

Ninth District Opportunity, Inc.
FY 2010 Annual Report

FOLLOWING A PATHWAY TO EXCELLENCE

History

Ninth District Opportunity, Inc. is a private, non-profit corporation founded in 1967 to carry out the mandate of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. NDO's primary purpose is to work in partnership with low-income people promoting access to opportunities leading toward Self-Development, Self-Reliance & Self-Determination.

From December 1964 until NDO's legal incorporation, local OEO (Office of Economic Opportunity) funded community action activities were operated under the auspices of the Area Wide Human Resources Committee, a Subcommittee of the Georgia Mountains Area Planning and Development Commission.

However, the federal government was serious about this nation's "War on Poverty" and required a Board structure and other legal requirements which led to the emergence of a separate organization which opened its doors at 123 North Main Street on May 31, 1967 under the leadership of James "Jim" Redmond, NDO's first Executive Director. Father Frank Ruff served as the agency's first Board Chairman.

NDO has experienced a tremendous amount of change since those early days when board meetings were held in the Chairman's home. Our funding which initially supported only a Program Developer and a Secretary has expanded to a staff of over 600 individuals.

Mission

The mission of Ninth District Opportunity, Inc. is to advocate for families in need and to promote access to opportunities which will facilitate movement towards self-development, self-reliance, and self-determination.

Each of us contributes to the continuous keeping of the mission statement of Ninth District Opportunity, Inc. when we believe in and live by shared values. Values define what each of us believes to be of fundamental importance in our personal and professional lives. It is our belief that these values represent the leadership characteristics essential to implementing our mission statement.

1. The client is first and foremost
2. Respect for the individual
3. Pursuit of excellence
4. Promotion of positive change
5. Service to the community



JANICE A. RILEY, CCAP
Executive Director

P.O. Drawer L
Gainesville, GA 30503

September 2010

Welcome to the Annual Report for our 2010 fiscal year. So many key factors—a sluggish economy, increased program enrollment, changes in our program budgets and demands for critical services—made this a challenging year. Yet, our staff works each day to fulfill our credo; helping people, changing lives.

We treasure having an ink pen which President Lyndon Johnson used to sign the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. The Act is the basis of the existence of every community action agency in America. The annual program work of each agency is monitored by a volunteer board of directors and all programs comply with strict audit requirements.

We've been described as a social and economic enterprise, perhaps rightly so, in that we strive to empower people toward self-sufficiency. Our aim is to lessen the causes of poverty with measurable goals; we are in the business of enablement in twenty-three counties of north Georgia.

A noted theologian recently wrote, "Poverty is a monster. It saps the will and can kill the spirit. For nearly one out of every six American children who grow up in it, poverty is also a dream snatcher, oftentimes snatching the dream of a better life before it can rise above the cracked plaster ceiling."

All of what we do, what we offer, what we teach and what we are is symbolically represented in this annual report by taking steps, following paths, building blocks, climbing stairways, making footprints. Those actions depict the essential partnerships we forge with those we serve; and those are partnerships with many like-minded citizens, churches or businesses which recognize and support our mission and goals.

These pages will cover the breadth of our services in north Georgia. As always, more information is available at our centers or www.ndo.org. On behalf of the entire staff and the individuals and families serviced by Ninth District Opportunity, we thank you for your interest in this report and in our progress.

Janice A. Riley
Executive Director

Key Staff

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Garrison Baker	Board Chairman
Pat Westmoreland	Board Co-Chair
Jessie Robinson	Board Secretary
Janet Allison	Board Member
Mary Berrong	Board Member
Dot Cannon	Board Member
Charles Heard	Board Member
Anastasia Hudson	Board Member
Ken Klimasewski	Board Member
Pat Nodine	Board Member

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Janice A. Riley	Executive Director
Linda Highsmith	Deputy Director
Kay Laws	Head Start/Pre-K
Brenda Dalin	Community Services
Mary Nell Gooch	Weatherization



HEAD START POLICY COUNCIL

Danny Evans	Banks County
Chris Casdia	Cherokee County
Jose Vazquez	Cobb County
James Hunt	Dawson County
LaShanda Skelton	Douglas County
Debbie Brooks	Fannin County
Paula Guzman	Forsyth County
Candice Huot	Franklin County
Cheryl Gilmore	Gilmer County
Tatiana Giraldo	Gwinnett County
Anastasia Hudson	Habersham County
Roxana Jimenez	Hall County
Maribel Rodriguez	Hall County—EHS
Tammy Pointer	Hart County
Jaclyn Cruse	Hart County—EHS
Josie Juarez	Lumpkin County
Brenda Cody	Pickens County
Laura Gresham	Rabun County
Ashley Warden	Stephens County
Tabitha Crawford	Towns County
Belinda Quintana	Union County
Megan Magee	White County
Nicole McCoy	Hands on Forsyth
Mary Ellen Cosgrove	Gainesville College
Natalie Hopkins	Gwinnett Schools
Flo Smith	Adult Education/Lanier Tech
Carla Reeves	Former Head Start Parent
David Bartolomey	Former Head Start Parent
Bobby Whitlock	Pioneer RESA
Dr. Mary Ursits	Kennesaw University
Shantelle Grant	Public Library
Betty Lee Martin	Habersham Families Helping Families

