

COMMUNITY ACTION OF
SOUTHEAST IOWA

HEAD START EARLY HEAD START

2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT



Head Start

A program where children and families are educated,
challenged, and empowered
to embrace their potential for success in life
– one child, one family at a time

Director's Message

We are committed to excellence in the preparation of our children for school and life. Through a Strategic Planning process, 3 overarching goals were identified to guide the actions of the program and act as a benchmark for the development of individual strategies to shape continuous improvement. These goals are:

- Improvement of Attendance
- Improvement of Instruction
- Improvement of Performance

Our focus continues to be achieving these three goals. While COVID-19 has offered many challenges to how we do many things, Head Start remains steadfast in its mission to promote the school readiness of young children from low-income families.

Research clearly shows that attendance patterns and habits formed when children are in preschool and kindergarten continue later in their school careers; these same patterns are indicators of future success in school and conversely school drop-out rates. It is for these reasons we find it vital to establish good attendance patterns early. While the pandemic interrupted operations and impacted attendance, we are committed to this focus and have interventions in place to reinforce these habits with children and their families.

Additionally, we have doubled down on the goal of Improvement of Instruction. We have fully implemented Creative Curriculum and attended training on its full potential. This year, we have added many new "Studies" to the classrooms and monitored full implementation to ensure that all students have an equal opportunity to learn. Each student has access to an effective teacher with access to the same content, knowledge and skills in each class.

Our Site Leaders are in classrooms to offer guidance, assistance, and support as we implement this intervention to improve instructional practice and raise CLASS (Classroom Assessment Scoring System) scores. These practices are key components to improving instruction and will, in the long run, also improve the educational and life performance of the children.

Matthew LeClere, Ed.S.

Classroom Sites



Des Moines County

(319) 752-5692
Burlington Head Start Preschool & Early Head Start
Burlington, IA 52601

Henry County

(319) 385-2310
Tolson Head Start & Early Head Start
Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641

North Lee County

(319) 372-4471
Eichacker Community Action Center Head Start
Ft. Madison, IA 52627

(319) 372-5462
Richardson Head Start & Early Head Start
Ft. Madison, IA 52627

South Lee County

(319) 524-6383
Marie Tallarico Head Start & Early Head Start
Keokuk, IA 52632

PROGRAM DONATION

Enclosed is my gift of: \$ _____
☐ \$1,500 ☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ Other
☐ I want to include Community Action of Southeast Iowa Head Start in my estate plan. Please contact me.
☐ My company will match this gift for \$ _____
☐ I wish to make a tribute gift for \$ _____
In honor/memory/occasion of _____
Please send my gift acknowledgment to _____

All gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

☐ Check enclosed made payable to:
Community Action of Southeast Iowa
2850 Mt. Pleasant St, STE 108
Burlington, IA 52601.



For questions please call 319-753-0193 or see www.caofseia.org

Non-federal Match (In-kind)

To ensure community connection and involvement, Head Start programs have a required minimum of 20% of their total grant amount be in matching (in-kind) funds. In other words, **for every \$5 it costs to operate the program, we require \$1 to come from our community in the form of donated time, supplies, space, money, etc.**



For 2020-2021, our In-Kind requirement was \$982,061. We had the following support in meeting our requirement:

- During our 2020-2021 program year, a total of 64 **volunteers** gave **530 volunteer hours!** Volunteers helped with children in the classroom, families completed lessons at home, maintenance work provided by local handyman, and professionals donated time in their area of specialty.
- A variety of art supplies, office supplies, cleaning supplies, infant formula, books, and puzzles helped make up our **donated materials** during the 2020-2021 year. Items came from individuals, community groups, and local industries. Donations were made both for the whole program and for use in a specific center or classroom.
- **Monetary donations** were used to provide the classroom with necessary diapers, wipes and cleaning supplies.

For the 2021-2022 program year, needed matching funds total **\$950,884!**

Call us today to see how your contribution can help provide education and support to the neediest members of our communities.

