



INDIANA COUNTY HEAD START, INC.



2022-23
Annual Report

Our Program Options:

For families with children ages 3-5 years who reside in Indiana County and meet the income guidelines.

INDIANA AREA HEAD START - 155 Clymer Ave., Indiana, PA 15701

Part Day Options: Monday through Friday

8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

12:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Transportation Available

September-May

Full Day Options: Monday through Friday

9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.-Transportation Available

8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.-drive in/pick up only

September-May

One 3-week summer session for 4.5 hours/day

(Offered to extended day classrooms)



HOMER CITY HEAD START – 30 West Elm St., Homer City, PA 15748

Full Day Options: Monday through Friday

8:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Transportation Available

September-May



CHERRYHILL HEAD START – 184 Spaulding Rd., Penn Run, PA 15765

Part Day Options: Monday through Friday

8:00 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.

11:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Transportation Available

September – May

Full Day Option: Monday through Friday

9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Transportation Available to those in service area

September-May



The PA Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) has awarded our three Head Start centers a **STAR 4 designation**, the highest level achievable in Keystone Stars, Pennsylvania's Quality Rating & Improvement System.

Keystone STARS is a quality rating system (QRIS) in Pennsylvania. QRIS promotes quality improvement in early learning and development programs as well as school-age childcare. A Keystone STARS designation informs parents that their children are in a safe, respectful environment in which they are learning new things every day to support their current and future successes in school and in life.



Early Head Start:

Early Head Start (EHS) is a unique program in that we bring our educational expertise to you right in the comfort of your home. We offer pre-natal education and support to expectant moms on a variety of topics throughout the duration of their pregnancy. We also deliver quality in home educational services to infants and toddlers up to age three. Our core belief is that parents are the first and foremost primary educator of their child.

Our goal is to provide parents with one on one activities that promote parent interaction and positive bonding. Infants and toddlers up to age 3 receive a one and a half hour individualized session once a week, where the Family Educator facilitates learning experiences with the parents. We offer a variety of Family Engagement activities such as craft night, family game fun and community field trips to places such as the local library and the fire department.

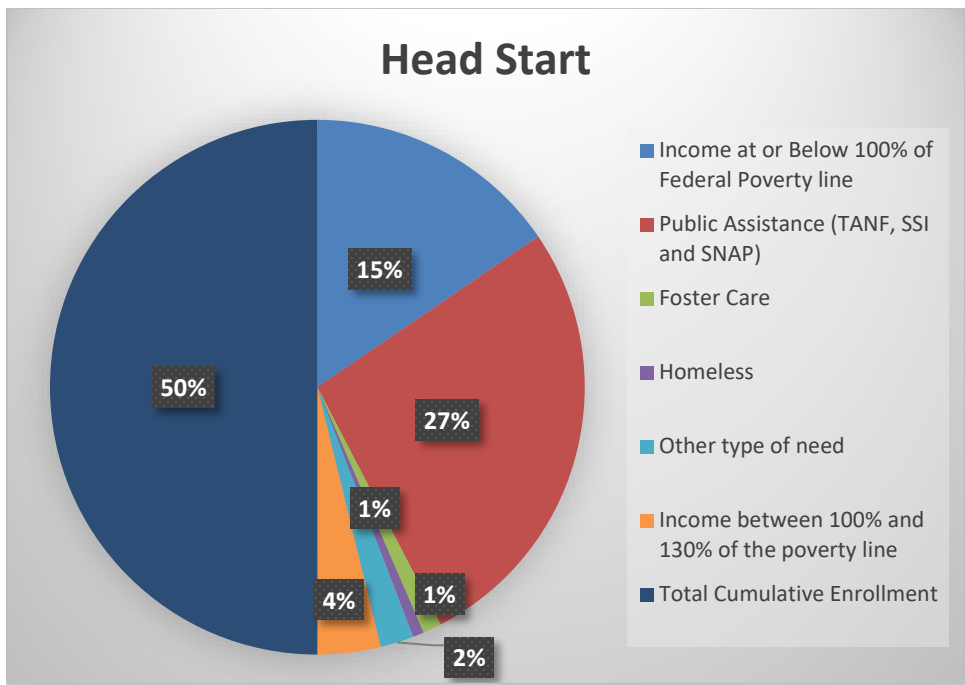
In a typical year, we offer Group Experience Time (GET) twice a month at our Indiana center. Our Bumps to Babies group focuses on pre-natal clients and infants up to age one. This provides the families with the time to share experiences with moms of babies close in age. Our pre-natal group can ask other parents in attendance questions about topics related to pregnancy (i.e. breastfeeding, bath times, sleep patterns etc.). The Toddlers and Tweeners group consists of children who are mobile up to age three. This group focuses on cognitive skills, trying new foods, serving themselves, and preparing for the Head Start transition. During the meeting, parents and children have the opportunity to come together and socialize in a comfortable atmosphere. Parents participate in workshops from a variety of topics such as creative cooking, positive behavior techniques, budgeting as well as many others. Infants and toddlers interact with same age peers in a safe environment with staff facilitating interactions. Once the child turns three, we begin the transition process into Head Start.

