



Orange County Head Start, Inc.

Annual Report

2015-2016

Inspiring Learning
for a **Lifetime**



A Message to the Community

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, *Colleen Versteeg*



I am pleased to present the 2015-2016 Orange County Head Start, Inc. (OCHS) Annual Report. This past year has been a busy one filled with both challenges and opportunities. I would like to express my extreme gratitude to our dedicated staff who made all of this very important work happen, while meeting the challenges with nothing but enthusiasm.

OCHS has remained the largest childcare program in Orange County, providing quality services to over 3,800 of the county's most vulnerable children and their families. Much of the year was spent reconfiguring our program operations to ensure OCHS continues to meet the shifting needs of our community, including the vast need for child development programs for the county's youngest population, zero to three year old children.

This year, we successfully converted a portion of our Head Start preschool enrollment slots into much needed Early Head Start (EHS) Infant and Toddler enrollment slots, including a growing number of Two Year Old classrooms which help support smooth transitions for our toddlers into our Head Start preschool classrooms.

This year, OCHS underwent an Environmental Health and Safety Federal Review, and just as with the Federal Review in the year prior, strengths in systems and practices were noted with no areas of concern. This is a testament to our staff for their ongoing commitment to the health and safety of our children and families.

The good work we do in our communities would not be possible without the tireless commitment of our staff, governing bodies, delegate agencies, and community partners. Together we continue to ensure that children are prepared to succeed in school and their parents are engaged every step of the way.

Please share in our successes by taking a few minutes to look at the fantastic work OCHS has accomplished during the past year. I look forward to another year of supporting Orange County's children, families and communities.

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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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 programs and home base. 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 kindergarten and future education, OCHS has adopted School Readiness Goals for Head Start and Early Heads Start as described below:

Overall Head Start Goal (children 3 years - 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 Early Learning Framework.

Under this overall goal, OCHS has established specific goals in each of the Five Central Domains from the Head Start Early Learning Framework. These Domains include: Social Emotional Development, Approaches to Learning, Language and Literacy, Cognition and General Knowledge, and Physical Development and Health. Within these Central Domains are 11 Domains that include: Social and Emotional Development, Creative Arts Expression, Approaches to Learning, Language Development, Literacy Knowledge and Skills, Logic and Reasoning, Mathematics Knowledge and skills, Science Knowledge and Skills, Social Studies Knowledge and Skills, Physical Development and Health.

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 (children birth up 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 Early Learning Framework as stated in the description above for children 3-5 years old.

Under this overall goal are specific goals for program improvement for school readiness in the required Domains: Social and Emotional Development, Language and Literacy, Cognition and General Knowledge, and Physical Development and Health. 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 on well baby checks and dental exams, engage in pretend play, self-help tasks.

