



*Northern Panhandle Head Start, Inc.*

*Engaging Young Children and their Families  
in a Comprehensive Early Childhood Development Program  
Annual Administrative Report 2020-2021*

## *A Message from the Executive Director*

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Policy Council, and staff of Northern Panhandle Head Start, it is an honor to serve the children and families of the northern panhandle communities.

It has been a crazy year for everyone. I know it has been a struggle for everyone in one way or another, either you are at home and have not gotten out or you must be out, and you are not fully comfortable with it.

Although many restrictions are being lifted, we continue to practice social distancing and follow the COVID guidelines/restrictions of wearing our masks, taking temperatures, and using our electrostatic sprayers to clean daily.

Our main goal is to teach and prepare children for life-long learning, growth, and development and we must keep our children and families safe and healthy so they can actively participate in activities and enjoy their learning experiences.

This year we are struggling to achieve full enrollment in our Head Start program, we are funded for 374 Head Start children but have not reached full enrollment this year. We have maintained full enrollment in our Early Head Start program (140) and our Child Care Partnership program which provides services to 72 children. Our MIHOW/MIECHV program can serve up to 40 families. We continue to offer virtual experiences for the children/families that are just not as comfortable with sending their children back to full time classroom experiences.

We have continued to support our staff in their growth and professional development, family engagement and strong community partnerships. Some of the trainings provided this year were Trauma Informed Care, Creative Curriculum, Conscious Discipline, self-wellness, and emergency preparedness in addition to the required annual trainings.

We received money to cover COVID costs in the amount \$691,349. We utilized these funds to purchase supplies for the virtual learning packets, thermometers, dishwashers, washers/dryers, individual learning kits for virtual learning, disposable gloves, masks, air purifiers, awnings, vacuums, new windows, heating and cooling systems, cleaning ductwork, tripods, video cameras and many cleaning/sanitizing supplies to ensure our centers are maintained and sanitized to ensure that we minimize the spread of germs. The health and safety of our staff and children are of the utmost of importance to our agency.

We completed updates to the Pipinos and CLC playgrounds and have purchased a new piece of equipment for the North Park playground and fencing and play shades.

We have utilized technology more than ever this year, we purchased Microsoft 360 and Teams for our virtual platform for staff and parent meetings and trainings, and to conduct home visits and virtual classroom experiences. We purchased new computers for staff so that they did not have to share.

Thank you to our staff and parents for having flexibility and patience while we navigated through this difficult year. Under the circumstances we have had a very successful year and our staff rose to the challenge and provided many supports to the children and families that we serve.

*~ Cathy Williams, B.S., MSSL, Executive Director*

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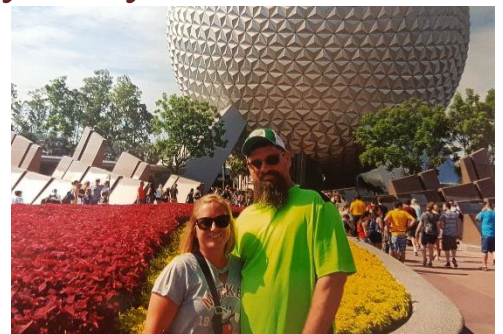
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## *Hello, my name is, Megan Smith this is my story.*

Hi! My name is Megan Smith. I have been employed with Northern Panhandle Head Start for 13 year. One of my friends was working here at the time and called me to see if I would be interested in a teaching position. I started out as a Teacher in the 3-year-old classroom at Pipinos and then moved on to Program Assistant for Hancock and Brooke Counties.

I have been married for 13 years, I have one stepson, 3 granddaughters, 3 nephews, and 2 fur babies. In my spare time I enjoy spending time with my family, being outdoors, and vacationing in Florida. One activity we enjoy and look forward to every year is scalloping.

I am looking forward to many more years with NPHS and helping to support the children and families that we serve.



*~ Megan Smith, Hancock/Brooke County Program Assistant*

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## *Parent Testimonial*

Head Start/Early Head Start HAS changed my life. Five out of my six kids have attended Head Start – which is a great start to giving an education to a child. At one point many years ago, I even worked for Head Start and was even taking the classes to get my CDA. I have truly enjoyed this program for 14 years.

Head Start has helped my family throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic by always reaching out to see what they can do to help (if it was ever needed). Not only did they never give up on trying to make sure the children were cared for, but they provided fun ways for my child to still learn and stay socially active while staying at home....with homework sheets, daily dressing ups, activity projects to make being delivered, and TABLET time! I feel like my child did not miss a beat because there were so diligent. Thank you! All you great people have made a great program. ~ KaTeashia Dalton

## Program Information Report Outcomes for 2019-2020

(Due to the COVID – 19 Pandemic no Head Start agency was required to submit the Program Information Report for the 2019-2020 program year.



