



# Head Start Annual Report 2014



773.645.2300  
[www.casacentral.org](http://www.casacentral.org)



## Early Learning Programs

### Ounce of Prevention 2014 Head Start Annual Report

**Name of Delegate Agency:** Casa Central  
**Program Number:** 007  
**Program Name:** Casa Central Early Learning Programs  
**Address:** 1343 N. California  
**Phone Number:** 773.645.2300  
**Fax Number:** 773.645.1432  
**Head Start Director Name:** Amanda McMillen  
**Head Start Director Email:** [amcmillen@casacentral.org](mailto:amcmillen@casacentral.org)

**Agency Web Site Address:** <http://www.casacentral.org>  
**Agency Type:** Social Service Agency / Non –Profit (Non-CAA)

#### Agency Description:

Casa Central “transforms lives and strengthens communities, with a special focus on Hispanics. Our network of social services propels a diverse population of all ages toward self-sufficiency and a higher quality of life.”

As part of the 14 comprehensive bilingual, bicultural, bilingual programs, Casa Central’s Early Learning Program provides Head Start services to children, ages 2-5 and their families. The program has 3 sites in two options: two sites are (Early) Head Start/Child Care collaboration sites, providing full-day, early learning services in a center-based setting; and one site is Home-based, serving hard to reach populations (teen parents and immigrant families) within the comfort of the family’s home. Four of the seven (Early) Head Start/Child Care classrooms also hold a partnership with Chicago Public Schools Preschool for All program, which provides certified teachers in the classrooms. Both center-based programs implement and use the Creative Curriculum, and the Teaching Strategies GOLD assessment; the home-based programs use Learning Games from Teaching Strategies, as well as the GOLD assessment. The programs have partnerships with local health providers to ensure that children are up-to-date on their screenings; this does not supplant a medical and dental home, which family support staff works to help families establish. The centers have three staff per classroom, and each family is assigned a family support staff person. Home Educators have a caseload of

12 families. Each site has a program director and the center-based programs share an education coordinator and home-based has their own educational coordinator. The content area staff includes Special Needs Supervisor and Specialist, Senior Family Development Specialist, ERSEA Coordinator, Systems Manager, a Director of Early Learning Programs, and Deputy Director of Children & Youth Programs. The program serves 269 Head Start and 16 Early Head Start children and their families, and specializes in preparing children for entry into kindergarten with an emphasis on social-emotional development, literacy enhancement and math comprehension.

## Site Locations:

ABC Home Based  
1349 N. California  
Chicago, IL 60622

Casa Infantil  
2222 N. Kedzie  
Chicago, IL 60647

Community Service Center  
1343 N. California Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60622

## Community Areas Served:

- Hermosa
- Humboldt Park
- Logan Square
- West Town
- Wicker Park

## During the 2014-2015 program year, Casa Central Children Services:

- Provided Head Start services to **334 households**
- Enrolled **359** children
- Helped **126** children (35%) successfully transition to **Kindergarten**
- Served over **15.6%** (56) **children with special needs** and their families
- Provided **supportive services to 309** families
- Ensured **353 (98%)** children had an **identified medical home** and **90%** (322 children) were **up-to-date on their physicals**
- Aided **349 children** and their families to identify a **dental home**; with **71%** receiving a **dental exam**
- Ensured **355** children had **insurance**
- **92 fathers** participated in program activities