2020-2021 *Nonprofit* Funding

| Federal Head Start Grant Funding | Proposed Budget | Budgetary Expenditures |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Personnel -Includes all HS/EHS staff wages | \$1,962,907 | \$1,982,175 |
| Fringe Benefits | \$973,072 | \$999,746 |
| Travel | \$3,984 | \$3,991 |
| Contractual | \$32,500 | \$35,971 |
| Supplies -Includes office, classroom and cleaning supplies | \$66,627 | \$131,940 |
| Other | \$303,571 | \$338,076 |
| Indirect Costs -Includes a % of salary and fringe benefit costs for positions that provide services to all programs within the agency and other related operating costs. | \$415,735 | \$429,703 |
| TOTAL | \$3,758,396 | \$3,921,602 |

Additional Funding

- Federal Start-Up Funds - \$144,460
- Supplemental/COLA Funds - \$169,846
- Covid-19 Funds - \$197,000
- Child and Adult Care Food Program - \$151,952
- Early Childhood Iowa Lee & Van Buren County - \$16,942
- Donated Space, Services and Materials - \$293,176



Our 2020-2021 audit, completed by Meriwether, Wilson & Company, P.L.C., showed 100% compliance!

Attendance

Our focus for 2020-2021 was to maintain healthy, safe classrooms. This focus resulted in closed classrooms and children being absent for a variety of symptoms. This, also, saw the overall attendance numbers return to 2017-18 levels.

2020-21 Attendance Statistics

Total HS attendance: 77%

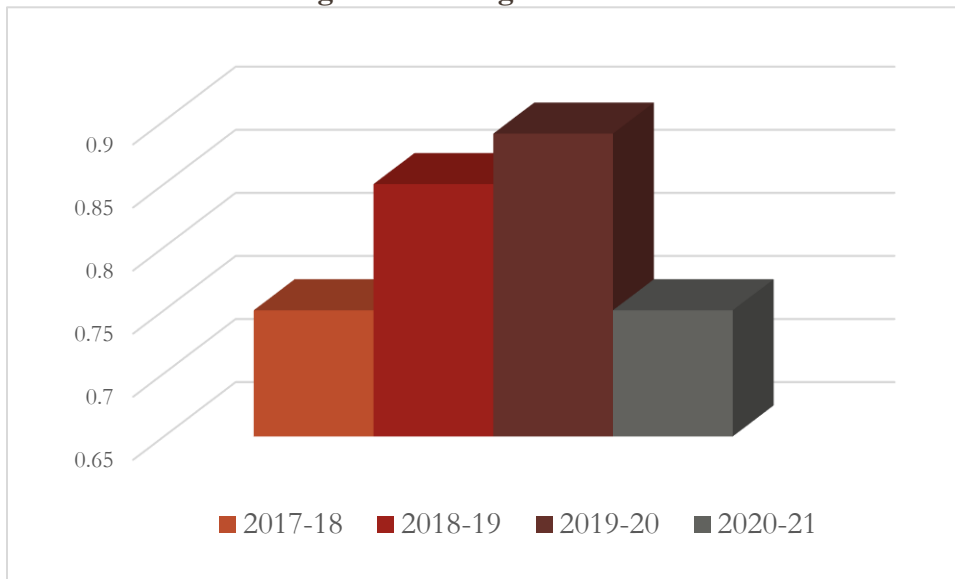
Total EHS attendance: 72%

Number of children with 100% attendance: 10 (3%)

Number of children with attendance over 90%: 74 (22%)

Number of children with attendance over 85%: 116 (34%)

Longitudinal Program Attendance:



As we return to a more normal setting, we are returning to our creative approaches to encourage consistent attendance. This includes classroom acknowledgements of children that have excellent attendance and classrooms competing for the highest monthly attendance awards.

Community Partnerships

Head Start is a grassroots program that partners with communities to provide needed services for families and reduce the duplication of services. Some current partners include:

HEALTH

- Local Public Health Departments
 - I-Smile program offers free fluoride varnishing (2 times for the 20-21 school year)
 - Area health & safety information
- Lion's Club - child vision screening
- Younhouse Family Services
 - Classroom observations and recommendations to improve the overall social/emotional climate
 - Individual services for children and families

EDUCATION

- Great Prairie Area Education Agency (AEA)
 - Coordinate disability services
- Local School Districts
 - 1-on-1 assistant for IEP children
 - Burlington & GHPS dual enrollment
- Des Moines & Lee County Conservation
 - Nature education program in the classroom

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- TEACH Program
 - Assists staff with continuing education costs



It is through these continued, strong partnerships that we are able to meet the needs of low-income children and families within our own communities.

