

# FORT GEORGE COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC.



# ANNUAL REPORT 2018

## The Fort George Mission

**T**o provide a quality, comprehensive, family focused child development program to eligible children and their families in Washington Heights and Morrisania section of the Bronx.

To maintain high standards of developmentally appropriate early childhood education and to empower families to enhance their sense of self esteem and effectiveness by providing opportunities for shared decision making.

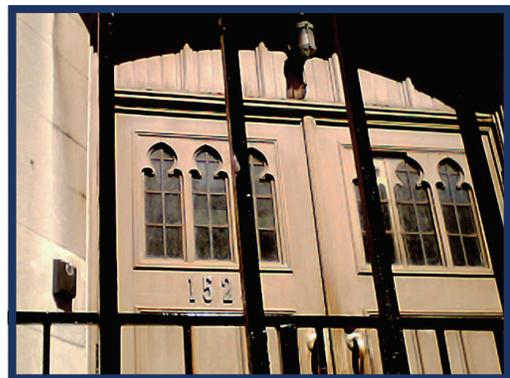


Photo taken by Jesus, age 5,  
2018 STEM / Photography project.

## Letter from the Executive Director/ CEO



Photo by Emily Rodriguez, age 4,  
STEM/Photography Project.

*"Today is only one  
day in all the days  
that will ever be. But  
what will happen in  
all the other days  
that ever come can  
depend on what  
you will do today"*

- Ernest Hemingway

Dear Friends,

The 2018 school year brought several changes to the Agency. For the past 36 years the Agency was known as Fort George Community Enrichment Center, Inc. The Board of Directors went through an intensive strategic planning process and decided we needed an organization name that reflects the actual work we do in all the communities we serve. In December 2018 the Secretary of State of New York granted this change. We are now officially Fort George Community Services, Inc. Our name change reinforces our mission to provide comprehensive services in Early Education, Community Health Education and Closing the Achievement Gap.

September 17, 2018 Congressman Adriano Espaillat announced at a press conference the expansion of our Head Start program, which was our second Federal award from the Office of Head Start. This grant will provide services to an additional fifty (50) Head Start children in a center based school, located at 4467 Broadway in Washington Heights and fifty(50) Early Head Start children in family day care homes located in Washington Heights, West Harlem and Hamilton Heights.

In this Annual report you will find highlights of some of our accomplishments. During this school year we served over 350 children in different modalities that included Head Start, Early Head Start, UPK all in center based schools and children in our Early Head Start Child Care Partnership Program in our Bronx location.

We also continued our partnerships with parents and our community partners to ensure our mission "Closing the Achievement Gap" remains.

For 37 years we have provided all our students the school readiness tools they will need to become lifelong learners. On behalf of our Board of Directors, Policy Council and Staff of Fort George Community Services we thank the Community for their support and generosity. To our parents we thank you for entrusting us with your children.

Regards,  
Carolyn L. Wiggins  
Executive Director/CEO

## Historical Statement from the Board of Directors

The Fort George Community Enrichment Center, Inc. was founded and incorporated in 1981 for the purpose of establishing, maintaining, and operating programs in education, employment, training, economic development, housing, health and social welfare. These programs were designed to strengthen the growth and development of individuals and families in the Washington Heights Area.

The organization was formed by community residents who were concerned with the provision of comprehensive services to lower-income families with preschool children and following them through the early years of elementary school.

The ethnic make-up of the Agency's population consists of Hispanic, Black, Asian and Caucasian families. The composition of the Board of Directors reflects this multicultural community.

