



2021 ANNUAL REPORT



STEP Early Learning: Serving children and families in Lycoming and Clinton counties during the 2020-21 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 2020-2021 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

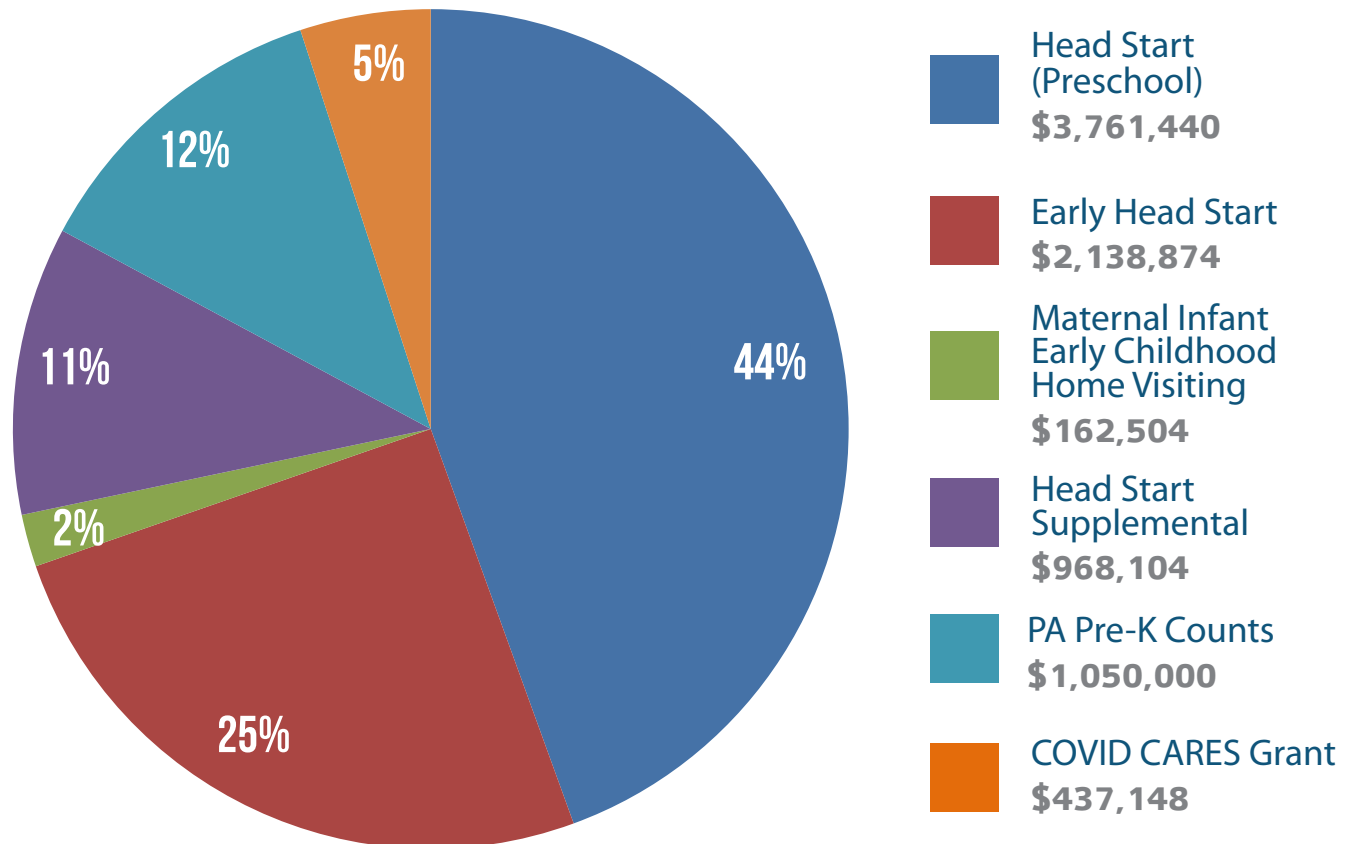
- 1 Increase capacity to achieve results.
- 2 Ensure facilities are located in areas to provide optimal service delivery.
- 3 Low-income people, especially vulnerable populations, achieve their potential by strengthening family and other supportive environments.
- 4 Partnerships among providers of services 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 2020-2021 FISCAL EXPENDITURES

\$8,518,070



AUDIT REPORT

The March 31, 2021 Audit Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020 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 2020-2021 (7/1/2020-6/30/2021)

