



Northern Panhandle Head Start, Inc.

Engaging Young Children and their Families in a Comprehensive Early Childhood Development Program

Annual Administrative Report 2023-2024



Message From the Executive Director

As the Executive Director of Northern Panhandle Head Start, I take great pride in sharing the 2023-2024 Annual Report with our Head Start families and stakeholders. Our vision statement “Building Foundations for Life-long Growth and Development” helps us to focus on our overarching program goals and we are excited to share with you a preview of another successful year of services provided to the children and families in our program! This annual report is a snapshot of our efforts to engage parents, children, and the community in home and classroom experiences that relate directly to the agency’s school readiness and program goals.

As I enter my second full year as Executive Director, my priorities and focus continue to be increasing staff wellness and support, addressing academic and social gaps in children, and meeting the diverse needs of all the children and families that we serve.

I am privileged to have a team of outstanding staff that have contributed to the success of our program. Our staff work diligently to provide data driven planning, monitoring, support, and instruction that focuses on helping children and families succeed and build skills to meet outcomes and to achieve goals. The staff’s ongoing dedication to maintaining a safe and positive learning environment has helped to ensure our children gain the necessary knowledge and skills essential for meeting school readiness expectations.

Thank you to all the Head Start families for your support and cooperation during this program year. Partnering with you, our Head Start families, has been crucial to our program’s success. I will stay committed to working collaboratively with you and will continue to provide resources, strategies, and information to help our children and staff succeed in the coming years.

I am grateful for the opportunity to work alongside our staff, parents, family members, Policy Council, and Board of Directors. Our Head Start community is deeply committed to the safety and wellbeing of our children and strongly believe that it takes a village to raise a child.

Jackie Bell

Jackie Bell, M.Ed.
Executive Director



Governing Bodies

NPHS Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is instrumental to NPHS's operations as it has legal and fiscal responsibility for administrating and overseeing the agency including safeguarding federal funds, adoption of governance practices, and ensuring compliance with federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

Lisa Schmitt - President	Maclaine Murad
Linda Myers - Vice President	Tiana White - PC Chairperson
Eleanor White - Secretary	Sierra Orosz - PC Vice Chairperson
Rod Lydick - Treasurer	
Tami Alfred - Parliamentarian	

NPHS Policy Council

Policy Council is made up of Head Start and Early Head Start parents and community members who lead and make decisions about the program. The Policy Council is made up of parent representatives elected by parent meeting groups to participate in monthly meetings with program management. An alternate representative is elected to sit in if a representative is unable. The Policy Council Chair and Vice Chair also serves on the Board of Directors.

Tiana White - Chairperson
Sierra Orosz - PC Vice Chairperson
Kari Turvey-Gantz - Secretary
Travis Haught - Treasurer
Cheyenne Saldivar - Parliamentarian

Community Assessment Summary

NPHS is funded to serve 581 children throughout Hancock, Brooke, Ohio, Marshall, and Wetzel counties in West Virginia. NPHS provides Early Head Start, Head Start, Child Care Partnership and Home Visiting services through MIHOW & MIECHV. An annual Community Assessment is compiled and updated yearly with an in-depth assessment taking place every 5 years.

This report shows that all five counties continue to see a decrease in the population. The state of West Virginia continues to have the highest drug overdose rate in the nation. Four of the five counties NPHS serves are considered High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas. The Northern Panhandle, which consists of all five of the counties NPHS serves continues to have some of the highest NAS rates in the state. The agency has seen a slight increase in the number of Child Abuse & Neglect Reports.

The number of children estimated to be eligible for our services has decreased in all five of our counties. This estimate considers the number of live births in each county which has dropped in three of the five counties as well as the current child poverty rate which has decreased in four of the five counties. Unemployment rates in each of the five counties are higher than reported the previous year. Four of the five counties reported an unemployment rate that is higher than the statewide average of 4.3%.

Health outcomes for the state of West Virginia continue to be poor with the state holding the highest rate of obesity in the nation. Along with the high rates of hypertension, diabetes, and depression. The agency has a contract with the Village Network to provide Mental Health Services to the children and families enrolled in our program. Local hospitals have implemented Mental Health Services to help fill the gap in our area. WV Birth to Three and the local LEAs provide services to the children with identified disabilities. The agency has partnerships throughout all five counties with the local county school boards and provides services to families through collaborative classrooms. As well as partnerships with five local daycares located in four of the five counties.

~Community Assessment data compiled by
Ashley Benson, Administrative Assistant

The full Community Assessment can be provided on request.

Individual Benefactors

Joy Harr
Robert Hitchman
Kevin McGlilton
Linda Myers+
Dr. Michael Pipo
Eleanor White+

Foundations, Corporations, & Organizations

American Tire
DeFelice Brothers Pizza, Inc.
The Experience Church
H.E. Neuman
Wayman AME Church
Wheeling-Nippon Steel
Zeno, Pockl, Lilly, & Copeland, A.C

Administration

Jackie Bell,
Executive Director

Amber Boring,
Education & Training Manager

Gina Wendel,
Head Start Manager

Beth Ott,
Early Head Start Manager

Amanda Blon,
Human Resources Manager

Cheryl Santimarino,
Family & Community Partnerships Manager

Anna Sibert,
Fiscal Manager

Ashley Benson,
Administrative Assistant



Northern Panhandle Head Start, Inc.

Building Foundations For Life-Long Growth & Development

Overview

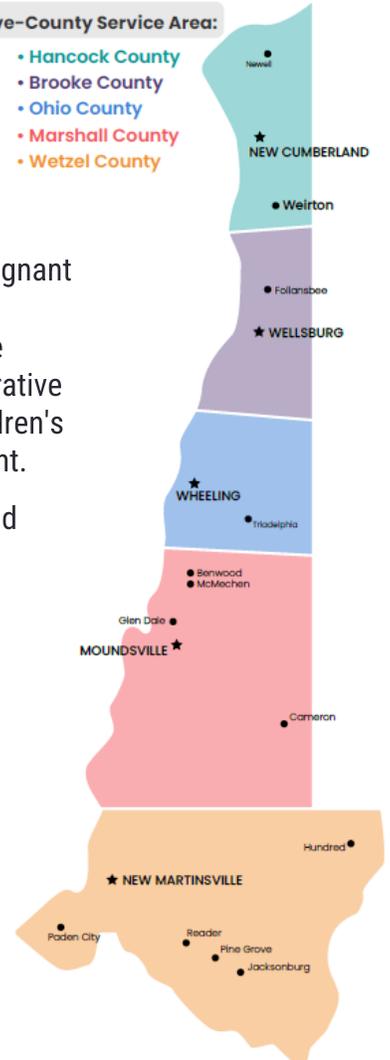
Northern Panhandle Head Start promotes the school readiness of children from eligible families by providing a comprehensive program that addresses their cognitive, nutritional, health, social, and emotional needs.

NPHS's program is a combination of Early Head Start (EHS) funding which serves pregnant women, infants, toddlers, and their families, Head Start (HS) funding which serves preschool aged children (ages 3-5) and their families, and Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership (EHS-CCP) funding which serves infants and toddlers enrolled in collaborative child care centers. The program furnishes a learning environment that supports children's growth in literacy, language, mathematics, science, social, and emotional development.

