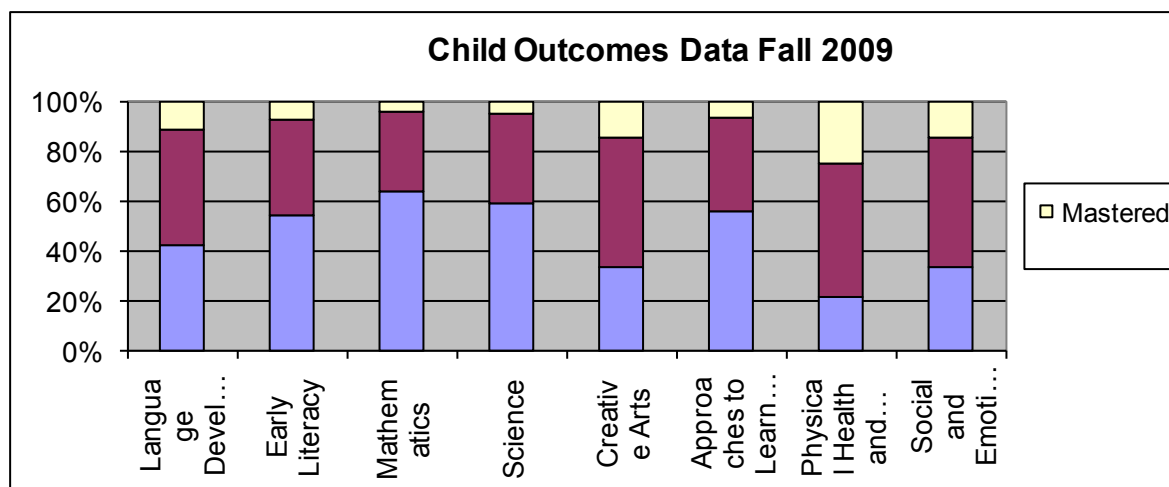
Education

Coastal Plain Area E.O.A., Inc. Head Start makes consistent efforts to achieve success in preparing the children for Kindergarten. The Agency strives to hire qualified staff to ensure that teachers and teacher assistants have adequate credentials to teach the children effectively. The staff and classrooms are monitored on a monthly basis for the purpose of making certain that proper instruction and age appropriate activities are being used throughout all of our thirteen centers. Education Advisory meetings are held quarterly to encourage collaboration between the Agency, the public schools, community partners, and our Head Start parents.

The Head Start Curriculum of choice is the Creative Curriculum. The curriculum has indicators which are in conjunction with the Head Start Outcome Framework, and ensures that school readiness skills are implemented. The Head Start Outcome Framework represents the structure formed by the federal mandates by which student performance is monitored and assessed. The framework assesses eight domains which are critical to childhood learning and development. The domains are:

- 1) Language Development
- 2) Early Literacy
- 3) Mathematics
- 4) Science
- 5) Creative arts
- 6) Social and Emotional Development
- 7) Approaches to Learning
- 8) Physical Health and Development

Students are assessed in the fall, winter, and spring of each reporting period. Data is entered individually, by class and by center. The data is then summarized across the thirteen centers, using the Child Plus Data Engine. Analysis of data for this report period is by center, according to the data provided. Below is a chart showing the placement of students with the eight domains. All centers are represented in this data.



Education

As a result of the assessment data collections and analysis, Parent conferences are held between the parents and the teaching staff. Parent conferences provide the avenue to encourage the parents to be involved in their children's education process. Monthly parent bulletins are provided which include ideas for parents to help prepare their student for school readiness.

The winter assessment of the Creative Curriculum showed that children in all Centers made significant progress in the areas of language development and literacy. In language development there was a 57% increase in the progression of non-English speaking children, and there was a 47% increase in the children's ability to speak English. In literacy, there was a 43% gain in the children's ability to understand the concept of print and a 55% gain in the ability to demonstrate knowledge of the alphabet.

The Dial-3 is the preferred screening tool because it allows both three and four years olds to be screened. The (Pre) Dial-3 is administered immediately upon entrance in order for the staff to understand the child's strengths and weaknesses. From the results of the (Pre)- Dial-3 screening, teachers are able to form a general individualized education plan for each child to help build on their strengths and to strengthen their weaknesses. The Post Dial-3 screening is given toward the end of the school term each school year. This second screening aids in determining if goals have been reached in preparing the children for Kindergarten.

