



**Head
Start**

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



STEP Early Learning: Serving children and families in Lycoming and Clinton counties during the 2019-20 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.

STEP Early Learning 2019-2020 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 2016-2017, published January 2019.

RISK

REACH

The overall Risk Level of Clinton and Lycoming counties is Moderate High:

The Reach of STEP Head Start:

▶ **Economic Risk: Clinton County**
35.3% of children under age five live in economically high-risk families (100% federal poverty level or below).

▶ **Economic Risk: Lycoming County**
26.8% of children under age five live in economically high-risk families (100% federal poverty level or below).

▶ **29.9%** of eligible children under age five are served in Clinton County.

▶ **28.7%** of eligible children under age five are served in Lycoming County.

▶ **Academic Risk: Clinton County**
Based on the PA Statewide Reading Proficiency Assessment, **42.4%** of children are below proficient reading in 3rd grade.

▶ **Academic Risk: Lycoming County**
Based on the PA Statewide Reading Proficiency Assessment, **27.8%** of children are below proficient reading in 3rd grade.



STEP Head Start

PROGRAM GOALS

- 1 Increase capacity to achieve results.
- 2 Ensure facilities are located in areas to provide 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.

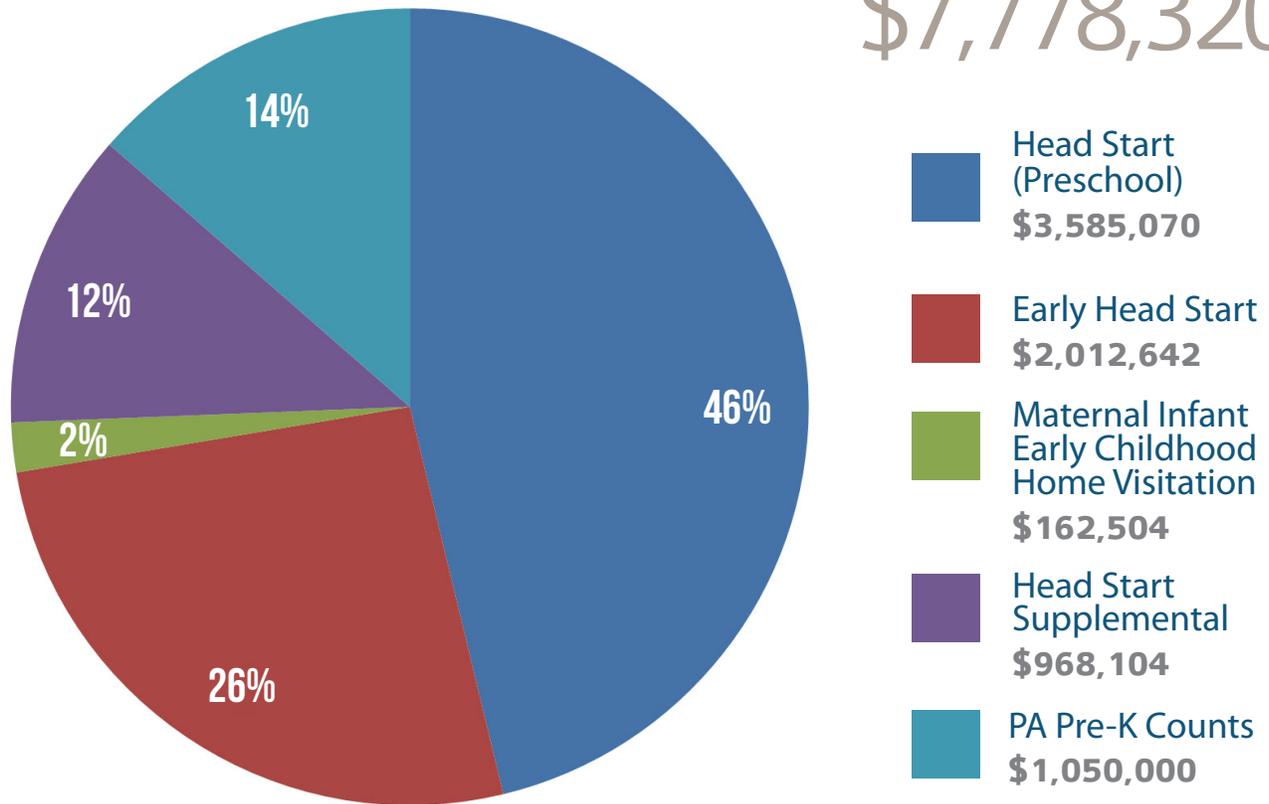
STEP Head Start

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.