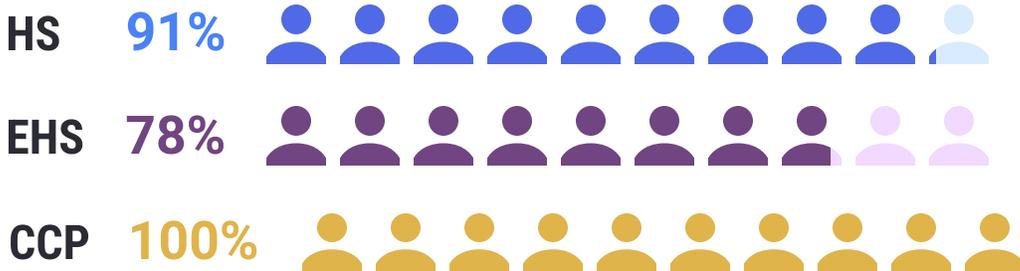
NPHS emphasizes the parent's role as the child's first and most important teacher and builds strong relationships with the child's parents and family to increase the child's chances for success.

Five-County Service Area:

- Hancock County
- Brooke County
- Ohio County
- Marshall County
- Wetzel County



Average Monthly Enrollment



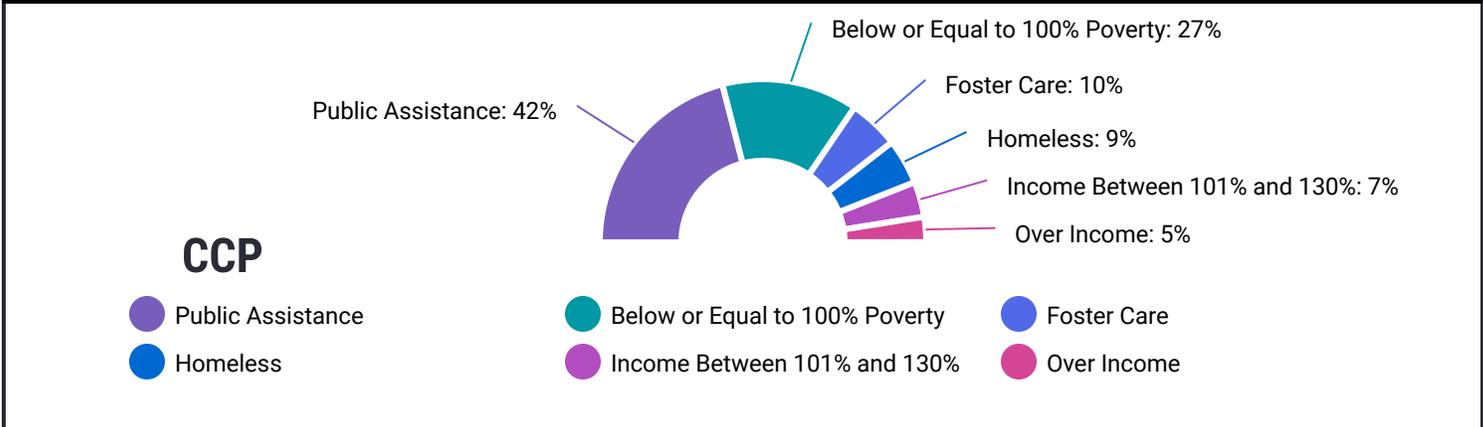
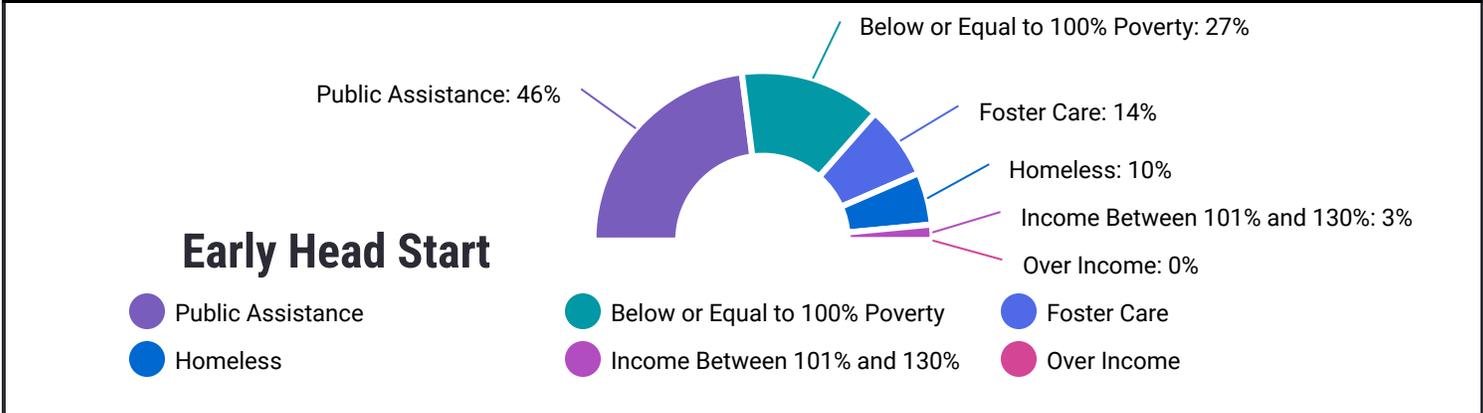
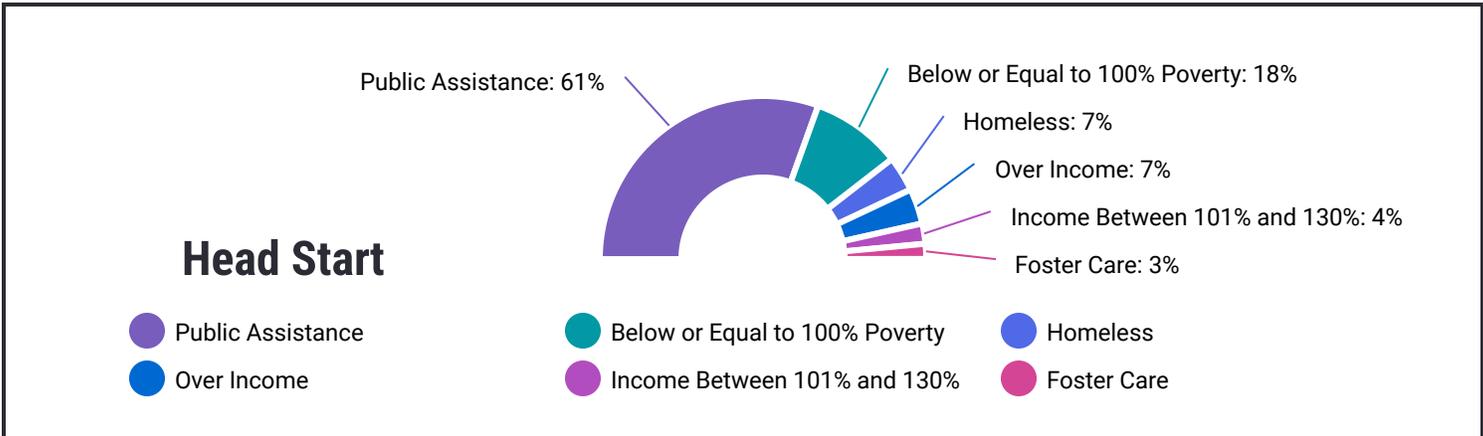
Federal Funding



