Huntingdon County Head Start is operated by Huntingdon County Child and Adult Development Corporation, HCCADC, and has been serving families in the County since 1977. Head Start is a federally funded program that provides comprehensive services for income eligible children birth to five and pregnant mothers. Comprehensive services include: child development/education, health, nutrition and mental health services to children and providing social services and parent involvement opportunities for families while partnering with other local agencies in the community.

The Head Start Program serves children and their families by providing a quality program to equip children with the knowledge needed to succeed in school as well as volunteer, career and education opportunities for parents. Head Start believes that the parent is the first and primary educator of the child.

Huntingdon County Head Start has expanded over the years from three classrooms to eleven classrooms and a home-based group. Classrooms were located in Huntingdon, Southside Elementary, Mount Union, Orbisonia, Southern Huntingdon High School, Alexandria, Mapleton Elementary and Broad Top.

In Huntingdon County, there are 200 children enrolled in preschool Head Start. The program is funded through grants from Federal and State budgets. HCCADC also serves 67 infant, toddler and pregnant moms in the home base program, Early Head Start.

The mission of HCCADC is: dedicated to promoting the social, emotional, and educational development of children and families by providing quality programs and resources to foster self-esteem and self-sufficiency.

HCCADC is committed to being the recognized leader in providing quality comprehensive services by utilizing our strengths and resources to meet the future needs of our community.

There are 480 children under 5 at or below 100% of poverty in Huntingdon County. Head Start programs serve 287 of those children or 60% of the eligible children.

"The staff helped with teaching my child new things and gives me ideas I would not have thought of. “

-PHS Parent

Staff:

The Head Start division of HCCADC employs 79 staff. Of the 79 staff, 32% were or are parents of children enrolled in the Head Start programs. Over 577 individuals provided volunteer services to the Head Start programs during the 2013-2014 program year.

Head Start is proud of the qualifications and experience possessed by its staff. There are 11 teachers in the preschool program (ages 3-5) of which 2 have BA degrees in early childhood and 6 with a BA in a related field plus experience teaching preschool children and 4 have associate degrees in early childhood. Additionally, 1 teacher has an advanced degree in early childhood. There are 19 teacher assistants that have achieved their Child Development Associate Credential (CDA). In the Early Program (ages 0-3) there are 7 home visitors of which 5 have a minimum of a BA, 1 is an LPN and has a Family Development Credential (FDC).

Management staff has over 155 years of experience with the organization.
Huntingdon County Head Start utilizes the Creative Curriculum in all classrooms. Teaching Strategies Gold is the ongoing assessment that provides staff and parents with information regarding child growth and development. This data is implemented in classroom instruction.

A transition plan is in place to coordinate the transition of children from preschool to the public schools. The plan is developed in conjunction with the school districts in the County. The plan consists of a variety of activities to prepare children for Kindergarten, such as: transition books specific to each elementary school, Kindergarten visits, Kindergarten teachers visit the preschool classroom, and Kid Writing between Kindergarten and Head Start classes.

Parents are provided a session with the administration and Kindergarten teachers in March of each year as well as a monthly newsletter which includes handouts that address Kindergarten readiness and how parents can help prepare their children for the transition.

The **Child Outcome Data** shown below denoted the growth of children/mastery of skills in each domain from the beginning to the end of the year for preschool and early Head Start children.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domain Area</th>
<th>Preschool Fall 2013</th>
<th>Preschool Spring 2014</th>
<th>Early Head Start Fall 2013</th>
<th>Early Head Start Summer 2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language Development</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literacy</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creative Arts</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social/Emotional Development</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approaches to Learning</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Health and Gross Motor</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Health and Fine Motor</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**KTO Initiative**

The Early Head Start program in Mount Union and Preschool classroom in Mount Union and Southern Huntingdon have been participating in a joint collaboration with both of the respective districts throughout the past 2 years to help students be better prepared to meet literacy expectations and endeavors of the 21st century. Each district wrote a Comprehensive Literacy Plan that was completed in the spring of 2013. In the summer of 2014, Southern Huntingdon was nominated for 3 innovative awards through this initiative and was awarded 2nd place in two.

Through the KTO Initiative Early Head Start Home Visitors and Preschool Classroom teachers were provided with a Literacy Coach. In the Mount Union area, the Literacy Coach is also the Library Children’s Program Coordinator and all preschool children have had the opportunity to attend the library regularly for literacy rich experiences. In Southern Huntingdon the Literacy Coach and classroom teachers worked together to provide a Night at the Art Gallery event.