Our participated in several grant opportunities this year offered by Human Services Council of Indiana. The two topics we covered were safe food preparation and food budgeting as well as home/personal safety products.

We are a relationship-based program encompassing the entire family working on tangible goals to enhance their daily life. Many of the EHS staff received certification in Trauma Informed Practices and Infant and Toddler Mental Health as well as Breastfeeding Counseling. We pride ourselves in being aware of the trends within Indiana County and the needs of our families.

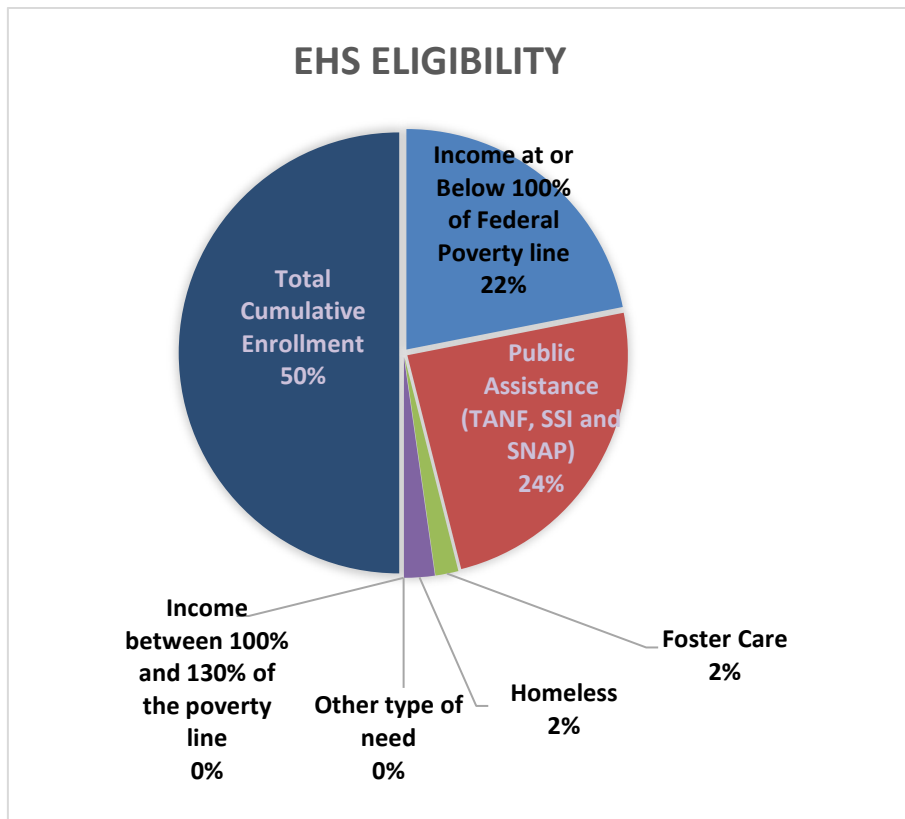
Enrollment:

Our funded enrollment for Head Start is 300. 239 of these slots are federally funded slots and 81 slots are funded by the Pennsylvania Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program (HSSAP). Early Head Start was fully enrolled all year. The Head Start was not fully enrolled due to being short staffed. We kept 2 classrooms closed for the safety of the children.



Funded Enrollment: 300
Cumulative Enrollment: 223

Our Early Head Start program is federally funded for 50 children.



