

2019-2020

Head Start Annual Report



BY THE NUMBERS:
2,534 children served
2,249 families served
179,519 breakfasts, lunches and snacks served
\$31,278,963 total budget

INTRODUCTION

When we opened our doors on March 25, 1965, the very first program we operated was called Project Head Start. Now simply known as Head Start, the program has evolved into a federally-funded group of programs for families with low income with children from birth to age five that provides comprehensive early childhood education, health,

nutrition, and family engagement services. Today we are proud to educate more than 2,000 children in over 15 counties across the state, including our statewide operations of the Migrant and Seasonal Head Start program.

Each of our Head Start programs offers a stimulating and culturally-appropriate learning

experience, an evidence-based curriculum—and this year more than ever—an integrated family engagement strategy designed to prepare children to succeed in school. Head Start's Two-Generation Approach ensures that programming focuses not only on children but on the family as a whole to create a healthy environment for children to grow.



Click to view the summary of our most recent community assessment for [Head Start](#) and [Migrant and Seasonal Head Start](#).

Program	Target Population	Counties Currently Served
Head Start (HS)	Children age three to five, and their families	Fayette, Harrison, Nicholas, Scott
Early Head Start (EHS)	Children from birth to age three, and their families Pregnant women	Fayette, Bourbon, Harrison, Nicholas, Scott
Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership (EHS-CCP)	Children from birth to age three, and their families Pregnant women	Fayette, Scott
South Central Head Start (SCHS)	Children age three to five, and their families	Clark, Estill, Garrard, Jackson, Laurel, Madison, Powell, Rockcastle
South Central Early Head Start (SCEHS)	Children from birth to age three, and their families Pregnant women	Clark, Estill, Garrard, Laurel, Madison, Powell, Rockcastle
Migrant and Seasonal Head Start (MSHS)	Children of migrant and seasonal farmworkers, from birth to age five, and their families	Fayette, Bourbon, Madison, Clark, Pulaski, Warren
Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Expansion (MSHSXP)	Children of migrant and seasonal farmworkers, from birth to age five, and their families	Fayette, Madison

OVERVIEW OF PROGRAMS

Community Action Council for Lexington-Fayette, Bourbon, Harrison, and Nicholas Counties, Inc. (the Council) offers home-based and center-based education through seven child development programs funded through the federal Office of Head Start. The Council's Head Start programs promote comprehensive school readiness in children from families with low income, and/or children with disabilities, by providing high-quality education, health, social, and family support services.

Each program offers a stimulating and culturally appropriate learning environment, an evidence-based curriculum, and an integrated family engagement strategy designed to prepare children to succeed in school. Head Start's two-generational approach ensures that programming does not focus on children in isolation but supports all members of the family in their efforts to create a healthy environment for the child to grow. Accordingly, the Council's Head Start programs serve as an economic development vehicle for families by promoting increased educational attainment, job skills development, employment opportunities, and higher wages. In this way, the program strengthens families and the community. In operating Head Start, the Council takes into account the evolving needs and resources of the community as a whole. The Council believes that by investing in early childhood development and allowing all children to grow into their full potential as individuals and as members of society, the entire community stands to reap future rewards.

PREP ACADEMIES

The Council's 16 direct-managed Head Start locations and 1 partnership site are known as Prep Academies. This designation signals the Council's commitment to excellence and professionalism in preparing families successfully for school and future life. Prep Academies feature enhanced play spaces, culturally diverse educational materials, and state-of-the-art technology to support early learning.

Head Start Program Operations, 2019-2020

	HS	EHS	EHS-CCP	SCHS	SCEHS	MSHS	MSHSXP	TOTAL
Total children served	888	467	177	682	173	123	24	2,534
Total pregnant women served	N/A*	46	N/A*	N/A*	N/A*	N/A*	N/A*	46
Number of funded slots	797	329	128	595	130	229	24	2,232
Average monthly enrollment	100%	100%		100%	100%	60%**		-
Total families served	819	387	160	635	155	93	14	2,263
Estimated population eligible for services	2,339	3,508		2,027	3,040	472		11,386
Percent eligible population served	35%	16%		31%	5%	23%		20%

*Not applicable

**The MSHS and MSHSXP programs measure enrollment on a cumulative basis, with full enrollment not typically attained until late in its program year.



All Head Start Programs, 2019-2020

Percentage of enrolled children:

With health insurance	98.5%
With a medical exam	78%*
Up to date on EPSDT well-child schedule	**
Up to date on all possible immunizations	98.8%
With a dental exam	50%*
Having a disability	13.0%

* Outcomes impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic

** Data not available due to the COVID-19 pandemic

SCHOOL READINESS

The ultimate goal of the Council's Head Start programs is to help prepare children and families for future academic and life success. To achieve this outcome, the Council focuses its efforts on ensuring that each child receives individualized attention, high-quality instruction, and the benefit of a stimulating physical learning environment.

The Council's school readiness plan is aligned with the definition of school readiness offered by the Kentucky Governor's Office of Early Childhood: "School readiness means that each child enters school ready to engage in and benefit from early learning experiences that best promote the child's success and ability to be Ready to Grow, Ready to Learn & Ready to Succeed."

