

Our Mission and Vision

Our Mission: We provide children and their families with quality childhood development programs and integrated support services.

Our Vision: Orange County Head Start, Inc., is the catalyst that launches children and their families to a brighter future.

Guiding Principles

Advocacy - We advocate on behalf of the children we serve by providing access to resources and protection of their rights and interests.

Empowerment - We provide the tools and environment to empower children and their families.

Learning - We are an organization dedicated to learning at all levels, especially for the early childhood years.

Partnerships - We deliver services through partnerships and collaboration.

Quality - We ensure the quality of our programs through continuous improvement and outcomes-based practices.

Respect - We respect diversity and acknowledge the value it brings to our community.

Wellness - We are committed to the emotional and physical well-being of our staff, children, and families.



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A Message to the Community

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, Colleen Versteeg



I am pleased to present Orange County Head Start, Inc's (OCHS) 2014-2015 annual report. For 35 years, OCHS has served Orange County's most at-risk children and families in both Head Start and Early Head Start (EHS) programs.

This year, OCHS and our three delegate agencies, City of La Habra, Orange Children and Parents Together, Inc., and Santa Ana Unified School District, have provided Education, Health, Mental Health, Disabilities, Nutrition, and Social Services to over 4,700 Head Start and EHS children and pregnant women living in cities identified by the county as areas of greatest need.

Overall, 17% of, or 1 in 6, children in Orange County is living in poverty. The availability of comprehensive early learning and support services in Head Start and EHS programs is vital to building successful students, citizens and leaders. As such, OCHS places an emphasis on promoting children's school readiness in the areas of language and cognitive development, early reading, science and mathematics, socials skills, and physical development.

We extend our sincere thanks to our staff, governing body, Policy Council, parents and community partners. You were instrumental in creating another successful year for OCHS, that included a Federal review resulting in many identified areas of strengths and no areas of concern. It is through our high quality collaborations and partnerships that OCHS is able to uphold standards to ensure that our county's most vulnerable infants and toddlers are ready for preschool; preschoolers are prepared for kindergarten; and families are supported with life-long skills that lead to their child's success in school and beyond. Please join us in celebrating our achievements as we share with you our accomplishments for the year.





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SCHOOL READINESS

OCHS provides high quality early childhood programming for children birth to five years old in several program options: part and full-day center-based and home-based programs. Home-based services include weekly home visits and two group socialization experiences per month. Facilities are licensed and staffed by qualified early childhood professionals. To ensure that children who participate in OCHS are successful in future education, OCHS has adopted School Readiness Goals for Head Start and Early Head Start:

Overall Head Start Goals (children 3 -5 years old): Children transitioning to Kindergarten from OCHS will be able to demonstrate abilities and knowledge as stated in the expectations described in the California Department of Education Preschool Foundations at 60 months. These are aligned with the Head Start Child Development Early Learning Framework. Under this overall goal, OCHS has established specific goals in each of the Five Essential Domains from the Head Start Child Development Early Learning Framework. These Domains include social emotional development, cognition and general knowledge, language and literacy, physical development, and approaches to learning. These specific goals address areas where data show children are most at risk, including: conflict negotiation, phonological awareness, math patterning, math operations, letter and word knowledge, engagement and persistence and oral health.

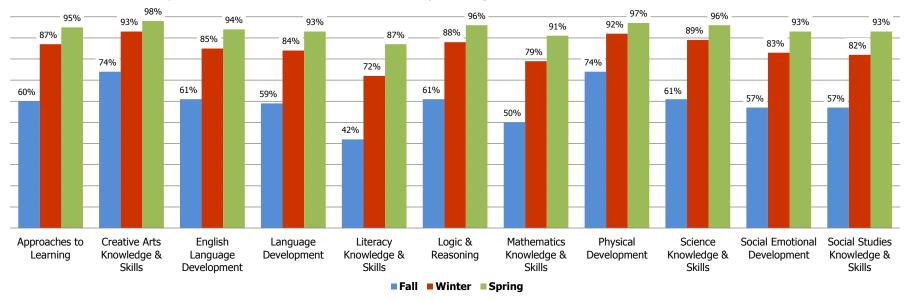
Overall Early Head Start Goals (children birth to 3 years old): Children transitioning to Head Start from Early Head Start will be able to demonstrate abilities and knowledge as stated in the expectations described in the California Department of Education Infant/Toddler Learning and Development Foundations at 36 months. These are aligned with the Head Start Child Development Early Learning Framework, and the Infant/Toddler High Scope Key Development Indicators, and the Infant/Toddler DRDP. Under this overall goal OCHS has established specific goals for program improvement for school readiness in these areas: social and emotional development, language development, cognitive development, and perceptual motor development. These specific goals address areas where data show children are most at risk including: cooperative play with peers, communication in home language, recognition of symbols, large and fine motor development, up-to-date well baby and dental exams, engagement in pretend play, and self help tasks.



