



Fairfax County

Head Start/Early Head Start Program



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 services to eligible children, their families and pregnant women.

Fairfax County

O F C Office for Children

2018 Annual Report

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 expectant parents, 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).
- Parent education.
- Family literacy and resources for English language learners.

Financials FY 2018 Total Funds: \$36.37 million

SOURCE AMOUNT

- U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services
\$8.88 million
- U.S. Dept. of Agriculture/Virginia Dept. of Health
\$1.84 million
- Local County Board
\$8.92 million
- Local School District
\$9.70 million
- Virginia Department of Education
\$6.61 million
- In-Kind
\$.42 million

FY 2018 Budget and Actual Expenditures

	Budget	Actual
Delegate	77.62%	78.55%
Personnel	12.40%	11.03%
Contractual	4.94%	3.11%
Fringe Benefits	3.80%	5.73%
Other	.64%	.73%
Supplies	.55%	.70%
Travel	.05%	.15%
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, 2018.

Number of Children Served

The Fairfax County Office for Children Head Start and Early Head Start (HS/EHS) 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.

The program is funded with federal, state and local dollars for 2,286 children in program options that 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.

The composition is as follows:

Greater Mount Vernon Community Head Start and Family Child Care

(33 family child care providers)

- 200 Early Head Start (152 family child care, 48 center-based).
- 158 Head Start.

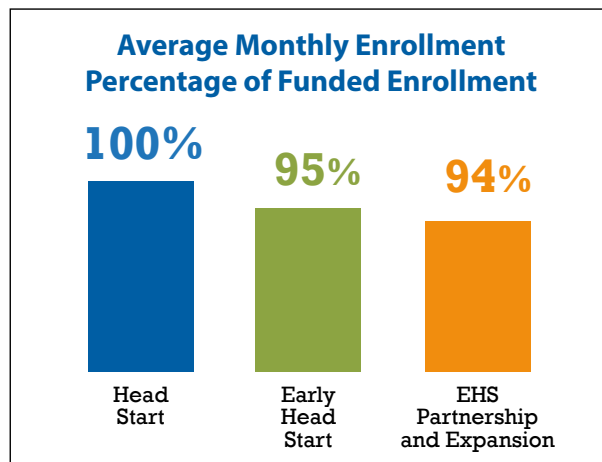
Higher Horizons Day Care Center, Inc.

- 52 Early Head Start (16 center-based, 36 home-based).
- 172 Head Start.

Fairfax County Public Schools

- 48 Early Head Start (center-based).
- 1,656 Head Start/Pre-K.

Enrollment



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



Our Children Our Families

During program year 2017-2018, 2,434 children and 21 pregnant women from 2,257 families were served. Some families have more than one child in the program. Children from single parent families comprise 45% of the enrollment.

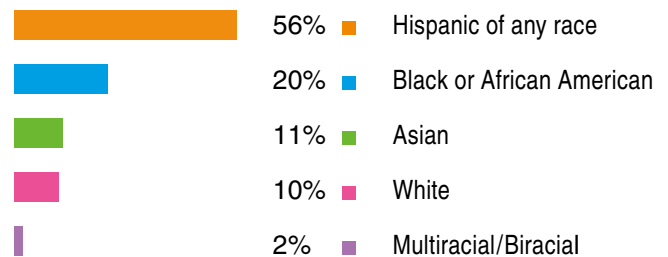
Of the children served in Head Start and Early Head Start, 95% of children were eligible because their families met the income guidelines, and 5% were categorically eligible (TANF/SSI, foster care or homeless).

