

Annual Report

2016-2017



EARLY HEAD START



HEAD START

About Head Start

Over fifty years ago Head Start began as a program for preschoolers, primarily serving 3- and 4-year-old children. Today, Head Start offers programming for infants, toddlers, and pregnant women through Early Head Start. To meet the needs of local families, Opportunities for Otsego offers home visiting to families throughout Otsego County and center-based services in ten communities.

Head Start programs prepare young children to succeed in school and in life beyond school. To achieve this, Head Start programs deliver services to children and families in core areas of early learning, health, and family well-being while engaging parents as partners every step of the way.

Beginning prenatally, **Early Head Start** provides comprehensive child development and family support services to low-income families. The goals of Early Head Start are to promote the physical, cognitive, social and emotional development of infants and toddlers; support parents in their role as primary caregivers and teachers of their children; and connect families to community resources so they may meet personal goals and achieve self-sufficiency across a wide variety of domains. Early Head Start programming is available to families until their child turns 3 years old and transitions into Head Start.

Head Start is a center-based preschool program that promotes school readiness of children under 5 years old from low-income families. Head Start helps children develop the early reading, math, and social skills needed to be successful in school. Head Start also provides support to families by building positive parent-child relationships, family well-being, and connections to peers and community. Head Start center-based services are offered in Cherry Valley; Cooperstown; Laurens; Milford; Morris; Oneonta; Richfield Springs; Schenevus; Unadilla; and Worcester.

A requirement of the Head Start Act is an annual report to the public. The information included within summarizes the activities of Opportunities for Otsego Head Start program over the course of the 2016-2017 program year.

Enrollment

During operational months, the average Head Start enrollment was 84%. The average Early Head Start enrollment was 99%. The percentage of eligible children served was 88% (Head Start) and 100% (Early Head Start). In total, 303 children from 281 families were served through Head Start and 173 children from 127 families were served through Early Head Start.



Average Monthly Enrollment (H.S. - E.H.S.)

August '16 (0% - 70%)	September (87% - 75%)
October (87% - 80%)	November (82% - 70%)
December (75% - 90%)	January '17 (79% - 84%)
February (79% - 84%)	March (80% - 83%)
April (81% - 81%)	May (82% - 92%)
June (80% - 85%)	July (00% - 76%)

Head Start is not in operation during July and August

Parent Involvement

Head Start encourages families to take an active role in their child's education and development and to be a part of program decision-making. Ways in which Head Start and Early Head Start promote parent involvement include:

- Parent Groups - Parents automatically become part of a center Parent Group once their child is enrolled in either program. Meetings are scheduled monthly and agendas are planned according to parents' availability and interests.
- Policy Council - Parents are asked to represent their center/program option on Policy Council, which is the governing body of the Head Start Program that acts as the voice of parents in making major decisions for the program.
- "Dad's Take Your Child To School Day" – Head Start centers take part in this annual, state-wide event which encourages father involvement and participation in classroom activities.
- Volunteering - Parents are encouraged to volunteer in classrooms, on field trips, during special family fun days, and other ways they are comfortable.
- Farmers Museum Day – Every May, Head Start and Early Head Start families are invited for a free day at the Farmers Museum and the Fenimore Art Museum.
- Trainings - Parents are invited to attend workshops and trainings hosted by Head Start and Early Head Start.
- Outreach - Parents are invited to participate in outreach events with program staff so they may share their personal experiences with potential new enrollees.
- Parent/Teacher Conferences and Home Visits – These one-on-one meetings allow parents to provide input regarding educational and personal goals for their children and family.
- Socializations – Early Head Start families are invited to bimonthly activity-based "play groups", which are designed to strengthening the relationship between parent and child.



Policy Council

Head Start program leadership consists of three key entities: the agency governing body; management staff; and Policy Council. Together these entities work together to provide leadership and strategic direction.

Policy Council is composed of parent representatives from Early Head Start, each Head Start center, and community members. This group helps make decisions concerning the entire program and approves budgets, funding applications, program policies, selection/termination of program staff, and participates in the annual self-assessment process.

