

Hidalgo County Head Start Policy Council §
Hidalgo County, Texas §

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-01

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE HIDALGO COUNTY HEAD START PROGRAM TO THE ECONOMICALLY AND SITUATIONALLY DISADVANTAGED RESIDENTS OF HIDALGO COUNTY AND ACKNOWLEDGING HIDALGO COUNTY HEAD START PROGRAM’S CONTRIBUTIONS IN IMPROVING THE LIVES OF THE CHILDREN AND THE PARENTS IT HAS SERVED FOR FIFTY YEARS AND RECOGNIZING OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE HEAD START PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, the Head Start Program was one of the primary initiatives of President Lyndon Baines Johnson’s “War on Poverty Legislation;”

WHEREAS, the Hidalgo County Head Start Program has been in existence since 1965 and currently serves 3,690 children and their families;

WHEREAS, the Hidalgo County Head Start Program promotes the school readiness of young children from low-income families and has served thousands of the County’s most economically disadvantaged children and provided family support services in the areas of early childhood development, such as parental training, nutritional care, health and dental care to the poorest families in Hidalgo County;

WHEREAS, the Hidalgo County Head Start Program prepares children to enter public schools by reinforcing the five domains of school readiness: language and literacy, cognition and general knowledge, approaches to learning, physical development and health, and social and emotional development;

WHEREAS, the Hidalgo County Head Start Program utilizes a “rigorous high quality” research based curriculum under a framework whereby state and federal standards are clearly aligned and individual children’s progress is measured, reviewed and continuously shared with parents;

WHEREAS, the Hidalgo County Head Start Program through its systems approach to program implementation continuously engages in a quality improvement cycle for the benefit of children and their families;

WHEREAS, the Hidalgo County Head Start Program fully engages parents and staff and through extensive partnerships with the public schools promotes, establishes and sustains school readiness skills to ensure that children make a “seamless” transition to kindergarten;

WHEREAS, the Hidalgo County Head Start Program serves children and their families in its effort to break the Cycle of Poverty;

WHEREAS, numerous studies have documented the significant benefits former Head Start children have received through their participation in Head Start;

WHEREAS, 267 employees out of 795 of the Hidalgo County Head Start work force are current or former Head Start parents and are afforded financial support and time to pursue college degrees to pave the way for career advancement;

WHEREAS, there is pending legislation in the Texas Legislature recognizing that early childhood education is essential in improving the future success of children in public school.

NOW THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED by the Hidalgo County Head Start Policy Council, as follows:

1. The Hidalgo County Head Start Policy Council has authorized this Resolution;
2. The Hidalgo County Head Start Policy Council calls upon the Hidalgo County Commissioners' Court to request the Valley Legislative Delegation recognize the contributions of the Head Start Program and the significant educational benefits and opportunities it has afforded Valley children and the services provided to the poorest families in the valley;
3. The Hidalgo County Head Start Policy Council supports the Texas Legislature's efforts to provide early educational opportunities to the State's disadvantaged children to further improve academic success;
4. The Hidalgo County Head Start Policy Council calls upon this State Legislature to include as part of House Bill 1765, the contributions made by Head Start Programs in the State of Texas in preparing children of low income families for public schools and to encourage families to enroll their children in Head Start Programs AS WELL AS in State funded Pre-Kindergarten Programs; funding for nutritional programs, health and dental care, and offer other Family Services as provided by Head Start.
5. Require Public Schools and Head Start Programs to develop and/or expand partnerships to address School Readiness collaboratively and develop an integrated model whereby both entities plan for and deliver "a Gold Standard, high quality, accountable prekindergarten program" which will demonstrate long term success.

PASSED AND APPROVED at a Special Called Meeting of the Hidalgo County Head Start Policy Council on the 25th day of March, 2015 at which a quorum was present and which meeting was properly posted and in compliance with the Texas Government Code Section 551, by a unanimous vote.

SIGNED AND EFFECTIVE ON THIS THE 25th OF MARCH, 2015.

APPROVED:



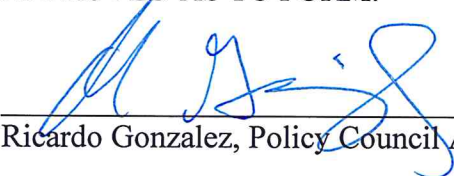
Rebecca "Becky" Villarreal, Chair Person

ATTEST:



Bianca Islas, Policy Council Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Ricardo Gonzalez, Policy Council Attorney