

Fairfax County

O F C Office for Children

Fairfax County Head Start/Early Head Start Program FY 2017 Annual Report



Head Start Mission

The Fairfax County Head Start and Early 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.



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.

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.

The program is funded with federal, state and local dollars for **2,276** 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 (31 family child care providers)

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

Higher Horizons Day Care Center, Inc.

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

Fairfax County Public Schools

- 48 Early Head Start (center-based).
- 1,646 Head Start/Pre-K.

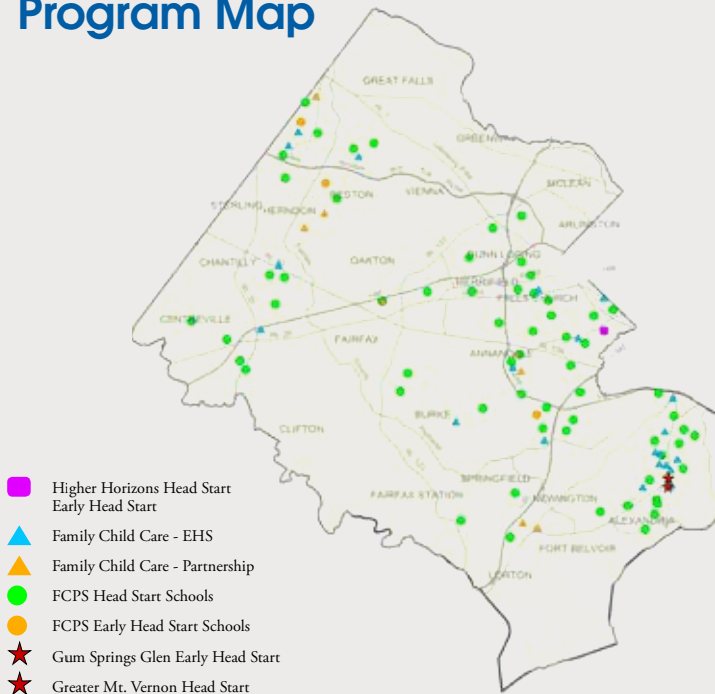
Enrollment

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

Month	HS	EHS	CCP
July 2016	189	236	47
August 2016	188	244	50
September 2016	434	244	56
October 2016	434	244	56
November 2016	434	244	56
December 2016	434	244	56
January 2017	434	244	56
February 2017	434	243	56
March 2017	434	244	56
April 2017	434	244	56
May 2017	434	244	56
June 2017	434	244	56



Head Start and Early Head Start Program Map



Financials

FY 2017 Total Funds: \$35.5 million
Source Amount

- U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services: **\$9.18 million**
- U.S. Dept. of Agriculture/Virginia Dept. of Health: **\$1.81 million**
- Local County Board: **\$8.6 million**
- Local School District: **\$9.01 million**
- Virginia Department of Education: **6.33 million**
- In-Kind: **\$.53 million**

FY 2017 Budget and Actual Expenditure

Category	Budget	Actual
Delegates	78.78%	76.78%
Personnel	12.24%	11.58%
Contractual	3.69%	3.56%
Fringe Benefits	4.31%	5.34%
Other	0.53%	1.00%
Supplies	0.32%	1.13%
Travel	0.12%	0.16%
Equipment	0.00%	0.46%
Facilities/Construction	0.00%	0.00%

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, 2017.

Our Children Our Families

During program year 2016-2017, **2,454** children and 18 pregnant women from 2,282 families were served. Some families have more than one child in the program. Children from one parent families comprise 41% of the enrollment.

Of the children served in Head Start and Early Head Start, 93% of children were eligible because their families met the income guidelines, and 7% were categorically eligible (TANF/SSI, foster care, or homeless).

Enrollment by Age

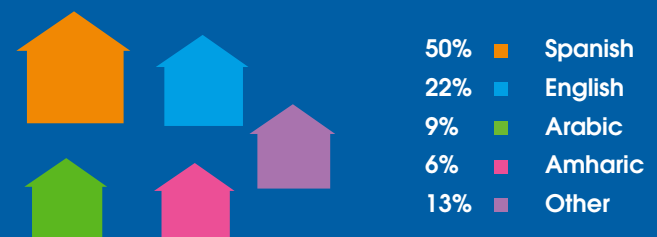
- 72% ■ 4 years old
- 14% ■ 3 years old
- 6% ■ 2 years old
- 5% ■ 1 year old
- 3% ■ less than 1



Highest Level of Education by Family

- 19% Advanced/Bachelor's
- 15% Associate/Vocational/Some College
- 30% High School Graduate/GED
- 33% Less than High School Graduate
- 3% Did not answer

Primary Language in Child's Home



Race/Ethnicity of Children

- 9% Asian
- 23% Black or African American
- 57% Hispanic of any race
- 1% More than one race
- <1% Other/Unspecified
- 9% White

Services

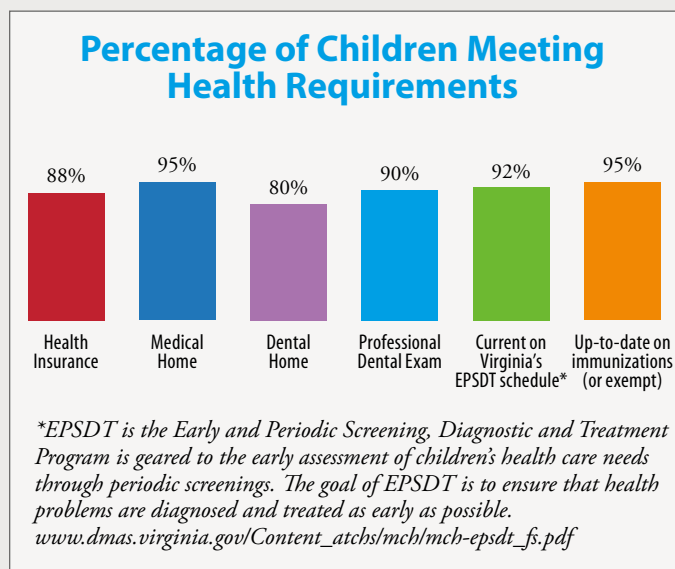
Fairfax County Head Start's services for disabilities, health, mental health and nutrition support school readiness and ensure that health and development issues do not adversely affect children's learning. Screenings and referrals are conducted to identify concerns as early as possible in the life of 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 the enrollment composed of children with disabilities. In PY 16-17, children with disabilities made up 11% of Head Start and Early Head Start enrollment (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.