Funded Enrollment: 50
Cumulative Enrollment: 89

Health Services:

Head Start realizes the importance of the early identification of health problems in partnership with parents. We strive to promote optimal health and ensure that children have ongoing access to health care by emphasizing the importance of early identification and treatment of health problems in conjunction with comprehensive health services.

Even with the limitations of services due to short staffing, our program was still able to support families providing assistance in getting to doctor appointments, screenings, health resources and dental care.

Health Indicators based on cumulative enrollment	Early Head Start	Head Start
Percentage of children with health insurance	98%	99%
Percentage of children with a medical home	96%	99%

Percentage of children with completed physical exams	96%	81%
Percentage of children with up-to-date immunizations, all possible immunizations or are exempt	85%	94%
Percentage of preschool children completing professional dental exams	42%	79%
Of the preschool children receiving professional dental exams, percentage who needed treatment	0	25%
Of the preschool children needing professional dental treatment, percentage of who received treatment	N/A	22%

Services for Children with Special Needs:

Head Start provides an inclusive approach for the education of children with disabilities or chronic medical conditions. This means that all children, regardless of differences or needs, receive education in regular classrooms and programs when determined appropriate for them. Head Start and Early Head Start staff screens every child for overall development of sensory, auditory, behavioral, motor, language, social, cognitive, perceptual and emotional skills within 45 days of enrollment. If the results from the screening indicate some difficulties, the child may be referred for a more in-depth evaluation to determine eligibility for special services due to a disability.

Disability	Children receiving services at Head Start throughout the 2022-23 school year
Autism	5
Visual Impairment	0
Developmental Delay	18
Hearing Impairment	0
Multiple Disabilities	1
Orthopedic Impairment	1
Other Health Impairments	3
Speech Language Impairment	45
TOTAL	146

Disability Categories	Total for Early Head Start
Non-categorical/ Developmental	4
Speech or Language Impairment	7
Intellectual Disability	1
Health	3

Orthopedic	3
Hearing	2
Vision	1
TOTAL	21

Family Services:

Indiana County Head Start (ICHS) staff works in partnership with parents to achieve positive outcomes for the families, resulting in children who are healthy and ready for school. We offer opportunities for them to become involved in classroom activities; socialize with other families in a variety of family engagement events; direct involvement in the decision making of program planning and operation; and in making connections with community partners.

Parenting Now!

ICHS offers Parenting Now! A Group-Based Positive Parenting curriculum. Parenting Now! is a positive, strength-based curriculum, designed to be inviting to a wide range of parents with young children. One goal of the project is to ensure that the curriculum contains the parenting information essential in the prevention of child abuse, i.e., communication skills, anger management, problem solving skills, and information about child development to increase competence and confidence in parenting. Class topics include; Parent Values, Stress Management/Realistic Expectations, Preventative Discipline Tools, Communication, Discipline- A Parent Toolbox, When Things Break Down and Bringing It All Back Home. This program is designed to be able to implement and attend virtually. Families who attended all classes were put into a drawing to win a Wal-Mart gift card.

Family Literacy Program

The Family Literacy Program offers families an opportunity to earn books. This program runs from November through April. For every 15 books a family reads to their child, they receive another free book.

Salvation Army Partnership

Indiana County Salvation Army's, "Angel Tree" links donors with a specific child or family. ICHS assisted with completing applications, collecting and delivering the toys and gifts. ICHS also helped with the "Sheetz Family Christmas"

Indiana Lions Club Partnership

The Indiana County Lions Club hosted, "Santa's Adventure" for Head Start children and their families. Families enjoyed an evening of free activities and dinner. Due to COVID, we were unable to offer this event as it would not be possible to maintain social distancing guidelines. Instead, Family Services took individual Holiday pictures of each child, framed each picture and sent it home as a "gift" to each family.

Transition to Kindergarten:

Our Head Start program recognizes the importance of promoting an effective transition from our centers to the school districts' kindergarten programs.

- Our curriculum is aligned with the Pennsylvania Learning Standards for Early Childhood.
- Lists of Head Start enrollees are sent to each school district in February.
- Kindergarten registration and orientation information is given to Head Start families.
- School district personnel are provided the opportunity to visit Head Start classrooms in the spring.
- Head Start children visit kindergarten classes in the spring.
- Classroom lesson plans include Kindergarten readiness and transition activities.
- Parents are provided with information via workshops and written material pertaining to school readiness and kindergarten expectations.
- Families are given a *Summer Packet* of materials, including books and activities to use with children over the summer months to sustain skill development.
- Written summaries of school readiness skills of individual children are sent to kindergarten teachers.



