

Lincoln Uinta Child Development Association

Community Assessment Update January 2009

Head Start

Lincoln Uinta Child Development Association offers Head Start services to children in all five Child Development Centers. Head Start services incorporate a full, inclusive preschool program. Our Head Start Services are under the **Combination Model**. Classrooms meet a minimum of 64 days per year for 3 ½ hours per day, 2 days a week for 32 weeks. Home visits are provided twice a month for 8 months for a total of 16 home visits. Home visits are designed to provide continuity between home and preschool and to assist families with issues that may affect their children.

The number of children enrolled in the Head Start program varies at each of the Child Development Centers. The total number of children served through Head Start is 90.

- Afton – 12
- Thayne - 15
- Kemmerer – 12
 - Total Lincoln County = 39
- Bridger Valley – 17
- Evanston – 34
 - Total Uinta County = 51

Bussing is offered to children in the Head Start program as well as the disabilities and TANF programs if parents qualify for that service.

Preschool Curriculum

All classrooms are fully inclusive so that children in Head Start, children receiving special education or related services, children on TANF or other scholarships and private pay preschoolers all play and learn together. A speech-language pathologist, occupational therapist and early childhood special educator as well as a social worker are part of the professional team that oversees each classroom. Assistant teachers, educational assistants and family service workers complete the classroom staff. The teacher: child ratio in each class is 1: 4 or 1: 5 depending on the needs of each individual classroom.

General curriculum is geared toward the enhancement of social, language, literacy and school readiness skills. The *Creative Curriculum* is used in all classrooms. Head Start home visits provide an effective format for assisting families in extending learning at home. Family service workers provide suggestions and activities to parents so that they may be successful in fostering and reinforcing their child's cognitive development and social competence.

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Data Collection

Data that was used to complete the 2009 Community Assessment Update included:

- ❖ LUCDA's PIR data from 2006 and 2007
- ❖ Free School Lunch data from Lincoln County School District #1, Lincoln County School District #2, Uinta County School District #1, Uinta County School District #4, and Uinta County School District #6
- ❖ 2008 Wyoming KIDS COUNT Data Book

Demographic Data on Children Enrolled in Head Start

The following Table is a comparison of the demographic make up of children enrolled in LUCDA's Head Start program in the 2007-2007 school year compared to the children in the 2007-2007 school year.

LUCDA PIR Data	2006-2007	2007-2008
Total Funded Enrollment	90	90
Total Actual Enrollment	104	100
Percent of Children: <i>up to date on primary health care</i>	88.24%	93.88%
<i>needing medical treatment</i>	7.78%	10.87%
<i>receiving medical treatment</i>	100%	100%
<i>completing dental exams</i>	96.08	94.90
<i>needing dental treatment</i>	30.61%	26.88%
<i>receiving dental treatment</i>	80%	60%
<i>with up to date immunizations</i>	101.96%	102%
<i>enrolled in Medicaid, SCHIP or Paid Health Insurance</i>	99.04%	98.00%
Children Diagnosed with a Disability	35.56%	37.78%
Children who are receiving Disability Services	100%	100%
Enrollment by Ethnicity	Number of Children	Number of Children
Hispanic or Latino Origin	16	21
Non-Hispanic/Non Latino/ Origin	88	79

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Enrollment by Race		
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	3
Asian	0	0
Black or African American	1	0
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	1
White	103	76
Bi-Racial or Multi-Racial	0	2
Other	0	1
LUCDA PIR Data (cont'd)	2006-2007	2007-2008
Enrollment By Primary Language		
English	95	88
Spanish	9	12
Other	0	0
Enrollment By Eligibility		
Receipt of Public Assistance	0	0
Income	96	90
Over Income	7	9
Foster Children	1	1
Family Make-up		
Total number of families	97	99
Two-parent families	62 (63.92%)	49 (49.49%)
Single-parent families	35 (36.08)	50 (50.51%)
Employment – Two parent families		
Both parents employed	25	23
One parent employed	33	26
Both parents not working	4	0
Employment – Single parent families		
Parent employed	22	35
Parent not working	13	15

Data Analysis:

Significant changes from 2006-2007 to 2007-2008, according to PIR Data, included an increase in children who were up to date on primary health care, and a decrease in children who received needed dental follow-up.

Data indicates that the number of Head Start enrolled children from single parent families increased by 15% from the 2006-2007 school year to the 2007-2008 school year.

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From the 2006-2007 school year to the 2007-2008 school year, the number of children who came from homes where Spanish was the primary language rose from 9 to 12. The number of children from Hispanic or Latino Origin rose from 16 to 21.

Children in our program diagnosed with a disability stayed about the same, just over 35%. 100% of all children, during both years, who were diagnosed with a disability received special education services.

