

# EHS ANNUAL REPORT 2022



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# ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW:

For more than 20 years, One Place has served children and families in Onslow county - providing programs and resources to end child abuse and working to ensure all children and families in our community reach their fullest potential. From connecting families with high-quality child care to child abuse prevention and intervention efforts, our goal is to support every child who calls Onslow County home. Our work ensures that the next generation will be healthier, happier, and safer. We partner with families, community agencies, and professionals in the early childhood community to provide high-quality early learning environments that encourage healthy brain development and supportive, nurturing relationships that enable children to thrive.

In Onslow County, we face numerous challenges that stand in the way for children. At One Place we work to address those challenges through:

## STRENGTHENING CHILDREN

Early experiences matter, they mold and shape the developing brain and they lay the foundation for a child's sound mental health. We provide early education programs that support the healthy development of children during the first 2,000 days when critical brain development occurs.

## CONNECTING FAMILIES

We connect families and children to helpful resources - from finding the right child care program to helping military families access resources and thrive in Onslow County. With these services, families become more confident, empowered, and engaged with their community.

## ENDING CHILD ABUSE

All of our programs are designed to serve as protective factors for children and families. When children are hurt through abuse or neglect, our Child Advocacy Center provides hope and healing through individualized services.

**900 DENNIS ROAD, JACKSONVILLE, NC 28546**

**910-938-0336**

**INFO@ONEPLACEONSLOW.ORG**

**f @ONEPLACEONSLOW**

# PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

Our Early Head Start (EHS) program receives federal funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Head Start. Families can participate through two program options: home-based or center-based. Our home-based option serves expectant families during pregnancy through six weeks postpartum. Our center-based services are offered through an EHS-Child Care Partnership (EHS-CCP) with Excel Learning Centers and are available for eligible families with children ages 6 weeks through 3- years old. EHS partners with Excel Learning Center 9 in Jacksonville, Excel Learning Center 10 in Richlands, and Excel Learning Center 11 in Swansboro to deliver high-quality, comprehensive services for children and families in a center-based setting.

EHS and Excel program staff have the unique privilege of partnering with families. Through this partnership, staff effectively engage families through the delivery of high-quality comprehensive services that promote children's success in school and beyond. The program also assists families in the development of child and family goals and encourages self-sufficiency.



# DIRECTOR'S NOTE

**Tenacity** (noun): *the determination to continue what you are doing, or the ability to keep doing something difficult; persistence.*

The spirit of tenacity is often referred to as “The Head Start Way.” Despite the many challenges presented by COVID-19 this year, One Place EHS staff, alongside our Excel partners, remained committed to the spirit of *The Head Start Way* by offering comprehensive high-quality services to children and families.



Our program continues its focus on increasing public awareness of our Early Head Start Program as well as Head Start programs. Both of these programs are aimed at supporting the developmental needs of at-risk children, preparing children for school, and align with our organization's goal of preventing child abuse. Without the commitment and dedication to service of our staff members, community partners, Board of Directors, Early Head Start Policy Council, and parents none of this work would be possible. Together, we successfully demonstrated tenacity by continuing to improve the lives of children and families in our community, *The Head Start Way*.

*-Christy Miller, EHS Director*



# LEADERSHIP

## ONE PLACE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Mike Yaniero**, Board Chair, Director of Public Safety, City of Jacksonville

**Julia Collins**, Vice Chair, Community Volunteer

**Joel Churchwell**, Treasurer, Pastor, Sandy Run Missionary Church

**Jennifer Kellum**, Community Member, Owner, Neverland & Main Travel

**Michael Brown**, Community Member, Small Business Consultant, Bank of America

**Ashley Smith**, Community Member, Instructional Support Specialist, Department of Defense Schools

**Zac Everhart**, Community Member

**Bill Keller**, Community Volunteer, USMC Retired

**Lynda Black**, Early Head Start, Policy Council Representative

**Elizabeth Thomas**, Community Volunteer

## EARLY HEAD START POLICY COUNCIL

**Lynda Black**, Parent

**Luisa Davis**, Community Representative

**Nachelle Fenner**, Community Representative

**Kiyeka Gift**, Community Representative

**Bre Hilliard Corbitt**, Parent



# 21-22 PROGRAM PRIORITIES

## OFFICE OF HEAD START PRIORITIES

COVID-19 closures and service-related disruptions impacted our Head Start program across the board and provided a unique set of challenges for service delivery. During the 2021-2022 program year the Office of Head Start (OHS) implemented the Head Start Forward campaign, aimed at aiding grantees in returning to pre-pandemic program services. Some of the key focus areas of the campaign were:

- Health and safety considerations
- Returning to full enrollment and full day, in-person services
- Head Start staff, partner, and volunteer COVID-19 vaccinations
- Increasing and supporting the Head Start workforce through intentional workforce planning
- Supporting the wellness of Head Start staff
- Recruitment and strategic approaches to enrollment

In alignment with the Head Start Forward campaign One Place EHS, in collaboration with our partners, offered in-person, full-day services, with minimum service disruptions, while maintaining full enrollment throughout the program year. Additionally, all EHS staff and partner staff received COVID-19 vaccinations or have a qualifying exemption. We are proud to report that One Place continues to prioritize the health and well-being of staff as a means to maintain and support our workforce. Through these efforts, the EHS program successfully retained staff.

## PROGRAM PRIORITIES

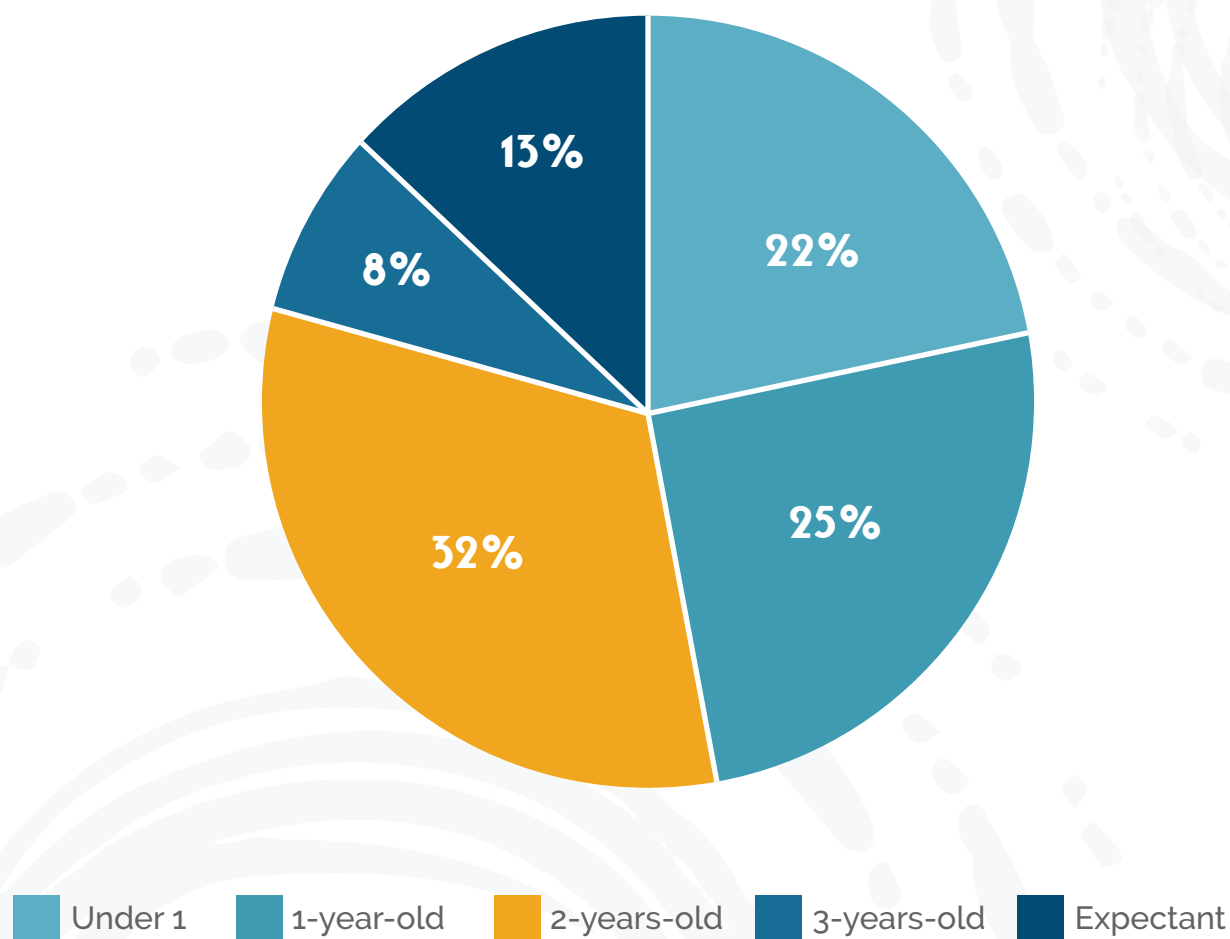
During this program year, One Place EHS transitioned home-based services for children to center-based services. This endeavor is the result of an in-depth community needs assessment which revealed that the needs of children and families could best be met by increasing center-based EHS opportunities. The transition in program options was met with success from our families, partners, and the community. This was evidenced by maintaining full enrollment in each of our classrooms while managing a robust waitlist.

