



Fairfax County

# Head Start/Early Head Start Program

## 2022 Annual Report

### Head Start Mission

The Fairfax County Head Start program promotes school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through the provision of culturally inclusive education, health, nutrition, social and other



# Overview

The Fairfax County Office for Children Head Start and Early Head Start program (HS/EHS) provides early care and education and comprehensive family services to income-eligible families in Early Head Start, which serves infants, toddlers and pregnant women, and Head Start, which serves children ages 3 to 5 years. Head Start services are designed to meet the needs of the children and families within the cultural context of their family, school, and community. This cultural context is an important factor in the development of critical life skills vital to children’s readiness for kindergarten, success in school and lifelong well-being.

The federal Head Start and Early Head Start grants are awarded to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. Fairfax County Public Schools and Higher Horizons Day Care Center, Inc. are delegates that manage and operate programs. Services are provided in family homes, family child care provider homes, and in classrooms.

Families participating in the program are supported with:

- Early childhood education and disability services.
- Social services.
- Connections to community resources.
- Health services (medical, dental, nutrition, mental health and prenatal care).
- Parenting curriculum.
- Family literacy and resources for English language learners.

## Financials FY 2022 Total Funds: \$41.51 million

### SOURCE AMOUNT

- U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services  
\$10.1 million
- U.S. Dept. of Agriculture/Virginia Dept. of Health  
\$1.6 million
- Local County Board  
\$9.8 million
- Local School District  
\$11.7 million
- Virginia Department of Education  
\$5.9 million
- In-Kind  
\$2.41 million

FY 2022 Budget and Actual Expenditures		
	Budget	Actual
Delegate	63.88 %	60.50%
Personnel	10.04%	9.24%
Contractual	18.70%	23.24%
Fringe benefits	4.90%	4.83%
Other	.99%	.76%
Supplies	1.43%	1.37%
Travel	.07%	.06%
Equipment	.00%	.00%
Facilities/Construction	.00%	.00%

*Fairfax County’s Head Start program braids multiple funding streams (federal, state and local) to comprehensively serve the children. Fairfax county’s financial statements have been audited as required by the Code of Virginia and received an unmodified opinion by the accounting firm of Cherry Bekaert LLP. The Single Audit Report contains the independent auditor’s reports related specifically to the single audit. There were no findings related to the Head Start Programs in the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) of the County of Fairfax, Virginia for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022.*



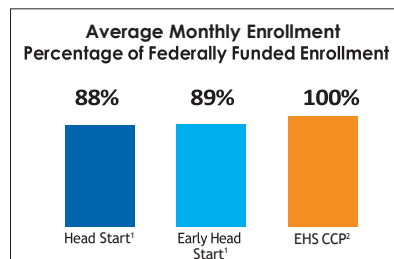
## Number of Children Served

The Fairfax County Office for Children Head Start and Early Head Start program provides services at Greater Mount Vernon Community Head Start in Alexandria, Higher Horizons Day Care Center, Inc. in Bailey's Crossroads, Fairfax County Public Schools, and family child care homes throughout the county. Federal, state, and local dollars fund early education programs throughout Fairfax County.

Program options include center based (children are in a classroom setting), home based (services are provided by a home visitor in the family's home), and family child care (children are cared for by a county-permitted and/or state-licensed provider in the provider's home). Children in Fairfax County Public Schools' Head Start program attend a school year program. All other options are year-round programs.

A total of 799 federally funded Head Start and Early Head Start children and 669 families were served during the 2021-2022 program year.

## Federal Enrollment



The program is required to report the average monthly enrollment for federally funded slots.

<sup>1</sup> Grant 03CH012068 - Head Start and Early Head Start

<sup>2</sup> Grant 03HP000205 - Early Head Start Child Care Partnership and Expansion

## Most recent Secretary and Financial Audit

From May 17 - 21, 2021 the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) conducted a Focus Area One (FA1) monitoring review of the County of Fairfax Head Start and Early Head Start programs.

The following areas were reviewed.

- Program Design, Management, and Quality Improvement
- Designing Quality Education and Child Development Program Services
- Designing Quality Health Program Services
- Designing Quality Family and Community Engagement Services
- Developing Effective Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment, and Attendance (ERSEA) Strategies and Fiscal Infrastructure

All areas were in compliance, with no areas of concern or deficiency.



## Health Services

Percentage of federally funded children that received medical and dental exams during the 2021-2022 program year:

**Health:** 55% up to date on EPSDT

**Dental screenings and exams:** 74%

- Screenings for EHS children - 76%
- Exams for HS children - 71%

As physical well-being contributes to a child's readiness for school, Head Start places a strong emphasis on the overall health and well-being of the children served. Head Start and Early Head Start provides developmental and health screenings for children during enrollment, and health and family services staff follow up with families to ensure medical and dental treatments are received.