Enrollment Statistics

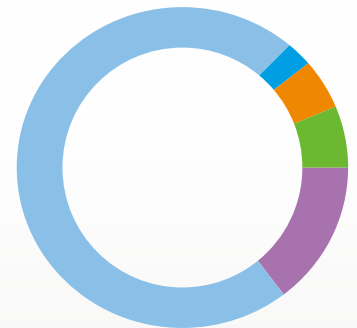
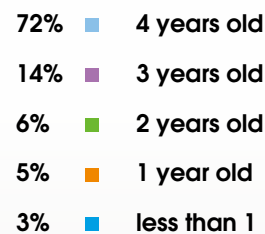
Highest Level of Education by Family	Percent
Advanced/Bachelors	16%
Associate/Vocational/Some College	20%
High School Graduate/GED	31%
Less than High School Graduate	30%
Did not answer	3%

Primary Language at Home	Percent
English	23.4%
Total non-English	76.6%
Spanish	47.2%
Arabic	8.3%
Amharic	4.8%
Urdu	2.5%
Vietnamese	1.4%
Twi-Akan-Ashanti	1.5%
Somali	1.0%
Other non-English	6.4%
Did not answer	3.5%

Race / Ethnicity of Participants



Ages of Children Served in Head Start / Early Head Start



Family Engagement

Engaging parents and families in their child's educational experience is central to Head Start's mission as well as an important element of school readiness. The Head Start family services staff works with parents to develop a Family Partnership Agreement. In the FPA, parents identify their own strengths, needs and interests; craft solutions to problems and issues; nurture the development of their children within their family and culture; and build trusting, collaborative relationships among parents, staff and the community.

As their child's primary teacher and advocate, all parents were provided with health resources and parenting education information during Program Year 2017-18.



“The Head Start program has been an immense blessing to my family. I am confident that my children have a greater chance of succeeding and breaking the cycle of poverty. My experiences have been warm - every member of staff has been like family, I have shared my joys and sorrows with them, they have given me a platform to be myself, provided a shoulder to cry on, above all a friend to lean on. They have given my children the best gift which I could never have been able to give them by myself, which is the gift of education.” – Head Start Parent

Our Teachers and Classrooms

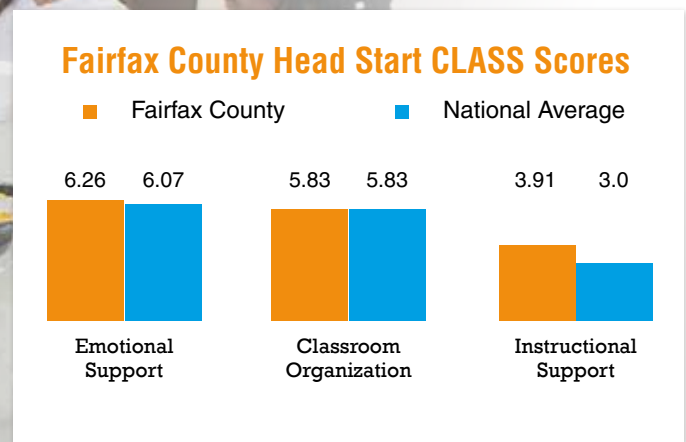
CLASS (Classroom Assessment Scoring System) is a nationally recognized standardized assessment tool that measures teacher/child interactions and the emotional and instructional climate of the classroom. Research indicates that at the preschool level more effective teacher-child interactions are associated with higher scores in vocabulary and math for children about to enter kindergarten (Marshburn et al., 2008). Results from the Pre-K CLASS administered in Fairfax in 2017-2018

were used to support professional development plans for staff including training opportunities and resources for strengthening teacher/child interactions.

By the end of PY 2017-2018, 58 preschool classrooms were observed across the program. Assessments show scores equal to or higher than the national average in all three domains.



Teacher Level of Education	Percent
Master's Degree or Higher	53%
Bachelor's Degree	38%
Associate's Degree	6%
CDA	3%