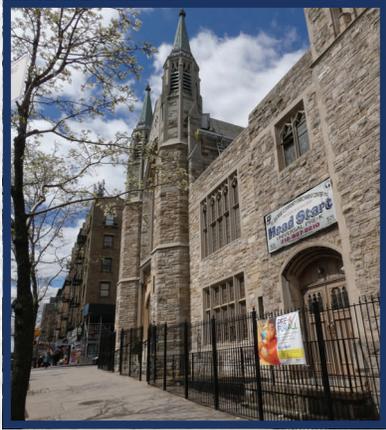
The 2018 school year brought about changes to the Agency. For the past 36 years the Agency was known as Fort George Community Enrichment Center, Inc. After strategic planning the Agency decided that an organizational name change was needed to reflect the Agency's true mission. In December 2018 our name change was officially granted by the Secretary of New York State. We are now officially Fort George Community Services, Inc. This change reflects our mission to provide comprehensive services in Early Education, Community Health Education and Closing the Achievement Gap.

In line with this, we have expanded our service area to include Washington Heights, West Harlem and Hamilton Heights in Manhattan and Morrisania in the Bronx which are evolving communities of growth. The areas are transitional in the sense that there is a relatively high in-and-out migration. Many young families in need of various types of social and health services comprise these neighborhoods.

Initially, the agency started the operation of our Head Start program with 94 children in Washington Heights, as a Head Start Delegate of New York City in 1981. In 1997 we received our first UPK direct contract from the New York City Department of Education. In 2014 the Agency opened its first UPK site in the Bronx. In 2015 the Agency was one of sixteen programs in the State of New York awarded the first Early Head Start Child Care Partnership Grant from the Office of Head Start under President Barack Obama's administration. In 2018 we received our second Head Start/Early Head Start award as a Grantee from the Office of Head Start.



Congressman Adriano Espaillat, Carolyn Wiggins, CEO and Sandra Harris, Associate Vice President Columbia University Irving Medical Center Office of Government and Community Affairs.



As of this year 2018, the program has three sites in Washington Heights with additional nine family day care homes serving Washington Heights, West Harlem and Hamilton Heights. One center base site serves EHS, UPK, Three-K, and fifteen family day care homes in the Bronx. Fort George Community Services, Inc. provides quality comprehensive early childhood services to approximately 400 children, ages 0-5, and their families.

The first site is located at 1525 St. Nicholas Avenue, and has a licensed capacity for 135 children. This site houses the Administration offices of the agency. The second site is located at 601 West

186th Street and has a licensed capacity of 51 children. Our third site in the Bronx at 489 St. Paul's Place zip code 10456 serves 8 toddlers in a center base classroom and 64 infants and toddlers in 15 family providers' homes. The site also serves 36 children through a DOE contract for UPK.



The fourth site located at 4467 Broadway has a licensed capacity of 50 children, and nine family daycare homes located in zip codes 10027, 10033,10034,10040 with capacity to serve 100 children.



Funding is currently provided by New York City Administration for Children Services(ACS) as a Head Start Delegate and the Administration for Children and Families/Health & Human Services Office of Head Start (ACF/HHS/OHS) as a Head Start, Early Head Start and an Early Head Start Child Care Partnership Grantee.

We continue to support the values that we established for ourselves over 35 years ago as they have clearly contributed to our ongoing success. We thank the staff and the parents for making this a great school year.

Sincerely,

**The Officers**

- Ruth Rudder, Chair
- Winifred Richman, Treasurer
- John Phelan Esq., Secretary

**The Members**

- Diana Douglas, MS.ed
- Gary King, MS.ed
- Megan Silander, Ph.d
- Kira Mineroff, Esq. , Pro Bono
- Walter Frye, MBA, CPA,
- Fiscal Consultant



## **The Fort George Head Start, Early Head Start Childcare partnerships, and Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program Provide:**

### **Education**

- Emergent literacy, numeracy, and language skills
- Positive attitudes toward learning
- Developmentally appropriate educational environments
- Link families to educational agencies to obtain needed services

### **Health & Nutrition**

- Assures that our children receive needed medical, dental and mental health services
- Meals and snacks to our children that meets their daily nutritional needs
- Link families to health care services to obtain needed services

### **Parent Engagement**

- Provides parents the opportunity to improve their parenting skills
- Parents are involved actively in the decision about program operations

### **Disabilities/Mental Health**

- Provide individualized services for children with disabilities
- Strengthen children's social behavior and emotional well-being and self concept

### **Human Resources**

- Employ qualified staff
- Provide staff development and training
- Comply with Head Start regulations.



