



REACH-UP, INC.'S
ANNUAL REPORT TO THE PUBLIC
(August, 2017)

Mission Statement

Reach-Up Head Start & Early Head Start provides comprehensive education and support services that strengthen Children and their families who are experiencing low income.

Core Values

We Value:

- *All relationships and base them on integrity, trust and respect;*
- *Strength-based partnerships with children, families, and community agencies;*
- *Uniqueness and diversity within communities.*

Vision Statement

Reach-Up Head Start & Early Head Start is recognized throughout the community and state as a family focused early childhood developmental model of excellence that has lasting impact.

2016-2017 Revenue

<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Federal Head Start	\$ 2,908,564
Federal Early Head Start	587,918
State Head Start/Early Head Start	878,228
USDA/CACFP	149,004
MDE Early Learning Scholarships	116,773
Child Care Receipts	44,130
United Way Grant	43,891
Morgan Family Foundation	80,000
Otto Bremer Foundation	80,000
Other Receipts/Donations	<u>40,506</u>
Total	\$ 4,929,014
InKind	<u>1,103,347</u>
Total with InKind	<u>\$ 6,032,361</u>

Compliance

Last Federal Review: April, 2014. Three instances of non-compliance were identified (i.e., staff health exam, child medical/dental determinations, storage of medication). A Corrective Action Plan (CAP) was submitted to the Office of Head Start, and all areas of non-compliance were corrected to OHS's satisfaction.

Last Financial Audit: June, 2017. No instances of noncompliance and no material weaknesses, resulting in the auditors' report of "an unqualified opinion on the financial statements of Reach-Up, Inc."

CLASS Mean Scores

(Classroom Environment), Scale of 1-7

	<u>ReachUp-2017</u>	<u>National-2016</u>
Emotional Support	6.43	6.00
Classroom Organization	5.94	5.73
Instructional Support	3.18	2.83

Parent Involvement Activities

Parents and other family members are offered the opportunity to be involved in their children's programming from the initial enrollment. Specifically, families are encouraged to attend site-based parent meetings, to visit or volunteer in the classroom and on field trips, to serve on the Policy Council, to serve on Reach-Up's advisory committees, to attend MHSA-sponsored trainings, to attend the annual MHSA parent conference, and to participate in other relevant activities. 115 current and/or former Reach-Up parents volunteered in their children's programming throughout the 2016-17 year.

Preparation For Kindergarten

Reach-Up facilitates the successful transition of past Head Start children and their families into the elementary school system. Reach-Up supports families through individualized home visits and supports kindergarten teachers and/or principals through transition meetings.

During the 2016-17 program year:

- 146 of 168 eligible families received some type of Kindergarten Transition service.

School Readiness Goals

Reach-Up realizes that a critical purpose of all its programs is to prepare children to enter the K-12 educational system on an equal “playing field” with their peers. To that end, the following specific school readiness goals were set effective for the 2016-2017 program year:

Goal #1: 100% of the children who have been in the program all year will meet or exceed widely held developmental expectations in the five primary domains (Social Emotional, Language and Literacy, Approaches to Learning, Cognitive and General Knowledge, Physical Development and Health) as measured by Gold-On-Line.

92% of Reach-Up children met this goal.

Goal #2: 100% of the children who have been in the program all year will demonstrate developmental progress in the five domains (Social Emotional Development, Language and Literacy, Approaches to Learning, Cognitive and General Knowledge, Physical Development and Health) as measured by Gold-On-Line.

91% of Reach-Up children met this goal.

Family Engagement in Transitions

(Head Start → Kindergarten)

- 95% of parents, who complete individualized kindergarten transition visits prior to kindergarten entry, will indicate increased knowledge and/or skills related to helping their children and families be ready for kindergarten as measured by the Kindergarten Transition Family Survey.

In 2016-2017, 100% of parents who completed individualized kindergarten transition visits prior to kindergarten entry indicated increased knowledge and/or skills related to helping their children and families be ready for kindergarten as measured by the survey!

