

Tri-County Community Action Agency Head Start and Early Head Start

Northern Region

Annual Report 2021



 Tri-County
Community Action Agency
Helping people. Changing lives.



Head Start

Tri-County Community Action Agency Providing Head Start Services since 1992

Head Start is a comprehensive child development program that serves children from ages 3 to 5 and their families.

Early Head Start is dedicated to nurturing the development of infants and toddlers in the context of their family and supporting the health and well-being of pregnant women.

COVID-19 The Head Start Program closed its doors in March 2020 for a period of four months as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. During this period, staff worked to maintain family engagement and support. The program resumed in-person learning in June 2020 for children enrolled in Early Head Start and in September 2020 for children enrolled in Head Start. Teachers and children over age 2 returned to school with a mask mandate. COVID-19 continued to impact many aspects of program planning.

Early Head Start and Head Start programs are family centered, based on the belief that children develop in the context of their family and culture and that parents are respected as the primary educators and nurturers of their children. We support families as they identify their goals, provide access to community resources and assist them however we can to prepare their children for school and for life. Tri-County Community Action has a tradition of delivering high quality services that foster the healthy development of low-income children with the overall goal to impact positively on all facets of a child's life including their education, early childhood development, health, safety, nutrition, and family engagement.

The Tri-County's Head Start Program provides exemplary services.

The latest federal review, conducted in April 2019 concluded that no corrective actions were identified in program operations including Health Services, Nutrition Services, Safe Environments, Mental Health Services, Disabilities Services, Family and Community Services, and Education and Early Childhood Development Services.

Preparing Children for Kindergarten

Children who participate in Head Start are offered a variety of school readiness activities to prepare them for

Kindergarten. Efforts to prepare children and families for Kindergarten include:

- ◆ Following the Rhode Island Early Learning and Development Standards (RIELDS).
- ◆ Conducting formal developmental assessments using Teaching Strategies GOLD. Aggregating and analyzing assessment data three times per year.
- ◆ Developing program wide School Readiness Goals that are aligned with Creative Curriculum, Teaching Strategies GOLD and the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework.
- ◆ Distributing information to support the attainment of children's learning during the summer months.
- ◆ Providing each family with a written summary of their child's developmental strengths and goals.
- ◆ Providing information to ease the transition to Kindergarten for children and their families.
- ◆ Providing families with information about family engagement opportunities in the public school setting.
- ◆ Inviting school department personnel to participate in the school readiness committee and support transition activities.
- ◆ Implementing a research-based early learning curriculum (Creative Curriculum and Parents as Teachers)



Enhancement Programs

Parents as Teachers

Born to Learn is a curriculum tool used in the Early Head Start home-based option. The goals of the program are to: increase parent knowledge of early childhood development and improve parenting practices; provide early detection of developmental delays and health issues; prevent child abuse and neglect; and increase children's school readiness and school success

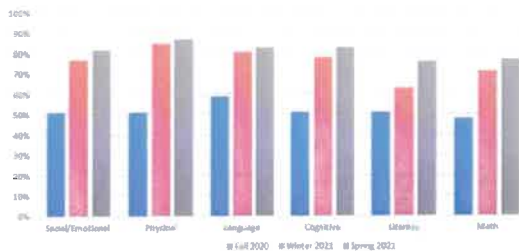
School Readiness

School Readiness goals have been established for the Early Head Start and Head Start programs based on a continuum of development from birth to age five. These goals reflect the skills and knowledge necessary for success in school and for later learning and life. Input for School Readiness Goals is obtained from local school departments, families, the Rhode Island Early Learning and Development Standards, and the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework.

During the 2020-2021 program year, assessment data was impacted by the high rate of continuous program enrollment throughout the year and higher than normal rates of absenteeism. Each of these impacts is a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Child assessment data reflecting children reaching age expectations for the 2020-2021 program year is as follows:

Tri-County Community Action Agency-- Northern Region
Program-Wide Child Outcomes Data: Fall 2020, Winter and Spring 2021
Percentage of Children Enrolled in Head Start Who Meet or Exceed Age Expectations



Bright Stars: Rhode Island's quality Rating and Improvement System

Each of the Head Start centers is rated by the Bright Stars Quality Rating System. Each center maintains a four or five star rating out of a possible five stars. The star rating reflects the program's commitment to quality that goes beyond the required child care licensing regulations. Bright

Stars quality rated programs are assessed in the areas of health, safety, nutrition, enrollment and staffing, staff qualification and ongoing professional development, administration, early learning and development and family engagement.