To support school readiness, the Council's Head Start programs use the Creative Curriculum and the Conscious Discipline model. In the Council's South Central Head Start program, the Council uses

Houghton-Mifflin's Big Day Curriculum. The Creative Curriculum approaches learning by emphasizing positive interactions and relationships between children and adults; social-emotional competence; a supportive physical environment; constructive, purposeful play; and teacher-family partnerships.

Conscious Discipline is an evidence-based program that integrates classroom discipline with social-emotional learning. Conscious Discipline allows teachers to respond to conflict in everyday classroom interactions by using it as a tool to enhance social and emotional development.

Big Day for Pre-K is a proven-effective research-based, comprehensive early learning program that embraces children's natural curiosity and encourages them to explore and connect to the world around them.



RESULTS: 2019-2020 LEARNING ASSESSMENTS

To ensure that its Head Start programs meet children's developmental needs, the Council uses Teaching Strategies GOLD (TSG), an observation-based learning assessment tool designed for children from birth to kindergarten. TSG helps teachers evaluate children's skills gains in ten areas of development that are predictive of future school and long-term success. The Council administers TSG for each child three times per year.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Council was not able to complete the post-assessment for the 2019-2020 program year.

BEFORE COVID-19

Given the impacts of COVID-19, it is perhaps understandably easy to forget that until mid-March, the Council's Head Start programs were having a normal and productive year. Our students were receiving instruction based on widely respected curricula taught by dedicated teachers. Those same students were benefiting from out-of-class activities designed to encourage literacy, stir their imaginations, engage their families, and instill an appreciation of their own culture and an awareness of the wider world.

In September 2019, for example, students at the Russell School Community Services Center Academy enjoyed "A Night of Magic and Literacy," during which Disney and fairytale characters stopped by to visit. This community and father engagement event also served as a launching for the Book Buddies Initiative, which fosters parent-child relationships and encourages a love of reading by providing books that families read together weekly. A total of 69 parents signed into "A Night of Magic and Literacy," with

each parent bringing at least one child. In October, across the Council's service area, some of the Prep Academy staff celebrated Storybook Character Day by dressing as well-known children's book characters. Some of the children also took the opportunity to dress as their favorite storybook character.

Fall Festival family engagement events took place at various locations in the Council's Head Start service area. In Fayette County, the Prep Academy at Arbor Court, the Russell School Community Services Center, and the Prep Academy at Winburn held such events. The Prep Academies in rural Powell, Nicholas, and Laurel Counties also held Fall Festivals. The Sand Gap Fire Department in Jackson County graciously hosted a Fall Festival Male Engagement Event in early November. Several months later, the Prep Academies at Powell County and Richmond also held winter family engagement events, where family members gathered to have fun, share a meal, play games, make crafts, and participate in face painting.

Perhaps the Council's premier event was the launching for Migrant Head Start Smart: Yo Quiero Ser, which translates to I Want to Be. This book features young children exploring what it might be like to grow up to become a dentist, a musician, an artist, or a chef, among other professions. A separate article on this event can be found on page 8.

In November, 55 persons were awarded Head Start HERO Parenting Credentials. This twelve-hour class, held over several days, uses interactive discussions, activities, workbooks, and lectures to explore such vital topics as nurturing parenting, developmental milestones in infants and toddlers, stress management in parenting, co-parenting, and community resources. Recipients obtaining the HERO Parenting Credential represent the following counties within the Council's service territory: Fayette, Bourbon, Clark, Harrison, Jackson, Laurel, Madison, Nicholas, and Rockcastle. The participating families were a part of both center-based and home-based programs.





While Council staff have long-time experience counseling and supporting pregnant women, a 'first' took place in early November. That is when Ann Carbuccia, Family and Community Specialist, began leading parenting support activities for pregnant women at the Fayette County Detention Center. The Council's participation supported the parenting skills program for women who are incarcerated overseen by the Kentucky Department of Corrections. The program uses Moral Reconciliation Therapy, or MRT, a cognitive-behavioral treatment program for substance abuse and offender populations. The following month, Ms. Carbuccia, alongside the ERSEA Director, Ms. Keshia Richardson, had the pleasure of attending the parenting skills graduation for these women.

In 2017, the Council launched Head Start HERO, a suite of family engagement initiatives that foster positive parenting skills in nurturing environments. Head Start HERO activities continued until just shortly before the closing of the Council's Prep Academies due to COVID-19 in mid-March. One such initiative, the MALE Council, held "Donuts with my Dude," a father engagement activity that provided opportunities for peer-to-peer and community connections as well as time for parent and child relationship building. A total of 24 parents, 22 being fathers or grandfathers, participated in this event, held at the Prep Academy at Arbor Court in Lexington. The MALE Council is an ongoing Council endeavor working to build fellowship and camaraderie among men to enhance and strengthen their roles as fathers, husbands, and members of the community.

MIGRANT AND SEASONAL HEAD START

As the lead grantee for the Migrant and Seasonal Head Start (MSHS) Network throughout Kentucky, the Council partners with community action agencies across the state to annually provide high-quality early childhood education and comprehensive family and supportive services to 229 children from migrant farmworking families. In addition, in March 2019, the Council was awarded a Migrant, and Seasonal Early Head Start Expansion (MSEHS-XP) grant to serve an additional 24 children of migrant farmworkers, ages birth to three, at the Prep Academy at Winburn (16) and the Prep Academy at Madison County (8).