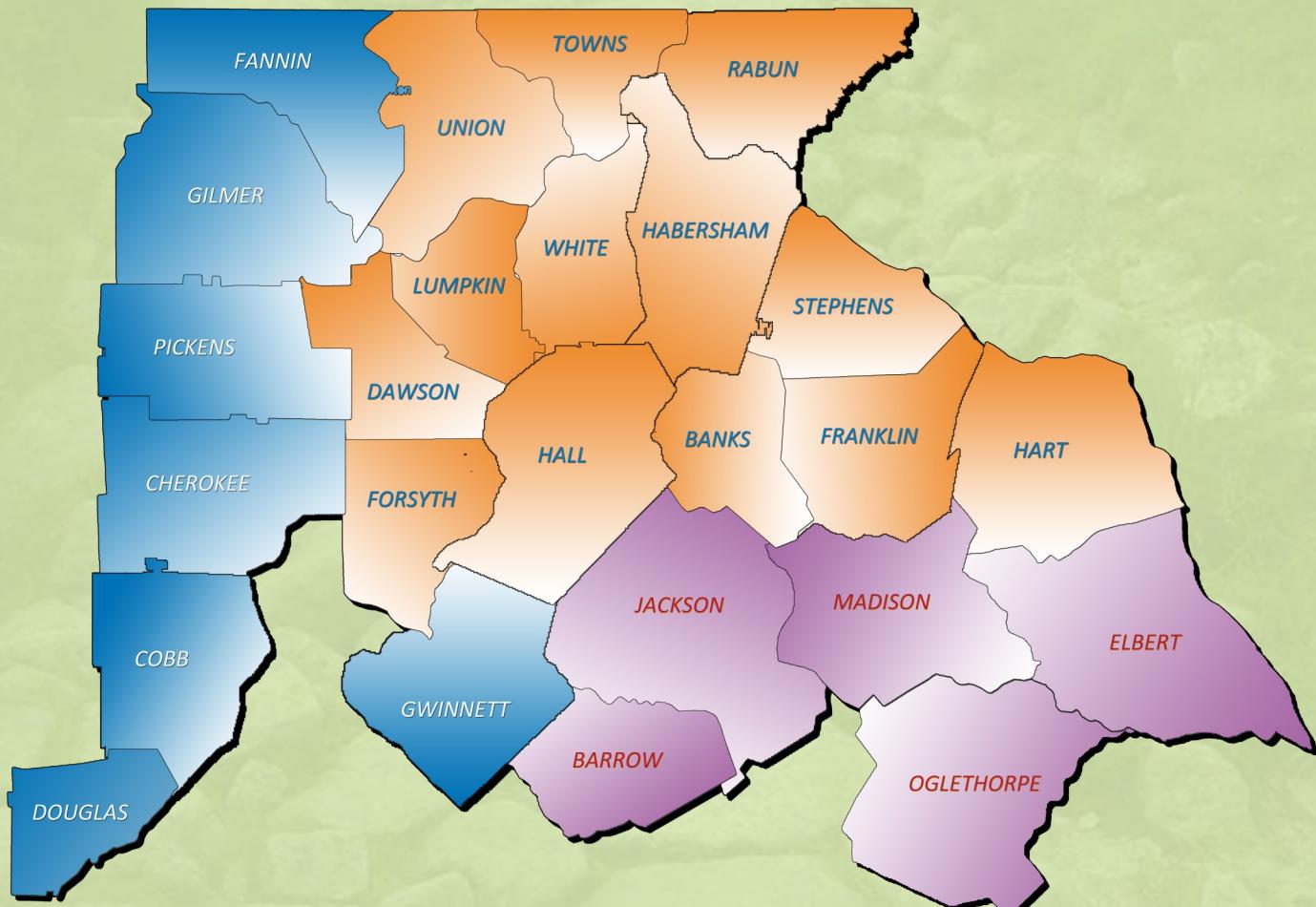
Service Area

All Services

Head Start/Early Head Start/Pre-K Only

LIHEAP Only

Ninth District Opportunity, Inc. currently operates a full-complement of programs in 13 Northeast Georgia counties with a total service area of 23 counties.