U.S. Representative Adriano Espaillat at the Policy Committee Installation Ceremony in Washington Heights Site



Policy Council and Staff at the Morrisania Site



Joint Board of Directors and Policy Council Annual Planning Meeting



Monthly Policy Council Meeting

# General Highlights 2018

## Accomplishments and Partnerships

- We continued our partnership with New York Presbyterian Hospital WIN for HEALTH Childhood Asthma Network. As a result of this partnership we have three community health workers.
- An Early Childhood pilot program in collaboration with New York Presbyterian's Choosing Healthy & Active Lifestyles for Kids™ (CHALK).



Gifts from Columbia University Irving Medical Center office of Government and Community Affairs

- New York Presbyterian Ambulatory Care Network partnership provides the opportunity for first year medical residents in the program to participate in our Early Literacy Program by reading to our students.



- Partnership with South Bronx Rising.
- Collaboration with the New York City Children's Cabinet.

- Member of the National Head Start Association
- Member of Region II Head Start Association {The Executive Director is a Board Member}
- Member of the New York State Head Start Association {The Executive Director is the President}
- DISCRIP/NYP community health workers that provide services to families with children that have multiple chronic health issues.



## Children and Families Served and Average Enrollment

Site	Total # of Children	Average Enrollment
Head Start (ACS)	186	100%
EHS FDC (Grantee)	50	100%
EHSCCP (Grantee)	64	100%
EHS Center Base (Grantee)	8	100%
Head Start (Grantee)	50	0%

- ◆ The Agency was waiting for approval from the NYCDOHMH to issue a permit to operate at our location on 4467 Broadway. We had 50 children registered.

### 2018 Children Diagnosed with a Disability and Receiving Services

Site	Individual Education Plan (IEP)	Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP)
Washington Heights	22	—
Morrisania	—	3

*“For 37 years we have provided all our students the school readiness tools they will need to become lifelong learners.”*