# HOME-BASED SERVICES FOR CHILDREN

In June 2021 it was determined that the One Place EHS home-based program option would cease services to children at the end of the program year. However, home-based services for expectant families would continue. In February 2022, 16 children transitioned from the home-based service option to the center-based service option at Excel Learning Centers 10 & 11. By July 2022, all children enrolled in the home-based program option had transitioned out of the program or into center-based services.

## CUMULATIVE ENROLLMENT HOME-BASED SERVICES

Funded enrollment of **40** children. Cumulative enrollment of **39**, including expectant families. Children in the program with an IFSP comprised **12.5%** of funded enrollment. Military-affiliated families comprised **8%** of cumulative enrollment.

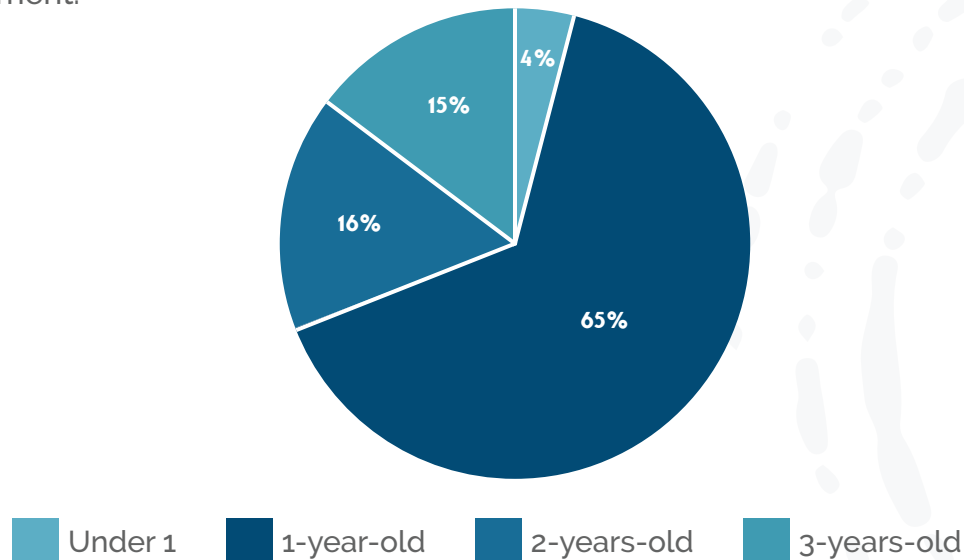


# ENROLLMENT & ELIGIBILITY

## CENTER-BASED SERVICES

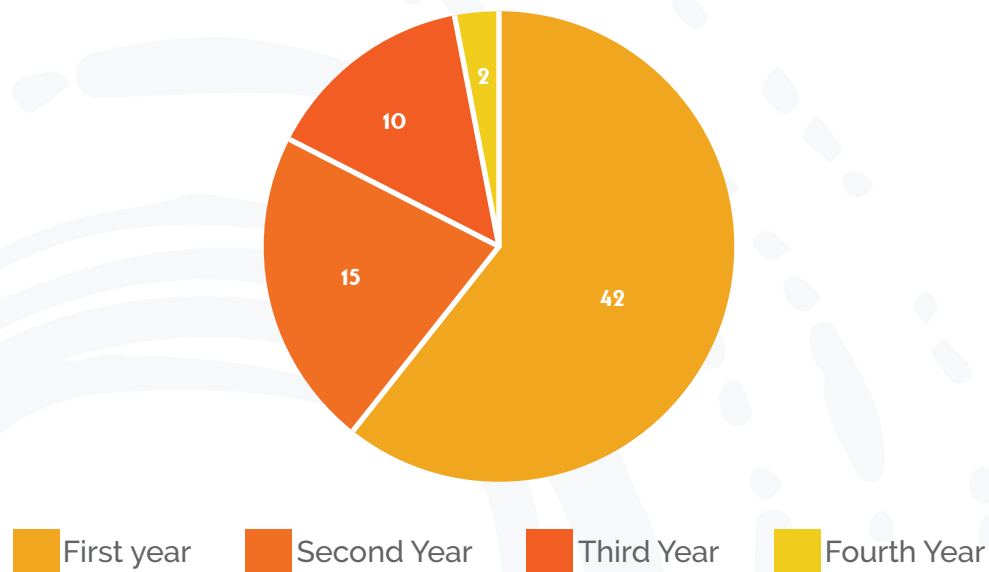
### CUMULATIVE ENROLLMENT CENTER-BASED SERVICES

Funded enrollment of **56** children. Cumulative enrollment of **59**. Military-affiliated families comprised **10%** of cumulative enrollment. Children in the program with an IFSP comprised **15.4%** of funded enrollment.