Health & Wellness

All Head Start and Early Head Start children and prenatal mothers receive health and development screenings, and oral health and mental health support. Programs connect families with medical, dental, and mental health services to ensure that children and prenatal mothers are receiving the services they need.

As reported in the most recent Head Start Community Needs Assessment, there is a “significant shortage of dentists in Otsego County who provide services to children, (which has) created a hardship for families...in accessing dental professionals who are specifically trained to provide treatment to children.” Additional barriers to accessing medical care in Otsego County are socially isolated communities, a lack of public transportation, and general transportation expenses such as gas, insurance, and vehicle maintenance. To help facilitate access, Head Start Family Partners coordinate and, as needed, provide transportation for families to assist within obtaining recommended medical and dental care. Through the support of the program, 100% of Head Start children and 97% Early Head Start children received a medical exam within the program year and 78% of Head Start and 57% of Early Head Start children received a dental exam.



Kindergarten Preparation

Beginning in 2010–11 program year, Opportunities for Otsego utilized the Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework to initiate a process of establishing measurable school readiness goals for children ages birth through five. Since then, the program has utilized local, state and national resources to develop and describe goals and assessment measures designed to increase children's readiness to enter Kindergarten. In addition, a well-developed transition time line along with Kindergarten follow up activities allow the program to gain additional knowledge of each child's experience when entering Kindergarten and to identify trends for program planning and improvement.



In the Early Head Start, Head Start and Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) programs, educational outcomes for children are mandated under state and federal guidelines and are achieved using research based curriculum and an ongoing assessment approach. Goals for children are aligned with the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework: Ages Birth to Five, the New York State Early Learning Guidelines, and the Prekindergarten Foundation for the Common Core. An Alignment Crosswalk of these three documents has been developed by the New York State Head Start Collaboration Project to guide early childhood education professionals in understanding children's development and providing meaningful learning experiences in the classroom. These frameworks are implemented in both Head Start and Early Head Start to provide foundational learning experiences for all enrolled children and prepare them to be school-ready.

Financial Statements

The Board of Directors is proud of the work that program directors, managers, and the finance team do on a regular basis to assure Opportunities for Otsego's resources have the greatest impact possible, and is pleased to report that 93% of agency revenue is spent on programs and direct services.

Opportunities for Otsego received an unqualified opinion from its independent auditors on its financial statements for the fiscal year ending 03.31.16. In the opinion of the auditing firm EFPR Group, "the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Opportunities for Otsego, Inc. as of March 31, 2017 and 2016, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America."

The Office of Head Start (OHS) uses the Head Start Monitoring System to measure the performance and accountability of local programs. OHS assesses compliance with Head Start Program Performance Standards, the Head Start Act, and other regulations. This system gives OHS a multi-year perspective on grantee operations with a focus on performance, progress, and compliance and provides grantees with opportunities for continuous improvement. Opportunities for Otsego will undergo the new monitoring system during the 2017-18 program year.

Statement of Activities: Year Ending March 31, 2016

Revenue

Contracts and Grants	\$5,323,922
WIC Food Instruments	658,345
Program Service Fees	720,747
Program Revenue	367,864
Contributions	142,800
In-kind Contributions	970,995
Other Revenue	2,327
Interest Income	4,502
Net Depreciation of Investments	(8,828)
Loss on Disposal of Assets	(2,134)
Total Revenue	<u>\$8,180,540</u>

Expenses

Child & Family Development	\$5,399,357
Crisis Intervention & Support	1,208,716
Energy Services	634,545
Other Program Services	356,658
Management & General	648,613
Fundraising	2,945
Total Expenses	<u>\$8,250,834</u>
Decrease in Net Assets	(70,294)
Net Assets at Beginning of the Year	1,810,257
Net Assets at End of the Year	<u>\$1,739,963</u>

Proposed Budget

Opportunities for Otsego, Head Start/Early Head Start program anticipates an operating budget of \$3,376,372 for the 2017-18 federal funding cycle. In addition to this allocation, Head Start must procure \$844,000 in in-kind donations to satisfy federal matching fund requirements.

To learn how you can help Head Start meet its in-kind match and for information on other ways to support Head Start, visit our donate page at www.ofoinc.org.