The MSEHS-XP program has expanded the Network's reach in providing health services, nutrition, family engagement opportunities, and support to migrant children and families while simultaneously working to increase migrant families' self-sufficiency. Both the MSHS Network and MSEHS-XP programs seek to ease the transition for migrant farmworker families by connecting with providers in other states to maintain continuity of care between MSHS providers.





Yo Quiero Ser

On Tuesday, December 10, 2019, the Council hosted a reception to launch its second children's book—and the first one entirely written, designed, and edited by the children and farm working families in our Migrant and Seasonal Head Start (MSHS) program. Titled *Migrant Head Start Smart: Yo Quiero Ser*—which translates to *I Want to Be*—this book features young children exploring what it might be like to grow up and choose to become a dentist, a musician, an artist, or a chef, among many other professions.

In front of an audience of nearly 200 people in a community room at the Northside Branch of the Lexington Public Library—a space transformed by the beautiful decorations brought in by our staff to honor the many cultures of the families in our program—the Council and several of its long-time partners celebrated the 229 children and families enrolled in our statewide MSHS program. Community partners in attendance at the event included the Kentucky Migrant Education Program, First 5 Lex, Lexington Public Library, One Parent Scholar House, Casa de la Cultura Kentucky, Bluegrass Area Chapter of the American

Red Cross, Minuteman Press, and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. At this dual-language event, guests enjoyed the authentic cuisine provided by Durango's Mexican Restaurant and a performance by children from Casa de la Cultura Kentucky.

In many ways, the evening served as much more than the culmination of a yearlong family literacy initiative; it allowed us to publicly celebrate 17 consecutive years of our staff working closely alongside farm working families to help their children flourish as dual-language, lifelong learners. "Not only is improving literacy skills beneficial for success in school for children, but it also improves health, helps to reduce poverty, and promotes economic growth," said Sharon Price, Executive Director of Community Action Council.

Over the last year, children and families had the opportunity to collaborate as authors, editors, and photographers on a topic selected by the families: the dreams they have for their children's future. Families worked together in an environment that honored and promoted the language development of both a child's home language and English. This aspect of our work

is so essential to our high-quality early childhood education programming that nearly 10 percent of our educators and staff speak Spanish or at least two languages. Our classrooms, curriculum, and supportive services are thoughtfully designed to ensure a diverse environment, something that is also reflected in *Yo Quiero Ser*.

"It was very important to our parents that the design of the pages in their book represents the unique heritages of all the families," said Annia Royo, the Council's Assistant Director of Migrant and Seasonal Head Start. "While they were careful to choose words that are used universally in the Spanish language, the pictures highlight the unique cultures of each Hispanic country represented this year in our program: Panama, Guatemala, Honduras, Argentina, Cuba, Mexico, El Salvador, as well as the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico."

Yo Quiero Ser is available in print and digital formats and is part of the community-based early literacy initiative First 5 Lex. The book is also on the shelves of the Little Red Reading Room at the Charles Young Center in Lexington.

THE COUNCIL SELECTS

Jessica Coffie

AS ITS NEW HEAD START DIRECTOR



After serving more than eight years as one of the Council's Assistant Directors of Child Development and the Health and Nutrition Manager, last December, Jessica Coffie was selected by Executive Director, Sharon Price, to succeed her as the agency's new Head Start Director.

Jessica, a native of Paducah, Kentucky, moved to Lexington in 2003 to attend the University of Kentucky for both her undergraduate and graduate studies, the latter of which led to her earning a master's degree in Hospitality and Dietetic Administration. You do not have to talk with Jessica for very long to discover that she is passionate about the health and socioeconomic disparities that can affect children from families who are under-resourced. Jessica holds the distinction of being the first licensed nutritionist ever employed by the Council. Because of this specific expertise, over the last eight years our agency has been able to raise its own bar on the quality of health, wellness and nutrition programming and services offered to children and families. Added to that, the Council has sharply increased the professional development opportunities available for all Head Start staff, especially those who work every day to prepare the required two-thirds daily nutrition offered to children. Jessica ensures that our students

have culturally diverse, fresh food options that comply with United States Department of Agriculture guidelines—and has also championed the importance of educating our Head Start families about nutrition and physical activity.

In her time at the Council, Jessica has been an integral force behind the development of a health clinic at our location at 913 Georgetown Street, the launch of our Safe Kids transportation campaign, and Healthy Meals on a Budget. Healthy Meals on a Budget is about to begin its fourth consecutive year and is funded by the Office of Head Start and the City of Lexington's Division of Social Services. This program provides families with practical education on food purchasing and preparation, placing equal emphasis on household economy and nutrition. This program is as much about mentoring and deepening relationships with families as it is about providing facts, materials and supplies for healthy food preparation. And the element of mentorship is important to Jessica. As she tells it, the time she spends leading Head Start families and her staff is, in its own way, a quiet tribute to her childhood mentor, Danny Murphy.

Says Jessica, "As a teenager, after my after-school sports practices ended each day, I would meet up with my friends at the Boys and Girls Club in Paducah, and

that's where I met Danny. Danny volunteered at the club and as a young person of color, I was inspired by Danny. Here was this young Black attorney who would spend his evenings pouring into the lives of students. Because of Danny, I began imagining what big career goals I could set for myself, where my education might lead me."

