

BELIEVE.
ACHIEVE.
SOAR.



2023

HEAD START / EARLY HEAD START
ANNUAL REPORT



— EPISCOPAL —
**Children's
Services**

EPISCOPAL CHILDREN'S SERVICES

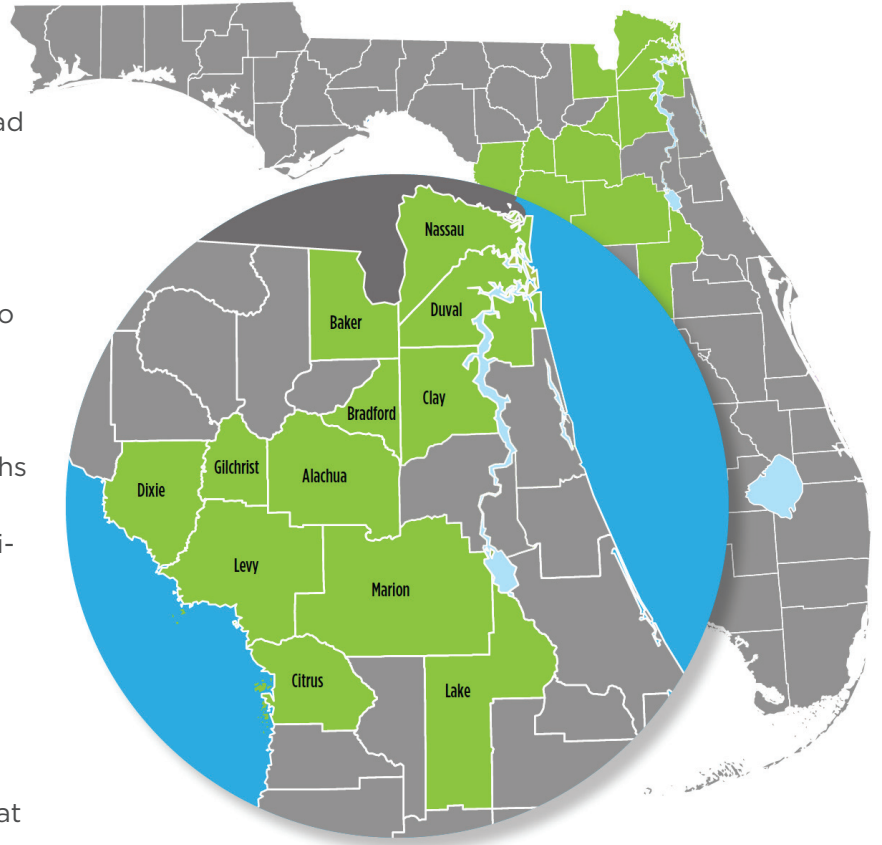
EVERY CHILD DESERVES A STRONG START IN LIFE.

Episcopal Children's Services provides the Head Start and Early Head Start program across twelve counties in North and Central Florida.

Every child has their unique strengths and our program works to develop those strengths into the skills that need for the rest of their lives.

And every member of the team at Episcopal Children's Services brings their unique strengths to our most important work – to provide the best early education possible for our community's most vulnerable children and families.

Our teachers create learning experiences that utilize children's creative and critical thinking so that they become confident to begin kindergarten. Our staff engages with each family that we serve with empathy and respect so that each parent and caregiver can do their most important work – to be their child's first, and most important, teacher. Our community partners collaborate with us to bring their programs and services to those we collectively serve. Our supporters and funders invest their resources, giving us the capacity to do this transformative work.





THE MISSION OF EPISCOPAL CHILDREN'S SERVICES

is creating opportunities for the children we serve to reach their full potential.

CREATING

We continually improve the art and skill of teaching young children to grow intellectually, emotionally, physically, and socially.

OPPORTUNITIES

We build foundations for the future with strong learning environments for children, support and education for parents, and professional development for teachers and staff.

THE CHILDREN WE SERVE

We serve our community's most vulnerable children and families—those living in poverty and children with disabilities – with high quality early learning as well as comprehensive health and wellness services.

REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL

Children who enter kindergarten ready to learn have better outcomes for their entire lives. It all begins with quality early learning.

