



grow up great

Early Investments Yielding
a Lifetime of Benefits



The Children and Families Commission of Orange County
2010-2011 Summary Annual Report

The Children and Families Commission of Orange County

supports organizations that provide health, education and development services to children, prenatal to age five, and their families. Our goal is to fund and support the most needed and effective services so that Orange County's children grow up healthy and ready to learn. The Commission receives funds from the 1998 Proposition 10 tobacco initiative.

2,693,534

Total number of services provided to children and families in 2010-2011

What Did the Organizations We Fund Accomplish This Year?

173,921 shelter bed nights for homeless mothers, young children and pregnant women

57,644 children received health screens

53,382 children read to in pediatric waiting areas

44,181 home visits or case management meetings to increase parents' understanding of healthy child development

22,798 children screened for up-to-date immunizations

20,910 children received developmental screenings and were linked to developmental services when needed

17,901 children screened for dental health and 11,798 dental clinic visits provided to treat dental needs

8,453 children enrolled school readiness programs, including 1,167 children with special needs

7,760 children received primary care services, including well child and sick visits

6,325 children - who previously had no health care home - were connected to a place for regular health care

3,482 safety and injury prevention checks were conducted at young children's homes



Effective Evidence-based Programs

Evidence-based programs are part of the Commission's core philosophy, with program investments guided by knowledge gained from research, best management practices, and real-world results.

Investing in **Healthy Children**

Commission supported programs encompass prenatal care, health screenings, health care access and developmental growth. Home visitation is a vital element of the Commission-funded Bridges Maternal Child Health Network, providing education about healthy child development and early intervention services to families needing additional support.

Four independent studies found that nurse home visitation programs produce a significant cost benefit, ranging from \$2.88 to \$5.70 return for every dollar invested. Nurse home visitation programs can dramatically improve children's health and wellbeing resulting in fewer low-birthweight babies, reduced emergency room visits for young children, and higher cognitive and vocabulary scores as children develop and enter school.¹



Research Shows...

**up to \$5.70 return
on investment**

Through Healthy Children Programs:

68,367 developmental and health screens provided to children

31,778 children received specialty care clinic visits

24,103 Kits for New Parents were distributed

21,785 home visits provided to at-risk families

21,011 parents received nutrition and physical activity education

17,781 mothers receive breastfeeding education, intervention and support

4,569 children were enrolled in health insurance

Investing in **Early Learning**

Early Learning programs build the foundation children need to be effective learners when they start kindergarten. The Commission funds school readiness, math literacy and early language programs including Reach Out and Read, Raising A Reader, and Read for the Record.

Research confirms a strong correlation between vocabulary at age three and 11th grade reading level, and has determined early math skills to be the most powerful predictor of later school success. As a result, multiple studies of early childhood education programs have found that children benefit with higher educational achievement, and communities benefit because these children ultimately earn more, contribute to the economy and support local services.²



Research Shows...

**early childhood
education leads to future
academic achievement**

Through Early Learning Programs:

88,877 new and gently used books were given to children by health care providers and at community events

10,816 children participated in a program designed to increase the frequency of reading at home

7,010 children participated in early math programs

72 community events were supported with readers, books for children and literacy tips for parents

15 locations within eight school districts offered an early education interactive center for parents and young children known as Learning Links

Investing in **Strong Families**

The Commission funds organizations that provide shelter, health care access, and early learning opportunities for Orange County families in need. The Commission funds nine transitional shelters and partners with HomeAid Orange County to develop transition and emergency shelter facilities for homeless children and their families.

Homeless children are at a higher risk for health, behavior and academic problems. One recent study showed that the reading and math achievement of homeless children fell significantly behind their low-income, but residentially more stable peers.³ A 2011 report on homeless and unstably housed children in 20 urban American cities found that the stressors common to homeless children result in poor health and cognitive development.⁴

Research Shows...

**stable housing
improves health and
development outcomes**



Through Strong Families Programs:

173,921 shelter bed nights were provided to homeless mothers, young children and pregnant women

19,854 parents received information about children's developmental milestones

6,891 case management sessions were provided for families at risk for homelessness

1,740 children were given comprehensive health and developmental screenings

449 children were connected to a medical home

254 children received outpatient mental health services

221 shelter residents received job skills training

Investing in **Capacity Building**

Through capacity building programs, the Commission leverages our resources with other national and state programs, facilitates best practices among grantees, and prioritizes those areas where there is a unique need.

Twenty-two recent VISTA alumni from the Orange County program are currently working in local nonprofit organizations, six are in medical school or are practicing physicians, and many more are in graduate school pursuing careers in education and social work.

Recent History Shows...

**national service programs
benefit local communities**



Through Capacity Building Programs:

41 Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) members provided expanded administrative capacity to nonprofit agencies that provide health and school readiness services

\$1,117,124 was raised through grant writing by VISTA members

15,218 hours of volunteer service were provided by community volunteers recruited by VISTA members

27 AmeriCorps members provided direct services to build children's developmental skills and help parents be their child's first teacher

32,164 literacy-focused home visits were made by AmeriCorps members

FY 2010 – 2011

Program Funding Expenditures

PROGRAM CATEGORY	EXPENDITURES
Healthy Children	
Bridges Maternal Child Health Network	\$ 9,233,028
Pediatric Health Services	7,657,341
Fitness/Nutrition	6,458,884
School Readiness Nursing	3,098,097
Community Clinics	1,861,474
Childrens' Dental	1,383,375
Health Access and Education	1,141,897
Total	\$ 30,834,096
Early Learning	
School Based School Readiness	\$ 4,856,445
Community Based Early Learning Programs	2,822,148
Early Literacy	2,235,340
Total	9,913,933
Strong Families	
Homeless Prevention	\$ 3,665,027
Family Support Services	594,390
Total	4,259,417
Capacity Building	
Americorps/ VISTA	\$ 1,544,100
Quality Service Program Support	179,231
Capacity Building Grants	120,079
Total	1,843,410
TOTAL ALL PROGRAMS	\$ 46,850,856

Note: the Commission expended an additional \$817,868 on evaluation of programs.

“Early childhood education is an efficient and effective investment for economic and workforce development. The earlier the investment, the greater the return on investment.”

James J. Heckman

Professor of Economics at The University of Chicago, a Nobel Laureate in Economics, 2011

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66%

Healthy Children

9%

Strong Families

21%

Early Learning

4%

Capacity Building



Children & Families
Commission of Orange County

17320 Redhill Avenue, Suite 200 • Irvine, CA 92614

Phone: 714.834.5310 • Fax: 949.474.2243

prop10@ocgov.com • occhildrenandfamilies.com