

2016

Annual Report for Orange County Head Start and Early Head Start

a division of the Chapel Hill Training and Outreach Project, Inc.



Greetings!

I am proud to share with you the Orange County Head Start-Early Head Start 2016 annual report! This year over 244 birth to five-year-old children and their families in Orange County were served by the program as described throughout this report.

2016 was also an eventful year because I informed CHTOP, Inc. in December of my intention to retire as of March 31, 2017. After considerable thought and nearly 19 years as the OCHS-EHS Program Director, it is time to embark on the next phase of my life! It is bittersweet in many ways because the opportunity to have served as the first director since 1998 has been a fascinating professional experience and I can hardly believe 18 years have flown by! Thanks to parents, staff, program boards, community child care partners, school districts, and many community collaborators for their support and commitment to OCHS-EHS over the years.

CHTOP, Inc., our sponsor agency and grantee for the OCHS-EHS Program, has grown considerably over the past few years with the addition of Durham Head Start and Durham Early Head Start programs coming under the CHTOP, Inc. umbrella. While we continue to operate as individual and unique programs in our respective counties, we have benefitted from each other with shared knowledge, resources and support. It is with that in mind, that I am pleased that the CHTOP Board and OCHS-EHS Policy Council approved the recommendation that Terry David, current director of Durham Head Start, also assume directorship of Orange County Head Start-Early Head Start. His leadership skills, his ability to communicate with staff and parents and his overall commitment to Head Start will support and maintain the continued success of our Orange County program.

I am very proud of what we have accomplished as a Head Start-Early Head Start program in Orange County. I will always treasure my fond memories of the many families who have participated in the program, the friendships and support of staff and the CHTOP agency, and the collaboration with agencies and professionals of Orange County. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Angela Wilcox
Orange County Head Start/Early Head Start
919-490-5577 Ext. 247

2016 at a Glance

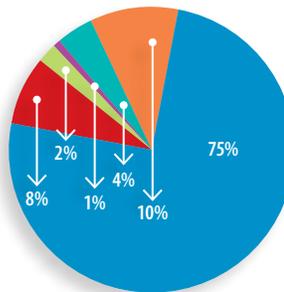
Orange County Head Start

- Available to 80 income-eligible three and four-year-olds living in the Orange County School District in North Carolina;
- Services provided 10 months per school year calendar at no cost, to meet the health, educational, nutritional, social, developmental, and mental health needs of participants;
- Service delivery models:
 - 4 – 5 year-olds are served in Pre-K classrooms located in (3) elementary schools in the Orange County School District.
 - 3 – 4 year-olds are served at the Fairview Child and Family Center in Hillsborough.
 - There is at least one bilingual (Spanish-English) staff person in each classroom.

Enrollment by age:

Three-year-olds	31
Four-year-olds	60
Total served including dropped/moved	91

Head Start Enrollment Based on Income Eligibility (percent)



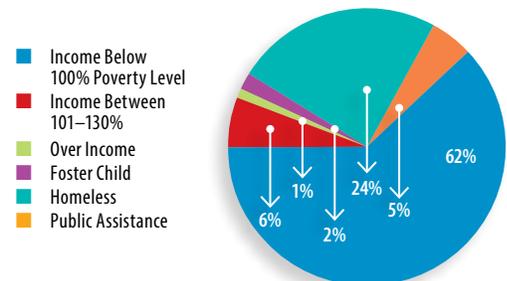
Orange County Early Head Start

- Available to 164 income-eligible pregnant women, infants and toddlers to age three in Orange County, North Carolina;
- Services provided year round at no cost, to meet the health, educational, nutritional, social, developmental and mental health needs of participants;
- The program provides these service delivery models:
 - Weekly home visitations focused on parent education and child development, with group meetings twice monthly;
 - Full-day, full year early education and child care provided for child care subsidy eligible families at our Fairview Center in Hillsborough and at child care partners Chapel Hill Day Care, KidSCOPE Early Learning Center, UNC Horizon's Child Development Center, and Spanish for Fun Academy in Chapel Hill;
 - Six-hour day, full year education and child care provided for eligible parents at Fairview Child and Family Center in Hillsborough, and at one of our child care partners, KidSCOPE Early Learning Center.

Enrollment by age:

Under one year of age	33
One-year-olds	52
Two-year-olds	66
Pregnant women	2
Total served including dropped/moved	153

Early Head Start Enrollment Based on Income Eligibility (percent)



Federal Monitoring Results As a result of the 2015 and 2016 on-site monitoring reviews by the Office of Head Start, the Orange County Head Start and Early Head Start program was determined to be in compliance with all applicable Head Start Performance Standards, laws, regulations, and policy requirements.