Enrollment

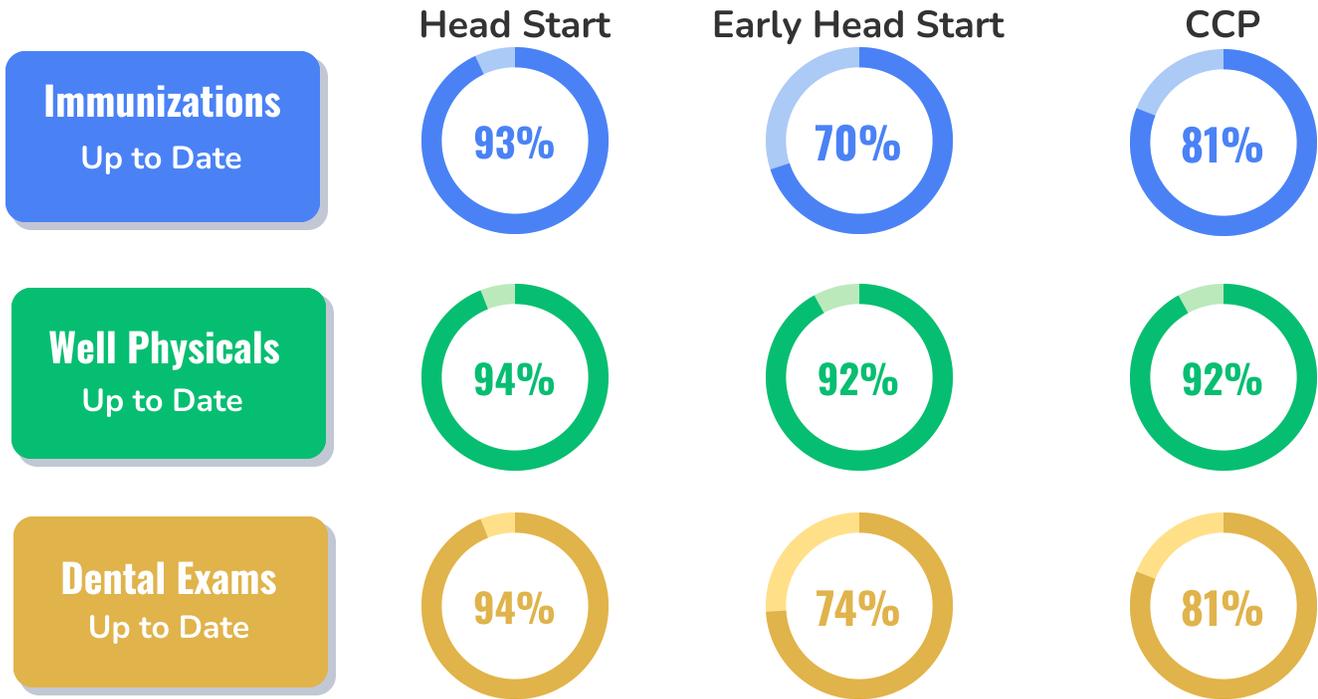
	Funded	Served
Head Start	339	375
Early Head Start	120	158
EHS-Child Care Partnership	72	98
Total	531	631

Primary Eligibility at Time of Enrollment



Health & Nutrition Services

NPHS Health Department focuses on educating, screening, and advocating for the health of Head Start, Early Head Start, and Child Care Partnership children and families. Our goal is to ensure that each child receives individual, appropriate, and timely services to help meet their health needs by offering the following services:



Pre-Natal Services

Education for women enrolled in our program focusing on the importance of healthy mom and healthy baby.



6
Prenatal Enrollments

3 current
Community
Health Professionals

Health Advisory Committee

Health Advisory committee meets throughout the program year to discuss policies, health issues within the community, and address health service challenges along with establishing solutions.

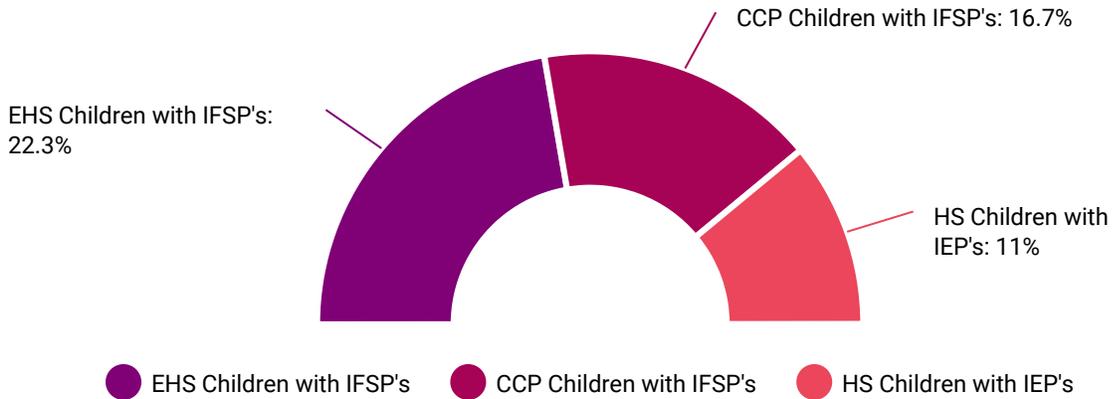
Nutrition Services

Nutritional meals are essential to healthy growth & development. Nutrition services include nutrition assessments, nutritious meals with modifications for children with special dietary needs, and education to empower parents to help them make healthy choices for themselves and their children. Our program provides two nutritious meals and one snack per day following CACPF guidelines.

Number of meals served as of April 2024
20,740

Disabilities Services

NPHS's goal in this area is to ensure that the developmental and social-emotional needs of each child are met, and their families are supported and effectively included in the full range of program activities. Each child participates in developmental and social-emotional screenings that are developmentally appropriate for young children aged birth through five. We use the results of these screenings to refer children to Part B or Part C agencies, who provide early intervention and special needs services.

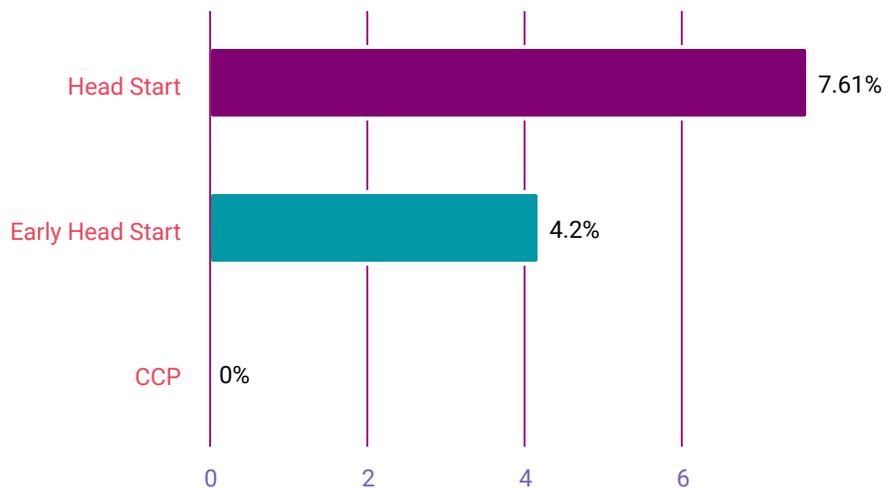
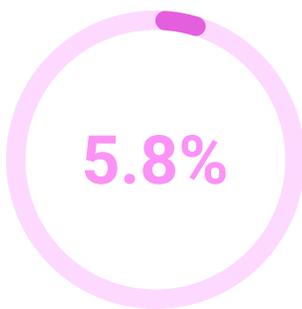


Mental Health

Mental health support for children and families is a passion for this program. NPHS's mental health component is also supported through a partnership with the Village Network who offers individualized support for children and their families and facilitates referrals for outside mental health services when needed

