

Comments from Alyssa Kenney, Executive Director Kennedy Heights Community Center

Regarding Community Resources Draft Program Area Goals and Priorities for
2011-2012

Children and Families:

- I am concerned about the decision to only fund full-time care and I am requesting that the commission remove the words “full-time” from the A1 priority area.
 - Our half-day year round program provides critical early childhood education and helps prepare low income children for success in Kindergarten. Many families depend on the program for their children to learn English and other pre-academic skills. The program has long history in the community and proven record of measurable outcomes.
 - Families need childcare and quality programming for their children for a variety of reasons. This is not only because of time and financial constraints, but also limits on skills and knowledge. Families may not need childcare only because of work commitments but for a variety of needs such as caring for other children or family members, sleeping if they work a second or third shift job, attending school or workforce training, or respite from childcare.
 - Full-time childcare is most often accessed by working parents who already have access to county tuition programs. Our part-time program is accessed by families that need early childhood education and childcare, most of whom do not qualify for county tuition reimbursement.
 - Early learning matters and Kennedy Heights Community Center’s Early Childhood Program has been able to have meaningful outcomes with a year round *half day* program.
 - The city funds 60% of our Early Childhood Program, the city’s financial support is critical for the program to remain viable in 2011.