



2021 Annual Report

From the Front Cover



Alexus Nelson
Greenville High School Student
Running Buddies Program
3 year participant totaling 167 miles

About Us

The second year of the COVID-19 pandemic continued to put strains on the agency, but at least we did not have to totally shut down our programs as we did in 2020. The State and Federal Government continued to provide COVID relief funding and we are putting it to good use by renovating several of our facilities. A number of our buildings had glass block windows that are being replaced with traditional windows to allow for improved ventilation. In addition, a major renovation to our Greenville building is about to begin, and child restrooms are being added to two of our preschool classrooms there.

We also completed the relocation of four classrooms in Bellefontaine and the reopening of a classroom in Jamestown where we had been busing children to our Xenia building for the last couple of years. These classrooms will better serve the communities by being located closer to the families that we serve.

Our biggest challenge of the year was dealing with the vaccine mandate imposed by the Office of Head Start. While the majority of our staff willingly got the vaccines and boosters, we did lose a significant number who were opposed to the mandate. We are slowly rehiring staff to fill the vacancies.

I'm proud of our staff who have shown so much dedication to our mission during these difficult times. Our goal for the upcoming program year is to be fully staffed, have all classrooms operating at full enrollment, and back to our normal hours per day and days per week.

Our CORS staff know that all of our programs have a lasting impact on the children, youth and families that we serve. After reading the remainder of this report, I think that you will agree.

Thank you,
Dan

Dan Schwanitz
Chief Executive Officer



Message from the ACES Manager

Our Achievement Center for Educational Success (ACES) provides a structured, supportive and educational environment for Darke & Miami county students who are credit deficient, on the verge of expulsion, or dropping out. ACES offers services to address social, emotional, behavioral and substance abuse needs while receiving academic credit towards their high school diploma. Students are referred to the program by the home school principal and/or guidance counselor.

ACES offers split sessions in both Miami and Darke County classrooms and serves 25-30 students per session with accredited teachers supplied by the local Educational Service Center (ESC). Students can to earn up to 8 credits per year through the program.

Services Provided:

- Smaller classroom setting
- Art education, nutrition, and financial counseling
- Substance abuse counseling and education
- Character building and social skills activities
- Work study component
- Advocacy with the schools and court
- Referrals to other agencies to address student's needs
- Transition services upon returning to their home schools

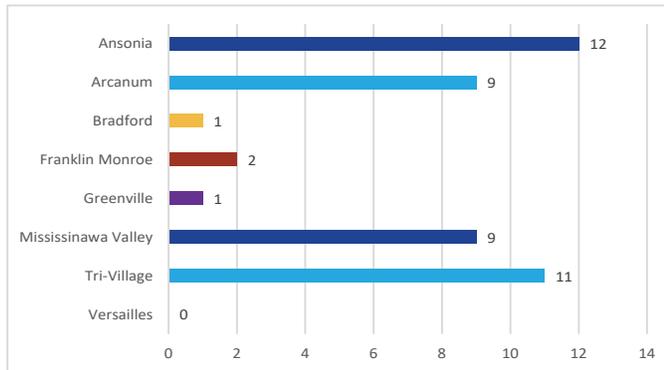
Students graduate with a diploma from their home school. Our primary funders are the local school districts and the Darke County United Way as well as numerous community providers and private citizens. We are enormously grateful to those who have shown caring and support to teenagers at this crucial time in their life.

Sincerely,

Jeff Vaughn
ACES Manager



Darke County Achievement Center for Educational Success



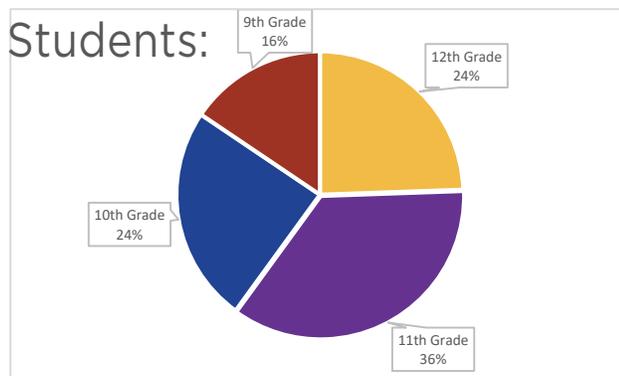
Student Enrollment:

45 Students

Attendance:

92% attendance rate

Students:



Gender of Students:

34 Males

11 Females

Credits Earned by High School Students:

114.75

1st Semester

197.50

2nd Semester

312.50

Total earned

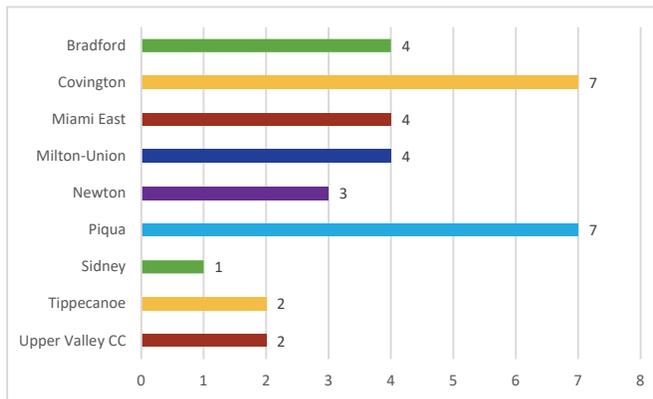
Year Overview:

- 17 students completed credit requirements for graduation and will receive their diploma in May/June 2021.
- 28 students graduated as a result of completing independent study courses.
- 8 of the 17 students that completed school are employed full time/part time.
- 25 students were employed or gained employment throughout the school year.
- 1 student withdrew from ACES (Moved: 1).

