

**Head Start of Washington County Inc.'s
Community Assessment
2018**

Highlights

Sites and Program Options

During the 2017-2018 school year, Head Start of Washington County was funded to provide services to 380 Head Start children and 105 Early Head Start children, totaling 485 children ages birth to age 5.

2018 UPDATE: During the 2017-18 school year, the program struggled to meet full enrollment for Head Start due to an ongoing increase in WCPS Pre-K slots and a reduction in the number of 4 year olds available to the program. This is particularly true across our part day options as all WCPS Pre-Ks are converting to a full day (6 hour) model in all elementary schools.

Children and Families in the Program

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

Site	Program Option	Children Served
MLK Head Start	Part-Day/Part-Year	170
MLK Head Start	Extended Day	20
MLK Early Head Start	Part-Day/Full-Year	28
Shriver Head Start	Extended Day	101
Shriver Early Head Start	Extended Day/Full Year	16
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	12
Home Based Early Head Start	Full-Year	47
Total		476

2018 UPDATE: During the 2017-2018 school year, HSWC received an extended duration grant from the Office of Head Start in order to convert some of our part day sessions into a 6 hour model. This has proven to be very successful and further highlighted the need to move away from part day options in Washington County.

- 170 Head Start children were enrolled in the part-day/part – year center-based option at our MLK and Noland sites.
- 20 Head Start children were enrolled in a 6 hour option at our MLK site
- 101 Head Start children were enrolled in the 6 hour center based option at our Shriver site
- 34 Head Start children were enrolled in the full-day/full-year center-based option at Elgin Station.

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 of 434 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

Head Start Children by Age	Based on Cumulative Totals: 2017-2018
• Three Year Old Children	271
• Four Year Old Children	163
• TOTAL	434

Early Head Start: There was a total cumulative enrollment of 134 children and 7 pregnant women enrolled in the Early Head Start Program. Ages are reflected in the chart below:

Early Head Start Children by Age	Based on cumulative Totals: 2017-2018
• Pregnant Women	7
• Under 1 Year of Age	32
• 1 Year Old	47
• 2 Year Old	55
• TOTAL	141

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, 2018, only 2 Head Start children were on the waiting list as having child care vouchers. Only 90 Head Start children were on the Waiting List for Part Day services (and this number includes those that would attend our Shriver extended duration program). Of those 90, only 27 are income eligible to receive Head Start services! The

waiting list has been utilized throughout this program year to fill the additional spots vacated by children going to full day Pre-K so we will begin the 2018-19 recruiting season with the lowest waiting list of income eligible children we have had in many years.

Parent Survey Results

In May 2018 a survey was distributed to all Head Start and Early Head Start families. Ninety-seven surveys were completed. Families commented on the following:

- When asked what motivates families to bring their child every day the following comment was provided: “So he can learn, develop skills, interact with other kids, learn discipline and structure.”
- When asked how parents feel while at the centers: “Very comfortable, valued, amazing, welcomed, I feel accepted and appreciated as a parent.”
- When asked what they know about school readiness parents replied, “Helps build routines, socialization, coping skills, letter recognition to help in school readiness. That it helps prepare them for the next step in their education.”
- When asked how they know their child is making developmental progress parents responded, “Teacher meeting. Once a month a developmental progress sheet sent home. Home visits. Written Communication. IEP meetings. GOLD assessments.”
- When asked what types of parent training opportunities were provided parents responded, “Love & Logic, Dare to be You, Socializations, Mom & Me, Dad & Me, Family nights, Parent Café, Money Saving Classes, Coffee Breaks, Volunteer Training, 123 Magic class.”
- When asked how the mental health services has helped parents responded, “It helped just to talk with the FSW and get resources from them.”

Developmental Services

There were 47 children, or 10.8% with identified special needs/having an IEP in the Head Start program. 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 6 children qualify for an IEP; compared to 15 during the 2016-2017 school year and 3 during the 2015-2016 year.

In the Early Head Start program, there were 23 children or 17.2% (a slight increase from the previous year), of children with IFSP - Individualized Family Services Plan.

Mental Health

Thirty-four children (34) Head Start children were observed by Dr. Geis, our Mental Health Professional. Of these, 11 children received additional follow-up with a Mental Health Professional. Early Head Start had 5 children which were observed by Dr. Geis, and 0 children were referred out for Mental Health services.

Health Insurance

Families reported having various types of medical insurance as shown:

MCHIP/EPSTDT:	Head Start: 96.7%	EHS: 96.4%
Private Insurance:	Head Start: 2.9%	EHS: 2.8%
No health insurance	Head Start: < 1%	EHS: < 1%

Professionally Diagnosed Medical Needs of Children

During the 2017-2018 program year, enrolled children were diagnosed with the following medical needs: asthma, high lead levels, food allergies, eczema, allergies to medications, 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

92% of children who were screened needed no additional treatment

8% of children screened were referred for additional treatment

84% of children that received follow up treatments were referred

Population Characteristics

Children in Poverty

According to the MD Data Center there are approximately 1800 children born in Washington County every year. Approximately 19.7% of children living in Washington County live below the poverty line (approximately 355 children). Head Start of Washington County served 163 four year olds (46% of the 355 children living in poverty) during the 2017-2018 program year. The remaining children (approximately 192 or 54%) were served in Washington County Pre/K classrooms. Washington County Public Schools has plans to have 1000 Pre/K slots during the 2018-2019 program year, prioritizing those slots to low-income children.

Race and Ethnicity

During the 2017-2018 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	0	0%	0	0%
Asian	5	1%	0	0%
Hispanic	41	9%	15	11%
Black/African American	154	36%	47	33%
Bi-racial/Multi-racial	117	27%	37	26%
White	111	26%	42	30%
Other	6	1%	0	0%
Total	434		141	

Other Issues Impacting Head Start/Early Head Start Services

Economic Matters

According to the Child Care Demographic Report of 2018 the median household income for Washington County was \$56,235 compared to \$76,612 throughout the state. In Hagerstown city the median household income is \$38,862. The average monthly unemployment rate for Hagerstown was 5.0% in 2017, slightly higher than the 4.3% throughout the state. All of these statistics can be reflected by the increased waiting lists for Head Start of Washington County.

Homelessness

According to the 2017-2018 Head Start of Washington County's Program Information Report services were provided to 518 families during the 2017-2018 program year (118 Early Head Start families and 400 Head Start families) Sixteen Early Head Start families reported homelessness and thirty-nine Head Start families were homeless (second year in a row for a significant increase). This is 11% of all enrolled families experienced homelessness (up 1% from the previous year).

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 2018 was 31 for every 1,000 females age 15 to 19.

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.

2018 UPDATE:

2018-19 Pre/K expansion

- WCPS plans to put a Pre-K classroom in all Elementary schools. This would be 5 additional schools still that currently do not have a program.
- WCPS plans to increase to serve 1,000 Pre-K students which is an additional 175 children being offered a slot.
- WCPS plans to increase the number of hours served for most of the 125 students remaining in part day to full day programs.