## Family Engagement

Families continue to participate in health fairs, meetings, and events hosted by each program. The return of on-site events has provided staff and parents an opportunity to share resources and have more conversations as a group, encouraging peer support. Family outcome data showed an increase from beginning of the year assessments to end of year assessments in the areas of Families as Educators, Families as Learners, Family Connections to Peers, and Families as Leaders/Advocates.

Parents expressed interest in increasing their financial literacy knowledge and improving their resume writing skills. Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC) provided courses in financial literacy (using the Prosperity Agenda's Money Mindset Cards as the curriculum), and courses in resume writing and job search strategies to Head Start/Early Head Start parents through two cohorts: one in English and one in Spanish. Loaner laptops were available to parents in need of a device for participation. Positive feedback was received from all participants and more cohorts will be offered throughout the upcoming program year.

*"The financial literacy course provided by the Head Start program was a wonderful experience. We received great guidance and tips and we found a safe space where we could share concerns and find knowledgeable answers."*

- Ana Salas, GMV HS/EHS parent.



Families across all programs were encouraged to participate in ReadyRosie, an evidence-informed and research-based family engagement and early learning resource based on the latest research in child development. This program provides foundational parenting practices.



# Preparing Children for Kindergarten

**School Readiness** — *Preparing all children for kindergarten by supporting birth to age-five programming, including early intervention services.*

At the end of program year 2021-22, 1,691 Pre-K children, including 251 federally funded Head Start children, transitioned to kindergarten. To assist with successful transitions, key classroom practices include the use of high-quality curriculum and assessment, intentional teacher-child interactions, individualized professional development, and strengthening family engagement. To help ensure readiness for kindergarten, the program assesses PreK/HS children's literacy and phonological awareness using the PreK Language & Literacy Screener for all rising kindergartners. Additionally, teacher credentials and experience are important factors impacting the quality of pre-kindergarten programs. All teacher and FCC partners meet credentialing requirements.

## **VQB5 Participation in the state's Early Childhood system**

To prepare children for kindergarten, Virginia developed the Unified Virginia Quality Birth to Five System (VQB5) to measure and help improve the quality of all publicly funded birth-to-five classrooms and family child care homes. The system is designed to increase families' access to quality care across program options. Program Year 2021-2022 was Practice Year 2 of VQB5, allowing programs to voluntarily participate. All programs across the commonwealth will be required by law to participate starting in August 2023. In PY21-22, all HS/PreK/EHS programs and center-based options actively participated in Practice Year 2.

## **Classroom Assessment Scoring System**

As one of the VQB5 requirements, learning environments receive Fall and Spring Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) observations. CLASS is a nationally recognized standardized assessment tool that measures teacher/child interactions and the emotional and instructional climate of the classroom. In PY 21-22, all Head Start and Early Head Start environments received CLASS observations.



## Child Assessment Data

Teachers use child assessment information to develop lesson plans and individualize each child's learning. There are two curricula and assessment tools used in the Pre-K/HS program. Teaching Strategies GOLD is used with the Creative Curriculum at Greater Mt. Vernon Community HS/EHS, Higher Horizons Day Care Center HS/EHS, FCPS EHS, and FCC-EHS. The Early Childhood Rubric assessment system is used with the Pre-K Program of Studies at FCPS. Teachers observe, document, and evaluate each child's progress on an ongoing basis and enter developmental level scores at specified checkpoints during the year. Child assessment data is used for ongoing planning, to determine professional development, and to track school readiness goals. All programs' School Readiness Goals have remained the same. Assessment data demonstrated that indicators of children's growth increased or stayed the same across all areas of development. Based on the results, professional development focuses on social-emotional learning, supporting children with challenging behaviors, dual-language learners, intentional integration of literacy skills, and curriculum fidelity.

## Services for Children with Special Needs

Head Start programs must ensure that at least 10% of funded enrollment serves children eligible for disabilities services. In PY 2021-22, children with disabilities made up 12% of federally funded PreK/HS/EHS enrollment. Of that number, 82% were diagnosed with non-categorical/development delay, 7% with speech or language impairment, 4% with autism, and 5% with orthopedic impairment. The program screens all children for overall development of sensory, auditory, behavioral, motor, language, social, cognitive, perceptual, and emotional skills within 45 days of enrollment. The program has an Interagency Agreement with the Fairfax County Public Schools' Early Childhood Special Education program and a Service Agreement with Infant & Toddler Connection. These agreements help ensure timely referrals and full implementation of special education and intervention services.

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# Shared Governance

The Head Start Policy Council and Fairfax County Board of Supervisors share decision-making responsibility regarding program goals and plans, setting program policies and procedures, budget allocations and personnel functions. The Board of Supervisors and Policy Council approve the bylaws, the annual self-assessment and shared governance policies; and they review all major program reports and policies including personnel policies, financial policies, major program policies, grant applications, the financial audit, the Program Information Report and the Community Assessment. They are active in program planning and monitoring. The Policy Council is a formal structure of Head Start program governance that provides parents and other community representatives with the responsibility and opportunity to participate in shared decision-making.

