

HEAD START OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, INC.



2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT

The Need for Head Start Services in Washington County, Maryland

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to alter many of our services during the 2020-2021 school year. Many new and innovative ideas were developed to connect our staff with parents and children during a time where in-person connection was not always able to occur. Virtual learning through Zoom links connected children to their teacher and friends daily. Educational packets were delivered to all children giving them the opportunity to see the Head Start bus and teaching staff. Food boxes were delivered twice during the school year, giving families weeks worth of food and nutrition. In the absence of parent trainings and social gatherings, special boxes were delivered to the home, consisting of learning activities, resource information and food. In addition, virtual links were sent home through the Class DoJo app inviting parents to participate in cooking classes, a reptile education program, and the Dare To Be You program. Every family situation is unique and as a collective agency, each circumstance was met with positivity and support to assist in any way possible.



Our Mission:

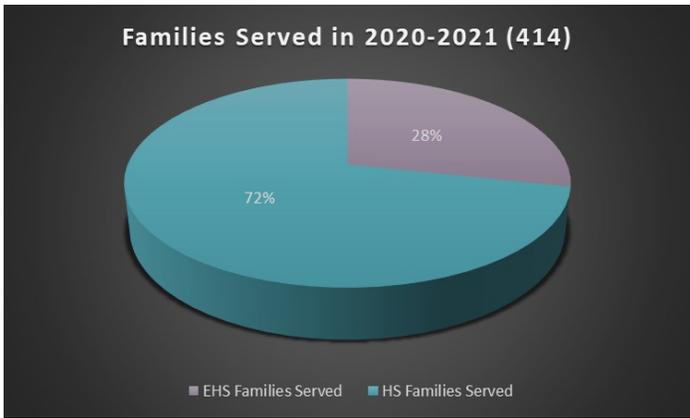
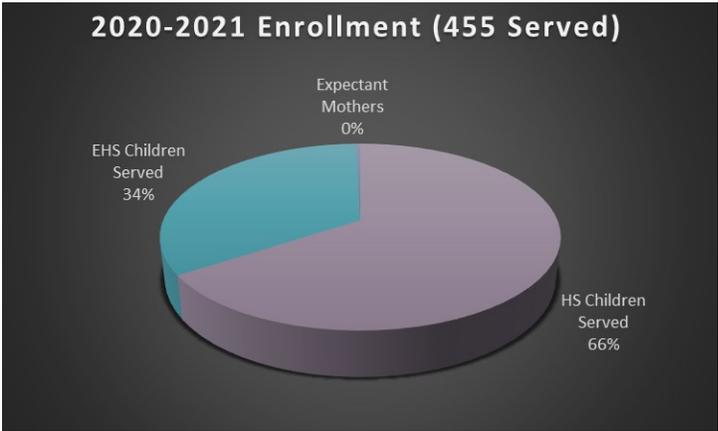
Head Start of Washington County, Inc. is dedicated to making a difference in our community through comprehensive child and family development services.

Our mission is to provide children with nurturing experiences, a strong foundation for developmental growth and opportunities to achieve school readiness.

We strive to empower families to take an active role in their child's development and to reach their full potential.

Enrollment Information

Head Start of Washington County is funded to serve 315 Head Start and 127 Early Head Start children annually. Due to the pandemic Head Start openings were difficult to fill as parents were looking for care to return to the workforce or just did not feel comfortable participating in virtual learning. As the chart on the right illustrates 455 children were served during the 2020-2021 school year (299 Head Start and 156 Early Head Start). Services were provided in four facilities located throughout Washington County.



Site	Funded Head Start Slots	Funded Early Head Start Slots
Elgin Station	34	14
Martin Luther King	150	44
Noland	20	0
Sargent Shriver	105	22
Home Base	6	47

Head Start is mandated to enroll at least 10% of children who have a professionally diagnosed disability. During the 2020-2021 school year, 16% of HSWC’s Head Start children and 14% of HSWC’s Early Head Start children had diagnosed disabilities.