All service areas extend assistance to parents to help with the children's transition to public school. Field trips to the schools allow the children to tour the schools, sit in classrooms, and eat lunch in the school cafeteria. Public school representatives are invited to the Centers to administer the required Kindergarten screenings so that the parent will not have to miss time from work to take the children to the schools to be screened. This also allows the children to be in the Head Start setting which has been their environment for the entire school year. The end of the year transition packets for this fiscal year included a portable hand-held easel edged with the upper and lower case alphabet, and a dry erase marker. This helps the children to maintain literacy and language skills during the summer.



Nutrition and Health



Coastal Plain Head Start has thirteen Centers in nine counties covering 3,495 square miles. Nine of the Centers have commercial kitchens which provide meals for all thirteen Centers. This is achieved through the use of food delivery vehicles which are equipped with heating and refrigeration units.

With the purchase of our fourth vehicle this year, we are able to provide meals as follows.

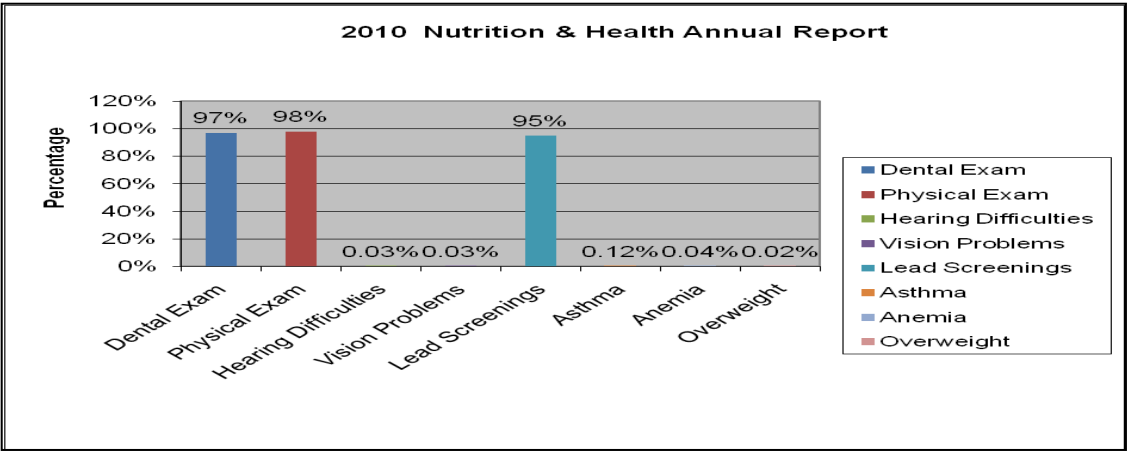
<u>Purchase Date</u>	<u>Vehicle Year & Model</u>	<u>Centers/Children Served</u>
4/95	1995 Chevy S-10 Hot Shot	Alapaha – 34
1/97	1997 Chevy C-1500 Hot Shot	Irwin – 34
5/06	2006 Chevy Silverado 1500 w/Mealstar HC 35/35	B.W. Lester – 37
11/09	2009 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 w/Mealstar CH 70/35 Conversion	Hahira - 34

The direct benefit and positive outcome of having these vehicles is the provision of quality meal service for the Head Start children and staff located in the Centers which do not have commercial kitchens (four sites). The nutritional needs and requirements of the children are met on a day to day basis, and we are better able to provide for each child’s individual diets in addition to controlling the nutritional value of the meals. This ensures that we are in compliance with the Head Start Performance Standards, which state that meals must be high in nutrients and low in fat, sugar and salt.