Indiana County Head Start School Readiness Goals:

Program Goal: Indiana County Head Start will assess ways to provide continuity of services that are responsive to the changing needs of children, ages 0 to 5, their families and the community.

ELOF: Language and Literacy

School Readiness Goal: All children will be immersed in the interrelatedness of language and literacy acquisition.

Objective: Strengthen the abilities of staff and families to improve language and literacy skills by 80% as measured by Teaching Strategies GOLD.

ELOF: Cognitive Domain

School Readiness Goal: All children enrolled will be able to use one to one correspondence when given a verbal cue.

Objective: Strengthen the abilities of staff and families to improve mathematical skills by 75% as measured by Teaching Strategies GOLD.

ELOF: Social and Emotional Development

School Readiness Goal: All children will develop positive relationships with peers and adults.

Objective: Strengthen the abilities of staff and families to support relationship development of all enrolled children by 75% as measured by Teaching Strategies GOLD.

ELOF: Perceptual Motor and Physical Development Domain

School Readiness Goal: All children will develop gross motor skills focusing on body awareness.

Objective: Strengthen the abilities of staff and families to improve mathematical skills by 75% as measured by Teaching Strategies GOLD.

ELOF: Approaches to Learning Domain

School Readiness Goal: All children will demonstrate initiative, curiosity and persistence in task management.

Objective: Strengthen the abilities of staff and families to support growth and development through self-regulation by 75% as measured by Teaching Strategies GOLD.

**Progress on Child Outcomes:
Early Head Start:**

**Indiana County Early Head Start
Child Performance Summary - Early Head Start Outcomes**

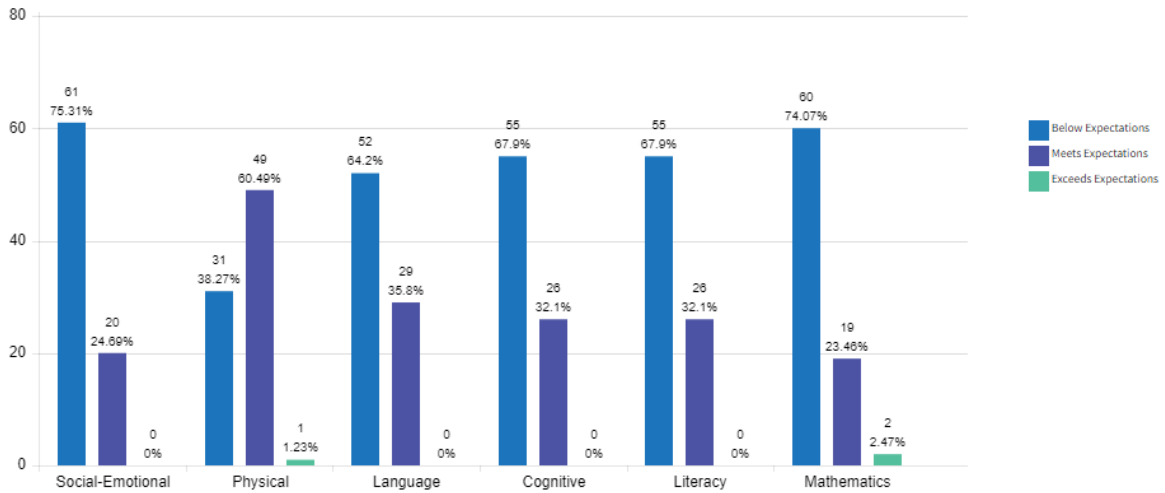
No data to display			
Program: EHS			
Term: EHS 2022-2023		Date Range: 09/01/2022 to 07/28/2023	
Assessment Tool: HELP® 0-3			
Classroom: All			
Filters:	All Assessments: No	Completed Only: Yes	Enroll Only: No
Age Range: All	DLL:	Child Delay/Disab:	Parent Intellectual Disab:
Foster:	Homeless:	Gender: All	Hispanic:
Primary Language: All		# Years in Program: All	Blind:
Total # of children: 46			
Total # of children included: 36			
Total # of children not included: 10			
% of Infants and toddlers who demonstrate improved:		# of Children	% of Children
1	Language and Communication	32	88.89 %
2	Cognition	33	91.67 %
3	Approaches to Learning	35	97.22 %
4	Social and Emotional Development	33	91.67 %
5	Perceptual, Motor, and Physical Development	32	88.89 %

Four-Year Olds:

The following graph indicates where the four-year-old children were when they came to us in the fall according to Widely Held Expectations.

