

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

Southern 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 1970

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 help families identify their goals, provide access to community resources and help them however we can to make a better life for their children. 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: education, early childhood development, health, safety, nutrition, and family.

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:

- ◆ Implementing a research-based early learning curriculum.
- ◆ Following the Rhode Island Early Learning and Development Standards.
- ◆ Conducting formal developmental assessments using Teaching Strategies GOLD.
- ◆ Developing program wide School Readiness Goals that are aligned with the Creative Curriculum, Teaching Strategies GOLD and the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework.
- ◆ Distributing a Summer Learning Packet to support children's learning during the summer months.
- ◆ Providing each family with a written summary of their child's developmental strengths and goals.
- ◆ Providing families with information, ideas and activities to support the child and family's transition to kindergarten.
- ◆ Providing families with information on family engagement opportunities once they transition to kindergarten.
- ◆ Encouraging parents to share assessment records with their child's kindergarten teacher, focusing on the child's academic and school readiness skills.
- ◆ Providing families with simple activities that they can do with their child to support their child's development in relation to the classroom curriculum.
- ◆ Promoting the *Star Reader* program to encourage families to read with their children every night.



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.

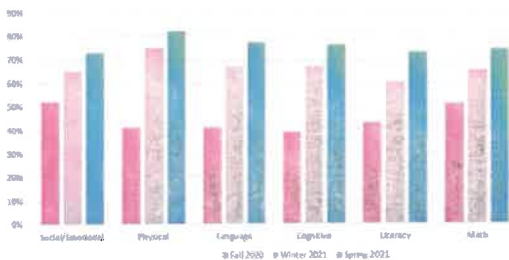
School Readiness

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 - Southern 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 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 76
Early Head Start 30
EHS Prenatal 5

Total Served

Head Start 87
Early Head Start 56
EHS Prenatal 1

Average Monthly Enrollment

The average monthly enrollment in Early Head Start was 97%. The average monthly enrollment in Head Start was 80%. 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

67% income eligible, 6% over-income, 16% income between 100-130% poverty, 7% receive public assistance, 1% homeless, and 3% foster children.

Early Head Start

65% income eligible, 5% over income, 7% income between 100-130 poverty, 9% receive public assistance, 5% homeless, and 9% foster children.

Children Receiving Medical & Dental Services

Head Start Children Receiving Medical 48%
Head Start Children Receiving Dental 66%
Early Head Start Children Receiving Medical 32%
Early Head Start Children Receiving Dental 47%

*Covid-19 had a significant impact on the receipt of routine health/oral health wellness examinations.

Family Engagement Activities

- ◆ Monthly Parent Meetings (held virtually)
- ◆ "Be A Star Reader" & Home Sweet Homework
- ◆ Monthly Policy Council meetings (held virtually)
- ◆ Parent Satisfaction Survey
- ◆ Self-Assessment
- ◆ Health Advisory Meetings
- ◆ Participation in employment interviews
- ◆ Employee Interview Committee
- ◆ Use of Class DOJO
- ◆ Distance learning activities

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

REVENUES

Federal DHHS ACF	\$1,490,433
USDA	\$46,955
State Head Start	\$83,885
Other Revenue	\$17,298
In-Kind	\$137,094

EXPENSES

	Actual	Budget
Personnel	\$989,250	\$989,250
Contractual	\$119,051	\$119,051
Program Supplies and Activities	\$72,021	\$72,021
Travel		
Training	\$25,984	\$25,984
Facility	\$223,365	\$223,365
Other	\$218,131	\$218,131
Total Cash Expenditures	\$1,647,801	\$1,647,801
Total In-Kind	\$127,865	\$127,865
Total Head Start Budget	\$1,775,666	\$1,775,666

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 including:

- ◆ Family Care Community Partnership Program
- ◆ Youth and Family Services
- ◆ Employment and Training
- ◆ Adult Basic Education/GED
- ◆ LIHEAP/Weatherization
- ◆ Emergency Food and Shelter Services
- ◆ Basic Human Needs
- ◆ Child Care

Locations & Staffing

Charlestown (Head Start):

4350 South County Trail, Charlestown RI

North Kingstown (Head Start)

415 Tower Hill Road, North Kingstown, RI

South Kingstown (Head Start/ Early Head Start)

1935 Kingstown Road, Wakefield, RI

Westerly (Head Start)

34 Pond Street, Westerly, RI

Staffing

- 5 Coordinators: Education, Family Engagement/Program Support, Health, Nutrition, and Special Needs
- 1 ERSEA Specialist
- 2 Early Head Start and 5 Head Start Teachers
- 5 Head Start Teacher Assistants
- 3 Case Managers
- 2 Early Head Start Home Visitors
- 1 Deputy Head Start Director
- 1 Head Start Director



For more information, contact:

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