



Chatham-Savannah Youth Futures Authority

YFA currently has the Savannah Promise Neighborhood (SPN) as its major initiative. The work of the SPN will monopolize the focus and direction of the Authority's work for the next few years. The SPN serves as the overarching banner initiative under which other significant work directly related to this will be coordinated.

Under the Banner of

Savannah Promise Neighborhood

Five Stages for the Continuum:

Birth to 5 years

6 to 10 years

11 to 13 years

14 to 18 years

19 to 24 years

The SPN initiative addresses a "cradle-to-college-to career pipeline" for target area youth and families to provide and track the identified solutions to ensure the SPN vision that **"Every child will be born healthy, grow up healthy and safe, become educated, productive, self-sufficient contributing citizens to society."** The initiative will cover an eight census tract area within inner-city Savannah, but work will begin in a smaller two census tract area referred to as Phase 1 in which we will concentrate on the needed supports, services, and interventions to create a continuum of solutions focusing on the population from birth to age 24. Children in the target area need to benefit from quality early childhood development and education experiences to prepare them for kindergarten and to succeed academically and socially through their school years. There will be "champions" identified for each stage along the continuum to commit to taking the lead in providing the identified resources for each stage.

Under the over-arching SPN initiative will be other projects that are inter-related and serve as complements to this work. These other projects are:

Emory University School-Based Health Clinic

This is a one-year planning grant through the Department of Pediatrics to assemble a planning committee and conduct focus groups to assist in crafting a business plan that will outline the methodology and operation of a health clinic to be placed at one of the schools in the SPN target area.

Current Status: 1) Planning committee met regularly to assemble data and discuss logistical issues; 2) Focus groups were convened resulting in final summary reports; 3) Business plan is currently being developed.

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Georgia's Grade Level Reading Campaign

The former commissioner for the Georgia Department of Human Services wants to establish Georgia as a leading state in the Grade Level Reading Campaign (GLR), which seeks to ensure that more children are reading at the age appropriate level by the 3rd grade by exposing them to language and stimulating their interest in reading early. YFA, the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System, and the Housing Authority of Savannah were selected to implement this campaign at the local level.

Current Status: 1) YFA is incorporating the Childhood Development Associate program participants in this work, and will also involve the faith community; 2) YFA is crafting a parent engagement component to supplement this work; 3) Representing the Georgia Family Connection Partnership for Chatham County, YFA has been asked to coordinate the GLR work across the county.

Casey Fellows Innovation Grant— Increasing Number of Registered Child Care Providers

To positively impact the quality of child care, it is important for more of the child care providers in our community to become registered providers. YFA received a grant from the Annie E. Casey Foundation to provide financial assistance to a select number of unlicensed child care providers to help them attain a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential. This will result in more unlicensed child care providers becoming registered, thereby improving the overall quality of the child care service to our children.

Current Status: 1) Classes began in January and will end in October; 2) Participants should complete the CDA credential process by spring 2012.

System of Care

YFA is the administrator for the Governor's Office for Children and Families Caring Communities—System of Care (SOC) grant awarded to the City of Savannah. This is the second year of the grant. The program addresses the strategy of "Improving School Performance" by targeting kindergarten through 5th graders at East Broad Elementary School and the Scott Alternative Learning Center who are at-risk of suspensions or expulsions, or who have already been suspended or expelled. Two family advocates serve as a bridge between the students, their families, the two schools, and community resources and supports. A Family Strengthening Program for parents/caregivers and family members is provided by Ash Tree Organization, Inc.

Current Status: 1) Program met Year 1 target numbers and evaluation report outlined accomplishments realized in reducing number of suspensions, school absences, and some improvements in academics; 2) Current Year 2 has achieved 82% of target enrollment to date.

IBM KidsSmart Program

Due to the City of Savannah's involvement with IBM's Smarter Cities Initiative, YFA (lead organization) was awarded 30 Young Explorer Little Tikes™ units that target children ages 3-7. These are brightly colored child-friendly computer furniture units equipped with educational software that explores concepts in math, science, and language. In our partnership with the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System, 22 of these units will be placed in Pre-K and early grades classrooms. The remaining 8 units will be placed at designated community centers and child care facilities.