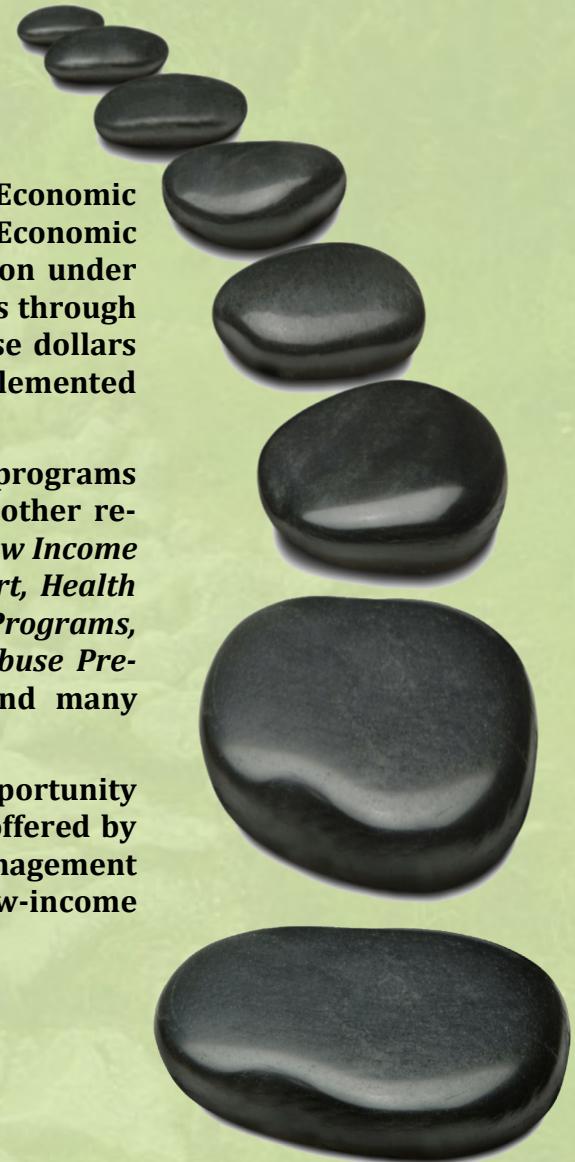
Ninth District Opportunity, Inc.

PO Drawer L | Gainesville, Georgia 30503

Phone: 770-532-3191 | Fax: 770-534-0548

www.ndo.org

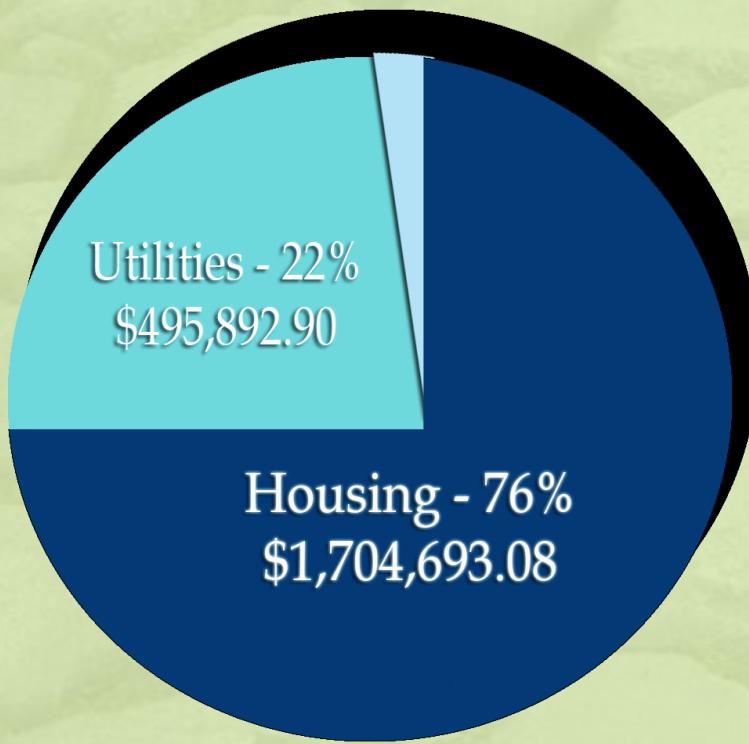
Community Services



The Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 created the Office of Economic Opportunity, and with it – Community Action. Though the Economic Opportunity Act expired in 1981, Community Action lives on under the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG). Funding comes through the states with a ninety (90%) percent pass through. These dollars make up the core funding for programs developed and implemented in local communities.

CSBG has been the catalyst in the creation of dozens of programs through the utilization of federal funds and leveraging of other resources. Some of the programs, past and present, include *Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, Legal Services, Head Start, Health Services, Job Corps, Neighborhood Service Centers, Aging Programs, VISTA, Weatherization, Rural Health Outreach, Substance Abuse Prevention, Employment, Housing, Food Pantries, Shelters*, and many more.

Community Services are an integral part of Ninth District Opportunity and the lives of the people we serve. Many of the services offered by this program are personal, involving one on one case management and counseling services provided in an effort to assist low-income households in obtaining self-sufficiency.