Stats from September 8, 2020-May 28, 2021



Miami County Achievement Center for Educational Success

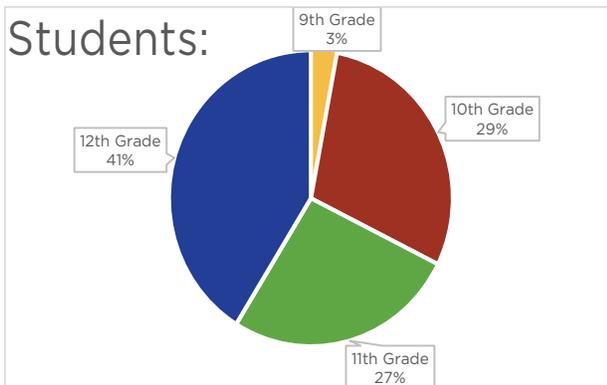


Student Enrollment:

34 Students

Attendance:

78% attendance rate



Gender of Students:

26 Males

8 Females

Miami County Achievement Center for Educational Success

Credits Earned by High School Students:



Year Overview:

- 17 student completed credits and graduated in May 2021.
- 7 of the 17 graduates are working full or part time.
- 18 students are employed or gained employment during the school year.
- 1 student withdrew from ACES (Moved: 1).

Stats from August 26, 2020 - May 28, 2021



Message from the Gateway Support Specialist

Gateway Youth Programs (Gateway) enhances life and academic skills and empowers at-risk youth to become productive community citizens through character building and better decision making. Darke County United Way, Greenville and Tri-Village schools fund year-round programs with role models who can help motivate and inspire at-risk youth. Gateway helps students develop academic and social skills that will lead to success in school and the workplace. The principle areas emphasized are building character, developing pathways to achievement, resilience, setting goals for careers, and the belief in a positive future.

A Youth Advocate builds working relationships with students, setting goals and teaching life skills for decision-making and problem solving. Schools and other community agencies identify students in need and refer them for services. Youth Advocates monitor grades and behaviors and work with the students to overcome any obstacles, both individually and in group settings.

Groups build upon and enhance individual services. The goal of group is to provide education and support to enhance socialization and growth of the individual. Groups are created based on the needs and interests of the students and have included the following: self-esteem, life skills, job training, healthy relationships, media literacy, book club, men's group, women's group, leadership, exploring art, fitness and nutrition, alcohol and drug prevention, and running. During summer, activities are facilitated at the office or within the community and include field trips. Gateway primarily relies upon funding from Darke County United Way, Tri-Village and Greenville schools, and Darke County Foundations for its mentoring programs. Gateway served 253 unduplicated youth through the 2020-2021 fiscal year and so much more can be done if additional funding can be found!

In 2021, the students in the Running Buddies program logged around 555 miles over the summer. Three students were inducted into the 100-mile club, with the leader logging 167 miles over three summers. Two students joined the cross-country team at their school. We competed in the Breast Cancer Awareness 5K Run in Greenville on July 24th. Two of our runners placed third in their age division.

Running Buddies also placed third in the team competition.

Through the Adopt a Child program, we partnered with 14 local businesses, families and organizations to provide Christmas presents to 65 youth from economically disadvantaged families. Four of these organizations were first time partners supporting the program. Contributors donated at least \$10,000 in gifts.