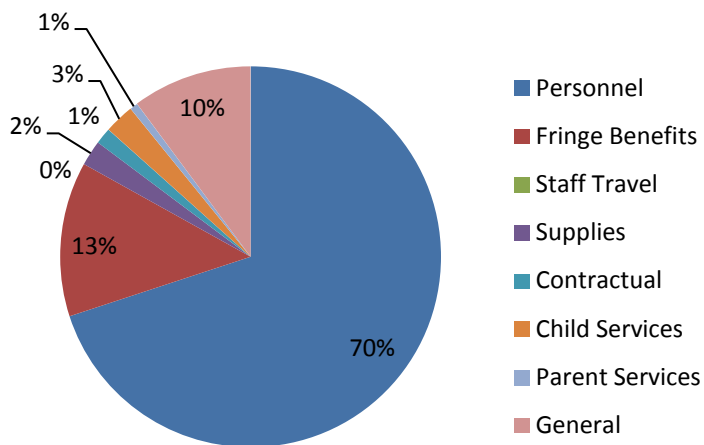
## OVERALL DELEGATE BUDGET 2013

Total Public and Private Funds received: \$2,422,991

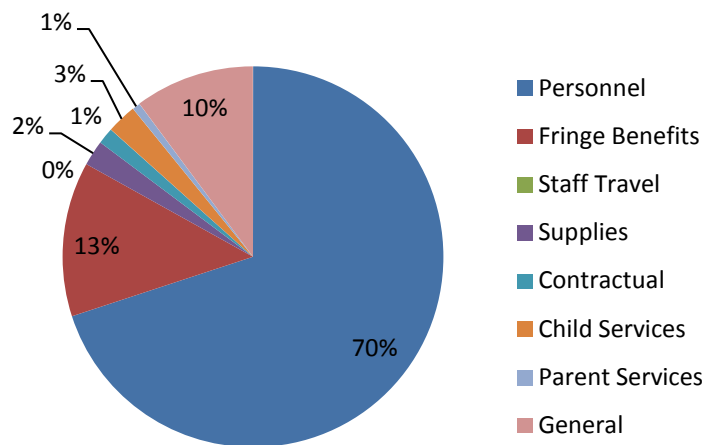
Public Funds		Private Funds	
Source	Amount	Source	Amount
Federal	\$1,693,474	Individuals, Corporations, Foundations, etc.	86,617
State	0	In-kind	167,880
Local School District	253,500		
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,946,974</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>254,497</b>

## 2014 Budget and Actual Expenditures

### 2014 Ounce-Early/Head Start Budget for Casa Central



### Year 2014 Casa Central Ounce Early/Head Start Expenditure



## CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVED

### Grantee Funded Enrollment

	Head Start Enrollment	Early Head Start Enrollment
<b>Center-based Program</b>		
<b>a. 5 days per week</b>		
1. Full-day enrollment	125	16
2. Part-day enrollment	0	0
<b>b. 4 days per week</b>		0
1. Full-day enrollment	0	
2. Part-day enrollment	0	0
<b>Home-based Program</b>	144	0
<b>Unallocated Slots</b>		
<b>Total:</b>	269	16

### Casa Central

Total Children Served: 359

Total Families Served: 334

Average monthly enrollment (as percentage of funded enrollment):

Number of Eligible Children in Community, ages 0-5	7,444
Percentage of children served in agency	4.8%

## Health

### Percentage of enrolled children who received medical and dental exams

	Received Medical Exams	Received Dental Exams
	HS =89.1% EHS =96.4%	HS=71% EHS= 100%

Parental involvement in Directly Operated, Delegate and Partner Agencies

## **Parent Education Activities**

**Health:** Casa Central hosted a Health Advisory Council meeting with over fifteen community partners that support health and wellness within the Humboldt Park and surrounding communities. Additionally, throughout the year Casa Central partnered with the ATS Institute of Technology Nursing Program, and the University of Illinois in Chicago Extension Nutrition Program to provide health and nutrition education and support to children and parents to maintain a healthy life style. Finally, the ABC Home-based program incorporated the “Teach Nutrition to Kids” curriculum to support nutrition education for parents and their children during home visiting services and socialization groups.

**Mental Health:** Parents received training on “Why is Children’s Mental Health Important?” Parents learned about themes related to mental health in children ages 3-5 and how mental health can affect school success. Additionally, parents received training on developmental screening and the referral process to the Chicago Public Schools for children identified as needing further assessment for special needs services. Finally, through a special grant received by the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA), over 60 staff members received a special training on the Attachment, Self-Regulation and Competency (ARC) framework for working with children affected by trauma in a classroom or home visiting environment. Additionally, the program was able to purchase books, furniture, toys and technology to enhance the classroom’s ability to support and respond to children exposed to trauma or other social-emotional needs.

**Education and Literacy:** Math and literacy continue to be the primary focus for Casa Central Early Learning programs in order to prepare children for school. This year Casa trained teachers on the, “Everyday Math” curriculum, which integrates math knowledge, skills and understanding of everyday activities throughout the classroom and home environment. Casa Central received three literacy grants to provide books and literacy resources for children in the classroom and their home. Some programs participated in the “Explore & Roar” summer literacy event through the Chicago Public Library, and hosted literacy events that involved children’s favorite story books, with hands-on and dress up activities, during the Week of the Young Child.

The programs provided curriculum and learning activities during parent meetings and held discussions on topics, such as: “Preparing Your Child for the First Day of School” and “Child Development”. Casa Central encourages frequent parent involvement and communication by promoting an open-door policy for parents to visit the programs at any time and volunteer within their child’s classroom. Home visits and parent conferences address individual child development and how parents can support learning at home.

**Community and Social Services:** At parent meetings, featured speakers shared on specific topics parents have indicated as being of interest during the fall participant survey. These

speakers are from local community service providers and inform parents of resources available, how to access services, and eligibility requirements. Some examples of community organizations that provided training and services to parents include La Rabida Hospital provided pedestrian and transportation safety; WinTrust Bank trained parents on “Money Smart for Adults” building knowledge, security, and confidence; and St. Augustine College provided a session on how to prepare healthy meals with your children.

**Other Community-related Education:** 100 volunteers from the Aramark Corporation came to Casa Central to enhance the environment for health and wellness. The team created murals, canvassed pictures, made nutrition puzzles for the classrooms, built garden boxes and benches, created banners with Casa Central’s 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo, and completed a special food experience project.