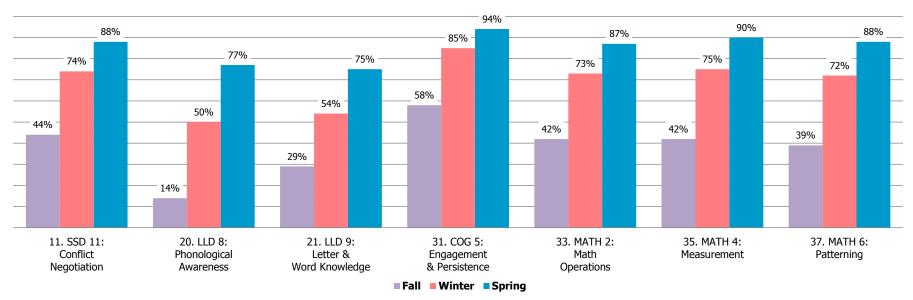
READINESS GOALS

OCHS has selected the Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP) to measure child progress as it is aligned with the California Department of Education Foundations and the Head Start curriculum. For the 2014–2015 school year the DRDP Assessment data showed that Head Start and Early Head Start children have met or exceeded expected progress levels for kindergarten/preschool readiness in all developmental domains. Areas of strength include: oral health, physical development, social and emotional development and language development, as well as English language development. While there have been noticeable gains from year to year, children served by OCHS continue to be challenged in the areas of literacy development and math development, specifically phonological awareness, letter and word knowledge, math operations and math patterning. Early Head Start children show most challenges in Language Development and Social Development.

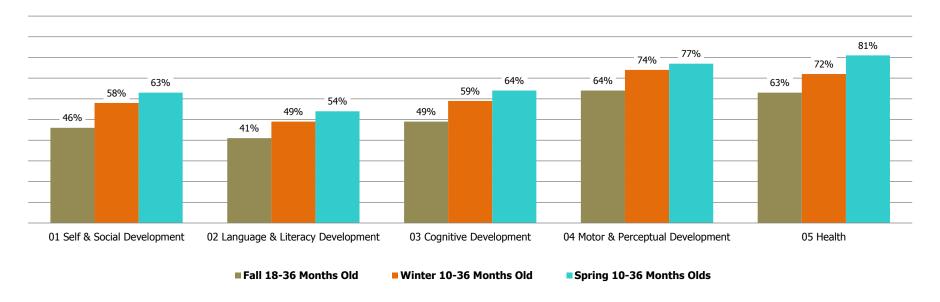
School Readiness Goals: At Least 95% of children transitioning to Kindergarten will be in the top two developmental levels in each of the Head Start Early Learning Framework Domains



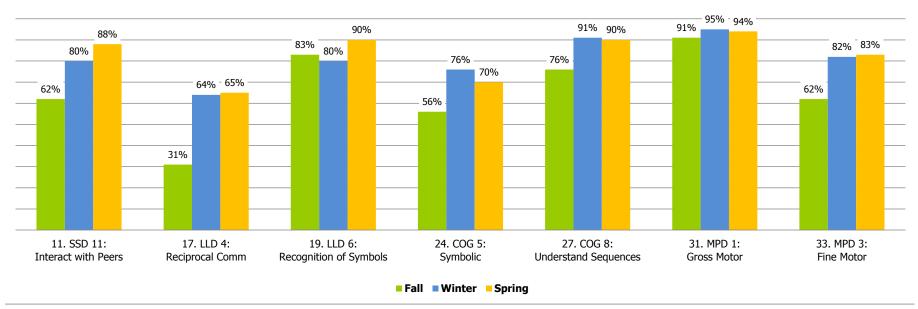
School Readiness Goals: At Least 95% of children transitioning to Kindergarten will be in the top two developmental levels in each of the DRDP Measures as stated below