Direct Client Benefits

Housing	\$1,704,693.08	76.09%
Utilities	\$495,892.90	22.12%
Food	\$24,950.00	1.11%
Transportation	\$9,459.55	.42%
Incidentals	\$4,067.08	.18%
Medical	\$1,446.24	.06%

R.O.M.A.

Results Oriented Management & Accountability

The importance of Ninth District to our local communities is reflected in the outcomes captured from long term case management services and post-discharge follow-up. Case managers work in partnership with clients during program enrollment to create a self-sufficiency plan. This plan monitors the household's ongoing progress in 10 major categories.

- Income • Nutrition
- Employment • Childcare
- Education • Transportation
- Housing • Family Relations
- Health • Community Involvement

2010 Highlights

214 unemployed and obtained a job

99 increased employment

131 maintained employment for 90 days

65 maintained employment for 30 days

318 obtained work readiness skills

10 completed GED

8 completed post-secondary education

118 obtained childcare in support of employment

2,468 accessed/maintained housing

131 obtained low-income tax credits

220 opened a savings account

1,489 maintained a budget to meet household needs

Head Start

Considered one of the great success stories in our nation's "War on Poverty," Head start was created in 1964 by the Office of Economic Opportunity to provide low-income pre-school children with the foundation that would enable them to compete effectively with their schoolmates from middle-income backgrounds.

Ninth District Opportunity's Head Start Program is Northeast Georgia's primary source for a comprehensive intervention program to these pre-school children and their families. All Head Start children receive education, social, health and nutritional services as needed.

Our Head Start program, located in 32 centers, is the agency's oldest and highest profile service. Since 1996, the program has been recognized by the National Head Start Association as a "Program of Excellence," the highest award for quality with only 21 of the nation's 2,600 programs earning this distinction. In addition, 19 centers are accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children and recognized as a high quality program. Although Georgia does not require Head Start centers to be licensed, the program has voluntarily licensed 26 centers.

Partnerships for the program include 3,971 volunteers from communities, school systems, civic groups, colleges and faith-based organizations.

Enrollment 2,783, ages 3&4

- Represents 2,581 families
- Reflects 25% of eligible children in the service area
- 89% average daily attendance
- 93% received preventative healthcare services
 - * Physical Exams
 - * Immunizations
 - * Vision/Hearing Screenings
- 22% of these families received crisis intervention assistance

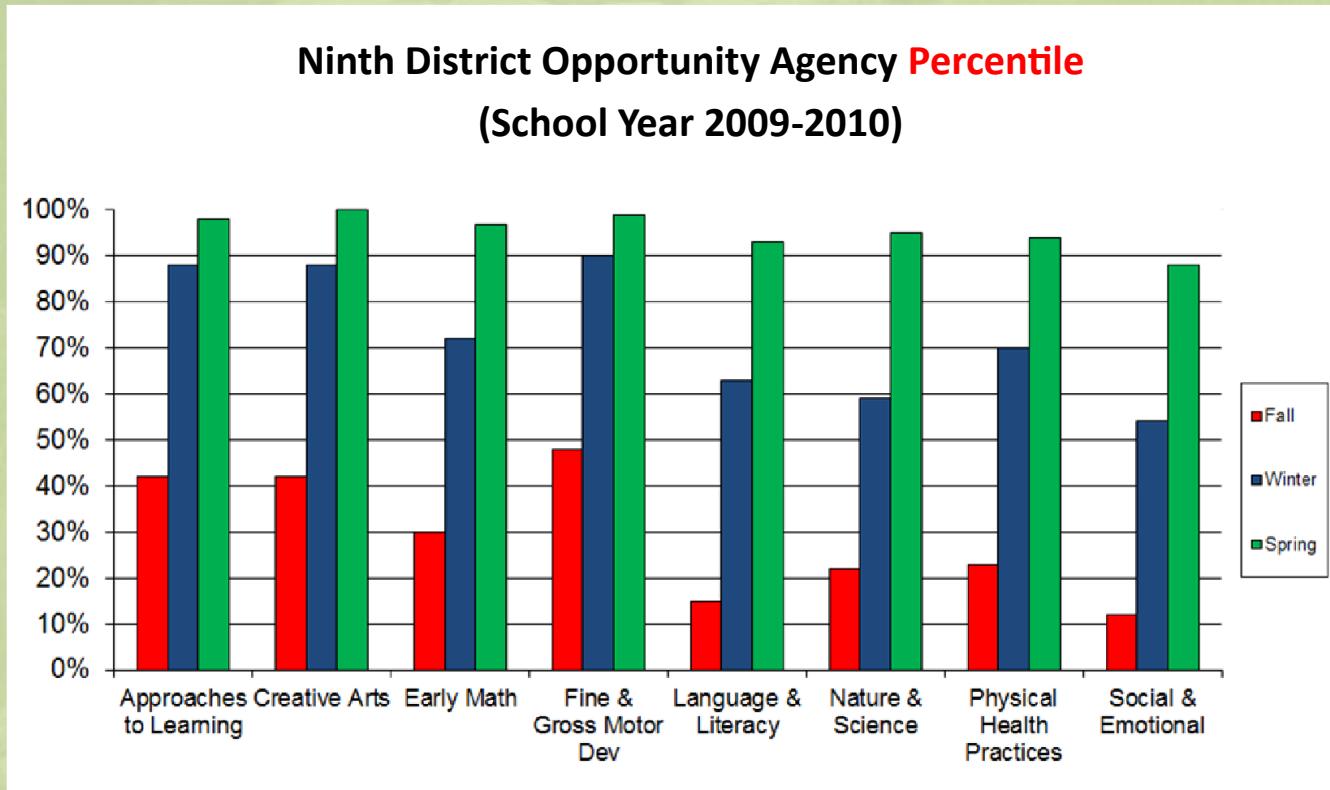
- 96% received dental exams
 - * 98% completed all of the recommended dental treatments while enrolled
- 14% were recognized as having a disability and received specialized instruction through an individualized education program.

