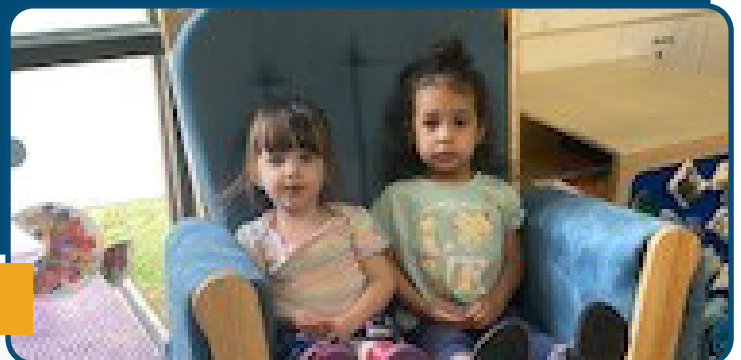


EARLY HEAD START ANNUAL REPORT 2023



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ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW:

For more than 25 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, including local military families. 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.

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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 8 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.





LEADERSHIP

ONE PLACE BOARD OF DIRECTORS: GOVERNANCE & PROGRAMS

Julia Collins, Chair, Community Volunteer

Joel Churchwell, Vice Chair, Pastor, Sandy Run Missionary Church

Ashley Smith, Secretary, Department of Defense Schools

Elizabeth Thomas, Treasurer, Community Representative

Michael Brown, Community Representative, Small Business Consultant, Bank of America

Brian Kelly, Community Representative, City of Jacksonville

Senatra Spearmon, Community Representative, Onslow County Public Library

Kathryn Wessell, Community Representative, Catalyst Child Care Center

Mary Hendrickson, Community Representative, Retired DOD Educator

Daisy Haywood, Community Representative, Retired Law Enforcement

Staci Davis, Community Representative, YMCA

Emily Sabo, Parent Representative, Early Head Start

Monroe "Roe" Holcomb, Community Representative, The Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic @ Hope For The Warriors

EARLY HEAD START POLICY COUNCIL

Luisa Davis, Community Representative

Nachelle Fenner, Community Representative

Kiyeka Gift, Community Representative

Christine Steffan, Parent

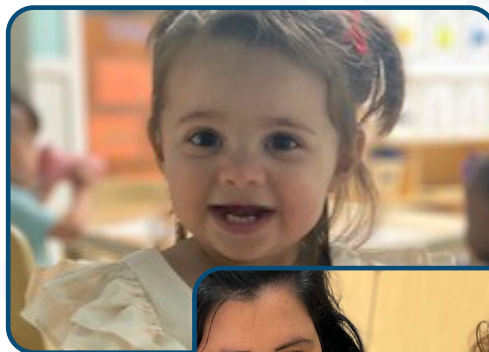
Emily Sabo, Parent/Chair

Katherine Ray, Community Representative

Mica Johnson, Parent

Hope Martine, Parent

Brenda Schuffert, Community Representative



PRENATAL SERVICES

CUMULATIVE ENROLLMENT OF PRENATAL SERVICES

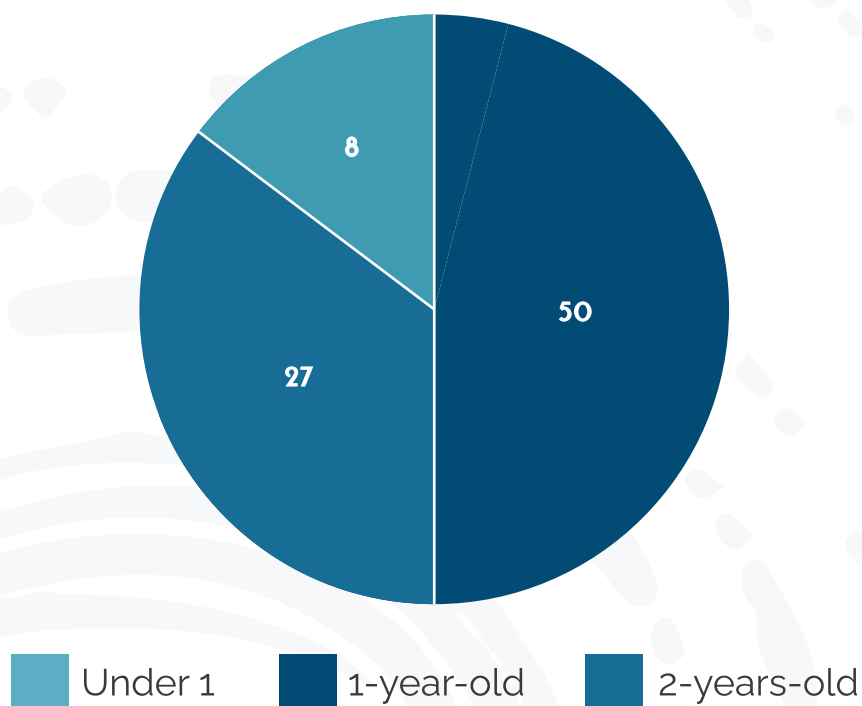
Funded enrollment of **6** expectant mothers. Cumulative enrollment of **8** expectant mothers.

