

Tri-County **Community** Action Agency

Head Start and Early Head Start

Annual Report 2022



 Tri-County
Community Action Agency
Helping people. Changing lives.



Tri-County Community Action Agency Providing Head Start Services since 1992

Mission Statement

To empower and create opportunities for vulnerable individuals and families in our community to become socially and economically self-sufficient through integrated social, educational, health, prevention, and other basic needs services.

Head Start Is a comprehensive child development program that serves children from ages 3 to 5 and their families.

Early Head Start is dedicated to nurturing the development of infants and toddlers in the context of their family and supporting the health and well-being of pregnant women.

Early Head Start and Head Start programs are family centered, based on the belief that children develop in the context of their family and culture and that parents are respected as the primary educators and nurturers of their children. We support families as they identify their goals, provide access to community resources and assist them to access the skills and services to prepare their children for school and for life. Tri-County Community Action Agency has a tradition of delivering high quality services that foster the healthy development of low-income children with the overall goal to impact positively on all facets of a child's life including their education, early childhood development, health, safety, nutrition, and family engagement.

COVID-19 The Head Start and Early Head Start programs continued to experience the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The program experienced classroom closures because of COVID-19 exposure and staffing shortages. The program did not reach full enrollment due to masking requirements, unexpected closures, and ongoing fear of the virus.

The Tri-County's Head Start Program provides exemplary services.

The latest federal review, conducted in April 2019 concluded that no corrective actions were required in program operations.

Consolidation

In March 2022, Tri-County Community Action Agency merged the two Head Start and Early Head Start grants operating in Providence and Washington Counties. The Head Start and Early Head Start programs began

operating under one grant application with a service area covering 17 cities and towns.

Preparing Children for Kindergarten

Children who participate in Head Start receive a variety of school readiness activities to prepare them for Kindergarten. Efforts to prepare children and families for Kindergarten include:

- ◆ Aligning with the Rhode Island Early Learning and Development Standards (RIELDS).
- ◆ Conducting formal developmental assessments using Teaching Strategies GOLD. Aggregating and analyzing the assessment data gathered three times per year in the fall, winter, and spring.
- ◆ Developing program wide School Readiness Goals that are aligned with the Creative Curriculum, Teaching Strategies GOLD and the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework.
- ◆ Distributing information to support the attainment of children's learning during the summer months.
- ◆ Providing each family with a written summary of their child's developmental strengths and goals.
- ◆ Providing information pertaining to activities that support the transition to Kindergarten for children and their families.
- ◆ Providing families with information about family engagement opportunities in the public school setting.
- ◆ Inviting school department personnel to participate in the School Readiness Committee and support transition activities.
- ◆ Implementing a research-based early learning curriculum (Creative Curriculum and Parents as Teachers)



Requirements of the child care licensing regulations.

Enhancement Programs

Parents as Teachers

Born to Learn is the curriculum for the Early Head Start home-based option. The goals of the curriculum are to increase parent knowledge of early childhood development and improve parenting practices; provide early detection of developmental delays and health issues; prevent child abuse and neglect; and increase children's school readiness and school success.

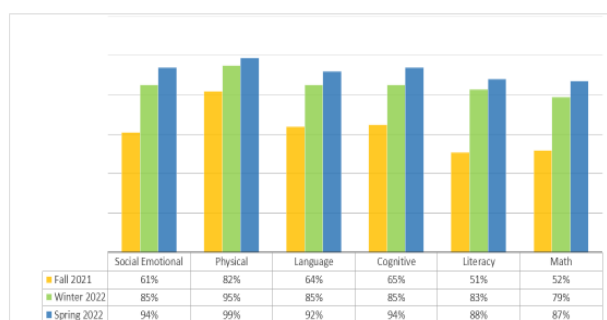
School Readiness

School Readiness goals are in place for the Early Head Start and Head Start programs based on a continuum of development from birth to age five years of age. These goals reflect the skills and knowledge necessary for success in school and for later learning and life. Local school departments, families, the Rhode Island Early Learning and Development Standards, and the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework provide data for the development of School Readiness Goals.