As chance would have it, Danny Murphy and his family also moved to Lexington many years ago. Danny currently serves as the senior assistant dean of community engagement for the University of Kentucky's J. David Rosenberg College of Law, and in 2019, he began serving as a member of the Council's Board of Directors. Says Jessica, "Whether he knows it or not, Danny has a lot to do with where I am in my life today. I hope to be the same kind of inspiration to my staff and the children in our programs."

In addition to her duties overseeing five Head Start programs and the education and comprehensive services of nearly 3,000 children and families, Jessica serves as a member of Partners for Youth's Executive Board leadership, and as part of the Kentucky Head Start Association. Jessica is certified as an Early Childhood Playground Inspector and CLASS Observer, and has also earned the prestigious designation of Certified Community Action Professional.



STEPPING UP FOR FAMILIES IN NEED



As both a long-time Head Start grantee and the designated community action agency for the counties of Lexington-Fayette, Bourbon, Harrison, and Nicholas, the Council is well-versed in assessing the needs of families and our communities and adapting to new challenges—and the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic were no exception. In mid-March, Kentucky's first documented case of COVID-19 in early March was hardly a surprise. Council leadership knew that a crisis was coming and that soon they would have to act quickly on behalf of thousands of individuals and families whose lives would be disrupted by a global pandemic. The Council quickly pivoted from our ongoing, in-person support to using telecommunication to provide urgent resources to families, especially those

Kentuckians who were scrambling to pay their bills and found themselves in frightening and unfamiliar territory. At the same time, the state's unemployment insurance system collapsed under the record-breaking number of claims.

"We asked ourselves: 'What can we do to make this better?'" said Ka'Sondra Brown, RSVP Volunteer Coordinator for Community Action Council. "We were looking at chaos." One part of the answer to that question was a groceries and meals program started at the Council's Fayette West Center on Cambridge Drive. The long-time partnership between the Council and God's Pantry was expanded, and a new partnership with FoodChain was established to provide boxed groceries and hot meals to families through a drive-through location a short distance

from the Cambridge Drive facility. In the boxes, participants found about a week's worth of groceries containing such items as potatoes, meat, eggs, cereal, milk, canned goods, and toiletries. Hot meals were also available. Participants did not have to get out of their cars, and staff practiced social distancing, loading the boxes into participants' cars for them. Similar services were provided in Lexington's Winburn neighborhood. "We cut through the red tape to expedite helping people," said Ms. Brown.

This program also became an opportunity to get the word out about services and resources. In those boxes might be found information about obtaining health insurance, applying for utility bill assistance through the LIHEAP program, or other community services and

resources. While many families receiving assistance were Head Start families, others weren't, so information about enrolling a child in Head Start was also provided.

The Council's partnership with FoodChain, a Lexington nonprofit working to feed residents in sustainable ways emphasizing fresh produce, and Nourish Lexington included delivering hot meals to senior citizens, a population especially vulnerable to COVID-19. Meals were delivered to Shepherd Place Apartments in Nicholas County, Darby Senior Apartments in southeast Lexington, Christian Towers on Versailles Road, Russell School Apartments on West 5th Street, and in the Winburn neighborhood, which has a high proportion of senior citizens. A total of 105 senior citizens were provided meals daily over a three-month period. In all, families and individuals in crisis received more than 20,500 grocery boxes during this operation, with a value of approximately \$8,500 and weighing nearly 4,000 pounds. They also received more than 14,800 hot meals, with an estimated value of \$103,700.

"I am thankful for God's Pantry and for our more recent partner, FoodChain," said Ms. Brown. "God's Pantry donated the groceries, and FoodChain provided three meals a day. Council staff and volunteers did the front-line work, loading food and meals into cars and keeping the process moving."

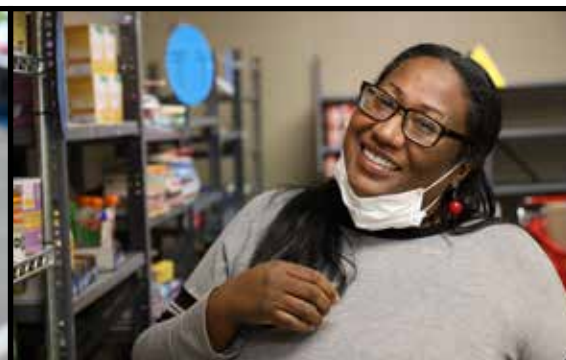
Compassion and generosity were expressed in other ways too. With funding from the Coronavirus Response Fund, a partnership between the Blue Grass Community Foundation, the United Way of the Bluegrass, and the city of Lexington, the Council's Head Start teachers and family staff began distributing personal and baby care items to thousands of families in Fayette County—much-needed items for families disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. Fayette County resident Faye Littleton donated more than \$1,200 worth of food, diapers, and household and cleaning supplies.

Ashley Johnson, who worked had just started as the Food Services Coordinator one week before the shutdown, quickly pivoted to support Council's Fayette West Food Pantry. She recounted how she witnessed the suffering of families and individuals laid off during the shutdown. From families desperately in need of clothing and food to individuals experiencing homelessness and violence on the street to seniors struggling with isolation, Ms. Johnson and her fellow Pantry workers went above and beyond to provide a helping hand during these difficult times.

The Council also established Distribution Centers in Harrison, Madison, and Nicholas Counties. In Madison County, the Council transformed their newly purchased facility into a drive-thru center, serving nearly 2,200 South Central Region families and households over a four-month period. All told, the Council's Distribution Centers provided a total of \$136,650 worth of baby care and feminine hygiene products to families throughout a 13-county service area.