Children Receiving Services for Mental Health

Children Referred for Mental Health Support



~ Amanda Ames, Child Development/Disabilities Coordinator

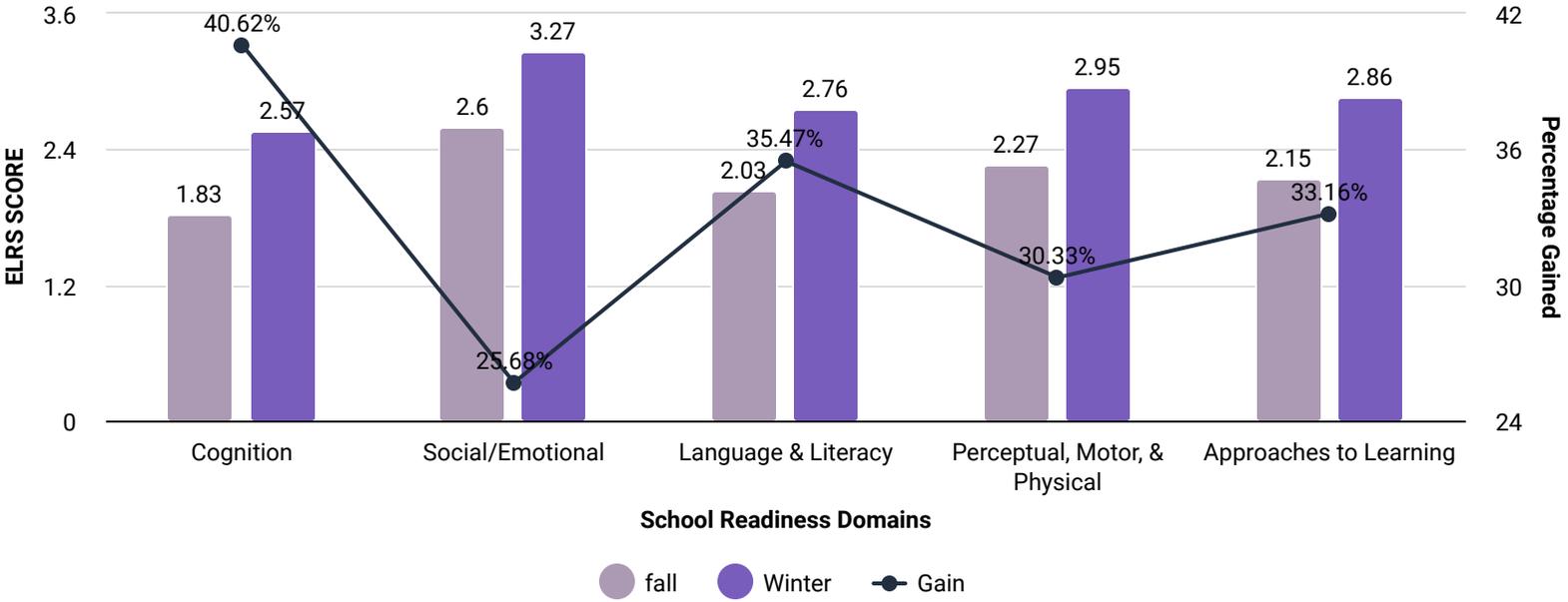
Child Development Outcomes & School Readiness

NPHS School Readiness Goals encompass the foundational learning experiences that prepare children to be school ready. School readiness means children are ready for school, families are ready to support their children’s learning, and schools are ready for children.

Head Start Child Development Outcomes (serving children ages 3-5) show results of child assessment data using the Early Learning Reporting System (ELRS), which follows the guidance of the West Virginia Early Learning Standards Framework and Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework and provides the continuum for learning for preschoolers. The ELRS data identifies where the program needs improvement to provide a quality education for all children.

This chart shows children’s progress and percentage of gain in developmental domains from ELRS fall to winter.

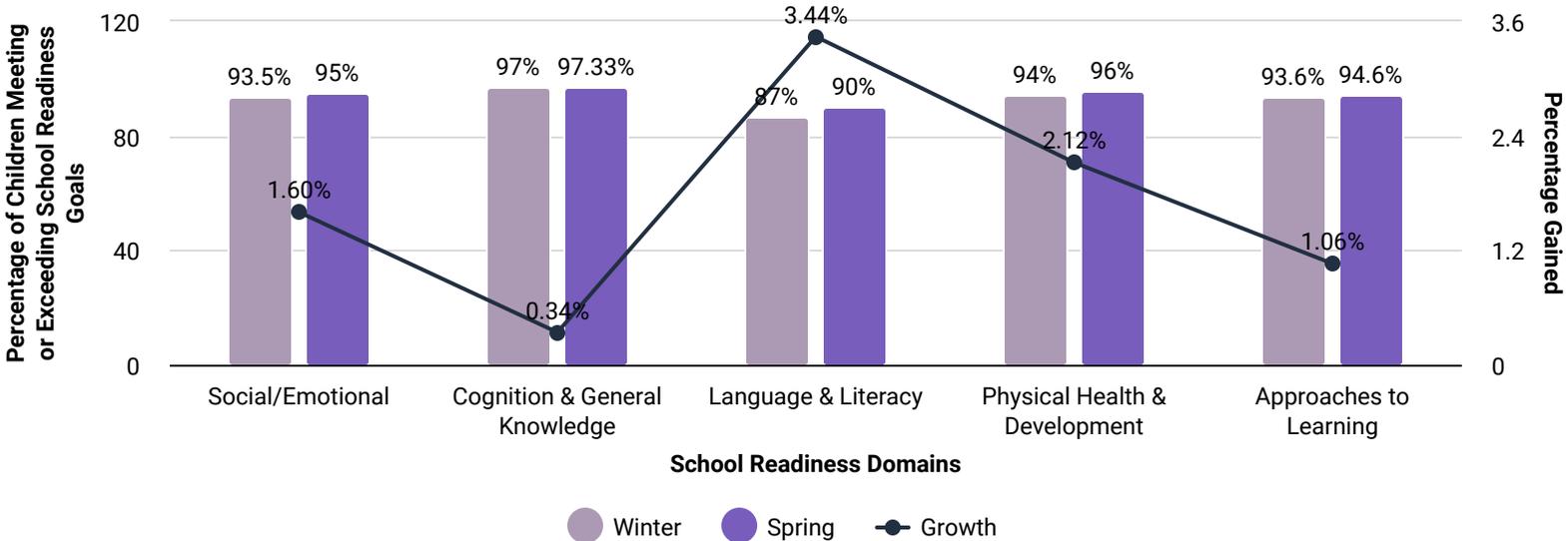
Head Start



~ Amber Boring, Education & Training Manager

Early Head Start Child Development Outcomes (serving children ages birth to three) show results of child assessment data using Teaching Strategies Gold data which is collected via observing the child at play, exploring their environment, and through interactions with peers and adults. The following data shows the percentage of children meeting EHS School Readiness Goals.

