

Huntingdon County Head Start

2022 Annual Report



The Head Start Program

In 2022, Huntingdon County Child and Adult Development Corporation continued to operate the only Head Start program in Huntingdon County, PA. Head Start, a federally funded program, provides comprehensive services to income eligible children from birth to five years of age, partnering with parents and guardians. These services include, but are not limited to, education, child development, health, nutrition, social and emotional development, parent involvement opportunities such as socializations, and family goal setting, as well as opportunities for parent volunteers.

It is our intention to provide quality services and resources. To give the children served by HCCADC a great head start, we strive to serve each child and family as individuals, recognizing that all persons develop differently as he/she make life's journey. Through quality services, HCCADC equips the individual child with the knowledge and skills which align with the child's needs in their time with us.

In the past program year (2022-2023), HCCADC enrolled 145 Preschool Head Start (PHS) children and fifty-one Early Head Start (EHS). PHS services were provided in one of nine locations, and EHS in family homes. Center-based options were in Alexandria, Broad Top, Huntingdon, Mount Union, and Orbisonia. Three Home Visitor groups provided services throughout the County. Additionally, HCCADC provides services to eight EHS children in

Huntingdon as part of the Childcare Partnership program funded through OCDEL of PA.

HCCADC is currently funded to serve 199 children in the PHS program and seventy-two in EHS. These numbers have fallen short over the past few years. To address this, HCCADC will be completing a comprehensive data-informed to assess the needs within Huntingdon County. Even School Districts across the county have experienced significant enrollment shifts.

HCCADC remains committed to serving the children in our area and will work closely with the Office of Head Start to identify the best program options for those we serve.

This Annual Report contains data from the 2022-2023 program year.

Our Mission...

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

In doing so, HCCADC is committed to quality programs that not only meet but exceed the needs of the children and their families.



HCCADC Staff and Volunteers Making a Difference in the Lives of Children and Families

HCCADC, like most every other program across the country, has encountered challenges related to the recruitment and retention of staff. We are thankful to those who have remained committed to make this journey with us, and to those who have joined our impressive team. From direct service to support and management staff, HCCADC employs more than sixty persons in the PHS and EHS programs. We proudly share that in the previous program year, nearly 15% of our staff have been with HCCADC over twenty years. In the 2022-2023 program year seventeen staff members were former or current PHS or EHS parents.

Addressing the ever-competitive employment environment, HCCADC raised hourly wages so no person makes less than \$12 per hour, and our goal is to work with the Office of Head Start to design a budget which will allow us to bring this up further. HCCADC constantly looks for other ways to compensate our employees. Through COVID relief funds, employees received stipends over the program year totaling \$2500. Our mission now is to discover how we can award retention stipends now that ARP funds are exhausted.

In 2022-2023, the goal was to staff each classroom with one teacher and two teacher assistants. While each classroom had a teacher, we fell short of always having two teacher assistants.

We value the education and experience of our classroom staff. Five of our teachers had bachelor's degrees, and four had associates with two of these being enrolled in a bachelor's program. Classroom assistants included bachelor's level, associate degrees, Child Development Associate credentialing, or were enrolled in a credential program. All assistants are required to complete the CDA program (if not degreed) within two-years of employment. As a corporation which values the education of all persons, HCCADC provides financial support to all staff seeking to further develop their education in early childhood programs.

Throughout the program year, a total of five Home Visitors were employed by HCCADC. Of those, four held a home-based CDA or comparable credential. Sadly, we have had turnover in the Home Visitor positions and have not been fully staffed for a couple years.

We applaud our direct service staff for their dedication and service.

Disability Services

In the 2022-2023 program year, the EHS program provided services to six children with disabilities and the EHS program served thirty-five. All PHS children had Individualized Education Programs (IEP) and partnerships were created when outside early intervention services were needed.



Our vision... *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.*

Our guiding principles... *Quality, Confidentiality, Flexibility, and Integrity*

**Total Head Start Racial/Ethnic
Composition
2022-2023**

Six Black or African American
One Hispanic or Latino origin
170 White
19 Bi-racial/Multi Racial
1 Unspecified



Income at or below 100% federal poverty	62
TANF, SSI, SNAP	90
Foster Care	6
Homeless	1
Other (over income)	16
Income between 100% and 130%	22

Volunteer Services

EHS 40 Volunteers
(28 current or former HS parent)

PHS 171 Volunteers
(101 current of former HS parent)

Parent Involvement

The 2022-2023 continued to be impacted by COVID restrictions, therefore allowing parents to volunteer within the classrooms was challenging. Outdoor activities provided some relief for this. Teachers and other staff worked to provide opportunities in a way that would reflect the COVID policies, yet at the same time provide parents with an enriching opportunity. Parent at-home activities, family socials, committees, Policy Council and Board of Directors membership reflect some of the ways parents could be involved with the program. The Men's Group Field Trip was reinstated in this program year as it was an outdoor activity. While lower numbers than in the past, this still was an enriching event and opportunity for fathers and their children. Some classrooms had field days to further the opportunities for parent involvement.