- This year the program served more than the recommended number of expectant mothers.
- Several mothers in the program were considered very high risk throughout their pregnancies.
- All eight deliveries were full-term, live birth with no complications.
- All eight babies were healthy and are doing well.
- Of the eight babies born, three are currently enrolled in the CCP program.

CENTER-BASED SERVICES/CCP

CUMULATIVE ENROLLMENT CENTER-BASED SERVICES

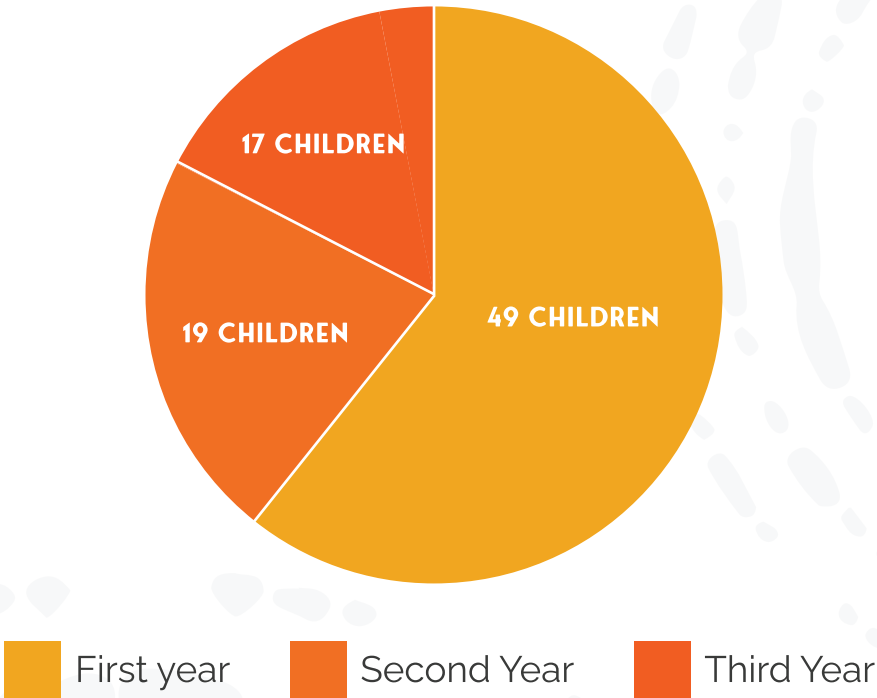
Funded enrollment of **72** children. Cumulative enrollment of **85**. Military-affiliated families comprised **22%** of cumulative enrollment. Children in the program with an IFSP comprised **12%** of cumulative enrollment.