PA Head Start Association - Indiana County Head Start

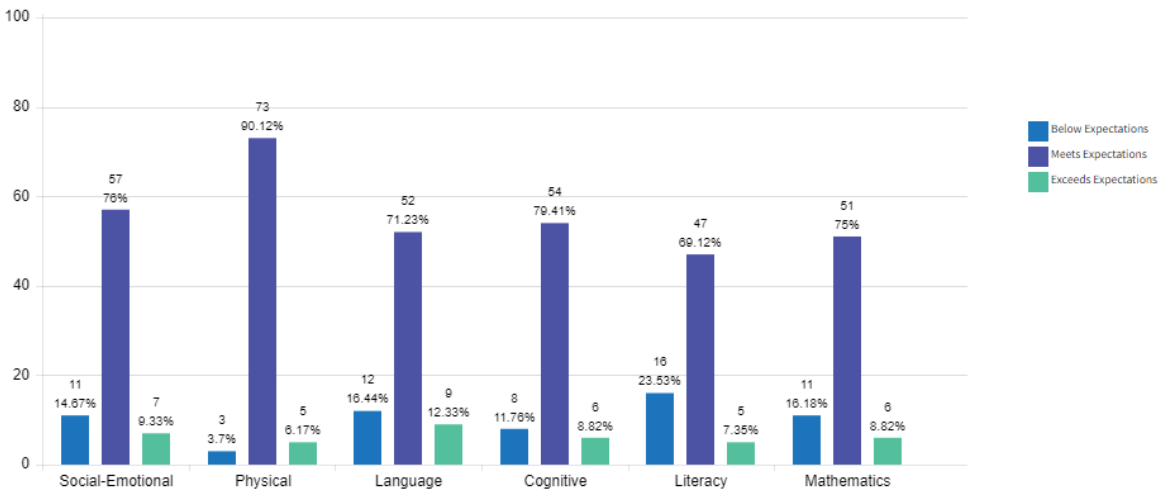
Fall 2022/2023 - Widely Held Expectations



The following graph indicates the improvements made through the year for the four-year-old children according to Widely Held Expectations.

PA Head Start Association - Indiana County Head Start

Spring 2022/2023 - Widely Held Expectations

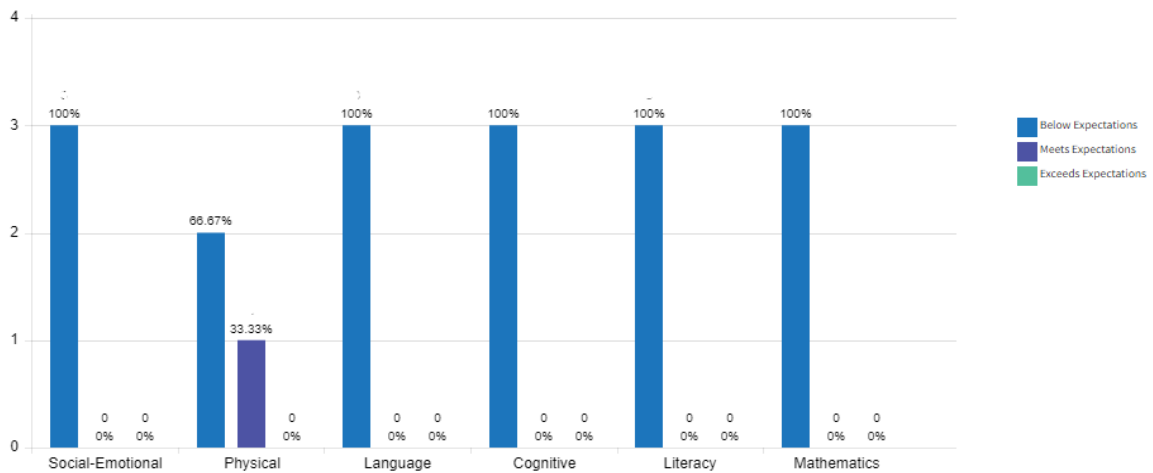


Three-Year Olds:

The following graph indicates where the three-year-old children were when they came to us in the fall according to Widely Held Expectations

PA Head Start Association - Indiana County Head Start

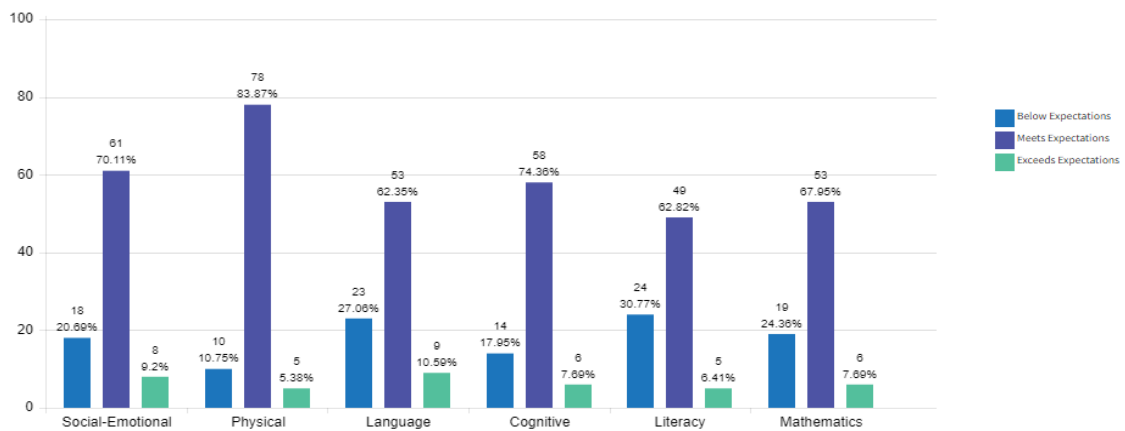
Fall 2022/2023 - Widely Held Expectations



The following graph indicates the improvements made through the year for the three-year-old children according to Widely Held Expectations.

PA Head Start Association - Indiana County Head Start

Spring 2022/2023 - Widely Held Expectations



Monitoring of Program Services:

Federal Monitoring

Noncompetitive Five-Year Grant

Indiana County Head Start (ICHS) completed the third year of its current 5 Year Grant Cycle. The new five-year grant cycle began April 1, 2020. During the past several years, our program has been monitored by the Office of Head Start (OHS) to determine if we are providing quality services to the children and families enrolled in our program. The following on-site monitoring reviews have occurred:

- March 2017 Environmental Health & Safety Review
- December 2017 Focus Area 2 Review
- December 2017 CLASS Review
- March 2021 Focus Area 1

Based on the Focus Area One review, the agency received a finding. Indiana County Head Start has completed the process for correction.

In addition to these on-site reviews, we have also successfully completed annual financial audits, enrollment reports and program information reports, among others.

The following data provides a look at our most recent CLASS scores in their respective categories.

- **Emotional Support:** assesses the degree to which teachers establish and promote a positive climate in their classroom through their everyday interactions.
- **Classroom Organization:** assesses classroom routines and procedures related to the organization and management of children's behavior, time, and attention in the classroom.
- **Instructional Support:** assesses the ways in which teachers implement the curriculum to effectively promote cognitive and language development.

Domain	National Grantee Level Mean CLASS Score	Indiana County Head Spring 2021 Score External Assessor	Indiana County Head Winter 2021 Score Internal Assessor
<i>Emotional Support</i>	6.08	6.2	6.1
<i>Classroom Organization</i>	5.80	6.0	4.9
<i>Instructional Support</i>	2.89	4.2	3.54

Independent Fiscal Audit:

An independent audit was conducted for the Fiscal Year: May 1, 2022 to April 30, 2023. The auditor's report **was issued on August 4, 2023**. The results of the audit tests revealed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards or The Uniform Guidance.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Funding Sources 2022 - 2023 Head Start and Early Head Start

Funding Source	Amount
US Department of Health & Human Services- Office of Head Start	\$3,367,132
US Department of Health & Human Services- Office of Head Start COVID & ARP Funds 04/01/2021 – 03/31/2023	\$432,769
Pennsylvania Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program HSSAP	\$745,767
Pre-K Counts	\$150,000
USDA	\$192,610
United Way	\$8,091
Total	\$4,896,369