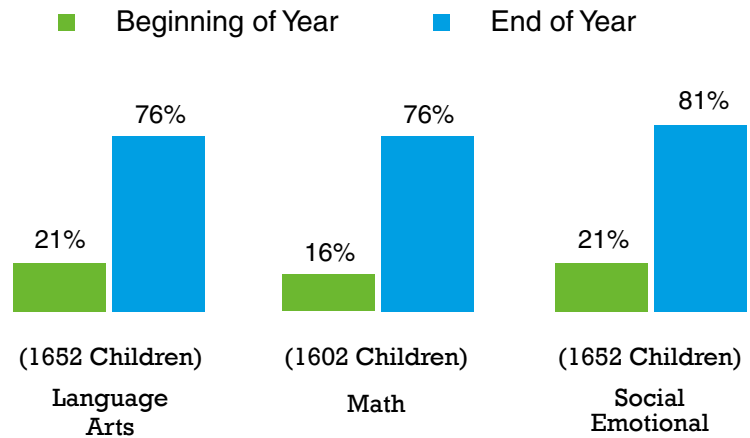
Child Outcomes

Head Start programs prepare children to succeed in school. In PY 17-18, 1,682 children transitioned from Head Start/Pre-K to kindergarten. Teachers observed, documented and evaluated each child's progress on an ongoing basis and entered developmental level scores at specified checkpoints during the year. Teachers used the assessment information to develop lesson plans and individualize each child's learning. There are two curricula and assessment tools used in the Head Start program. The Teaching Strategies GOLD assessment system is used with The Creative Curriculum for Preschool at Greater Mt. Vernon Community Head Start and Higher Horizons Day Care Center, Inc. The Early Childhood Rubric assessment system is used with the Pre-K Program of Studies at FCPS.

Outcome data from both tools indicate that children made substantial progress during the program year.



Four-Year-Olds Meeting Benchmarks for Kindergarten Readiness



Fairfax County Head Start/Pre-K,
Program Year 2017-18

Services

Fairfax County's Head Start disability, health, mental health and nutrition services support school readiness and ensure that health and development issues do not adversely affect children's learning. Screenings and referrals are conducted to identify concerns as early as possible in the life of the child. Staff works with families so that children receive individualized services that promote healthy development.

Services For Children With Special Needs

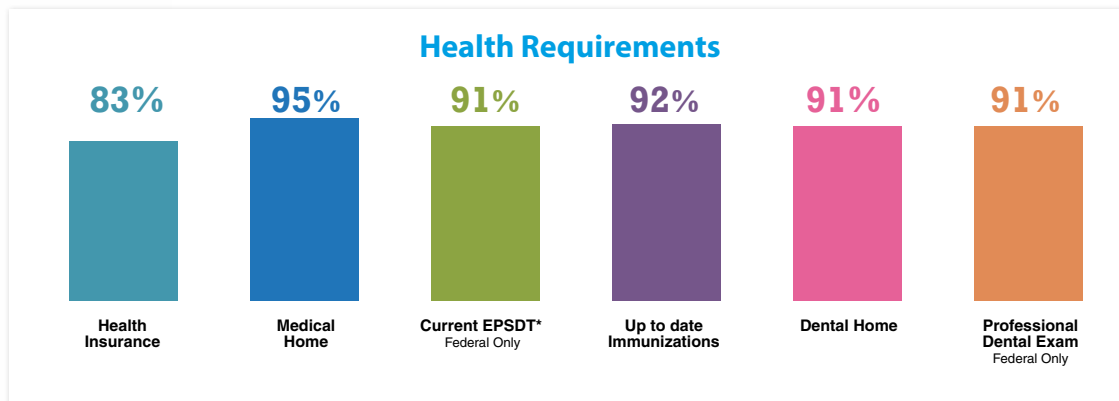
Head Start programs are required to have at least 10% of enrollment composed of children with disabilities. In PY 17-18, children with disabilities made up 10% of federally funded Head Start and Early Head Start enrollment (93 children) and 9% of all programs (282 children). Every child is screened for overall development of sensory, auditory, behavioral, motor, language, social, cognitive, perceptual and emotional skills within 45 days of enrollment. Interagency agreements exist between the program, Infant & Toddler Connection, and Fairfax County Public Schools' Early Childhood Special Education to provide special education services that ensure timely referrals and intervention services.



Health Services

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 provide 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. The chart below provides information on the percentage of children meeting specific health requirements by the end of the year.



** EPSDT is the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment Program geared to the early assessment of children's health care needs through periodic screenings. The goal of EPSDT is to ensure that health problems are diagnosed and treated as early as possible. www.dmas.virginia.gov*

Mental Health Services

Head Start has always recognized that ensuring the healthy development of children includes attention to their mental health. As with physical health, Head Start's primary strategy is to prevent problems by reducing risks and encouraging healthy habits. Each child receives a social-emotional screening when they enter the program to identify any possible need for services, such as skill building, behavior support or counseling services. In the 2017-2018 program year, 148 (6.1%)

children were provided with mental health services through Head Start. Twelve of these children were referred for services within the community. All programs have a qualified mental health professional on site for 10-40 hours each month. Consultation is also available to parents, teachers, family advocates and any other staff working with children.