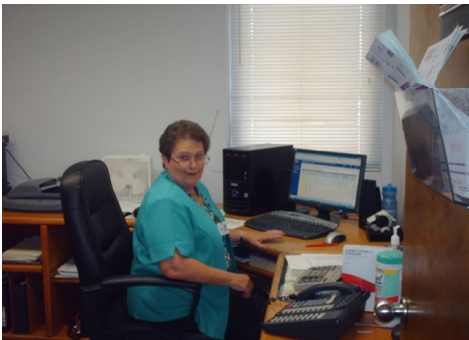
We continue to seek out new ideas to help the battle against childhood obesity. A weekly Nutrition Curriculum is taught each week in the classroom. On Tuesday morning there is a nutrition lesson and on Thursday, the children enjoy a cooking activity. The children enjoy the lessons and activities. They are not only linked to the lesson themes but the lessons coincide with other activities which are taught in the Centers each month.

Nutrition and Health

Center staff also encourage physical exercise by leading the children in two days of structured outdoor play. The activities which are selected are not only healthy for the children and staff, but are fun for all. We understand that if a child is having fun, they will want to repeat the activity at home. Hopefully this will influence the families and friends to become more active.



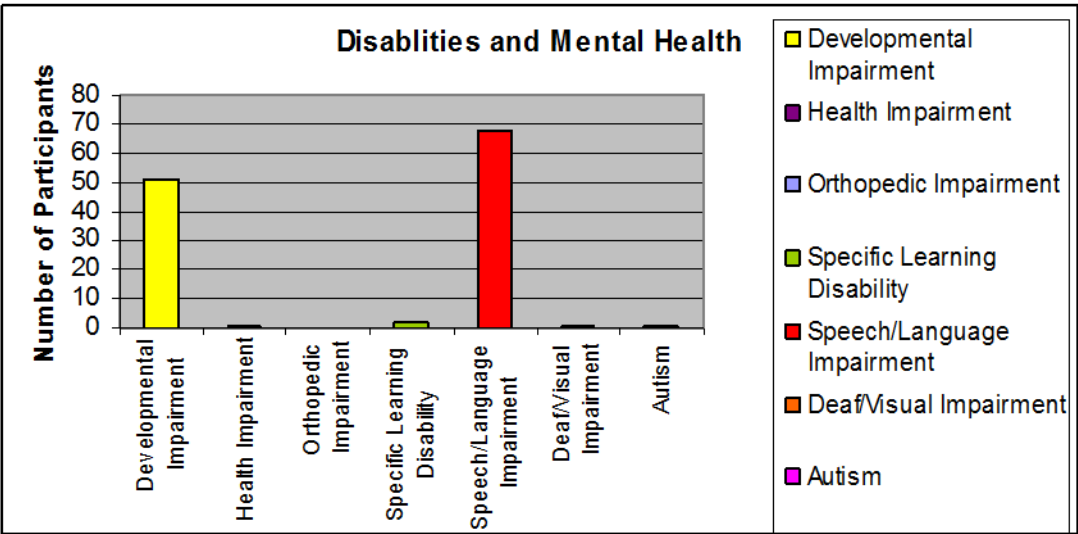
Head Start children are provided meals through a funded program called Child Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). This program is monitored by Brenda Carter, Nutrition Consultant (pictured below) who is employed by Bright From the Start .



Disabilities and Mental Health

During the 2009-2010 school year, the Disabilities and Metal Health component implemented advanced training on the referral process for the teaching staff. In that we serve nine different counties, the teaching staff, along with Disability/Mental Health Manager, collaborated with local education agencies to train the staff on the procedures for implementing the Response to Intervention (RTI) for their specific county. Due to the changes in the federal education laws, the State Department of Education has decided to change the referral and testing process. When screenings are completed and areas of concerns are identified, teachers must record the results on the required data sheet and select a research – based intervention plan. If the child does not make progress with the Response to Intervention (RTI), then a referral for an evaluation is made.

Children entering Head Start sometimes have difficulties transitioning to a new environment. As a result, mental health services are an important service that we provide to children and their families. Due to the high volume of children with behavioral concerns, the mental health provider has been instrumental in providing on-site trainings to our staff and parents. Calendars are dispersed to each Center monthly with important information with regard to these issues.