	Head Start (Preschool)	Early Head Start	Head Start/Early Head Start COVID	Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting	Head Start Supplemental	Head Start Supplemental COVID	PA Pre-K Counts	PA Pre-K Counts COVID
Expenditures								
Personnel - Wages	\$ 2,012,391	\$ 1,178,479	\$ 43,765	\$ 87,841	\$ 511,341	\$ -	\$ 658,381	\$ -
Personnel - Fringe Benefits and Taxes	694,798	355,704	13,923	29,852	183,025		205,928	-
Occupancy	399,511	196,577	24,012	19,965	95,259		95,901	-
Communication	47,980	24,712	27	2,100	10,154	1	7,798	2
Supplies & Equipment	188,744	90,151	180,606	6,821	125,409	26,756	34,098	61,005
Transportation	28,013	12,394	6,126	1,102	3,885	2,089	4,765	2,089
Contract Services	90,004	38,412	4,631	14,550	33,291	200	26,251	270
Other	299,999	242,445	71,646	273	5,740		16,878	-
Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 3,761,440</u>	<u>\$ 2,138,874</u>	<u>\$ 344,736</u>	<u>\$ 162,504</u>	<u>\$ 968,104</u>	<u>\$ 29,046</u>	<u>\$1,050,000</u>	<u>\$ 63,366</u>

PROGRAM IMPACTS

2020-2021 Federal and PA Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program

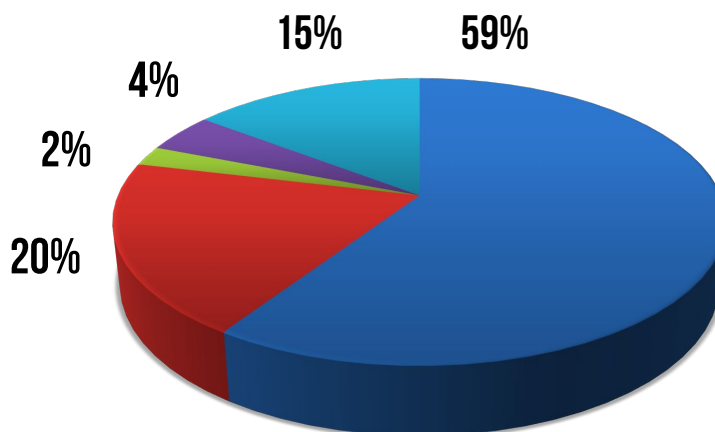
Preschool Head Start provides comprehensive child development, school readiness, and family support services to children three and four years old, including those with disabilities, and their families during the school year.

- ▶ **228** preschool Head Start children benefited from comprehensive, individualized child development services during the 2020-2021 program year.*
- ▶ **143** enrolled children were 4–5 years old and will transition to kindergarten in the fall.
- ▶ **85** 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.
- ▶ **209** Head Start families were supported in their roles as primary educators of their children and offered opportunities for participation, decision making, and personal growth.
- ▶ **47** children with disabilities (**24%** of enrollment) received inclusive education and treatment services in Head Start.
 - **36** children were diagnosed for the first time during the 2020-2021 Head Start program year.
 - **11** children were referred to mental health services, and **5** 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.
 - **82%** of children completed a dental exam.
 - **100%** of children are up to date on immunizations.

*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, STEP Head Start primarily provided virtual learning and services in the 2020-2021 program year to children and their families; therefore, enrollment data is best represented as whole numbers and not percentages.

Head Start - Enrollment by Eligibility

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



* Federal Poverty Level

PROGRAM IMPACTS

2020-2021 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.

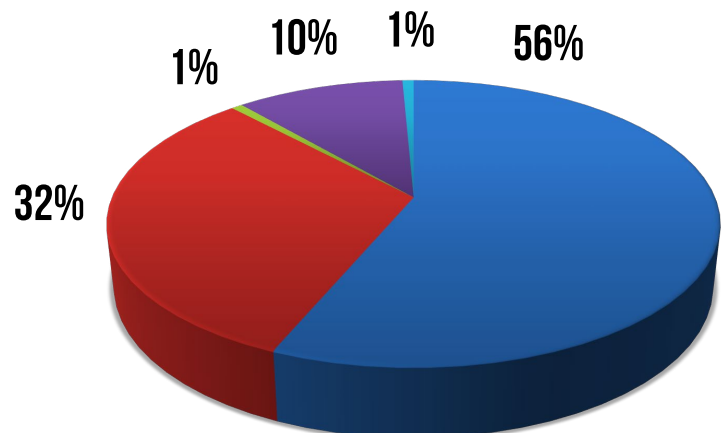
- ▶ **142** infants and toddlers benefited from comprehensive, individualized child development services during the 2020-2021 program year.*
- ▶ **100%** of Early Head Start children and their families received regular nutrition education.
- ▶ **120** Early Head Start families were supported in their roles as primary educators of their children and offered opportunities for participation, decision making, and personal growth.
- ▶ **21** children with disabilities (**15%** of enrollment) received inclusive education and treatment services. All children were diagnosed prior to the 2020-2021 Early Head Start program year.
- ▶ **100%** of Early Head Start children were linked with a source for ongoing, accessible medical and dental care:
 - **70%** 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.
 - **96%** of children are up to date on immunizations.