Materials have been provided to the classrooms such as listening centers, and big books. All classrooms have been incorporating technology into its classrooms such as Hatch I pads and SMART Boards.
**Huntingdon County Head Start Annual Report**

**Disabilities**
- By the conclusion of the 2013-2014 program year, 46 preschool children were receiving services for a diagnosed disability and an IEP (Individualized Education Plan) was developed and implemented. This is approximately 21% of funded enrollment and 10% is required. 16 of these preschool children were diagnosed during the program year.
- In Early Head Start, 11 children had a current IFSP (Individual Family Service Plan). 3 of those children were diagnosed during the program year. Approximately 15% of the EHS enrollment had an IFSP and 10% required.

**Nutrition**

The Parent Nutrition Program provides parents the opportunity to lead a nutrition activity for children in the PHS classrooms which enables parents to demonstrate food preparation skills as well as encourage healthy eating habits in children. Children and parents are provided with nutrition education and healthy lifestyle education throughout the program year.
- A total of 5 parents participated in the Parent Nutrition Program during the 2013-2014 program year, leading and completing activities in the classroom and at socials with the children.

Height and weight measurements are taken on every child twice per Preschool Head Start program year.
- The 2013-14 program year child weight measurements showed that 3% of children were at risk for being underweight, 16% overweight, and 18% obese. This is nearly double from the previous year.

Parents, staff and community representatives work together to plan and evaluate nutrition services throughout the year.

**Health**

- Of the 214 preschool children served: 195 (91.1%) of them received up to date preventative and primary care (including a physical exam, lead level and hemoglobin level); 16 were determined to need medical treatment and 16 (100%) received that treatment. Additionally, 212 children served (99.1%) were determined up to date with immunizations for their age.
- Of the 214 preschool children served: 202 (94.4%) of them received a dental exam, 74 (36.6%) needed dental treatment and 60 (81.1%) received that treatment.
- Of the 94 Early Head Start children served: 81 (86.2%) were up-to-date on a schedule of preventative and primary health care, 13 (16%) children were diagnosed as needing medical treatment and all 13 (100%) received the treatment, 88 (94%) children received age-appropriate preventative and primary oral health care. Additionally, 91 children served (96.8%) were determined up to date with immunizations for their age.
- 100% of the children enrolled in both programs received a vision and hearing exam within the first 45 days of enrollment. Those needing follow-up were referred to their physician.

**Parent Involvement**

- 338 individuals provided some type of volunteer service to the Preschool and Early Head Start programs. Of these, 92 were current or former Head Start or Early Head Start parents.
- Head Start offers a Men’s Group that plans and participates in fatherhood activities. Activities and attendance included: Pumpkin Patch Field Trip (170), dads night at each of the Head Start centers with 49 dads attending at the various centers, Easter Bunny Trolley field trip (110) and the boxcar parade for the whole family with 132 attending.
- The opportunities for parents to get involved in their child’s education are limitless. Some opportunities offered by the programs are: classroom volunteer, parent groups, family socials, Family Literacy Nights, committees, special activities, Family Fun Days, and more.

“Family Fun Days are great! We get to spend time together.”

_Early Head Start Parent_
Family Composition

The following table represents the family composition of Preschool families during the 2013-2014 program year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Composition-Pre-school Head Start</th>
<th>Number of Families</th>
<th>Employed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Two-Parent Families                     | 107 (54%)         | Both Parents: 36 (34%)  
                                        |                   | One Parent: 45 (42%) |
| Single-Parent Families                  | 93 (46%)          | 49 (53%) |
| Total Number of Families                | 200               | 130 (65%) |

The following table represents the family composition of Early Head Start families during the 2013-2014 program year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Composition-Early Head Start</th>
<th>Number of Families</th>
<th>Employed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Two-Parent Families                    | 52 (65%)           | Both Parents: 16 (31%)  
                                        |                   | One Parent: 23 (44%) |
| One-Parent Families                    | 28 (35%)           | 11 (39%) |
| Total Number of Families               | 80                 | 50 (63%) |

Family Education Statistics 2013-2014

Preschool:
- 95 (48%) parents have a high school diploma or GED.
- 90 (45%) parents had education beyond high school.
- 15 (8%) parents had no high school diploma or GED.
- 4 (2%) families in the preschool program who were in job training or schooling.
- 9 (5%) families with at least 1 parent is a member of the US military.
- Served 10 families (11 children) experiencing homelessness and 5 of the 10 families acquired housing during the program year.
- 195 (98%) families received health education
- 158 (79%) families received parenting education
- 195 (98%) families received at least one family service through Head Start

Served 10 families (11 children) experiencing homelessness and 5 of the 10 families acquired housing during the program year.