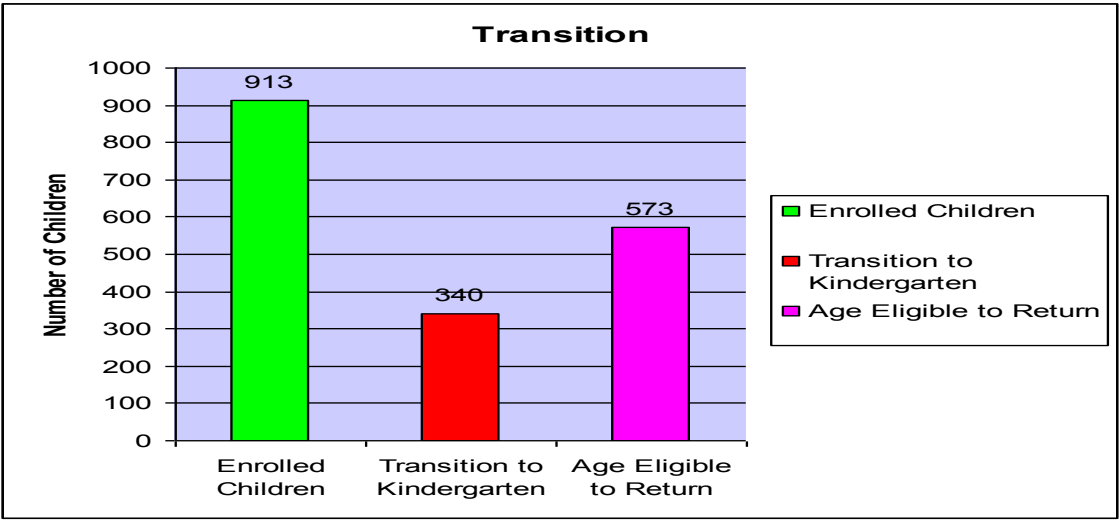
Transition and Literacy

Transition to Kindergarten is an exciting time for children and their families. Head Start takes a team approach to ensure a smooth delivery of services. Our goal is to make sure that parents and children feel supported and have the information needed to make a successful transition to school. All service areas play a vital role in this process.

Field trips to the schools in which the children will transition to, allows them to tour the schools, sit in on classes, and eat lunch in the school cafeteria. This gives them a real experience of a day in Kindergarten. Our collaborative partnerships invite public school representatives into the Head Start Centers to administer the required Kindergarten screenings. This is helpful to the parents since they don't have to miss work to take the children to the public school for testing. It also ensures that the children are in familiar surroundings when they are tested. The children also receive end of the year transition backpacks, which include supplies and resources needed to continue literacy and language skills that have been learned throughout the academic year.

Head Start addresses the literacy needs of children and families. At each Head Start site a Literacy Center is available to support emergent literacy. Head Start promotes family literacy as well. We encourage the family members to return to school to obtain GED's and to further their education by attending vocational schools or colleges. During this school year, four Head Start parents received their GED. A monthly Transition Literacy Calendar is provided to families in order to enhance phonics, letter knowledge, fine motor skills, math, nutrition, and social skills.

Head Start participated in reading initiatives this year that included Jumpstart's Read for the Record and Georgia Reads Aloud where nearly 6000 books were read to students from October 2009 – April 2010. Children in Brooks and Lowndes County have been the recipients of books from Ferst Foundation for Childhood Literacy, Chamber of Commerce, and the Valdosta Rotary Club Foundation.