Children and families enrolled in OCHS/EHS have access to mental health support and consultation at no cost. Services from early childhood mental health providers in the community are recommended and coordinated for children who need further assessment and intervention. Mental health professionals who specialize in working with young children provide parent education, assessment, home visits, school visits, classroom observations and staff training. OCHS/EHS staff works as a team to effectively identify and address mental health concerns of enrolled children and families.

Teachers and home visitors are trained to teach and promote pro-social and problem-solving skills to all children and to implement individualized plans to support children with challenging behaviors. Classroom and playgroup environments are designed to offer opportunities for children to develop and practice social skills and to learn to identify and manage their emotions. Parents are supported in understanding their children's needs and using effective strategies to prevent and respond to challenging behaviors.

Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships

Thanks to continued strong support from the Orange County Partnership for Children and Orange County Department of Social Services, our program's original Early Head Start/child care partnership model continued strong in 2016. With funding from our original EHS grant and our 2015 Expansion grant, OCEHS/HS served 47 infants, toddlers and twos, most in full-day (10 hour) slots in high – quality community centers: Chapel Hill Day Care Center, Spanish for Fun Academy, KidSCOPE Early Learning Center and the UNC Horizons Child Development Center.

These centers serve a diverse group of children and families by blending EHS, private pay tuition and other subsidies. Children enrolled in EHS partner sites are placed in classrooms that meet or exceed EHS and state licensing requirements for high quality care. Teachers receive ongoing support, monitoring and training from Early Head Start specialists, their Center Director as well as other community programs. Children benefit from the opportunity to learn alongside their peers from the community; families benefit from full day child care in the highest quality settings plus the comprehensive services EHS provides; and our partners value the diversity and the resources that Early Head Start brings to their centers.

Health



OCHS/EHS staff assess the health, medical, nutrition, and dental health needs of enrolled children and engage families in addressing those needs. Staff is committed to making sure that enrolled families are aware of community resources and that barriers to accessing services are identified and addressed. Staff assist families in establishing medical and dental homes for their children. Health screenings are provided for children to help identify any treatment needs. Although our primary goal is to promote children's overall health through prevention, when children's health concerns are identified we collaborate with medical professionals and families to ensure that health needs are addressed. For children in center-based care, nutritional services include providing two-thirds of the child's daily nutritional requirements. All OCHS/EHS sponsored events where snacks or meals are provided model good nutrition while embracing the cultural traditions of families served. Parents receive training and counseling in acquiring, preparing and providing nutritious food for their family on a tight budget. Parent education is provided on a variety of topics based on needs identified through health, nutrition and physical activity screenings. This parent education is offered one on one in the family's home or in a group setting. Health and nutrition are seen as an integral part of Orange County Head Start/Early Head Start's mission, and is integrated in to many aspects of the program.

Parents are the Heart of OCHS/EHS!

In Head Start and Early Head Start, parents are viewed as the child's first and most important teachers and it is our mission to strengthen and support that role. Parent engagement in all aspects of the program is extremely important and strongly encouraged. Parents have opportunities for participation and shared decision-making in every area of the program. Each family is assigned either a Bilingual Home Visitor or Family Specialist who focuses on: building a strong and healthy partnership with each family they serve, assessing family strengths and needs, helping families identify and reach family goals and supporting families in accessing needed services and resources. Staff are trained to use the Strengthening Families framework and Motivational Interviewing strategies to engage, coach and build adult capacities. Parents are encouraged to actively participate in the governance of the OCHS/EHS program through membership in the Policy Council. Currently, parents compose 90% of policy council membership.

- There are Parent Committees representing each HS and EHS option: EHS – home based, EHS – center based and Head Start classrooms.
- Parents are members of the program's Health Services Advisory Committee.
- Center-based parents are encouraged to participate in quarterly parent-teacher conferences, observe and volunteer in their children's classroom, attend parent education meetings and meet with their

Family Specialist at least monthly and set and reach family goals.

- Home-based parents meet weekly with their home visitor and are encouraged to participate in biweekly parent-child playgroups.
- Parent/child classroom activities are held on a regular basis offering more opportunities for parents to engage in their child's education experience and work as partners with their child's teachers.
- There is a special emphasis on engaging fathers' participation throughout the program.

Over the past year, parent education topics presented to groups of parents have included:

- Understanding the OCHS/EHS curricula
- Positive techniques for managing child behavior
- Providing healthy meals on a tight budget
- Proper use of car seats
- Preventing Child Sexual Abuse
- The importance of physical activity
- Understanding domestic violence
- Family planning
- What parents can do to prepare their child for school
- Stress management
- Budgeting
- Career planning & Job Search

We are committed to working with parents and partnering with them to support the healthy development of the child and family.