Early Head Start

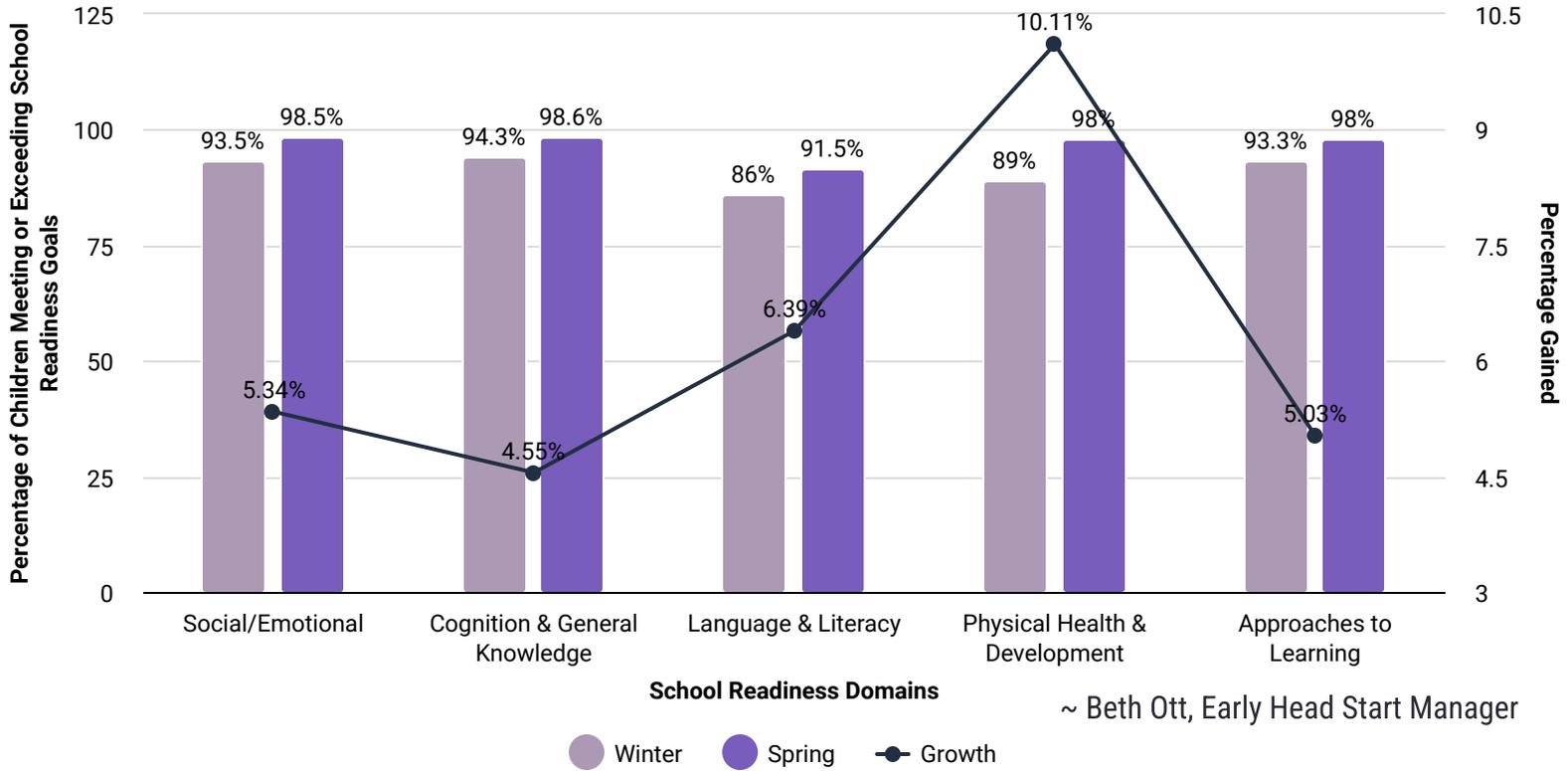


~ Beth Ott, Early Head Start Manager 8

Child Care Partnership

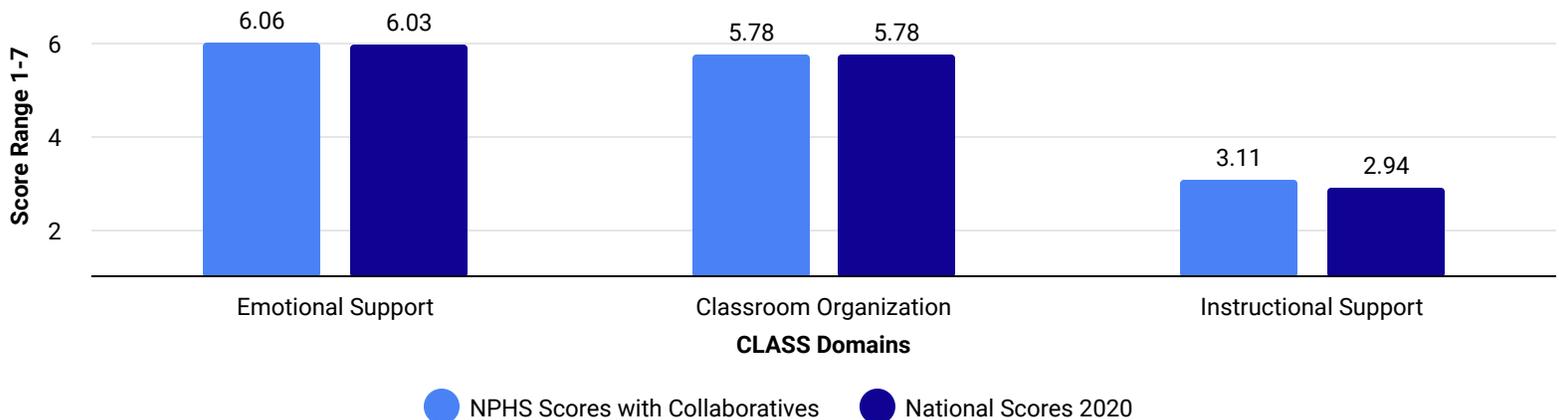
The Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership Program provides Early Head Start services to families attending child care centers. NPHS collaborates with five child care centers in the northern panhandle. Our current partners include The Children's Academy LLC in Hancock County, Little Bear of Weirton in Brooke County, Holy Family in Ohio County, Glen Dale Child Development Center, and Higher Hills Children's Center in Marshall County. There have been 63 child care teachers who have completed the CDA or ACDS program since July 1, 2015. Through the EHS-CCP program we have steadily maintained an average of 46.7% child care subsidy funding for the 72 enrolled children.

CCP School Readiness



Head Start CLASS Scores

CLASS stands for Classroom Assessment Scoring System and is used by Head Start Programs across the country to measure quality teacher child interactions in preschool classrooms. Research shows classrooms with a score closer to a 7 within the three domains, the higher quality the interactions and more successful children will be academically and socially moving into their elementary school years and beyond. Head Start requires, at a minimum, an Emotional Support score of 5, a Classroom Organization score of 5, and an Instructional Support score of 2.5. They recommend for quality purposes an Emotional Support score of 6, a Classroom Organization score of 6, and an Instructional Support score of 3.



Family and Community Engagement

Family involvement is the heart of a child's success in life. Parents and caregivers are a child's first most important and lifelong teacher and supporter of achievement. NPHS strives to work with the whole family to improve children's academic and social outcomes that lead to better futures for all. Adults in the family are encouraged to participate in classroom activities, attend parent meetings, help make policy decisions for our program, and enjoy all the fun events. Parents are empowered to develop a goal for their family and work toward that goal throughout the program year with the help of our staff.

Volunteers (parents, family members, and community members) have volunteered 30,925.28 hours collectively to support our mission!