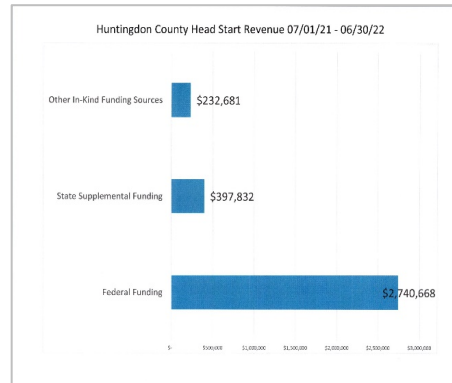
HEALTH SERVICES

	EHS	PHS
CHILDREN with HEALTH INSURANCE	49	145
CHILDREN ENROLLED in MEDICAID and/or CHIP	46	136
CHILDREN without HEALTH INSURANCE	0	0
PREGNANT WOMEN with HEALTH INSURANCE	0	3
CHILDREN UP TO DATE with AGE-APPROPRIATE PREVENTATIVE and PRIMARY HEALTH CARE	30	83
CHILDREN with CHRONIC CONDITIONS	2	18
UP TO DATE IMMUNIZATIONS	38	143
CHILDREN with CONTINUOUS, ACCESSIBLE DENTAL CARE	26	105

Notable is the fact there are no pediatric dentists in Huntingdon County. HCCADC scheduled four dental clinics in the 2022-2023 program year. Two of these had to be cancelled by the provider and could not be rescheduled. The clinics provide screening services only.



The Huntingdon County Head Start program is primarily funded with Federal Funds; having slots for 167 Pre-School Head Start Children and 72 Early Head Start Children. 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 routinely exceeds the required match.



Huntingdon County Head Start participated in its most recent federal review in February 2023, the results of the review yielded no deficiencies and no areas out of compliance.

In the annual audit of the Corporation for the year ended June 30, 2022, there were no findings, no deficiencies in internal control and no compliance issues with the single audit. Net assets were \$933,900.



Helping Our Children Achieve Their Dreams



Program Goals

#1 HCCADC will provide high-quality services by engaging parents, staff, and community in the utilization of sound practices resulting in children being successful in school.

#2 Huntingdon County Head Start will design a coordinated approach to support families as learners in maximizing their potential resulting in improved family well-being and stronger financial stability.

#3 Huntingdon County Head Start will in partnerships, with local agencies educate and support families in accessing services

Highlighting Our Progress in the 2022-2023 Program Year

Goal #1

PHS Teachers as well as EHS Home Visitors utilize "High Five Mathematize" to help children achieve their math skills. In PHS classrooms we continue to see children progressing in their math skills. The percentage of growth has remained consistent.

Program Year	Fall	Spring	Percentage of Gain
2017 - 2018	54%	89%	35%
2018 - 2019	42%	85%	43%
2019 - 2020	53%	82%	29%
2020 - 2021	39%	86%	47%
2021 - 2022	33%	81%	48%
2022 - 2023	35%	82%	47%



In EHS A 15% increase in children meeting and exceeding in the area of mathematics occurred between the Fall and Summer checkpoints in the 2022-2023 program year. This was an improvement from 2021-2022 program year, which saw an 8% increase and in the 2020-2021 program year where there was a 4% increase.

Teachers included literacy activities in their monthly classroom newsletters that went home to the parents. Literacy activities are planned to occur in the classroom, particularly during small group time. Literacy activities are sent home as at-home activities at least 3 times per program year. June 2022 - 2023 - All classrooms using the Heggerty Phonological Awareness Curriculum increased by 23% for children meeting or exceeding age expectations in phonological awareness. Literacy objectives overall went from 37% in the fall to 83% in spring for a 46% gain.

C.L.A.S.S. was completed in the Fall and Spring during the 2022 - 2023 program year. As part of the FA2 Monitoring Review, a video pilot was also completed and scored by an independent reviewer.