Parent Engagement Goals

- Re: Family Well-Being: 85% of families who set housing, financial, or health goals (and have follow-up) will meet at least one goal. 81% met this goal.
- Re: Positive Parent-Child Relationships & Families As Lifelong Educators: 85% of families who set an “achievement gap” goal (and have follow-up) will meet the goal. 82% met this goal..
- Re: Families As Learners & Family Connections to Peers and Community: A minimum of 200 Reach-Up families will demonstrate parent participation/education (e.g., parent meetings, parent education classes, socializations, parent conferences/referral visits). 214 families demonstrated participation.
- Re: Families as Advocates and Leaders: A minimum of 20 Reach-Up families will be represented in parent leadership positions throughout the agency (e.g., policy council, parent meetings). 24 families were represented.

Following is a summary of findings from the most recent full Community Assessment:

2015 Community Assessment’s significance for Reach-Up

UpFront Consulting, working with Reach-Up administration and staff, conducted a community assessment completed in December of 2015. Key findings from the research are included below. In January 2016 Reach-Up’s management team reviewed these findings with UpFront, and discussed how the findings are important to the organization, and initial steps Reach-Up will consider taking to address the findings.

Assets

Key findings	Importance to Reach-Up, and steps Reach-Up will consider
<p>Access to health care has improved among Reach-Up families over the past two years. Only one in twenty families don't have health insurance; of those who do, nearly all are satisfied with their plan. 45% of parents say their access to care has improved over the past year. Higher percentages this year of large families, Somali families, and Hispanic families report improved access to care.</p>	<p><i>Any time basic needs like health care are addressed, it is easier for Reach-Up to meet education and other needs. We speculate that increased academic assessment scores may be related to better health care access.</i></p> <p><i>Steps: Monitor, make sure we continue to help families address basic needs.</i></p> <p><i>Determine: Can we correlate increased health care to increased assessment scores, through our electronic records? (Reminder: Correlation is not causality.)</i></p>
<p>Census estimates that 10% of households in St. Cloud speak a language other than English at home. Percent of Reach-Up families that have a primary language other than English is somewhere in the 34% (family survey) to 40% (Reach-Up database) range.</p>	<p><i>Reach-Up families with primary language other than English increased from 31% in 2014 to 40%—always much higher than Census. Second language learners make good progress but it adds a barrier. We have not increased number of cultural navigators in the past year. Financial impact, need for interpreters and cultural navigators in the classroom and in homebased.</i></p> <p><i>Navigators are needed in classroom, so unavailable to go out to home visits.</i></p> <p><i>Steps: Explore whether later in year navigators be freed up for home visits as children in classrooms get more acclimated. Consider need to hire more navigators to offset interpreter cost.</i></p>
<p>In all but two Reach-Up communities, school district data shows the percent of three-year old children functioning within age expectations in positive social-emotional skills is higher than the state target. Big Lake and St. Cloud are the exceptions. In all but three Reach-Up</p>	<p><i>Reach-Up gets more kids that have social-emotional and behavior needs beyond what help is generally available in the classroom, teachers aren't trained for mental health intervention. With a full-time mental health specialist, Reach-Up works to maintain children until a placement is available in the community.</i></p> <p><i>Need for more community programs, one-on-one or smaller group setting for high needs children, to provide intensive mental health services/programming for pre-school children. Very few slots available. Two programs,</i></p>

<p>communities, school district data shows the percent of three-year old children functioning within age expectations in use of appropriate behaviors to meet their needs is higher than the state target. Big Lake, Elk River and St. Cloud are the exceptions.</p>	<p><i>through 742 (six slots) and The Village (smaller program).</i> <i>Steps: Continue maintaining children as able, and referring. Consider training in mental health for teachers and others.</i></p>
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Needs