(DTBY Zoom Class)

- Family Engagement Activities: 2020-2021**
- Dare To Be You– held virtually in the fall and spring
 - Dare To Be You Family Reunion
 - October 2020– Fall Fest (held virtually-every family received box)
 - November 2020 – Male Involvement Night (virtual Reptile Education program & raffle)
 - December 2020– Holiday package delivered including hats, gloves, books to children and coffee mugs to parents
 - March 2021-Mental Health Night– 4 virtual programs during month & raffle
 - Spring 2021 – Celebration of Mother’s Event– package was delivered, including live flower to plant as a family.
 - Cooking with Kelsey and Amanda– 2 seasons/4 episodes with a raffle each season

According to the 2020-2021 Parent Survey, 93% of parents completing the survey agreed that the food boxes delivered were helpful to their family.

Medical and Dental Program Information

The health component of Head Start of Washington County ensures that the children enrolled in the program receive proper medical and dental treatment, are up to date on immunizations, find proper dental and medical homes and have health insurance. Part of the Early Head Start component is providing services to expectant mothers. Expectant mothers receive visits from a Home Base Teacher and are provided with information on delivering a healthy baby. Pre- and Post-Natal visits are conducted in conjunction with a registered nurse.

In order to promote good health practices in the classrooms, all meals (breakfast, lunch & snack) are approved by a Registered Dietitian and meet the nutritional guidelines set by CACFP. Activities are utilized to teach the children the value of healthy eating and exercise. Children are given daily opportunities to use their large muscles, teaching them the value of staying active through exercise. The combination of proper screenings and treatments, nutritional meals, and exercise keeps children healthy while also teaching them important ideas and concepts about their health that help them both at school and home.

Performance Indicator	HS	EHS
% of children with a medical home	100%	100%
% of children with health insurance at the end of the program year	99%	98%
% of children diagnosed as needing medical attention from a chronic condition	4%	5%
Of these, the % of children receiving medical treatment	0%**	0%**
% of children with up to date immunizations	96%**	85%**



Performance Indicator	HS
% of children with a dental home	79%
% of preschool children completing professional dental exams	40%
% of preschool children needing professional dental treatment	11%
Of these, the % of preschool children receiving dental treatment	46%

**Some hesitancy to follow-up on non-emergency needs and well child visits due to the pandemic.

2020-2021 School Readiness Goals:

1. Children will demonstrate positive approaches to learning to include attending and engaging, persistence, problem solving skills, curiosity, motivation, flexibility, and inventiveness in thinking.
2. Children will develop self-regulation skills to have positive social interactions to peers and adults and to follow expectations for an educational environment.
3. Children will understand and develop a progressively complex vocabulary. Children will demonstrate an awareness that language can be broken down into words, syllables, and smaller pieces of sounds.
4. Children will use mathematical skills to explore, experiment, question, and problem solve. Children will develop mathematical thinking skills to include counting, comparing, relating, and patterns.
5. Children will build and refine motor skills for such purposes such as movement, balancing, building, writing, and self-help skills. Children will demonstrate knowledge of positive health and safety practices.

Head Start Outcomes and Results

Following Office of Child Care regulations, some of the classrooms at Head Start of Washington County began the 2020-2021 school year at half capacity, with the others providing services remotely. By mid-November all classrooms were transitioned to an all virtual service option. February 16, 2021, the classrooms at Elgin Station and Noland began to transition back to in-person service delivery (1/2 capacity). During March, 2021, 3 classrooms at Sargent Shriver (2 Head Start and 1 Early Head Start) and 4 classrooms at Martin Luther King (2 Head Start and 2 Early Head Start) opened at half capacity. Throughout the following

months additional children were added to existing classrooms, but the majority of our center-based classrooms still remained receiving services virtually. During the summer, all Early Head Start, Elgin Station, and 4 summer learning loss classrooms provided services fully in-person.