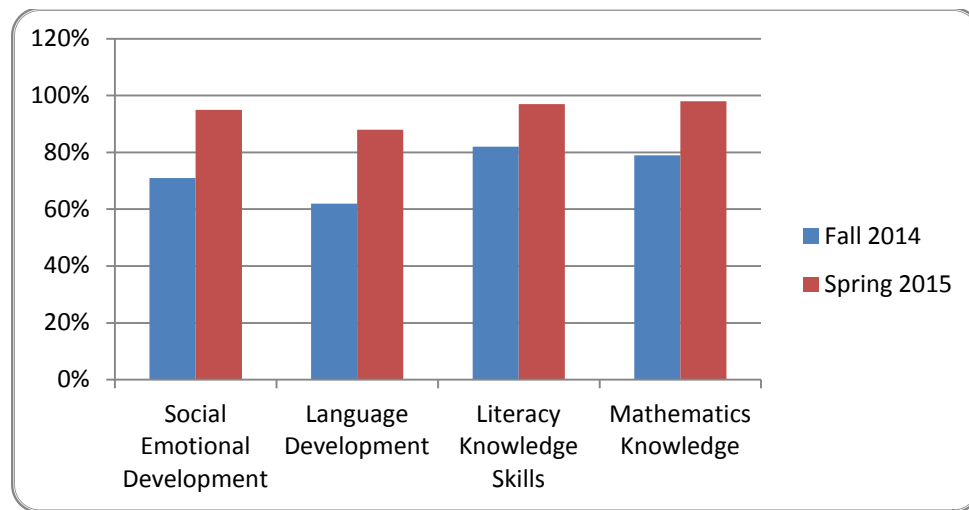
**Parent Committee Meetings:** Each program has a Parent Committee and elects officers and representatives that take on an active role in the program’s Policy Committee and the grantee’s Policy Council. The program Policy Committee met monthly. This year, they participated in training on Head Start and the role of committee members in interviewing and hiring staff; fiscal management of the program, including monthly budget reviews and program amendments; participated in the annual Self Assessment and reviewed the Quality Improvement Plan and changes made; reviewed the 2014 Community Needs Assessment, Program Information Report and Selection Criteria and recommended changes; and approved the expansion of the Early Head Start services for 2015-2016 program year.

**Other special gatherings or activities:** Each center hosted activities designed for parents and children: Family Literacy Nights; Family Literacy Activities during the day; Transition Celebrations; seasonal celebrations; parent recognitions; food experiences; and field trips. Additionally, the programs hosted a Family Festival in Humboldt Park in which over 700 children and parents participated and joined in games, music and healthy snacks for the entire family. Kindergarten Readiness: Kindergarten Readiness activities included a focus on literacy, language, and math skills in classrooms. Each program worked with a local education advocacy group that came to each site to talk to parents in the fall about education options in the Local Education Agency (LEA): program types, eligibility, and application process. They also distributed school district catalogs.

**Kindergarten Readiness:** Kindergarten Readiness activities included a focus on literacy, language, and math skills in classrooms. Each program worked with a local education advocacy group that came to each site to talk to parents in the fall about educational options in the Local Education Agency (LEA): program types, eligibility, and application process. They also distributed school district catalogs.

**Special Efforts to Prepare Children for Kindergarten:** Children transitioning to kindergarten are in two classrooms at each centers, and in each home visitor’s caseload. These classrooms have a certified teacher, via a partnership with the local LEA, and the focus of the training for

teachers from the partnership is to ensure the skills (cognitive and social-emotional) needed for kindergarten are present and acquired in the activities that the children participate in. Each child receives regular developmental assessments utilizing the Teaching Strategies GOLD assessment tool, which regularly evaluates each individual's progression regarding academic, fine and gross motor, and social emotional growth based on expectations for their age. Teaching Strategies GOLD is utilized throughout the City of Chicago as a respected tool to accurately analyze a child's preparedness for entering kindergarten based on whether they are "meeting" or "exceeding" expectations for their age level. Teachers and Home Educators create checkpoints three times a year to review each child's progression and utilize the information to engage parents in the child's learning and set individual learning goals for each child based on their strengths and areas of concentration. By the Spring of 2015, over 90% of children in the Early Learning Programs met or exceeded expectations in Social-Emotional Development, Language Development, Literacy Knowledge Skills, and Mathematics Knowledge (see table 1).



**Table 1: Percentage of Children Meeting or Exceeding Developmental Expectations**

**Transition Activities to Promote Kindergarten Readiness:** For children with special needs, we have worked with local schools to ensure that the parent and child have visited the school and classroom they will be placed in the fall. When possible, the Head Start teacher, Special Needs staff and/or Family Development Specialist will visit the new school, as well. For all children, a file with their most recent screenings is provided to the parents to take to the new school.

## Summary of Audit Findings

There were no financial audit findings in the grantee, partner or delegate agencies for FY2014.