Parent Involvement

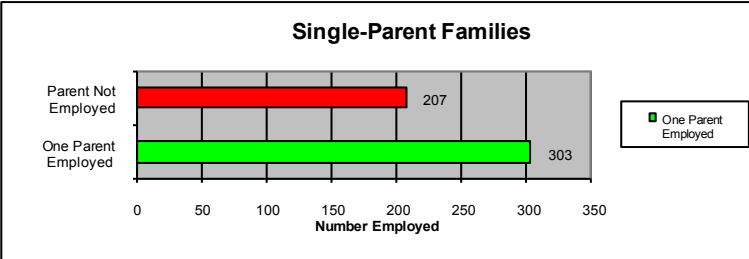
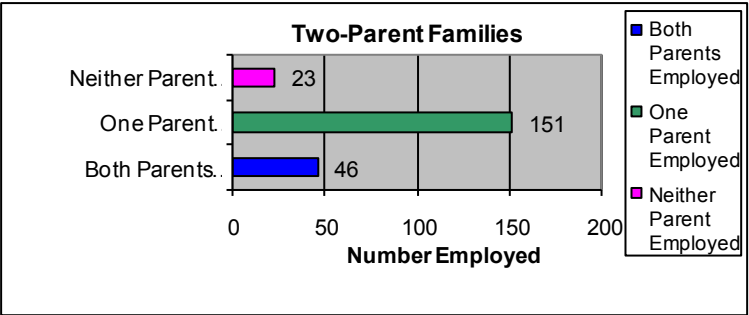
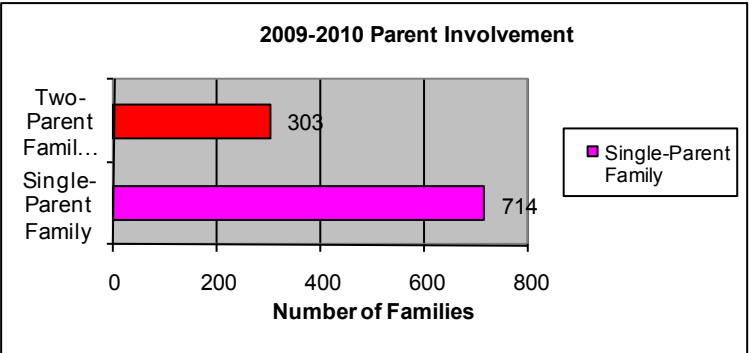
The Parent Involvement component is crucial to the success of the Head Start Program. Parents are encouraged to interact closely with the Head Start staff, and to become self-sufficient as they become more aware of the community resources which are available. Parents are encouraged to complete goals and partnership agreements that have been developed during the school year. This information is used to determine how well the staff is working together with the parents. During the 2009-2010 school year, parents were assisted by Center staffs in receiving information which is included in the graphs below.

Head Start initiatives, such as homelessness, incarcerated fathers, and healthy marriages have also been provided for parents who need assistance in these areas. Staff reported that 22 families received services for homelessness. Five of these families acquired housing during the school year. Several families who have family members who are incarcerated received needed assistance. For those parents who indicated a need for help with relationships, the staff provided community resources and/ or strategies to help build healthy relationships. Staff members do not act as counselors, but encourage parents to work together so that they can make their children’s education as successful as possible.

Fatherhood/Male Involvement

We strongly encourage and provide opportunities for parental involvement in the education of children. Fatherhood/male involvement is an initiative that provides opportunities for and encourages fathers to become involved in their child's everyday life and education. Some of the activities that were done during the school year were: Fun

times with Dad, Teaching children about Black History, What it means to be a father, Gingerbread houses, Family Collages, Game night with Dad, Handprints with Dad, Carving pumpkins with Dad, and Field trips with Dad.



Parent Involvement

Fatherhood Event

Below are pictures of some of the fathers preparing porcupine meatballs for the students. This is an annual event for the fathers. They enjoy cooking and watching the students enjoy their cooking. Some of the meatballs were flat, some scrambled and a few of them were actually round ,but the students didn't notice. They were just excited about their Dads coming to school.



Community Partnerships

Head Start encourages strong communication and cooperation within communities to improve the delivery of services to children and their families. One example is a partnership with *Babies Can't Wait* to identify younger children in the home who may be experiencing developmental delays. We also partner with technical colleges to provide GED preparation and testing for parents, as approximately 47% of parents do not hold high school diplomas



Transportation

Reliable and safe transportation is always a priority in meeting the needs of the Head Start children and families. A fleet of 36 buses provide transportation service for children to and from the Head Start Centers. The rural service areas are provided transportation by the local Boards of Education. On behalf of the Coastal Plain Area E.O.A., Inc. and the Board of Directors, we give special thanks to these Boards of Education for agreeing to provide services for our students in the rural areas.



