



**Head
Start**

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



STEP Early Learning: Serving children and families in Lycoming and Clinton counties during the 2018-19 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 2018-2019

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

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

► **Economic Risk:
Clinton County**

35.3% of children under age five live in economically high-risk families (100% federal poverty level or below).

► **Academic Risk:
Clinton County**

Based on the PA Statewide Reading Proficiency Assessment, **42.4%** of children are below proficient reading in 3rd grade.

► **Economic Risk:
Lycoming County**

26.8% of children under age five live in economically high-risk families (100% federal poverty level or below).

► **Academic Risk:
Lycoming County**

Based on the PA Statewide Reading Proficiency Assessment, **27.8%** of children are below proficient reading in 3rd grade.

REACH

The Reach of STEP Head Start:

► **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.



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.

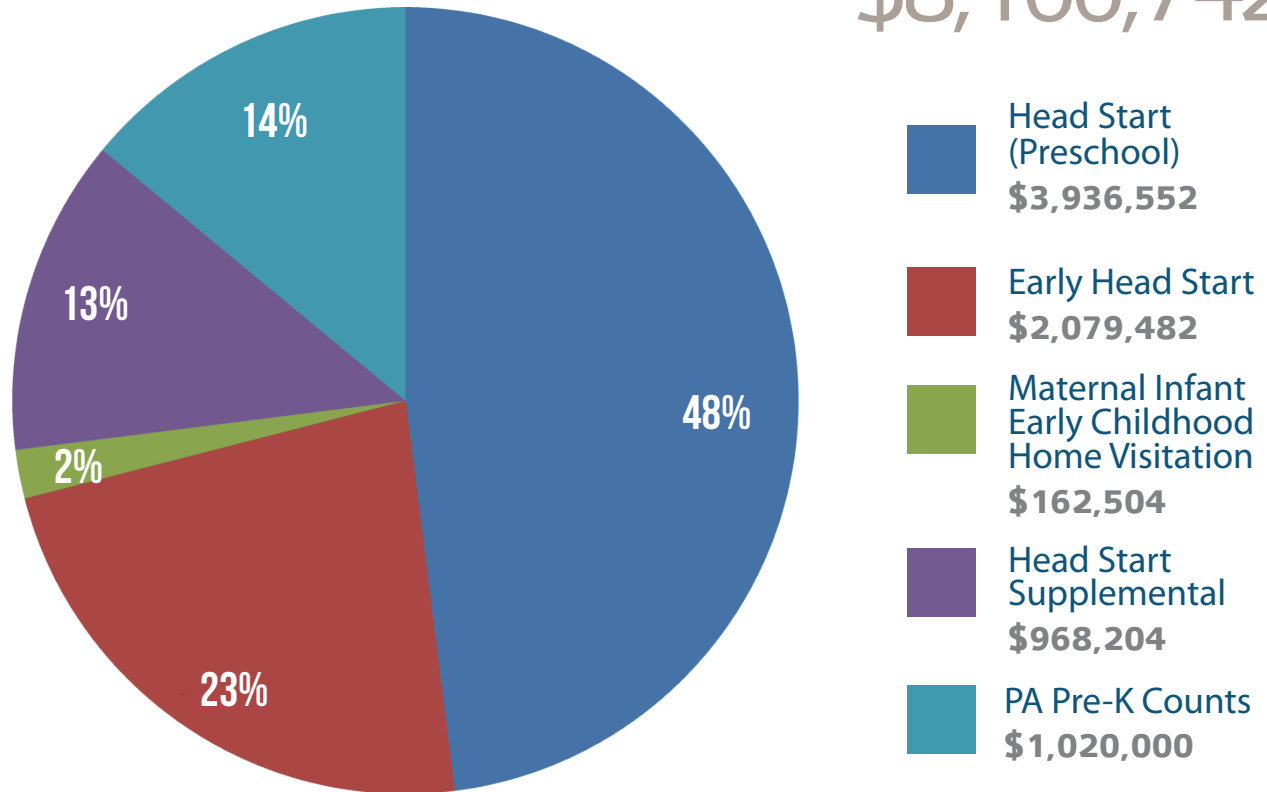
STEP Head Start

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 2018-2019 FISCAL EXPENDITURES

\$8,166,742



AUDIT REPORT

No instances of noncompliance, findings, or questioned costs related to Early Learning programs were identified in the April 1, 2019 Financial Statement and OMB Circular A-133 Audit Reports for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018.

