

Wayne County Action Program, Inc.

Head Start/Early Head Start

Annual Report

2022

Approved by Board of Directors:

Approved by Policy Council:

A Message from the Director

This year has continued to be a very challenging program year with continued effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. I am so grateful to our continued dedication from staff, parents, and volunteers for supporting the Head Start/Early Head Start programs. This year staff, volunteers and parents have done amazing work and shown continued dedication to ensuring the quality of services remained first and foremost for all children and families within our program. There truly are no words to express the gratitude that as a program, we all feel. Through the many changes that continued to occur, children and families received comprehensive services on a new and exciting level. Each staff member of the program commits daily to engaging, educating, and supporting the children and the families we serve within new inventive ways to gain children's attention to help them develop the most needed School Readiness goals to achieve developmental milestones needed to continue their journey of learning. Our program continues to be successful due to the staff, volunteers, and parents that truly make it happen daily. For that, we thank you!

This year we continued in-person learning for all of our classrooms. This was exciting and staff, parents, and children were happy to continue the in-person learning environment. However, some classrooms continued to remain closed due to lack of staffing for the 2022 program year. Overall, children, parents, staff, and volunteers were able to adapt and support the program with the changes that were upon us. We have learned that COVID will forever be part of our program and we will continue to keep all children, staff, and parents safe with our health and safety measures that are in place. Our program continues to offer many services designed to promote early childhood development education employment opportunities, family support, nutrition, health, mental health, and special services.

On behalf of the Finger Lakes Community Action a division of Wayne County Action Program, Inc. Board of Directors, and the Head Start Policy Council, we truly would like to extend our gratitude to each of you that made this year happen when some many challenges continued to be upon us. The Governing Board and Policy Council are amazing as they are continuing to support our program through the many adversities that we have faced. We could not be happier to have two governing entities that support us unconditionally. We continue and are always committed to the mission of the agency "Coordinating resources to inspire and empower people to achieve their full potential" through advocacy, education, resource mobilization and service delivery.

The promise of a better tomorrow continues to be upon us as we look onward to a brighter future and continued commitment to providing quality care and services to the children and families that we serve within Wayne County. Experiencing all the “unknowns” over the past couple of years has provided us many endless opportunities that one would never have thought was possible before for the Head Start/Early Head Start programs. Our vision is clear, and our mission continues to move on the right path to future success. We are stronger than ever! We are Head Start Strong!

We will continue to seek out available grants and opportunities and community support to enhance and extend services to children and families in the upcoming program years.

This annual report is our opportunity to share with the community the many successes we have experienced over the past year. Visit our web page at www.fingerlakescommunityaction.org and or feel free to contact me at (315) 333-4155.

Regards,

Stacey DeGross, Head Start/Early Head Start Administrator/Director

Who We Are

Finger Lakes Community Action a division of Wayne County Action Program, Inc. – Head Start is a federally funded preschool program that provides comprehensive services to children and their families. We provide education, health, nutrition, disabilities, and mental health services. Family Service staff work in partnership with families to connect them to services and their community. Head Start provides children with activities that help them grow mentally, socially, emotionally, and physically. We welcome parent engagement in all Head Start functions throughout the year.

Philosophy

It is the mission of Finger Lakes Community Action, a division of Wayne County Action Program, Inc. to coordinate resources to inspire and empower people to achieve their full potential. As a subsidiary, we believe it is important to provide a comprehensive program to children and their families. Parents are the child’s primary educator, their participation and involvement are highly encouraged, and we support them in this role. We develop and

facilitate partnerships with parents, the community, and school districts in all service areas of the program.

In Head Start we recognize that many factors contribute to a child’s growth and development. Our goals are to provide:

- A physical foundation where children’s health, nutrition, and medical needs are met, a safe and healthy environment is provided, and activities include the development and coordination of large and small muscles.
- A cognitive foundation with research-based developmentally appropriate curriculum where children develop a love of learning and where opportunities are provided to develop each child’s individual abilities, needs, creativity, and interests.
- A social and emotional foundation for children to develop a positive sense of self, to feel valued, and to develop social skills and problem-solving techniques.

The Head Start/Early Head Start program in Wayne County has six centers throughout Wayne County. The information below shows center locations, program options, and the number of children served in each center.