Early Head Start:
- 33 (41%) parents have a high school diploma or GED.
- 39 (48%) parents had education beyond high school.
- 8 (10%) parents had no high school diploma or GED.
- 11 (14%) families in the Early Head Start program were in job training or schooling.
- 2 families had a parent that served as a member of the US military.
- 0 families experienced homelessness.
- 80 families received health education
- 80 families received parenting education
- 80 families received at least 1 family service

“My child is ready for school and has learned title, author and what illustrator means” - PHS Parent
Head Start Community Needs Assessment
Trends and Analysis
2013-2014:

- The number of children receiving TANF benefits was steady during the 2013 year. We continue to see an increase in the number of donations and contributions from churches.
- The Median Household Income in Huntingdon County is significantly lower than the state of Pennsylvania.
- The percentage of students eligible for free or reduced lunches has increased in all school districts and significantly increased in Huntingdon School District by 4.7%.
- In Huntingdon County, 3 of the 4 school districts increased their third grade PSSA scores. The national average of the SAT score is 1500 and a perfect score is 2400. Any SAT score that falls below 1100 is considered below basic. The national average score for reading is a score of 496, the average score for math is 514 and the average score for writing is 488. Writing was the area all 4 Districts fell below the average.
- The number of children that receive Early Intervention services continues to increase.
- The number of children receiving subsidy child care has continued to drop from 2008. In 2009 there were 582 children receiving CCIS benefits and in 2013 there were 177 receiving CCIS benefits.
- The number of children receiving medical assistance in Huntingdon County has slightly decreased from 2013-2013.
- There has been a decrease in the number of women and children participating in WIC in Huntingdon County from 2012-2013.
- The number of children 0-5 years old at 2005 below poverty dropped 7% in the county from 2011/2012 to 2012/2013
- 37% of the Head Start children are classified as either overweight or obese.
- Less than 1% of children served by preschool and Early Head Start do not have health insurance.

Triennial Review

The Head Start programs have not had a triennial review since 2012. There was one compliance issue that was resolved. It is anticipated that a health and safety review will occur in 2015 under the new monitoring system.

Mental Health

The program has a Mental Health Consultant who is available to meet with families to discuss concerns and provide recommendations in regards to needed services and referrals. The Mental Health Consultant also completes routine observations of children within the classrooms and at Early Head Start Family Time Socials.

46 children (Preschool and Early) were provided with consultative services by the Mental Health Consultant.

Transportation

Due to Huntingdon County being a rural county, Head Start provided transportation to 89% of the children attending center based classrooms. Transportation services are provided by 2 contractors from local companies using the Head Start fleet of 8 buses.

My daughter loves First Book. She loves books; She will sit with them for hours and look at the pictures and try to read it. Thank you. PHS parent
The program helped us so much and my son has learned so much. HSSAP Parent

“She loves everything she does with her EHS teacher and loves to look at books.”
- Early Head Start Parent
The Huntingdon County Head Start program is primarily funded with Federal Funds; 167 Pre-School Head Start Children and 72 Early Head Start Children. Sequestration funds from the prior program year were reinstated. Additionally, the Pennsylvania Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program provides funding for 48 Pre-School Children. The Federal Head Start program requires a match of 25% of Federal funds; the Corporation has exceeded the Federal match requirement for the last several years.
Huntingdon County Head Start participated in its most recent triennial review in November of 2012 which yielded no deficiencies and no areas out of compliance.
In the annual audit of the Corporation for the year ended June 30, 2014, there were no findings. There were no findings or compliance issues with the major programs’ single audit. Net assets were $333,894.
Current **vision** statement: HCCADC is committed to being the recognized leader in providing quality comprehensive services by utilizing our strengths and resources to meet the future needs of our community.

Established guiding principles for the future:

*Quality, Confidentiality, Compassionate, Flexibility, Integrity.*