Funded Enrollment

Head Start 134
Early Head Start 50
EHS Prenatal 8

Total Served

Head Start 112
Early Head Start 91
EHS Prenatal 6

Average Monthly Enrollment

The average monthly enrollment in Early Head Start was 97%. The average monthly enrollment in Head Start was 69%. Classrooms were open for in-person learning in June 2020 for EHS and September 2020 for Head Start. Classrooms resume using a hybrid model of in-person and at-home learning.

Income Eligibility

Head Start

56% income eligible, 9% over-income, 8% receive public assistance, 3% foster children, 4% homeless, and 20% with income between 100-130% of poverty

Early Head Start

58% income eligible, 8% over income, 9% receive public assistance, 4% homeless, 1% foster children, and 20% with income between 100-130% of poverty

Children Receiving Medical & Dental Services

Head Start Children Receiving Medical 86%
Head Start Children Receiving Dental 68%
Early Head Start Children Receiving Medical 77%
Early Head Start Children Receiving Dental 38%
*Covid-19 had a significant impact on the receipt of routine health/oral health wellness examinations.

Family Engagement Activities

- ◆ Monthly Parent Meetings
- ◆ Home Sweet Homework at-home activities
- ◆ Monthly Policy Council Meetings (virtual beginning May 2020)
- ◆ Parent Satisfaction Survey
- ◆ Annual Self-Assessment
- ◆ Health Advisory Meetings
- ◆ School Readiness Committee
- ◆ Employee Interview Committee
- ◆ Use of Class DOJO
- ◆ Daily distance learning activities

TRI- COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY HEAD START 10/01/20 - 09/30/21

REVENUES

Federal DHHS ACF	\$2,323,124
USDA	\$46,383
State Head Start	\$52,866
Other Revenue	\$100,658
In-Kind	\$415,062

EXPENSES

	Actual	Budget
Personnel	\$1,504,252	\$1,504,252
Contractual	\$169,538	\$169,538
Program Supplies and Activities	\$125,222	\$125,222
Travel		
Training	\$36,671	\$36,671
Facility	\$382,412	\$382,412
Other	\$336,871	\$336,871
Total Cash Expenditures	\$2,554,967	\$2,554,967
Total In-Kind	\$383,127	\$383,127
Total Head Start Budget	\$2,938,093	\$2,938,093

In addition to periodic reviews and audits from Federal and State agencies, Tri-County has an annual audit performed by an independent accounting firm in accordance with OMB Circular A-133. The most recent external audit was for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2021 and was completed on June 17, 2022 by Baxter, Dansereau & Associates, LLP. The auditors rendered an Unqualified opinion on the financial statements and noted that there were no instances of non-compliance or other matters that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards. A complete copy of the audit is available by contacting the Agency.



Tri-County Community Action Agency's comprehensive services available to families include:

- ◆ Family Medicine including pediatrics
- ◆ Dental/Oral Health
- ◆ Mental Health and Substance Abuse Counseling
- ◆ WIC
- ◆ Youth and Family Services
- ◆ Employment and Training
- ◆ Adult Basic Education/GED
- ◆ LIHEAP/Weatherization
- ◆ Emergency Food and Shelter Services
- ◆ Basic Human Needs
- ◆ Elder Case Management
- ◆ Financial Stability

Locations & Staffing

Johnston (Head Start & Early Head Start/Main Office Location)

1126 Hartford Avenue, Johnston, RI

North Providence

79 Waterman Avenue (Head Start),
2204 Mineral Spring Avenue (Head Start & Early Head Start),
7 Rockwell Avenue (Head Start)

Burrillville (Head Start & Early Head Start)

185 Main Street, Pascoag, RI

Staffing

7 Managers including: Education, Family Development/Mental Health, Health, Nutrition, and Special Needs
6 Early Head Start and 7 Head Start Teachers
7 Head Start Teacher Assistants
4 Case Managers
3 Early Head Start Home Visitors
1 Deputy Head Start Director
1 Head Start Director

For more information, contact:
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www.tricityri.org