*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, STEP Head Start primarily provided virtual learning and services in the 2020-2021 program year to children and their families; therefore, enrollment data is best represented as whole numbers and not percentages.

Early Head Start - Enrollment by Eligibility

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

* Federal Poverty Level



PROGRAM IMPACTS

2020-2021

PA Pre-K Counts

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

- ▶ **139** 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.*
- ▶ **132** 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.
- ▶ **13** children with disabilities (**10%** of enrollment) received inclusive education and early intervention services.

*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, STEP Head Start primarily provided virtual learning and services in the 2020-2021 program year to children and their families; therefore, enrollment data is best represented as whole numbers and not percentages.

2020-2021

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.

- ▶ **5,693** volunteer hours were contributed to the preschool programs by **202** volunteers, including Head Start and PA Pre-K Counts parents.
- ▶ **8,003** volunteer hours were contributed to the Early Head Start program by **115** 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.

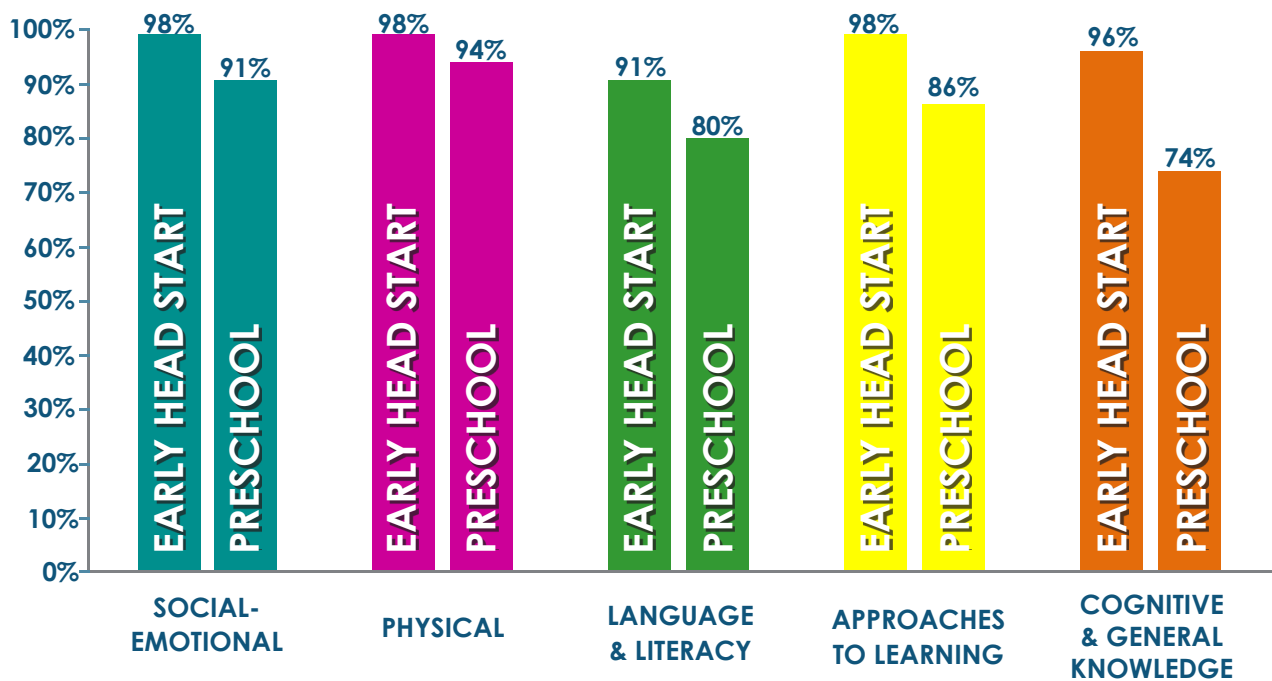
SCHOOL READINESS

2020-2021 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

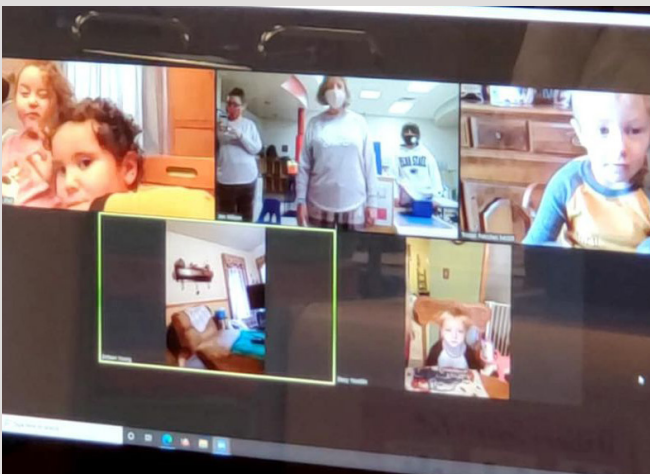
STEP HEAD START SCHOOL READINESS OUTCOMES 2020-2021



SPECIAL INITIATIVES AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

► Distance Learning and PBIS Online Resources

STEP Head Start began the school year a little differently this fall - Head Start staff and students connected online via Zoom and Class Dojo for distance learning. Each student was provided an iPad to connect with their classroom, and teachers worked hard to provide innovative online learning experiences. Activities included STEP Head Start Literacy Bags, outdoor story time sessions, kid-friendly kitchen activities, and themed Zoom meetings featuring *Go Away Big Green Monster* by Ed Emberly and *Llama Llama Red Pajama* by Anna Dewdney.



Students and families were also encouraged to utilize STEP's website to access interactive Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) materials, including an at-home Beehive accessed through www.stepcorp.org/pbis and a virtual library full of books linked to read-aloud versions of the physical copies that are available throughout STEP Head Start locations. The Virtual PBIS Family Library can be found at <https://www.stepcorp.org/pbis/virtualpbis-family-library.html>.

► Meal Distribution Program

To further support the families we serve, STEP Head Start provided a meal distribution program.

These meals, and the means to safely prepare, package, and deliver the meals, were especially important this year, as children attending in-person classes are at Head Start only two days a week and learn virtually the rest of the week. Head Start's meal distribution program ensured that breakfast and lunch were provided to each child five days a week, regardless of attending the in-person/hybrid model or fully remote. In total, more than 13,970 meals were provided to children enrolled in STEP Head Start during the 2020-2021 program year.



