

Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Annual Report 2018



Program Overview

Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County (CAPSLO) has operated its Migrant and Seasonal Head Start (MSHS) program since 1981. The program provides quality child care, early education, and support services to families that migrate for agricultural work or who live locally and perform seasonal farm work. MSHS services support children and families from the prenatal stages to age 5 in a combination of center-based and family child care (FCC) program options. The program operates in nine California counties: Fresno, Kern, Monterey, Orange, San Benito, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura.

CAPSLO MSHS is designed with the needs of migrant and seasonal farmworker families in mind. Centers and family child care homes offer continuous child care Monday through Friday between 8 to 10 hours a day in order to accommodate the long hours associated with agricultural work. Parents have access to program options close to where they live and work. MSHS promotes school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through the provision of educational, health, nutritional, social, and other services to enrolled children and their families. Family education and engagement groups are offered as a way to build parenting skills and confidence.



Operating a program that complies with all Head Start Program Performance Standards and that is responsive to the needs of a diverse population is complex. Nonetheless, through careful planning, training and retention of qualified staff, collaborative service delivery, shared governance, and the continuous exchange of ideas among staff, CAPSLO MSHS gives the children of migrant and seasonal farmworkers skills for school readiness and life-long success.

In June 2018, the Office of Head Start conducted a Focus Area Two Monitoring Review of CAPSLO Migrant and Seasonal Head Start. The program was found to have met all Head Start Program Performance Standards, laws, regulations, and policy requirements. In addition, the program successfully completed a Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) review.

MISSION Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County addresses the causes of poverty, empowering low-income people to achieve self-sufficiency through community-based collaborations and programs.

As part of the Child, Youth and Family Services Division (CYFS), the Migrant and Seasonal Head Start mission is to provide children and families who are income eligible in our service area with a comprehensive program to meet their emotional, social, health, and nutritional needs.

Staff members offer children and families love, acceptance, understanding, and the opportunity to learn and to experience success.

Through community participation, staff development, and family involvement, our goal is to assist in providing opportunities now and for future generations.

Community Assessment Overview

CAPSLO's Migrant and Seasonal Head Start program planning is based on annual assessment of the demographics, conditions, strengths, and challenges of the communities served. These assessments ensure that the needs of our children and families are met. The following are trends observed:

- Over the past three years, the program has seen a dramatic increase in the need for child care for families who work in seasonal agriculture. For some MSHS families, having to move for work increases risk and fear of deportation. The need for seasonal workers has also increased due to changes in crop planting caused by drought and climate. This has resulted in MSHS requesting a permanent increase in seasonal child care slots from the Office of Head Start.
- Drought and climate change have altered the type of crops planted – from labor-intensive, such as grapes and vegetables, to almonds and pistachios which require less labor.
- Farmers' struggles with having enough workers to harvest crops has caused them to shift to growing labor-intensive crops in Mexico rather than California. Also, when the job market is strong, as it currently is, workers have other options – such as landscaping, construction and food service jobs – that do not include the arduous, dangerous circumstances that can be found in agricultural fields. Even doubling wages or offering savings and health plans for farmworkers has not solved the labor problem. With the crackdown on undocumented workers, this situation may become more difficult.
- Farmers are increasingly turning to foreign guest workers, recruiting 11,000 in 2017, a fivefold jump in five years. Many are single men with no children or families, which impacts MSHS enrollment.
- The agriculture industry is increasing its use of technological innovation and mechanization to compensate for the labor shortage.
- Increased pay due to a higher minimum wage and changes in overtime laws are preventing or making it difficult for some families to enroll in MSHS and public assistance programs.
- California's farmworkers are getting older and not being replaced. After decades of immigration crackdowns across the US-Mexico border, the net flow of workers has reversed. Farmworkers' children are being educated in the United States, speak English, and are not as interested in or committed to agricultural jobs.
- The increasing cost of housing in all MSHS counties is causing more families to live together in order to pay rent, causing crowded households that negatively impact children. Families are also living in substandard conditions. These factors may increase the number of families that are homeless.
- There are insufficient child care slots for infants and toddlers, perhaps because of the smaller required ratios of children to staff and/or difficulty in finding providers, resulting in longer waiting lists.
- Difficulty recruiting qualified teachers and salary-competitive job markets have created challenges in staffing centers.



Helping People.