Child Progress on School Readiness Goals

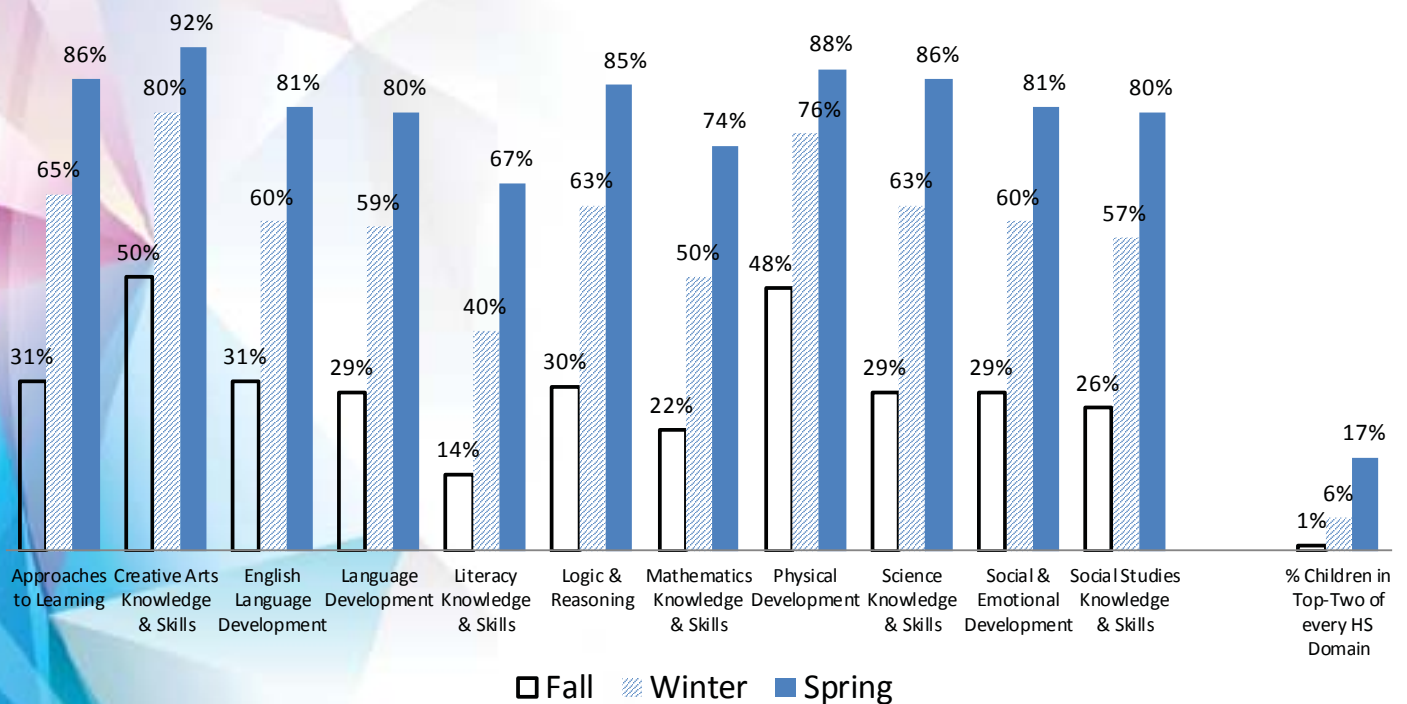
OCHS has also selected the Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP) to measure child progress as it is aligned with the California Department of Education Foundations and the curriculum.

For the 2015- 2016 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.

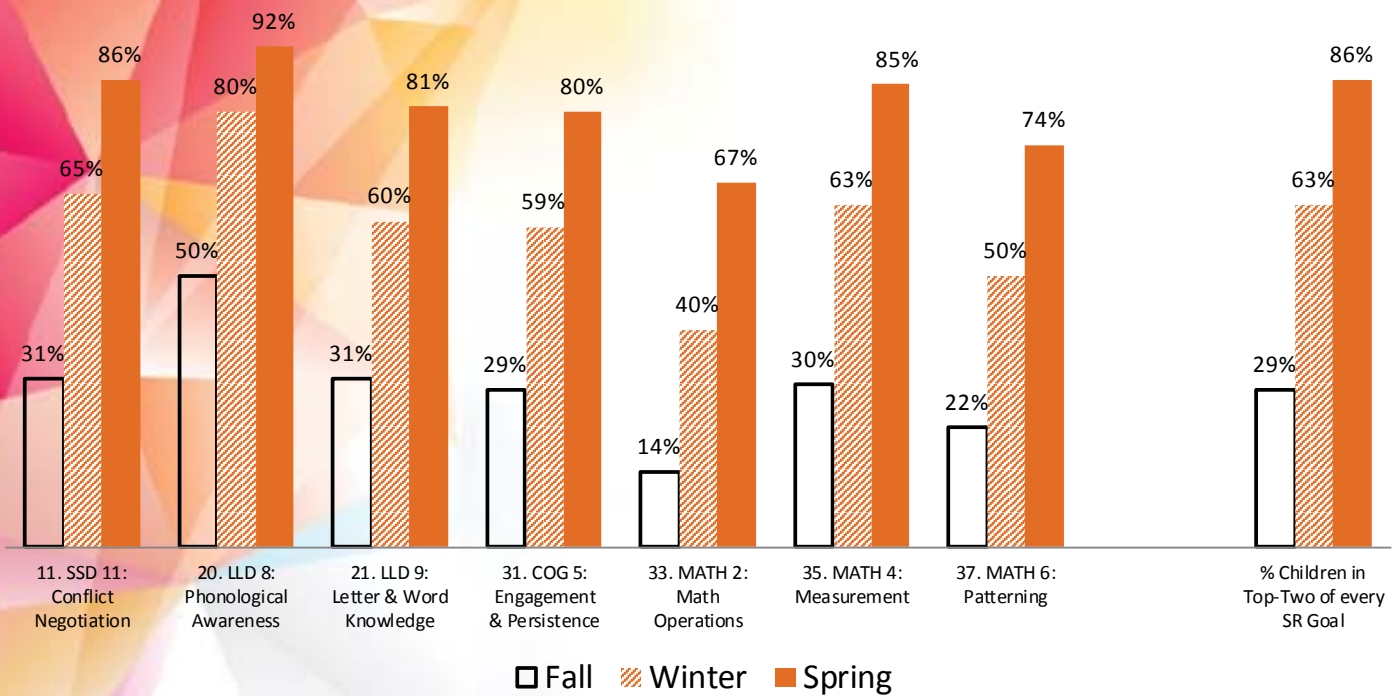
Areas of strength include: Oral Health, Physical Development, Social and Emotional Development and Language Development as well as English Language Development.

