

Annual Report 2016-2017



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A Message to the Community

*From our
Executive Director
Colleen Versteeg, M.A.*



Our agency is delighted to share with you our 2016-2017 Orange County Head Start, Inc. (OCHS) Annual Report. It has been a pleasure connecting with our community to provide school readiness and integrated support services to our most vulnerable children and families.

I would like to express my gratitude to our dedicated Board and Policy Council members, staff, and delegate agencies who are always striving to provide outstanding early education and comprehensive services to those we serve.

Additionally, strong relationships with other agencies are instrumental in OCHS providing the highest quality services to our children and families. We are so grateful for the ongoing support and work of our community partners.

OCHS is a federally funded program serving the most vulnerable young children, and their families, in the areas of highest need throughout Orange County. We remain the largest early education program in the county, providing services to over 3,800 families.

This year, through conversion of Head Start slots, we were able to further expand our Early Head Start program by an additional 94 slots for pregnant mothers and children from birth to three years old.

Orange County Head Start, Inc. is excited to be a catalyst that prepares our children for school and assists our families with the challenges that life often brings. Please take a moment to read about the significant work OCHS has accomplished this year.



Mission

We provide children and their families with quality childhood development programs and integrated support services

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

Vision

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 quality 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.

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors has the legal and fiscal responsibility for Orange County Head Start, Inc.

The Board consists of up to 18 Community Directors, and two Policy Council Directors.

Areas of required expertise on the Board include: fiscal management or accounting, early childhood education and legal counsel licensed and familiar with issues that come before the governing body. Additional members are elected to the Board for their expertise in education, business administration or community affairs.

Board members also reflect the community served and include parents of children who are currently, or were formerly, enrolled in Orange County Head Start, Inc.



- Mandy Corrales - *Chairperson*
- Maggie Macari-Hinson - *Vice-Chairperson*
- Stephanie M. Reich - *Secretary*
- Steffi Gascón-Hafen - *Treasurer*
- Shelley Beckham - *Community Director*
- Traci Hardy - *Policy Council Director*
- Stephanie Ha - *Policy Council Director*
- Pam Hall - *Community Director*
- Dennis Nguyen - *Community Director*
- Shannon Renee Thomas - *Community Director*
- Rick Verdugo - *Community Director*

Policy Council

Parents of currently enrolled children in the Head Start program have the opportunity to be involved on the Policy Council, a vital component of the shared governance system.

The Policy Council is comprised of parents, former Head Start parents and community representatives.

The Policy Council serves as a link to the parent committees, grantee and delegate agencies, governing bodies, public and private organizations, and the community. The Policy Council representatives may also participate on a committee for ongoing agency activities.



Natalie Nguyen - *Chairperson*

María M. González - *Secretary*

Stephanie Estrada - *Early Head Start La Habra*

Deysi González - *Buena Park*

Zonia Alvarez - *Fullerton*

Cebrinann Johnson - *K.I.D.S and Fourth Street EHS*

Fabiola Figueroa - *Matt Kline*

Khanh-Bao Nguyen - *Stanton and Carver*

Cherall Weiss - *Community Representative*

Soledad Gómez - *Community Representative*

Vanessa Hidalgo - *Vice-Chairperson*

Sohail Franklin Fahmian - *Treasurer*

Gabriela Arellanes - *Santa Ana Unified School District*

Stephanie Ha - *Crescent*

Mayra Gómez - *Hope*

María Angeles - *Martin*

Mirta Alvarez - *Placentia*

Anayeli Zavaleta - *Walter*

Rose Wolfrum - *Community Representative*

Preparing our Children for Kindergarten

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 education professionals.

To ensure that children who participate in OCHS programs are successful in kindergarten and future education, OCHS has adopted School Readiness Goals for Head Start and Early Head Start as described below:

Overall Head Start Goal *(children three years to five 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 Learning Foundations at 60 months. These are aligned with the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework – Birth to Five Years.*

Under this overall goal, OCHS has established specific goals in each of the seven domains from the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework. These domains include: Approaches to Learning; Language and Communication; Literacy; Mathematics Development; Scientific Reasoning; Perceptual, Motor, and Physical Development; and Social and Emotional Development. These specific goals address areas where data show children are most at risk including: Conflict Negotiation; Phonological Awareness; Letter and Word Knowledge; Engagement and Persistence; Math Operations; Measurement; and Math Patterning.

Overall Early Head Start Goal *(children birth to three 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 Outcomes Framework – Birth to Five Years.*

Under this overall goal are specific goals for program improvement for school readiness in the required domains: Approaches to Learning; Cognition; Language and Communication; Perceptual Motor and Physical Development; and Social and Emotional Development. These specific goals address areas where data show children are most at risk including: Self-comforting; Interactions with Peers; Reciprocal Communication; Recognition of Symbols; Symbolic Play; Attention Maintenance; Understanding Sequences; Gross Motor Development; and Fine Motor Development.