The Distribution Centers were highly important to many Council Head Start families in the weeks following the shutdown. Jessie Newton, who is a Head Start mother in Jackson County, offered this testimonial: "My husband and I were both laid off work, so income was low. It was such a blessing to be given diapers, pull-ups, wipes, baby food, and baby formula weekly for our children at such a time!" Jessie explained that she first heard about the program on Facebook. "I called the Council to check on it. The staff were friendly and welcoming and didn't make me feel like I wasn't deserving of the items. I just pulled up, and they would place the items in my car for me." Jesse picked up baby supplies for at least five other families that lived in her vicinity, and for friends near Livingston in Rockcastle County and Berea in Madison County.

During a time of great trials and hardship, Council staff and volunteers acted quickly to help families and households in need.



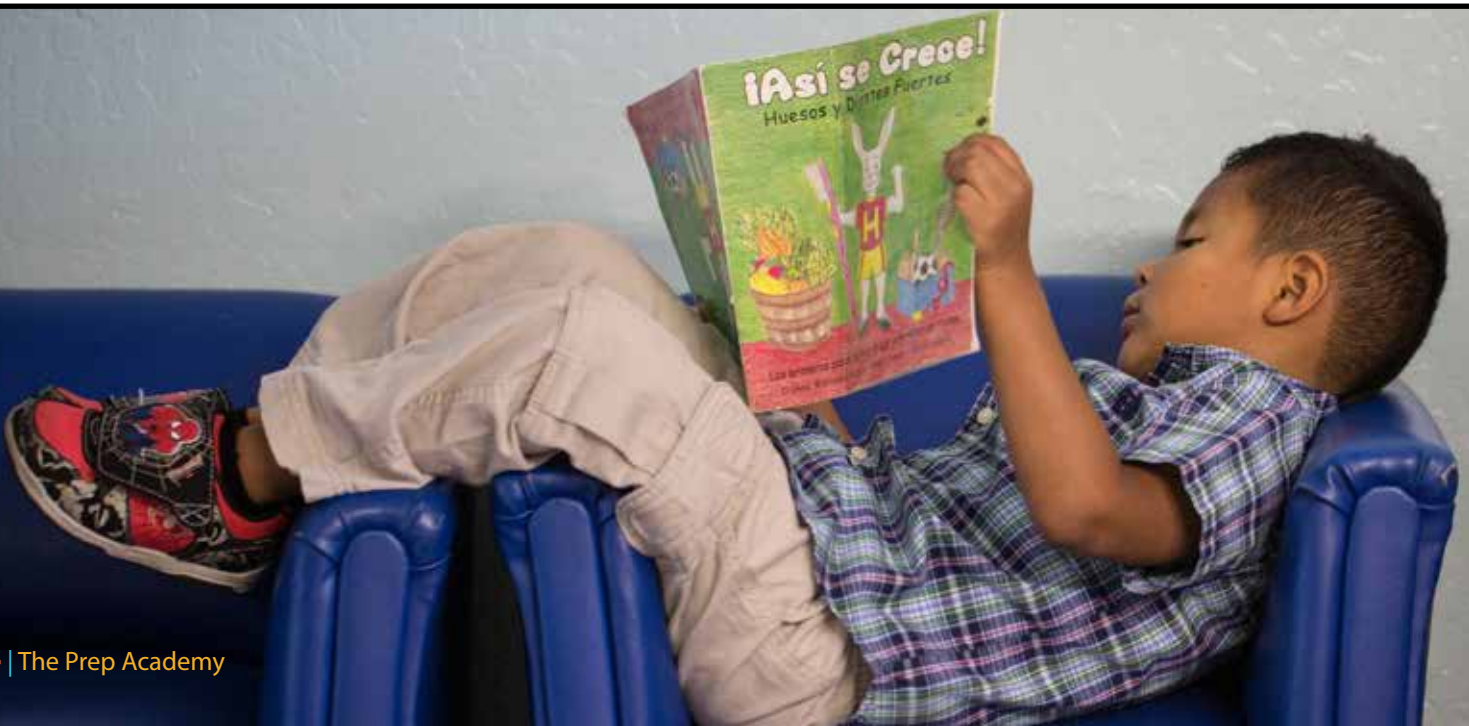
SUPPORTING OUR MIGRANT AND SEASONAL HEAD START FAMILIES AND THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY

In many ways, the impacts of COVID-19 on the Council's Migrant and Seasonal Head Start programs were similar to those on the Council's other Head Start programs—a sudden shift to virtual learning, the end of in-person communication and an emphasis on social distancing, and children and families at increased risk. But in other respects, MSHS families and children were even more vulnerable. The majority of migrant and seasonal farmworkers do not have the benefit of paid sick days or emergency medical leave. Members of the Hispanic community may be more likely to fear applying for unemployment or other benefits, worsening an already difficult financial situation.