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.

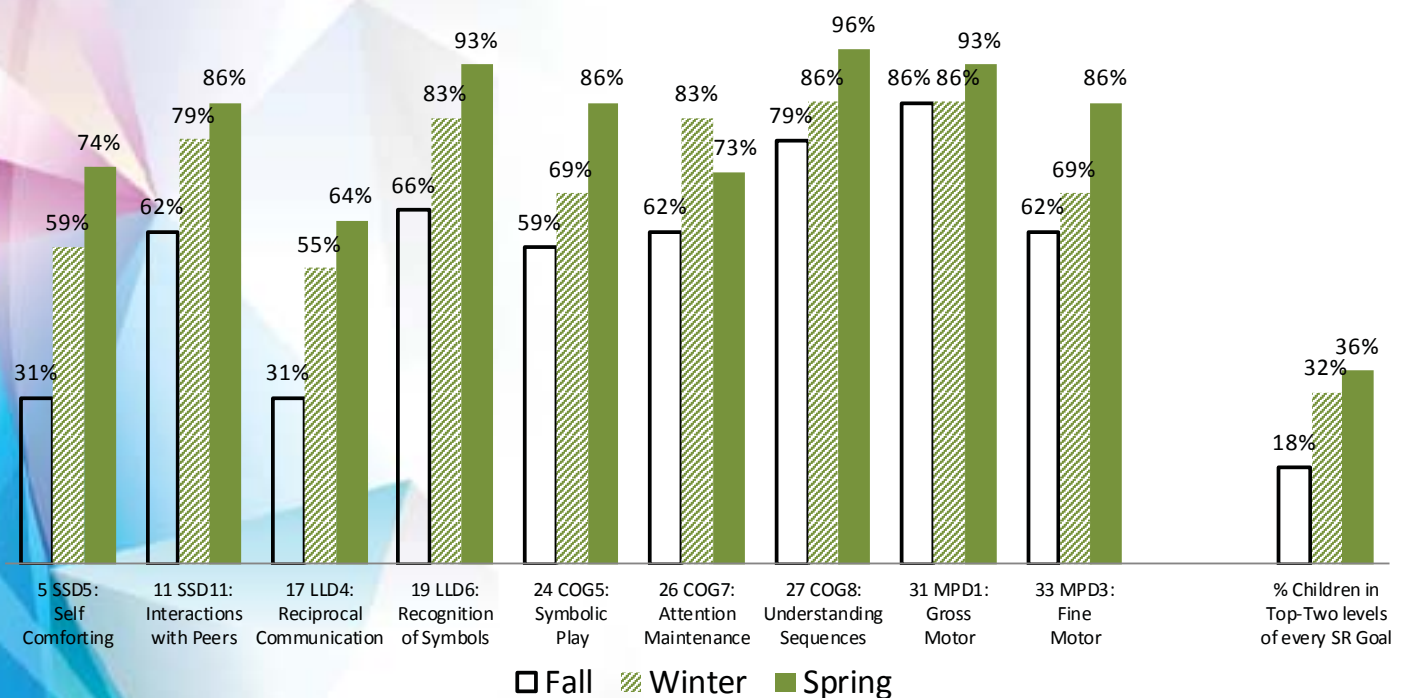
SR Goals: At least 95% of children transitioning to kindergarten will be in the top-two developmental levels in each of the HS Early Learning Framework Domains