Sincerely,

Ruth Barga

Gateway Support Specialist



Darke County Gateway

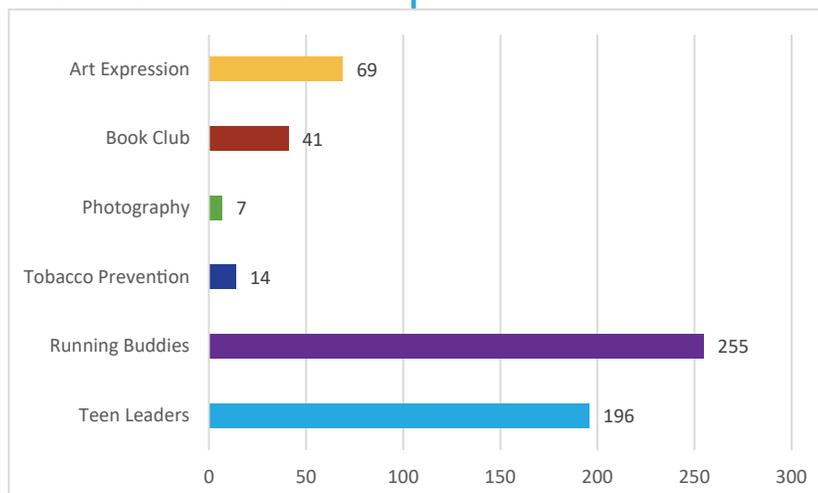
253 Students served

1,427 Student contact hours

581 Group contact hours

Stats from July 2020 - June 2021

2020-21 Group Hours



Message from the Early Childhood Director

It is with great pleasure that I share with you our Annual Report for 2020-2021. It captures our activities and accomplishments that support the comprehensive needs of each child to prepare them for learning and a lifetime of academic success. CORS Head Start and Early Head Start Programs provide children with the skills they need to have a successful transition into kindergarten and beyond. We achieve this by providing an environment where children feel safe and are encouraged to be active and creative explorers trying out their own ideas and thinking their own thoughts in areas that interest them. Research shows that children who receive high quality early learning experiences, united with parent and family support, are far more likely to succeed in school and through their life. Above all else, we recognize that our greatest asset is embracing family engagement as the cornerstone of our success. Our staff builds positive and trusting relationships with families to facilitate their engagement in their children's development and learning by involving them in establishing school readiness goals for their children. We respect our parents' role as their child's primary nurturers, teachers, and advocates.

CORS School Readiness Goals, which continue to include the five essential domains -- Approaches to Learning, Social and Emotional Development, Language and Literacy, Cognition, and Perceptual, Motor, and Physical Development reflect and align with Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework and Ohio's Early Learning Development Standards. Ongoing assessment, high quality teaching practices and environments, curriculum fidelity, and professional development is the foundation of this process. Program staff continuously gain new knowledge, skills, abilities, experience, and competencies to benefit children, parents, and each community.

CORS strives for excellence and proudly reports that all sites, except those who recently moved locations, have obtained a 5 Star rating from Step Up To Quality, the voluntary five star quality rating system administered by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) and the Ohio Department of Education (ODE). The program recognizes and promotes learning and development programs that meet benchmarks over and above minimum health and safety licensing

standards to improve outcomes for children.

Children and families in the 9-county service area continue to be challenged with employment, transportation, substance abuse, and scarce mental health services. CORS family engagement assists in the navigation of resources available in their community to surmount these concerns.

For the 2020-2021 year CORS achieved:

- Non-Federal Match exceeding 100%.
- Disability count exceeding 10%
- Increases in school readiness efforts across all domains from Fall 2020 to Spring 2021.
- 5 Star Step Up to Quality ratings at 100% of established centers.
- A work environment promoting excellence, longevity, and a commitment to professional development.

The 2020-2021 program year had continued uncertainties with COVID-19 and the challenges to keep children, families, staff, and the community safe. All CORS Head Start and Early Head Start staff and families worked diligently to ensure children received in classrooms experiences at capacity using layered safety practices. Furthermore, children and families received services in their home using those same layered safety practices and social distancing. Visits often utilized outdoor spaces and health checks before entry into homes. Social Service staff continued to work to connect families with community resources to meet the increasing needs for food, income, transportation, utilities, health, and mental health. All CORS staff are commended for their tireless efforts to meet the daily demands of the program with staffing shortages and shifts in the workforce.

Please take time to learn about the great work the Head Start and Early Head Start staff are doing for children and families in Auglaize, Champaign, Darke, Greene, Logan, Miami, Preble, Shelby, and Van Wert counties. You may access this annual report and other information including employment opportunities and the Head Start/Early Head Start enrollment application at www.corsp.org.

Thank you,

Karin Somers
Early Childhood Director



Head Start/Early Head Start

Number of Children Served

During the 2020-2021 program year, CORS Served 20 pregnant mothers and 1291 children ages 0-5 throughout West Central Ohio in nine counties.

915 Head Start
Children

376 Early Head Start
Children



Number of Families Served

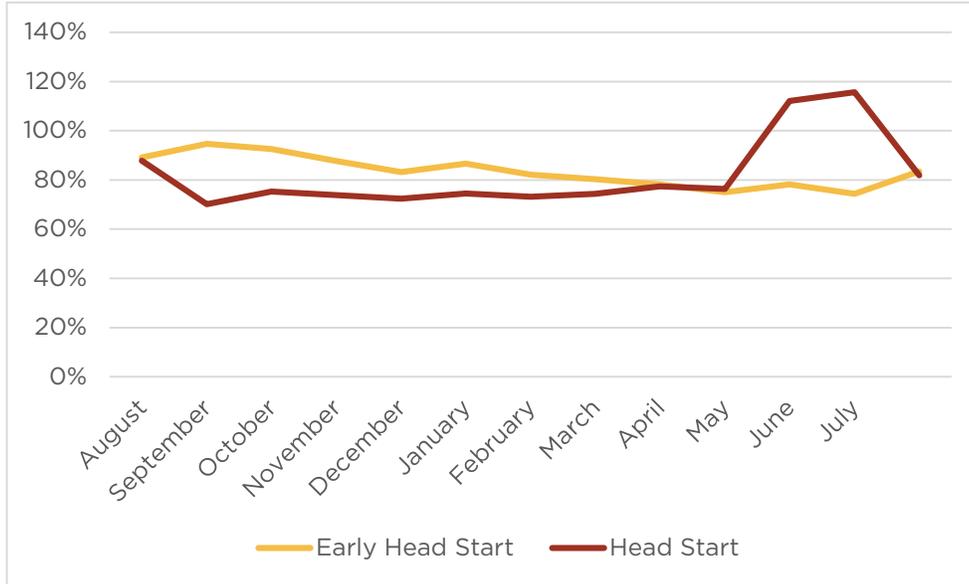
During the 2020-2021 program year, CORS Served 1101 families throughout West Central Ohio in nine counties.