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Destinee Disher Swanson

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Christian Winterbottom, Ph.D.

University of North Florida

PREPARING CHILDREN FOR SCHOOL SUCCESS

We want every child to enter school ready to learn. Our Head Start/Early Head Start program provides comprehensive child development services focused on predictors of school success. Our services ensure that children learn and develop in high-quality environments while giving their families the ability to work, enhance their own education or develop skills through job training. Our early education services are implemented by a strong team of professionals with extensive experience and credentials. Our services support the most vulnerable infants, toddlers, preschoolers, pregnant women, and their families.

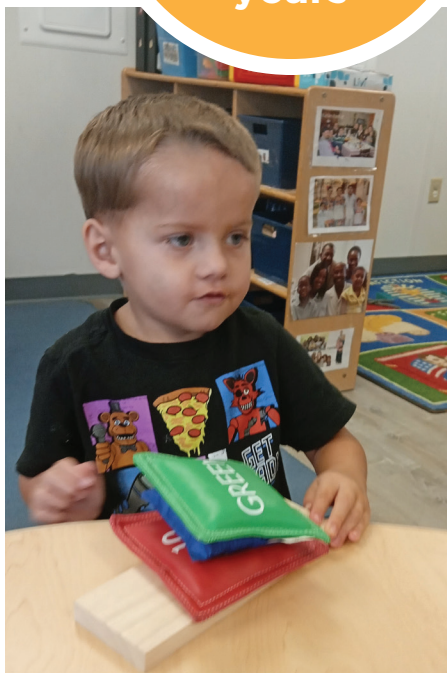


1,472
Children
attending for
2 or more
years

2,917
Families
Served

3,336
Children
Served

2,744
Funded
Enrollment





ENGAGING PARENTS

Our parent engagement approach is designed to support family well-being and promote children's learning and development. By creating respectful and responsive partnerships between parents and staff, our work promotes parents' role as their child first, and most important, teacher. We are committed to an inclusive environment for parents and caregivers that includes parent participation in their child's education, leadership opportunities, support for their child's health and development, enhancement of parent-child relationships, opportunities for employment, and paths to improve financial well-being.

2,397
Parents
educated on
childhood
development

2,119
Current/
Former parents
providing
volunteer
services



11%
children with
diagnosed
disabilities

22%
Dual Language
Learners

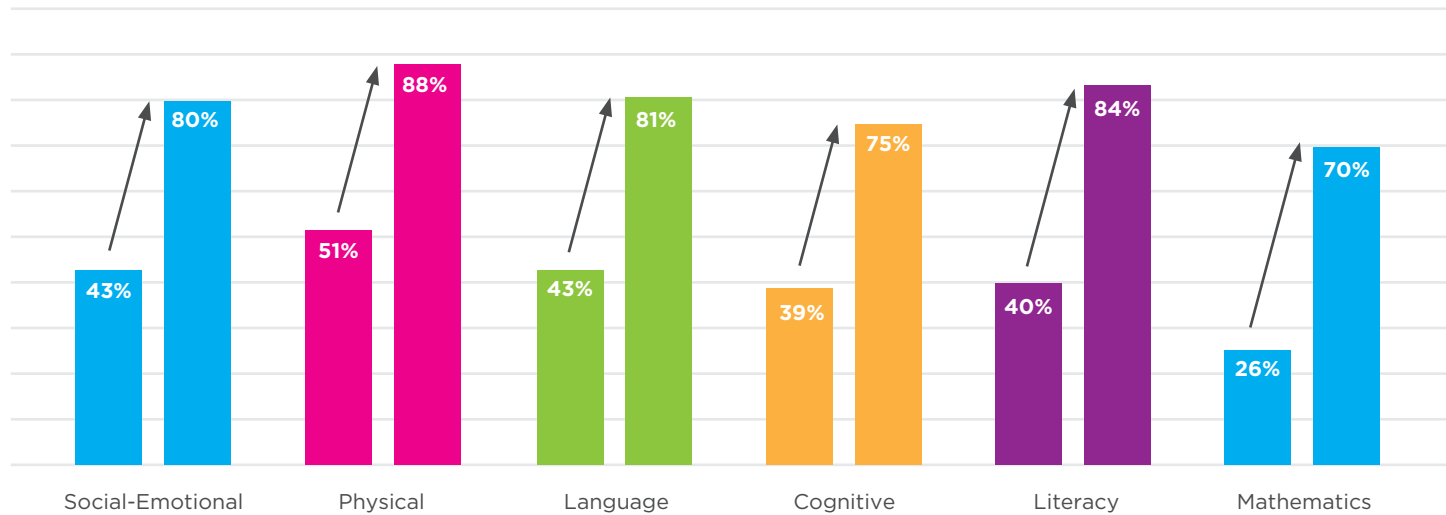
21%
Staff who are
current/former
HS parents or
alumnae