SR 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



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



Board of Directors

Pat McAuley Chairperson
Mandy Corrales Vice-Chairperson
Maggie Macari-Hinson Secretary
Joseph Yi Treasurer
Steffi Gascón Hafén Community Director
Traci Hardy Policy Council Director
Dennis Nguyen Community Director
Stephanie M. Reich Community Director
Karla Reyes Policy Council Director
Shannon Thomas Community Director
Rick Verdugo Community Director

Total Number of Children and Families Served
In 2015-2016, Orange County Head Start, Inc., served 4,025 children and pregnant women throughout Orange County. This included 3,507 children ages three to five in the Head Start program. In the Early Head Start program, OCHS served 518 children from newborn to age three and pregnant women.

Average Monthly Enrollment
Head Start Program:96%
Early Head Start Program:101%

Percentage of Orange County's Eligible Children Served
Head Start Eligible Served: 25% (3,507 of 13,916)
Early Head Start Eligible Served: 2% (518 of 21,279)

Policy Council

The policy council representative works in partnership with key management staff and the board of directors to make decisions about the design and operation of the Head Start program.

The council also serves as a link to the parent committee, grantee/delegate agency, governing bodies, public/private organizations and the community.

Council members may also participate on a committee for ongoing and/or temporary activities.



Disabilities/Inclusion Services

At least 10% of the children served in Head Start and Early Head Start must be children eligible to receive services under IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) through an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).

In 2015-2016, Orange County Head Start, Inc., served 13.4% of the children with IEPs in Head Start and 19.4% of Early Head Start children with IFSPs. OCHS strives to ensure all children in both the Early Head Start and Head Start programs have the accommodations and support needed to have a successful experience and to learn and grow regardless of disabilities. Support is provided for parents, children and staff through Inclusion Support Facilitators (ISFs).

The ISF works closely with parents and staff to establish classroom modifications, schedule changes, needed modifications, materials and equipment, training and in-classroom support to assist in implementing each child's unique IEP or IFSP goals and needs.

In addition, teachers are supported in offering high quality social and emotional development strategies in their classrooms to ensure all children are given the opportunity to succeed. Children that are more challenged with their behavior are supported with specific strategies in the classroom. ISFs and center staff also work with parents at home to support their child's success.

OCHS partners with school district special education programs, Regional Center of Orange County, and other community mental health agencies to provide more intensive support for children and families who need and qualify for these services. In the 2015-2016 school year, OCHS provided 183 children with behavioral support in the classroom or at home.



Nutrition and Food Services

In 2015-2016 the central kitchen and vendors prepared and served over 1,000,000 nutritious meals and snacks to children at Head Start and Early Head Start centers throughout the county.

The meals consisted of a variety of healthy foods that include: whole grains, lean protein, and fresh fruits and vegetables in dishes such as kale pesto pasta and chicken stir fry, and soy nut butter, which are new menu items. New foods are regularly added to the menu to broaden the food experience of the children and deepen their curiosity about what they eat.

The nutrition staff also conducts activities in the classrooms which allow the children to experience new foods through literacy and using five senses. Nutrition workshops, which include cooking, Rethink Your Drink program, and healthy eating on a budget classes, are offered to all program parents.

The incidence of obesity among enrolled children was 20%, the same as the year prior. As part of the agency's efforts to combat childhood obesity, teachers conduct organized group physical activities daily, and nutritious activities weekly in the classrooms, as part of the curriculum.

OCHS's Registered Dietitian conducts consultations with families of children who present nutrition concerns such as obesity, underweight, picky eating, anemia, and bottle use.



Health and Dental Services

During the 2015-2016 school year, OCHS served 4,726 children through the Head Start and Early Head Start programs. By the end of enrollment, 99% had health insurance and a medical home; 91% were up-to-date on the State of California's Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) schedule; 10% were in need of medical treatment and of those 97% received treatment; 98% had a dental home; and were up-to-date on immunizations not including the few personal exemptions throughout the year.

OCHS served a total of 3,507 Head Start children of which 83% were up-to-date on their routine dental check-ups; 25% were in need of dental treatment and of those 76% received treatment. All of this was possible through the staff's attentiveness and hard work.