School Readiness Goals: Overall at least 85% of children transitioning to Preschool will be at the top two developmental levels in all Early Head Start domains



School Readiness Goals: Overall at least 85% of children transitioning to Preschool will be at the top two developmental levels in all EHS School Readiness Measures



2014-15 Board of Directors

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Community Director
Policy Council Director
Policy Council Director





Total Number of Children and Families Served

In 2014-2015, Orange County Head Start, Inc., served 4,720 children and pregnant women throughout Orange County. This included 4,328 children ages three to five in the Head Start program. In the Early Head Start program, OCHS served 392 children from newborn to age three and pregnant women.

Average Monthly Enrollment

The average monthly enrollment (as a percentage of funded enrollment) was 100%

Percentage of Orange County's Eligible Children Served

- Head Start Eligible Served = 31% (4,328 of 13,902 eligible)
- Early Head Start Eligible Served = 2% (392 of 20,665)

TYPE OF SERVICE AND PERCENTAGE OF FAMILIES RECEIVING SERVICES

In addition to the education and health services provided to children, a key component of the Head Start program is the provision of services to the families of enrolled children. Services provided to 4,485 families in 2014-2015 through referrals to community agencies or programs, and through parent education sessions, are as follows:

Emergency/crisis intervention (immediate needs for food, clothing, or shelter)	. 14% 649
Housing assistance such as subsidies, utilities, repairs, etc	. 4% 179
Mental health services	. 11% 508
English as a Second Language training	. 15% 677
Adult education programs and college selection	. 23% 1,017
Job training	. 5%242
Substance abuse prevention	. 4%191
Substance abuse treatment	. 2%98
Child abuse and neglect services	. 4% 195
Domestic violence services	. 5% 245
Child support assistance	. 2%79
Health education	
Assistance to families of incarcerated individuals	. 0.6% 25
Parenting education	. 42% 1,875
Relationship/marriage education	
The number of families that received at least one service listed above	. 71% 3,164



NUTRITION AND FOOD SERVICES

OCHS takes pride in implementing continual enhancements to children's meals and nutrition education opportunities for families to support healthy growth outcomes for all children. The children's menu includes a wide variety of whole grains, fresh fruits, vegetables, and lean protein sources such as whole wheat pancakes with fresh strawberries, quinoa salad with black beans, and jicama sticks with hummus. New foods are regularly added to the menu to broaden the food experiences of children and deepen their curiosity about food. Parents are offered a variety of opportunities to attend cooking classes and nutrition workshops, such as how to make healthy beverage choices, a topic which promotes both healthy weight and healthy teeth, two of the agency's program goals. Children routinely participate in weekly nutrition lessons and daily physical activity with their teachers in the classrooms as well as during home visits for children participating in the home base program option. Nutrition staff and interns from local colleges and universities also engage children and parents in fun and healthy learning experiences throughout the program year. The Head Start registered dietitians consult with families to support children in obtaining and maintaining a healthy weight, and addressing concerns such as anemia and picky eating. In 2014-2015,

OCHS saw a reduction in the incidence of obesity among enrolled children, 17.6%, compared to 21.5% the prior year.





One of the key components within the comprehensive Head Start program is Health Services. At OCHS, the health team works throughout the program year to ensure enrolled children are upto-date on their Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) schedules of well child care, in addition to ensuring children are maintaining routine visits with their dental providers. One of the program's goals is the promotion of healthy oral health practices among children and families. In order to increase awareness of the importance of oral hygiene and preventative care, OCHS provides oral health education to families at Parent Committee meetings,

HEALTH SERVICES

Policy Council meetings, and through the Health Education Liaison Program (HELP). HELP parent volunteers attend health education workshops which provide them with training that enables them to present health information to their peers and the children at their school sites. Health trainings are also provided by the agency's internal health team and community partners. OCHS parent volunteers had the opportunity to receive training directly from the National Children's Oral Health Foundation, America's Tooth Fairy, which equipped them with the materials needed to not only educate the parents and children at their school sites, but also within their communities. In addition to enhancing parental awareness of the importance of oral health, the program inspires parent volunteers to develop teaching and leadership skills, and self-confidence. Teachers at OCHS also educate children in the classroom on the importance of oral hygiene and routine visits to the doctor and dentist by providing fun activities, such as transforming the classrooms into a doctor's or dentist's office. When stepping into a classroom during one of these activities, it is impressive to see the children role playing and demonstrating their understanding of the importance of visiting the doctor and dentist.

