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

We Protect Lives.
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.
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