Head Start Partnership with Orange County Schools is Going Strong

The Orange County Board of Education has had a partnership agreement with CHTOP, Inc. since 2003! We are fortunate that through this vital collaboration, Orange County Schools provides three classrooms in their elementary schools for 52 of our Head Start PreK 4 year old children to attend. Our Head Start staff (including at least one bilingual assistant) prepare the children for kindergarten using the Creative Curriculum for Preschoolers. Teachers use this research-based developmentally appropriate curriculum to plan a variety of high quality educational experiences and to assess children throughout the year on all areas of development.

In addition, Orange County Head Start is under contract with the North Carolina Pre-Kindergarten program (NC Pre-K) monitored through the local Orange County Partnership for Young Children. In order to be an NC PreK site, Head Start must fulfill the educational needs for at-risk four year olds and meet strict requirements through NC PreK, the Office of Public Instruction and the Division of Child Development and Early Education.

We are proud that Orange County Head Start has a team of experts who screen children throughout the school year in vision, hearing, dental and to identify special needs. The Head Start specialists team work not only with the children, but with the families to educate and prepare the children for a successful transition to kindergarten.

Application Process

Orange County Head Start and Early Head Start accepts and processes applications year round, for all program options. Our wait list is updated regularly and maintained to fill any vacancies whenever that may occur.

For an application, referrals and more information in English or Spanish, please call: 919-490-5577, extension 248

Or go online to www. chtop.org and click **Orange County Head Start & Early Head Start**.

Fairview Child & Family Center (FCFC)

Located in the Fairview neighborhood in Hillsborough FCFC is the only center fully owned and operated by OCHS/EHS. The center has and continues to provide high quality early childhood education for 46 children, ages birth to three, in 6 EHS classrooms, and 28 three to four years olds in 2 Head Start classrooms. Fairview Center is constantly changing and growing as are the children and families we work with each year. In 2016 FCFC continues its relationships with our community partners. SHAPE NC through the Orange Co. Partnership for Young Children assists the center with assessing and making improvements in 5 areas around children's health; nutrition, breastfeeding/infant feeding, physical activity and outdoor play. The center also continues its partnership with Book Harvest, an organization that provides books to children and families through the school. The conference room in Building 'D's continues to be used by community groups and organizations as a meeting space. The program's dedication to engaging families in our shared mission to prepare children for success in school and life drives the center's ongoing efforts to adapt, improve, and change. The efforts are rewarded by a continually growing positive reputation as a center that families want their children to attend.

Children with Disabilities

Orange County Head Start/Early Head Start is committed to serving and promoting the successful inclusion of all children. We value the uniqueness of each child and family and believe that early intervention is critical to helping a child reach their full potential. We are federally mandated to reserve at least 10% of our enrollment slots for children with IEP's and IFSP's. OCHS/EHS facilitates and coordinates special services for enrolled children including speech / language therapy, occupational therapy, mental health services, physical therapy, and special education services.

We work with families as they navigate the special education process, empowering and educating them so that they can advocate for their child now and long after the child leaves our program. For children who do not qualify for services through the Children's Developmental Services Agency (CDSA) or the school system, OCHS/EHS has built relationships with the community, and formed a network of local private therapy providers to whom we refer children who need further evaluation and/or services. Our staff also works closely with bilingual home visitors and teachers to help them modify and plan for everyday activities to meet the needs of children with special needs. We value every child and strive to provide them with the best early start possible.

What Does Head Start Mean to You?

Here are a few responses from Head Start Lead Teachers:

"Building positive opportunities for children and families!!"

Davina Metts, Central Elementary School

"Teaching in a Head Start classroom is an opportunity to support growth and development within each of our families as well as with each child."

Christy Farmer, Efland Elementary School

"Everybody wins with OCHS!"

Teachers are supported and children are learning!"

Veronica Nichols, Pathways Elementary School

"I love the way our staff works together as a team by supporting one another."

EdQuisha Tooles, Fairview Child & Family Center

"An opportunity to interact and learn from children and families, and help them and myself grow every day."

Elena Lozano, Fairview Child & Family Center

Since 2012, OCHS/EHS has framed its approach to educational services and outcomes in the context of our 23 school readiness goals that cross the five domains of children's development. In 2016, the School Readiness committee gathered a cross-section of staff from our various program options with parents and community members to revisit and revise the program's school readiness goals. At the end of the day, the 23 goals



The Home-based Option for Early Head Start

The primary goal of the Home-Based option is to promote the role of the parent as their child's first and most important teacher. These parents do not need center-based care but are often isolated as stay-at-home moms raising young children.