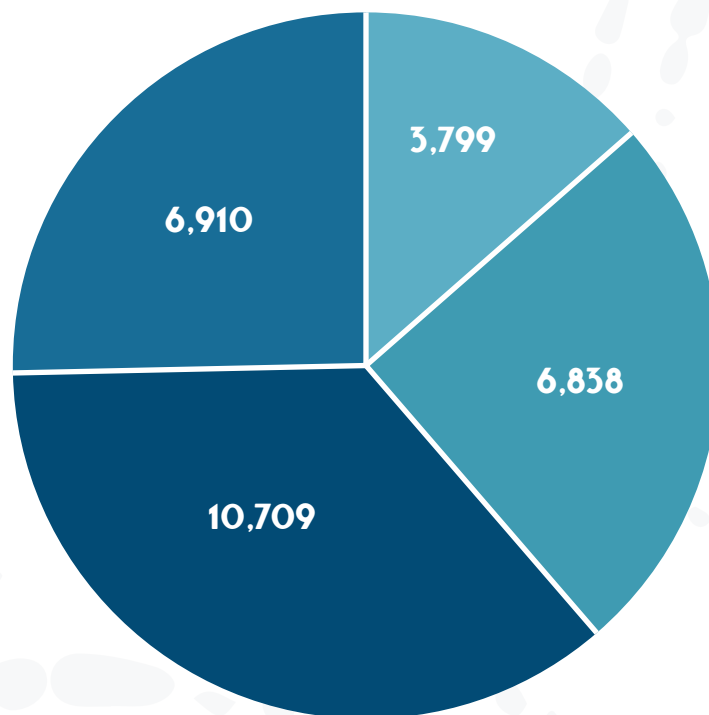
### RETURNING CHILDREN

A key indicator in identifying high-quality programs is the number of families who maintain enrollment with the program for multiple years. One Place EHS had a total of **37** returning children enrolled in center-based services. Some of these children transitioned from the home-based program and some are members whose families have been with the program for multiple years.



# COMMUNITY NEEDS

The estimated number of children aged birth to five in Onslow County is **22,310** (NC Office of State Budget & Management). In addition, the estimates are that **48.1%** of children in the county live in poor or low-income homes (NC CHLD 2022). This means that there are approximately **10,709** income and age-eligible children for Head Start and Early Head Start in Onslow County. Approximately **6,910** of these income-eligible children are aged birth to three. With a slot allocation of **72** center-based slots, One Place EHS is serving less than **2%** of children eligible for Early Head Start.