Head Start Administrative Office
11359 Ridge Rd.
Huron, New York 14590
(315) 333-4155

<p><u>Sodus Center Location I</u> 7192 Ridge Road East Sodus, New York 14551 (315) 483-6789</p> <p><u>Sodus Center Location II</u> 6264 Rt. 88 Sodus, New York 14551 (315) 483-5282</p> <p>33 – HS Center Children 8 – EHS Center Children 20 - EHS Home Base</p>	<p><u>Newark Center</u> 301 Stuart Ave. Newark, New York 14513 (315) 331-8172</p> <p>29 – HS Center Split Session 18 – HS/UPK Children 17- HS Extended Day 17 - Head Start 16 – EHS Extended Day 16 – EHS Center Children 20 – EHS Home Base</p>
<p><u>Palmyra Center</u> 120 East Main Street Palmyra, New York 14522 (315) 597-0279</p> <p>18 – HS Children 10 – EHS Home Base</p>	<p><u>Clyde Center</u> 214 East DeZeng Street Clyde, New York 14433 (315) 923-4782</p> <p>35 – HS Center Children 10 – EHS Home Base</p>
<p><u>Huron Center</u></p>	

<p style="text-align: center;">11359 Ridge Road Wolcott, New York 14590 (315) 594-6122</p> <p style="text-align: center;">35 – HS Center Children 20 – EHS Home Base</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Lyons Center</u> 6 Clyde Road Lyons, New York 14489 (315) 946-5388</p> <p style="text-align: center;">35 – HS Children 8 – EHS Center Children 10 – EHS Home Base</p>	

Policy Council

Policy Council is a formal structure of shared governance which Head Start parents participate in policy making and other decisions about the program. The Policy Council is comprised of two types of representatives: parents of currently enrolled children and community representatives. At least 51% of the Policy Council members must be current Head Start parents.

2022-2023 Policy Council Parent Members

**Christina Loughran - Council Representative on WCAP Board
Lisa Thompson - Chairperson
Nikolette Vandermark– Secretary
Christina Loughran – Co-Chairperson**

Parent Representatives on Policy Council:

**Christina Loughran
Lisa Thompson
Amber Stowell
Michelle Conaway
Tonya Barra
Amanda Sergent**

Community Members

Nikolette Vandermark – Wayne County Department of Social Se

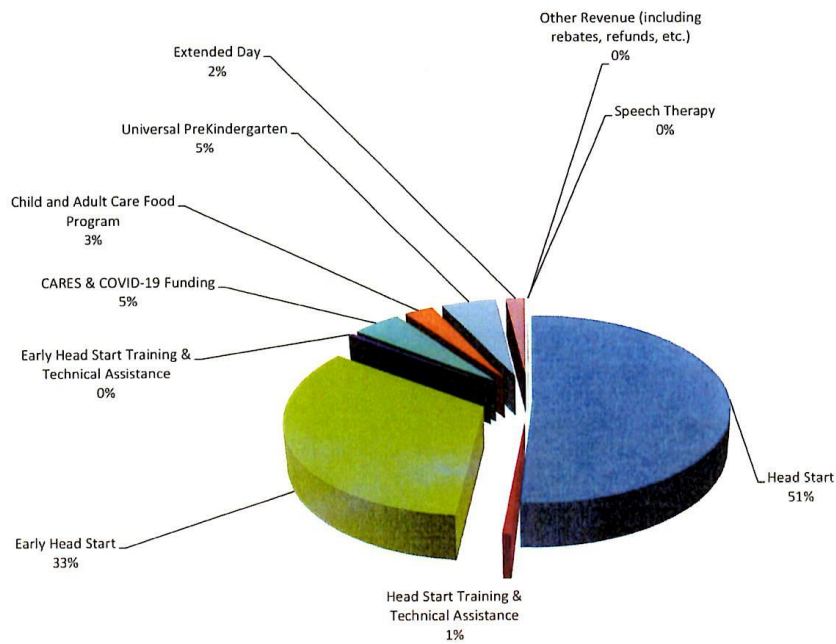


Wayne County Action Program
Helping People. Changing Lives.

