STEP Early Learning: Serving children and families in Lycoming and Clinton counties during the 2017-18 program year. Early Learning programs are funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, PA Department of Human Services, PA Department of Education, and the Affordable Care Act.

**STEP Head Start Program Vision:**
to be a catalyst for inspiring positive change and fostering hope in children, family, and community.

**STEP Head Start Program Mission:**
to foster hope, growth, self-sufficiency, and social competence in children and their families through partnerships with parents and the community.

STEP Head Start is a part of STEP’s Early Learning Pathway to Success

STEP’s mission is to engage diverse individuals, families, and communities in the pursuit of social and economic success.

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**STEP Early Learning 2017-2018**

**RISK AND REACH**

STEP Head Start is committed to helping children and families succeed. The program implements its vision through Head Start, Early Head Start, and PA Pre-K Counts. STEP Head Start gives children the tools they need to succeed in school and in life, and families the tools they need to maximize their children’s success as well as their own. Parent engagement is the cornerstone of STEP Head Start.

The following Risk and Reach information is from the Office of Child Development and Early Learning Program Risk and Reach Assessment, State Fiscal Year 2014-2015, published May 2016.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk</th>
<th>Reach</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>The overall Risk Level of Clinton and Lycoming counties is Moderate High:</strong></td>
<td><strong>The Reach of STEP Head Start:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Economic Risk:</strong> Clinton County&lt;br&gt;27.6% of children under age five live in economically high-risk families (100% federal poverty level or below).</td>
<td><strong>Economic Risk:</strong>&lt;br&gt;Lycoming County&lt;br&gt;30.1% of children under age five live in economically high-risk families (100% federal poverty level or below).&lt;br&gt;<strong>41.8%</strong> of eligible children under age five are served in Clinton County.&lt;br&gt;<strong>25.1%</strong> of eligible children under age five are served in Lycoming County.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Academic Risk:</strong> Clinton County&lt;br&gt;Based on the PA Statewide Reading Proficiency Assessment, 43% of children are below proficient reading in 3rd grade.</td>
<td><strong>Academic Risk:</strong>&lt;br&gt;Lycoming County&lt;br&gt;Based on the PA Statewide Reading Proficiency Assessment, 27.9% of children are below proficient reading in 3rd grade.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
STEP Head Start

PROGRAM GOALS

1. Increase capacity to achieve results.
2. Location of facilities is ideal for providing optimal service delivery.
3. Low-income people, especially vulnerable populations, achieve their potential by strengthening family and other supportive environments.
4. Partnerships among providers of services to low-income people are achieved.
5. Ensure that Head Start facilities are prepared to address any emergency situation that may occur.
6. Head Start families will be strengthened.

STEP Head Start

PHILOSOPHY

1. Children's educational achievement and growth are key to their success in life.
2. Children must be understood in the context of their family, community, and culture.
3. Children and their families must be well to do well.
4. Children's potential is best realized when they are healthy, well nourished, and nurtured, when their parents are active partners in their educational experiences, and when they are supported by their communities.
5. Parents are a child’s first and most important teachers. We respect them and honor their love and care for their children.
6. Communities have a moral, ethical, and practical responsibility to help low-income children and families succeed.
7. Staff investment of time, energy, resources, care, and compassion fosters hope, growth, self-sufficiency, and social competence in children and their families.
8. Staff can inspire positive change. We are proud of our staff, of who they are as human beings, of their commitment to children, families, and the program, and the high quality of the work that they do.
9. Our program is enriched by our individual differences and the diversity of our children, families, staff, and communities.
10. Head Start is a sound investment in the future. We take seriously our responsibility as stewards of public funds.

FISCAL EXPENDITURES

Unaudited Expenditures for Agency Fiscal Year 2017-2018 (7/1/2017-6/30/2018)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Head Start Early Learning</th>
<th>Maternal Infant Early Childhood</th>
<th>Head Start Early Childhood Home Visitation</th>
<th>Head Start Supplemental</th>
<th>PA Pre-K Counts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personnel Expenditures</td>
<td>$1,081,328.00</td>
<td>$2,621.00</td>
<td>$14,120.00</td>
<td>$29,466.00</td>
<td>$91,296.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fringe Benefits and Taxes</td>
<td>$85,986.00</td>
<td>$3,531.00</td>
<td>$10,998.00</td>
<td>$22,641.00</td>
<td>$7,498,018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Occupancy</td>
<td>$725,764.00</td>
<td>$335,664.00</td>
<td>$3,531.00</td>
<td>$41,001.00</td>
<td>$8,220.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>$37,054.00</td>
<td>$17,316.00</td>
<td>$9,770.00</td>
<td>$14,100.00</td>
<td>$5,566.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supplies and Equipment</td>
<td>$113,853.00</td>
<td>$47,753.00</td>
<td>$5,670.00</td>
<td>$11,252.00</td>
<td>$5,562.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>$55,289.00</td>
<td>$15,316.00</td>
<td>$5,311.00</td>
<td>$5,229.00</td>
<td>$5,562.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contract Services</td>
<td>$35,489.00</td>
<td>$20,433.00</td>
<td>$5,670.00</td>
<td>$2,621.00</td>
<td>$5,562.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$123,600.00</td>
<td>$34,285.00</td>
<td>$13,292.00</td>
<td>$23,765.00</td>
<td>$5,562.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenditures</td>
<td>$3,511,885.00</td>
<td>$1,801,205.00</td>
<td>$162,504.00</td>
<td>$968,104.00</td>
<td>$1,020,000.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Head Start (Preschool) $3,629,272
Early Head Start $1,718,139
Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visitation $162,503
Head Start Supplemental $968,104
PA Pre-K Counts $1,020,000