During the 2021-2022 program year, assessment data was impacted by the high rate of continuous program enrollment throughout the year and higher than normal rates of absenteeism. Each of these impacts is a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Child assessment data reflecting children reaching age expectations for the 2021-2022 program year is as follows:

Tri-County Community Action Agency
Percentage of Children Who Meet or Exceed Age Expectations
Program-Wide Child Outcomes Data: Fall 2021, Winter 2022 and Spring 2022



Bright Stars: Rhode Island's quality Rating and Improvement System

Each of the Head Start centers participates in the Rhode Island Bright Stars Quality Rating and Improvement System. Each center maintains a four or five star rating out of a possible five stars. The star rating reflects the program's commitment to quality that goes beyond the

Bright Stars quality rated programs are assessed in the areas of health, safety, nutrition, enrollment and staffing, staff qualifications and ongoing professional development, administration, early learning and development and family engagement.

Funded Enrollment	Total Served
Head Start 210	Head Start 203
Early Head Start 88	Early Head Start 120
EHS Prenatal 8	EHS Prenatal 4

Average Monthly Enrollment

The average monthly enrollment in Early Head Start was 73%. The average monthly enrollment in Head Start was 81%.

Income Eligibility

Head Start

65% income eligible, 6% over-income, 6% receive public assistance, 3% foster children, 2% homeless, and 18% with income between 101-130% of poverty

Early Head Start

60% income eligible, 5% over income, 11% receive public assistance, 4% homeless, 3% foster children, and 17% with income between 101-130% of poverty

Children Receiving Medical & Dental Services

Head Start Children Receiving Medical 78%
Head Start Children Receiving Dental 73%
Early Head Start Children Receiving Medical 69%
Early Head Start Children Receiving Dental 52%
*Covid-19 continues to have a significant impact on the receipt of routine health/oral health wellness examinations.

Family Engagement Activities

- ◆ Monthly (virtual) Parent Meetings
- ◆ Home Sweet Homework at-home activities
- ◆ Monthly (virtual) Policy Council Meetings
- ◆ Parent Satisfaction Survey
- ◆ Annual Self-Assessment
- ◆ Health Advisory Meetings
- ◆ School Readiness Committee
- ◆ Participation in staff interviews
- ◆ Use of Class DOJO
- ◆ Conscious Discipline Parenting Series

TRI- COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY HEAD START 10/01/21 - 09/30/22

REVENUES

Federal DHHS ACF	\$4,004,144
USDA	\$181,835
State Head Start	\$131,834

Other Revenue	\$43,369
In-Kind	\$412,788

Total \$4,773,970

EXPENSES

	Actual	Budget
Personnel	\$2,528,612	\$2,528,612
Contractual	\$353,656	\$353,656

Supplies and Activities	\$270,867	\$270,867
Travel		
Training	\$19,507	\$19,507

Facility	\$654,970	\$654,970
Other	\$635,432	\$635,432
Total Cash Expenditures	\$4,463,044	\$4,463,044
Total In-Kind	\$310,926	\$310,926
Total Head Start Budget	\$4,773,970	\$4,773,970

In addition to periodic reviews and audits from Federal and State agencies, Tri-County has an annual audit performed by an independent accounting firm in accordance with OMB Circular A-133. The most recent external audit was for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022 and was completed on June 27, 2022 by Baxter, Dansereau & Associates, LLP. The auditors rendered an Unqualified opinion on the financial statements and noted that there were no instances of non-compliance or other matters that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards. A complete copy of the audit is available by contacting the Agency.



Tri-County Community Action Agency's comprehensive services available to families include:

- ◆ Family Medicine including pediatrics
- ◆ Dental/Oral Health
- ◆ Mental Health and Substance Abuse Counseling
- ◆ WIC
- ◆ Youth and Family Services
- ◆ Employment and Training
- ◆ Adult Basic Education/GED
- ◆ LIHEAP/Weatherization
- ◆ Emergency Food and Shelter Services
- ◆ Basic Human Needs
- ◆ Elder Case Management
- ◆ Financial Stability

Head Start and Early Head Start Service Area

The Tri-County Head Start and Early Head Start service area includes the towns of North Providence, Johnston, Smithfield, North Smithfield, Scituate, Burrillville, Foster, Glocester, North Kingstown, South Kingstown, Westerly, Charlestown, Narragansett, Hopkinton, Richmond, Exeter, and New Shoreham.

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www.tricityri.org