■ Head Start   ■ Early Head Start   ■ All Programs   ■ Age/Income Eligible Children Not Receiving Services

The data shows that additional Head Start and Early Head Start slots are needed in Onslow County. During the last year, we worked to increase funded slots in our Child Care Partnership program to meet the community's needs and better support an underserved population of children and families in our community. As a result, we expanded center-based services by **30** slots.



# MEDICAL & DENTAL

Participants with health insurance 80%

Participants with access to continuous health care services 86%

Children up-to-date on well-child exams 50%

Children up-to-date on age-appropriate immunizations 100%

Children with access to continuous dental care services 66%

Children up-to-date on preventative dental services 74%

\*Many families fell behind on well-child exams, immunization schedules, and preventative dental services due to medical office closures in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Once offices re-opened, the backlog of appointments was up to 12 months for some local providers. In addition, some families had health and safety concerns regarding visiting a medical office during this time.

# PROGRAM GOALS



## GOAL 1

EHS will work with parents to ensure enrolled children maintain good oral health as an important element of school readiness.

## OBJECTIVES:

- A. EHS will encourage parents to maintain well-visit schedules to ensure the primary care physician monitors oral health.
- B. EHS will encourage parents to establish a dental home for age-eligible enrolled children and complete a dental examination resulting in an increase by **10%** from "at enrollment" to "end of enrollment" at the end of the five-year grant cycle.

## OUTCOMES

### A. NOT MET

Expected-90%

Actual- 50%

### B. MET

Expected Increase- 2%

Actual- 40%

## CHALLENGES

Physicians who were behind schedule due to COVID-19 allowed some children to skip well-child visits to assist in getting them back on schedule. Some working parents also found it difficult to schedule appointments for their children without disruption to their work schedule.

## GOAL 2

EHS will enhance the developmental skills of enrolled children to improve language and literacy skills to maximize the potential for successful preschool entry.

### OBJECTIVES:

EHS will strengthen the ability of Home Visitors and families to improve language and literacy skills of enrolled children as measured by **80%** of children meeting or exceeding school readiness goals for language and literacy.

### OUTCOMES

#### NOT MET

Expected-85%

Actual- 76.75%

### CHALLENGES

Enrolled children exhibited increased social and emotional needs. Educators prioritized the healthy social and emotional development of children and implemented strategies to support the mental health and well-being of children.



## GOAL 3

EHS program will ensure compliance with all fiscal requirements through continuous monitoring of financial management systems and internal controls.

### OBJECTIVES:

EHS will increase the percentage of Non-Federal Share (NFS) match collection by **0.25%** each year for the required match.

### OUTCOMES

#### MET

Expected-100% of required

Actual- 129%

## GOAL 4

EHS will collaborate with families to develop formal and informal networks to strengthen family-child outcomes.

### OBJECTIVES:

EHS staff will incorporate relationship-based competencies to increase family engagement and participation in program activities incrementally by **30** participants over the five-year grant cycle.

### OUTCOMES

#### NOT MET

Expected-20 engaged families

Actual- 3 engaged families

### CHALLENGES

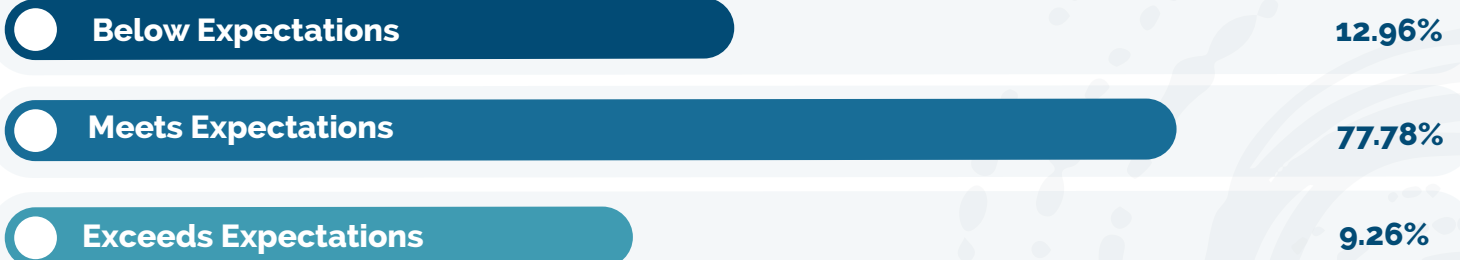
Family Work Schedules  
Change in program management  
Year of transition for the program