Our program works closely with school systems to serve children with disabilities.



Families participated in numerous workshops and social events at the centers. New for our program this year was the co-sponsoring of "How to Make the Most of Your Money" program for parents.

Beyond the successes of the classrooms, the Head Start program participated in the "Taking Action to Build Leadership and Excellence" project for increased cost efficiency and nutrition program quality; partnered in the "Reading is Fundamental" book distribution with all children taking three books home; and served as a mentor program for the "Georgia Strengthening Families" network, based on strong parental support practices.



A challenging curriculum is fundamental to the Head Start program in preparing students for school and assisting parents to help their children and themselves. The chart above validates the measured progress meeting curriculum standards and goals. All children demonstrated significant growth from fall to spring. The spring percentage represents the percentage of children who mastered all skills within the curriculum goals.



Early Head Start

Our Early Head Start (EHS) program serves pregnant women and children from birth to age three in Hall, Hart and Forsyth Counties.

Parents participated in a variety of activities. Pregnant women received weekly home visits to discuss pre-natal and post-natal care. 126 individuals provided volunteer services during the year.

Enrollment 85 children and 32 pregnant women representing 94 families

(This number reflects 1% of eligible children in the agency service area)

85 Children

86% average daily attendance

95% received age appropriate preventative health care services

Baby well-checks

Oral healthcare

5% of the children were identified by Babies Can't Wait as having a disability.

32 Pregnant women

80% were composed of single parents

38% of the families received crisis intervention

25% were enrolled in adult education classes

Based on the information gathered during our review, we have determined that at least one area of non-compliance was identified and corrected before the review ended. Accordingly, no corrective action is required, and your Head Start and Early Head Start programs are in compliance with applicable Head Start Program Performance Standards, laws, regulations, and policy requirements.

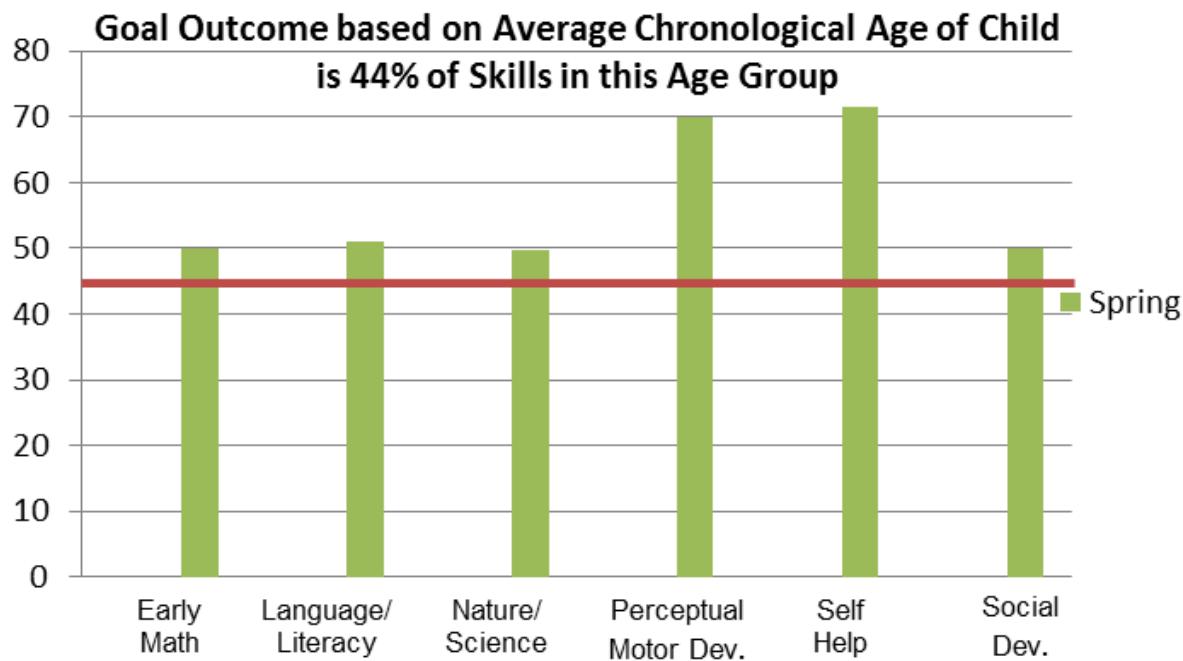
Patricia E. Brown, Acting Director
Office of Head Start