Head Start Centers

Ben Hill Head Start
410 E. Altamaha St.
Fitzgerald, GA 31750
(229) 423-3191

Nashville Head Start
204 A Hazel Avenue
Nashville, GA 31639
(229) 686-3085

Brooks County Head Start
1301 N. Martin Luther King Dr.
Quitman, GA 31643
(229) 263-5662

Alapaha Head Start
Highway 82 East
Alapaha, GA 31622
(228) 532-5222

Cook County Head Start
504 W. First Street
Adel, GA 31620
(229) 896-7322

Irwin County Head Start
311 Vo-Tech Rd.
Ocilla, GA 31774
(229) 468-5712

Head Start Main Office
2110 N. Patterson St. Suite B
Valdosta, GA 31602
(229) 244-5883



Lanier Head Start
810 South Oak St.
Lakeland, GA 31635
(229) 428-3467

Lowndes 1 Head Start
1613 Ulmer Avenue
Valdosta, GA 31601
(229) 244-6300

Hallmark Heights
605 Hightower St.
Valdosta, GA 31601
(229) 244-7773

Hahira Head Start
403 Main Street
Hahira, GA 31632
(229) 794-3310

RL Mack Head Start
64 Tifton Eldorado
Tifton, GA 31794
(229) 382-5110

Turner County Head Start
524 Martin Luther King Dr.
Ashburn, GA 31715
(229) 567-0233

B. W. Lester
2522 Copeland Road
Valdosta, GA 31601
(229) 247-9750



Community Service Centers

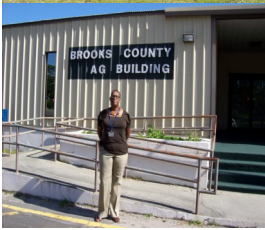
Ben Hill County
401 N. Sheridan St. Suite 3
Fitzgerald, GA 31750-0408



Berrien County
402 Hazel Avenue
Nashville, GA 3139-2581



Brooks County
400 Courtland Avenue
Quitman, GA 31643-2922



Cook County
303 S. College St
Sparks, GA 31647-9687



Echols County
170 Church of God St.
Statenville, GA 31648-2114



Irwin County
311 VoTech Road
Ocilla, GA 31774-1809



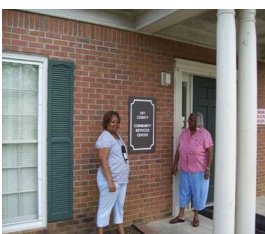
Lanier County
810 S. Oak Street
Lakeland, GA 31635-11718