MAKING AN IMPACT

A Proven Approach To Learning

Gains by Learning Domain 4-Year-Olds



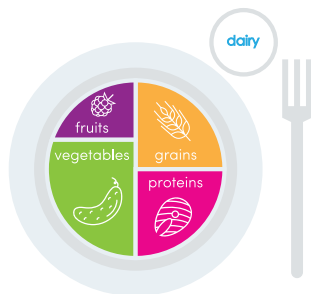
Our research-based education ensures our Head Start and Early Head Start children make significant gains in meeting developmental benchmarks that focus on kindergarten readiness.



Fresh Food & Nutrition

386,084

Healthy meals served to Head Start and Early Head Start children every year.



Well-nourished children are healthier, more attentive, and have better mental performance.



Health & Wellness



96%

Children with a medical home



79%

Children received a dental exam



97%

Children with health insurance

When children are healthy, they achieve academically. That's why we focus on preventive medical and dental care.



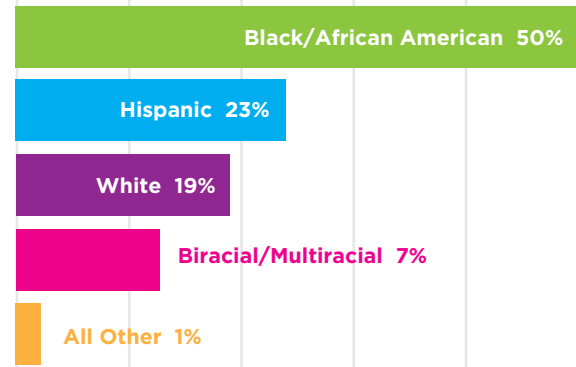
SERVING THE MOST VULNERABLE



97%

of our Head Start and Early Head Start students live in low-income households.

Our selection criteria ensure that we are serving our community's children and families with the highest needs.

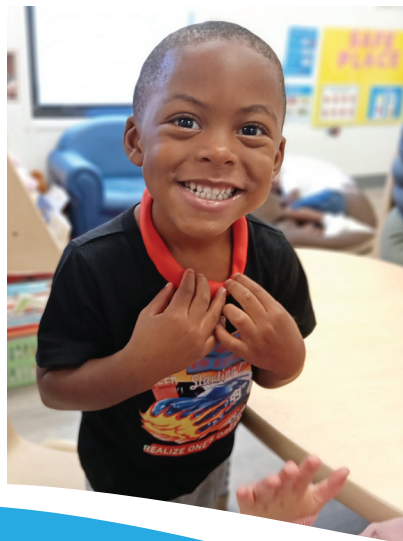
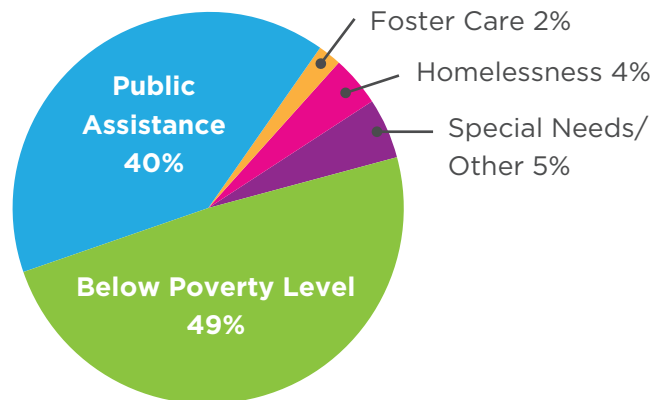


Our children are a vibrant array of races, cultures, and backgrounds.