COVID-19 meant that staff had to find new ways to support our Spanish-speaking families. This was especially important for migrant and seasonal farmworker families as staff could no longer be out in the fields getting to know and recruit families for the program. The Council's staff created Spanish-language Facebook Live and YouTube Videos to help connect and engage with the Hispanic community. This included hosting virtual Healthy Meals on a Budget workshops, posting tips for staying healthy and hosting a workshop early in the pandemic to help the Hispanic community understand the disease and Public Health recommendations. MSHS staff also came up with creative virtual learning boxes to help families support early learning at home. These boxes included

books, blocks and other manipulatives, crayons, and other learning tools for the entire family to use. To ensure that all families had access to these and other resources, such as food boxes, the Council utilized its fleet of vehicles to deliver goods and assist families in accessing available resources. As Ms. Melinda Deloach-Diaz, a Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Family Service Worker in Bourbon County said, "I am so proud of the effort and hard work our entire agency put forth... to serve our families. I want to give a huge shout out to the Migrant program for working diligently to build community partnerships and rapport with our families."

One bright spot for the Council's Migrant and Seasonal Head Start programs to celebrate in the coming year is the completion of three new MSHS classrooms at the Prep Academy at Winburn. With these new classrooms, the Council can now serve more than 160 children and families living in the Winburn community. Each classroom has been beautifully and thoughtfully designed and furnished with the counsel of the University of Kentucky Professor of Architecture, Mr. Anthony Roccanova. The classrooms are equipped with such state-of-the-art equipment as Interactive Hatch Tablets for the children and iPads for the teachers to track the attendance, health, and safety of the students. A video tour of the facility can be viewed at the following link: <https://www.facebook.com/LexEndPoverty/videos/1698631803626153>



THE FUTURE IS NOW!

Over the last several years, the Council has made many investments to increase and maintain its community education and advocacy efforts. One of its most timely investments—and a Head Start program Five Year grant goal—is a new recording studio at its soon-to-open Prep Academy at South Lexington location.

When staff first began planning to develop a recording studio, they did so with the intention of being ready for the future. Little did they know that once everything was in place, the future would already be here.

The Studio, as it is called, was designed to allow the Council to start recording and broadcasting regular podcasts. As an agency deeply involved in the community, the Council was looking for a new way to help share its story and keep the community informed about Head Start and other anti-poverty related issues. "We have an Executive Director who wants us to be out, visibly known, leaving our footprint. The Studio allows us to combine technology with our desire to relay our message to the masses," said Mr. Cameron Minter, Communications Manager.



But with Kentucky's shutdown in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, Mr. Minter and senior leadership knew that this wasn't something that would be happening in the future—it would have to happen immediately.

The Studio quickly began production, creating virtual learning material for its Head Start programs and hosting podcasts on a number of current events, including the social unrest sparked by the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and others, and the importance of participating in the 2020 Census and voting in the election.

As Mr. Minter explained, "although the Centers are closed, and face-to-face operations have ceased, the studio allows the Council to use different means to engage with our participants, keep them informed and stay connected." This technology allowed the Council to directly connect with families at the onset of COVID-19 to share information on health and safety issues, where and when to access food, and how to receive other emergency services supports.

The investment in the Studio has opened a number of new avenues for the Council that had never existed before. Currently, the Studio is being utilized to

enhance that Council's Head Start at Home virtual learning services by recording and posting virtual lesson plans and activities each week that parents can use as an additional resource beyond the virtual face-to-face Zoom lessons that they are participating in. The Council is also in the planning stages to launch a new, Spanish-language podcast for families in its Migrant and Seasonal Head Start program.

The possibilities of this new endeavor are endless, and the Council is excited to explore all the ways that the Studio can be a springboard for the future.

When the first documented case of COVID-19 in Kentucky occurred in early March in Harrison County, the Council's staff knew that everything was going to change.

As Harrison County Teacher Franklin "Gayle" Miller said: "We knew the shutdown was coming, but when it happened, it still felt sudden and strange. One day we just stopped seeing the children."

Within days of the shutdown of Kentucky's economy, staff began strategizing—remotely—about ways the Council could continue to provide learning opportunities for children and families enrolled in its Head Start programs. Using the popular video conferencing service, Zoom, the Council's staff quickly adapted to virtual learning, providing group and individual sessions to help families with young children continue to support their child's learning and growth at home.

Using Zoom has been a challenge for many families, as parents were forced to balance not only working from home (for many, for the first time) but also with helping their children navigate online learning platforms. The Council's staff rose to the challenge, developing classes on different subjects and projects to keep young children engaged and help them build the developmental skills that are crucial in supporting school readiness. These newly developed lesson plans included activities such as sign language, slime art, Mother's Day crafts, Show and Tell, and a virtual egg hunt. To support the families in these activities, staff created and delivered learning kits (while maintaining social distancing guidelines) to each family. These kits

included all the materials needed to participate in that week's learning activities. Parents knew what lessons would be taught thanks to the Remind app, a free messaging app used by educators to keep families up-to-date with lesson plans and schedule changes.

Faced with the sudden closure of the centers, teachers and staff were concerned for the health, safety and wellbeing of the children and their families. Making daily contact with families allowed staff to provide reassurance during uncertain times, address the family's immediate needs and provided a chance to get to know each other better than they ever had before.

Although parents have always been actively involved in their child's learning, teaching virtually meant that their involvement took on a whole new dimension. Parents had to coordinate with teaching staff and be actively engaged with their child during online instruction. These Zoom sessions were held at least twice to ensure every child had the opportunity to participate. But for some families, the digital divide created even more challenges. Many families, particularly those in the Council's rural service areas, do not have reliable internet access or the technology needed for online learning. The Council began looking for ways to shrink this digital divide, purchasing Hatch Learning Tablets to help families navigate this new learning environment.

