



MERCER
COUNTY
HEAD
START

EARLY
HEAD
START

PA PRE-K
COUNTS



Have You Filled
a Bucket Today?

We are Bucket Fillers!
We fill buckets...no dipping!



ANNUAL REPORT

2023
2024

Serving Pregnant Women, Children
Birth to Age Five, and Their Families
in Mercer County.

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Welcome to this year's Annual Report for Community Action Partnership of Mercer County Head Start/Early Head Start/PA Pre-K Counts programs! As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with gratitude for the continued partnership and support from our families, staff, and community. Together, we have made significant strides in providing a safe, nurturing, and high-quality learning environment that supports the growth and development of every child we serve.

Our program remains dedicated to meeting the unique needs of each child, from their first day with us to their transition into kindergarten and beyond. Every step of the way, we focus on promoting school readiness by offering opportunities for children to gain essential skills and knowledge in a fun, engaging, and welcoming atmosphere.

None of this would be possible without the dedication and collaboration of our families, staff, Policy Council, Community Action Board members, and all of our valued partners. It is with your continued support that we can create a foundation for success that will benefit children, families, and our community for years to come.

Thank you for your trust and commitment as we continue to work together to make a lasting impact on the lives of our children.

With appreciation,

Adrian Searle

ECE Director, Community Action Partnership of Mercer County

MISSION AND VALUES

Mercer County Head Start/Early Head Start/PA Pre-K Counts connects children, families, schools and communities by partnering quality education with caring support services today for a better tomorrow.



We believe that parents are a child's first and best teacher.

We believe that our entire staff should be committed to children, families, fellow staff members and our community partners by demonstrating the highest levels of professionalism, dignity and respect.



We believe that the key to self-sufficiency is through quality education, parental responsibility and community partnerships

We believe that education and the love of learning is critical to school readiness and a family's future success

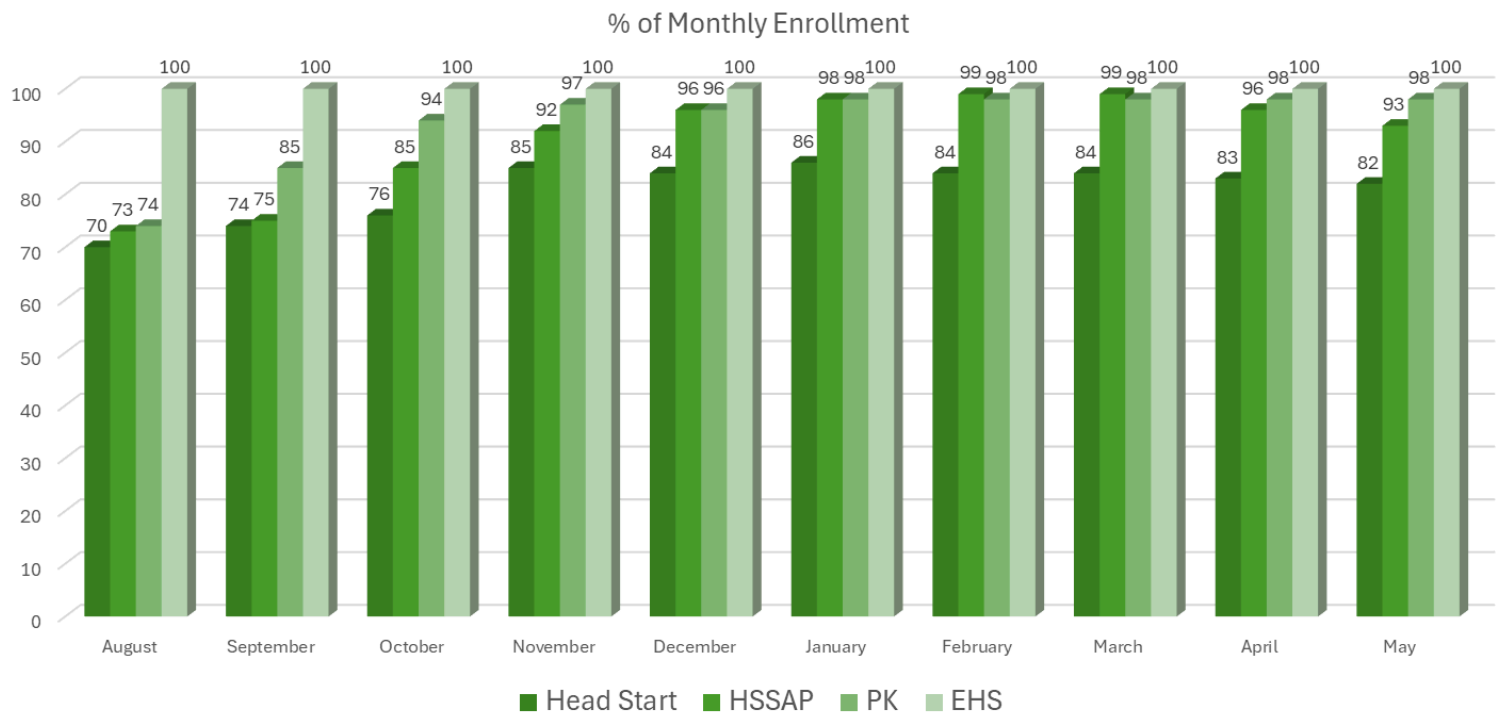


We believe that providing comprehensive services for physical and mental health development are crucial to a child's overall development