30,925.28 Hours

Parent Meeting Participation

30%

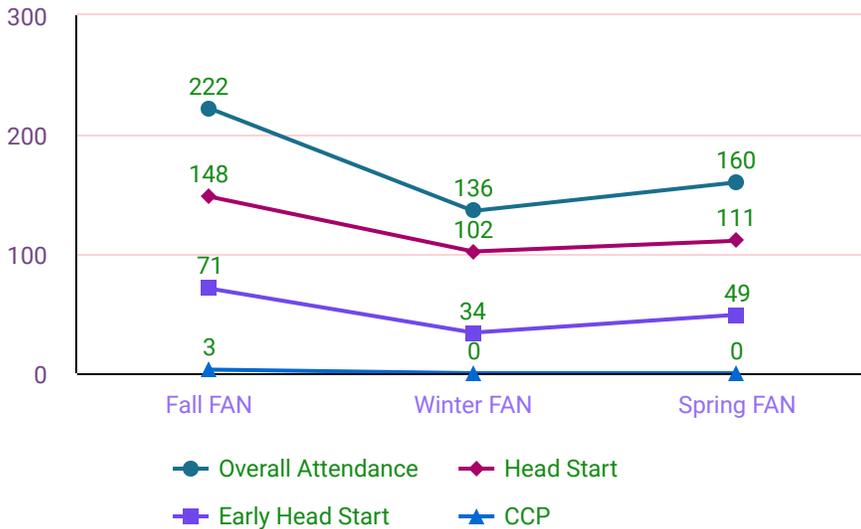


Family Partnership Goals Established

97%



Family Activity Night Attendance

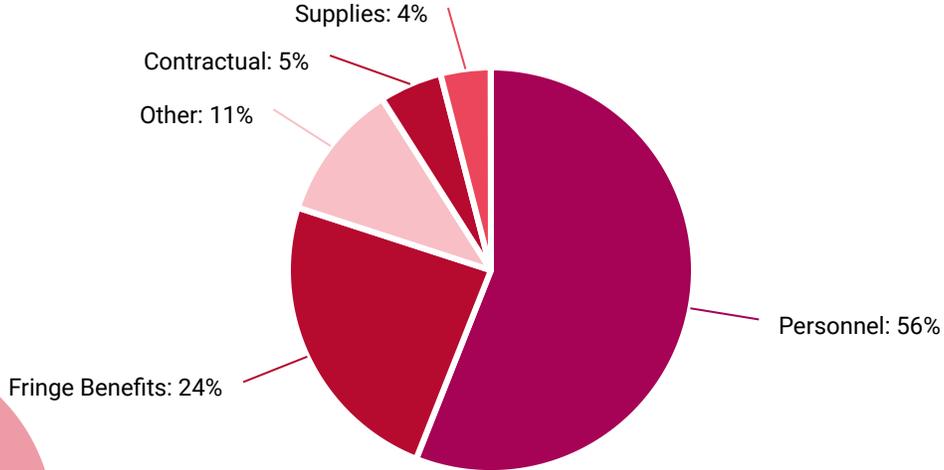


Community Involvement

Head Start recognizes the importance of giving back to the community. In doing so, the parent committees in all five counties have committed to partake in community projects. Projects have included making cards for the residents of nursing homes, the collection of pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House, and community clean-up projects. We love to go out in the community and give back while connecting with others to help build a stronger community to raise our children up into an even better society.

Annual Budget with Expenditures

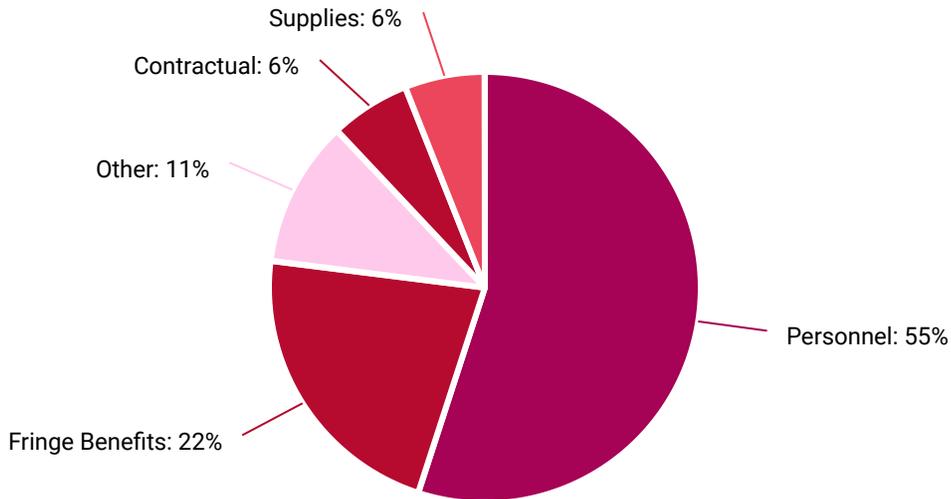
**Head Start/Early Head Start Funds
\$7,622,492
Approved Budget 2023-2024**



**Non-Federal Share
\$1,769,058**



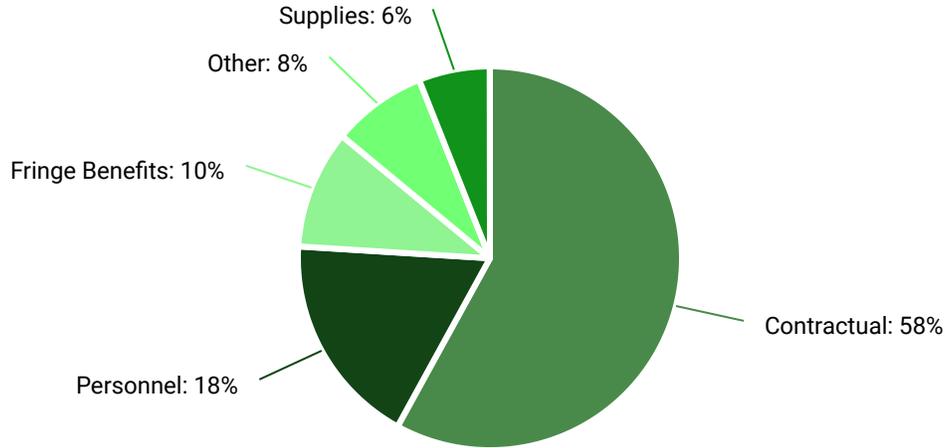
**Head Start/Early Head Start Funds
\$7,622,492*
Projected Budget 2024-2025**



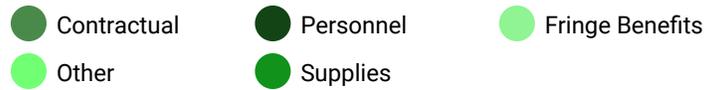
• Does not include COLA

Annual Budget with Expenditures

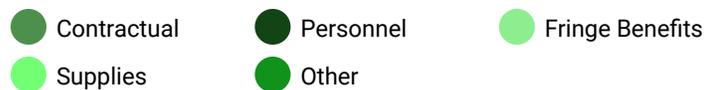
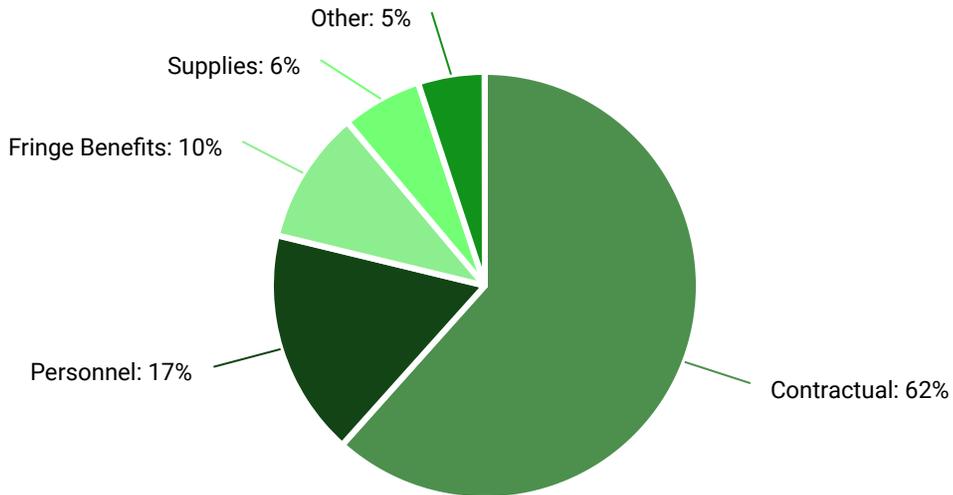
Child Care Partnership Funds
\$1,529,385
Approved Budget 2023-2024