### Annual Budget ~

The Head Start and Early Head Start program received \$6,809,327 to provide services for pregnant women and children ages birth to 5 during the operating period of July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021. We also received COVID-19 funding of \$451,707. The non-federal share (or local in-kind match) was \$1,632,447. Maternal Infant Health Outreach Worker (MIHOW) program (Ohio County) received \$68,000 to operate during the same period. Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) received \$100,000. The Child Care Partnership received \$1,411,218 for the period of July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021. We also received COVID-19 funding of \$63,274. The non-federal share (or local in-kind match) was \$325,888.

### 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 conducted the week of April 19, 2021, we will not have results until early June 2021. In June of 2019 we were informed that we had to re-compete for our grant. Our original grant was extended for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. We uploaded our re-competition grant on November 7, 2019. We were notified on June 12, 2020 that we were awarded the re-competition grant for a period of five years (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2025). We are so excited to have our grant back so that we can continue to serve

the children and families of our communities.

### Fiscal Audit ~

The annual independent audit was performed by Zeno, Pockl, Lilly and Copeland, A.C. – 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 January 28, 2021 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, 2020.

The audit included the following statement of activities for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2020:

<u>REVENUE</u>	
Federal Assistance	\$8,126,415
USDA Meal Reimbursement	160,482
MIHOW Grant	68,000
MIECHV Grant	47,448
Fee for Service income	223,696
Food Basket donations	4,157
Other Income and refunds	72,047
Investment income	-2,120
Interest income	122
In-kind revenue	<u>1,016,122</u>
Total Revenue	\$9,716,369
<u>EXPENSES</u>	
Program	\$8,315,259
Administration	<u>877,612</u>
Total Expenses	\$9,192,871

~ fiscal data compiled by  
Edith Schuler, Fiscal Manager

### Community Assessment

#### Summary ~

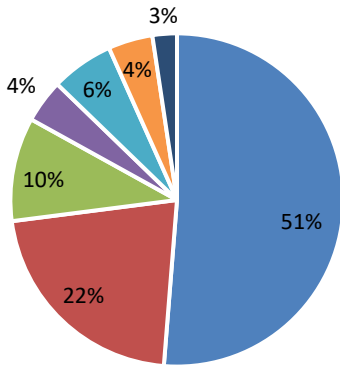
NPBS is currently funded to serve 626 children throughout Hancock, Brooke, Ohio, Marshall, and Wetzel Counties in West Virginia. NPBS provides Early Head Start, Head Start, Child Care Partnership and Home Visiting services through MIHOW & MIECHV. An annual Community Assessment is completed and updated yearly with an in-depth assessment taking place every 5 years. This report shows that all five counties have seen a steady 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 NPBS serves are considered High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas. The Northern

Panhandle which consists of all five of the counties NPBS serves has the highest NAS rate in the state. Parental Substance Abuse is the leading cause of children being removed from their homes and placed in Foster Care. COVID-19 has caused a reduction in the number of Child Abuse & Neglect Reports made due to the state implementing Stay at Home Orders which took children out of the classrooms. The number of children estimated to be eligible for our services has declined with exception of Brooke County. 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 also declined in four of the five counties. Unemployment rates in each of the five counties is higher than reported the previous year. Four of the five counties reported an unemployment rate that is higher than the statewide average of 6.3%. The state has also seen increases in the number of children who are experiencing homelessness. Health outcomes for the state of West Virginia continue to be poor with the state holding the second highest rate of obesity in the nation. Along with the highest rates of hypertension, diabetes, and depression. Due to recent closures of two local hospitals children and families have lost access to Mental Health services. The agency has a contract with the Village Network to provide Mental Health Services to the children and families enrolled in our program. Two 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 provide services to families through collaborative classrooms. As well as partnerships with five local daycares located in four of the five counties. West Virginia was named a high-risk state during the COVID-19 pandemic due to the overall poor health outcomes and ageing population of the state. COVID-19 vaccines are now readily available to all citizens ages 16-and older.

~Community Assessment data compiled by  
Ashley Benson, Administrative Assistant  
The full Community Assessment can be  
provided by request.