100%

of our enrollment meets eligibility requirements.

We recruit eligible families as we continue to progress to full enrollment in the post-pandemic world with 86% average monthly enrollment.



HEAD START HEROES

Episcopal Children's Services was delighted when our families and staff were recognized as Head Start Heroes by the Florida Head Start Association and by the Region IV Head Start Association, representing 8 states in the Southeast.



Anthony Ray **Region IV Head Start Association** **Father of the Year**

Anthony Ray and his wife, Chanelle, are the proud parents of Azrielle, Uriah, and Eliana. When their daughter's preschool shut down unexpectedly, they came to the Head Start program. Mr. Ray is a Head Start graduate himself, so he knows our program works. When the family learned they were pregnant with a third child, Mr. Ray was transitioning jobs, and they lost their housing. They made the agonizing decision to have Chanelle and their newborn live temporarily with her family in Chicago. The Head Start program enabled him to find a job and save for an apartment, and he soon was able to return his family to Gainesville. Mr. Ray is committed to giving back to the program and is a role model for other parents, serving as President of the Parent Committee.



Coming to Head Start was a turning point in this family's life. He returned to school to pursue a degree and graduated with a degree in Media Communications in 2021. He now hosts a podcast "Dad, Can We Talk?" where he interviews other fathers to share their perspectives on fatherhood. He and his family have just purchased their first home.

Maria McDonnell **Region IV Head Start Association Staff Person of the Year**

Maria O'Donnell serves as Senior Director of Comprehensive Services providing leadership and supervision for Health Services, Nutrition, Home-Based, and Family Services across twelve counties in Northeast and Central Florida. Maria is a passionate health advocate who understands the value of social emotional well-being and has built relationship-based foundations between our mental health team, staff, and parents.



Maria's experience and understanding of mental health has made her highly responsive to the stigma often associated with seeking mental health support she is leading our agency-wide commitment to Trauma-Informed Care.



Maria has also shown her courage in arenas outside of Head Start. She and her twin sister took a year out of their career to serve as AmeriCorps Members and she also created a nonprofit organization in Indonesia to support childhood education. She has a strong heart for those in need and connects her heart with her intelligence and experience to persevere to address challenges.

Kenneth Davis **Florida Head Start Association Support Staff of the Year**

Kenneth Davis serves as the Center Support Assistant for the Howard Head Start/Early Head Start Center in Marion County. His story is a testament to the strength of Head Start as the program provided excellent early education for his two children, but also launched an amazing and wonderful career for Kenneth.



Kenneth is the personification of team player. He consistently goes out of his way to help others and is determined to instill a love of learning in every one of the students we serve. As the parent of a Head Start alum, he brings a wonderful perspective to the power of the program. He always has a smile, a greeting, and a word of encouragement for every person that enters the building or classroom. He makes learning fun for every child and the children love him in return. When he enters the cafeteria, the children all turn their chairs to hail him out and greet him.

