



Luzerne County Head Start, Inc.

2015 - 2016 *Annual Report*

Serving pregnant women, children birth to age 5, and their families in Luzerne and Wyoming Counties



School Readiness Starts With Health
Our Motto: Children need to be well to do well.

HEAD START CHILDREN ARE HEALTHY AND READY TO LEARN



At Luzerne County Head Start, we work to prepare young children for success in school and in life. Through our hands-on curriculum, children actively learn while they explore and interact with their peers. Our qualified

teachers create a preschool learning experience that allows children to engage and thrive. However, we believe that school readiness encompasses more than just what happens in the classroom. That's why we work closely with families

to connect them with valuable resources and ensure that they have opportunities to be involved in their child's education.



We know that preparing a child for a lifetime of success means ensuring that they are healthy and ready to learn. We believe that a child's health has a direct impact on their educational success, so we take the initiative to connect parents with community resources regarding their child's oral, physical, and mental health needs. We provide developmentally appropriate screenings including vision screenings and hearing screenings so that children enter the classroom prepared to learn. We provide nutritious meals to children each day, and give parents the opportunities to engage in health literacy workshops throughout the school year. Each day we work to make sure that parents and children have the tools to make healthy decisions so that they can continue to succeed.

For over 50 years, Luzerne County Head Start has provided children and families with the tools necessary to be successful. Because research continues to show that a child's first years of life are critical to healthy development, our goal is to provide innovative ways to help children learn. Each day we work to strengthen our community, not only by providing high quality educational opportunities, but also by making sure families have access to the resources they need in order to be healthy. This past year we were able to join with our community partners to host the first community health literacy events in Luzerne County. Through offering various educational opportunities to families concerning their health needs, we stay committed to our mission that children need to be well to do well. Our dedicated staff works tirelessly to support children and families in our program. We are thankful for their hard work as they continue to make positive impacts. We are proud to serve our community and hope you will join us in advocating for children and families.

Lynn Evans Biga
Executive Director

Robert D. Schaub, Esquire
President, Board of Directors

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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MEET OUR HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

In order to successfully provide comprehensive services to children and families, we partner with a wide variety of local agencies. Head Start staff, parents, and health and human service professionals work together in order to meet the health needs of families. Participants may include pediatricians, nurses, dentists, nutritionists, and mental health providers. Members of our Health Advisory Committee include pediatricians, nurses, dentists, nutritionists, audiologists, Early Intervention staff, mental health providers, and other community members who work in the health field.

ALONG WITH LUZERNE COUNTY HEAD START STAFF AND PARENTS, THE 2015-2016 HEALTH ADVISORY MEMBERS INCLUDE:

Dr. Richard Brown
Erica Bozentka
Mary Ehret, R.D.
Gail Ide
Emily Intelicato
Hemali Javia, D.D.S.
Melissa Jesse
Debbie LaFratte, RN
Dr. Gary Lawrence
Marilee McDonough
Traci Muracco
Dr. Brian O'Donnell
Dr. Ruchika Passi
Becky Pawlik, R.D.
Sara Peperno
Joyce A. Ravinskis, R.N.
Deep I. Shah, D.M.D.
Linda Shen, D.D.S.
Delphine Torbik
Ross Wezmar, D.D.S.
James Zeigler, Au.D.



PARENT POLICY COUNCIL

Luzerne County Head Start's Parent Policy Council is one of the components of our shared governance framework, in which parents play an active role in their child's education. Policy Council members are elected by other parents in the program and are involved in program planning and decision-making.

Policy Council Officers

Chairperson
Jennifer Cebrick

Co-Chairperson
Blake Hamacher

Treasurer
Christina Lex

Secretary
Mary Sinibaldi

“We’re very fortunate to have Head Start in our community. They offer children and families comprehensive services to help build strong foundations and a lifetime of success. Staff are passionate about what they do, and the children are well prepared to enter kindergarten.”

– Jennifer Cebrick, Policy Council Chairperson



ENGAGING PARENTS THR

We know that for parents, it can be difficult to make decisions about their child's health needs. We work to provide parents with valuable information about how to make proper health decisions on a regular basis. We help parents understand how to prevent sickness and injuries so that children can attend school regularly, positively impacting their overall performance in school. These efforts improve a family's health literacy, or how well families are able to find, understand, and use valuable resources to make informed decisions regarding health.