AUDIT REPORT

No instances of noncompliance, findings, or questioned costs related to Early Learning programs were identified in the February 14, 2018 Financial Statement and OMB Circular A-133 Audit Reports for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017.

FEDERAL REVIEW

The most recent Federal Onsite Review was in April 2018. There were no areas of noncompliance and, therefore, no corrective action necessary.
2017-2018 Federal and PA Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program

Preschool Head Start provides comprehensive child development, school readiness, and family support services to children three and four years old, including those with disabilities, and their families during the school year.

- Head Start maintained a 100% monthly enrollment.
- 397 preschool Head Start children benefited from comprehensive, individualized child development services during the 2017-2018 program year.
- 57% of enrolled children were 4–5 years old and will transition to kindergarten in the fall.
- 43% of enrolled children were 3–4 years old and will return to Head Start.
- 100% of Head Start children and their families received regular nutrition education.

349 Head Start families were supported in their roles as primary educators of their children and offered opportunities for participation, decision making, and personal growth.

106 children with disabilities (27% of enrollment) received inclusive education and treatment services in Head Start.

86 childrend were diagnosed for the first time during the 2017-2018 Head Start program year.

100% of Head Start children were linked with a source for ongoing, accessible medical and dental care:
- 100% of children were up to date on a schedule of age-appropriate preventive and primary health care.
- 100% of children have continuous accessible dental care.
- 93% of children completed a dental exam.
- 99% of children are up to date on immunizations.

2017-2018 Early Head Start and Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting

Early Head Start provides early, continuous, and comprehensive year-round child development and family support services to pregnant women, infants and toddlers, including those with disabilities, and their families.

- Early Head Start maintained a 100% monthly enrollment.
- 178 infants and toddlers benefited from comprehensive, individualized child development services during the 2017-2018 program year.
- 100% of Early Head Start children and their families received regular nutrition education.

135 Early Head Start families were supported in their roles as primary educators of their children and offered opportunities for participation, decision making, and personal growth.

39 children with disabilities (22% of enrollment) received inclusive education and treatment services.

17 children were diagnosed for the first time during the 2017-2018 Early Head Start program year.

- 100% of Early Head Start children were linked with a source for ongoing, accessible medical and dental care:
  - 88% of children are up to date on a schedule of age-appropriate preventive and primary health care.
  - 100% of children have continuous accessible dental care.
  - 99% of children are up to date on immunizations.

### Head Start - Enrollment by Eligibility

- Income below 100% FPL: 56%
- Public Assistance: 10%
- Foster child: 7%
- Homeless: 3%
- Over income: 24%

* Federal Poverty Level

### Early Head Start - Enrollment by Eligibility

- Income below 100% FPL: 51%
- Public Assistance: 13%
- Foster child: 4%
- Homeless: 30%
- Over income: 2%

* Federal Poverty Level
PA Pre-K Counts maintained a 100% monthly enrollment. 169 three- and four-year-old children benefited from a comprehensive, individualized educational program, including quality early learning experiences to foster social, emotional, intellectual, and physical growth.

2017-2018
Volunteers
Most of our volunteer hours are contributed by parents who practiced parenting and other child development skills, requested and received training on a wide variety of subjects, and participated in program planning and decision making.

- 7,177 volunteer hours were contributed to the preschool programs by 463 volunteers, including Head Start and PA Pre-K Counts parents.
- 8,907 volunteer hours were contributed to the Early Head Start program by 149 volunteers, including Early Head Start parents.

2017-2018
PA Pre-K Counts
PA Pre-K Counts provides early learning and school readiness experiences to center-based classes of preschool children.

- 169 children received snack and lunch, meeting one-third of their daily nutritional requirement, and regular nutrition education.
- 100% of children are up to date on immunizations.
- 22 children with disabilities (13% of enrollment) received inclusive education and early intervention services.

8,907 volunteer hours were contributed to the Early Head Start program by 149 volunteers, including Early Head Start parents.
SCHOOL READINESS

Goals

SCHOOL READINESS

2017-2018 Outcomes

Percentage of children birth through kindergarten entrance who met or exceeded School Readiness Goals

- Early Head Start (EHS): children birth through age 3
- Preschool includes Head Start and PA Pre-K Counts: children age 3 to kindergarten entrance

**SCHOOL READINESS**

Children will develop reasoning, memory, problem solving, and thinking skills.

**SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL**
Children will develop positive relationships with adults and peers, demonstrate self-regulation by managing emotions, internalize rules and routines, and display a sense of confidence and compliance.