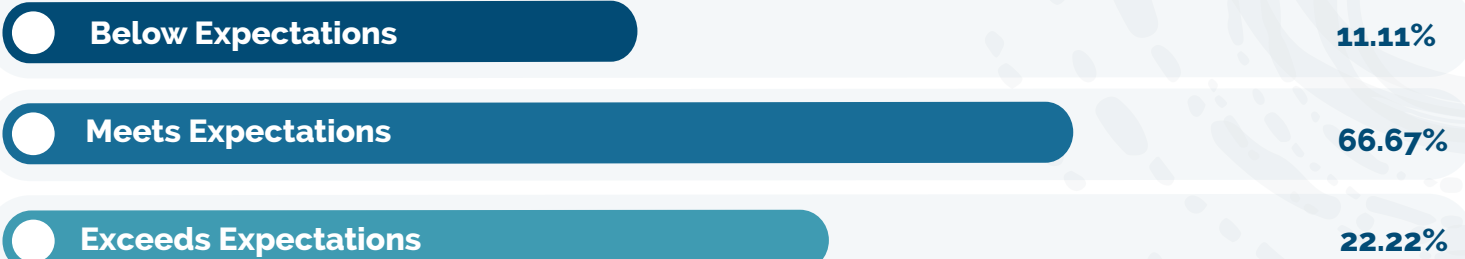
# CHILD OUTCOMES

## FINAL CHILD DEVELOPMENTAL OUTCOMES

### Social-Emotional



### Physical



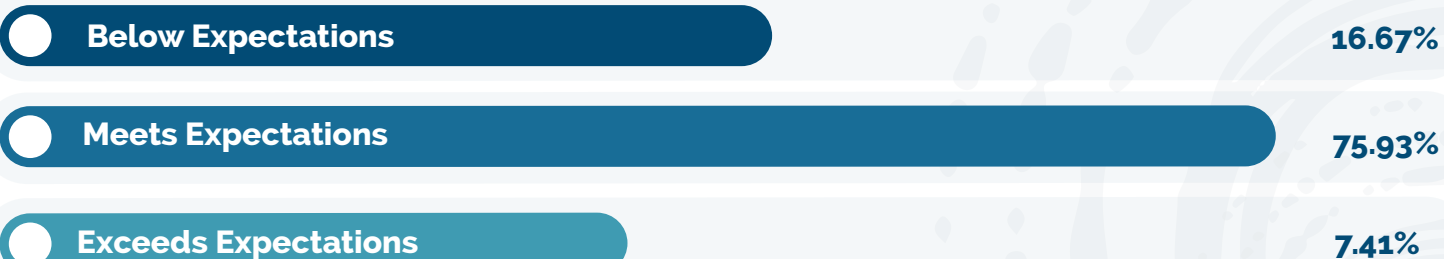
### Language



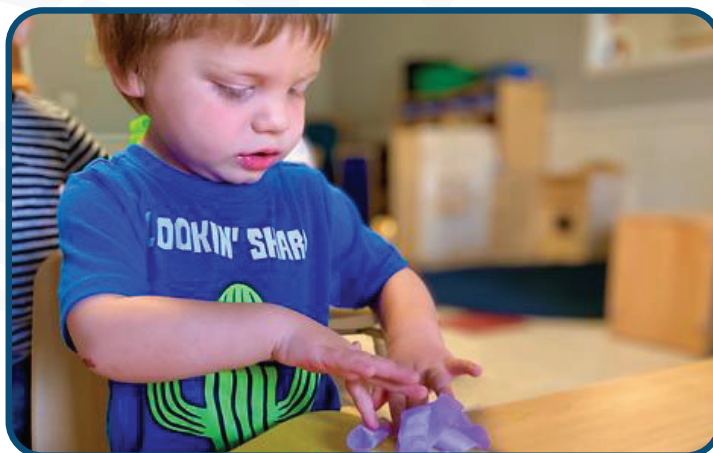
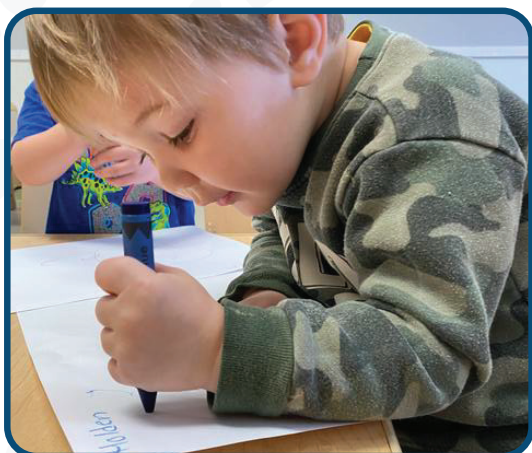
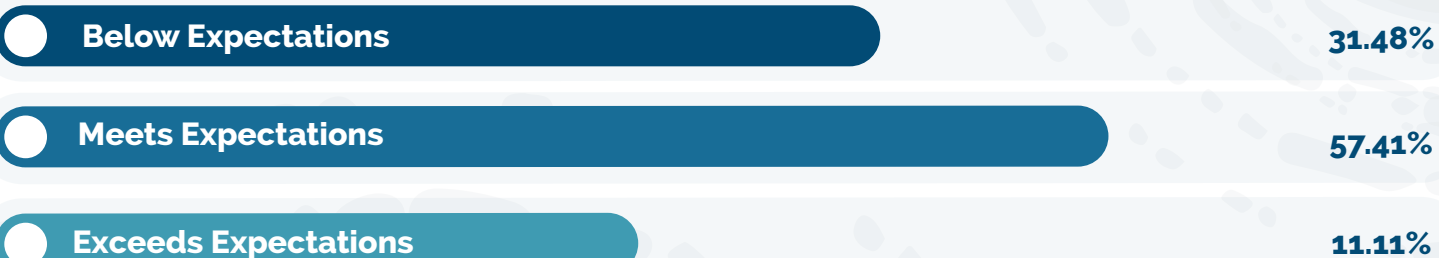
## Cognitive



## Literacy



## Mathematics



# FAMILY OUTCOMES

Enrolled