The Health Services department in collaboration with the Parent, Family and Community Engagement department provided education, helped advocate and supported the families as a whole to benefit the children's health and school readiness. In addition, children received sensory screenings with the help of OCHS partners at West Coast University. Student nurses assist in obtaining vision and hearing screenings, as well as blood pressure readings and growth assessments during summer enrollment fairs. Throughout the school year, the student nurses visited OCHS centers and provided health lessons to the children on topics such as hand washing and oral hygiene.

One of the agency's goals is specifically related to oral health. OCHS partnered with the National Children's Oral Health Foundation, America's Tooth Fairy to provide teachers with an oral health curriculum to introduce this topic to the children in the program and minimize the fear and stigma linked to oral health.

In order to increase awareness regarding the importance of oral hygiene and preventative care amongst the adults, OCHS provides education to families at parent committee meetings and through the agency's parent volunteer program called Health Education Liaison Program (H.E.L.P.). H.E.L.P. parent volunteers attended workshops on a monthly basis during the spring term and received training which they then presented to their peers and the children at their school sites. Trainings were provided by an internal health team and community partners. In addition to enhancing awareness for the parents, the program allowed them to develop teaching and leadership skills as well as confidence.

OCHS also continues to collaborate with parents and community partners through the Health Services Advisory Committee which meets twice a year to discuss available resources, changes in regulations and critical health issues.



Parent, Family and Community Engagement

The Parent, Family and Community Engagement (PFCE) department consists of a manager, two coordinators, and 38 Family Engagement Advocates (FEAs), all of whom either possess their Bachelor's Degree in Human Services or a related field, or have received their Family Development Credential. The FEAs work closely with each family to develop a Family Partnership Agreement (FPA) with individualized goals that meet the family's needs and/or interests.

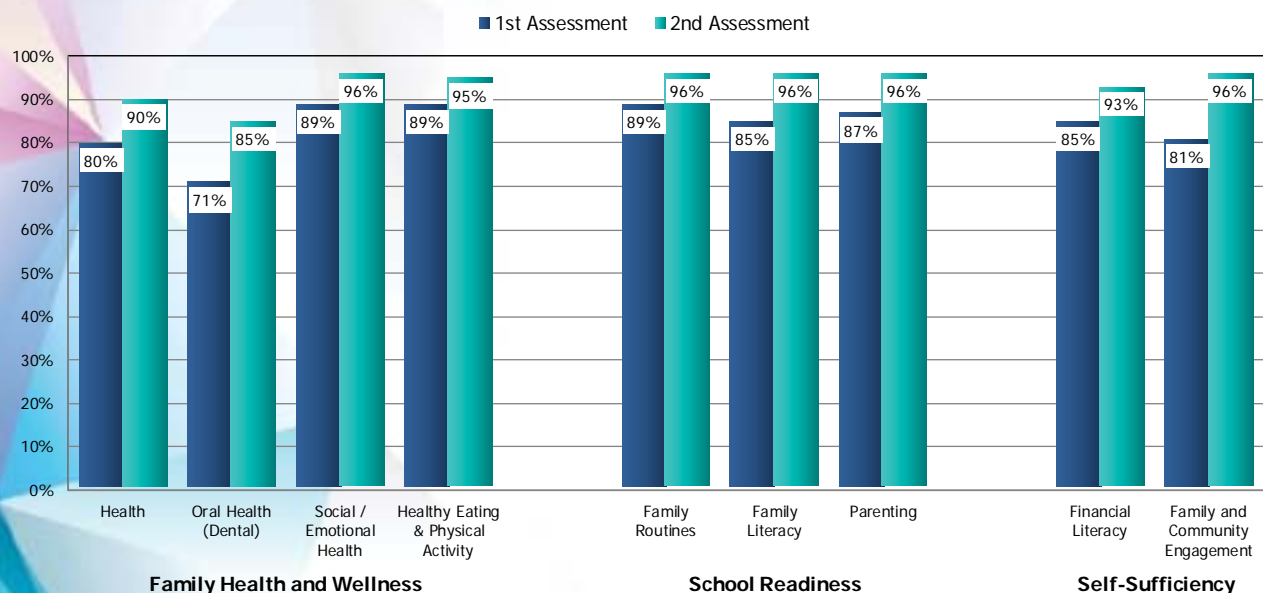
The FEAs build strong relationships with the families to support them in helping to identify their strengths and needs, connect them to appropriate resources to address those needs, and follow-up routinely with the families to see the progress they are making. Through the FPA process, FEAs assist families in acquiring skills and education to empower them to succeed beyond their tenure with the agency. OCHS uses a Family Outcomes Rating Scale to measure each family's progress in the three domains of: Family Health and Wellness, School Readiness, and Self-Sufficiency. The FEAs encourage parents to become actively involved in their children's education, both in and out of the classroom. Other engagement opportunities for parents include attending parent meetings and workshops, serving on Head Start committees or participating in parent engagement groups, which include:

- Safety Assistant Monitor Program (SAM)
- Parent Nutrition Assistant Program (PNA)
- Health Education Liaison Program (H.E.L.P.)
- Policy Council
- Moms Motivate Program
- Dads Matter Program
- Human Resources Interview Panel
- Health Services Advisory Committee (HSAC)
- Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors (Parent Leadership Program)

During the 2015-2016 program year, families of 3,235 Head Start children and 418 Early Head Start children were engaged in the Family Partnership process.

2015-2016 Family Outcomes Measures: Year-End

Results by Indicator: *Stable = 3 / Safe = 4 / Thriving = 5*



* Grantee data only

Type of Family Services Provided

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 3,775 families in 2015-2016 through referrals to community agencies or programs, and through parent education sessions, are as follows:

Emergency/crisis intervention such as meeting immediate needs for food, clothing, or shelter	542	14.36%
Housing assistance such as subsidies, utilities, repairs, etc.	108	2.86%
Mental health services	324	8.58%
English as a second language (ESL) training	419	11.1%
Adult education such as GED programs and college selection	501	13.27%
Job training	79	2.09%
Substance abuse prevention	234	6.2%
Substance abuse treatment	45	1.19%
Child abuse and neglect services	131	3.47%
Domestic violence services	161	4.26%
Child support assistance	27	0.72%
Health education	1,644	43.55%
Assistance to families of incarcerated individuals	13	0.34%
Parenting education	1,477	39.13%
Relationship/marriage education	80	2.12%
Asset building services	172	4.56%
Of these, the number that received at least one of the services listed above	2,566	67.97%

Volunteer Assistance

OCHS supports parents in becoming involved in their children's education, experience at home and in the classroom. In 2015-2016, OCHS welcomed assistance from 3,716 volunteers, 3,227 of whom were parents!



Financials

FUNDING

Funding for Orange County Head Start, Inc. (OCHS), is provided by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families (ACF). ACF funding for the period July 2015 through June 2016 was \$35,557,701.

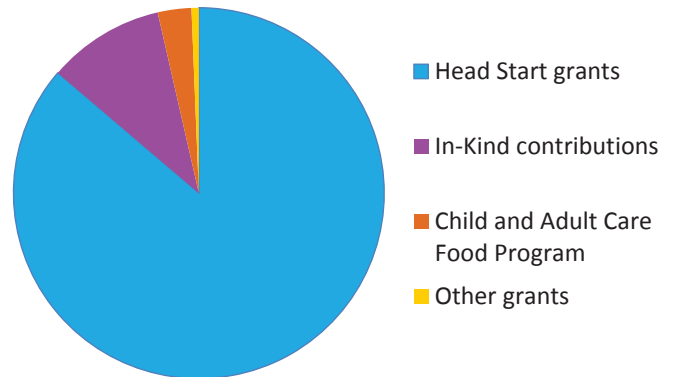
FINANCIAL AUDIT

An independent audit by Rossi LLP Certified Public Accountants found that OCHS complied, in all material respects, with the terms of its funding, and conditions of Uniform Administrative Requirements, cost principles and audit requirements for 2015-2016 Federal Awards.

During the 2015-2016 fiscal year, \$41,051,494 was expended. The total amount of public and private funds received was \$41,235,331. The proposed budget for the year was \$33,109,522.

REVENUES

Head Start grants.....	\$35,557,701
In-Kind contributions.....	\$4,205,662
Child and Adult Care Food Program	\$1,209,239
Other grants	\$262,729



RESULTS OF THE RECENT FEDERAL REVIEW (January 2016)

The most recent federal Environmental Health and Safety review of Orange County Head Start, Inc. was completed in January 2016. 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 was awarded a five year grant that is viable from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2019.