2022 Head Start Annual Report 2022 Funding

Funds Received

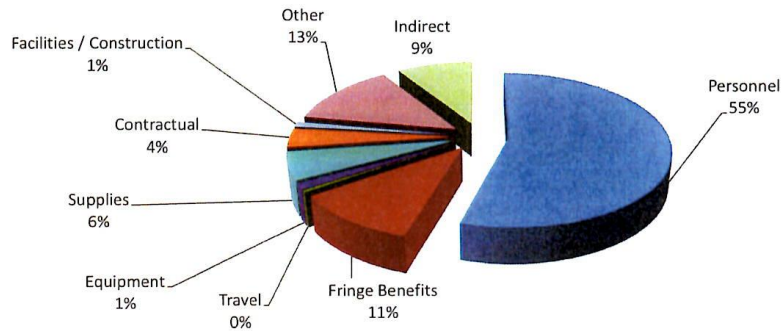
Head Start	\$	2,322,205
Head Start Training & Technical Assistance	\$	26,547
Early Head Start	\$	1,529,834
Early Head Start Training & Technical Assistance	\$	17,475
CARES & COVID-19 Funding	\$	212,092
Child and Adult Care Food Program	\$	123,027
Universal PreKindergarten	\$	240,036
Extended Day	\$	83,210
Speech Therapy	\$	1,140
Other Revenue (including rebates, refunds, etc.)	\$	650
Total	\$	4,556,216





2022 Head Start Annual Report
 January 1, 2022-December 31, 2022 Expenditures

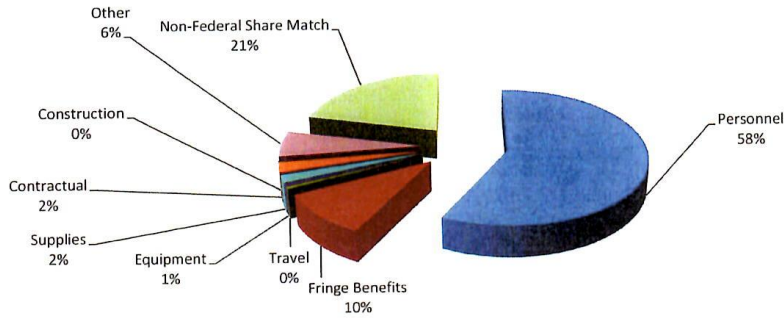
	Head Start G024122	Head Start Training & Technical Assistance G024120	Early Head Start G024125	Early Head Start Training & Technical Assistance G024121	CARES ARP & COVID-19 Funding	Child and Adult Care Food Program 1159	UPK	Ext Day	Other Speech
Direct Costs									
Personnel	\$ 1,351,603	\$ -	\$ 937,393	\$ -	\$ 50,320	\$ 27,034	\$ 87,270	\$ 37,302	\$ -
Fringe Benefits	\$ 280,438	\$ -	\$ 199,515	\$ -	\$ 6,119	\$ 3,288	\$ 5,708	\$ 5,516	\$ -
Travel	\$ -	\$ 6,648	\$ -	\$ 3,390	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 89	\$ -	\$ -
Equipment	\$ 41,656	\$ -	\$ 3,451	\$ -	\$ 13,135	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Supplies	\$ 128,406	\$ -	\$ 74,408	\$ -	\$ 60,250	\$ 1,460	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Contractual	\$ 49,611	\$ -	\$ 7,858	\$ -	\$ 12,749	\$ 365	\$ 515	\$ 254	\$ -
Facilities / Construction	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other	\$ 257,028	\$ 17,421	\$ 164,512	\$ 12,452	\$ 50,987	\$ 105,128	\$ 226	\$ 24	\$ -
Total Direct Costs	\$ 2,108,742	\$ 24,069	\$ 1,387,137	\$ 15,842	\$ 193,560	\$ 137,275	\$ 93,808	\$ 43,096	\$ -
Indirect Costs	\$ 213,463	\$ 2,478	\$ 142,697	\$ 1,633	\$ 18,532	\$ 14,139	\$ 9,662	\$ 4,439	\$ -
Total Expenses	\$ 2,322,205	\$ 26,547	\$ 1,529,834	\$ 17,475	\$ 212,092	\$ 151,414	\$ 103,470	\$ 47,535	\$ -