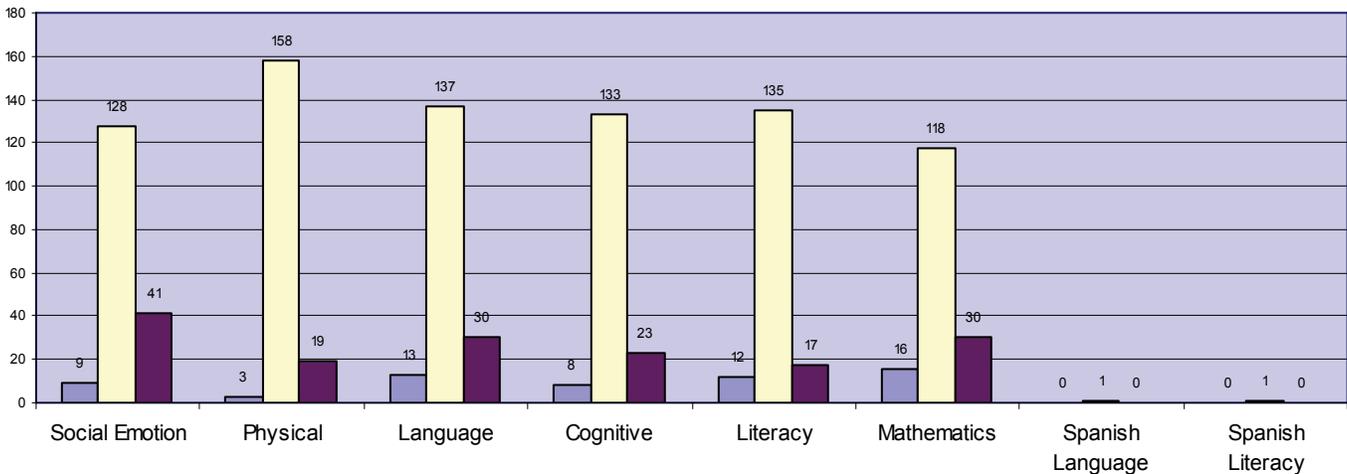
- Exec. Dir. Wiggins

# Profile of Children Head Start

## Widely Held Expectations

Area of Development	Below		Meeting		Exceeding	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Social Emotional	9	5.06%	128	71.91%	41	23.03%
Physical	3	1.67%	158	87.78%	19	10.56%
Language	13	7.22%	137	76.11%	30	16.67%
Cognitive	8	4.88%	133	81.1%	23	14.02%
Literacy	12	7.32%	135	82.32%	17	10.37%
Mathematics	16	9.76%	118	71.95%	30	18.29%
Spanish Language	0	0%	1	100%	0	0%
Spanish Literacy	0	0%	1	100%	0	0%

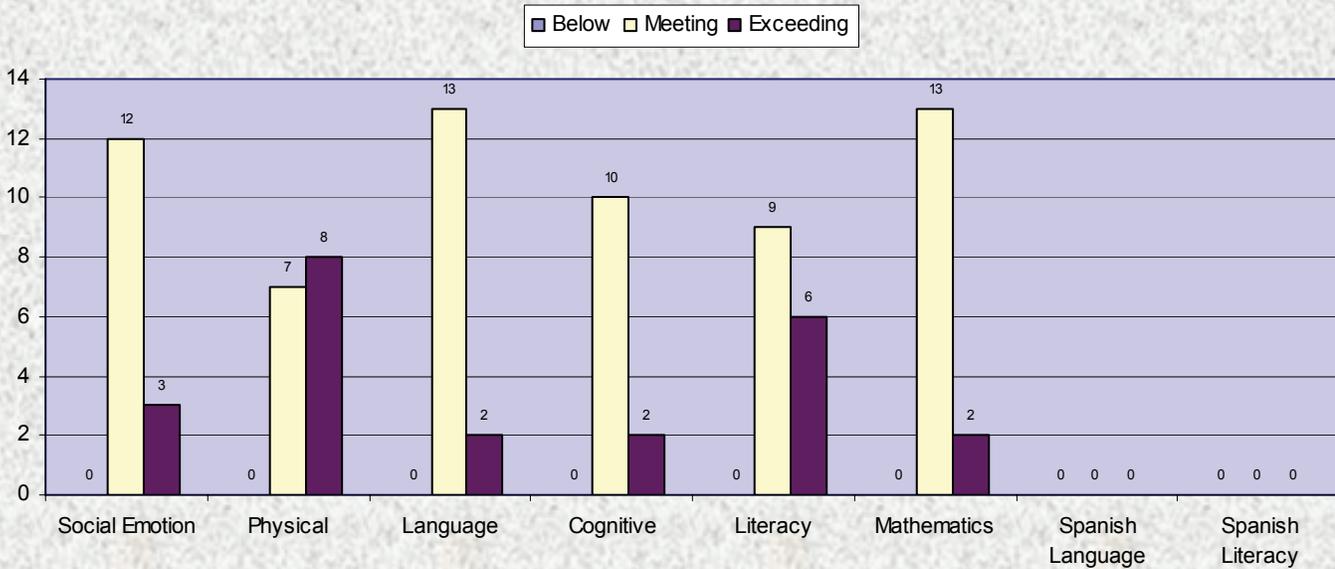
Below
  Meeting
  Exceeding



# Profile of Children Early Head Start

## Widely Held Expectations

Area of Development	Below		Meeting		Exceeding	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Social Emotional	0	0%	12	80%	3	20%
Physical	0	0%	7	46.67%	8	53.33%
Language	0	0%	13	86.67%	2	13.33%
Cognitive	0	0%	10	66.67	2	13.33%
Literacy	0	0%	9	60%	6	40%
Mathematics	0	0%	13	86.67%	2	13.33%
Spanish Language	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Spanish Literacy	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%



