

**Head Start of Washington County Inc.'s  
Community Assessment  
2017**

## Highlights

### Sites and Program Options

During the 2016-2017 school year, Head Start of Washington County and Early Head Start had 485 children enrolled. The program has a funded enrollment of 380 for Head Start and 105 for Early Head Start for a total of 485 children ages birth to age 5.

- Of the Head Start aged children assigned to a classroom or Home Visitor, 340 children were enrolled in the part-day/part – year center-based option. Thirty-four (34) Head Start children were enrolled in the full-day/full-year center-based option at Elgin Station. Six (6) children were enrolled in Home Based services through Head Start.
- The Early Head Start program had 44 children enrolled in part-day/ full year services and 14 children enrolled in the full-day/full year program. Home Base served an additional 47 Early Head Start children and their families.

### Children and Families in the Program

Children are served in a variety of program options at the following sites:

<b>Site</b>	<b>Program Option</b>	<b>Children Served</b>
MLK Head Start	Part-Day/Part-Year	170
MLK Early Head Start	Part-Day/Full-Year	44
Shriver Head Start	Part-Day/Part-Year	136
Noland Head Start	Part-Day/Part-Year	34
Elgin Head Start	Full Day	34
Elgin Early Head Start	Full Day	14
Home Based Head Start	Part-Year	6
Home Based Early Head Start	Full-Year	47
<b>Total</b>		<b>485</b>

All Full-Day/Full-Year services for children ages birth to 5 are located at the Elgin Station site. This provides continuity for parents who are working and/or in job training as well as a consistent support system for staff working in this special aspect of the program.

Head Start: There was a total cumulative enrollment off 427 children ages 3 and 4 years old. These children were served in the following program options: Part Day/Part Year Program, Full Day/Full Year Program and Home Base. Ages are reflected in the chart below:

### Enrollment by Age

<b>Head Start Children by Age</b>	<b>Based on Cumulative Totals: 2016-2017</b>
• Three Year Old Children	226
• Four Year Old Children	201
• TOTAL	427

Early Head Start: There was a total cumulative enrollment of 139 children and 8 pregnant women enrolled in the Early Head Start Program. Ages are reflected in the chart below:

<b>Early Head Start Children by Age</b>	<b>Based on cumulative Totals: 2016-2017</b>
• Pregnant Women	8
• Under 1 Year of Age	42
• 1 Year Old	38
• 2 Year Old	59
• TOTAL	147

### Waiting List

Head Start maintains a waiting list of eligible Head Start and Early Head Start children for both part year and full year programs. As of January 31, 2017 there were 5 children on the Head Start Waiting List and 17 Early Head Start children applying for Full Day/Full Year services. There were 106 Head Start children and 118 Early Head Start children on the Waiting List for Part Day services. Not all of these children were income eligible.

### Parent Survey Results

In May 2017 a survey was distributed to all Head Start and Early Head Start families. One hundred fifty-eight surveys were completed. Families were asked to rate their satisfaction with the following:

- 99% felt pleased with the services they received at Head Start

- 100% felt welcomed and accepted
- 100% felt staff was available for assistance
- 99% felt Head Start promoted School Readiness
- 96% felt they were encouraged to be involved in the program
- 99% felt there were opportunities to reach Family/Child Goals
- 100% (of those that used Mental Health Services) felt that Head Start addresses family Mental Health needs.
- 98% (of those that responded that used busing) felt that Head Start provided safe and reliable Transportation
- 99% felt that Head Start promoted healthy emotional and physical well-being of children and their families

### Developmental Services

There were 64 children, or 16.6% with identified special needs/having an IEP in the Head Start program. This is a 2.4% increase from the previous year. Six children dropped during the course of the school year and were not added to the overall %. The majority of the children hold IEP's for speech and language. Currently the program is serving children with the following disabilities:

- Speech/Language Impairment
- Autism
- Health Impairment/Orthopedic
- Intellectual Disabilities

During the course of the program year we had 15 children qualify for an IEP; compared to 3 during the 2015-2016 school year and 6 during the 2014-2015 year.

In the Early Head Start program, there were 17 children or 16.1% (a slight decrease from the previous year), of children with IFSP - Individualized Family Services Plan. An additional five dropped from the program and were not added into the overall percentage.

### Mental Health

Thirty-three children (33) Head Start children were observed by Dr. Geis, our Mental Health Professional. Of these, 7 children received additional follow-up with a Mental Health Professional. Early Head Start had 11 children which were observed by Dr. Geis, and 3 children were referred out for Mental Health services.