798 Head Start
Families

303 Early Head Start
Families

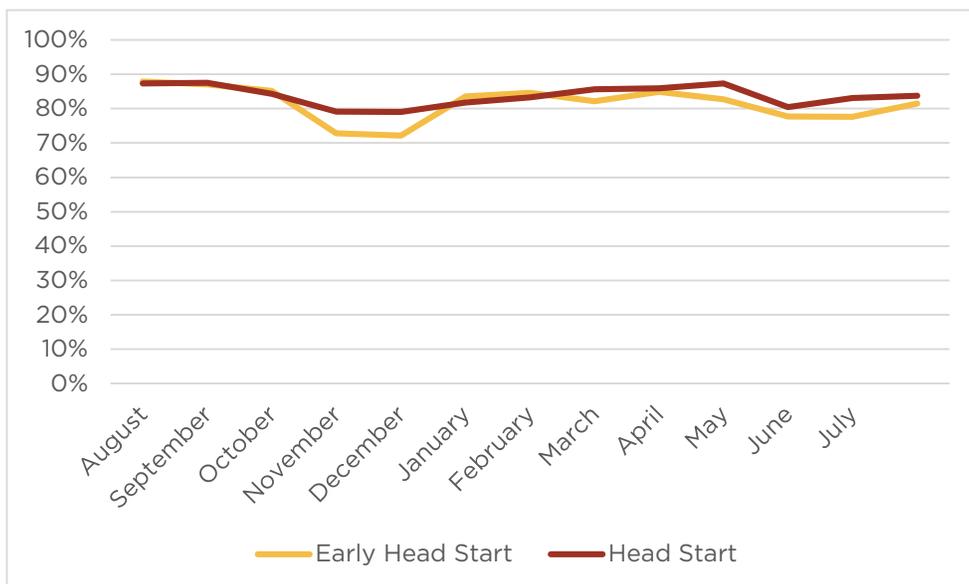
Head Start/Early Head Start Average Monthly Enrollment

Percent of funded slots during the 2020-2021 program year.



Head Start/Early Head Start Average Monthly Attendance

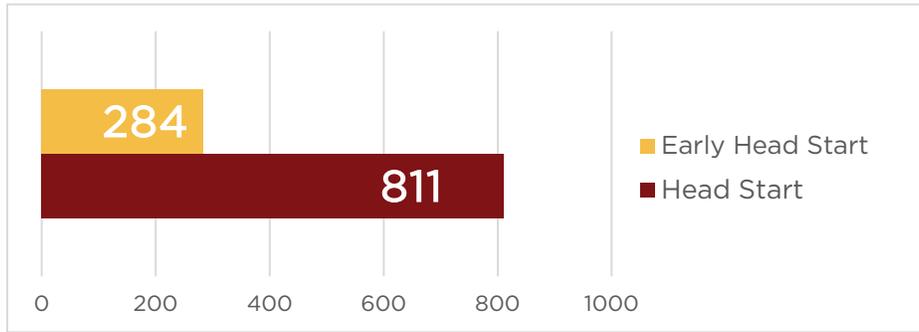
Percent of average monthly attendance during the 2020-2021 program year.



Head Start/Early Head Start

Well Child Screenings

Number of children who are up to date on a schedule of age-appropriate preventive and primary health care, according to the state's EPSDT schedule for well child care.