RETURNING CHILDREN

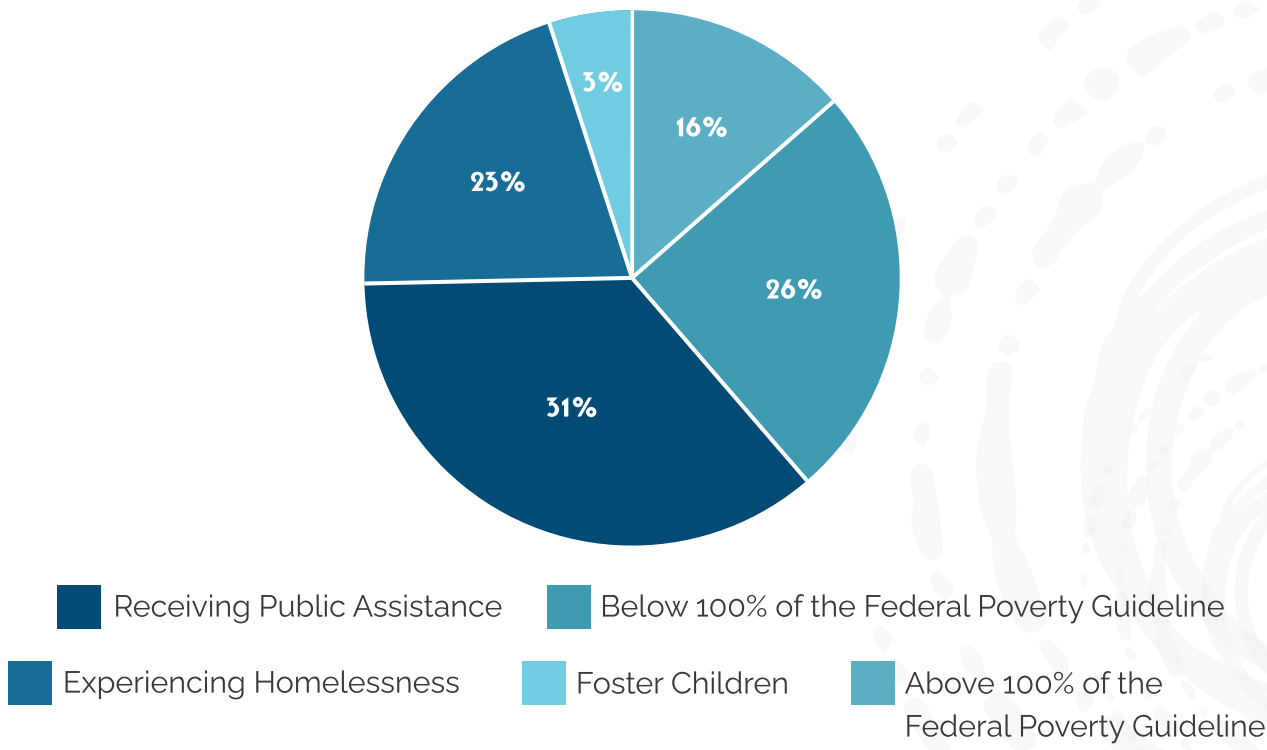
A key indicator in identifying high-quality programs is the number of families who maintain enrollment with the program for multiple years. One Place EHS had a total of **36** returning children enrolled in center-based services. Some of these children transitioned from the home-based program in 2022 and some are members whose families have been with the program for multiple years.