## Health Insurance

Families reported having various types of medical insurance as shown:

MCHIP/EPSDT:	Head Start: 97%	EHS: 96.4%
Private Insurance:	Head Start: 3%	EHS: 3.6%
No health insurance	Head Start: < 1%	

## Professionally Diagnosed Medical Needs of Children

During the 2016-2017 program year, enrolled children were diagnosed with the following medical needs: asthma, anemia, high lead levels, food allergies, eczema, allergies to medications, seizures, and mental health diagnosis requiring prescription medication.

HSWC funds were used as dollars of last resort to assist with the medical needs of families in the program. These included vision assistance (glasses), audiology screenings, dental treatment, and transportation to necessary medical/dental appointments.

## Screenings and Exams

HSWC screened children in the areas of vision and hearing. As results were received, families were made aware of the outcome of their child's screening. For those showing a concern, Head Start assisted the child and family in getting further treatment. As always, Head Start dollars were used as the dollar of last resort to assist in treatment for the child.

## Dental

84% of children who were screened needed no additional treatment

16% of children screened were referred for additional treatment

84% of children that received follow up treatments were referred

## **Population Characteristics**

### Population and Age

Estimates of urban and rural population, housing units, and characteristics reflect boundaries of urban areas defined based on July 1, 2016 census data.

Washington County, MD had an estimated population of 150,292 during 2016. Thirty-three thousand, three hundred sixty-five (33,365) or 22% of the population in Washington County are under the age of 18. It is estimated that eight thousand, seven hundred, seventeen (8,717) children are less than 5 years of age or 6 % of the population.

### Children in Poverty

According to the 2016 census data (July 1, 2016) there are 8,717 children in Washington County under the age of five. There are an estimated one thousand seven hundred forty-six (1,746) living under the poverty guideline; an estimated 21.3%. HSWC is only funded to serve 485 of these children which means that 1,261 children are not receiving EHS/HS services in our county.

### Race and Ethnicity

During the 2016-2017 school year, children in the program fell into one of the following Race/Ethnicity categories:

<u>Enrollment by Race</u>	<u>Head Start - Percentage / Early Head Start-Percentage</u>			
American Indian/Alaskan Native	1	<1%	0	0%
Asian	2	<1%	0	0%
Hispanic	34	8%	17	12%
Black/African American	139	33%	48	33%
Bi-racial/Multi-racial	107	25%	46	31%
White	142	33%	36	24%
Other	2	<1%	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>427</b>		<b>147</b>	

## **Other Issues Impacting Head Start/Early Head Start Services**

### Economic Matters

According to the Census Quick Facts of 2016 the median household income for Washington County was \$56,316. In Hagerstown city the median household income is \$40,342. The average monthly unemployment rate for Hagerstown was 5.4% in August 2017 according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. All of these statistics can be reflected by the increased waiting lists for Head Start of Washington County.

### Homelessness

According to the 2016-2017 Head Start of Washington County's Program Information Report services were provided to 525 families during the 2016-2017 program year (127 Early Head Start families and 398 Head Start families) Twenty Early Head Start families (doubled from 2015-2016 program year) reported homelessness and thirty-five Head Start families were homeless (more than triple the amount from the previous year). This is 10% of all enrolled families experienced homelessness (up 6% from the previous year). Reach of Washington County conducted a PIT (Point In Time) Survey of the homeless that they sheltered. At that time the number of homeless people was 233.

### Child Protective Services

For Fiscal Year 2016, Child Protective Services completed 1250 safety assessments on families which included 2766 children. They had 1250 Child Protective Service response to include 273 Physical Abuse Cases, 417 Neglect, 167 Sexual Abuse and 5 Mental Injury investigations. Included in the safety assessment statistics are 186 Risk of Harm cases, including 101 Substance Exposed Newborns. To date, 81 children are in out-of-home placement.

### Teen Births

The birthrate for teen mothers in Washington County in 2017 was 36 for every 1,000 females age 15 to 19. The average for the state of Maryland is 25 for every 1,000 females.

## **Education News in Washington County, MD**

### Improving the Chance for Success in Kindergarten – Predominant Care Prior to Kindergarten

- 40.6% (2.8% increase from last year) of the county's kindergarteners (1,566) attend public Pre-K programs the year prior to starting school.
- 38.9% of Pre-K students (14.9% increase from last year) participated in full-day programs, receiving, on average, three more hours of instruction per day than children in half-day programs.
- 7 public schools currently offer a full-day Pre-K option for some or all children.

### **Education News in Washington County, MD- County to Expand Pre-K**

In August 2017, the Washington County Board of Education announced that they were expanding the Full-Day portion of its Pre-K program. With the expansion, 320 Pre-K slots were made available for the 2017-2018 school year. Additional spots are anticipated.

With this announcement, it has become clear that HSWC will need to focus on Early Head Start or extending the day of Head Start classrooms. In writing Program Goals for the next 5 years, HSWC plans to fully utilize the Sargent Shriver Center to provide quality services to children and families, to include Early Head Start.