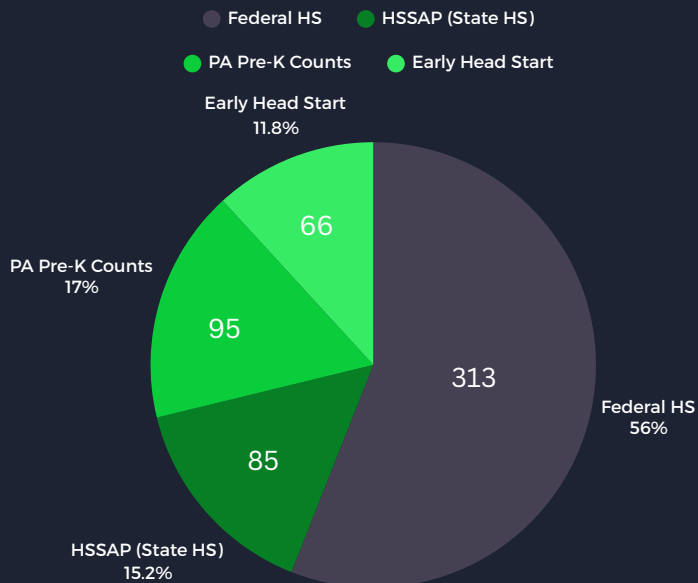
We believe in the empowerment of families to ensure self-reliance.

We believe that a child that has healthy nutrition and a safe environment can learn effectively



Annual Report 2023/2024

ENROLLMENT BY PROGRAM



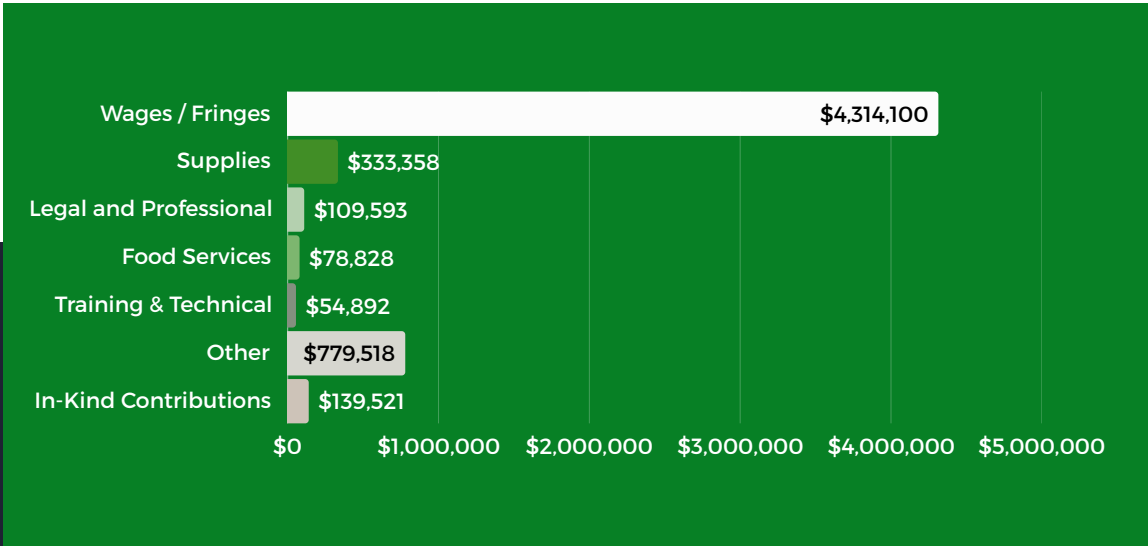
Number of Children Funded to Serve

1,700 children (3-4 years old) in Mercer County are thought to be eligible for Head Start and PA Pre-K Counts (KidsCount Data Center). Mercer County Head Start and PA Pre-K Counts served 29 % of these children during the 2023-2024 program year.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

2023-2024 Funding Type Description	Program Grant Revenues	Program Grant Expenditures
Head Start (HS) & Early Head Start (EHS) Operating / Training & Technical Assistance	\$3,876,342	\$3,872,706
Head Start State Supplemental (HSSAP)	\$902,171	\$969,236
PA Pre-K Counts (PKC)	\$938,187	\$943,725
Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)	\$355,013	\$404,522
Non-Federal Share (In-Kind)	\$139,521	\$139,521
2023-2024 Program Totals	\$ 6,211,234	\$ 6,329,710

The Program is supported by both Federal and State funding to deliver comprehensive early childhood services to 567 pregnant women, infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and their families. Federal funding is allocated with an 80% federal share, while the Program is responsible for providing a 20% non-federal share through cash or in-kind donations. Additionally, State funding includes the Child and Adult Care Food Program, which helps provide nutritious meals to promote the wellness, healthy growth, and development of young children.