Action Plan:

LUCDA will team with the newly hired Community Oral Health Coordinator to provide oral/dental screenings as well as follow-up dental appointments for all children enrolled in Head Start.

LUCDA will continue to provide home visits, parent nights, parenting classes, transportation and other services that will assist with the many challenges of being a single parent.

LUCDA will have access to a Spanish Translator in each of the communities we serve. When a position is open for support staff in any of our centers, preference for hiring will be given to qualified applicants who are fluent in Spanish. Currently we have staff members in Kemmerer and Evanston who are fluent in Spanish.

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Unmet Need for Head Start

Estimate of Children Eligible for Head Start

Area	District	2007 Kindergarten & First Grade Enrollment	Estimated # of 3 & 4 Year Olds	Percent of Free Lunch	Estimated # of Children Eligible for Head Start
Kemmerer	LCSD# 1	93	93	17%	16
Star Valley	LCSD# 2	379	379	35%	133
Bridger Valley	UCSD#4 & #6	216	216	19%	41
Evanston	UCSD#1	467	467	36%	168

The estimate of children eligible for Head Start is the estimated number of children, ages 3 and 4, times the percentage of children receiving **Free** school lunch. To qualify for the Free school lunch program the family's income may be up to 135% of poverty.

To estimate the number of 3 and 4 year olds, we used the number of children in kindergarten and first grade enrolled in each school district.

Unmet Need for Head Start

AREA District	Estimated # of children eligible for Head Start	Number of children currently funded for Head Start	Percent of children served	Number unserved by Head Start	Percent unserved by Head Start
Kemmerer LCSD # 1	16	12	75%	4	25%
Star Valley LCSD # 2	133	27	20%	106	80%
Bridger Valley UCSD # 4 and #6	41	17	42%	24	58%
Evanston UCSD # 1	168	34	20%	134	80%
Regional Total	358	90	25%	268	75%

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Early Head Start:

Currently Early Head Start services are not offered to children and families in either Lincoln or Uinta Counties.

One can use the same formula as was used to estimate the number of children eligible for Head Start to estimate the number of children 0-2 who would qualify for Early Head Start services in our communities, if that opportunity were to become available.

Estimate of Children Eligible for Early Head Start

Area	District	2007 Kindergarten & First Grade Enrollment	Estimated Number of 0-2 Year Olds	Percent of Free Lunch	Estimated Number of Children Eligible for Head Start
Kemmerer	LCSD# 1	93	139.5	17%	24
Star Valley	LCSD# 2	379	568.5	35%	199
Bridger Valley	UCSD#4 & #6	216	324	19%	62
Evanston	UCSD#1	467	700.5	36%	252
TOTAL		1,155	1,732.5		537

The estimate of children eligible for Early Head Start is the estimated number of children, birth through age 2 multiplied by the percentage of children receiving Free school lunch.

To estimate the number of birth through 2 year olds, we used the number of children in kindergarten and first grade enrolled in each school district in 2007. We then averaged this number and multiplied the average by 3.

A Community Partner Survey was completed in the spring of 2007. The concerns of the Community Partners in the area of parenting support the need for Head Start services to begin much earlier in a child's life than age 3 or 4. Early Head Start Programs can certainly address parenting skills much earlier than our current Head Start program can.

One hundred percent of the returned Community Partner Surveys indicated that an Early Head Start program could make a positive difference in the communities that are served by LUCDA.

The need for Early Head Start is documented through the estimated numbers of unserved children birth through age 2 and through the concerns of the Community partners.

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Unmet Need for Head Start:

The percentage of school age children who qualify for Free School Lunch decreased from the 2006 data to the most recent data which is for the 2007-2008 school year in all the districts we serve. Thus, though the actual number of 3 and 4 year old is slightly more than last year, the percent of those children who would qualify for Head Start services is slightly less than last year. According to our updated figures, LUCDA is serving 25% of the children who are eligible for Head Start Region wide, last year we were serving 24% of eligible children. With the current economy, one would anticipate that the percentage of children enrolled in our school districts' Free Lunch Program will have increased from last year to this current school year, so our estimated need for Head Start services may be low.

Proposed enrollment for the 2009-2010 school year will remain the same:

- ❖ Afton – 12 children
- ❖ Thayne – 15 children
- ❖ Kemmerer – 12 children
 - Total Lincoln County = 39 children
- ❖ Bridger Valley – 17 children
- ❖ Evanston – 34 children
 - Total Uinta County = 51 children

- ❖ TOTAL - 90 funded Head Start Children

Action Plan;

Lincoln Uinta Child Development Association will apply for Head Start expansion funds, when they become available, to better serve the needs of the children and families in communities of Afton, Thayne, Star Valley and Evanston.