NUMBER OF YEARS WITH THE PROGRAM



ELIGIBILITY AND ATTENDANCE

ELIGIBILITY



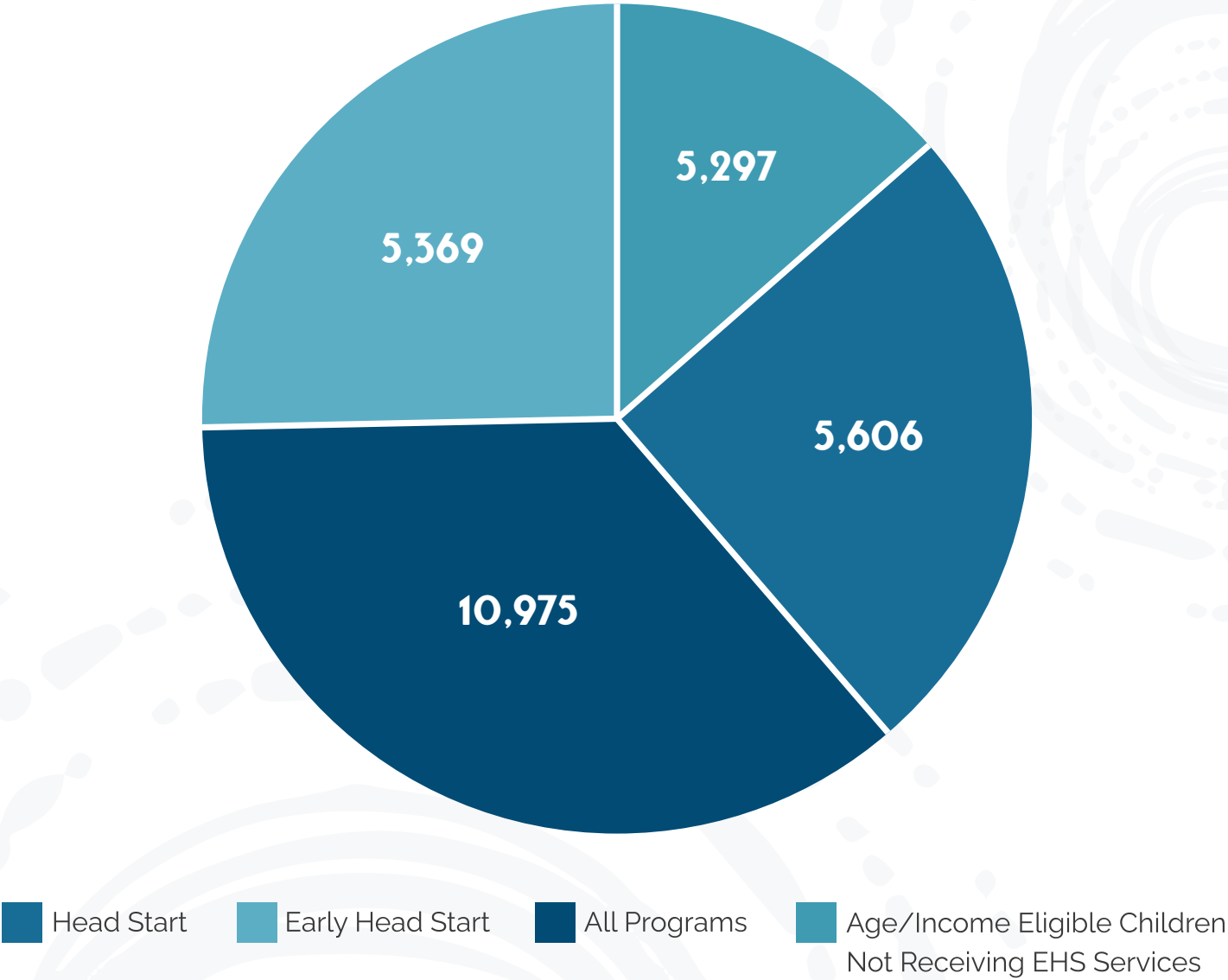
ATTENDANCE

Year-to-date average attendance of children present for the 2022-2023 school year was **81%**



COMMUNITY NEEDS

The estimated number of children ages birth to five in Onslow County is **22,866** (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 CHILD 2022). This means that there are approximately **10,975** 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.



MEDICAL & DENTAL

Participants with health insurance **100%**

Participants with access to continuous health care services **97%**

Children up-to-date on well-child exams **73%**

Children up-to-date on age-appropriate immunizations **90%**

Children with access to continuous dental care services **65%**

Children up-to-date on preventative dental services **72%**

A program must provide high-quality health, oral health, mental health, and nutrition services that are developmentally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate and that will support each child's growth and school readiness. *1302.40 Head Start Performance Standards*

One Place EHS Health Specialist works consistently and collaboratively to obtain determinations from health care and oral health care professionals as to whether or not the child is up-to-date on a schedule of age-appropriate preventive and primary medical and oral health care, based on and in review of: well-child visits and dental periodicity schedules as prescribed by the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) program in NC.

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 consistent dental screenings throughout their duration in the EHS program to comply with the Office of Head Start Performance Standards and regulations.

OUTCOMES

A. COMPLETED DENTAL OR ORAL SCREENINGS

91%

B. PAST DUE AT END OF PROGRAM YEAR

8%

CHALLENGES

Within the community, children served through our early childhood programs for at-risk children and families have been negatively impacted by COVID-19, especially in regard to dental care. There are limited area providers who serve children, and these providers fell behind on appointments by at least 6 months. Many of these children remain behind on their dental exams and screenings as a result.

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 Early Educators and families to improve the language and literacy skills of enrolled children as measured by **80%** of children meeting or exceeding school readiness goals for language and literacy.

OUTCOMES

Expected - **80%**

Actual - **79%**

CHALLENGES

Enrolled children exhibited increased speech and language needs. Educators prioritized the healthy social and emotional development as well as language and literacy of children and implemented strategies to support the overall development 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.