12/12/2007

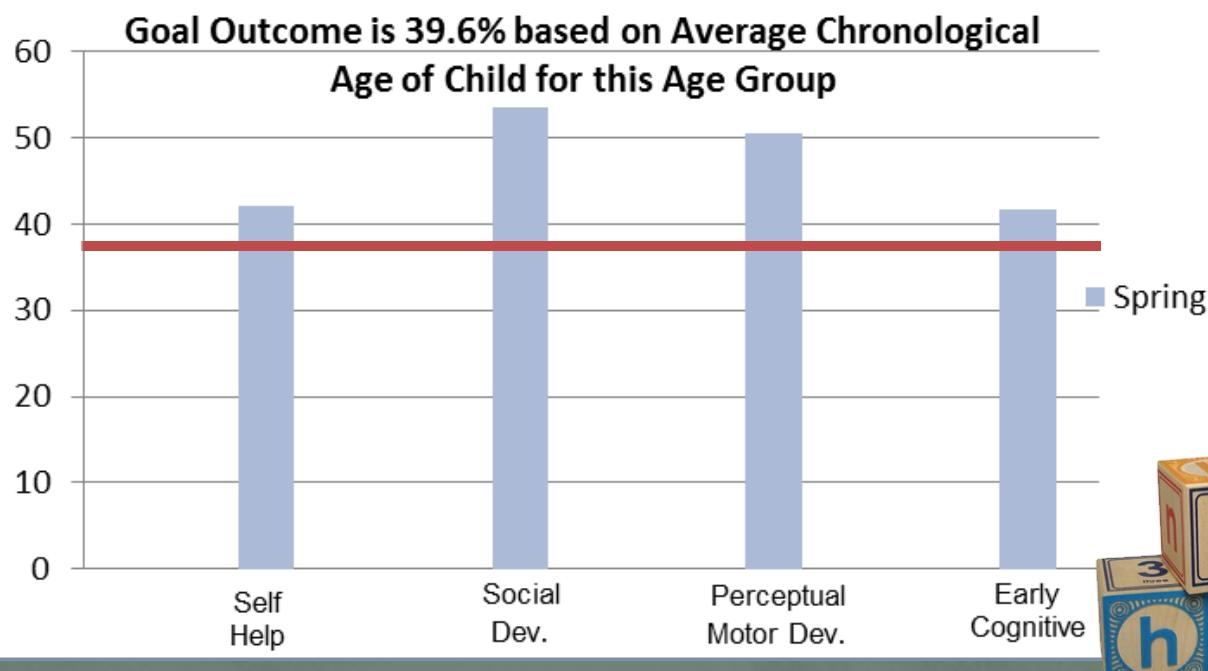


NDO considers two age groups when describing agency outcomes for EHS: Infants and Toddlers. Infant outcomes are broken down into 4 developmental domains and Toddler outcomes are broken down into 6 developmental domains. Goals have been set for each age group based on average chronological age of the children for each classroom. The Toddler classroom's chronological age for 2009-2010 outcomes is 32 months making the goal 44% of the skills for that age group. The Infant classroom's average chronological age for 2009-1010 outcomes is 9.5 months of age making the goal 39.6% of the skills for that age group. Developmentally both Infants and Toddlers have met and exceeded the goal in each of the domains.

Toddler Outcomes for 2009-2010



Infant Outcomes for 2009-2010



Pre-K

Complementing Head Start, the Georgia Pre-Kindergarten Program was established in 1993 to provide four year-old children with the high quality pre-school experiences they need in order to prepare for kindergarten. Ninth District Opportunity operates the program under the direction of Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning. The program is funded by proceeds from the Georgia Lottery Corporation. Its mission is to “deliver exemplary early care and education programs that improve the quality of early learning experiences, increase school readiness and improve overall school performance.” The program provides a full 6.5 hour instructional day for 180 days a year.

Enrollment 1,839

- Includes 1,461 Georgia pre-K and 378 Georgia Pre-K/Head Start partnership.
- 78% were considered to be “at-risk” families
(recipients of Food Stamps, SSI, Medicaid, TANF, Child and Parent Services (CAPS), or PeachCare)
- 94% received age appropriate preventative health care services
- 98% received all necessary immunizations



Weatherization

Ninth District Opportunity's Weatherization Program is designed to reduce energy loss by making homes more energy efficient. In addition to making people safer and more comfortable, the program strives to increase the financial resources of participants by reducing the amount of income spent on home energy costs.