The Council's Head Staff have gone above and beyond during this pandemic. They embody the Community Action Spirit, and we want to thank them for a job well done.

RESULTS OF MOST RECENT FINANCIAL AUDIT

The Council is subject to the Single Agency Audit Act and is audited on an annual basis. The auditor’s report presents an unmodified opinion on the consolidated financial statements of the Council and Affiliates. It is the published opinion of the independent auditor that in the most recent, completed audit, for fiscal year 2018-2019, the Council was found to be in compliance in all material aspects with the requirements applicable to each of the Council’s major programs.

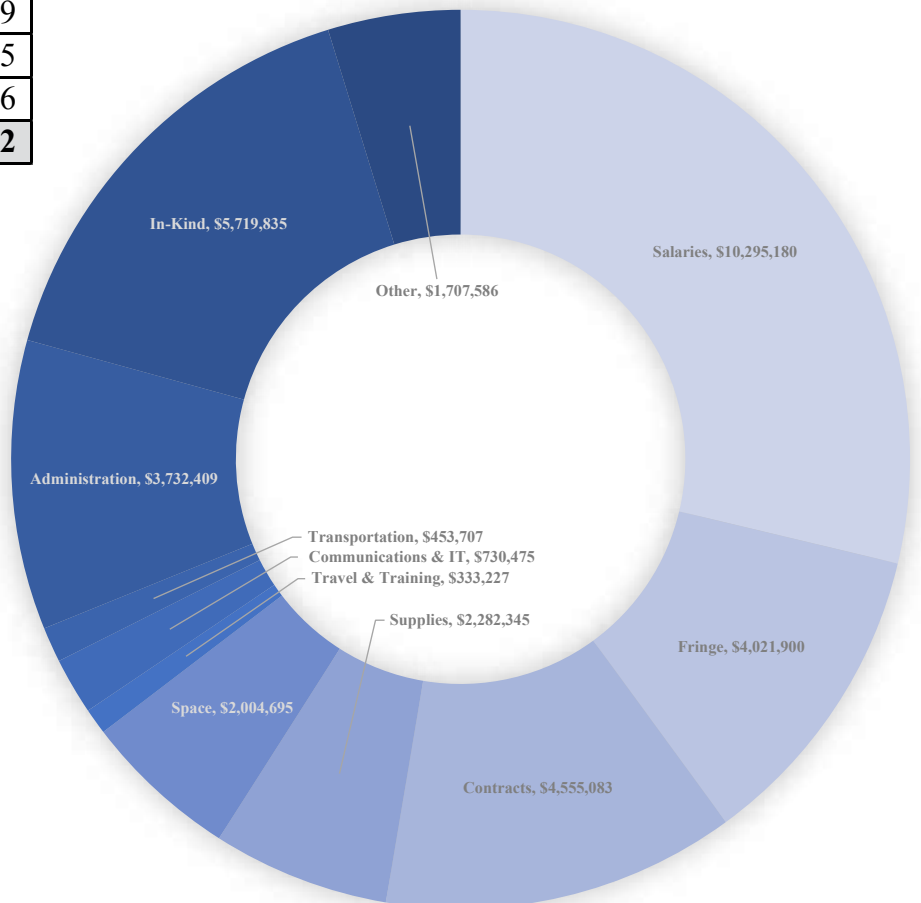
2018-2019 MONITORING EVENTS

The Council was found in compliance for all Monitoring Events from the Office of Head Start: Environmental Health & Safety; Fiscal integrity/ERSEA; and Comprehensive Services & School Readiness. The Council was also in compliance with its most recent on-site CLASS review, scoring 6.1292 in the domain of Emotional Support; 6.0833 in the domain of Classroom Organization; and 3.8000 in the domain of Instructional Support.

Proposed Budget	
<i>All Head Start Programs, FY 2019-2020</i>	
Salaries	\$10,295,180
Fringe	\$4,021,900
Contracts	\$4,555,083
Supplies	\$2,282,345
Space	\$2,004,695
Travel & Training	\$333,227
Communications & IT	\$730,475
Transportation	\$453,707
Administration	\$3,732,409
In-Kind	\$5,719,835
Other	\$1,707,586
Total	\$35,836,442

Summary of Revenue	
<i>All Head Start Programs, FY 2019-2020</i>	
Federal Funds	\$30,116,607
In-Kind/Non-Federal Match	\$5,719,835
Total	\$35,836,442

**SUMMARY OF EXPENSES
ALL HEAD START PROGRAMS, 2019-2020**



HEAD START POLICY COUNCIL, 2019-2020*

PARENTS

Tiffany Briner, Regional EHS Home-Based
Brittany Dyer, SCHS Center-Based
Yesenia Franco, MSHS
Shawn Kloss, Regional HS Home-Based
Lauren Moss, Regional HS Center-Based
Adreanna Neace, SCHS EHS Center-Based

Tureka Pearson – EHS-CCP
Esperanza Sanchez, MSHS
Victoria West – SCEHS – Home-Based
Ashley Wills, Regional HS Home-Based
Kiyarra Woodricck, Regional EHS Center-Based
Ashlee Vogelsang, EHS CCP (*Board Member*)

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Jacquelyn French, Department of Parks and Recreation
Sincere' Holmes, University of Kentucky Human Development Institute
Sarah McMahan, Lexington-Fayette County Health Department
Kelli Parmley, Lexington Public Library
Bradley Stevenson, Child Care Council of Kentucky
Maria Sciaraffa, Eastern Kentucky University
Amy Winn, First Steps