families made the most gains in the following areas this program year:

**1** EMPLOYMENT GAIN

**2** MAINTAINING SUSTAINABLE HOUSING

**3** IMPROVING FINANCIAL HEALTH (FINANCIAL PLANNING)

Areas to focus on:

**1** LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION (BILINGUALISM)

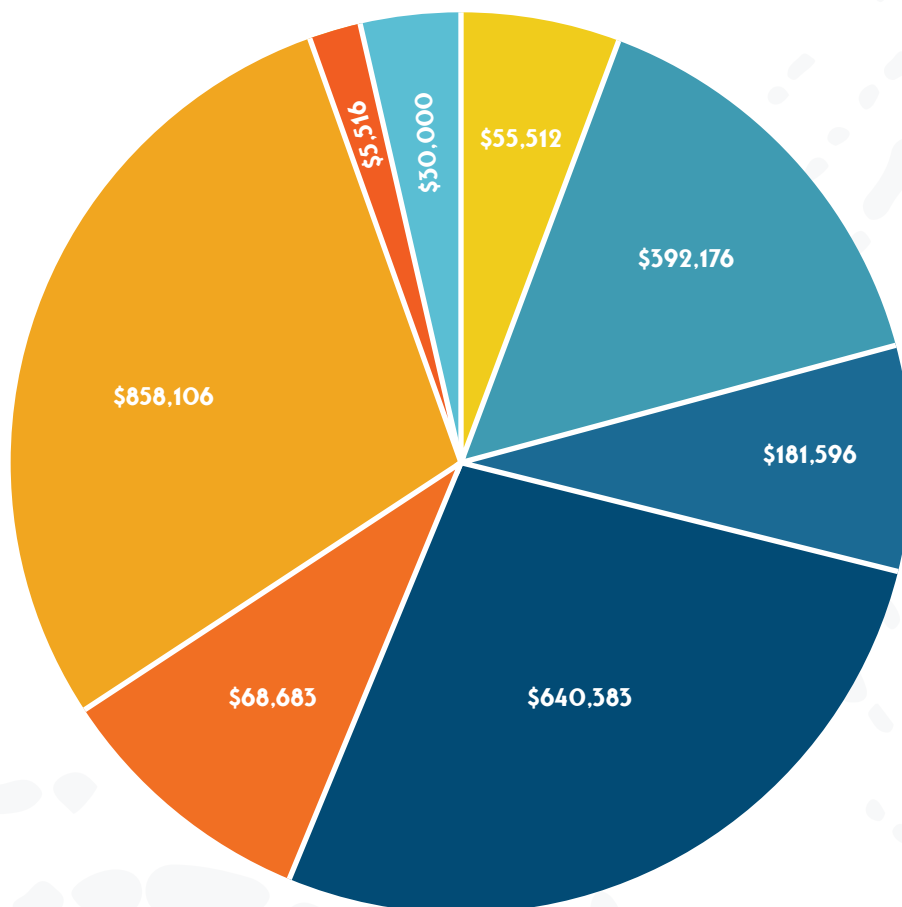
**2** DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE HOME