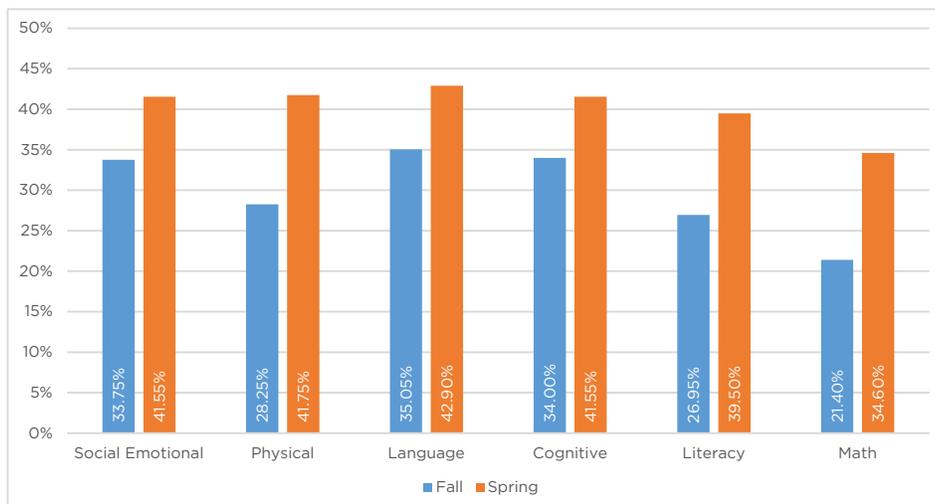


Dental

Completed professional dental examinations

539 Head Start Children

Children Meeting or Exceeding Expectations/CORS School Readiness Efforts





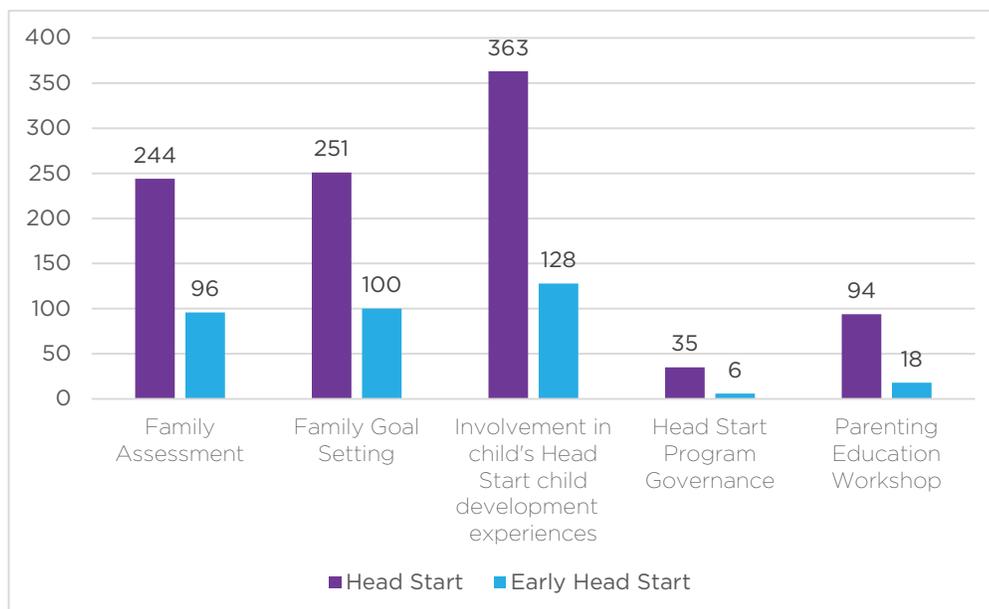
Disabilities

A total of 124 children received services for disabilities, exceeding the 10% requirement.

79 Head Start children have an IEP

45 Early Head Start children have an IFSP

Male Engagement Activities



Summary of CORS Community Assessment Completed in July 2018 Updates in July 2019, 2020, and 2021

- **Population** - Miami County showed the largest spike in growth in population by 2,552 growing from 106,222 to 108,774. Shelby County saw the largest decline in population by 397, decreasing from 48,627 to 48,230.
- **Population 5 years and under** - Auglaize, Darke, Logan, Preble, Shelby, and Van Wert Counties saw increases in population 5 years and under. Champaign, Greene, and Miami Counties saw decreases in population 5 years and under. Greene County saw the largest decline of 294 children. Darke County saw the largest increase of 689 children.
- **Race** - The vast majority of our population is Caucasian. The average percentage of white population is 94.5%. The counties in our area have a much larger percentage of the population that is white than the state of Ohio, who averaged 81.70%. The county closest to the state average is Greene, which is much more diverse at 86.10%.
- **Children in childcare assistance programs** - The number of children in childcare assistance programs has seen a slight increase since the last Community Assessment in all counties. Across the nine-county service area, 4,305 children are receiving childcare subsidies.
- **Persons and children below poverty level** - All counties, except Darke and Preble Counties, saw increases in persons below the poverty level. Miami County saw the largest increase of 655 children.
- **Children receiving free/reduced price lunch** - All Counties except Auglaize saw increases, with the largest increase being in Shelby County at 4.04%. Auglaize County experienced a decline of 2.77%.
- **Children receiving food stamps** - All counties, except Champaign County, saw increases ranging from .80% to 4.76% in children receiving food stamps. Champaign County saw a slight decrease of .10%.
- **Female Single head of household** - This measure is mostly stable with all counties showing slight increase above the previous year, except Logan and Miami showing slight decreases.
- **Child Abuse Report (Substantiated)** - Miami, Preble, Shelby, and Van Wert County showed increased in reporting. Preble County experienced the largest spike going up by 42 reports. Decreases in reporting in Auglaize, Champaign, Darke, Greene, and Logan. Greene County was down by 134 reports from the previous year.
- **Bachelor's degree or higher** - The number of Bachelor's degrees obtained increased in all counties ranging from .20% to 2.30%.
- **Median Income** - All counties saw an increase in their median household income. Miami County had the largest increase by \$6,473 and Preble County had the smallest increase by \$2,713. Greene County has the highest median income at \$68,720. Van Wert County has the lowest median income at \$54,254.
- **Unemployment Rate** - All counties saw increases in unemployment rates from last year from 2.40% to 5.00%. All counties have an unemployment rate above the 5.17% average for Ohio.
- **Family Strengths** - Families supporting and maintaining a healthy lifestyle through updated immunizations, regular doctor appointments, various screenings, and dental examinations for enrolled children. Increased number of parents furthering their education resulting in increased economic well-being.
- **Family Needs** - Many families express transportation as a large stressor, either not having transportation, unable to afford maintenance and upkeep, or share with another family member. Unemployment is also listed as a major life stressor, nearly half of parents are unemployed or employed only part-time, making it difficult to support the needs of their children.