Our Community

Partners and Volunteers

Head Start collaborates and coordinates with public and private organizations and agencies to improve the availability and quality of services to children and families in the program. Established partnerships have enhanced services to ensure that the program is responding to the needs of the families and community. Partnerships in Fairfax provide families with coats and shoes, food for the holidays, free dental services, books and toys.



Spotlight on Rima Alshawkani

Ms. Alshawkani joined the Fairfax County Policy Council after being voted as a representative of the FCPS Head Start program committee in 2018 and has served as treasurer for the past year. Rima was born and raised in the U.S., but moved to Yemen after college. Unfortunately, because of the war, she had to leave her home behind and re-start her life in Virginia. Her two children attended Head Start. She credits the program as being a stepping stone to getting back on her feet. Head Start provided support to her and her children, including opportunities for professional development, and she has a new job working in finance. Her role as treasurer of the Fairfax County Policy Council was highlighted on her resume.

Recently, she was selected as a parent ambassador for the Virginia Head Start Association. As one of four ambassadors, Rima is expected to encourage advocacy among parents in our Head Start program, collaborate with other parent ambassadors and parent leaders in the EHS/HS community, participate in training at the state level, ultimately lead training at a local level through the Policy Council, and participate in advocacy events when and where possible. She will be traveling to Washington, D.C. for training on advocacy after which she will meet with Virginia representatives and senators on Capitol Hill to showcase how Virginia Head Start supports and enriches the lives of our children and families and educate them on the importance of Head Start in our local communities.

Board of Supervisors



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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.



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.

Head Start Helps Prepare Children 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.

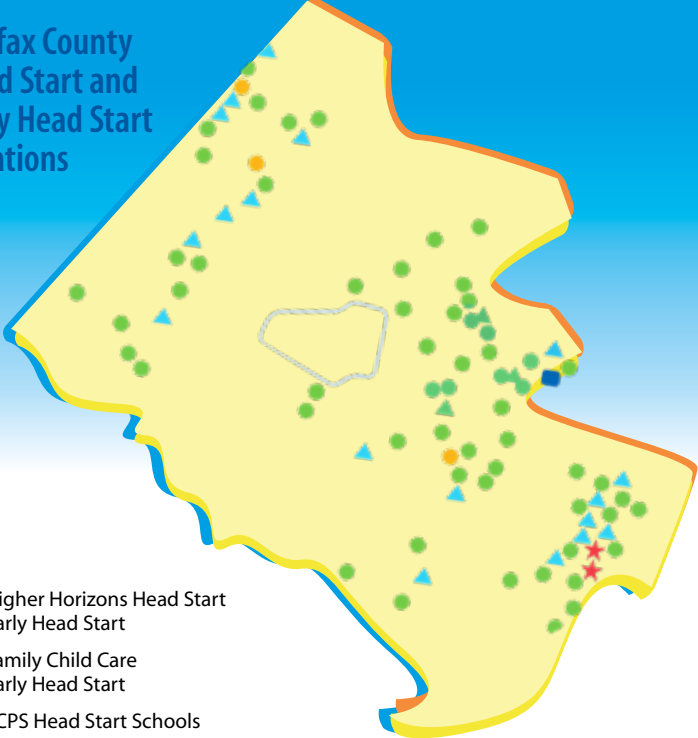
Wellness

- 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

- 
- Higher Horizons Head Start Early Head Start
 - ▲ Family Child Care Early Head Start
 - FCPS Head Start Schools
 - FCPS Early Head Start Schools
 - ★ Gum Springs Glen Early Head Start
 - ★ Greater Mt. Vernon Head Start

Fairfax County

O F C Office for Children

Fairfax County Department of Family Services
12011 Government Center Parkway, Suite 920
Fairfax, VA 22035

703-324-8000 • FairfaxCounty.gov Search "OFC"



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