Weatherization services are designed to reduce energy loss by preventing air infiltration and providing adequate insulation. Services are available to any family meeting income guidelines, though families with elderly and disabled individuals are given priority.

In an effort to reach out to unemployed contractors in our local communities, Ninth District Opportunity implemented a strategic directional change in 2010. Rather than using our own staff for home repairs, as in previous years, the agency phased in certified private contractors to do the work under the supervision of agency employees. These companies are certified, licensed and insured craftsmen such as plumbers, HVAC technicians, electricians and general contractors.

Residents in fourteen north Georgia counties were served according to program guidelines and household needs. Applications were completed by local Community Services staff and forwarded to the Weatherization office, where on-site assessments were scheduled. Home improvements were made by local contractors, followed by a final inspection by agency staff. During Fiscal Year 2010, nearly four hundred homes received Weatherization services.



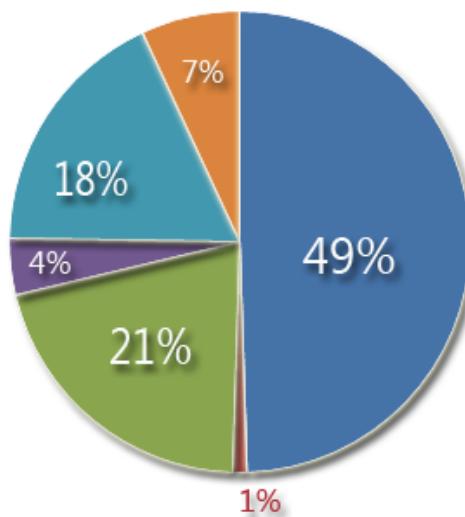
Financial Report

Funding Sources

\$43,104,501.00

Total

49% - US Department of Human Services
1% - Emergency Food and Shelter Board
21% - Georgia Department of Human Resources
4% - Georgia Department of Community Affairs
18% - Georgia Bright from the Start
7% - Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority

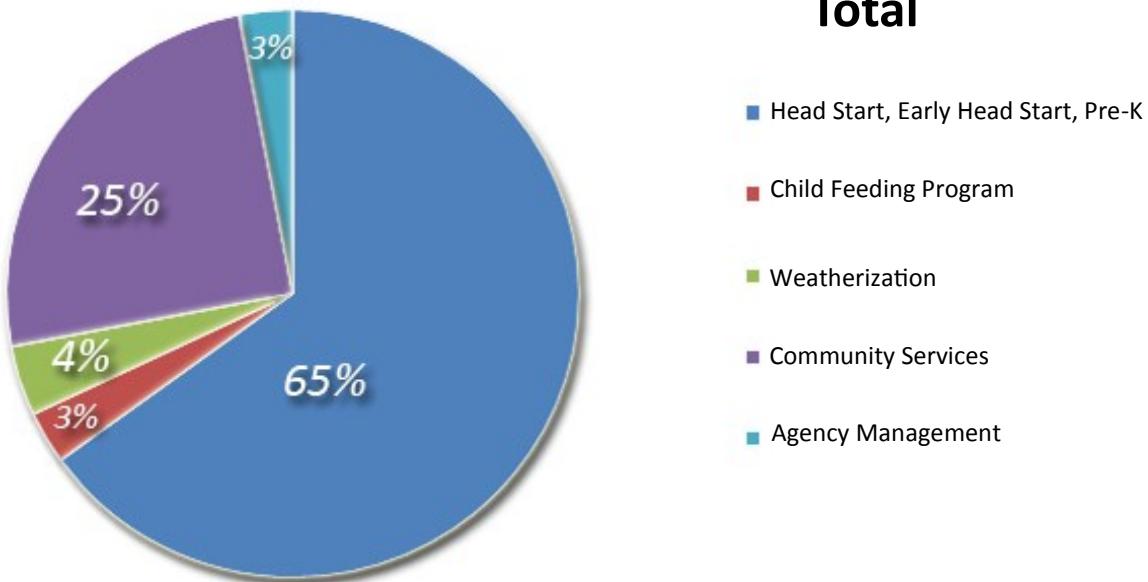


- **Department of Health and Human Services**
 - Head Start \$20,555,386.00
 - Head Start ARRA \$1,023,052.00
- **Emergency Food and Shelter Board**
 - Emergency Food and Shelter Program \$34,786.00
- **Passed through Georgia Department of Human Resources**
 - Community Services Block Grant \$858,026.00
 - Community Services Block Grant ARRA \$1,254,595.00
 - Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program \$6,244,055.00
- **Passed through Georgia Department of Community Affairs**
 - Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Program \$1,832,300.00
- **Passed through Georgia Bright from the Start**
 - Child and Adult Care Food Program \$1,326,420.00
- **Department of Energy pasted through the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority**
 - Weatherization \$582,997.00
 - Weatherization ARRA \$2,209,367.00
- **State and Local Governments**
 - Pre-K \$5,629,517.00
 - Agency Management \$1,248,000.00