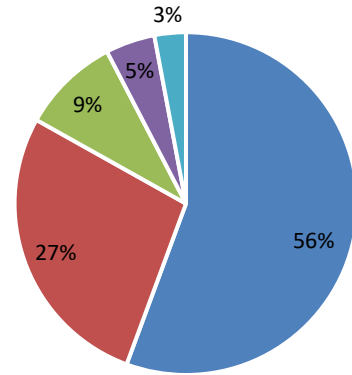
Approved Budget Heat Start & Early Head Start  
Start 7/1/2020 - 6/30/2021

- Personnel
- Fringe Benefits
- Other
- Contractual
- COVID-19
- Supplies
- Additional COVID-19



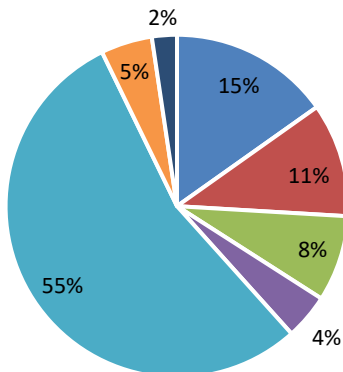
Projected Budget Heat Start & Early Head Start  
7/1/2021 - 6/30/2022

- Personnel
- Fringe Benefits
- Other
- Contractual
- Supplies



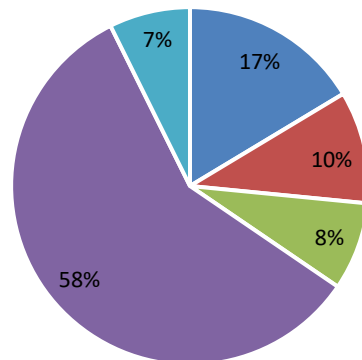
Approved Budget Child Care Partnerships 7/01/2020 - 6/30/2021

- Personnel
- Fringe Benefits
- Other
- COVID-19
- Contractual
- Supplies
- Equipment



Projected Budget Child Care Partnerships 7/1/2021 - 6/30/2022

- Personnel
- Fringe Benefits
- Other
- Contractual
- Supplies



# Child Development Outcomes & School Readiness

**NPBS 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 2020-2021.

Domain	Fall Scores	Winter Scores	% of Gain
Math/Science	1.7	2.5	47.05%
Social/Emotional	2.2	2.9	31.81%
Language/Literacy	1.9	2.6	36.84%
Physical Health & Dev.	2.4	3.1	29.16%
Approaches to Learning	1.9	2.7	42.10%

**Special Populations** - ELRS growth from fall to winter in all Domains (rating from 1-5)

Children in Homeless Situations: 2.2>2.8; Children in Foster Care: 1.8>2.2, Children with an IEP: 1.9>2.4

\*Due to the COVID-19, the winter to spring ELRS data were not completed in time for this report. The checkpoint was delayed until late May 2021.

**Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS)** measures the interactions between teachers and students in the domains of Emotional Support, Classroom Organization, and Instructional Support.

NPBS SCORES IN THE FALL OF 2020-2021 (Rating 1-7) *			
	Emotional Support	Classroom Organization	Instructional Support
NPBS & Collaborative Classrooms	6.15	5.73	3.04
*Due to the COVID-19, the spring CLASS observations for 2020-2021 for one collaborative site and our Head Start classrooms were not completed in time for this report. We are exceeding the national average in Emotional Support. We are just under the national average for classroom organization (to be expected with children in and out during closures for COVID-19 and children learning at home). We were higher in Instructional Support.			
NATIONAL SCORES AT THE END OF 2020 (RATING 1-7)			
	Emotional Support	Classroom Organization	Instructional Support
NATIONAL SCORES	6.03	5.78	2.94

~ Amber Boring, Education & Training Manager

## Early Head Start (serving pregnant women and families with children ages birth to three)

The Early Head Start program is fortunate to have active partners throughout the service area that enhance the quality of comprehensive services to children and families.

During the 2020-2021 school year EHS has enrolled eighteen prenatal mothers. Currently, three of the prenatal mothers are currently pregnant and eleven of those newborns have remained enrolled in the EHS program this year. Four of the eighteen either withdrew before the child was born or right after delivery.