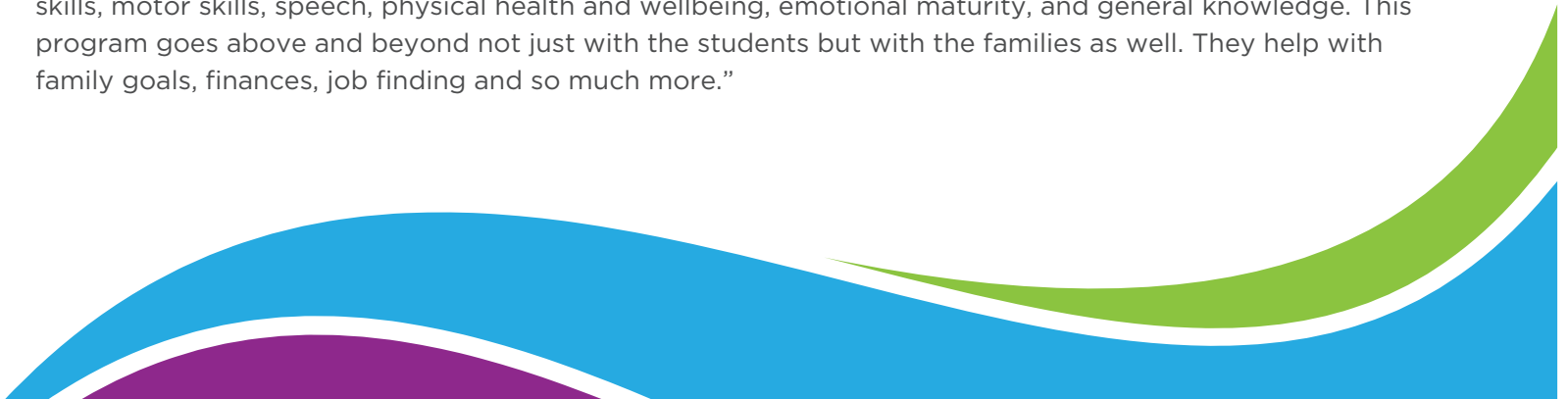
Kenneth is never afraid to get his hands dirty. He will unclog a toilet, fix a jammed paper dispenser, and always finds a place for storage of any donations. What is most amazing about him is that he does all this with a smile on his face. Kenneth Davis is the person who always brings joy to this important work that we do.

The Fernandez-Nations Family **Florida Head Start Association "Beating the Odds" Award Winners**

Erica Fernandez and Dillon Nations are the parents of two young girls - Rhiannon and Joanne. When they began the Head Start/Early Head Start program, both parents were unemployed and lost their housing. Erica quickly became a dedicated volunteer in the classroom and became determined to pursue a career in childcare. Dillon went to trade school, qualified as a transmission mechanic, and quickly found full-time work. Erica worked to complete her Child Development Associate and CPR training. Because she had already proven she was excellent in the classroom, she was immediately offered a permanent position once she had her credentials.



The family has shared their delight with being a part of the Head Start/Early Head Start Program. Erica tells us, "I have been ever so thankful for this program as it has helped improve our children's skills, such as social skills, motor skills, speech, physical health and wellbeing, emotional maturity, and general knowledge. This program goes above and beyond not just with the students but with the families as well. They help with family goals, finances, job finding and so much more."



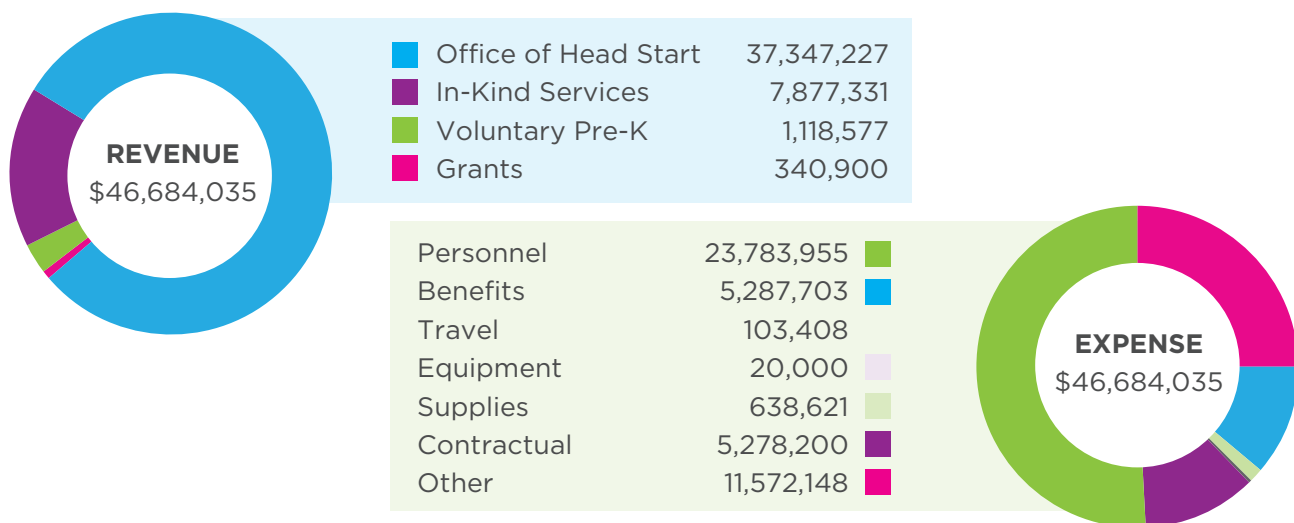
FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

The Office of Head Start intentionally provides funding for only 80% of program operations. Episcopal Children's Services must demonstrate that community's commitment by raising an additional 20 cents for every federal dollar received.