We would like to utilize expansion funds, when they become available in two ways:

- Increase the slots in our Head Start 3-5 year old preschool program in all the centers we operate, focusing on Evanston and the Star Valley area as these are the areas of greatest need according to the updated Community Assessment.
- LUCDA is very eager to write for an Early Head Start Grant. If we are funded for Early Head Start we would anticipate offering these services to all the communities we currently serve, but again focusing on Evanston and the Star Valley communities.

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Unmet Need for Facilities

Star Valley

Lincoln Uinta Child Development Association is in the process of opening a 6th preschool center in the community of Alpine, which is in the Star Valley Area in north Lincoln County. Two of our existing centers, Thayne and Afton, are in Star Valley. It is approximately 50 miles from the southern end of Star Valley to the northern end. Alpine is the northern most community, children and families who reside in Alpine are currently being served through the Thayne Center. These communities are about 22 miles apart, and preschool bus routes may be as long as 45-60 minutes. Currently 44% of the children enrolled in the Thayne preschool are from the Alpine area. These numbers are expected to increase as Alpine has been the fastest growing community in Wyoming for the past several years.

The Town of Alpine donated a piece of land and wrote a Community Development Block Grant for the cost of the building. This grant was awarded in 2005. Many financial challenges have developed since then. Through the Town of Alpine three different extensions to the Community Development Block Grant have been requested and awarded. We are currently looking to open the doors of the Alpine Center in September of 2009.

Evanston

Currently our Evanston Preschool classes are in the Human Resource Building in Evanston. We share this facility with Public Health, WIC, DFS, and other service agencies in Uinta County. As our program grows, and as the services provided by the other agencies increases, space is becoming very tight. Our long range plan is to move out of the Human Resource Building into our own facility. We have extensively explored several options in the past 5 years, but once again find ourselves needing to find different options or funding sources. At this point we are going to wait until our Alpine Center is completed before seeking other grants for the Evanston facility.

Bridger Valley

Our Bridger Valley center was built in 1994 through a Community Development Block Grant that was sponsored by the Town of Mountain View. This building was constructed to house both the Bridger Valley preschool as well as the regional offices for LUCDA. Due to tremendous growth in the Bridger Valley area, the LUCDA regional offices have moved out, creating more offices and another large classroom for the preschool. The regional offices are being temporarily housed in a rented office space across the street from the preschool. Long range plans include teaming with the Town of Mountain View to write another Community Development Block Grant to build on to the current facility, adding classroom space as well as enough office space for the regional office staff to move back.

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Progress Toward Community Assessment Based Goals (2008-2009):

Goal: LUCDA Employees will be kept abreast of the impact that Meth and other illegal substances are having on our families and communities. Staff will be informed of the rehabilitation, counseling, and other programs that are available to families.

Progress: Several LUCDA staff members are involved in the Lincoln County and Uinta County Meth Initiative Programs. Through Community Partnerships key Head Start staff are kept informed of the services and programs offered in our communities that provide counseling and other services to those in need. We were unable to provide our entire staff with training on the impact of Meth in our communities during this past year, though we hope to do so next year.

Goal: LUCDA staff will offer parenting classes to Head Start families as well as other families and community members in each Center annually.

Progress: LUCDA offers *Love and Logic* parenting classes annually in each center. All our Family Service Workers have been training in the *Nurturing Parent Program* and we hope to have this program up and running for next year. Our Mental Health Consultant offers parents training on children's mental health as well as social emotion skill development on an as needed basis.

Goal: Head Start staff to keep abreast of the community availability of low income housing and other housing options.

Progress: Through each community's Human resource Council, LUCDA's Head Start staff is kept abreast of the availability of low income housing in each of our communities.

Goal: Head Start staff will keep abreast of the child care options in their communities. LUCDA staff will assist childcare providers in obtaining trainings and other continuing education needs.

Progress: LUCDA works closely with the Department of Family Services in each of our communities, our staff keeps updated DFS certified daycare lists that we make available to parents. LUCDA offers *Love and Logic* training, CDA classes as well as training in the area of children's mental health and social-emotional development to all licensed day care providers and private preschool annually.

Goal: LUCDA will continue to offer a quality preschool experience in Lincoln and Uinta Counties.

Progress: LUCDA offers preschool to children in 5 communities in our two county area, with a sixth preschool site scheduled to open in the fall of 2009. All our preschools are NAEYC accredited. Our preschools are fully inclusive, children may attend preschool as part of our Head Start program, Developmental Disabilities program, TANF or United Way funded scholarships or as private paying students.

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Goal: Redesign service delivery in the Star Valley area.

Progress: LUCDA has received a Community Development Block Grant to help build a 6th preschool site in the town of Alpine, in North Lincoln County. We hope to open the doors of this preschool in the fall of 2009.

Goal: LUCDA will write for Head Start Expansion funds when they become available. The grant will include the creation of Early head Start services for Lincoln and Uinta Counties.

Progress: LUCDA is ready to do this as soon as the funds are released.