



Children & Families
Commission of Orange County

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Agenda Item No. 1
March 4, 2009 Meeting

CLERK OF THE BOARD
ORANGE COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

DATE: February 19, 2009

TO: Children and Families Commission of Orange County

FROM: Michael M. Ruane, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Quarterly Performance Report for "Ready to Learn" Goal Area

SUMMARY:

The Commission evaluates the programs it funds to learn about program accomplishments, the changes made in the lives of children and families in Orange County, and to guide program improvements. The Commission has adopted a comprehensive evaluation plan and communicates results through reports that are presented to the Commission and its grantees and posted on the Commission's web site.

Quarterly Performance Report - One of the Commission's portfolio of management reports includes quarterly performance reports developed to present summary level program and evaluation information in relation to the Commission's four Strategic Goal areas: Healthy Children, Strong Families, Ready to Learn, and Capacity Building. "Ready to Learn" is the focus of the March Quarterly Performance Report

STRATEGIC PLAN & FISCAL SUMMARY:

The proposed actions have been specifically reviewed in relation to the Commission's Strategic Plan, and are consistent with the Capacity Building goal, among others. This agenda item does not include a funding request.

PRIOR COMMISSION ACTION:

December 3, 2008- Commission received the FY 07/08 Quarterly Performance Report - Focus Area: Healthy Children

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Receive "Ready to Learn" Quarterly Performance Report.

ATTACHMENTS:

"Ready to Learn" Quarterly Performance Report

Contact: Alyce Mastrianni

Quarterly Performance Report

Focus Area: Ready to Learn

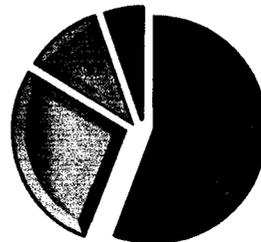
March 2009



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Budget by Goal Area (\$54.4 million in program spending)

- 56% Healthy Children
- 27% Ready to Learn
- 9% Strong Families
- 8% Capacity Building



Orange County Fast Facts

- 42,145 total births (2006 Data)
- 262,229 children ages 0 - 5 (2000 Census)
- 115,537 children ages 0 - 5 directly touched by services
- 128 Commission-funded programs
- 115 organizations providing services

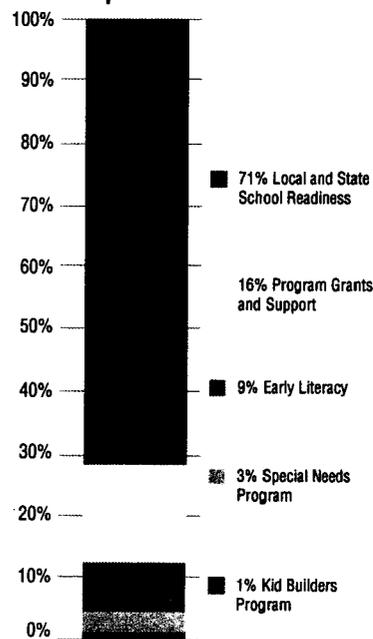
Ready to Learn Fast Facts

- 6,468 children enrolled in Commission-funded preschool or early learning classes
- 1,578 children participated in home-based school readiness programs
- 821 children with special needs enrolled in school readiness programs
- 4,002 preschool aged children participated in school-linked transition activities that met National Education Goal Panel's criteria
- 104,792 children read to by trained readers at clinic sites and community events totaling over 24,000 hours of reading to young children
- 46,143 parents and caregivers given literacy resources such as reading tips and developmental milestones tied to literacy
- 27,653 new and gently used books distributed to underprivileged children in the community

Ready to Learn Programs – \$14,819,135

Program	Expenditures	Number Served	
		Children 0-5	Family Members
Local and State School Readiness	\$10,481,341	12,231	14,755
Program Grants and Support	2,355,122	4,378	4,304
Early Literacy	1,339,619		
Special Needs Program	449,074	758	1,385
Kid Builders Program	193,979		
Ready to Learn Total	14,819,135	17,367	20,444

Allocation of Ready to Learn Expenditures



Early Literacy programs offer resources and information. In 2007-2008, 46,143 parents and caregivers received literacy resources; 92 community events were supported with readers and books; and over 27,500 new and gently used books were distributed to underprivileged children.

Kid Builders provides early learning materials; 35,000 Kid Builder binders were distributed this year.

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Ready to Learn Program Summaries

Reach Out and Read

Through our Reach Out and Read program, pediatricians – a trusted source of information for parents – educate parents about the importance of literacy, give children a book at every well-child visit, and in the process use the book to assess children's developmental growth. Trained readers model reading aloud techniques to parents in the waiting rooms. The Early Literacy Program supports Reach Out and Read at 44 clinics throughout Orange County, 15 of which were added this year.

Additionally, nearly 105,000 children were read to by our trained readers at clinic sites and community events totaling over 24,000 hours of reading to young children. Parents and caregivers were given literacy resources, and over 27,500 new and gently used books were given to underprivileged children in the community.

School Readiness Programs

Forty-four high priority elementary schools were targeted with services to improve preschool age children's health and development so that they will enter school ready to learn. These schools are located in 13 school districts with low Academic Performance Index scores. Services included health screenings; developmental screenings; linkages with community service providers; and school readiness information sharing and workshops. All of these districts transfer children's records from preschools to the elementary schools, and this year, nine of the 13 districts developed a formal tracking system to integrate records with the K-12 data systems.

The Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP) – a state-approved assessment tool – showed 97% of children in School Readiness programs at low performing school districts made progress in their cognitive, social, emotional, language, approach to learning, and physical development.

The Twilight School Readiness Program is a unique collaborative between the Commission, Huntington Beach City School District, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Huntington Valley, and Goldenwest College. The evening program provides transportation for the children and families from high-need neighborhoods in Huntington Beach to Goldenwest College where the children ages 0 – 5 attend school readiness programs (Commission funded) while their older siblings receive tutoring (Boys and Girls Club funded) and their parents attend adult education classes (City School District funded). This year, 296 children and 52 family members participated.

Readiness on the Road is a mobile school readiness program aimed at building the learning and language skills children need to successfully start school. Rotating among Boys and Girls Club sites, Readiness on the Road served 122 children this year, also providing early health intervention through check-ups, education, and resource referrals. Parents participate in the program, and approximately 10% of dads regularly attended with their children.

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