

THE GULF COAST COMMUNITY SERVICES ASSOCIATION, INC

A Community Action Agency

THE PORTABLE Guide to GCCSA, INC

A handy resource for GCCSA Services and Programs





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**THE HEART OF
COMMUNITY ACTION**”



57 YEARS OF SERVICE

During its more than 50 year story, GCCSA, Inc. has administered diverse services and programs to hundreds of thousands of under-served and un-served individuals and families in Harris County. The breadth of our experiences delivering services through everyday disasters and natural catastrophes has led to a 2022 expansion of services to the counties of Brazoria and Galveston. Because of our rich history, we are able to provide a variety of benefits and resources designed to eliminate the inhibitive conditions of poverty. Our programs and services assist families in earning a living wage, individuals in the advancement of their education, and communities in gaining economic security.

As a Community Action Agency, our purpose is two-fold: to assist in emergency situations and to empower. We believe that there are times in life where we must "give someone a fish". Thus, we have programs and services such as the Food Pantry, Back-to-School Supply Drives, and Utility and Rental Assistance. However, our primary focus is to grow a more self-sustaining community. Therefore, most of our initiatives revolve around "teaching people how to fish, and in some instances, how to buy the pond".

OUR VISION

Gulf Coast Community Services Association, Inc. aims to earn the confidence from the citizens of Houston and Harris County so that we become the exemplary model for social services in the community.

OUR MISSION

GCCSA engages partners and forges strategic alliances to educate, equip and empower individuals and families in their pursuit of economic independence.



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THE SPIRIT OF ADVANCING LIVES

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SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY

HEAD START & EARLY HEAD START

The GCCSA Head Start/ Early Head Start (HS/EHS) Program is a comprehensive tuition-free early childhood development program, that has served eligible children and families with economically-challenged backgrounds in the Houston, Harris County area since 1965.

GCCSA educates over 1,900 early learners whose families reside in the Southeast Sector of Harris County, including the cities of Houston and Pasadena.

GCCSA operates 21 Head Start Centers functioning as stand-alone sites that operate in collaboration with school partnerships. The HS Program educates children ages 3 to 5 years.

Early Head Start supports infants and toddlers, ages 6 weeks to 30 months. The EHS Center operates a home-based option.

GCCSA HS/EHS services include: early childhood education, family involvement, health advocacy, family literacy, fatherhood initiatives, mental health services, and nutrition to all enrolled children, including in the family homes of those with disabilities.

ADULT EDUCATION & SCHOLARSHIPS

GCCSA has partnered with vocational programs in Harris, Galveston and Brazoria Counties that offer training and certification for CDL, welding, health care, automotive and machining, computer technology, and massage therapy.

Scholarships are available to qualified candidates pursuing continuing education or vocational training certifications for career advancement. Scholarships may cover tuition, books, uniforms, and other related fees.

GCCSA also provides access to General Education Diploma (GED) and Adult Basic Education (ABE) classes. Students have one-on-one instruction with staff who are dedicated to helping students improve their basic skills and obtain high school credentials.

CASE MANAGEMENT

Case Management services include the assessment of needs, development and implementation of a Service Plan, and monitoring and advocacy for Customers.

Other services include financial coaching, budgeting, workforce readiness, and access to other community partner resources. Specialists work closely with families as they strive to reach economic independence.

GCCSA provides emergency assistance to individuals and families in the form of: Rental, Transportation, Electricity, and Food Assistance.

ADVANCING HEAD STARTS

EMPOWERING THE WHOLE CHILD...

GCCSA Head Start/ Early Head Start (HS/EHS) understands that each child comes into our program with a unique personality, various abilities and a distinctive cultural background. We believe all children can reach their utmost potential when provided with a stimulating learning environment supported and fostered by adults who are nurturing and accepting.

Our Child Development Team ensures that our classrooms provide quality early childhood educational and developmental services for all enrolled children, including those with disabilities. Our HS/EHS high quality, child-focused services and programming promotes children's cognitive, social and emotional growth for later success in school.

Our teaching staff have the guidance, training and support needed to implement developmentally appropriate curriculum and instruction that meet the needs of all our enrolled children and support their growth throughout their educational journey. Our child-focused program has the overall goal of increasing the school readiness of young children. We believe in partnering with parents/guardians to ensure that all the needs of our children and families are met.