Federal Expenditures for Fiscal Year May 1, 2022 - April 30, 2023

Category	Head Start Expenditures	HSSAP Expenditures	Pre-K Counts Expenditures	Early Head Start Expenditures
Personnel	\$1,222,925	\$347,096	\$99,664	\$272,606
Fringe Benefits	\$565,070	\$206,367	\$30,827	\$112,461
Travel		\$853	\$190	
Equipment				
Supplies	\$244,701	\$17,163	\$2,942	\$33,710
Contractual	\$35,377	\$18,469	\$1,988	\$5,208
Construction				
Other	\$671,949	\$154,614	\$14,389	\$160,109
COVID-19	\$357,894			\$74,875
Training	\$31,010	\$1,205		\$12,006
Total	\$3,128,926	\$745,767	\$150,000	\$670,975

Proposed Federal Budget for Fiscal Year May 1, 2023 - April 30, 2024

Category	Head Start	HSSAP	Pre-K Counts	Early Head Start
Personnel	\$1,600,060	\$395,707	\$96,224	\$331,154
Fringe Benefits	\$811,405	\$258,912	\$36,308	\$148,045
Travel		\$380	\$150	

Equipment				
Supplies	\$144,311	\$7,134	\$1,150	\$15,440
Contractual	\$42,429	\$13,751	\$3,284	\$8,543
Construction				
Other	\$362,900	\$69,358	\$12,884	\$134,704
Training	\$31,010	\$525		\$12,006
Total	\$2,992,115	\$745,767	\$150,000	\$649,892

Summary of Community Assessment:

Based on the data presented in this report a variety of conclusions and adjustments should continue to be made to the program. All of the data points to a drop in the overall population in the county. There was a 5% decrease in the population in during the 2010- 2019 time period. This decrease in population can also be seen in the Kindergarten enrollment for the area school districts. The majority of these districts have closed buildings in the last decade including Blairsville/Saltsburg, Marion Center, and Purchase Line. Indiana School District has discussed it as well. The projected enrollments are also interesting. Rural schools such as Penns Manor and Purchase Line continue to decrease in enrollment while the Indiana School District shows a slight increase over the years that is somewhat insignificant. One assumption for this trend would be the lack of infrastructure and employment opportunities in the rural areas. Each year the amount of child care programs becomes less, especially since COVID. Many providers have shut their doors due to lack of funding and staff. Each of our county school districts have Pre-K Counts slots in addition to a few other child care programs totalling 267 slots. The overlap in income guidelines and decrease in overall population have made it very difficult to maintain full enrollment. Programs are forced to compete for slots to maintain full enrollment. Just this year alone as indicated on an above graph we have lost over 26 children to Pre-K counts programs as of October 26, 2022. Therefore, the agency needs to start looking at shifting its enrollment by one of three ways: 1) convert HS to EHS slots, 2) decrease overall slots or 3) shift locations of classrooms to better reach children on the outer edges of the county.

Data from our area school districts show that low income status hovers very close to the 50% range in each district. Therefore we need to be looking closer at where we are currently pulling our children and see if there are areas that we are not serving. We attempted to create a new

location in northern Indiana County, however, unknown to us, Jefferson-Clarion Head Start had written their grant for the top three townships in our county. There were not enough children available to support both programs. We have also begun talks with River Valley regarding their Saltsburg location and possible collaborations in the future when our program is ready to expand again.

COVID had a huge impact on our families, services and the education of our students. Many of the area agencies and programs that we work with were struggling with in person services and staffing shortages that impacted learning and the overall wellness of the community. Given this information, we know that this year will have a ripple effect for years to come. As a Head Start agency, it will be our job to stay focused on the consequences of the last three years and plan accordingly to help our families overcome the losses sustained during COVID. Not all of them will be evident immediately, but as we come out the other side of this, the data will begin to reflect the shortages that occurred. One that is obvious, is that of the mental health of our county. Not only did our local hospital rank mental health as this county's number one concern, the county PAYS data showed it as a risk factor in the school districts. We as an agency saw a dramatic increase in the need as well. In fact we used this upswing as a justification to not only hire a part-time mental/behavioral health consultant and quickly moved her to full time due to the need. Overall, Indiana County is decreasing in population and struggling to deal with the ramifications of COVID. Our program will continue to monitor the data and make adjustments as needed to benefit our county.





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