HEAD START TO HEALTH

In October 2015, together with the RichSoil Alliance, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of children and families in our community, Luzerne County Head Start held the first "Health Literacy Event" in Luzerne County. Developed by UCLA/Johnson & Johnson Advanced Health Care Institute, the program provides a comprehensive approach to health empowerment for Head Start parents, children and staff. Sponsored by the United Way of Wyoming Valley, Geisinger Health System, and other community donations, local Head Start alumnus, Dave Kuharchik, hosted the first "Head Start to Health" event.

Parents enjoyed a delicious lunch held at the Woodlands Inn while learning how to care for their children when they are sick and when it is appropriate to send them to school. They participated in a hands-on program presented by staff and health professionals from Head Start, Maternal Health & Family Services WIC Program, the PA Dept. of Health, Harrold's Pharmacy, Loren Grossman D.M.D., the American Heart Association, the Family Hearing Center, the Children's Service Center, and other community organizations. The Wilkes-Barre City Health Department dispensed free flu shots. Over 80 Head Start families and community members participated in this community event.



“ This event was great! Head Start offers so many opportunities to get involved. Thank you to those who helped make these events successful. ”

- Beverly Cruz, Head Start Mom

ROUGH HEALTH LITERACY



LOVE THEM PROTECT THEM

Sponsored by PNC Bank and the Grow Up Great initiative, Luzerne County Head Start and the RichSoil Alliance hosted the 2nd Health Literacy event in June 2016. The event took place at King's College, where families learned about home safety prevention, oral health, and summer skin care. Approximately 63 families participated in this hands-on program presented by Head Start staff and health professionals. Head Start alumnus, and local PA Live host, Dave Kuharchik, hosted the event. Geisinger Health System Dermatologist, Dr. Christine E. Cabell provided families with valuable information about summer skin care. Casey Dental Pediatric Dentist and Head Start Board member, Dr. Deep Shah presented information regarding proper dental care for young children, and Head Start Health Specialist, Allyson Leskowsky, BSN discussed ways families can lead healthy lifestyles. Other local agencies provided additional information and sponsored giveaway items. Items included 3 bicycles and helmets donated by the Wilkes-Barre Scranton Penguins partnered with Geisinger Health System, Kohl's Moving4Health, and Paul Lumia, Executive Director/Founder of North Branch Land Trust.



“*Head Start gives my child the chance to interact with kids his age, which is really important. I came to this event because I love to stay involved and volunteer.*”

- Melinda Velasquez

LUZERNE COUNTY HEAD START HEALTH AND DENTAL OUTCOMES

By the end of the school year
Head Start preschool children:

99.7%
had health insurance

99%
had a medical home

96.2%
had a dental home

86.3%
were up to date on immunizations

By the end of the school year
Early Head Start children:

98.6%
had health insurance

98.3%
had a medical home

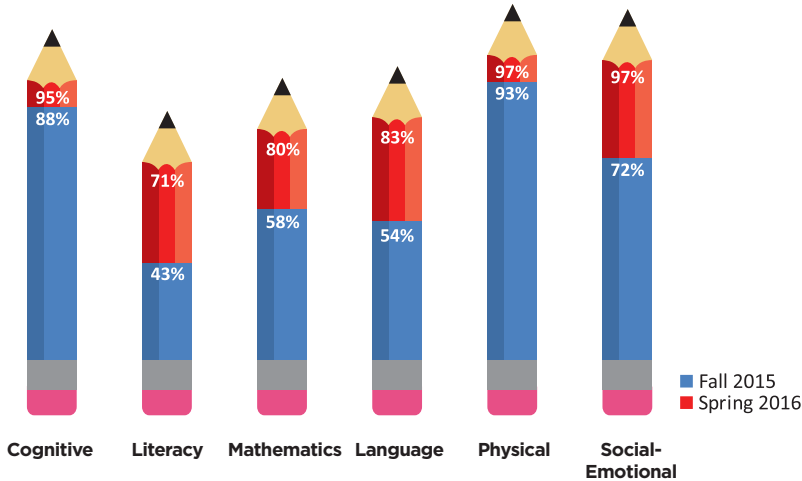
70.8%
had a dental home

89%
were up to date on immunizations

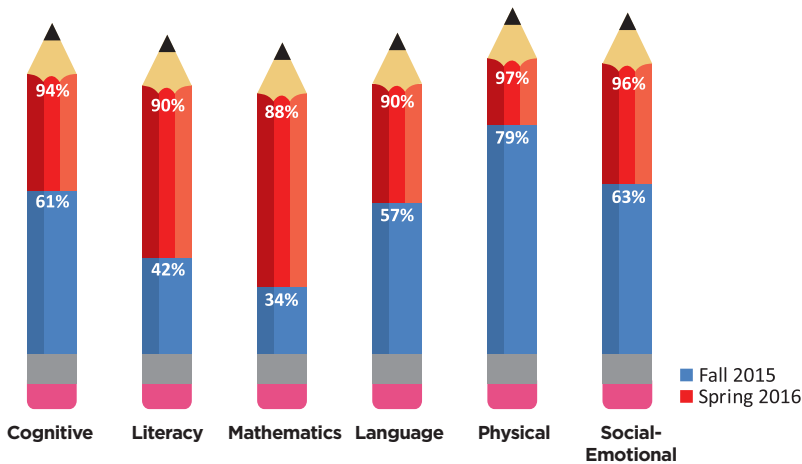
READY FOR SCHOOL, READY TO LEARN

Luzerne County Head Start school readiness goals are outcomes-focused, and they address developmental domains of learning for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.

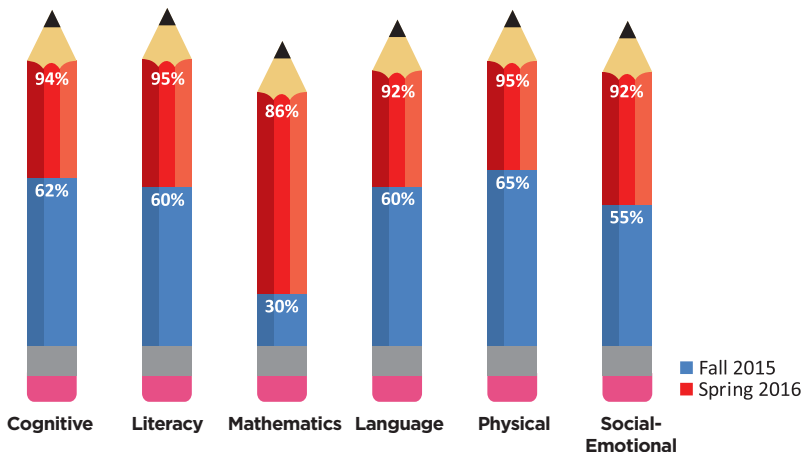
Early Head Start Children 2 To 3 Years
Teaching Strategies GOLD Domain Outcomes 2015-2016
Number of Children: Fall - 74, Spring - 59



Head Start Children 3-Years-Old
Teaching Strategies GOLD Domain Outcomes 2015-2016
Number of Children: Fall - 283, Spring - 331



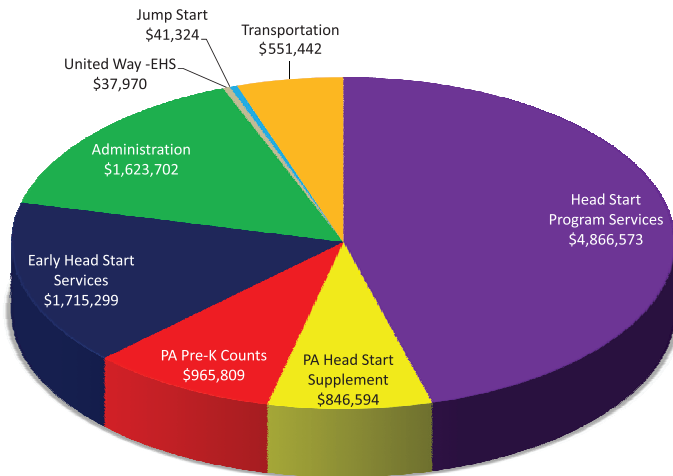
Head Start Children 4-Years-Old
Teaching Strategies GOLD Domain Outcomes 2015-2016
Number of Children: Fall - 552, Spring - 624