90% of parents completing the 2020-2021 Parent Survey agreed that the educational packets that were delivered throughout the school year were helpful.

Head Start of Washington County began to utilize the Early Learning Assessment (ELA) tool for all Head Start children during the 2019-2020 program year. The ELA is intended to be a process through which early childhood teachers collect and use assessment information to tailor instruction to the individual needs of each child. It was developed on the belief that the formative assessment process is not a single measurement, but rather an on-going, planned, and intentional practice to evaluate learning. The ELA is based on research-supported Learning Progressions that are aligned to the early learning standards. The Learning Progressions define the pathway of skills, knowledge, and behaviors that children develop between the ages of 36 months to 72 months (3-5). Below is a chart showing the percentage of children approaching and meeting/exceeding skills during the 2020-2021 program year. Teachers providing virtual services found it very difficult to administer the assessment tool due to the lack of one and one instruction and individual observation.

4 Year Old Data			Overall Growth from fall to spring (as shown from movement into Level 4 & 5)
Domains	Levels 2 & 3	Levels 4 & 5	
Social Foundations	43%	13%	10%
Language & Literacy	34%	25%	15%
Mathematics	45%	14%	11%
Science	49%	0%	N/A
Social Studies	50%	8%	7%
Physical Well Being & Motor Development	35%	21%	9%

Key: Levels 2-3: Approaching
Levels 4-5: Meeting/Exceeding

During 2020, Head Start of Washington County education staff completed 1057 online trainings through the Child Care Education Institute.

Summer Learning Loss Assessment Data

During the summer of 2021, four Head Start classrooms provided in-person services to children who transitioned to kindergarten in the fall of 2021. Pre- and Post-Assessment data was collected, reviewed, and aggregated to see overall benefits from attending the summer program. Below is a summary of the data based on providing services to 58 children. **Every ELA SKB assessed illustrated growth!**

	Assessment #1 (Pre)				Assessment #2 (Post)				Growth
	Level NE-D	Levels 2-3	Levels 4-5	% ready	Level NE-D	Levels 2-3	Levels 4-5	% ready	
SKB 7 Persisting with Tasks	24	30	4	7%	11	35	12	21%	14%
SKB 8 Following Directions	28	26	4	7%	20	28	10	17%	10%
SKB 11 Interest	15	23	20	34%	3	27	28	48%	14%
SKB 14 Social Behaviors	21	24	13	22%	8	30	20	34%	12%
SKB 15 Respond to Questions About Text	23	27	8	14%	11	29	18	31%	17%
SKB 18 Syllables/Onsets & Rimes/Phonemes	29	28	1	2%	14	39	5	9%	7%
SKB 21 Upper Case Letters	28	22	8	14%	15	24	19	33%	19%
SKB 23 Letters-Sounds	36	10	12	21%	16	16	26	45%	24%
SKB 24 Purposes & Situations	16	26	16	28%	4	24	30	52%	24%
SKB 25 Name Recognition and Writing	8	19	31	53%	0	15	43	74%	21%
SKB 26 Writing to Convey Messages	22	30	6	10%	7	36	15	26%	16%
SKB 27 Sentences	10	24	24	41%	4	15	39	67%	26%
SKB 34 Object Counting	11	36	11	19%	4	25	29	50%	31%
SKB 37 Numeral Identification	8	42	8	14%	4	36	18	31%	17%
SKB 38 Addition Problems	24	14	20	34%	5	27	26	45%	11%
SKB 42 Sorting & Classifying	35	22	1	2%	18	31	9	16%	14%
SKB 45 Two Dimensional Shapes	20	37	1	2%	8	42	8	14%	12%



Head Start Classroom Observation Information

The CLASS (Classroom Assessment Scoring System) is an observation instrument that assesses the quality of teacher-child interactions in center-based Head Start classrooms. The CLASS tool includes three domains of teacher-child interactions that support children’s learning and development. The three domains are Emotional Support, Classroom Organization, and Instructional Support. During the 2020-2021 program year, formal CLASS observations did not occur due to the majority of classrooms providing virtual instruction. Coaching was conducted on the Instructional Domain to classrooms who needed the extra support based on previous years CLASS observations. Informal observations were conducted on virtual zoom classroom sessions using the newly released TeachStone CLASS virtual tool.