Lowndes County
900 S. Troupe St
Valdosta, GA 31601



Tift County
2737 S. Central Ave Suite 4
Tifton, GA 31794-4023



Turner County
124 E. College Street
Ashburn, GA 31714-0191

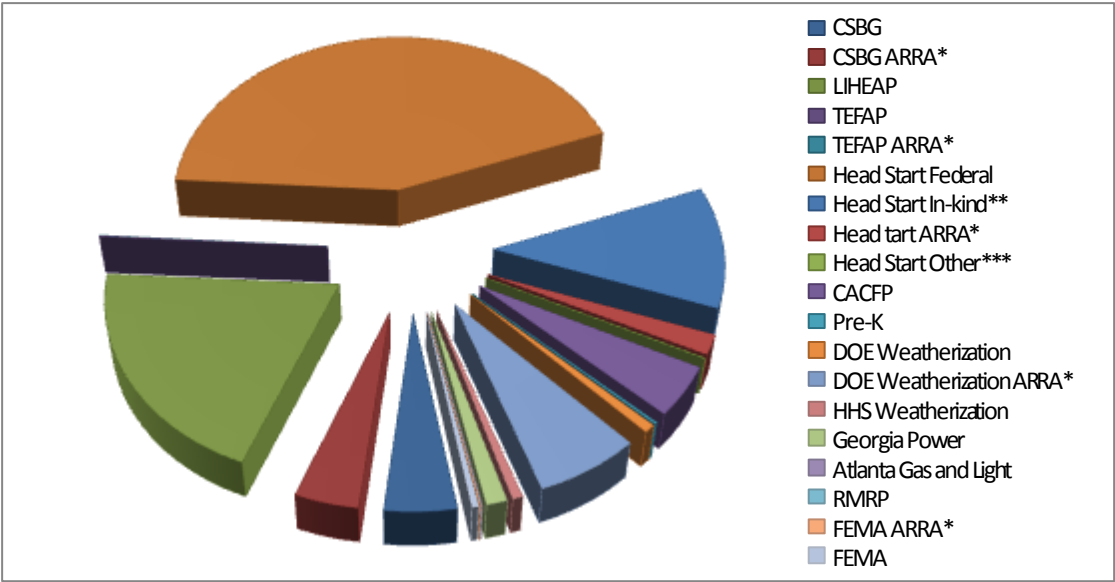


Ray City
704 Main St.
Ray City, GA 31645



Funding Analysis

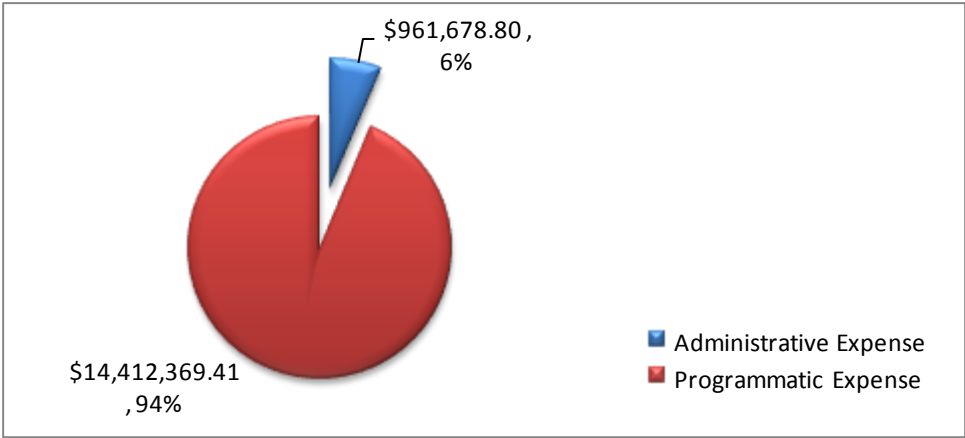
Department of Human Resources (DHR)		
Community Serves Block Grant (CSBG)	\$	710,970.17
Community Serves Block Grant ARRA (LIHEAP)	\$	633,369.77
	\$	3,064,876.12
Surplus Commodities (TEFAP)	\$	12,813.91
Surplus Commodities (TEFAP) ARRA	\$	4,450.53
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services		
Head Start Federal	\$	6,636,415.00
Head Start In-kind	\$	1,728,457.87
Head Start ARRA	\$	277,409.02
Head Start-Other	\$	7,592.00
Bright From The Start		
Child & Adult Care Food Program	\$	715,746.06
Pre-K	\$	23,416.48
U.S. Department of Energy		
DOE Weatherization	\$	116,097.23
DOE Weatherization ARRA	\$	1,048,876.93
HHS Weatherization	\$	102,757.00
Georgia Power Company	\$	206,173.36
Atlanta Gas and Light	\$	8,554.00
Regulated Market Referral Program	\$	1,360.00
Federal Emergency Management Agency		
FEMA	\$	63,526.17
FEMA ARRA	\$	11,222.59
GRAND TOTAL		\$ 15,374,084.21



Funding Analysis

Agency-Wide Administrative versus Programmatic Expenses

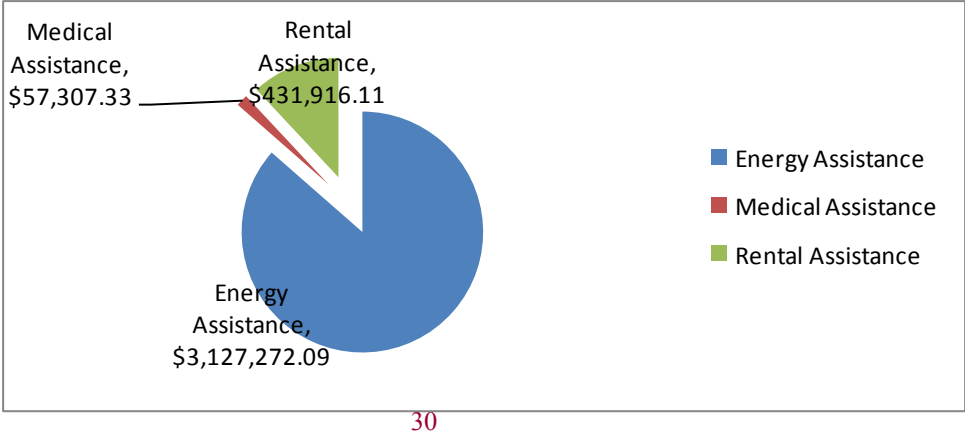
Administrative Expense	\$	961,678.80	6.26%
Programmatic Expense	\$	14,412,369.41	93.74%
Total	\$	15,374,048.21	



Direct Client Benefits

Benefit Payments made through Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Low Income Heating Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), and the Community Service Block Grant (CSBG), to vendors and clients.