STEP Early Learning 2019-2020 FISCAL EXPENDITURES

\$7,778,320



AUDIT REPORT

The August 17, 2020 Audit Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2019 reported findings that were subsequently and adequately corrected.

The most recent Monitoring Review was in October 2019. A finding of a supervision noncompliance was determined to be satisfactorily corrected.

Unaudited Expenditures for Agency Fiscal Year 2019-2020 (7/1/2019-6/30/2020)

	Head Start (Preschool)	Early Head Start	Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visitation	Head Start Supplemental	PA Pre-K Counts
Expenditures					
Personnel					
Wages	\$ 2,026,162.00	\$ 1,213,654.00	\$ 88,974.00	\$ 592,501.00	\$ 680,615.00
Fringe Benefits and Taxes	752,827.00	372,197.00	32,092.00	218,478.00	236,452.00
Occupancy	350,532.00	223,885.00	20,023.00	90,135.00	74,446.00
Communication	63,928.00	26,669.00	1,917.00	10,620.00	8,485.00
Supplies and Equipment	65,803.00	28,108.00	3,368.00	15,700.00	18,352.00
Transportation	63,598.00	22,031.00	2,427.00	7,108.00	3,106.00
Contract Services	111,393.00	31,293.00	13,136.00	30,483.00	17,269.00
Other	150,827.00	94,805.00	567.00	3,079.00	11,275.00
Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 3,585,070.00</u>	<u>\$ 2,012,642.00</u>	<u>\$ 162,504.00</u>	<u>\$ 968,104.00</u>	<u>\$ 1,050,000.00</u>

PROGRAM IMPACTS

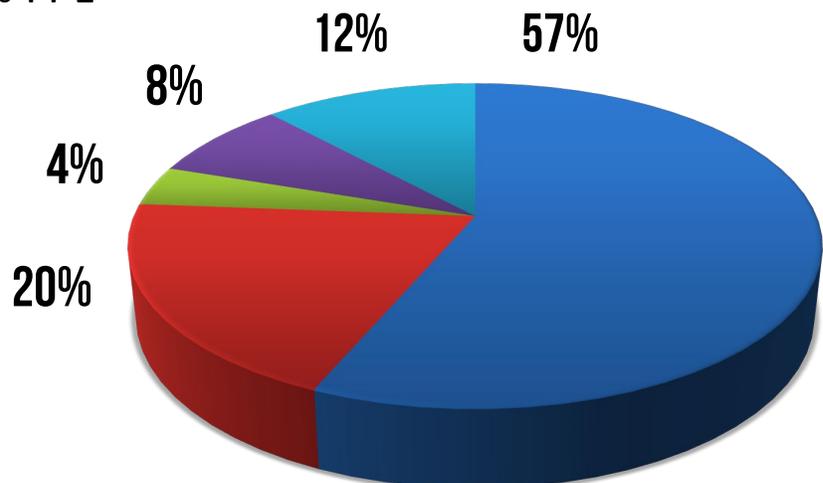
2019-2020 Federal and PA Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program

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.
- ▶ **391** preschool Head Start children benefited from comprehensive, individualized child development services during the 2019-2020 program year.
- ▶ **60%** of enrolled children were 4–5 years old and will transition to kindergarten in the fall.
- ▶ **40%** 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.
- ▶ **358** Head Start families were supported in their roles as primary educators of their children and offered opportunities for participation, decision making, and personal growth.
- ▶ **108** children with disabilities (**30%** of enrollment) received inclusive education and treatment services in Head Start.
 - **20** children were diagnosed for the first time during the 2019-2020 Head Start program year.
 - **34** children were referred to mental health services, and **23** of those children received mental health services outside of Head Start.
- ▶ **100%** of Head Start children were linked with a source for ongoing, accessible medical and dental care:
 - **92%** 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.
 - **89%** of children completed a dental exam.
 - **99%** of children are up to date on immunizations.