Financial Snapshot

Head Start and Early Head Start programs are required to obtain at least a 25% match of local in-kind or cash contributions for all federal dollars received. In-kind contributions are predominately space and/or volunteer hours by Head Start parents and/or members of the local community. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has greatly impacted the ability for programs to obtain in-person volunteer time.

Head Start and Early Head Start are very labor intensive programs with the major operational costs being personnel and fringe benefits for over 130 full and part time positions. Over 400 children and families are being served in Washington County each year. However, waiting lists still exist, especially for Early Head Start (birth – age 3) where eligible children are currently waiting.

Head Start of Washington County, Inc.'s administrative costs during this period were less than 10%, significantly lower than the 15% maximum permitted.

Results for most recent financial audit

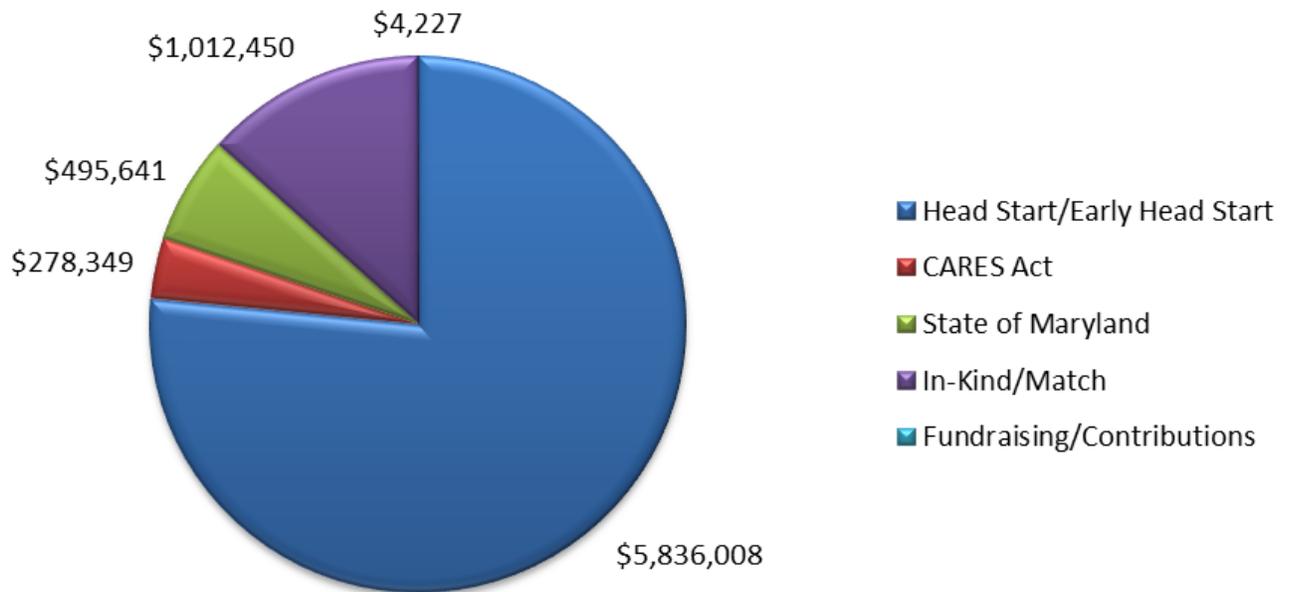
The annual independent audit for fiscal year ending January 31, 2021 was conducted by Smith Elliott Kearns & Company, LLC. The firm issued a Qualified Opinion due to the accounting treatment of equipment, fixed assets, non-specialized volunteer in-kind hours, and encumbrances; however, they believe the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Head Start of Washington County, Inc. as of January 31, 2021. A copy of the audit report is available for viewing upon request at 325 W. Memorial Blvd, Hagerstown, MD. The IRS Form 990 is available for viewing at 325 W. Memorial Blvd., Hagerstown, Maryland, upon request or on our website www.headstartwashco.org