2022 Head Start Annual Report 2022 Grant Budget

	Head Start PA22 1/1/2022- 12/31/2022	Head Start Training & Technical Assistance PA20 1/1/2022-12/31/2022	Early Head Start PA25 1/1/2022- 12/31/2022	Early Head Start Training & Technical Assistance PA21 1/1/2022- 12/31/2022	CARES ARP & COVID-19 Funding 4/1/2021- 3/31/2023
Direct Costs					
Personnel	\$ 1,530,202	\$ -	\$ 1,140,251	\$ -	\$ -
Fringe Benefits	\$ 271,865	\$ -	\$ 200,844	\$ -	\$ -
Travel	\$ -	\$ 8,735	\$ -	\$ 4,913	\$ -
Equipment	\$ 26,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Supplies	\$ 44,269	\$ -	\$ 36,620	\$ -	\$ 190,918
Contractual	\$ 95,949	\$ -	\$ 12,680	\$ -	\$ -
Construction	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other	\$ 158,355	\$ 15,334	\$ 86,666	\$ 25,448	\$ -
Total Direct Costs	\$ 2,126,640	\$ 24,069	\$ 1,477,061	\$ 30,361	\$ 190,918
Indirect Costs	\$ 216,365	\$ 2,478	\$ 152,136	\$ 3,127	\$ 19,664
Total Approved Budget	\$ 2,343,005	\$ 26,547	\$ 1,629,197	\$ 33,488	\$ 210,582
Non-Federal Share Match	\$ 569,679	\$ 6,637	\$ 395,538	\$ 8,372	\$ -



Head Start/Early Head Start Enrollment Statistics

Funded Enrollment: Head Start: 237 Early Head Start: 138

Actual Children Served: Head Start: 134 Early Head Start: 82

During the 2022 - 2023 program year, our monthly enrollment was 50% in Head Start and 55% in Early Head Start.

Medical and Dental Exam Statistics

Our program is dedicated to ensuring that all children have health insurance along with a medical and dental home. Children enrolled in the program must have an up to date physical, up to date immunization record and dental exam before entering. Early Head Start children are required to have a physical and immunization record only, with a dental exam being encouraged at age one and then annually.

Health Services:

Health Insurance:

	Early Head Start # at enrollment	Early Head Start # end of the year	+/- Dif.	Head Start # at enrollment	Head Start # end of the year	+/- Dif
Number of children with Health Insurance	65	67	+2	132	132	0
Medicaid/CHP	53	60	+7	132	128	-4
State Only Funded	12	7	-5	0	4	+4
Private Health Insurance	Combined w/ State Funded #s in COPA	Combined w/ State Funded #s in COPA		Combined w/ State Funded #s in COPA	Combined w/ State Funded #s in COPA	
Other Insurance	Combined w/ State Funded #s in COPA	Combined w/ State Funded #s in COPA		Combined w/ State Funded #s in COPA	Combined w/ State Funded #s in COPA	
No Health Insurance	7	5	-2	1	1	0

Children in Early Head Start had an increase in the total number of families obtaining health insurance by the end of the enrollment year. Head Start remained the same. Early

Head Start had 53 children enrolled in Medicaid which increased to 60 by the end of the enrollment year. Head Start had 132 children enrolled in Medicaid at the start with a reduction of 4 by the end of the program year. Those 4 families found state-funded, private, or other insurance outside of Medicaid. At enrollment Early Head start had 12 children with state-funded, private, or other insurance which decreased to 7 by the end of the enrollment year. Early Head Start had 7 families who did not have health Insurance at enrollment which decreased to 5 by the end of the enrollment year. The head start program had one child without health insurance which remained constant through the end of the enrollment year.

Pregnant Woman

	Early Head Start # at enrollment	Early Head Start # end of the year	+/- Dif.
Pregnant Woman with at least 1 type of Insurance	1	0	+1
Medicaid	1	1	+0
Publicly Funded Insurance	1	1	0
Private Health Insurance	0	0	0
Other Health Insurance	0	0	0

Finger Lakes Community Action Head Start enrolled 1 pregnant woman at enrollment and sustained 1 at the end of the year.

Wayne CAP Early Head Start had 57 children at enrollment who had accessible and continuous Health Care and decreased to 52 by the end of the enrollment year. Head Start had 129 children at enrollment with continuous health care and decreased by 15 at the end of the enrollment year. There were no Early Head Start or Head Start children who had received medical services through Indian Health or Migrant Health. Many head start families struggled with finding cooperative and supportive medical homes throughout the program year and many are still left searching for doctors' offices that provided quality care to their children which led to the significant decrease in children with access to ongoing medical care.