Head Start/Early Head Start

- Nutrition Needs** – Families report difficulty in providing an adequate food supply to their children, as well as affording fresh fruits and vegetables, which are often hard to find in rural areas. The program alerts families to food drives and pantries available to supplement resources.
- Dental Concerns** – Families often have a difficult time completing initial exams and required follow-up work due to a lack of providers, transportation issues, and other issues plaguing families. Progress has been made, but the fact remains that children need restorative treatment to improve oral health.
- Mental Health Service Challenges** – The majority of communities in the service area lack mental health providers, especially those that are timely and focus on infant, toddler, and preschool age children. Families often feel there is a stigma attached with seeking out services, fearful that this will follow their child into the general education setting. The program works diligently to help the families overcome this fear and pursue services that will provide stability and support to a struggling child and family.
- Trauma and Drug Misuse Impacts** – Many families are at a higher risk for events of trauma and drug and alcohol misuse, therefore in need of the support provided by the program and community resources. Staff receive annual and ongoing training to identify, refer or provide services, and follow up with the goal of promoting the health and well-being of children and families enrolled.

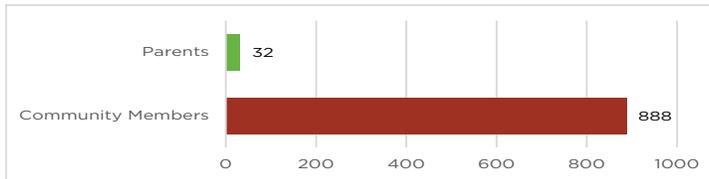
In summary, it is the goal of CORS to provide the best possible services, including educational, health, and social skills to as many families as possible. The Community Assessment helps to achieve this goal by directing us towards what the needs of our families and communities are. The Community Assessment serves as a guide in shaping our program and ensuring that we continue to follow our mission of providing a unique mix of learning and social experience to develop competence, motivation, and behavior for a better life and stronger community.



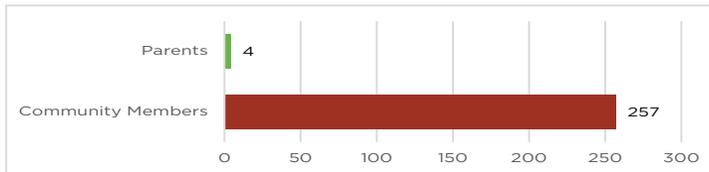
Head Start/Early Head Start

Volunteer Count

Due to COVID-19 protocols, parent volunteers were precluded in the classrooms; this lower number is a result of those extraordinary circumstances.