# Family and Community Partnerships - Family Services

Types of Family Services	Number of Families with an expressed <u>interest</u> or identified <u>need</u> during the program year		Number of Families that <u>received</u> the following services during the program year	
	Washington Heights	Bronx	Washington Heights	Bronx
Emergency crisis intervention such as meeting immediate needs for food, clothing, or shelter	1	1	1	1
Housing assistance such as subsidies, utilities, repairs, etc.	2	19	2	12
Menial health services	2	5	2	5
English as a Second Language (ESL) training	7	1	5	1
Adult education such as GED programs and college selection	2	31	1	27
Job training	2	19	1	9
Substance abuse prevention	0	0	0	0
Substance abuse treatment	0	0	0	0
Child abuse and neglect services	0	0	0	0
Domestic violence services	1	0	1	0
Child support assistance	0	33	0	28
Health education	4	18	3	18
Assistance to families of incarcerated individuals	0	0	0	0
Parenting education	125	34	120	30
Relationship/marriage education	0	0	0	0
Asset building services (such as financial education, opening savings and checking accounts, debt counseling, etc.)	1	0	1	0
<b>Of these, the number of families who were counted in at least one of the services listed above</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>64</b>

## Fort George Head Start School-Readiness Summary List

### HEAD START

#### Social Emotional

1. Children will interact with peers, cooperating and solving social problems.
2. Children will develop self-regulation

#### Approaches to Learning & Play

3. Children will engage in play and other activities with purpose, persistence, attention and curiosity.
4. Children will engage in sophisticated socio-dramatic play.

#### Language & Literacy

5. Children will understand and respond to oral questions and directions.
6. Children will use strong and varied vocabulary and will participate in conversations.
7. Children who speak a home language other than English will progress in their ability to understand and use English.
8. Children will demonstrate interest in books, comprehension of texts and ability to retell favorite stories.
9. Children will hear and manipulate the sounds in oral language, noticing similarities and differences.
10. Children will know many letter names and sounds.
11. Children will understand the function of print and some print concepts, and will use early writing to communicate.
12. For Dual Language Learners, children will exhibit appropriate English skills necessary to understanding language and to use language effectively in various settings and for various purposes.

#### Math & Science

13. Children will use counting and numerical representation in their activities, especially to solve problems.
14. Children will demonstrate knowledge of shapes and their properties.
15. Children will demonstrate understanding of patterns.
16. Children will classify, sort and compare objects based on different attributes.
17. Children will measure and compare objects based on length, weight, etc.
18. Children will engage in scientific inquiry.

#### Social Studies

19. Children will demonstrate an understanding of one's relationship to the family and the community, roles in the family and community and will demonstrate respect for diversity.

#### The Arts

20. Children will explore music, movement, dance, drama and the visual arts.

#### Physical

21. Children will maintain physical health, age-appropriate physical development and fine/gross motor skills.
- City-Wilde Learning Goals are Bolded

### EARLY HEAD START

#### Social-Emotional Development & Approaches to Learning

1. Children will develop and maintain positive *relationships* with peers and familiar adults
2. Children will demonstrate *self-regulation*, including an understanding of rules and independence in executing most daily classroom and self-care routines.
3. Children will demonstrate a positive *self concept* through identification with their family, culture, peers and familiar adults.
4. Children will initiate and engage in play, discovery and the arts with increasing *purpose, persistence attention and curiosity*.

#### Cognitive & General Knowledge

5. Children will use all *senses* to investigate, problem solve, compare attributes and form individual understandings of the *natural and physical world*.
6. Children will demonstrate an increasing ability to *connect new and known* experiences and concepts.
7. Children will demonstrate an age-appropriate interest in *numbers and counting* during daily experiences and routines.

