

In partnership with the community, Community Action assists low-income people to achieve self-determination.

1. As a follow-up to the conversation we had last Friday, here is the script you can refer to when communicating with families.

Our program currently serves 120 children — 48 in Early Head Start and 72 in Head Start— in our Full-Day, Full Year program at the two Child Development Centers. Head Start funds support the services for half of each day, and the other half day is supported by Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) funds. The new State policy, scheduled to be implemented on October 1 2010, states that only families who have received Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in the past 24 months will be eligible for ERDC. This will have a significant impact on the number of families who qualify for ERDC benefits. We currently have 74 families in our program who receive ERDC benefits. Under the new policy, only four families who have received TANF in the past will qualify for ERDC eligibility. A group of management staff met yesterday to explore the options/possibilities to respond to this new policy. As we consider options, we will try to:

- Ensure continuity of Early Head Start and Head Start services to children and families.
- Minimize the loss of employment and hours for staff.
- Maintain a budget that supports providing these services to children and families.

Next week we are going to expand our work group meeting to include representatives from BCDC and HCDC and Policy Council. We will keep everyone updated as we move through this process. If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me via e-mail or phone. Thanks, Farzana

2. Community Action has set up a single number to call for energy assistance in Washington County. No matter where in the County families live, they can call 503-615-0771 to set up an appointment at the office nearest their home.
3. Thank you to the diligence of our staff for engaging parents in our program. The Resource Development department has informed us that 1,333 parents volunteered this past year and donated 10,443 hours to Community Action! This was the highest number ever – way to go, staff!
4. Friday the Pre-School children at the HCDC took a field trip to the park. Thanks to Tony Sinclair (for driving the bus), they had a great time in the fountains!