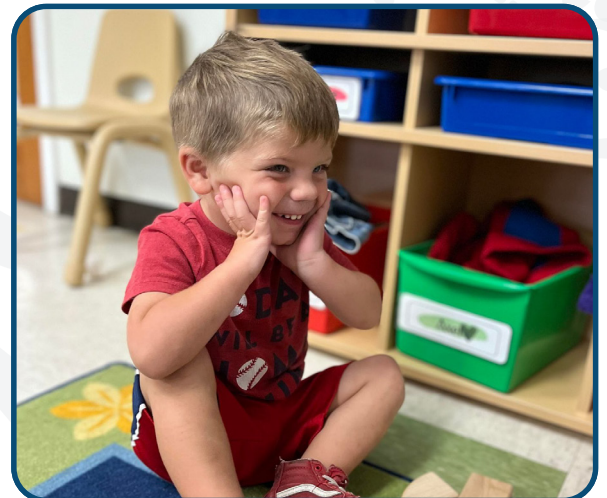
OUTCOMES

Expected - **100%**

Actual - Exceeded **100%**

CHALLENGES

The total Non-Federal Share (NFS) requirement for the 2022/2023 fiscal year was **\$392,176.00**. The total Non-Federal Share (NFS) obtained for the 2022/2023 fiscal year was **\$443,334.79**. However, the **15%** maximum administrative Non-Federal Share (NFS) was exceeded. The EHS program is implementing strategies to reduce administrative Non-Federal Share (NFS) and increase direct services Non-Federal Share (NFS) through increased parent involvement/engagement and CCP collaborations.



GOAL 4

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

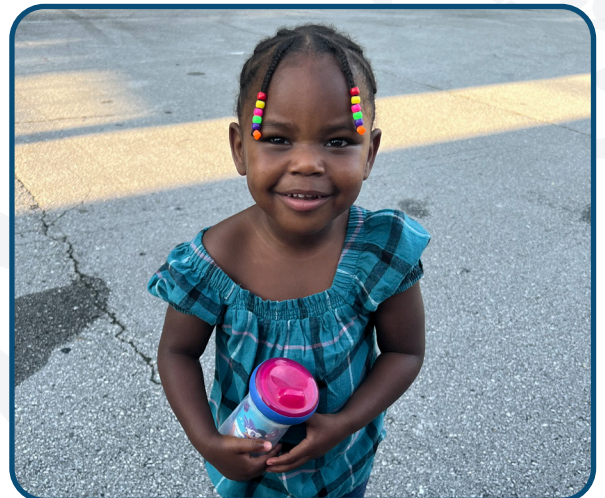
OBJECTIVES:

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

Expected- **25** Participants for 2022/2023 School Year

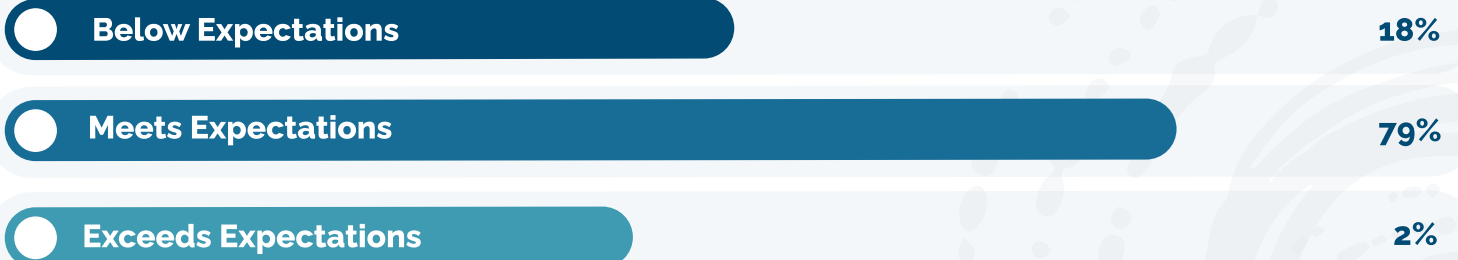
Actual- **27** Participants for 2022/2023 School Year