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

Fall 2020	Spring 2021	Fall 2021	Spring 2022	Fall 2022	Spring 2023
6.36	6.45	5.97	6.21	6.1	6.14

Video Pilot Score: 5.39. Quality Threshold: 6.0 Competitive Threshold: 5.0

CLASSROOM ORGANIZATION

Fall 2020	Spring 2021	Fall 2021	Spring 2022	Fall 2022	Spring 2023
5.36	5.27	4.9	5.05	6.1	6.14

Video Pilot Score: 5.39 Quality Threshold: 6.0 Competitive Threshold: 5.0

INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT

Fall 2020	Spring 2021	Fall 2021	Spring 2022	Fall 2022	Spring 2023
3.58	3.48	3.05	3.36	3.01	3.01

Video Pilot Score: 2.22. Quality Threshold: 3.0 Competitive Threshold: 2.3

HCCADC is currently working with OHS Training and Technical Assistance to develop a plan to address the Instructional Support scoring.

#2	<p>Interagency agreements were created with Career Link and Huntingdon County Career and Technology Center and have been continued. Staff are able to share information regarding services that are available within the county that may be able to help them with their educational, employment, or financial needs.</p> <p>Staff shared financial literacy materials with each family, based on their needs and interests, according to the Financial Literacy plan. Each family chooses a topic that they would like to learn more about and receives materials related to that topic. The staff person then also provides at least one learning activity for the parent to gain hands-on knowledge on financial literacy topics. In the 2022-2023 program year, 98% of the EHS families and 74% of the PHS families received some financial literacy education during the year. In 2021-2022, this was 87% of EHS families and 75% of PHS families who participated and in 2020-2021, it was 83% of EHS families and 73% of PHS families. They were given educational materials and encouraged to actively participate in learning activities to increase their financial literacy knowledge and skills.</p> <p>Staff track referrals to financial literacy and adult education and career services for families and follow up with them to ensure that they are able to utilize the services and whether or not the services met their needs. Each February, Teachers provide educational financial literacy videos and activities in the classroom with the children, using the Sesame Street's "For Me, For You, For Later" curriculum. Each week for four weeks, they provided a short video featuring familiar Sesame Street characters and then did an activity with the children to teach them about the importance of earning and saving money, and how they can share to better their communities.</p> <p>Program staff have been able to collect some of the needed information for available services in the county that would assist families in their education and employment goals. This is expected to continue.</p> <p>During the 2022-2023 program year, 26% of PHS families chose goals related to bettering their finances in some way. This has increased each year over the last four years. In the 2021-2022 program year in Preschool Head Start, 24% of families participating in the Family Partnership Agreement process chose goals related to finances. This was up from 19% in 2019-2020 and 20% in 2020-2021. We saw 61% of the PHS families who chose financial goals in 2022-2023 complete their goals. Of those goals in 2021-2022, 24% of families completed the goals that were established. In the Early Head Start program, 28% of the families chose to participate in financial goals in 2022-2023. Of those, 70% were able to complete their goals while 30% made progress. In the prior year, only 13% of families chose financial goals. Of those, 50% completed their goals while 50% made progress. The number of families taking part in financial goals has decreased; however, the progress is similar to previous years.</p> <p>Additional families developed goals to gain employment or to better their employment status. In Preschool, 13% of the families writing FPA goals chose goals on employment. Of those, 33% completed their goals and 44% completed some of the strategies within those goals. The percentage of families with employment goals has increased from the prior year (6%) and the progress is also up slightly, as well from 2021-2022 (25% completion and 25% progress). These percentages are also higher than the two previous years. In Early Head Start, these numbers are all comparable to the last four years. In 2022-2023, 6% of the families wrote employment goals, with none of them completing their goals and 50% making progress. In 2021-2022, 6% of families wrote employment goals with 50% completing their goals and none making progress.</p> <p>A few families have also created goals to support their education, although the numbers have been down for the last 3-4 years. In 2022-2023, only 1 family (1%) in PHS and zero families in EHS wrote goals on education. That family made progress although they were unable to complete the goal. In comparison, in 2021-2022, 3% of families wrote education goals, with none completing their goals but 100% of them made progress. In the Early Head Start 2022-2023 program year, none of the families chose to write adult education goals. This was the same as the previous year, 2021-2022.</p> <p>The program currently utilizes Ready Rosie as the primary parenting curriculum. This is done through virtual means. Individual videos are being sent out to parents to view on their own time. Parents can view videos, like them, or comment on them and how they are using the activities in working with their children.</p> <p>Group workshop sessions were offered in the 2022-2023 program year in the winter/spring months. This year, five sessions were held at the two central sites (Huntingdon and Mount Union), for a total of 10 sessions that were offered. Topics were chosen based on parents' interest in the topics. 6 total families (5 PHS and 1 EHS) attended, across the 10 offered sessions. In the fall, winter, and spring of the 2020-2021 program year, six sessions each. Different topics were offered this year to spark interest among families who had been attending them prior to who might be looking for a new topic. The number of families attending the group workshops has decreased, as has the number of families participating in the videos that are offered to the families.</p>
----	--

**Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use
to change the world. -Nelson Mandela**

#3	<p>EHS Home Visitors plan and implement activities and family weekly, focusing on nutrition, physical health and dental health and safety. During Parent Meetings, the teachers provide mini-training within the “I Am Moving I Am Learning” curriculum which promotes physical activity and making health food choices.</p> <p>Family Service Workers provide health and safety information to families no less than annually.</p> <p>All home visiting staff will be educated on EPSDT guidelines and staff will share educational information regarding EPSDT guidelines with families.</p>
----	--



FATHERHOOD ENGAGEMENT

HCCADC’s Parent and Volunteer Coordinator assumes the lead in providing parent-directed fatherhood programs. Activities were limited due to COVID precautions since 2020. In the 2022-2023 the annual Pumpkin Patch trip was held as it provided a safer outdoor venue. HCCADC is set to engage fathers once again fully in the upcoming program year planning.

	EHS	PHS
# of fathers engaged in family assessment	5	3
# of fathers engaged in family goal setting	5	4
Involvement in HS developmental experiences	28	46
Participation in program governance	2	0
Participation in parent education workshops	0	0



FAMILY DEMOGRAPHICS

	EHS	PHS
Total Number of Families	41	135
Two-parent Families	26	80
Single-parent Families	15	55
Mother-only	14	52
Father-only	1	2
Grandparents as guardian	1	6
Other relatives as guardian	0	1
Foster	1	1
Parent Guardian with advance degree (Bachelor or above)	2	4
Associate, vocational or some college	11	36
High School or GED	28	84
Less than high school	0	11
At least one parent/guardian employed	30	101
Parent/guardian in job training program	2	3
Parent/guardian enrolled in educational program	1	2
No parent/guardian employed, etc.	11	34
At least one parent/guardian serving in military active duty	1	0
At least one parent is a veteran	0	0
Families receiving cash benefits under TANF	2	7
Families receiving SSI	3	14
Families receiving WIC	18	52
Families receiving SNAP	33	81
Required emergency/crisis intervention for immediate needs	1	10
Required housing assistance	0	1
Received asset building services (financial, education, debt counseling)	40	100
Mental Health services	0	3
Assistance in enrolling in education or job training program	1	3
Received research-based parenting curriculum	41	67
Received involvement in discussing child’s screening and assessment results	41	129
Received support for transitions between programs	16	57
Received education on preventative medical and oral health	40	106
Education on health consequences of tobacco use	8	6
Received education on nutrition	6	59
Education on postpartum care	6	1
Education on relationship/marriage	6	3
Number of families served experiencing homelessness	2	3
Total enrolled children who were in foster care	5	4
Children referred by child welfare agency	3	5

School Readiness Goals - PHS

There were no changes to the School Readiness Plan this past year. Goal progress for the 2022-2023 program year is listed below:

1. Social-Emotional Development

- Children will regulate their own emotions and engage in and maintain positive relationships and interactions with peers and adults.
- Outcome – 90% of all children will meet or exceed age-appropriate expectations in establishing and sustaining positive relationships.

	Fall	Spring	Percentage of Gain
Preschool Head Start	65%	92%	27%

2. Perceptual, Motor and Physical Development

- Children will demonstrate control of large and small muscles and identify and practice healthy and safe habits.
- Outcome – 95% of all children will meet or exceed age-appropriate expectations for gross motor and fine motor.

	Fall	Spring	Percentage of Gain
Preschool Head Start	75%	93%	18%

3. Language and Literacy

- Children will use language to express and share ideas, wants, and needs; the children will demonstrate understanding of listening, speaking, and pre-writing skills.
- Outcome – 92% of all children will meet or exceed age-appropriate expectations for Language and Literacy.

	Fall	Spring	Percentage of Gain
Preschool Head Start	65%	90%	25%

4. Approaches to Learning

- Children will explore learning opportunities with increased independence, curiosity, persistence, and creativity.
- Outcome – 95% of all children will meet or exceed age-appropriate expectations in Approaches to Learning.