Unaudited Expenditures for Agency Fiscal Year 2018-2019 (7/1/2018-6/30/2019)

Expenditures	Head Start (Preschool)	Early Head Start	Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visitation	Head Start Supplemental	PA Pre-K Counts
Personnel					
Wages	\$ 2,068,692.00	\$ 1,112,628.00	\$ 85,938.00	\$ 577,982.00	\$ 652,752.00
Fringe Benefits and Taxes	716,659.00	333,199.00	30,038.00	194,863.00	197,793.00
Occupancy	352,284.00	222,824.00	19,430.00	95,307.00	89,112.00
Communication	81,612.00	27,128.00	2,420.00	10,549.00	11,387.00
Supplies and Equipment	125,369.00	79,891.00	8,395.00	29,276.00	32,521.00
Transportation	84,786.00	33,647.00	3,757.00	12,485.00	4,530.00
Contract Services	116,275.00	52,681.00	11,013.00	36,299.00	14,566.00
Other	390,875.00	217,484.00	1,513.00	11,443.00	17,339.00
Total Expenditures	\$ 3,936,552.00	\$ 2,079,482.00	\$ 162,504.00	\$ 968,204.00	\$ 1,020,000.00

PROGRAM IMPACTS

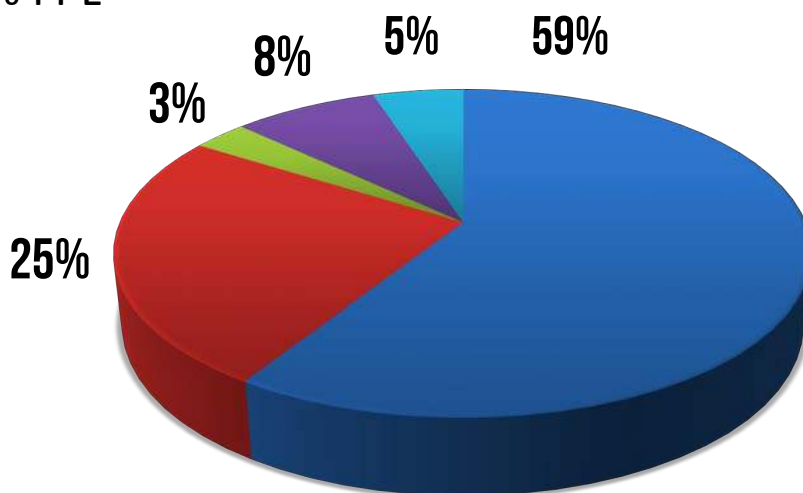
2018-2019 Federal and PA Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program

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.
- ▶ **401** preschool Head Start children benefited from comprehensive, individualized child development services during the 2018-2019 program year.
- ▶ **55%** of enrolled children were 4–5 years old and will transition to kindergarten in the fall.
- ▶ **45%** 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.
- ▶ **373** Head Start families were supported in their roles as primary educators of their children and offered opportunities for participation, decision making, and personal growth.
- ▶ **103** children with disabilities (**25%** of enrollment) received inclusive education and treatment services in Head Start.
 - **33** children were diagnosed for the first time during the 2018-2019 Head Start program year.
 - **43** children were referred to mental health services, and **38** 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:
 - **97%** 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.
 - **96%** of children completed a dental exam.
 - **100%** 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

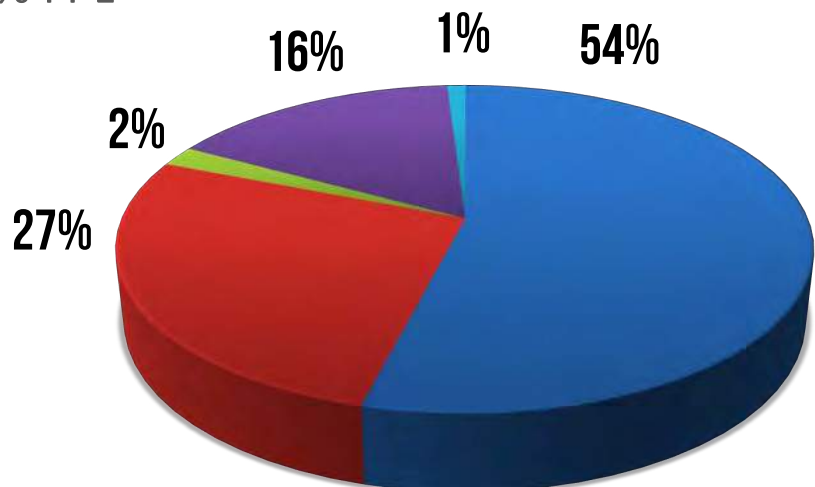
2018-2019 Early Head Start and Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting

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.
- ▶ **168** infants and toddlers benefited from comprehensive, individualized child development services during the 2018-2019 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.
- ▶ **48** children with disabilities (**37%** of enrollment) received inclusive education and treatment services. **16** children were diagnosed for the first time during the 2018-2019 Early Head Start program year.
- ▶ **100%** of Early Head Start children were linked with a source for ongoing, accessible medical and dental care:
 - **87%** of children are up to date on a schedule of age-appropriate preventive and primary health care.
 - **85%** of children have continuous accessible dental care.
 - **100%** 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

2018-2019

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.
- ▶ **168** 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.
- ▶ **62** 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.
- ▶ **168** 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.

2018-2019

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.

- ▶ **7,761** volunteer hours were contributed to the preschool programs by **496** volunteers, including Head Start and PA Pre-K Counts parents.
- ▶ **8,278** volunteer hours were contributed to the Early Head Start program by **157** 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

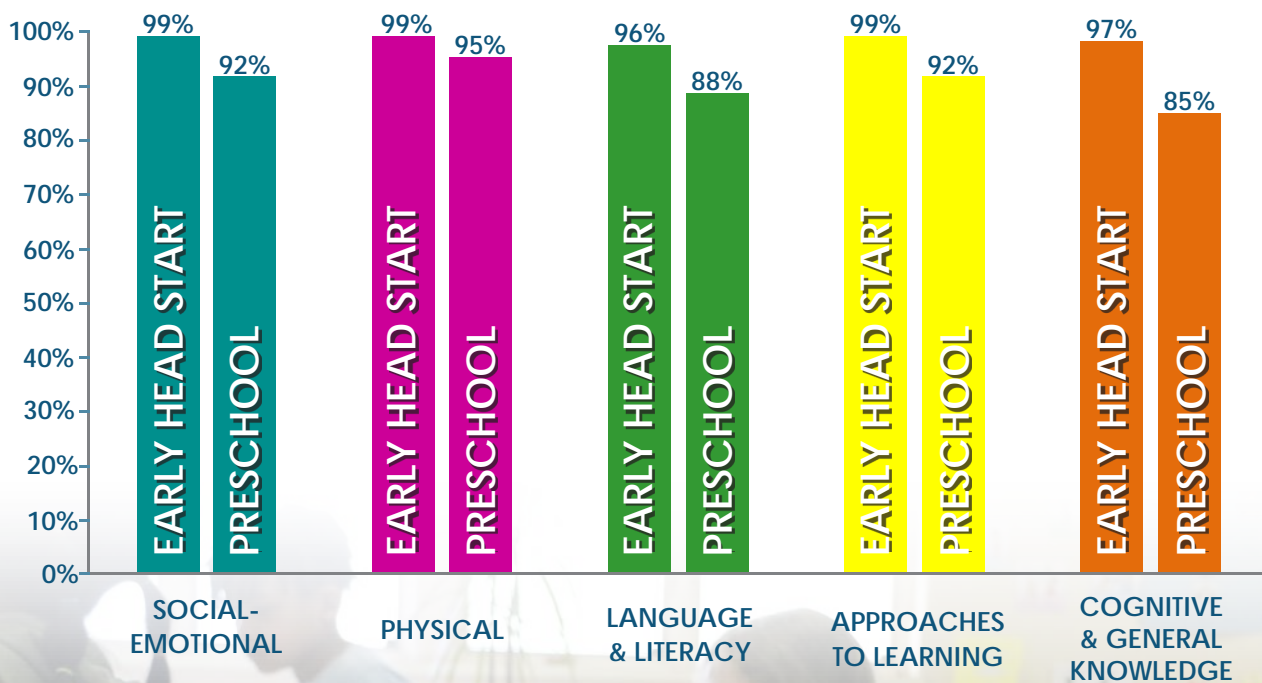
SCHOOL READINESS

2018-2019 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 2018-2019



SPECIAL INITIATIVES AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

► STEP Head Start at Hope Children's Campus

STEP, Inc. began offering Early Head Start and Preschool Head Start classes at the Hope Children's Campus in August 2018, providing a vital educational opportunity for children and families in the area. Classrooms include one Early Head Start classroom (birth through age 3), one Preschool Head Start classroom (age 3-5), as well as an Early Head Start playgroup classroom where students in the Home-Based program gather for playgroups (birth through age 3).

