



*Georgia Department of Public Health*

# WIC and Head Start Collaboration Project

**Presentation to:** Nutrition Services Directors

**Moderated by:** Angela Damon, IBCLC

**Date:** December 13, 2016



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# Overview

- Provide a snap shot of the Head Start grant award
- Define current efforts of the pilot project
- Discuss future planning of initiating discussion with Head Start leadership and expanding partnerships with Head Start in the communities

# Head Start Grant

On September 19, 2016 the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service awarded nearly \$2 million in funding to six states and territories to help improve retention of children in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC).

# Full Grants

- Up to \$500,000
- 3-year duration period, and
- Evaluation component

## Awarded to:

- **Mississippi** - \$407,009 for development of a partnership with Head Start facilities throughout the state
- **Pennsylvania** - \$500,000 for a multi-tiered intervention focusing on staff training and messaging to increase retention
- **Virginia** - \$460,350 for a mobile WIC clinic to improve access to services in areas of high need

# Georgia's Full Grant

**Georgia - \$430,124** for development of a **partnership** with **Head Start and Early Head Start** within **three targeted Health Districts-- Columbus, Gainesville and Macon**

***"WIC Head Start- A Recipe for A Healthy Life"***

# Mini Grants

Mini grants up to \$100,000, with an 18-month duration period and a less robust evaluation component, was awarded to:

- South Carolina – \$100,000 to purchase a mobile WIC clinic to service five Promise Zone counties (Allendale, Bamberg, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper).
- Puerto Rico – \$100,000 to test the use of technology to combine access to participant-centered nutrition education and the optional mailing of WIC vouchers to participants, which are used to obtain supplemental foods.

# Statistics

- WIC and Head Start provide services to the same population.
- Over 50% of children in Head Start are NOT receiving WIC services.
- The goal of Georgia WIC is to establish a partnership with Head Start to enroll and provide nutrition education to **all WIC eligible children between the age of 1 and 5.**

# Project Objectives

- Develop a formal system of collaboration between WIC and Head Start in the 3 targeted districts.
- Increase the number of children enrolled in pilot Head start centers who receive supplemental nutrition benefits over the existing 2015 baseline.



# Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)



November 4, 2016

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# Progress/Opportunities

As of today, we have done the following:

- Created a form that will go in the Head Start enrollment packets to ease the application process
- Developed a Local Agency MOU shell
- Met with the three districts to introduce the project
- Devised a plan A and B implementation in Columbus that:
  - Allows the WIC staff to visit the Head Starts in the areas at least 4 – 6 times per year
  - Ensure that parents and guardians receive WIC vouchers when picking up students, minimizing the transportation barrier
  - Provides education to students and parents/guardians/alternates that meets the nutrition requirements for WIC
  - Includes early Head Start WIC participation opportunities

# Pilot Project Next Steps

- Develop Local Agency MOU's with Head Starts in Gainesville and Macon
- Renew MOU in Columbus
- Implement the pilot in Gainesville and Macon
- Modify the Annex
- Allocate approved funding to selected districts (Gainesville, Macon and Columbus)
- Conduct training for all pilot staff and Head Start Centers
- Implement monitoring plan
- Identify challenges and modify accordingly
- Establish best practices
- Assess the effectiveness of the pilot

# Local Agency Next Steps

- Begin communication with Head Starts in your area.
- Work with State Office to Develop Local Agency MOU's.
- Devise plans to increase the number of children enrolled in Head Start centers in your area.

# Questions

## Contact Information:

Jamila Blount  
Program Operations Specialist  
404-232-7846  
[Jamila.Blount@dph.ga.gov](mailto:Jamila.Blount@dph.ga.gov)