Parent/Family Involvement

Research has shown that children, whose families are involved in their education, do better in school. We encourage family members to be involved in any and all aspects their child's experiences throughout the school year.

Different years bring different opportunities for families to become involved with the program and their child's education. Due to the pandemic conditions, the options for families changed during the 2020-2021 program year.

The introduction of classroom/home connections activities and documentation, encouraged families to do activities and learning at home as well as promoting families as the first and most important teacher for a child. These activities involved reading, physical activities, color and number identification, scavenger hunts, and many fun do-at-home activities.

Families, in a typical year, plan and participate in special events at the centers. Family Nights are events that local center committees plan to support family learning and togetherness.

Families are involved in the decision-making process as members of their local Center Committee, Health Advisory Committee, Policy Council and Board of Directors where they make decisions about the program, budget, and personnel.

During the 2020-2021
school year,
64 parents/guardians
Volunteered
for a
total of 530 hours!

At Head Start, there truly is something for everyone!

Enrollment

The Head Start/Early Head Start program served 33% of children under 5 years old living beneath the federal poverty level in the Southeast Iowa area.

Head Start serves children ages 3-5 years through 3.5 hour or 6-hour center-based program options.

Children Served: 234

Families Served: 224

Funded Enrollment: 264

Average Monthly Enrollment: 67%

The **Early Head Start** program is a full day, full year, center-based program for children 0-3 years of age as well as pregnant individuals.

Children Served: 109

Pregnant Women Served: 15

Families Served: 89

Funded Enrollment: 70

Average Monthly Enrollment: 91%

15 pregnant women were provided services including monthly support by the Early Head Start Lead Teacher about everything from the size of their baby that month to the hazards of smoking. Parenting education and mental health services extend beyond the birth of the baby to support a strong beginning for the new family member.

Children's Health

| | Head Start | Early Head Start |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------------|
| Medical Services | | |
| A) Children with current physical exams (excluding those enrolled less than 30 days) | 99% | 96% |
| B) Children with all possible immunizations as of the end of the program year | 95% | 86% |
| C) Children receiving medical treatment for the following chronic conditions: | | |
| Autism Spectrum Disorder | 3 | 0 |
| Asthma | 8 | 0 |
| Allergies | 11 | 0 |
| Hearing Difficulties | 8 | 4 |
| Vision Problems | 4 | 1 |
| High Lead Levels | 0 | 0 |
| Seizures | 1 | 0 |
| Oral Health Services | | |
| A) Children receiving preventative Fluoride/Lift the Lip care | 77% | 39% |
| B) HS children receiving a professional dental exam | 87% | (n/a) |
| Of these, the number of children identified as needing dental treatment | 7% | (n/a) |
| Disability Services | | |
| Children with a diagnosed disability resulting in an IEP or IFSP | 29 | 5 |
| 24 speech/language impairments 1 hearing impairment, including deafness 3 non-categorical/developmental delay 1 Autism | | |

School Readiness

School Readiness Goals are standard, program-wide goals established to further the school readiness skills of each child in the program.

The Head Start and Early Head Start School Readiness Goals can be viewed on the agency website at <http://caofseia.org/services/head-start/documents/>

Child Assessments include:

- Brigance Screening
- Ages & Stages Social-Emotional Questionnaire
- Health Screenings & Follow-ups
- Teaching Strategies GOLD Child Assessment (including the areas of Social/Emotional, Physical, Language, Cognitive, Literacy, and Mathematics)

These assessments help establish a baseline, identify goals, and identify areas of growth for each individual child. On an aggregate level, this information assists in planning staff development, reporting the progress of individual groups of children or classrooms, and monitoring the progress of the program towards its overall goals.

Kindergarten transition activities help prepare children to transition from our program to a school district kindergarten classroom.

- Books and videos about starting kindergarten are shared with all Head Start children.
- Fieldtrips are taken to local schools, whenever possible, so the children can visit the school they will be attending the next fall.
- Children practice “cafeteria-style” eating with trays and milk in cartons.
- Family Specialists assist families in:
 - ✓ Finding kindergarten round-ups
 - ✓ Learning how to advocate for their child
 - ✓ Activities to help prepare for this transition