## 2022 Board of Supervisors

<b>Chairman</b> Jeffrey McKay	<b>Vice Chairman, Mason District</b> Penelope A. Gross
<b>Braddock</b> James R. Walkinshaw	<b>Mount Vernon</b> Daniel G. Storck
<b>Dranesville</b> John W. Foust	<b>Providence</b> Dalia A. Palchik
<b>Hunter Mill</b> Walter L. Alcorn	<b>Springfield</b> Pat Herrity
<b>Lee</b> Rodney L. Lusk	<b>Sully</b> Kathy L. Smith



## 2022 Head Start Policy Council

Parents of children in Head Start and Early Head Start make up more than half of the membership of the Policy Council. These members are elected by their peers. The remaining members are community representatives. During monthly meetings and trainings, parents and community representatives learn more about changes and opportunities in Fairfax County Head Start and offer their own insights into the future of the program.

## Policy Council Executive Officers

2021-2022	2022-2023
<b>Chairperson</b> Tanya Blackburn	<b>Chairperson</b> Susan Alward
<b>Vice Chairperson</b> Shayna Brunson	<b>Vice Chairperson</b> Bamaa Dvorakava
<b>Secretary</b> Shart'e McDaniel	<b>Secretary</b> Ana Yamara
<b>Treasurer</b> Ana Salas-Montes	<b>Treasurer</b> Ana Salas-Montes
<b>Parliamentarian</b> Maryum Ilyas	<b>Parliamentarian</b> Salamatu Bangura

# Head Start Helps Prepare Children and Families for Success in School Through:

## Education

- Supporting social and emotional development.
- Developing language and literacy skills.

## Disability Services

- Screening for developmental delays.
- Accessing educational and behavioral services for children with special needs.

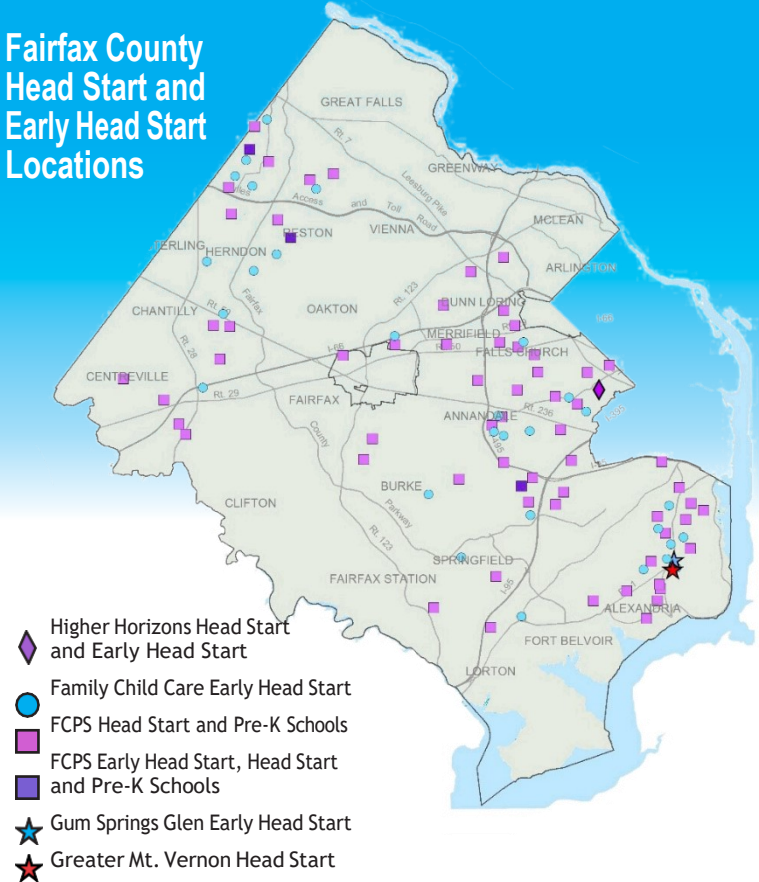
## Wellness

- Accessing healthy meals and snacks.
- Locating prenatal care for pregnant women.
- Connecting families to health care services, including dental and mental health services.

## Family Services

- Parenting Workshops.
- Becoming a Parent Volunteer.
- Job Training, transportation assistance and other community support.

## Fairfax County Head Start and Early Head Start Locations



Fairfax County Office for Children

Neighborhood and Community Services  
12011 Government Center Parkway, Suite 920  
Fairfax, VA 22035

703-324-8000 • [Fairfaxcounty.gov/OFC](http://Fairfaxcounty.gov/OFC)



Where a TTY number is not indicated, use 711/Virginia Relay. Reasonable accommodations made upon request; call 703-324-8290.



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