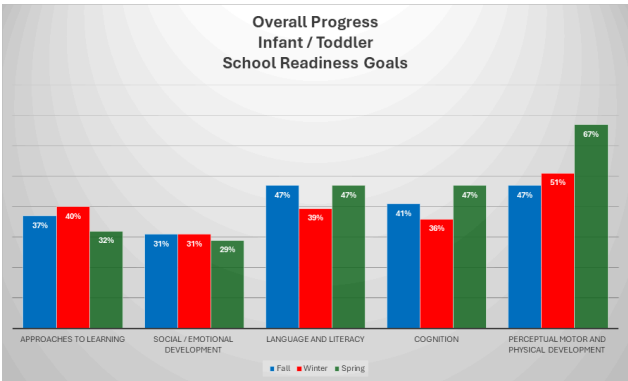
Audit

Black, Bashor, & Porsch, LLP an independent auditing firm, conducted an audit of the combined financial statements and programs of Community Action Partnership Mercer County including Mercer County Head Start, Early Head Start, and PA Pre-K Counts programs. It was in the opinion of the firm that the combined financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the programs as of June 30, 2024 and 2023, and the changes in their fund balances for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. In addition, there were no findings or areas of non-compliance reported during the audit.

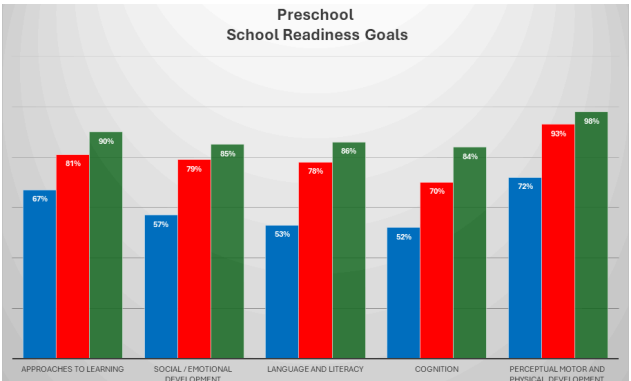
SCHOOL READINESS

Children are assessed three times per school year in all birth to five programming. Early Head Start uses the Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP) and Head Start and PA Pre-K Counts uses Teaching Strategies GOLD. These goals aligned with the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework and the Pennsylvania Early Learning Standards.

Early Head Start



Head Start/PA Pre-K



FUN FACTS...