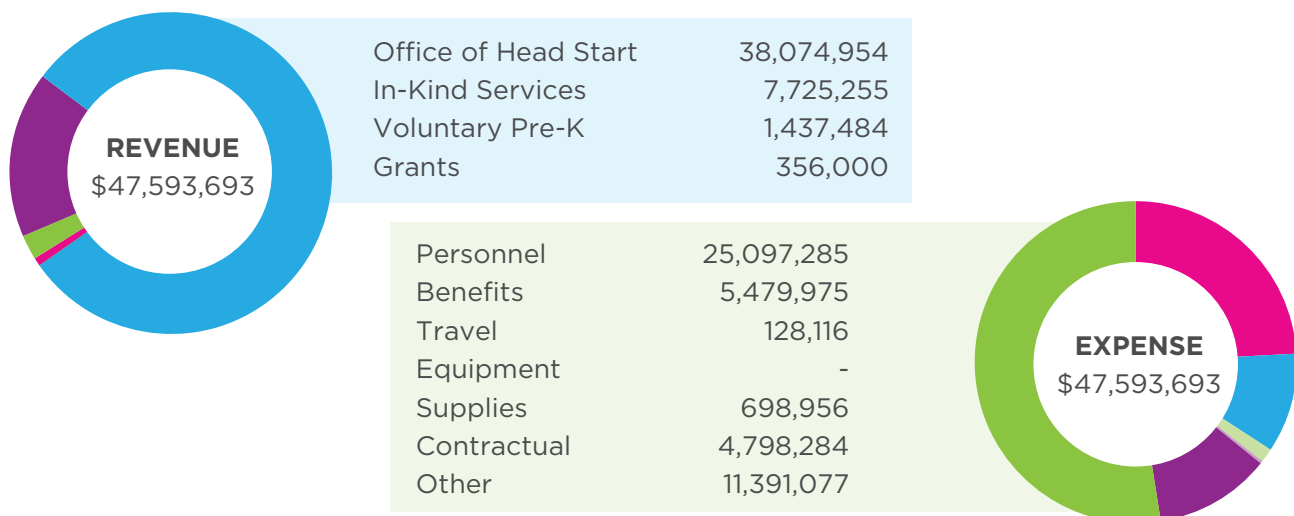
Together, with our parents, volunteers, and community partners, we raised over \$9.3M in matching funds to support our Head Start/Early Head Start Program.

That's a small price to pay to ensure our community is preparing our youngest citizens to enter school ready to learn. When children succeed in school, they enter the workforce prepared to compete in the global economy.

2022 - 2023 PERFORMANCE



2023 - 2024 BUDGET





REVIEWS BY THE OFFICE OF HEAD START

Episcopal Children's Services is justifiably proud to present the results of our 2023 monitoring review. This Focus Area Two Review evaluated our performance and compliance with the requirements of the Head Start Program Performance Standards.

100%

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

Performance in program management, ongoing monitoring and continuous improvement, and effective governance.

100%

QUALITY EDUCATION AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Performance in effective and intentional teaching practices, alignment with school readiness, supporting teachers in promoting school readiness, and home-based program services.

100%

QUALITY HEALTH SERVICES

Performance in child health status and care, mental health, oral health and nutrition, safety practices, and services to expectant families.

100%

QUALITY FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SERVICES

Performance in supporting family well-being, strengthening parenting and parent-child supports, and family engagement in education and child development services.

100%

FISCAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Performance in budget planning and development, ongoing fiscal capacity, budget execution, and facilities and equipment.

100%

ELIGIBILITY, RECRUITMENT, SELECTION, ENROLLMENT, AND ATTENDANCE

Performance in determining, verifying, and documenting eligibility and enrollment verification.





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