Head Start Highlights Food Insecurity

The Fairfax County Office for Children Head Start and Early Head Start Program was honored to host a food insecurity panel discussion in September 2016 with special guest Virginia's First Lady, Dorothy McAuliffe. As a result of this discussion and recent American Academy of Pediatrics guidelines for assessment of food insecurity, a collaboration was formed between a local pediatrician, the Fairfax County Office for Children Head Start and Early Head Start program, and the Fairfax County Health Department Maternal and Child Health Home Visiting Program to address child hunger, malnutrition, food insecurity and obesity. Each of these programs piloted a system of assessing their participants for food insecurity and providing their participants with emergency food resources. Partnerships were formed with area food banks and a comprehensive zip code specific food resource referral tool was developed. This tool is now being shared across community agencies.

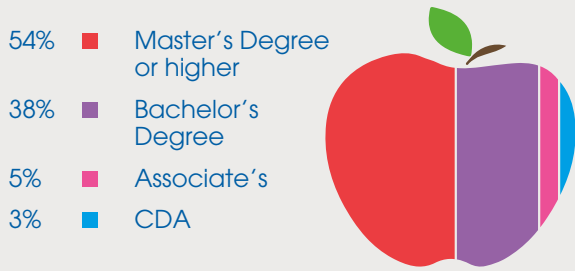


Mental Health Services

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 2016-2017 program year, 161 (6.6%) 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 a month. Consultation is also available to parents, teachers, family advocates and any other staff working with children.

Our Teachers and Classrooms

In Fairfax County, Head Start and Early Head Start teachers have high levels of education.



Classroom Assessment Scoring System

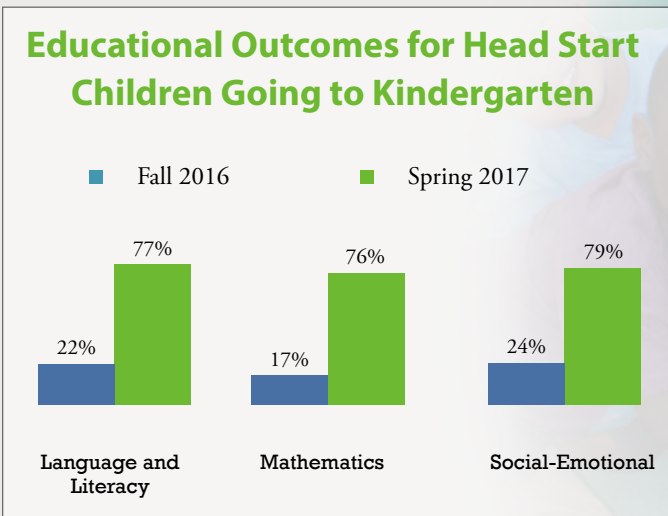
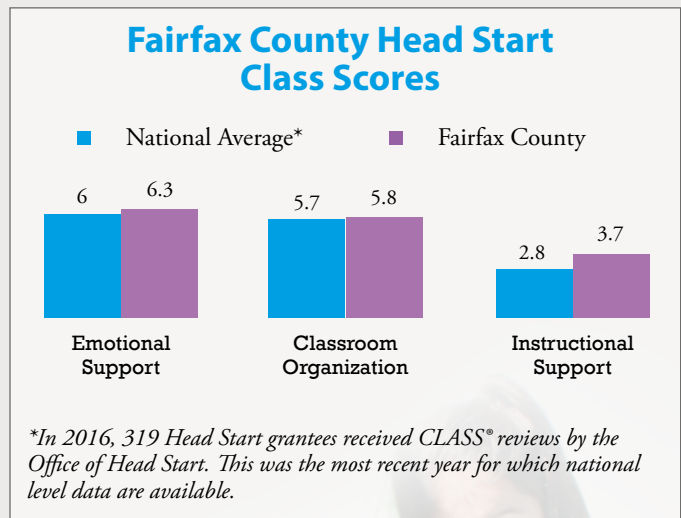
The CLASS (Classroom Assessment Scoring System) is a nationally recognized standardized assessment tool that measures teacher/child interactions and the emotional and instructional climate of the classroom. Research indicates that at the preschool level more effective teacher-child interactions are associated 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 2016-2017 were used to support professional development plans for staff including training opportunities and resources for strengthening teacher/child interactions.

By the end of PY 2016-2017, **64** preschool classrooms were observed across the program. Assessments show scores higher than the national average in all three domains.

Child Outcomes

Head Start programs prepare children to succeed in school. In PY 16-17, 1,615 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 check-points 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.



Our Community

Partners and Volunteers

Head Start collaborates and coordinates with public and private organizations and agencies to improve the availability and quality of service 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.



Fairfax County 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.

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 (FPA). 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 children's primary teacher and advocate, all parents were provided with health resources and parenting education information during Program Year 2016-17.

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.

Board of Supervisors FY 2017

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Dranesville John W. Foust	Providence Linda Q. Smyth
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