**PHYSICAL**
Children will demonstrate an understanding of their environment by utilizing their perceptual motor and physical development skills.

**LANGUAGE & LITERACY**
Children will demonstrate literacy and language skills by expanding their vocabulary, developing phonological awareness, increasing knowledge of print, and improving emergent writing skills in English and their home language.

**APPROACHES TO LEARNING**
Children will develop persistence, solve problems, and show curiosity.

**COGNITIVE & GENERAL KNOWLEDGE**
Children will develop reasoning, memory, problem solving, and thinking skills.
SPECIAL INITIATIVES AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

PBIS Fall Kickoff

In September 2017, Head Start children and their families took part in the PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) Fall Kickoff event at STEP’s Clinton County Community Center. The event engaged children in a variety of PBIS-themed activities to promote social-emotional development based on three program-wide expectations: Be Safe, Be Kind, and Be Responsible.

STEP Round Hills Campus Open House

In October 2017, STEP marked the opening of the STEP Round Hills Campus (the former Round Hills Elementary School) with a ribbon cutting and open house. Over 300 community members attended, from students and their families to former teachers happy to see the building return to serving children. Currently, the Round Hills Campus holds 14 STEP Early Learning classrooms with about 250 children, along with the Family Pathways Program operated by Penn State’s Institute for the Study of Adult Literacy.

Week of the Young Child & Pennsylvania One Book

STEP Head Start celebrated Week of the Young Child from April 15-21. The Week of the Young Child is an annual observance hosted by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). NAEYC celebrates early learning, young children, their teachers, and their families across the globe.

Inside our classrooms, Week of the Young Child activities included Music Monday, Tasty Tuesday, Work Together Wednesday, Artsy Thursday, and Family Friday.

Also during Week of the Young Child, STEP Head Start presented the 2018 Pennsylvania One Book to our Head Start and Early Head Start students.

Pennsylvania One Book: Every Young Child is a valuable program that highlights the importance of early literacy development in preschoolers and the significance of reading early and often to children, as well as engaging them in conversation and other activities around books.

This year’s Pennsylvania One Book was My Cousin Momo, written and illustrated by Zachariah O’Hora. The author visited the STEP Round Hills Campus. Thanks to support from the James V. Brown Library and a fundraiser held by STEP staff, all children enrolled in STEP’s Early Learning programs received their own copy of My Cousin Momo. Many classrooms invited additional guest speakers to read the featured book.
STEP Round Hills Campus Community Garden

STEP Round Hills Campus has a new community garden thanks to a $500 donation from AmeriHealth Caritas Northeast! In June 2018, children and families from STEP Head Start and the Family Pathways program at STEP Round Hills Campus came together to plant vegetables and flowers in their new garden beds.

“Sometimes children think their food comes from the grocery store. When they see an apple, they really don’t know its source,” said STEP Head Start Deputy Director Laurel Cowher. “This is giving children the chance to see where their food source comes from, that it is natural, and that plants grow in soil and need water and sunshine to grow,” she added.

With help from their teachers and parents, these new gardeners planted sunflowers, tomatoes, eggplant, and kale. Once it’s time to harvest, Head Start hopes to have the students try the vegetables they planted.

Vision Screenings

Did you know that 1 in 4 children have a vision issue that needs attention before entering kindergarten?

To address this need, STEP Head Start is proactive with vision screening! 744 children had their vision screened during the 2017-2018 program year, and 122 children were referred to a vision specialist for follow up. Here are our results:

- 68 children received glasses or are actively doing patch therapy.
- 25 children are being monitored for possible future vision problems.
- 8 children are awaiting their appointments.
- 13 children left our program before their appointment.
- 3 children didn’t have an immediate need for vision correction.
- 5 children did not follow up.

Family Pathways Program

The Family Pathways Program was made possible through a collaboration between STEP Head Start and Penn State’s Institute for the Study of Adult Literacy (ISAL). ISAL was awarded a three-year family literacy grant to serve Head Start families in Lycoming County at STEP’s Round Hills Campus, and is contracted to serve 30 families a year.

The family literacy model of education emphasizes that parents are children’s first teacher. Family literacy impacts the daily lives of parents, children, and other family members, and focuses on the learning for their future members.

Families enrolled in the Family Pathways Program participate in a four component model that integrates quality early childhood education, adult learning, parent support, and interactive parent and child literacy activities. Services occur simultaneously; adults participate in education activities while their children learn in STEP Head Start classrooms. Parents and children share their new literacy experiences, enabling them to become partners in education.
The Mission of STEP, Inc. is to engage diverse individuals, families, and communities in the pursuit of social and economic success. The Head Start program is a part of STEP’s Early Learning Pathway to Success.

STEP does not discriminate in its enrollment, employment, or activities on the basis of age, sex, color, religion, ancestry, disability, or national origin.

For more information, to apply for enrollment, volunteer your time, or to make a contribution please contact STEP Head Start:

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Williamsport, Pennsylvania 17701
570-601-9601 or Toll-free 1-800-346-3020
e-mail: headstartinfo@stepcorp.org
Website: www.stepcorp.org/Child_Development
Facebook: www.facebook.com/STEPHeadStart

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