Head Start - Enrollment by Eligibility

- Income below 100% FPL*
- Public Assistance
- Foster child
- Homeless
- Over income



* Federal Poverty Level

PROGRAM IMPACTS

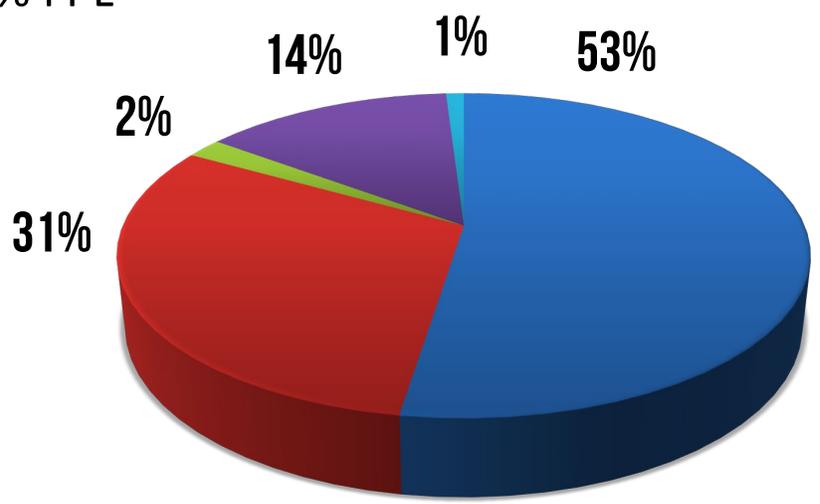
2019-2020 Early Head Start and Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting

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

- ▶ Early Head Start maintained a **100%** monthly enrollment.
- ▶ **162** infants and toddlers benefited from comprehensive, individualized child development services during the 2019-2020 program year.
- ▶ **100%** of Early Head Start children and their families received regular nutrition education.
- ▶ **138** 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.
- ▶ **18** children with disabilities (**19%** of enrollment) received inclusive education and treatment services. All children were diagnosed prior to the 2019-2020 Early Head Start program year.
- ▶ **100%** of Early Head Start children were linked with a source for ongoing, accessible medical and dental care:
 - **68%** 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.
 - **98%** of children are up to date on immunizations.

Early Head Start - Enrollment by Eligibility

- Income below 100% FPL*
- Public Assistance
- Foster child
- Homeless
- Over income



* Federal Poverty Level

PROGRAM IMPACTS

2019-2020

PA Pre-K Counts

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

- ▶ PA Pre-K Counts maintained a **100%** monthly enrollment.
- ▶ **176** 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.
- ▶ **142** Pre-K Counts families were supported in their roles as primary educators of their own children and offered opportunities for participation, decision making, and personal growth.
- ▶ **100%** of children are up to date on immunizations.
- ▶ **100%** of children received snack and lunch, meeting one-third of their daily nutritional requirement, and regular nutrition education.
- ▶ **19** children with disabilities (**11%** of enrollment) received inclusive education and early intervention services.

2019-2020

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.

- ▶ **4,897** volunteer hours were contributed to the preschool programs by **409** volunteers, including Head Start and PA Pre-K Counts parents.
- ▶ **5,765** volunteer hours were contributed to the Early Head Start program by **154** volunteers, including Early Head Start parents.





SCHOOL READINESS

Goals



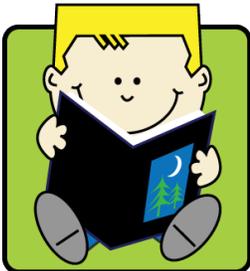
SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL

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

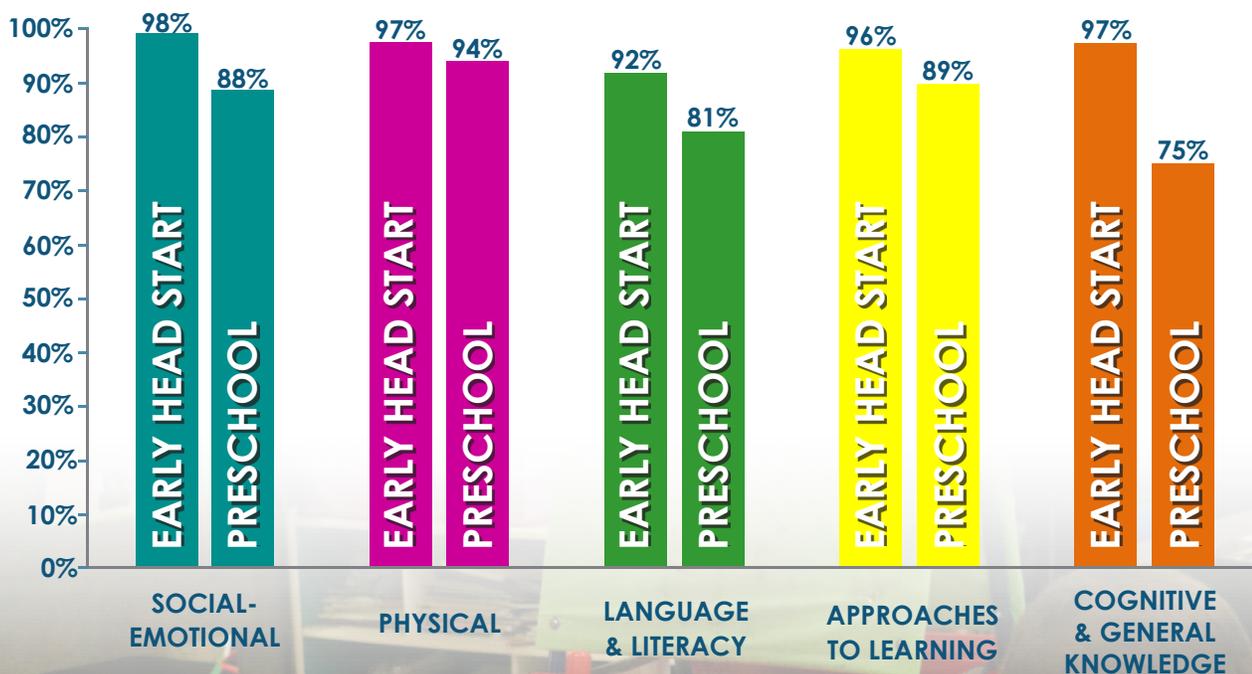
SCHOOL READINESS

2019-2020 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

STEP HEAD START SCHOOL READINESS OUTCOMES 2019-2020



SPECIAL INITIATIVES AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

► PBIS Kickoff & Fall Harvest Events

Two PBIS Kickoff and Fall Harvest events were held in October to celebrate the season! STEP's Clinton County Community Center welcomed over 160 attendees from Head Start families and the public on October 2, 2019. STEP's Round Hills Campus saw more than 300 Head Start children and families at the event on October 10, 2019.

The events are the yearly kick-off for the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program, which teaches children about emotions and coping skills in order to proactively encourage good behavior. Many of the activities, including a PBIS library, pumpkin feeling faces, and calm down bottles, also helped children to practice PBIS strategies. Caregivers are encouraged to carry PBIS into their homes through rewards and various tools.

Other activities included Make a Bee Hat, Pumpkin PlayDoh, Sensory Stations, Make Your Own Beehive, Leaf Rubbing, STEP AmeriCorps Story Corner, Pumpkin Decorating, Face Painting, all while Phoebe, the PBIS mascot, was buzzing around!



► Early Head Start Winterfest 2020

STEP Early Head Start celebrated WinterFest 2020 on the evening of Tuesday, January 21. The annual event welcomed Early Head Start children and their families to explore winter-inspired stations. Kids visited each area with opportunities to strengthen their fine and gross motor skills with frozen paint, snowman toss, play-doh sculpting, ice chiseling, a sensory pool, and a tummy time area for infants.

Agency partners including Early Learning Resource Center Region 7, UGI, and the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank were in attendance to talk with families and share information.



► United Way Book Donation

The love of reading was celebrated at STEP Round Hills Campus in February, including a donation of books from the Lycoming County United Way.

“We were awarded such a large grant amount and so many books. These are great books, so we really wanted to make sure we spread them out as much as we can, so they touch all over the community,” Brittany Fischer, Vice President for Community Impact of the United Way, said.