	Fall	Spring	Percentage of Gain
Preschool Head Start	67%	91%	24%

5. Cognitive Skills

- Children will engage in learning opportunities that will enhance their mathematical and scientific reasoning abilities.
- Outcome – 90% of all children will meet or exceed age-appropriate expectations in Cognition.

		Fall	Spring	Percentage of Gain
Preschool Head Start	Math	69%	90%	21%
	Science	44%	66%	22%

School Readiness Goals -EHS

Checkpoints Completed: October 7, January 20, May 12, July 28

Social-Emotional Development: Children will engage in and maintain positive relationships and interactions with peers and adults.

Outcome – 90% of all children will meet or exceed age-appropriate expectations in establishing and sustaining positive relationships.

	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer
Early Head Start	90%	94%	96%	98%

Perceptual, Motor and Physical Development: Children will demonstrate control of large and small muscles and identify and practice healthy and safe habits.

Outcome – 95% of all children will meet or exceed age-appropriate expectations for gross motor and fine motor.

	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer
Early Head Start	93%	96%	96%	96%

Language and Literacy: Children will use language to express and share ideas, wants and needs; the children will demonstrate understanding of listening, speaking and pre-writing skills.

Outcome – 92% of all children will meet or exceed age-appropriate expectations for Language and Literacy.

	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer
Early Head Start	92%	93%	93%	92%

Approaches to Learning: Children will explore learning opportunities with increased independence, curiosity, persistence and creativity.

Outcome – 95% of all children will meet or exceed age-appropriate expectations in the area of Approaches to Learning.

	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer
Early Head Start	97%	97%	90%	98%

Cognitive Skills: Children will engage in learning opportunities that will enhance their mathematical and scientific reasoning abilities.

Outcome – 90% of all children will meet or exceed age-appropriate expectations in the area of Cognition.

Early Head Start		Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer
	Math	95%	95%	95%	96%
	Science	36%	20%	22%	26%

Service and Recruitment Area

We continue to experience the post-COVID framework in which we see lower numbers, fewer families, staffing issues, etc. This past year HCCADC has worked hard to find eligible families for enrollment. Increased wages have put families over the poverty threshold even though they continue to struggle. The addition of SNAP making a family categorically eligible has helped a few families access services who otherwise may not have been eligible. Methodology for recruitment has included parent referrals, QR codes on posters, fliers, etc., a greater presence on social media, a large event held during “The Week of the Young Child” where more than 400 people were in attendance, the availability of an on-line interest application, attendance at community events, and an ad on Dollar General register tapes. HCCADC’s recruitment team met and continues to meet regularly to brainstorm, debrief, and plan outreach opportunities. On April 4, 2023, our PHS and EHS programs were identified to be part of the FEI due to enrollment below 60% in our EHS program. Our response includes a projected Reallocation and Reduction Plan which we will submit sometime in October.

EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

HCCADC works closely with the appropriate entities to assure Early Intervention services are provided for identified children. The chart below shows the number of HCCADC PHS and EHS children receiving services over a 4-year period. It is important to note that while the numbers are similar to previous years, from 2021 forward HCCADC was not at full enrollment.

	2018-2019		2019-2020		2020-2021		2021-2022	
	EHS	PHS	EHS	PHS	EHS	PHS	EHS	PHS
Speech/Language Developmental, Special Instruction	6	37	1	42	4	36	7	34
Occupational Therapy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Physical Therapy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hearing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vision	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Health Impairment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	6	37	1	42	4	36	7	34



STAFF TURNOVER RATES

HCCADC experienced a decline in turnover rates during the past program year in all Head Start positions. While there is still work to be done, we are pleased to see these numbers come down.

	20-21	21-22	22-23
Total Staff	33.34%	36.98%	10%
Teachers	30%	38.89%	21.43%
Teacher Asst.	41.67%	34.29%	12%
Home Visitors	36.36%	60%	28.57%
Family Service Workers	23.53%	52.63%	28.57%

Huntingdon County



Member Agency

The Week of the Young Child

During the "Week of the Young Child", HCCADC hosted a Paw Patrol themed community event. The event included pictures with Marshall the Dog. There was a Touch-a-Truck portion of the event with participation from the Game Commission, Fire Dept., Garbage collection and fire trucks. A food truck, free book giveaway and agencies serving children within the community were present. Community participation included the library, the Salvation Army, and the Crossroads Pregnancy Center. Teachers and EHS Home Visitors had community helper themed games and in some cases a member of the identified helper was present. The Moose Club also did fingerprinting of children. The local forest rangers brought their water rescue boat as well as their mascot, and Subway brought Sub Man and handed out free coupons. Over 400 adults and children attended this event making it one of the most successful events in recent history.