NATIONAL HEAD START PROGRAM FACTS AND IMPACTS: TEXAS

Texas Head Start Programs serve the largest number of children experiencing homelessness

3,259

Head Start children are **12%** less likely to live in poverty as adults.

8,253 children received a behavioral health treatment plan

4,116 parents received job training

1,893 fathers participated in program governance

The background of the page is a photograph of a classroom. In the upper left, a large yellow poster with the word 'ALPHABET' in purple letters is visible. Below it, letters 'B', 'C', 'D', and 'E' are shown in various colors. In the foreground, a young child with dark hair is looking towards the camera. To the right, another child is partially visible, wearing a pink shirt. The overall setting is a bright, colorful classroom environment.

...EMPOWERING THE WHOLE FAMILY

We believe that our HS/EHS parents are the first and most important educators of their children. Parent involvement is a core value. We invite our parents to be integrally involved in the education of their children by volunteering in the classroom, attending parent meetings, serving on an advisory committee, and making decisions about the HS/EHS Program in the parent committees. Parents can also be elected to serve on our Policy Council - an opportunity to participate in shared decision-making about the HS/EHS Program.

Parents who are actively involved in their children's education ensure student success in school and in life. GCCSA's Family Empowerment Program provides many experiences at each Center aimed at empowering parents, equipping them with stronger parenting skills, and educating them in becoming full partners on their children's journey towards a superior education.

Our Centers have a host of ways our parents can be involved, including:

- Site-Based Parent Committees
- Classroom Volunteer (i.e. reading a book!)
- Fatherhood Program
- Family Night, Family Fun Day, Holiday Celebrations
- Policy Council Leadership


*An estimated \$642,927,658 (FY18) funds the 62,670
Head Start and 11,374 Early Head Start slots in Texas.*

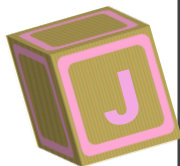
**National Head Start Association, Fact Sheet;
national data for Head Start, 2020.*



HS/EHS CENTER LOCATIONS

GCCSA operates a total of 21 Head Start and 1 Early Head Start center-based facilities, and services two program options—Full Day and Double Sessions, which vary by site. Full Day Services are available for parents who are employed or attending job training or school on a full-time basis and have no caregiver in the home. Double Session Services are available for those parents who are not employed, not attending job training and not attending school and a caregiver is present in the home.

A lcott Elementary 5859 Bellfort Houston, TX 77033	B astian Elementary 5051 Bellfort Houston, TX 77033	C odwell Elementary 5225 Tavenor Lane Houston, TX 77048
E arly Head Start 2020 Solo St Houston, TX 77020	E ast End 222 South 66th Houston, TX 77011	F oster Elementary 3919 Ward St Houston, TX 77021
F ranklin Elementary 7101 Canal St Houston, TX 77011	G arden Villa 6724 Telephone Rd Houston, TX 77061	G regg Elementary 6701 Roxbury Houston, TX 77087
H artsfield Elementary 5001 Perry St Houston, TX 77021	K elso Elementary 5800 Southmund St Houston, TX 77033	L ockart Elementary 3200 Rosedale St Houston, TX 77004
P asadena 902 South Wafer Houston, TX 77506	P atterson Elementary 5302 Allendale Houston, TX 77017	P lum Creek 6969 South Loop East Houston, TX 77087
R aul Yzaguirre 2950 Broadway Houston, TX 77017	R eveille 3716 Reveille Houston, TX 77087	R ichey 611B South Richey Rd Pasadena, TX 77506
R ucker Elementary 5201 Vinett St Houston, TX 77017	T hompson Elementary 6121 Tierwester Houston, TX 77004	W oodson Elementary 10720 Southview Houston, TX 77041
Y oung Elementary 3555 Bellfort St Houston, TX 77051		



ADVANCING FOOD SECURITY

CURBSIDE PICK-UP HOURS OF OPERATION

M W T H F
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

The GCCSA Food Pantry is a Houston Food Bank Gold Status Partner. We serve an average of 700 - 1,000 individuals per month who are able to go from being food insecure to being fed because of the generous donations received. We are fortunate to be partnered with giants in the food retail industry who are able to help us ease Houston's hunger pains.

Our Food Pantry serves as a place for crisis food relief and as a source for customers to regain their footing.