► Kindergarten Camp

STEP Head Start children transitioning into kindergarten for the 2021-2022 school year were offered the opportunity to attend STEP Head Start's first ever Kindergarten Camp in June 2021. The program ran Monday through Wednesday for three weeks at two locations: STEP's Round Hills Campus in Williamsport, and STEP's Clinton County Community Center in Lock Haven.

Day to day schedules consisted of literacy activities, math activities, reading aloud, outdoor exploratory play, and indoor exploratory play. Meals and snacks were included and additional meals were sent home for the remainder of the week.



► 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! **405** children had their vision screened during the 2020-2021 program year, and **125** children were referred to a vision specialist for follow up. Here are our results:

60 children received glasses or are actively doing patch therapy.

25 children are being monitored for possible future vision problems.

5 children left our program before their appointment dates.

4 parents refused.

31 children did not follow up.



► Week of the Young Child

STEP Head Start celebrated the 50th anniversary of Week of the Young Child from April 10-16. The Week of the Young Child is an annual observance hosted by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

STEP Head Start families and staff organized a fun-filled week celebrating early learning, young children, their teachers, families, and communities. The week's activities included Music Monday, Tasty Tuesday, Work Together Wednesday, Artsy Thursday, and Family Friday.



Music Monday

Through music, children develop math, language, and literacy skills - all while having fun and being active! STEP Head Start children had the opportunity to explore a variety of musical instruments including guitar, keyboard, drums, symbols, and the xylophone.



Tasty Tuesday

Cooking together connects math with literacy skills, science, and more. Head Start encourages healthy nutrition and fitness habits. Some of the tasty treats enjoyed by Head Start children were smoothies, fruit, and tacos!



Work Together Wednesday

When children build together, they explore math and science concepts, and develop their social and early literacy skills. In one of our Early Head Start classrooms, children worked together to plant flower seeds and make bubble solution!



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 with painting, and tracing.



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. To celebrate Family Friday, children brought in photos of their families and drew pictures.



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 :

2138 Boyd Street

Williamsport, Pennsylvania 17701

570-601-9601 or Toll-free 1-800-346-3020

e-mail: headstartinfo@stepcorp.org

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

www.facebook.com/STEPHeadStart

STEP is an Equal Opportunity USDA provider.