Medical Services

	Early Head Start # at enrollment	Early Head Start # end of the year	+/- Dif.	Head Start # at enrollment	Head Start # end of the year	+/- Dif
Up to date, on schedule for preventive care	63	63	0	130	130	
Chronic Medical Treatment since last reported	1	1	0	6	5	-1
Received/ Receiving Medical Care	1	1	0	6	5	-1

Finger Lakes Community Action Early Head Start had 63 children at enrollment which were up to date and on schedule for their preventive care.

Head Start had 130 children at enrollment who were on target for preventive care.

Number of children who have received medical treatments for the following conditions since last PIR was reported.

Condition	Early Head Start	Head Start
Anemia	0	1
Asthma	0	4
Hearing Difficulties	0	0
Vision Problems	0	0
High Lead Levels	1	0
Diabetes	0	0
Severe Allergies		1

The medical breakdown looking at the following medical treatments was: The Head Start Program had 1 case of autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Early Head Start had no cases of cases of Anemia in Head Start or Early Head Start. There were 0 cases of medical treatments of asthma in Early Head Start and 4 in Head Start. There was one case of high lead levels in early head start children. The program also had one child diagnosed with having a severe, life-threatening allergy in the Head Start Program. There were no reported cases of hearing, vision, ADHD, seizures, life-threatening allergies, or diabetes.

Immunization Services

	Early Head Start	Early Head Start # at the	Head Start # at	Head Start # at the end of

	# at Enrollment	end of Enrollment Year	Enrollment	Enrollment Year
Children Up to date	53	43	109	101
Not received immunization appropriate for age	8	12	18	14
Number of exceptions	0	0	0	0

Finger Lakes Community Action Early Head Start provided the following services to 1 pregnant woman during the 2022-2023 enrollment: prenatal health, postpartum health, prenatal education and fetal development, and information of the benefits of breast feeding. There were no pregnant women who obtained services for mental health interventions and follow up, substance abuse prevention, or treatment.

Finger Lakes Community Action Early Head Start enrolled 1 pregnant woman into the program, who was in her second trimester.

Trimester of pregnancy in which enrolled	# Of pregnant woman
1st	0
2nd	1
3rd	0
High risks	0

Dental Dental Home

	Early Head Start # at enrollment	Early Head Start # end of the year	+/- Dif.	Head Start # at enrollment	Head Start # end of the year	+/- Dif
Continuous, accessible dental care	19	10	-9	70	63	-7

At enrollment Early Head Start had 19 children with access to continuous dental care by the end of the enrollment year the number decreased to 10 children. Head Start enrolled 108 children with 70 having a dental home at the beginning of the year. However, by the end of the program year that number decreased to number had also increased to 63. The decrease in this is due to many of the dental offices in the area becoming overloaded with very long waitlists leading to the refusal of care for children under age 5 apart from dental emergencies.

Preventive Dental Services

	# of children in Early Head Start at the end of the enrollment year	# of children in Head Start at the end of the enrollment year
Up to date on preventive services	N/A	81

During the 2022-2023 enrollment year, Finger Lakes Community Action had a total of 81 preschool children who were up to date on preventative dental services at the end of the enrollment year.

Pregnant Woman Dental Services

Number of pregnant woman served/dental examinations	0
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Wayne Cap Early Head Start did not serve pregnant woman who received dental examinations/services during the 2022-2023 enrollment year.

Preschool Dental Services

Number of children with Medicaid/CHP Who have completed a professional dental exam	81
Number of children diagnosed as needing treatments since last PIR	58
Number of children who have received or are receiving	52
Reason why children who needed dental treatment did not receive it	The aftereffects of the COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted dental care. Pediatric appointments have also been a struggle. The program was able to secure Mosaic Dental at the beginning of the 2022-2023 year. While some families came to their appointments, many families did not, and we were unable to have mosaic return due to their staffing crisis. This led to the ongoing search for dental offices accepting pediatric patients. Toward the end of the program year, we established a 2-year MOU with Health Plex Dental services who have been able to provide additional dental screenings. However, the struggle of finding a dental home is still prevalent.

81 children including those who had Medicaid had completed a professional dental exam during the 2022 – 2023 enrollment year. Wayne Cap Early Head Start and Head Start had

58 children who were diagnosed as needing treatment. Of those 58 children, 52 have received or are receiving the necessary dental treatment.