Each child at the Round Hills Campus received a book with a personalized message inside, penned by volunteers who had worked earlier in the week.

Williamsport Mayor Derek Slaughter joined the group from the United Way in “Spreading the Love of Reading” to area preschoolers - a thematic tie-in to Valentines weekend - by reading to children.

“It’s good to get out in the community and read to the little kids,” commented Mayor Slaughter. “Any day you can interact with the little kids is always a good day,” he said.



► Pencil Case Supply Kits

STEP Head Start staff assembled supply kits for students in need during the closure of the school-year program. Each of the 300 kits included a pencil case, pencil, pencil top eraser, pencil sharpener, glue stick, crayons, safety scissors, stickers, and construction paper. Staff members reached out to families and delivered porch drop-offs for those needing the supplies.



The kits were made possible through a Head Start/Early Head Start Mini-Grant for emergency COVID-19 relief from the Pennsylvania Head Start State Collaboration Office. The grant has allowed STEP Head Start to expand engagement with parents and children virtually, and also assisted parents with engaging in age appropriate activities with their children during the time of program closures.

► 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! **567** children had their vision screened during the 2019-2020 program year, and **152** children were referred to a vision specialist for follow up. Here are our results:

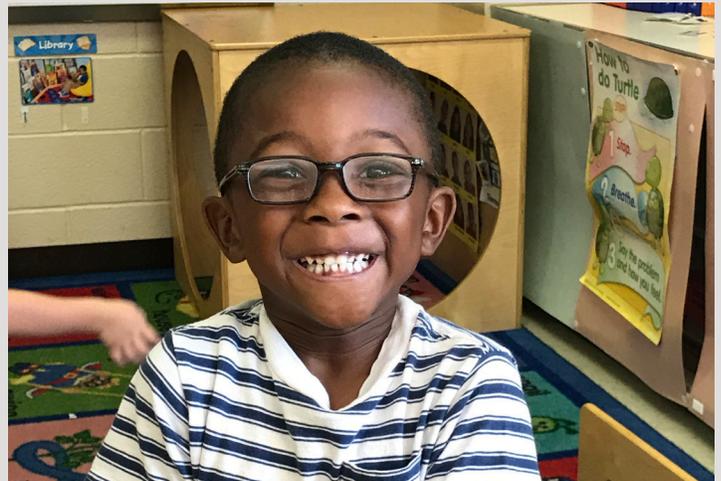
79 children received glasses or are actively doing patch therapy.

36 children are being monitored for possible future vision problems.

9 children left our program before their appointment dates.

1 parent refused.

27 children did not follow up.



► *Virtual* Week of the Young Child

STEP Head Start celebrated *Virtual Week of the Young Child* (WOYC) from April 12-18. 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.

Even with different circumstances during the COVID-19 crisis, STEP Head Start families and staff found creative ways to celebrate young children, the community, educators, and families virtually this year! The week's activities included Music Monday, Tasty Tuesday, Work Together Wednesday, Artsy Thursday, and Family Friday. Thank you to all who shared photos and videos with us to make #WOYC2020 a unique and amazing Week of the Young Child!



Music Monday: Through music, children develop math, language, and literacy skills - all while having fun and being active!

STEP Head Start challenged our families to show off dance moves, play music with homemade or real instruments, and sing Happy Birthday twice while washing hands.



Tasty Tuesday: Cooking together connects math with literacy skills, science, and more. Head Start encourages healthy nutrition and fitness habits.

Families shared images of cooking together, made sensory play recipes, and used their five senses to explore food!



Work Together Wednesday: When children build together, they explore math and science concepts, and develop their social and early literacy skills.

Head Start children and their families worked together to create some great things, including constructing blanket forts, building sand castles, and planting seeds.



Artsy Thursday: Children develop creativity, social skills, and fine motor skills with open-ended art projects where they can make choices, use their imaginations, and create with their hands.

Children were encouraged to get creative at home! Painting, dyeing eggs, and making sand art were among the projects submitted.



Family Friday: Engaging and celebrating families is at the heart of supporting our youngest learners. We applaud family members' role as young children's first and most important teachers.

Families were asked to share photos and make time to video chat with extended family members.



Success Through Engagement and Partnership

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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www.stepcorp.org/step-pathways/early-learning/head-start.html

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