Non-Federal Share
\$355,276



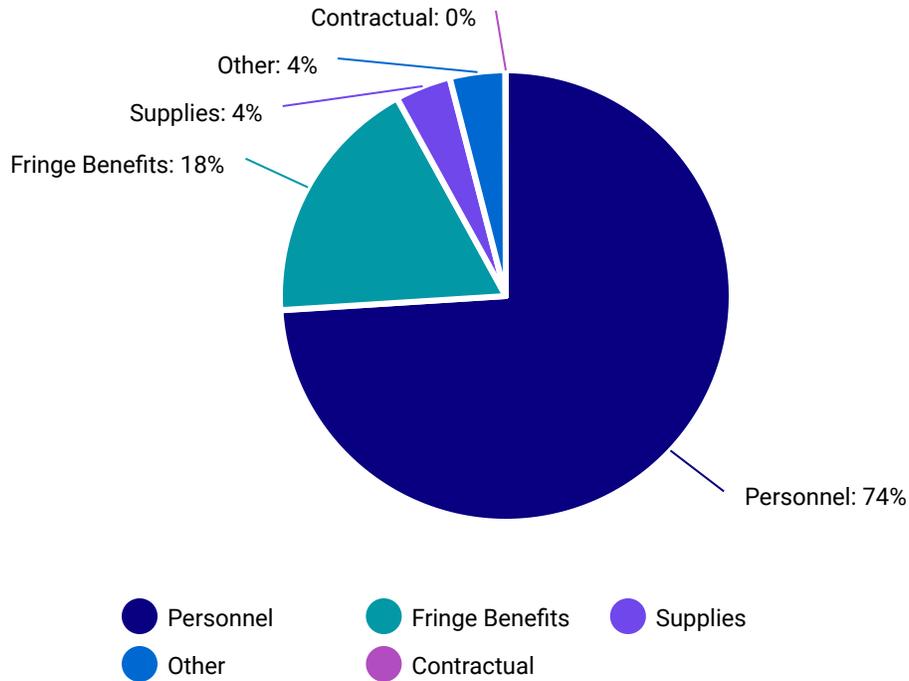
Child Care Partnership Funds
\$1,529,385*
Projected Budget 2024-2025



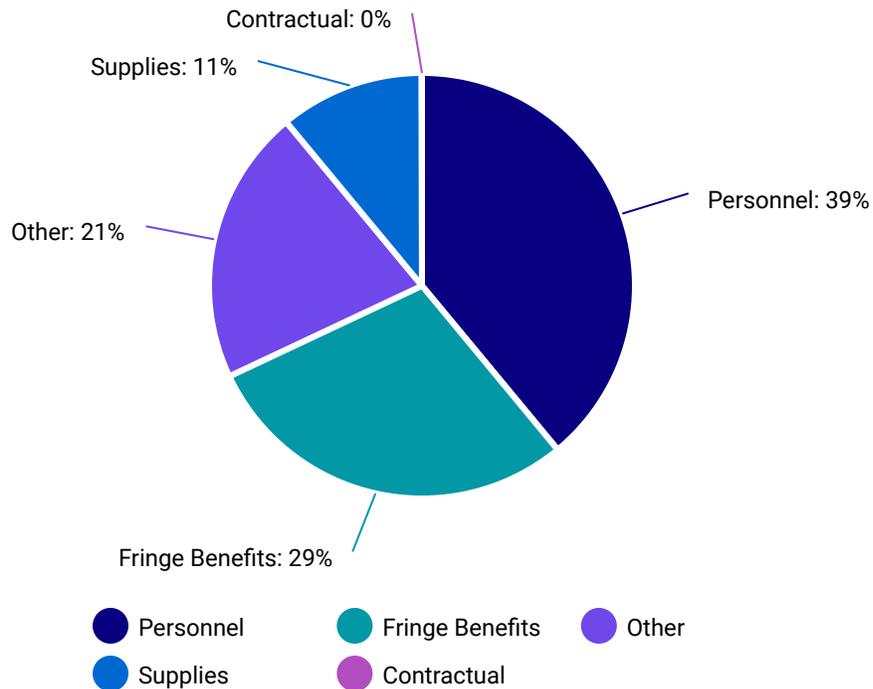
• Does not include COLA

Annual Budget with Expenditures

MIHOW Funds
\$68,000
Approved Budget 2023-2024



MIECHV Funds
\$238,500
Approved Budget 2023-2024



Fiscal Audit

The annual independent audit was performed by SR Snodgrass. – Certified Public Accountants and Consultants of Wheeling, WV. This audit was conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. In accordance with the Government Auditing Standards, the report dated February 22, 2024, stated that there were no findings related to the financial statements and no findings or questioned or likely questioned costs for federal awards for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023.

The audit included the following statement of activities for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2023:

Revenue	Amount
Federal Assistance	\$8,221,027
USDA Meal Reimbursement	\$198,094
MIHOW Grant	\$58,400
MIECHV Grant	\$135,269
Other Grants	\$4,000
Fee for Service Income	\$190,848
Food Basket Donations	\$4,097
Other Income and Refunds	\$17
Investment Income	(\$81,769)
Interest Income	\$5,270
In-Kind Revenue	\$2,259,561
Total Revenue	\$10,994,814

Expenses	Amount
Program	\$10,101,705
Administration	\$933,531
Total Expenses	\$11,035,236



~ Anna Sibert, Fiscal Manager

Federal Review Outcomes

The annual review is performed by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) as part of a regulatory monitoring process of Head Start Programs. The most recent monitoring review was a video pilot project for CLASS. CLASS stands for classroom assessment scoring system which is a tool that measures the quality of interactions between teachers and children. The Office of Head Start piloted the use of Grant Recipient video recordings to conduct a CLASS review. The purpose of this pilot was to determine the viability of capturing video observations as part of monitoring for CLASS reviews. The scores obtained during this pilot will not be used by The Office of Head Start for Designated Renewal System (DRS) determinations; however, the scores will be used to help The Office of Head Start understand the current experiences of children in Head Start classrooms as a quality improvement opportunity and to offer training and technical assistance supports that build on existing program efforts to enhance professional development and teacher-child interactions. Our CLASS video pilot review was conducted between November 16, 2022, and January 14, 2023. NPHS, Inc. scores were as follows Emotional Support 6.0089, Classroom Organization 5.8512, and Instructional Support 2.8452. These scores are above the competitive threshold that keeps us out of the DRS determination. We scored just slightly below the required score of 6 for the quality threshold for Emotional Support, and Classroom Organization.