Each child is assigned a bilingual home visitor who is responsible for providing developmental, health, nutrition and mental health screenings, assessing family needs and coaching the parents in developing capacities in parenting and life skills. During weekly, 90 minute home visits, at least one of the parents is always present. The home visitors are bilingual and are trained to provide parent education and case management and to facilitate parent-child activities in the family's heritage language. The parent-child activities are designed to promote healthy parent-child interaction while enhancing the parent's ability to offer developmentally-appropriate and fun learning experiences as part of their daily routines.

The home visitors develop individual plans for each visit, guided by the following curricula:

- Parents as Teachers Foundational Curriculum
- Parents As Teachers 3 to K curriculum (for children over the age of 36 months)
- Partners for a Healthy Baby Curriculum

had been narrowed to 15, all of which align well with the recently published Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework and NC Foundations. When the new program year began in August 2016, these new goals were introduced to families, and will be used as a framework for measuring each child and our program's ongoing progress and success.

Highlights of our school readiness findings from the 2015-2016 program year included:

- Greater than 79% of EHS children in center-based care experienced expected growth in all areas of development, with some areas showing higher percentages.
- Well over 50% of all Head Start 3 & 4 year olds are meeting or exceeding the growth range in all areas of development by the end of the school year.
- On the CLASS assessment of interactions in the Head Start classrooms, program scores in Fall 2015 and Spring 2016 exceeded the national averages, with the most significant gains in the domain of Instructional Support.
- In the Home-Based Early Head Start program, there were gains in the number of children achieving at least 70% of their developmental milestones in four out of five developmental domains.

All three curricula are designed to facilitate discussion about topics of importance to parents of infants and toddlers and all of them offer suggestions of activities that stimulate children's learning at each stage of development.

The EHS Home-Based option offers biweekly parent-child playgroups for enrolled families. At playgroups, parents and children participate in activities designed to promote socialization for children and adults. Singing, rhymes and finger play, dancing, exercise, making simple art projects or share individual skills with the rest of the group are examples of activities that parents do with their children during the two hour playgroups. Some of the playgroups are organized so that the families are able to visit fun, educational venues in the community. The Museum of Life and Science in Durham, local farms, parks and the KIDZU Children Museum are examples of places that were enjoyed by the families in our program in 2016. Playgroups are an important part of our focus on preparing children for pre-school and beyond. Parent committee meetings encourage parents to give input to the governance of the program, discuss ideas and concerns and participate in parent education workshops provided by staff and community agencies.

Community Partnerships

OCHS/EHS has always understood the value of collaboration and routinely engages community partners. This year, staff has taken on leadership roles in the Cradle-to-Career initiative, Family Success Alliance, resulting in significant progress towards building the prenatal to Kindergarten pipeline. OCHS/EHS lead a community coalition to provide Family Play Days in two low-income communities that offered dozens of family activities, community resources and health screenings to hundreds of parents and children living in poverty. In addition, OCHS/EHS joined the United Way-funded Making Connections early childhood collaborative which resulted in a variety of services provided to enrolled families at program sites and a unique cross-training opportunity for staff that increased community awareness about available services and how to access them.

Financial Report

Early Head Start

Line Items	2016 Actual	2017 Budget
Personnel Expenses	\$ 1,546,373	\$ 1,565,268
Contract services and Professional fees	261,506	417,990
Materials	116,236	21,950
Travel	21,875	23,000
Communications	13,744	12,980
Repairs/Maintenance	69,818	44,699
Professional Development	111,529	55,866
Occupancy	52,042	55,433
Facility	114,123	0
Other	15,379	13,292
<i>(printing, family support, personnel expenses and dues & subscriptions)</i>		
Indirect Costs	142,549	142,699
	\$2,465,174	\$2,353,177

Other funding sources with 2016 actuals

\$139,061

Child & Adult Care food program (\$41,614), Subsidy (\$95,831), United Way (\$850), and private contributions (\$766)

Head Start

Line Items	2016 Actual	2017 Budget
Personnel Expenses	\$ 781,474	\$ 779,728
Contract services and Professional fees	2,216	5,637
Materials	8,167	7,676
Travel	6,987	5,200
Communications	1,106	6,260
Repairs/Maintenance	20,284	19,897
Professional Development	13,869	13,036
Occupancy	21,470	20,836
Other	8,730	7,154
<i>(printing, family support, personnel expenses and dues & subscriptions)</i>		
Indirect Costs	71,998	70,877
	\$936,301	\$936,301

Other funding sources with 2016 actuals

\$236,821

NC Pre-K (\$209,078) and Child & Adult Care food program (\$27,743)

For a copy of the CHTOP, Inc. audit report for the fiscal year ending 6/30/16, please call 919-490-5577, extension 251. (There were no findings.)