Although we are no longer in a national emergency, previous COVID-19 practices were still in place until May 2023 which resulted in the 2022-2023 program year still being outstandingly impacted by the pandemic and the attempt to return to normalcy. Various families and medical/dental resources in the county struggled as most schooling programs returned in person full time. This increased the need for medical and dental services to maintain enrollment compliance which led to an overload of patients at these medical and dental offices resulting in a delay of services to many because as the demand for providers increased so did the length of their waitlists. Available medical facilities were left trying to meet the needs of all families in the county inside and outside of our Head Start/Early Head Start Program.

Parent Involvement Activities

Finger Lakes Community Action, Head Start/Early Head Start upholds the belief that parents are the most important teachers in their children’s lives. Parental Engagement is the cornerstone of the Head Start Program. Parents are encouraged to participate in the program by volunteering in the classroom, contributing to lesson plans, attending Parent Center Committees, serving on the Policy Council and Advisory Committees, and attending parent education programs. We were able to do activities like, “Breakfast with Buddies, Muffins in the Morning, and Flying into the Summer with Buddies.” We held 3 Literacy night events for families throughout the school year. The parent committees were held once a month on the second Thursday of the month. Topics presented at the parent committees varied from health issues, like the importance of dental health, to training on disabilities services as well as some fun activities, like crafting and exploding pumpkins. During the 2022-2023 program year, 44 of the 132 children in Head Start and 24 of 72 Early Head Start children had their fathers participate in the program.

Family Service staff work with families to develop a Family Partnership Plan. This plan helps families to develop family goals as well as identify needed family services. Family Service staff and families work together throughout the year to reach goals and get the needed services. During the 2022-2023 program year, the Family Strengths and Priorities Assessment was used. This is a family directed assessment the helps to identify areas of strengths as well as establish working goals with the family. The emphasis is to demonstrate the importance of a family’s role in their child’s overall development. The Family data and outcomes showed several gains. Overall, we saw our biggest impact in “Connecting Families to the Community and Peers.” We made strong gains in health by connecting families to a medical and dental home for ongoing care. We also saw an increase in “Parent and Child Relationships.” While we saw a decline from Period 1 to Period 2, we did see higher gains overall this year.

The total number of families served was 119 in Head Start and 60 in Early Head Start. Of those 119 Head Start families and 60 Early Head Start families received at least two types of service by direct service or referral. These services include:

- Emergency/crisis intervention (food, clothing, shelter)
- Housing assistance (subsidies, utilities, repairs)
- Homelessness Services
- Mental Health Services
- Adult education (GED, college)
- Child abuse and neglect services
- Child support assistance
- Health Education
- Assistance to Families of Incarcerated Individuals
- Parenting Education
- Holiday Assistance
- Legal Assistance
- Childcare subsidies
- Relationship/Marriage Education
- Domestic Violence Services
- Asset building services (financial education, opening savings/checking accounts, etc.)
- Transportation Services
- Advocating for services with Families of Children with a Disability
- Clothing and household assistance
- Supporting transitions for kindergarten or other placements
- Substance Abuse Services

School Readiness

Finger Lakes Community Action Head Start/Early Head Start promotes school readiness for children by enhancing their cognitive, social, and emotional development in a learning environment that supports children's growth in physical development and health, social and emotional development, approaches to learning, language and literacy development, and cognitive development. In Early Head Start and Head Start, learning experiences are driven by the Creative Curriculum. Utilizing the GOLD assessment (dimensions and objectives of the assessment) from Birth to Pre-Kindergarten encourages progression in learning outcomes and objectives to promote School Readiness. The Creative Curriculum aligns with the New York State Pre-Kindergarten Learning Standards to prepare four-year old's going to kindergarten. For screening purposes, the ASQ – 3 tools are used for both Head Start and Early Head Start.

In 2022-2023 the education program implemented the same curriculum for the Early Head Start and Head Start programs. The Creative Curriculum was implemented to utilize the same assessment for child outcomes in both Early Head Start and Head Start to promote School Readiness. The curriculum supports CLASS dimensions, aligns with Early Head

Start Learning Outcomes Framework, and the New York Pre-Kindergarten Learning Standards. The curriculum provides opportunities for the child’s education to be expanded into the home and community with resources, child skill activities, and parent communication through a program App.

Our 2022-2023 Annual Child Outcomes Report showed that for the program year from Fall 2022 to Spring 2023 children in Head Start met the growth expectations in the GOLD assessment in Language, Literacy, and Math. The areas of lower scores were reflected in social-emotional, physical, and cognitive. In the Early Head Start program children met the growth expectations in all areas with all scores in the mid-range of the threshold.