OF INDIVIDUALS WHO
RECEIVE CRISIS FOOD
ASSISTANCE ANNUALLY

13,000+



OF INDIVIDUALS WHO ATTEND
NUTRITION WORKSHOPS
ANNUALLY

700+

The GCCSA Food Pantry addresses immediate hunger crises by distributing donated food, household items and body care products.

Our Client Select Program gives participants an opportunity to acquire food in a meaningful way. Participants have the ability to "shop" for their food items in an environment that caters to the Client learning nutritional shopping behaviors while they receive food in a dignified manner.

Nutrition Education Classes and Oral Health Awareness Workshops are also provided as part of the program.



OF MEALS
DISTRIBUTED
ANNUALLY

221,000+



ESTIMATED \$ VALUE OF FOOD DONATED TO
GCCSA FOOD PANTRY FROM SAM'S CLUB,
KROGER, WHOLE FOODS MARKET, & ALDI, IN
PARTNERSHIP WITH HOUSTON FOOD BANK

\$380,000+

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**AN INVESTMENT
IN KNOWLEDGE &
TRAINING MAKES
A CONTRIBUTION
TOWARDS THE
ADVANCEMENT OF
OUR COMMUNITY**

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ADVANCING ADULT EDUCATION & LITERACY

We believe in educating, equipping and empowering the whole family; providing the tools and love of learning across all age groups. Education and Literacy are vital for anyone seeking to better themselves. Balancing that with valuable skills is the best way to move into leading sustainable, thriving and productive lives.

GCCSA, Inc's Adult Literacy & Education initiatives prepare adult students with career training, vocational skills and continued adult education courses, GCCSA is proud to partner with other community organizations in Harris, Galveston and Brazoria Counties that open the door to different educational and training options.

We believe so strongly that education and literacy lead to economic fortitude that the Agency offers Scholarships for Career Training to qualified adult candidates who are interested in pursuing continuing education or vocational training certifications.

GCCSA, Inc. believes that every day is a new opportunity to realize your potential. Our services to the community help our neighbors establish a foundation for upward mobility and self-sufficiency; leading to the ultimate goal of permanently transitioning out of poverty.

Together, everyone achieves more. At Gulf Coast Community Services Association, Inc., we will help guide you on your path to independence!



**“TRANSITIONING TO
LIVES OF PROMISE”**

ADVANCING CASE MANAGEMENT

Gulf Coast Community Services Association, Inc. provides case management services, including:

- **Assessment of Needs**
- **Development of Implementation of a Service Plan**
- **Monitoring and Advocacy**
- **Access to Community Partners**

Individuals or families may qualify for:

- **Rent or Electricity Assistance**
- **Financial Coaching**
- **Budgeting**
- **Transportation Vouchers**
- **Food Assistance**

GCCSA team members work closely with clients as they move toward economic independence. *Please note that this is not an exhaustive list of services. Programs are implemented throughout a calendar year based on the availability of Federal Funding. Please visit our website at www.gccsa.org for more information on current program offerings.*



APPLYING FOR SERVICES

Residents of Greater Houston, including the counties of Harris, Galveston and Brazoria, may complete the appropriate Application for Services during the enrollment windows, attaching all required documentation. To find the application, please visit our website: www.gccsa.org.

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

GCCSA, Inc. services and programs are available to residents of Harris, Galveston and Brazoria County who are deemed “income-eligible” according the federal income guidelines below.

INCOME REQUIREMENTS

125% of Federal Poverty Guidelines

# OF PERSONS IN FAMILY/HOUSEHOLD	POVERTY INCOME LIMITS
1	\$16,988
2	\$22,888
3	\$28,788
4	\$34,688
5	\$40,588
6	\$46,488
7	\$52,388
8	\$58,288
<i>Families with more than 8 persons</i>	<i>Add \$5,900 for each additional person</i>





The background image shows a modern, multi-story building with large windows and a flat roof. The number '9320' is prominently displayed on the upper part of the building's facade. In the foreground, several palm trees are visible, their fronds partially obscuring the building. The entire image has a dark, teal-colored overlay, and a white rectangular box is centered over the middle section, containing the GCCSA logo and contact information.

GCCSA

**EDUCATE.
EQUIP. EMPOWER.**

**9320 KIRBY DRIVE
HOUSTON, TX 77054**

WWW.GCCSA.ORG

(713) 393 4700

***A Community
Action Agency.***