**3** SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES

# BUDGET

## APPROVED BUDGET

Funding Cycle **March 1, 2022** through **February 28, 2023**



During the **21-22** fiscal year, the Early Head Start program was eligible for a **2.28%** COLA increase and an overall funding increase of **\$10,000** to support Quality Improvement of services provided to children in center-based settings. The program also received **\$80,000** in Smart Start funds to support services.



# SUCCESS STORIES

An enrolled family was in an auto accident (everyone was okay, no major injuries). Due to the accident and financial hardship, the family was in need of a new car seat. EHS Family Liaisons who are also Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians provided the family with a new car seat (courtesy of Safe Kids) and provided the mom with education and information about best practices for safe travel. "Mom reported feeling good about our interaction and safer about future travel."

**-EHS STAFF**

EHS Health Services staff conducted a hearing and vision screening on an enrolled child. Results for both indicated the need for a referral/rescreen. Staff conducted a rescreening two weeks later and results for both still indicated the need for a referral. The parent followed up with the child's pediatrician and received referrals to an ENT and eye doctor. The child ended up receiving antibiotics for fluid on the ear and went on to pass his subsequent hearing test. The child received an eye exam and was prescribed glasses. "When communicating with parents about the results of hearing and vision screenings I get a lot of sighs of relief. They often have concerns but don't know where to get help with those concerns and we are able to support them in advocating for their child to receive care and intervention."

**-EHS STAFF**

- Two additional center-based classrooms opened in two new locations (Richlands and Swansboro).
- Education coaches hired to support center-based teachers with classroom and behavior management, and disability services.
- A child receiving center-based services entered the program with a gross motor delay. Within four months he showed great improvement and is now walking independently.
- Staff facilitated the evaluation of a child that resulted in the creation of an IFSP to better support the child's needs and encourage appropriate growth and development.

# COMMUNITY PARTNERS

One Place Early Head Start collaborated with a variety of community partners and vendors to provide high-quality, comprehensive services to children and families throughout the program year. Without the support of our community partners and vendors, the success of this program would not be possible.

We would like to give special thanks and recognition to the following partners for their role in making our **2021-2022** Program Year successful:

- Excel Learning Centers partnered with the EHS program to provide center-based services to 56 eligible EHS children and families in three locations in Onslow County.
- Onslow County Schools, Head Start Program partnered with EHS to create collaborative processes to ease transitions between programs for children and families served through both programs.
- Onslow County Health Department, Women, Infant and Children program (WIC) worked with EHS staff to support enrolled expectant families.
- Lakeshore Learning supported the EHS program in equipping new classrooms and playgrounds with state-of-the-art materials to best support the needs of enrolled children.

**The following community partners also supported the program:**

Zing Zumm Children's Museum of Jacksonville

Giggle's Drop-In Childcare

Mission BBQ

Courtyard by Marriott, Jacksonville

Lazzara's Pizza and Subs

We are so grateful for these partnerships and the support of the community. Together we are making a difference in the lives of children and families in Onslow County.