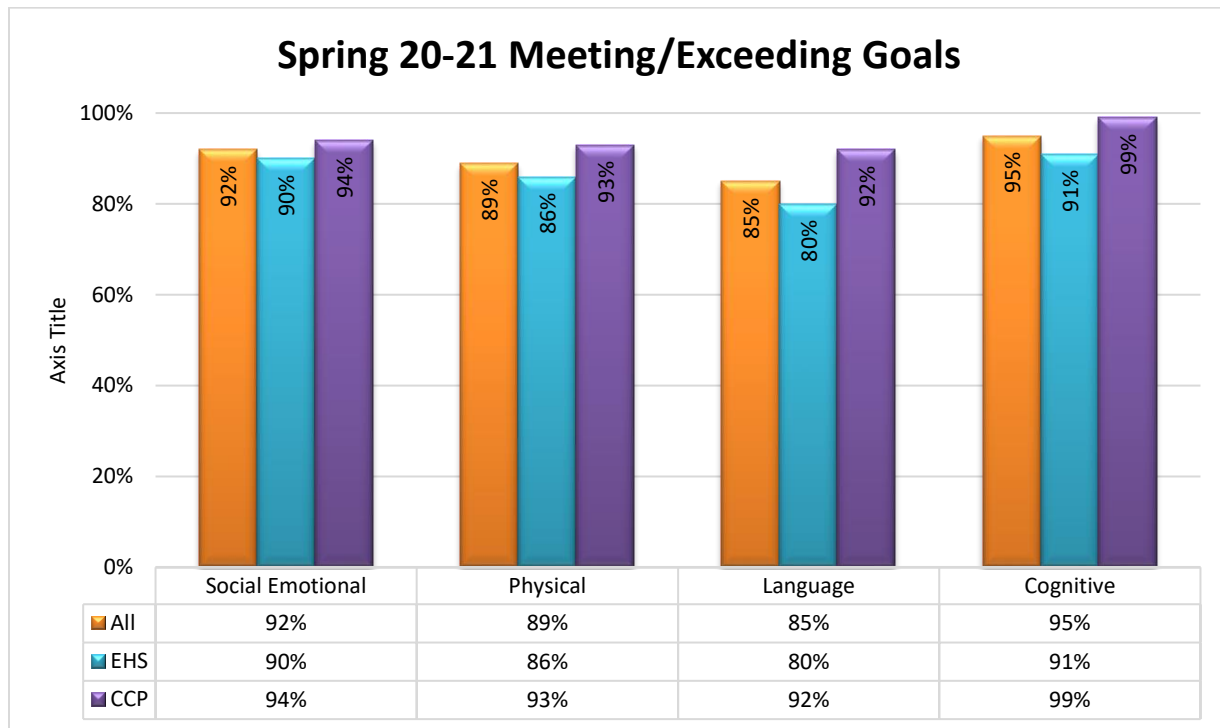
The Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership Program provides Early Head Start services to families attending child care centers. NPBS collaborates with five child care centers in the northern panhandle. Our current partners include The Children's Academy LLC in Hancock County, Little Bear of Weirton in Brooke County, Noah's Ark in Ohio County, Glen Dale Child Development Center and Higher Hills Children's Center in Marshall County. There have been 55 childcare 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 72% child care subsidy funding for the 72 enrolled children.

School Readiness Goals for EHS and CCP are measured through 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 for Winter and Spring.



SRG Domains	Social & Emotional		Cognition & General Knowledge		Language & Literacy		Physical Health & Development		Approaches to Learning	
	Winter	Spring	Winter	Spring	Winter	Spring	Winter	Spring	Winter	Spring
EHS	91%	93%	94%	95%	87%	86%	91%	93%	93%	94%
CCP	91%	96%	96%	96%	88%	95%	89%	96%	94%	96%

The 2020-2021 program year has shown an overall increase in most developmental areas measured. The chart below outlines the percentage of children in Early Head Start and the Child Care Partnership that are meeting or exceeding age-appropriate developmental goals for the current Spring checkpoint.



~Beth Prettyman, MSSL, Early Head Start Manager

## 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 ages birth through five. We use the results of these screenings to refer children to local education agencies who provide early intervention and special needs services. Currently, 35 Head Start children (ages 3-5) have been identified to receive special education services from the county schools (Individualized Education Plan – IEP), while 34 children (under 3 years old) in the Early Head Start program are being served by West Virginia Birth to Three under an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). There are also 9 children enrolled in our Child Care Partnerships programs who are receiving services from West Virginia Birth to Three as well.

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. To date, 6 children have been referred for individualized mental health support through the Village Network program. When a family with multiple children is referred, all the children receive support and benefit from the strategies provided. Currently 6 children are receiving a combination of classroom support, home visits and counselling from the Village Network. These 6 include 5 Head Start children, 1 Early Head Start child and 0 Child Care Partnership children.



~ Amanda Huntsman, Child Development/Disabilities Coordinator

# Family and Community Engagement

**Family Involvement:** Parent Meetings and Trainings – Due to the pandemic, parent activities have become virtual events. Parents participate in monthly virtual parent meetings to discuss classroom activities, offer suggestions to enhance the program, as well as to socialize with one another.