Proposed budget for fiscal year end January 31, 2022

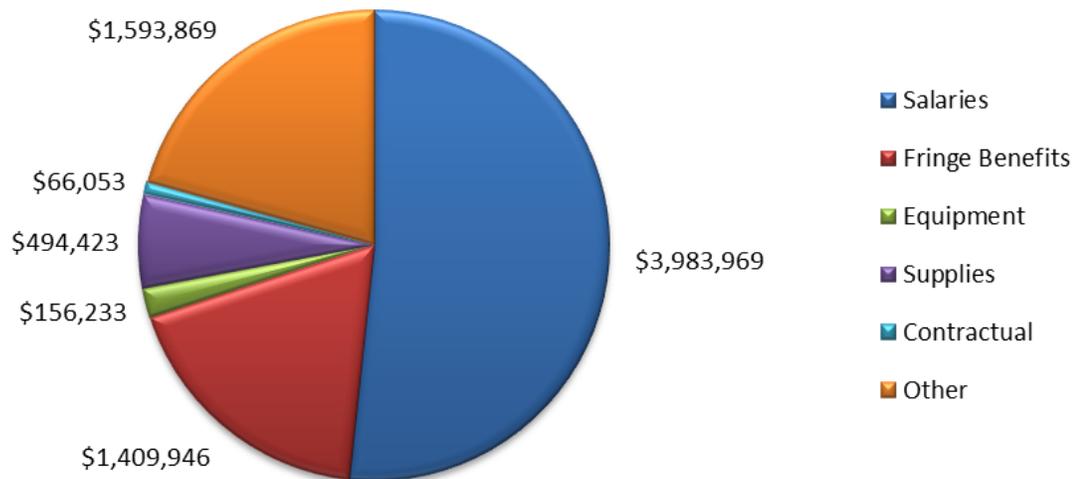
(includes stimulus funds awarded through the CRRSA Act and the American Rescue Plan)

Salaries	\$4,727,690
Fringe Benefits - Sec125 and retirement benefits and mandatory federal and state withholdings	\$1,761,541
Travel - lodging and per diem for out of town conferences and meetings	\$12,100
Equipment – Playground equipment and steamer for food program	\$21,500
Supplies – Office, classroom, and food service supplies	\$580,362
Contractual – Audit fees, health/disabilities services, and training/technical assistance	\$76,948
Other – Rent, mortgage, and utilities/telephone; insurance; cleaning and repairs/maintenance; policy council and parent services; T&TA; local travel including transportation services	\$1,881,881
Total Proposed Budget	\$9,062,022

Income - Fiscal Year 2021



Expenditures - Fiscal Year 2021



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Melissa McElroy

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Developmental Services Manager

Kristen Long

Behavioral Health Manager

Donna Eby

Health Manager

Susie Danjolu

Food Services Manager

Erica Ahalt

Transportation Manager

G. Diane Graham

I/T Specialist

Our Locations:

Administrative Office:



325 West Memorial Blvd
Hagerstown, MD 21740

Noland Center:



1048 Noland Drive
Hagerstown, MD 21740

Martin Luther King Center:



131 West North Avenue
Hagerstown, MD 21740

Elgin Station Center:



40 Elgin Blvd
Hagerstown, MD 21740

Sargent Shriver Center:



837 Spruce Street
Hagerstown, MD 21740