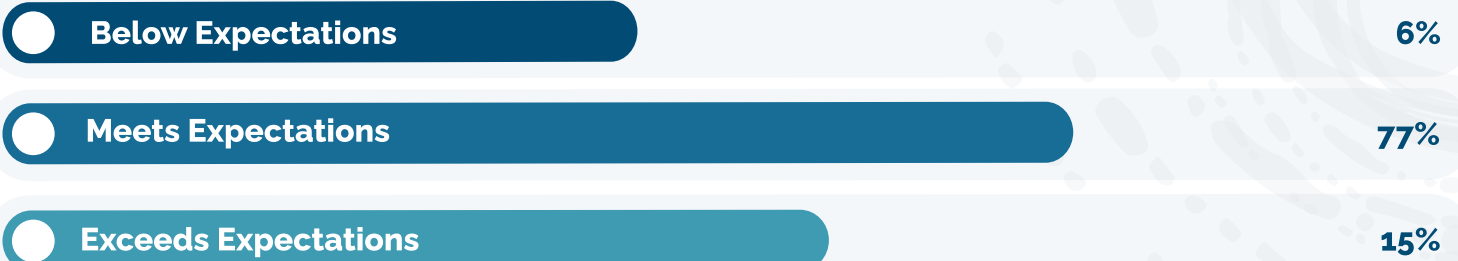
CHILD OUTCOMES

FINAL CHILD DEVELOPMENTAL OUTCOMES

Social-Emotional



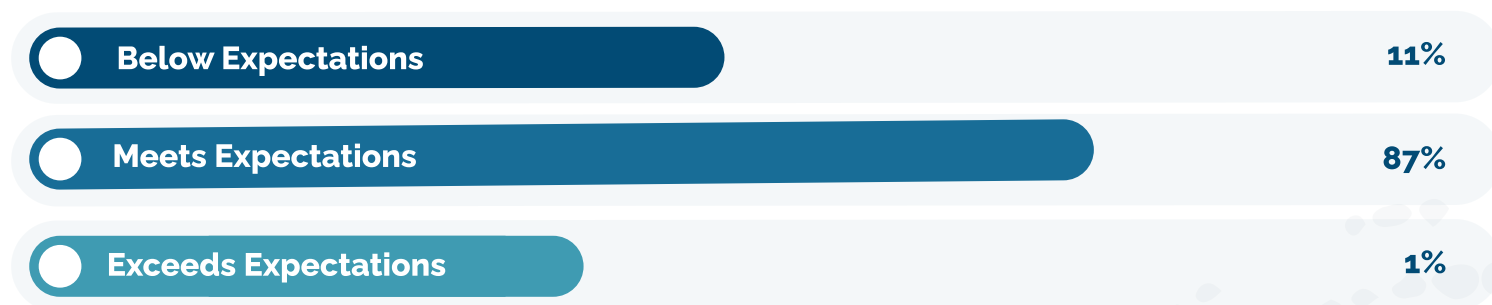
Physical



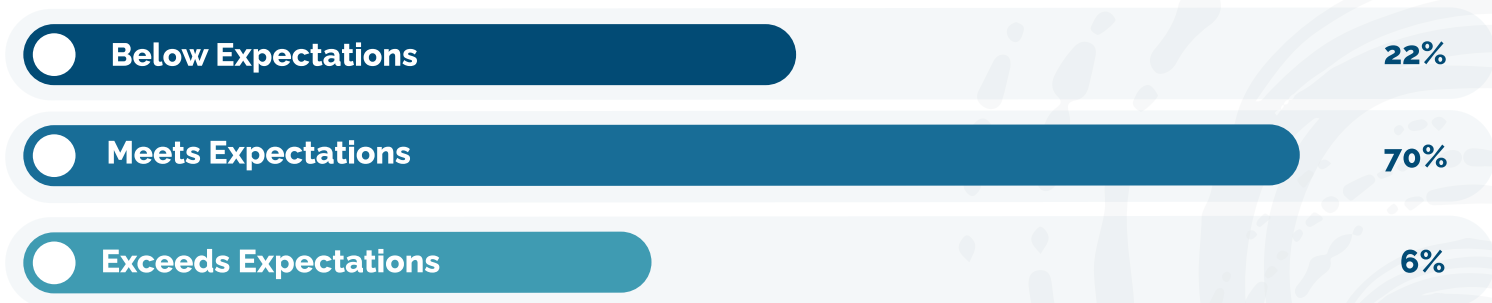
Language



Cognitive



Literacy



Mathematics



CHALLENGES

Lack of resources, including access to local speech providers and limited language materials, as well as financial constraints such as patient travel and speech treatment costs, are the most commonly reported barriers to accessing speech services. One Place EHS staff worked to collaborate with the local Child Development Services Agency to provide additional therapeutic support services including speech and developmental intervention on a quarterly basis throughout the program year to enhance the quality of developmental skills.