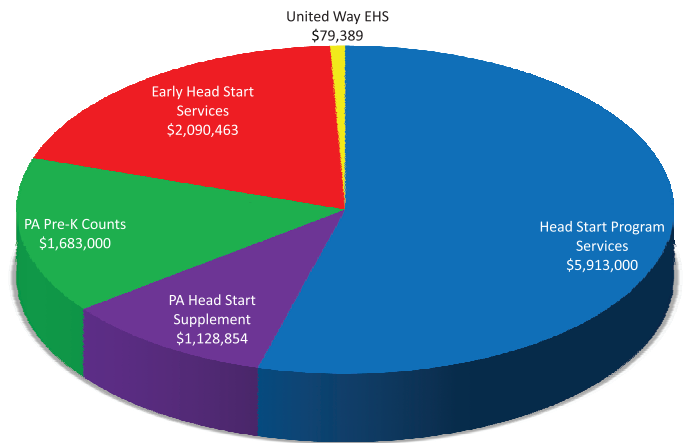
The 2016 Community Indicators Report developed by the Institute for Public & Economic Development states that 3,280 children between the ages of 3 & 4 were served by high quality Pre-K programs. However, 4,830 of eligible children were not enrolled in an early childhood education program. According to the Office of Child Development and Early Learning Reach and Risk Assessment, 26.8% of children under age 5 are living in economically high-risk families with incomes at or below 100% of the federal poverty guidelines.

LUZERNE COUNTY HEAD START, INC.

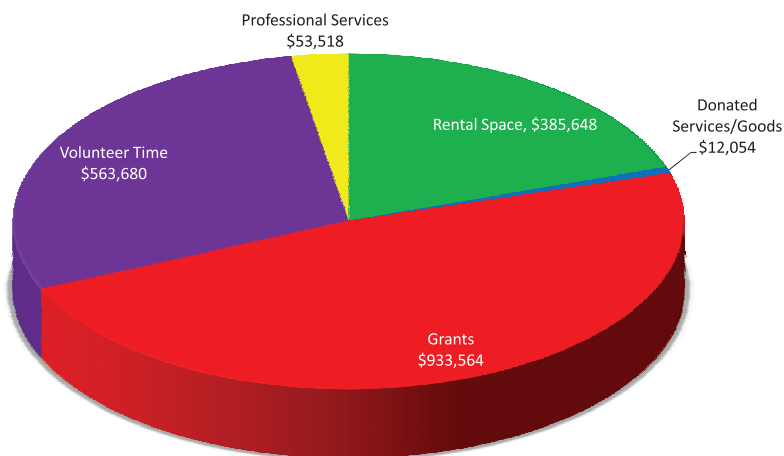
2015 Expenses by Program



2016 Projected Budget by Program Service



2015 Non-Federal Share Sources by Income



DOMAINS OF CLASSROOM QUALITY

Emotional Support

Luzerne County Head Start: 6.60
Head Start National Median: 6.37

Classroom Organization

Luzerne County Head Start: 6.14
Head Start National Median: 6.28

Instructional Support

Luzerne County Head Start: 4.76
Head Start National Median: 3.69

Source: Classroom Assessment Scoring System

RESOURCES

- **Results of the 2015 financial audit of Luzerne County Head Start reported no findings or material weaknesses.**
- **Donations in 2015 totaled approximately: \$79,000**

ACCOUNTABILITY

Federal legislation requires that all Head Start programs receive a comprehensive on-site review each year. Luzerne County Head Start's most recent review was conducted in March 2016. Fifteen areas were found to be in compliance, and two areas were found to be non-compliant. All areas have been corrected.





Luzerne County Head Start, Inc.
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Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702

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2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT

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Luzerne County Head Start, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer.



United Way
of Wyoming Valley

Luzerne County Head Start, Inc.



School Readiness Starts With Health

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Visit www.lchs.hsweb.org to see what we can offer your child.