Our School Readiness Plan is a living document that involves staff, school districts, parents, and community members. We have created Children’s Readiness Goals in each of the domains named above as well as goals for family engagement.

We have an active School Readiness Advisory Committee and invite all school districts, staff, community members, and parents. We discuss the many partnerships and collaborations we have with districts and community organizations, and transition activities or family engagement activity ideas. In 2022 the School Readiness Committee was taken with a different approach due to minimal district participation following COVID and education staffing shortages. In 2022 to enhance participation of Districts the classroom teaching staff, Education Assistants, and the Education Director went to various participating Districts to partake in trainings, classroom observations, and discussions of curriculum. The information was then reported back to the Head Start School Readiness Committee.

We have a written Transition Plan that guides education staff to make every effort to prepare children for their transition to kindergarten. Currently we have four written transition agreements with public schools. Each year, education staff works with public schools to organize transition activities for children who will enter kindergarten in the fall of that school year. Many of these activities take place during the last three months of the school year. The transition activities include inviting district staff to observe in the Head Start classrooms, or to make a presentation to Head Start parents about kindergarten screening, registration, curriculum, and to answer any questions parents might have. Head Start children make visits to their public school to experience physical education, art, music, and lunch time activities. In Head Start classrooms serving Head Start/Universal Pre-Kindergarten children, we demonstrate how our curriculum objectives and assessment tool align with the Pre-Kindergarten Learning Standards.

Qualifications of Head Start/Early Head Start Education Staff

Education	Teachers	Teacher Assistants and /or Teacher Aides
Total Number of Education Staff	8 HS teachers and 9 EHS teachers	9 HS aides and 4 EHS aides 10 Teacher Assistants
Associates degree in Early Childhood	0 HS teachers and 3 EHS teachers	1 Teacher Assistant

Baccalaureate degree in Early Childhood	6 HS teachers and 2 EHS teacher	0
Graduate degree	1 HS teachers and 1 EHS teacher	0
Child Development Associates (CDA) Infant/Toddlers	3 EHS teachers	0
Child Development Associates Preschool	0	4 teacher assistants and 1 aides
CDA & enrolled in Early Childhood Education programs	0	0 teacher assistant
Enrolled in CDA training preschool or infant/toddler	--	8 Preschool aides 2 Preschool Teacher Assistants 0 Infant Toddler aides

Disabilities/Mental Health

During 2022-2023, Head Start served 19 children with a disability. Of those, 14 returned or enrolled as a classified Preschooler with a Disability (PSWD). The other 5 children were identified through early developmental screenings, formal/informal observation, and parent/teacher concern. Early Head Start served 17 children with a disability. Of those, 14 children entered or returned to the program already classified. The other 3 children were identified through early developmental screenings, formal/informal observation, and parent/teacher concern. Head Start/Early Head Start was able to help identify these children due to the quality of our teaching staff and the relationships we build with our families. Our staff understand the challenges during the evaluation and Individual Education Plan and Individual Family Service Plan processes, and they work closely with the family to educate them and advocate for the child. Our teachers also assisted parents of children with a disability by providing strategies, suggestions of alternate activities and additional materials necessary to individualize learning for their children. Due to a shortage of service providers in Wayne County, many of our children with a disability did not receive all the services that they were recommended for.

Our program provided a Mental Health Consultant (certified School Psychologist) for enrolled children and their families through a contract with Wayne ARC – Roosevelt Children’s Center. We also provided an additional Mental Health Consultant, Mike Kephart, a behavioralist. Each month, the Mental Health Consultants observed in classrooms, and provided valuable strategies for classroom staff in dealing with difficult behaviors and improving classroom management strategies. In many instances we were

able to make modifications to class environments and structures to teach children social-emotional skills. Head Start provided individualized mental health services to 62 (47 enrolled in Head Start and 15 enrolled in Early Head Start) children through consultation and /or behavioral referrals.

Audits and Reviews

In April 2023, the fiscal year 2022 SF-425 Final Financial Status Report was completed and submitted electronically by the agency's Chief Financial Officer. Finger Lakes Community Action, a division of Wayne County Action Program, Inc. is required to have a Uniform Grant Guidance audit performed annually by a Certified Public Accountant. The audit was performed in April 2023. The most recently completed Uniform Grant Guidance audit was for the period ending 2022.