FAMILY OUTCOMES

Early Head Start Family Service staff work together with families, other professionals, and community partners in ways that promote equity, inclusiveness, and cultural and linguistic responsiveness. Family engagement is an interactive process through which family service staff and families, family members, and their children build positive and goal-oriented relationships. Parents engage with their children and with staff as they work together toward the goals that families choose for themselves and their children. The Environmental Screening Questionnaire (ESQ) is the assessment tool used to highlight a family's strengths and protective factors, identify risk factors that might affect a parent's ability to support healthy child development, help staff determine the types of resources and referrals a family might need, and provides an easy way to monitor outcomes for children and families. The ESQ has five categories: Education and Employment, Housing, Child and Family Health, Economics and Finance, Family Life, and Community. The ESQ is completed three times within the year.

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

1 EMPLOYMENT

Total number of families served was **81**. Of these families, **66** parents/ guardians were employed at the start of the program year and there was an increase of four bringing the total number of parents/guardians with employment to **70** at the end year.

2 MAINTAINING SUSTAINABLE HOUSING

During this year we had only **two** families that had a need for housing.

3 IMPROVING FINANCIAL HEALTH (FINANCIAL PLANNING)

Most families made improvement in the area of financial health.

Areas to focus on:

1 LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION (BILINGUALISM)

A very small percentage of families served had language and communication barriers. We were able to provide services for these families to enhance communication with staff members that are bilingual.

2 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

There were no reports of domestic violence in the home from families served this year.

3 SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES

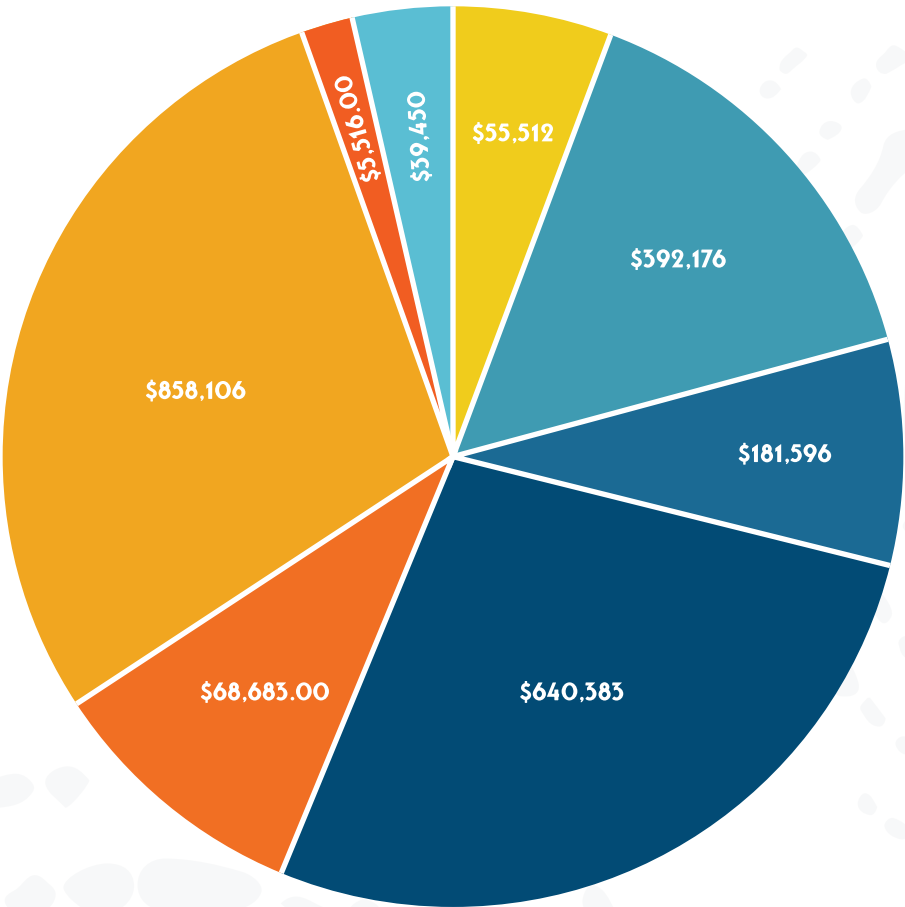
Total number of single-parent families served was **43** out of **81** total families.