OCHS encourages parents to become involved in their children's education both in and out of the classroom. In 2014-2015, OCHS welcomed assistance from 4,079 volunteers, 3,168 of whom were parents! The Parent, Family and Community Engagement Department (PFCE) consists of a manager, two coordinators and 41 Family Engagement Advocates (FEAs) who work closely with each family during their time in the program to develop Family Partnership Agreements. During the Family Partnership Agreement process, FEAs help families identify both strengths and areas of need. They help families set goals with achievable timelines and strategies, and connect the families to resources to help support their overall well-being. Regular follow-ups are conducted to ensure that resources provided are individualized to meet each family's specific needs. PFCE staff discusses the importance of parent participation and engagement with the families and offers a variety of opportunities to volunteer in the program, participate in community activities and attend workshops that meet the identified needs of each family. Engagement activities include volunteering at the center,

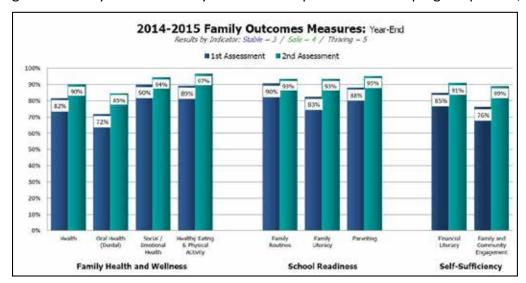
attending parent committee meetings, serving on various Head Start committees, or participating in additional parent engagement groups which include:

- Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors (Parent Leadership Program)
- Dads Matter Program
- Health Services Advisory Committee (HSAC)
- Health Education Liaison Program (HELP)
- Human Resources Interview Panel
- Parent Nutrition Assistant Program (PNA)
- Safety Assistant Monitor Program (SAM)

PARENT, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Policy Council

Parents of currently enrolled children have the opportunity to be involved on the Policy Council, a crucial component of the shared-decision government system. The Policy Council is comprised of current program parents, former Head Start parents, and community representatives.



The council serves as a link to the parent committees, grantee and delegate agencies, governing bodies, public and private organizations, and the community. Council representatives

work in partnership with key management and the Board of Directors to make decisions about the program. They may also participate on a committee for on-going agency activities.



FINANCIALS

FUNDING

Funding for Orange County Head Start, Inc., is provided by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families (ACF). ACF funding for the period July 2014 through June 2015 was \$34,534,345.

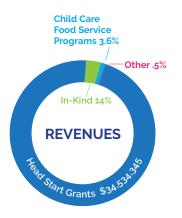
FINANCIAL AUDIT

An independent audit by Rossi, Doskocil & Finkelstein found OCHS complied, in all material respects, with the terms of its funding, and conditions of OMB Circular A-133 of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations.

During the 2014-2015 fiscal year, \$41,008,126 was expended. The total amount of public and private funds received was \$41,113,809. The proposed budget for the year was \$33,109,522.

REVENUES

Head Start grants	\$34,534,345
In-kind contributions	\$5,135,834
Child care food program	\$1,266,708
Other grants	\$176,922



RESULTS OF THE RECENT FEDERAL REVIEW (May 2015)

The most recent federal review of Orange

County Head Start, Inc., which evaluated the agency's fiscal integrity governance and management systems, was completed in May 2015. The Federal Review Team reported no areas of non-compliance. While historically, the Office of Head Start has provided programs with grants for indefinite project periods, this practice ended June 30, 2014. The Office of Head Start has now moved to awarding grants for project periods of five years (60 months) for all Head Start grantees. As part of the Designation Renewal System (DRS), OCHS has applied for a five-year grant that will be viable from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2019.



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