Hope's Children's Campus also houses a Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) office and a variety of therapy services provided by Hope Enterprises, including: physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy for children with developmental disabilities, as well as pediatric neurology.



► PBIS Fall Kickoff

STEP Head Start's annual Fall Harvest and Positive Behavior Intervention & Supports (PBIS) Kickoff events were held in October at STEP's Clinton County Community Center and Round Hills Campus.

The events 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.



► Week of the Young Child & Pennsylvania One Book

STEP Head Start celebrated **Week of the Young Child** from April 7-13. 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 2019 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, young readers across Pennsylvania were introduced to two books as part of the 2019 PA One Book early literacy program. **Barnyard Banter**, written by Denise Fleming, was the PA One Book for infants and toddlers, while **Not A Box** by Antoinette Paris was the selection for children ages three to five.

Many STEP Head Start and Early Head Start classrooms welcomed guest readers to share their PA One Book. Guest readers included members of Leadership Lycoming, Master Gardeners from the Penn State Extension, and many others from the community. All children enrolled in STEP's Early Learning programs received their own copy of **Barnyard Banter** or **Not A Box**.



MUSIC MONDAY



TASTY TUESDAY



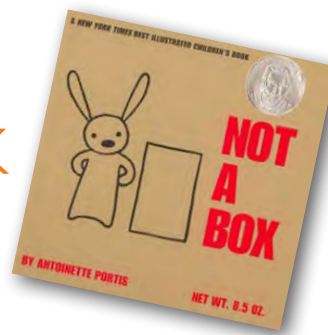
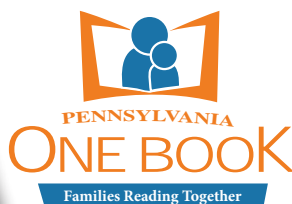
WORK TOGETHER WEDNESDAY



ARTSY THURSDAY



FAMILY FRIDAY



► Family Fishing Days

STEP Head Start kicked off the start of summer with two Family Fishing Days in partnership with the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission. The events welcomed hundreds of children and their families to Rose Valley Lake on May 19 and Bald Eagle State Park on June 16.

Attendees enjoyed a buffet-style lunch, learned about the fish and fishing equipment, and practiced casting and tying a hook. After discussing safety, the families fished for hours at the catch-and-release events with many children catching their very first fish!

Head Start children each received their own fishing rods and tackle boxes so they can continue to go fishing with their families.

The Family Fishing Day events were made possible by the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission, STEP Head Start, and event sponsors: Alta, Chief Oil & Gas, LLC, Seneca Resources, and Energy Transfer.



► 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! **647** children had their vision screened during the 2018-2019 program year, and **143** children were referred to a vision specialist for follow up. Here are our results:

81 children received glasses or are actively doing patch therapy.

32 children are being monitored for possible future vision problems.

7 children are awaiting their appointments.

9 children didn't qualify for any follow-up at this time.

7 children left our program before their appointment.

7 children did not follow up.



► STEP Round Hills Campus First Day of Play

Tuesday, June 11 marked the “First Day of Play” at STEP Round Hills Campus as STEP Head Start children and staff set foot on the newly installed play areas for the first time.

This STEP Head Start project was made possible with a \$108,000 grant from the Williamsport Lycoming Community Fund at the First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania, which was combined with Head Start funds to install two outdoor play areas.

Both play areas include climbers, water/sand tables, rhythm walls, play houses, and multiple raised garden beds for planting and growing flowers and food. These items provide opportunities for fun and both social and physical development, as they allow play to be combined with learning and growth. “The staff and children are super excited about having two new play areas at the Round Hills facility,” said STEP Head Start Director Carolyn Hawk.

It is expected that about 400 STEP Head Start children will utilize the equipment each year. Additionally, their siblings, neighborhood visitors, and children involved in other programs at the site will have access to the play equipment. Over the expected 10-year life span of most equipment, the initial grant will impact at least 4,000 children.





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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