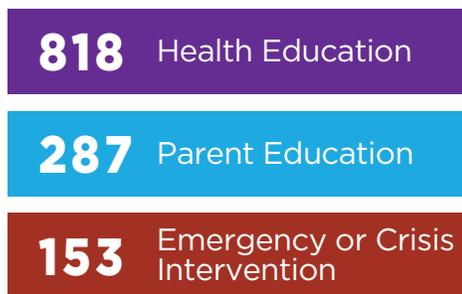
Head Start



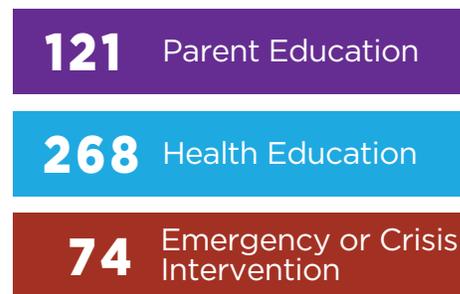
Early Head Start

Specific Services *(top 3 services utilized by families)*

Head Start

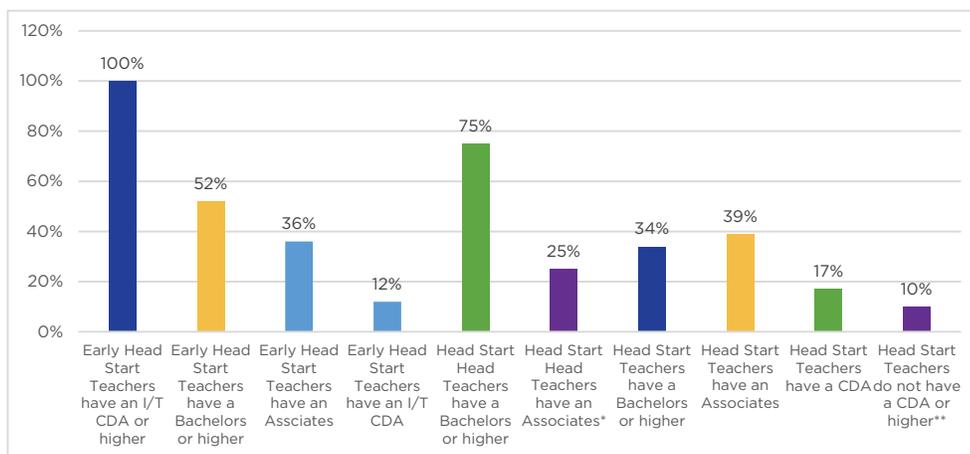


Early Head Start



Staff Education

100% of Teachers meet Head Start & Early Head Start Program Performance Standards for education requirements



*100% of individuals are enrolled in a degree program working toward a Bachelor or higher

**100% of individuals are enrolled in a degree program working toward a CDA or higher

Staff Story

When I first read about Head Start in the newspaper, I was 23 years old. I had already been married for almost four years and was the mother of a 3-year-old and a 1-year-old. I was and still am very passionate about the success of my children.



1995

Head Start would be just that—a head start for their learning. Each child would have their own unique experience in Head Start. My daughter’s outgoing nature helped her ease quickly into the preschool environment and the teachers nurtured her eagerness to always be learning. My son, on the other hand, gave the teachers a true run for their money. Even though he was challenging, they saw through his behaviors and found his great sense of humor and overwhelming curiosity about the world. The individualized positive support would serve each child well through Head Start and public school. Although, the original idea was to help the children, Head Start ended up helping me just as much. Honestly, more I think.



Head Teacher, 2006

The Head Start teachers saw something in me that I had not sensed myself yet: an aptitude and passion for early childhood education. They encouraged me to volunteer, be involved in the parent group and Policy Council, and finally, to apply for a position with Head Start. After several years of working there and at a local childcare, I applied for an assistant teacher position with Council on Rural Services (CORS), the Head Start agency in a neighboring county.

I literally “grew up” with Head Start and CORS. The assistant teacher position was just the tip of the iceberg for me. Throughout the past 23 years with CORS Head Start, I have been encouraged and supported to complete three degrees along with gaining positions within the agency of increasing responsibility, to grow both professionally and personally. CORS employs many dedicated people who embody the Head Start philosophies and impacted my professional career,



2016



Approximately 2001

Head Start/Early Head Start

in addition to my life as a whole. I strive everyday to live the lessons those who enriched my career and my life taught me by attempting to lead by example, share my experience, share my passion for everything that Head Start is and find the good in all things, work to make it better.

From my experience as a Head Start parent, I feel I bring understanding to my roles within the agency. I can honestly say: "I know what you are going through," or "I know how you feel" to parents of the children we serve. I have walked in the low-income shoes, young parent shoes, and parent-of-a-challenging-child shoes. I know the joys and upsets of being a parent. These experiences also taught me the value of advocacy. Not only did I advocate for my own children, but for children I had the joy to teach over the years and through the role I now serve in. All children deserve equal opportunities to grow, learn, succeed and have dedicated adults to stand for them to make the children's voices heard.

By the way, my children have grown up too. They are both married now with families of their own. I have the joy of watching them be parents in their own right and see we all continue to benefit from our Head Start experiences!



2015



ECSC Logan & Champaign, 2012 (Whole Bellefontaine Group)

Kelly Compton

Program Development Manager



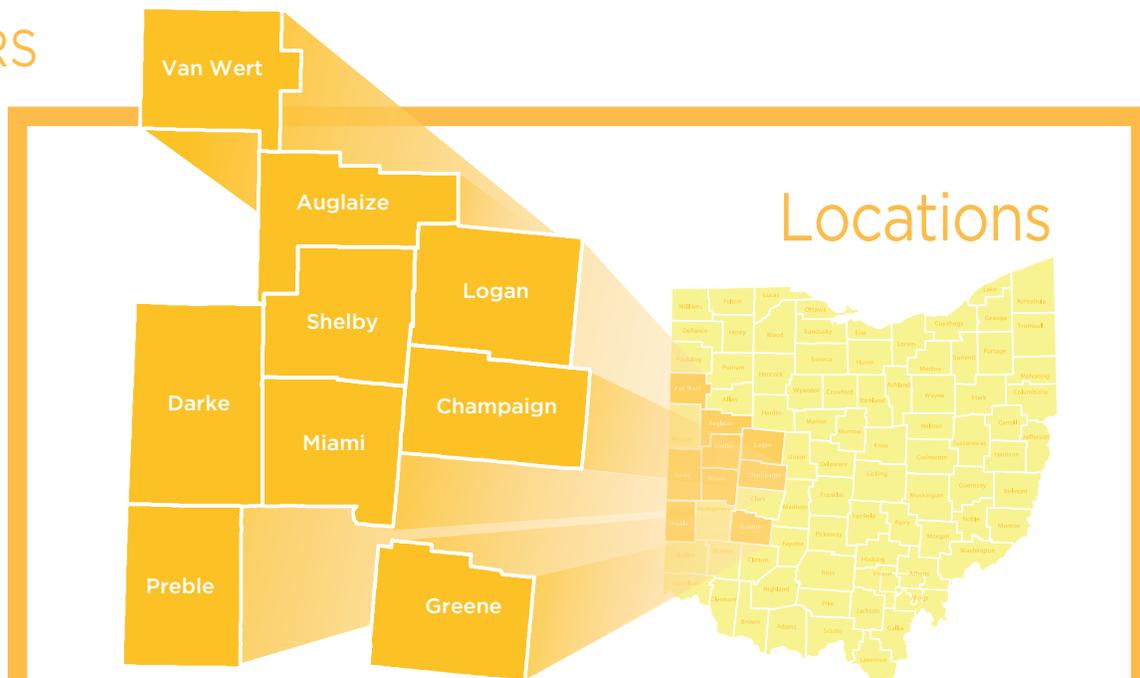
Financial Information (Full Agency)