BUDGET

APPROVED BUDGET \$1,809,796

Funding Cycle March 1, 2022 through February 28, 2023



- Other
- Non-Federal Share
- Travel
- Fringe Benefits
- Salary & Wages
- Supplies
- Contractual
- Training & Technical Assistance

SUCCESS STORIES

A newly enrolled child entered our EHS classroom as his first type of care outside of the home. The parents had some concerns about the child's speech development. CCP staff and EHS teachers were able to conduct observations and provide data and resources to the parents who were able to get their child speech therapy services.

- ONE PLACE EHS STAFF MEMBER

I am thrilled to share the incredible progress story of one of our enrolled children, Adam. Since Adam started his IEP in April and began working with an amazing team of professionals, including his speech therapist and special education teacher, his progress has been nothing short of extraordinary!



Adam has shown immense growth in both his behaviors and communication skills. His journey hasn't been easy, but the unwavering support of his educators, and therapists has truly made a difference.

In just a short period, Adam has blossomed into a more confident and expressive child. His teachers have noticed a significant improvement in his ability to communicate his needs, thoughts, and feelings, which has led to a decrease in frustration and an increase in overall happiness.

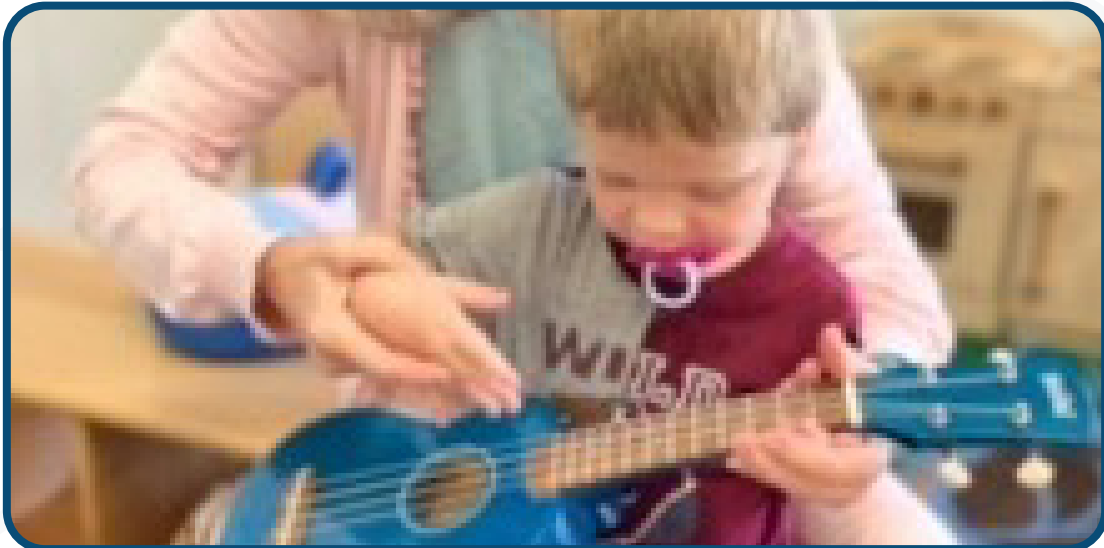
We can't emphasize enough the impact of the collaborative efforts put forth by his incredible speech therapist, special education teacher, and EHS teachers. Their dedication, expertise, and personalized approach have helped unlock Adam's potential, allowing him to thrive and reach new milestones every day.

I am immensely proud of Adam's accomplishments and the progress he has made. His journey serves as an inspiration to us all, highlighting the power of early intervention and the importance of a supportive network.

- ONE PLACE EHS STAFF MEMBER

The Healthy Opportunities Pilot (HOP) program through Medicaid helps families address non-medical issues such as transportation, housing, and food insecurities. The HOP program goal is to implement preventative support for families to help reduce toxic stress to high-needs Medicaid recipients. I read about the HOP program from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS). I researched the program and identified three families that could benefit from the HOP program. Family One received a gas card, a food card for fresh fruit and vegetables, and was assigned a case manager to assist the family in other non-medical areas. Family Two received counseling services and a case manager to assist the family in other non-medical areas. As I was transitioning out of Family Services, Family Three shared they were waiting for a case manager to contact them for an evaluation of services.

- ONE PLACE EHS STAFF MEMBER



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 **2022-2023** Program Year successful:

Child Development Services Agency

Child First

Excel Learning Center

Onslow County Consolidated Health and Human Services

Onslow County Schools

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.