#### Language & Literacy (in home language and English)

8. Children will *understand and respond* to simple oral questions and directions.
9. Children will *communicate* using expanding *language skills and vocabulary* to express their needs, ideas and desires and to participate in conversations
10. Children will demonstrate *interest in books* and a general comprehension of text/illustrations.
11. Children will demonstrate interest in *early writing and reading*, including an age-appropriate understanding of the function of print and graphic/symbolic representations.
12. Children who speak a home language other than English will progress in their ability *to understand and use both languages*.

#### Physical Development & Health

13. Children will maintain *physical health* and develop *healthy habits* related to eating and personal care.
14. Children will demonstrate age-appropriate *gross motor* skills and progress in their ability to *control their bodies* for movement /rhythm, navigation and balance.
15. Children will demonstrate age-appropriate *fine motor* skills.

# Fort George Community Services, Inc. (FGCS)

## Financial Statements / Fiscal Year 2018

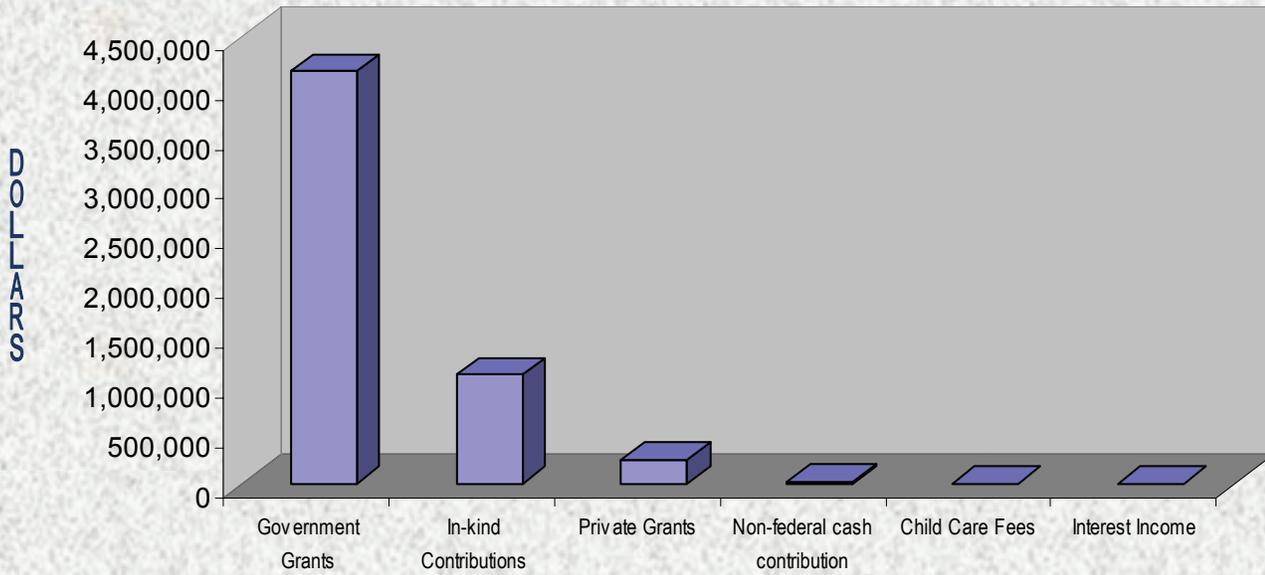
### Statements of Revenue, Expenses, and Fund Balance

Revenues	Fiscal Year 2018
Government Grants	4,163,970
Private Grants	247,676
Child care fees	2,485
In-kind contributions	1,106,984
Non-federal cash contribution (EHS-CCP)	26,900
Interest income	70
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>5,548,085</b>