Source of Funds	Budget	Actual	Percent
Federal	\$16,064,620	\$15,487,398	92.5%
State	\$0	\$256,863	1.5%
Local	\$566,703	\$546,341	3.3%
Local In-Kind	\$460,830	\$444,272	2.7%
	\$17,092,153	\$16,734,874	100.0%

Expense Breakdown	Budget	Actual	Percent
Salaries and Wages	\$9,475,684	\$9,277,613	55.4%
Payroll Taxes & Benefits	\$2,562,683	\$2,431,999	14.5%
Contracted Services	\$495,549	\$485,190	2.9%
Direct Program Expenses	\$1,926,656	\$1,886,383	11.3%
Building Expenses	\$1,603,455	\$1,569,938	9.4%
Travel and Training	\$291,794	\$285,695	1.7%
Interest	\$59,569	\$58,324	0.3%
Miscellaneous	\$46,583	\$45,609	0.3%
Value of Donated Facilities Supplies & Services	\$460,830	\$444,272	2.7%
	\$16,922,803	\$16,485,023	98.5%
Change in Unrestricted Net Assets	\$169,350	\$249,851	

Audit Statement

The final audit report of Fiscal Year 2021 was completed with the following statement: In our opinion Council On Rural Service Programs, Inc. complied, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs for the year ended December 31, 2021.



Auglaize County

Head Start/Early Head Start
 Located in Wapakoneta YMCA Building
 1100 Defiance Street
 Wapakoneta, Ohio 45895

Head Start
 1659 Celina Rd.
 St Marys, OH 45885

Champaign County

Head Start/Early Head Start
 Located in CRSI Building
 1471 East US Highway 36, Suite 400
 Urbana, Ohio 43078

Darke County

Gateway Youth Program/ACES
 5105 County Home Road
 Greenville, OH 45331

Head Start
 Located in Bradford Local Schools
 740 Railroad Avenue
 Bradford, Ohio 45308

Head Start/Early Head Start
 1170 Sweitzer Street
 Greenville, Ohio 45331

Head Start
 Located in Evangelical United
 Methodist Church
 117 Franklin Street
 Union City, Ohio 45390

Greene County

Head Start
 1369 Colorado Drive
 Xenia, Ohio 45385

Head Start
 13 East Washington Street
 Jamestown, Ohio 45335

Head Start/Early Head Start
 344 North Maple Avenue
 Fairborn, Ohio 45324

Logan County

Head Start/Early Head Start
 Located in Union Station
 613 Hamilton Street
 Bellefontaine, Ohio 43311

Head Start

Located in Indian Lake Elem. School
 8770 County Rd. 91
 Lewistown, Ohio 43333

Head Start

Located in Benjamin Logan Elem. School
 4560 County Rd. 26
 Bellefontaine, Ohio 43311

Miami County

Head Start/Early Head Start
 1849 Towne Park Drive
 Troy, Ohio 45373

Head Start/Early Head Start
 285 R.M. Davis Parkway
 Piqua, Ohio 45356

Head Start

Located in Milton Union Elem. School
 43 Wright Road
 West Milton, Ohio 45383

ACES

201 RM Davis Parkway
 Piqua, Ohio 45356

CORS Administration Office

201 RM Davis Parkway
 Piqua, Ohio 45356

Preble County

Early Head Start
 Home Base Office
 8263 US Route 127
 Camden, Ohio 45311

Shelby County

Head Start/Early Head Start
 1502 North Main Avenue
 Sidney, Ohio 45365

Van Wert County

Head Start/Early Head Start
 Located in the Thomas Edison Building
 813 North Franklin Street
 Van Wert, Ohio 45891

**CHANGE A
CHILD'S
LIFE!**





201 RM Davis PKWY, Suite B, Piqua, Ohio 45356
Tel. 937.778.5220 • www.corsp.org

Providing services in Auglaize,
Champaign, Darke, Greene,
Logan, Miami, Preble, Shelby,
and Van Wert counties.