Key findings	Importance to Reach-Up, and steps Reach-Up plans to take
<p>Slowing of growth in non-white residents, but now up to 8.5% in Stearns County.</p>	<p><i>Reach-Up serves a much higher percentage of non-white children and families. An ongoing challenge is to get representation on board, parent council, and in enrollment recruitment.</i> <i>Steps: Continue efforts to recruit parents and staff representative of our families. Consider, can we make use of relationships we already have with parents to do outreach with other parents? Consider presentations at Circle of Security and other parent programs.</i></p>
<p>Benton County now has a higher percent of children birth to age 5 as a percent of the population (7.3%) compared to the other two counties. Sherburne County formerly had a higher percentage. Big Lake and Melrose are the cities with the highest percent in the area. Benton County also has more children age 0-4 in poverty (25%).</p>	<p><i>Reach-Up is seeing need in Foley, and East Side St. Cloud, with waiting list and requests for a classroom. Journey Home in Benton County adds to needs. Melrose and Big Lake are perhaps less important issues; children are being served, no waiting list.</i> <i>Steps: Pursue adding a classroom in Foley. Consider how Journey Home families' residence is recorded in database (Benton County or home county).</i></p>
<p>Reach-Up families continue to struggle with unemployment. 16% of Reach-Up children are in households with no adult employed, although the local unemployment rate has dropped steadily since 2011 (now at 3.8%). And one in ten parents name training/help finding work as their top</p>	<p><i>Unemployment affects families' ability to meet basic needs.</i> <i>Steps: Consider ways to help parents with job training and finding employment, including doing more joint programming with the Work Force Center.</i></p>

family need.	
<p>Nearly two in ten (17%) of Reach-Up families have one or more children age 6 and under in need of childcare. And four in ten (38%) of those with a child in care place that child in an unlicensed center, or in the home of a relative or friend.</p>	<p><i>Childcare is an important issue for Reach-Up to address.</i> <i>Steps: Reach-Up is adding year-round childcare program for 4 and 5 year olds next school year, hoping it will fill this time. Model it after the program that is in place for birth to 3 year olds. Transportation barrier is a continuing issue for discussion.</i></p>
<p>A higher percentage of parents this year are receiving childcare assistance. Still, nearly 6 in 10 (59%) do not receive assistance. The waiting list for childcare assistance in Benton County is 42 families; no waiting list was reported for other two counties.</p>	<p><i>Reach-Up is aware that for non-MFIP families there is a sliding fee childcare assistance waiting list in all three counties; it very easy to get bumped off the list due to a small amount of income.</i> <i>Steps: Add question to survey next year, about whether family is receiving a scholarship to help pay for childcare, to get a better read on the need. With Reach-Up's program addition next year for 4 and 5 year olds, at \$4/hour, monitor how quickly it fills, and document how many other children in families qualify for assistance because of the new Reach-Up program.</i></p>
<p>Perception of crime and violence as a community concern is up slightly this year, compared to the past two years. Nearly two in ten families say this is their biggest community concern.</p>	<p><i>Reach-Up is building relationships with police and fire departments. Bicycle police come by, interact with children and staff; also Career Night and other opportunities for interaction.</i> <i>Steps: Consider the need to ramp this up— add opportunities, maybe more classroom visits rather than evening programming. Also during drop off and pick up so parents and children get personal exposure. Consider scheduled times, e.g. for Chief Blair, other officers staff know.</i></p>
<p>More than two in ten families report they don't have a regular dentist. This has gone in the wrong direction since 2014. Although the decline is slight, it is still worrisome. Fully one-half of those without a regular dentist say they need help finding one; two in ten can't afford dental care.</p>	<p><i>Dental access is a major issue state-wide as well as in Reach-Up service area. Minnesota is changing standards to allow dental hygienist to see patients; this may help with initial exam and cleaning, but will need follow-up care options.</i> <i>Steps: Plan how to take advantage of the state standard change. Make use of dental provider list from family survey, as a starting-place to refer families for follow-up care.</i></p>
<p>In four Reach-Up communities, school district data shows the percent of children functioning within age expectations in acquisition and use of knowledge and</p>	<p><i>Reach-Up generally has 95% of 4 year olds functioning at age level. Kindergarten teachers give positive feedback on how well Reach-Up children perform.</i> <i>Steps: Check 3-year old percentages for comparison to school district data, especially in low-performing communities. Consider possible ways to use in public</i></p>

skills at age three is below the state target. These four are Big Lake, Melrose, Paynesville and St. Cloud.	<i>relations.</i>
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