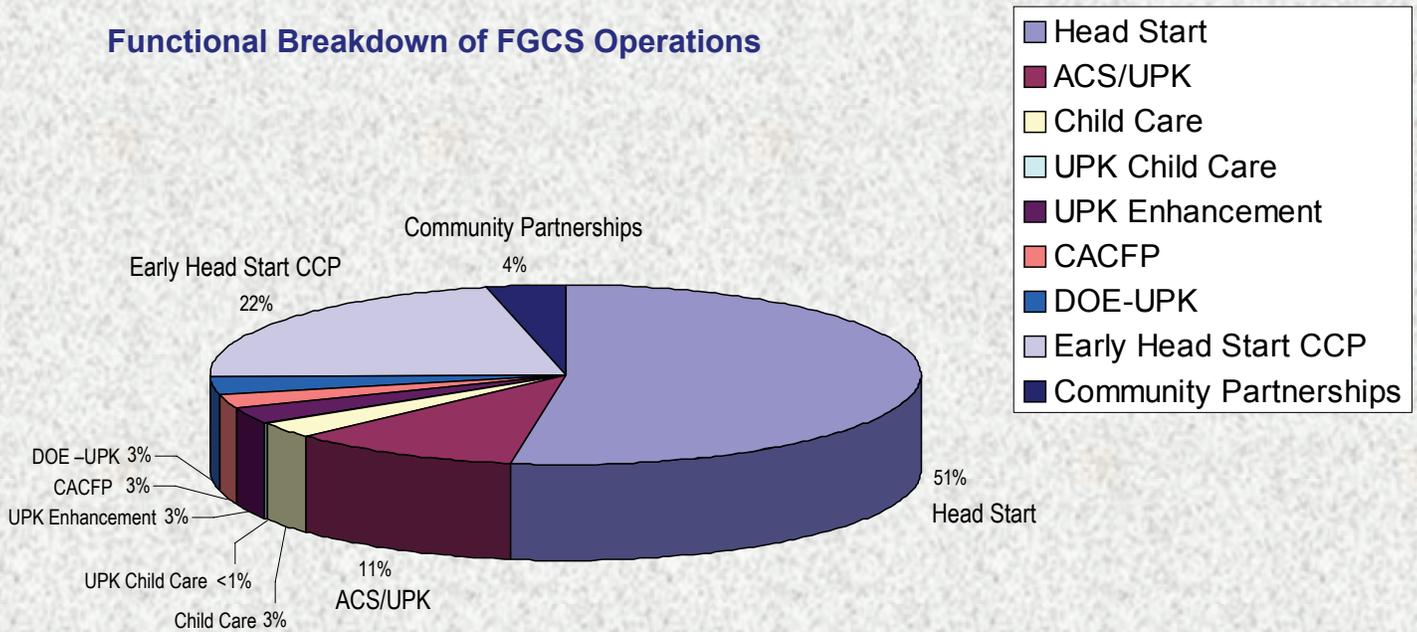
Expenses	Fiscal Year 2018
Early childhood education programs:	
Head Start Program	2,941,528
ACS/Universal Pre-Kindergarten (ACS-UPK)	595,796
Child Care	157,941
UPK Child Care	6,978
UPK Enhancement	166,136
Food program: Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)	140,448
Department of Education - UPK	178,353
Early Head Start CCP	1,221,623
Community Partnerships	198,702
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>5,607,505</b>
Changes in Net Assets	(59,420)
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	410,679
<b>Net Assets, End of Year</b>	<b>351,259</b>

Note: The Financial Statement presented for the Fiscal Year 2018 is unaudited. Final adjustments will be made during the course of the audit conducted by Watson Rice, LLP.

## Funding Sources for FGCS



## Functional Breakdown of FGCS Operations





**Carolyn L. Wiggins**  
*Executive Director/CEO*

**Anita Grossbard**  
*Deputy Director/COO*

**Rose de la Cruz**  
*Fiscal Officer/CFO*