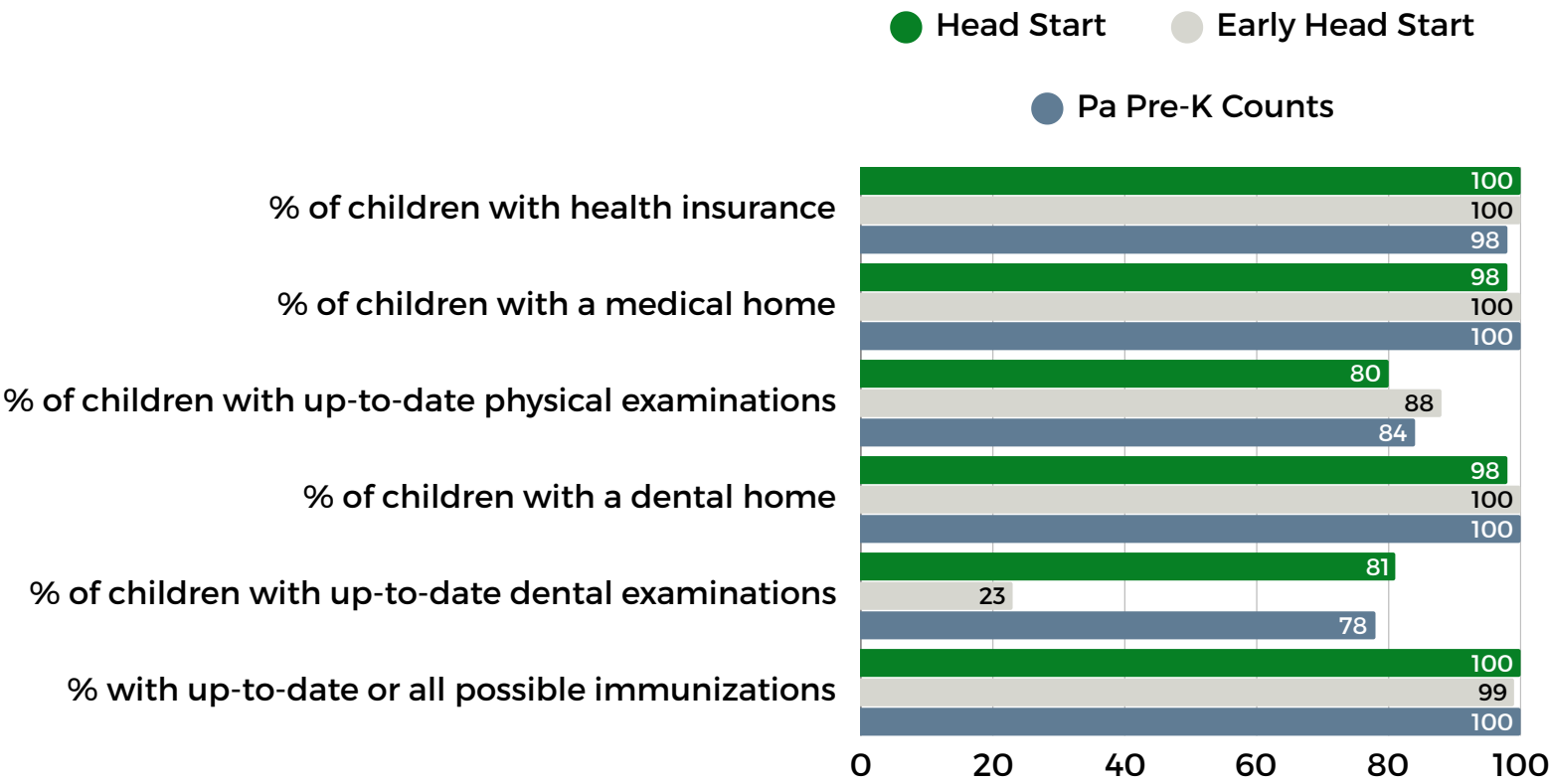
During the 2023-2024 program year, Head Start program continued to make improvements in curriculum implementation in the areas of social emotional development, classroom behavior management, and early reading and phonics skills. All staff received training on Conscious Discipline, which provided teachers, assistants, home visitors and family advocates with self-regulation skills and social emotional tools to serve children and families better. The program also implemented Heggerty, a comprehensive curriculum designed to build stronger reading skills focusing on phonemic awareness and phonics. The program will continue to implement research-based curricula that best serve the staff, children, and families.



Early Head Start

The Early Head Start home-based program maintained full enrollment during the 2023-2024 program year. The staff have been tirelessly working on increasing family participation during onsite and off-site socialization. (During socializations and weekly home visits, Conscious Discipline curricula provided the home visitors tools to give to families to assist families with self-regulation and skill-development.)

HEALTH / MENTAL HEALTH STATISTICS



54 or 14%

**Head Start / HSSAP
Children enrolled
with an Individualized
Education Plan (IEP).**

18 or 19%

**PA Pre-K Counts
Children enrolled
with an
Individualized
Education Plan (IEP).**

13 or 20%

**Early Head Start
Children enrolled
with an Individualized
Family Service Plan
(IFSP).**

The students in our Head Start and PA Pre-K Counts program were able to receive their itinerant services through the Midwestern IU #4 as part of their educational experience in our classrooms and EHS children received their services through Mercer County' Birth to Three service provider, Behavioral Health Commission, in their homes.



Annual Report 2023/2024

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

During the 2023-2024 program year, there were 86 Early Head Start families served and 376 Head Start / PA Pre-K Counts families served. In addition to weekly home visits and on site Socialization (EHS) and classroom learning (HS/PK), the program offered the following family and community engagement opportunities:



Early Head Start

- Apple Castle
- Iron Mills
- Keystone Safari
- Local fire/police departments
- Buhl Environmental Park
- Grove City Park
- Hempfield Park .



Head Start/PA Pre-K Counts

- Fall Jamboree
- Back to the 80s Dance
- End of the Year Celebration
- STEAM Event
- Transition planning
- Center Committee meetings with opportunities to learn about budgeting, nutrition, community resources, and more.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT US!

PHONE :

PH: 724-346-4482; FX: 724-346-4431

EMAIL :

Info@mchs-ehs.org

WEBSITE :

www.mchs-ehs.org

ADDRESS :

701 Pierce Ave., Sharpsville, PA 16150



Mercer County Head Start, Early Head Start, HSSAP and PA Pre-K Counts are programs of the Community Action Partnership of Mercer County. The programs prohibit discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, age, ability, sex gender identity, religion, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by any federal and state grants.