School Readiness

The Migrant and Seasonal Head Start program promotes school readiness and fosters a love of learning. School readiness goals are aligned with the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework, Creative Curriculum, California Learning Foundations, kindergarten entry preferences and our assessment tool, the Desired Results Developmental Profile. School readiness goals have been established in the following areas:

- Approaches to Learning
- Social and Emotional Development
- Language and Literacy (including preschool English language development)
- Cognition (including preschool Mathematics Development and Scientific Reasoning)
- Physical Development and Health

Documentation is gathered throughout the program year to track each child's unique experiences and pattern of learning while in the program. Each family meets with their child's teacher four times a year to review their child's portfolio, discuss their child's progress toward their individual goals and track school readiness.

Data is aggregated and analyzed at the classroom, county and program level. At each level, a team analyzes the data looking for trends, areas of strength and areas to focus on during the next assessment period. A report is completed that includes a finding, a goal and a specific plan to enhance growth and development for areas of focus.

Center staff communicates with local kindergarten/ district staff to determine the most effective ways to better prepare the child and family for a successful transition to kindergarten.



Family Engagement Opportunities

All Migrant and Seasonal Head Start parents work, necessitating that family engagement opportunities be scheduled to accommodate the long hours that accompany jobs in agriculture. Additionally, over 85% of MSHS families have not attained a high school diploma or its equivalent, increasing the need for family engagement activities that build confidence and empower parents to be advocates for their children's education and well-being.

In 2018, family engagement activities included:

- Parent conferences
- Monthly local parent committee meetings
- Monthly Policy Council meetings
- Liaison/representative positions on the CAPSLO Board of Directors
- Annual program self-assessment
- Participation on standing committees
- County-level Health Services Advisory Committees
- Parent Cafes that engage parents, build protective factors, and promote self-reflection and peer-to-peer learning
- Annual Couples' Forum
- Advocacy at the federal level

MSHS by the Numbers

	Base/Supplemental Grant #90CM9821	MSHS Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership Grant #90HM0003	MSHS Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership Grant #90HM000010
Children Served	2,394	424	145
Families Served	1,977	349	118
% of Children Who Received Dental Exams	97.34%	100%	75.17%
% of Children Up-to-Date on the State's Recommended Schedule for Well-Child Care	83.80%	83.25%	79.31%
% of Unduplicated Enrollment	111.50%	121.80%	125.00%
Funded Slots	600 Family child care option + 1,546 Center-based option = 2,146 Funded Slots	232 Family child care option + 116 Center-based option = 348 Funded Slots	100 Family child care option + 16 Center-based option = 116 Funded Slots

Revenue/Expenditures September 1, 2017 to August 31, 2018	Base/Supplemental Grant #90CM9821		MSHS Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership Grant #90HM0003		MSHS Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership Grant #90HM000010	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
Grant Income	\$26,951,027	\$26,775,207	\$5,107,815	\$4,873,387	\$2,641,964	\$2,239,501
In-Kind/Non-Federal Share	\$1,720,278	\$3,030,503	\$326,030	\$1,008,287	\$73,267	\$138,593
TOTAL REVENUE	\$28,671,305	\$29,805,710	\$5,433,845	\$5,881,674	\$2,715,231	\$2,378,094
Personnel & Benefits	\$14,320,321	\$13,831,626	\$2,295,311	\$2,035,476	\$689,959	\$688,849
Travel & Transportation	\$492,251	\$485,136	\$58,004	\$65,957	\$45,634	\$37,026
Equipment	\$138,361	\$138,419	\$12,500	\$12,145	\$61,765	\$59,853
Supplies	\$964,994	\$1,051,386	\$258,061	\$281,596	\$294,898	\$283,843
Contractual	\$4,441,805	\$4,507,390	-	-	\$443,394	\$443,393
Other*	\$4,942,521	\$5,128,205	\$2,106,509	\$2,118,121	\$948,032	\$597,926
Indirect	\$1,650,774	\$1,633,045	\$377,430	\$360,092	\$158,282	\$128,611
Subtotal	\$26,951,027	\$26,775,207	\$5,107,815	\$4,873,387	\$2,641,964	\$2,239,501
In-Kind/Non-Federal Share	\$1,720,278	\$3,030,503	\$326,030	\$1,008,287	\$73,267	\$138,593
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$28,671,305	\$29,805,710	\$5,433,845	\$5,881,674	\$2,715,231	\$2,378,094

Unspent funds of \$175,820 from the Base/Supplemental Grant to be carried over to the 2018-2019 program year

* Other includes leasehold improvements, provider payments, property rents and other costs, insurance, etc.

No findings were identified in the most recent financial audit.