NPHS also offers trainings/workshops/Conscious Discipline parenting for parents based on their input and expressed interests. Additionally, based on staff participation on many local committees, community-wide issues can be discussed among the parent groups. Examples have included: Child abuse & neglect, homelessness, foster care, basic first aid, nutrition, Harmony House, YWCA, Sexual Assault Help Center, substance abuse and treatment options, budgeting, and healthy lifestyles. The staff also work individually with parents, as needed, on such issues as: resume' writing, job interview tips, domestic violence prevention, obtaining a driver's license, and obtaining a GED.



**The success of our program depends on parent involvement:** As of April 27, 2021, 527 volunteers (parents, family members and community members) have provided 37,105.16 hours collectively! These totals equal \$914,361.23! These volunteers have participated in Policy Council, parent meetings, completion of daily activity sheets, to name a few things.

**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, the collection of pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House, and community clean-up projects.

~ Janel Armstrong, B.S., L.S.W. Family & Community Partnerships Manager

## Parent Testimonials

Early Head Start has changed my life by allowing my child to start his early learning and for me to finish my GED and graduate.  
~ Makenna Passarello

They are willing to bring work/supplies to our home so that my daughters can participate in schoolwork activities from home!  
~ Rachell Weeks

The workers have provided several virtual learning and home-based activities to allow my child's continued educational development during the pandemic. They have been safe and precautious in all interactions properly adhering to mask mandates and social distancing standards. ~ Alexander Davis

I cannot even put into words how much Head Start has changed our lives. Because of Head Start I am able to have a career and go to school which otherwise would not have been possible. Before Head Start, I was struggling to pay for child care and pay for rent/groceries. We made to much for other assistance, but we were not making ends meet. I went through depression because I felt like a failure as a mother. Head Start saved us. ~ CCP Parent

It's been nice having people believe in me again. ~ MIHOW Parent

Because of this I was able to go back to school to better my and my sons' lives. It also helped me appreciate and understand more the struggles not only parents go through but child care providers face, specifically in a pandemic. ~ Bethany Gilmer

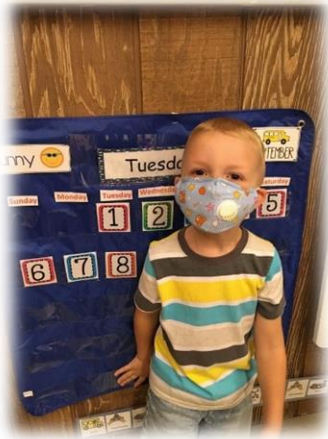
When we were out of school due to the pandemic, both parents and teachers alike had the goal of getting the children back into the classroom. The teacher ensured to hand deliver packets of worksheets for the children to do and held open plenty of virtual meetings with content that could ensure the children were still getting quality learning material. ~ Corinne Troxell

MIHOW has helped me to be a better mom. Giving me tips and pointers as well as helping me with my own self-care and mental health. ~ Tiffany Henderson

Helped keep my child safe and healthy. Keeps environment clean and sanitized. Take precautions. Always made sure that my child had what he needed or if my family needed anything. ~ Helcia Dickson

It means I have access to resources and information I need to give my kids the BEST chance at a happy and healthy childhood. Also, the support I feel is wonderful. ~ Katie Ridler

Very very helpful! I was not sure about virtual school, but they made it so easy and they are so helpful ~ Head Start Parent





## *Individual Benefactors*

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+NPHS Inc. Board of Directors

Hilda Blake  
Vicki Flink+  
Kevin McGlilton  
Linda Myers+  
Dr. Michael Pipo  
Cheche Price  
Eleanor White+  
Cathy Williams\*

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Executive Director

Jackie Bell,  
Assistant Director

Melissa Frye,  
Human Resources Manager

Amber Boring,  
Education & Training Manager

Gina Angelo,  
Head Start Manager

Beth Prettyman,  
Early Head Start Manager

Janel Armstrong,  
Family & Community Partnerships Manager

Edith Schuler,  
Fiscal Manager

Ashley Benson,  
Administrative Assistant



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This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

#### ***Funded Enrollment***

***Early Head Start*** – 140 children birth to 3 years old and pregnant women.

***Head Start*** – 374 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

#### ***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"



#### ***Contacts***

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1.877.732.3307 (toll free)  
[www.npheadstart.org](http://www.npheadstart.org) -- [info@npheadstart.org](mailto:info@npheadstart.org)

(SPECIAL NOTE: The content of this report is not all inclusive of the activities undertaken by this agency, however, provides a brief overview.)