Staff Spotlight

Hello, my name is Katy Romitti. This is my story

My name is Katy Romitti and I live in Weirton, WV with my partner and son. I enjoy spending time with my family, reading, cooking and kitchen dance parties. My favorite things include my sons laugh, getting lost in a book and my morning coffee. I'm what some call an intense person; I love hard, I work hard and I laugh hard. I would describe myself as loyal, protective, hard working and straight-forward. I like to make people laugh and feel seen, I like to make sure the people in my life feel appreciated and I really like to pass out hugs!

I graduated from Bethany College in 2013 with a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education. From there I went on to be a substitute teacher for several years and taught literally every grade and subject. I decided the traditional classroom was not the life for me, so I switched gears and left the education field for roughly 4 years. My cousin worked for NPHS, and she told me about a Parent Educator position that was open. I read the description and thought it sounded perfect for me. I would get to work with kids again and it wasn't in a traditional classroom setting. I interviewed in March of 2020 and then the world shut down. Finally, in July of 2020 I received that call that I had been offered the job and could start immediately. I began my NPHS journey on July 6, 2020 and it changed my life.

Starting a job during a global pandemic is bananas! I had to learn everything the non-contact way only to relearn everything when it became safe again. Thank goodness I had an amazing coworker who helped me navigate all of the changes and regulations. I was a Parent Educator for 2 years before switching positions. The position of EHS Mentor/Coach was brought to my attention and it was as if the position was created just for me. I can't thank Beth enough for knowing my strengths and having the confidence in me to tackle this position. I accepted the coaching position in September of 2022 and have LOVED coming to work every day since. I love being able to walk into our EHS and CCP classrooms and visit our little friends and check in with our teachers. I love creating trainings/workshops and professional development materials. I love the look on a coachees face when they have accomplished their goal. I love getting wild stories from our home visitors. And I especially love watching our little friends thriving and learning! There is no comparison to that magical a-ha moment! Gives me goosebumps!

I've been so blessed with the best bosses and coworkers. NPHS has brought me not only amazing opportunities but amazing people. I love this job and I love this company! God willing, I will be retiring from NPHS; but they may have to drag me out the door because I don't think I will be willing to go when it's time. I will be celebrating 4 fun, wild, and beautiful years in July! Honored to be here.



Parent Testimonials

Tremendously. We moved here from Northeast Ohio and didn't know anyone. Not only have my son and I met a lot of new great people, but he has learned so much with Ms. Amanda and Ms. Amy! The system is great!

Rori Tomic- MELC @ Shortline

It has helped me by providing childcare while I was in college. Now, I'm the first one in my family to have 2 bachelor's degrees and about to have my master's degree.

EHS CCP Parent

My daughter started Head Start 3 years ago and loved every teacher she has had. This organization is amazing and so wonderful to have seen my child grow and thrive.

I never felt alone, and I think that's a big thing for moms. Postpartum wasn't so bad knowing there was always someone on the other end of the phone, if needed.

-Alexandria Richards
MIHOW

It has changed our life tremendously but in the most positive way we could ask for. The teachers are the best I have seen in a long time. They care about every single kid that comes in that building. Not only are they good with the kids but they treat them like their own and always make sure every kids well being is perfect on a daily basis, but back to it. My son has grown so much in the time he has been there, it is not funny. The best thing I like the most is the manner that they teach at the Magnolia facility.

-Magnolia Parent

EHS means the world to my family. We are so incredibly thankful and happy our child is receiving a great education as well as top-tier care. It means we are able to work and have the assurance that our child is in a safe and loving environment.

Head Start is a great program. Every person or teacher that we have met has been extremely helpful and kind. The Head Start program not only helps your child learn and grow in school, but they also have many ways to help your child and family outside of school also. We especially enjoy the weekly activity sheets they send home.

Head Start has not only given my child friends and social skills, but also an entire family. I will forever appreciate all the love and support we receive from every staff member. I love knowing my daughter is not only in a safe place, but also happy! She absolutely loves going to school!

Christina Conner- Stepping Stones

Parent Testimonials

Head Start has helped our little one learn to share more, zip his own coat, and even write his name. Head Start is a wonderful program to help prepare your child for kindergarten.

Extra shout out to Mrs. Alexis and Mrs. Diamond! They are two wonderful teachers, very helpful and very kind. We are so thankful for them.

Alissa Max

It has helped my daughter so much. She has become much more independent. She has learned so much and made so many friends. Overall, it has not only benefited her, but us as an entire family. We are very grateful to be able to be in this program.

Allie Fisher- Cameron

An early learning/ socialization achievement that not only helps our children progress but has been more helpful to families assisting with transportation to and from appointments. Absolutely love love love the program!

It has changed my life as a parent just to know you have a team of individuals that's working with little ones also to have a great support system. That we all participate in helping with the kids' needs and concerns. Plus, knowledge never hurts no one when you are raising kids with a different type of learning disability are not all the way developed. I just want to say as a proud parent of both of my kids attending this program. Thank you for your hard work and dedication.

Dyshque Chatman - Orchard Park D & Orchard Park 1

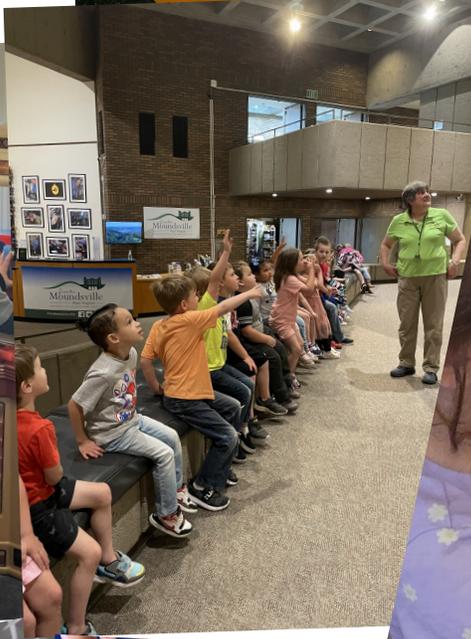
Early Head Start/MIHOW has changed my life tremendously. They keep me informed on my child's activities throughout the week. Plus, the teachers go above and beyond their role to help where it is needed. It is great group to be involved in as a single parent.

Shelby Nash

It's a wonderful program that has benefited me and my family. It has helped see where Aaliyah is developmentally. I appreciate Early Head Start and everything they have helped our family with.

The MIHOW program means a lot to me. They have helped me out with so much. I couldn't be more grateful to have their help.

Highlights Throughout the Year



Highlights Throughout the Year



"USDA Civil Rights Non-Discrimination Statement"

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by: mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or email: program.intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide a high-quality, family-focused program uniquely designed to prepare children for learning and life.

Vision Statement

"Building foundations for life-long growth and development"

Funded Enrollment

Early Head Start – 120 children birth to 3 years old and pregnant women.

Head Start – 339 children ages 3-5 years old.

MIHOW – 40 children birth to 3 years old and pregnant women.

Child Care Partnership – 72 children birth to 3 years old enrolled in a Child Care Setting.

Head Start Funding Source

United States Department of Health and Human Resources, Administrative for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Office of Head Start

(Report compiled in part based on the requirements of the Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007)

MIHOW Funding Source

The West Virginia Legislature – WV Department of Health and Human Resources

MIECHV Funding Source

The Bureau for Public Health: Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health

Contacts

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304.233.3290 (phone) -- 304.233.3719 (fax)

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