AMBASSADORS

Janine Griffin, Bourbon County Home-Based
Christine Hausmann, University of Kentucky
Ashlee Vogelsang, EHS CCP (*Board Member*)
Amanda Wright, Kentucky Educational Television

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HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START

Arlington Elementary School
Big Bird Early Childhood Center
Bluegrass Community and Technical College
Campus Kids Early Learning Center
Cherish the Child Care Center
Children's Treehouse of Knowledge
Chrysalis House
Family Care Center
Growing Together Preschool
James Lane Allen Elementary

Kids Empowerment Learning Academy (KELA)
Lebus Child Development Center
Lexington Hearing and Speech Center
Nicholas County Elementary
One Parent Scholar House
Shaw's Child Care
Terrace Park Child Development Center
University of Early Childhood Lab
Williams Wells Brown Elementary School

EARLY HEAD START- CHILD CARE PARTNERSHIP

Brite Beginnings
Chrysalis House
Campus Kids Early Learning Center
Kids Empowerment Learning Academy (KELA)

Growing Together Preschool
MegaMinds Educare
Shaw's Child Care

SOUTH CENTRAL HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START

Berea Independent
Bowen Elementary
Clay City Elementary
Eastern Scholar House
Lancaster Elementary
McKee Elementary

Sandgap Elementary
Tyner Elementary
South Irvine Early Learning Center
Clark County Public Schools
Stanton Elementary

MIGRANT AND SEASONAL HEAD START/ MIGRANT AND SEASONAL HEAD START EXPANSION

Clark County School District
Community Action of Southern Kentucky
Lake Cumberland Community Action Agency



P.O. Box 11610
Lexington, Kentucky 40576
1-800-244-2275
www.commaction.org



Sharon Price
Executive Director



Jessica Coffie
Head Start Director



April Mullins-Datko
*Associate Director of Child
Development*



Annia Royo
*Assistant Director of Child
Development*



Kesha Richardson
ERSEA Director



Shanta Small
Assistant Director



Laura Sheffield
Health and Nutrition Manager



LOOKING AHEAD

The Council conducts a Community Assessment process on an annual basis for its Head Start, Early Head Start, and Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership (HSEHS) programs and a separate Community Assessment for its Migrant and Seasonal Head Start (MSHS) programs. The Council's Community Assessments are a vital component of both ERSEA and its strategic planning process because it helps the agency identify emerging trends and changes in the communities in which it serves. The community assessments are an invaluable tool for programmatic decision-making.

Needs are identified through quantitative and qualitative analysis of demographic data, typically beginning in December with the release of the American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates and feedback through self-assessment surveys conducted in the late fall and early winter each year. The Self-Assessment survey collects important qualitative data from program participants, staff and key stakeholders. The information provided in Council's HSEHS and MSHS Community Assessments can be used to identify and establish needed services and resources; set short and long-term program goals and provide a basis for justification of the allocation of enrollment funding slots based on identified need. This Assessment compares current funded enrollment to estimated program eligibility, thereby identifying the proportion of need for Head Start program services currently being met. Consideration is also given to the availability of quality child care providers in each service area and demographics and other trends that impact Head Start-eligible children and families.

Based on the findings of its most recent Community Assessment process, the Council looks to improve its Head Start and Early Head Start programs in the following ways over the coming 2020-2021 program year:

- 1. Expand Early Head Start services throughout the service area by increasing both the total number of funded slots and the number of full-day/duration slots.*
- 2. Explore strategies to address the impacts of substance use on Head Start children and families.*
- 3. Prioritize workforce development and adult education for families, especially in rural communities.*
- 4. Assess and explore how to address transportation needs, particularly in rural communities.*
- 5. Focus on continuing community assessment, facilitating communications, and building relationships in the South Central Head Start service area.*
- 6. Assess and explore innovative solutions to address the complete health needs, including nutrition and food security, physical health and immunizations, and mental health services, especially in rural communities.*
- 7. Prioritize the Council's encouragement of and incubation efforts aimed at strengthening civic engagement and leadership development among the people it serves.*

8. *Utilize language that reinforces the professionalism of early childhood education, inspires and encourages future educators, and conveys to all interested stakeholders and community leaders that learning begins at birth.*

Recommendations from the 2019-2020 MSHS Community Assessment include:

1. *Prioritize investigating and developing opportunities to expand MSHS services into additional Kentucky counties, with an emphasis on western and south-central Kentucky and including the establishment of mutually beneficial partnerships.*
2. *Enhance efforts to recruit children with disabilities into the MSHS program.*
3. *Prioritize the recruitment and retention of qualified bilingual staff to work with families in the MSHS program.*
4. *Explore opportunities to expand MSHS services and facilities within Lexington-Fayette County.*
5. *Expand and enhance services specifically for infants and toddlers enrolled in MSHS.*
6. *Enhance language and literacy education for parents of MSHS-enrolled children.*
7. *Provide enhanced support and information to MSHS-eligible families who express concern about political uncertainty and federal policy changes related to immigration.*
8. *Explore potential strategies to establish consistent long-term medical homes among the MSHS population.*
9. *Enhance existing strategies to further strengthen cultural competence among the staff and faculty who work with the MSHS population.*