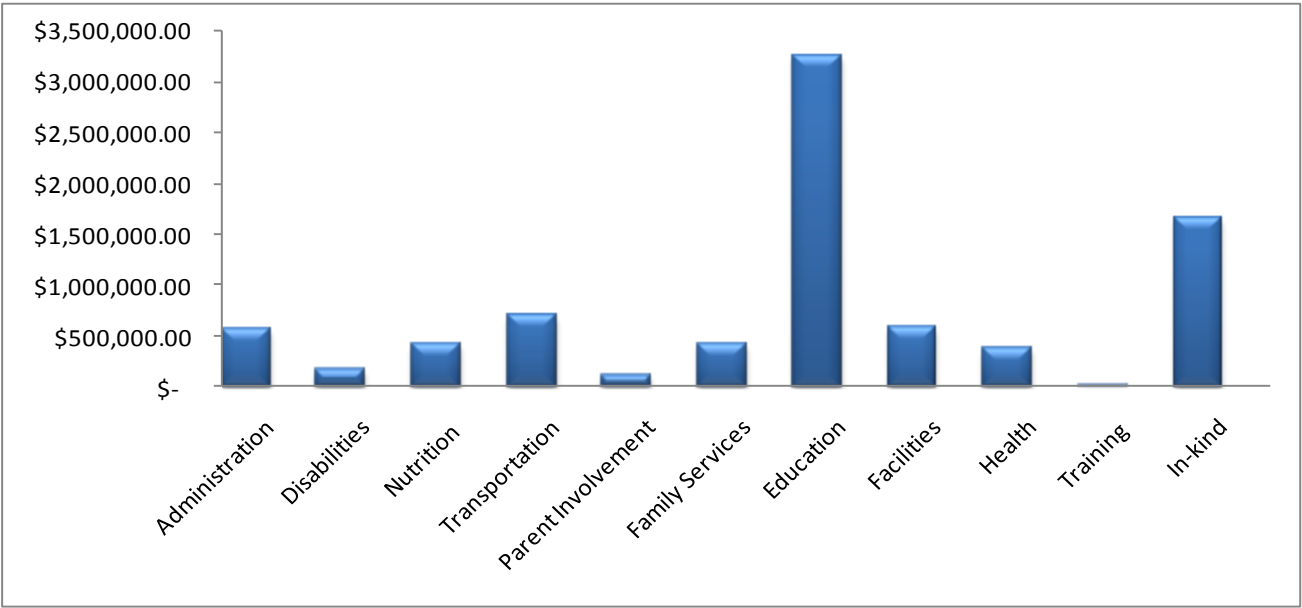
Energy Assistance	\$3,127,272.09	86.47%
Medical Assistance	\$ 57,307.33	1.58%
Rental Assistance	\$ 431,916.11	11.94%
Total Direct Assistance	\$ 3,616,495.53	



Funding Analysis

Head Start Components Breakdown

Administration	\$564,357.21	6.86%
Disabilities	\$159,118.77	1.93%
Nutrition	\$416,520.13	5.06%
Transportation	\$696,049.52	8.46%
Parent Involvement	\$ 107,655.82	1.31%
Family Services	\$ 414,627.24	5.04%
Education	\$3,243,559.22	39.42%
Facilities	\$579,416.38	7.04%
Health	\$ 373,719.80	4.54%
Training	\$ 13,481.91	0.16%
In-kind	<u>\$1,659,104.00</u>	20.17%
Total	\$ 8,227,610.00	



The Community Action Promise

Community action changes the lives of people, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.

Coastal Plain Area Economic Opportunity Authority
2601 Bemiss Road Suite L Valdosta, Georgia 31602
229-244-7860 1-877-7860 Fax: 229-245-7885
Member of the Georgia Community Actions Association
www.coastalplaineoa.org