

LINCOLN HEALTH FOUNDATION

Initiative:	Healthier Outcomes & Access to Health Care
Project Name:	Health Enterprise to Assist Lincoln's Students (HEALS II)
Funding Period:	October 1, 2009 - September 30, 2010
Date of Funding:	October 1, 2009
Project Coordinator:	Sonja Cardwell, RN, Lincoln Parish School Board
Project Administration:	Lincoln Parish School Board
Total Funding Approved:	\$ 184,950.90
Project Status:	In Progress

Program Summary

Lincoln Parish School Board **HEALS II** is the continuation and expansion of a highly successful health initiative implemented in the 2008 - 2009 school year which addressed basic health and safety needs of indigent students in Lincoln Parish. Indigent students are defined in the **HEALS II** proposal as those whose family income level qualifies them to receive free or reduced lunches, as defined by the State of Louisiana. Because of the high poverty rate in Lincoln Parish, many students meet these qualifications. Many of these students and their families have health issues which are not addressed by government programs. These issues include poor personal hygiene habits, vision and dental problems, mental health challenges, and difficulties accessing health care facilities and providers due to lack of transportation. The Lincoln Parish School Board **HEALS II** initiative addresses these problems by providing the following resources in Lincoln Parish schools:

- (a) **Addition of a School Nurse** on a contract basis to improve the current nurse to student ratio so that health services can be provided to students in need. The addition of a nurse increases the number of school nurses to three, and enables each school nurse to serve 1,891 regular education students.

Total approved funding allocated to the addition of a school nurse: \$55,797.50

- (b) **Equipping School Nurses Stations** with needed supplies, screening equipment, and other materials to screen students who do not have the financial resources to access health resources, and treat minor injuries that commonly occur in elementary schools and potentially have greater negative impact on indigent students. The HEALS II initiative expands the equipping of nurses stations to include the Lincoln Parish Schools that did not receive nurses station equipping funds in the HEALS I initiative. All eighteen Lincoln Parish Schools will now have adequately equipped nurses' stations.

Total approved funding allocated to the school nurses stations: \$ 22,195.

- (c) **Improving Personal Hygiene for Indigent Students** by providing personal hygiene kits for students whose families are unable to afford basic hygiene items. Indigent students who are identified as having lice will be provided with lice kits; and, those indigent students who have a soiling accident at school will be provided with an extra uniform.

Total approved funding allocated to providing personal hygiene kits, lice kits, and extra uniforms for indigent students: \$ 15,100.

- (d) **Providing Dental Screenings** for all third graders in all Lincoln Parish Schools and **Dental Treatment Vouchers** to those indigent students who have been identified as needing dental treatment.

Total approved funding allocated to dental screenings and dental treatment vouchers: \$52,275.

- (e) **Implementation of Mental Health Services**, on a pilot basis at one of the at risk elementary schools in Lincoln Parish, consisting of play therapy and referrals to licensed area counselors, in an effort to address behavioral problems related to attachment disorders, anger management, depression, substance abuse, family issues, isolation issues, trust issues, obsessive compulsive disorders, and other treatable issues.

Total approved funding allocated to the pilot mental health services project: \$25,620.

- (f) **Providing Vision Care Services**, consisting of school nurse administered vision screenings, exams by vision professionals, frames, and lenses for students who do not qualify for further assistance by Medicaid, or for students who do not qualify for vision services through Medicaid.

Total approved funding allocated for vision care services: \$ 5,142.

- (g) **Providing Transportation Vouchers** for those indigent students who have been identified as needing treatment at a healthcare facility, but do not have means of transportation by a family member or guardian.

Total approved funding allocated for transportation vouchers: \$ 1,000.

- (h) **Providing a Notification System (Home Visit) by a School Discipline Coordinator** when the parent or guardian of an indigent student does not respond to attempted contacts by the HEALS coordinator to inform them about any of the problems addressed in this funding proposal.

Total approved funding allocated for School Discipline Coordinator: \$ 1,754.

- (i) **Establish a HEALS Coordinator** responsible for overseeing the development and operational aspects of the HEALS II initiative, as well as develop the network of dental, mental, vision, and other professional providers who are key to the success of the HEALS II initiative.

Total approved funding allocated for the HEALS Coordinator: \$ 5,848.