Expenditures

\$42,128,302.00

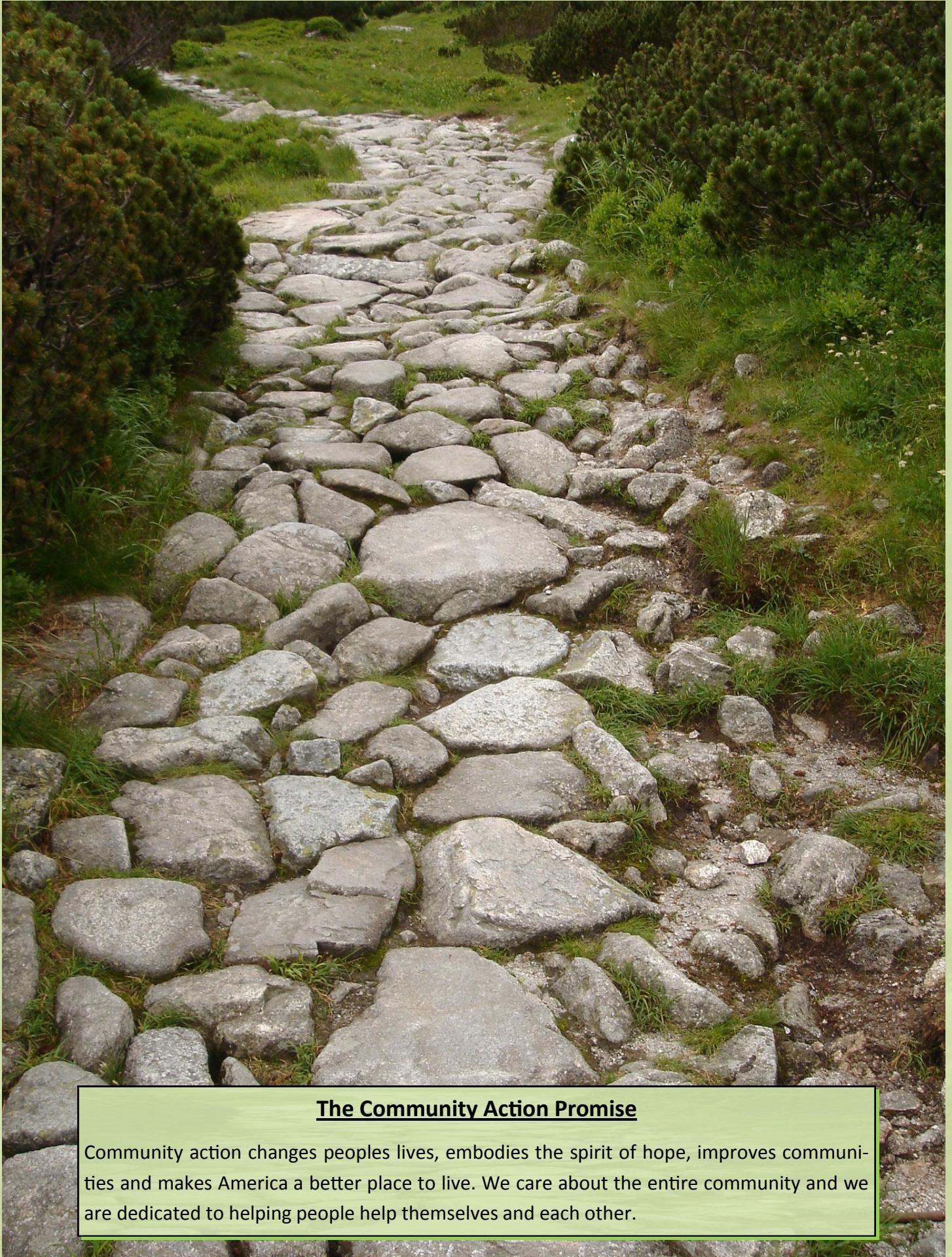
Total



- **Head Start** **\$21,566,366.00**
- **Pre-K** **\$ 5,629,517.00**
- **Child Feeding Program** **\$ 1,556,105.00**
- **Weatherization** **\$ 2,234,070.00**
- **Community Services** **\$ 9,897,274.00**
- **Agency Management** **\$ 1,245,000.00**

FY 2011 agency funding levels and program budgets are anticipated to remain at the 2010 levels excluding ARRA funding provided to the CSBG and Head Start programs.

The independent auditors' report issued January 4, 2010 did not identify any questioned costs. The agency's internal controls were deemed to be very solid. There were minor findings regarding record keeping that were immediately corrected. Management implemented a corrective plan of action to prevent a reoccurrence of these findings. The Board of Directors was fully informed during the audit process and received a verbal and written report from the auditing firm.



The Community Action Promise

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