Child Progress School Readiness Goals

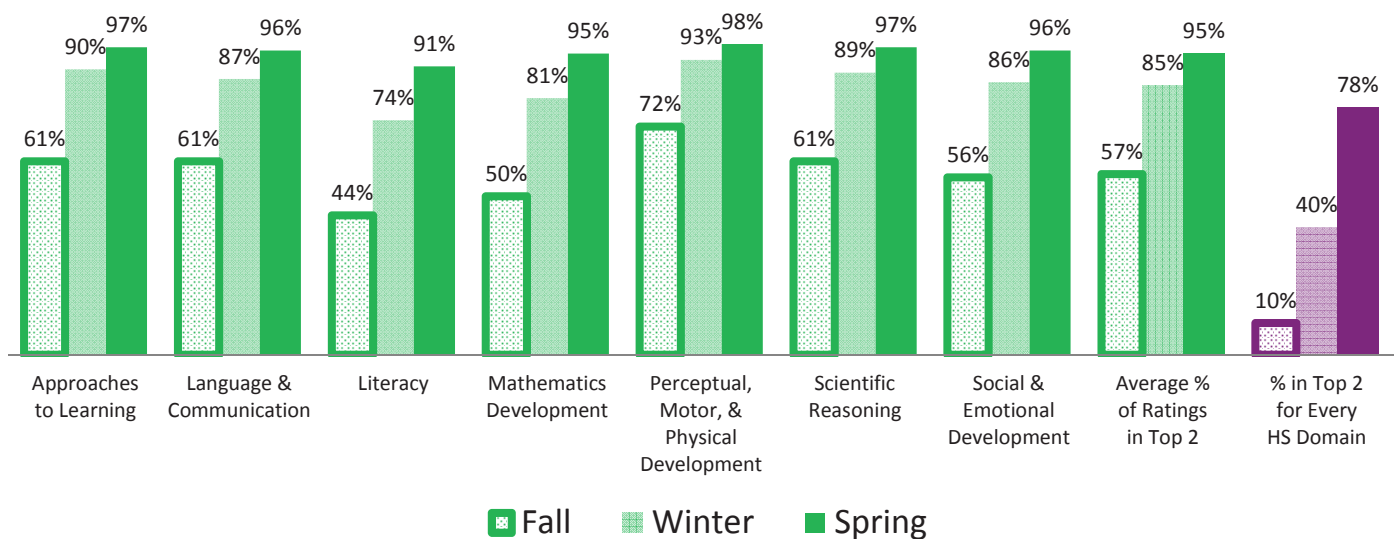
OCHS has also selected the Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP) to measure child progress as it is aligned with the California Department of Education Foundations, Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework, and the curriculum.

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.

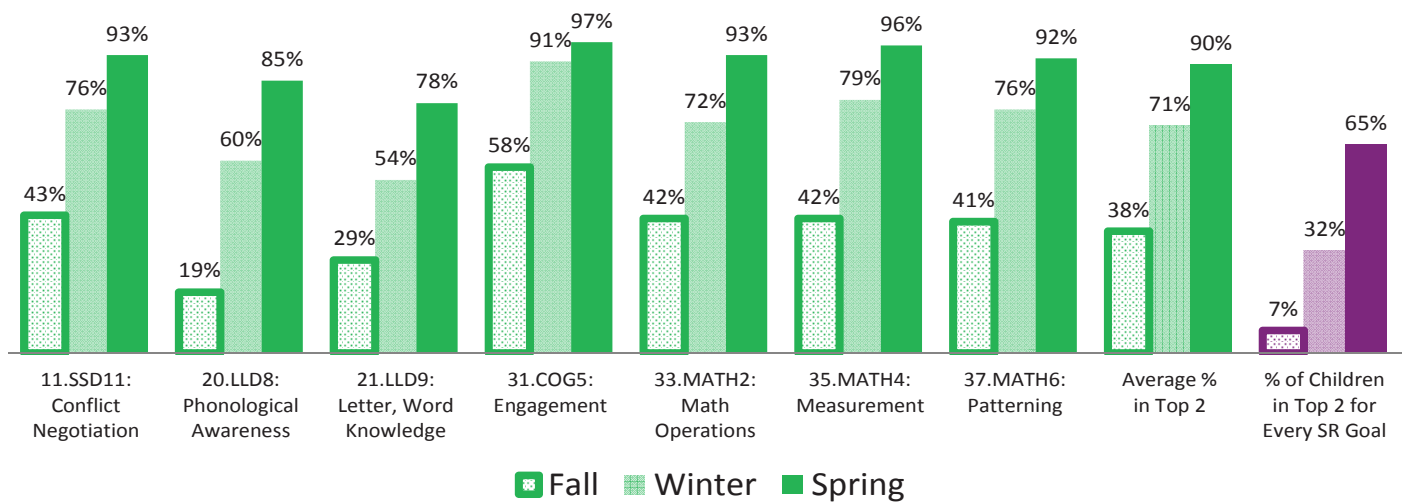
Areas of strength include: Perceptual Motor and Physical Development; Social and Emotional Development; Language and Communication Development; Mathematics; and Scientific Reasoning.

While there have been noticeable gains from year to year, preschool children served by OCHS continue to be challenged in the areas of: Literacy Development; Phonological Awareness; and Letter and Word Knowledge. Early Head Start children show most challenges in Language and Communication; and Social and Emotional Development.

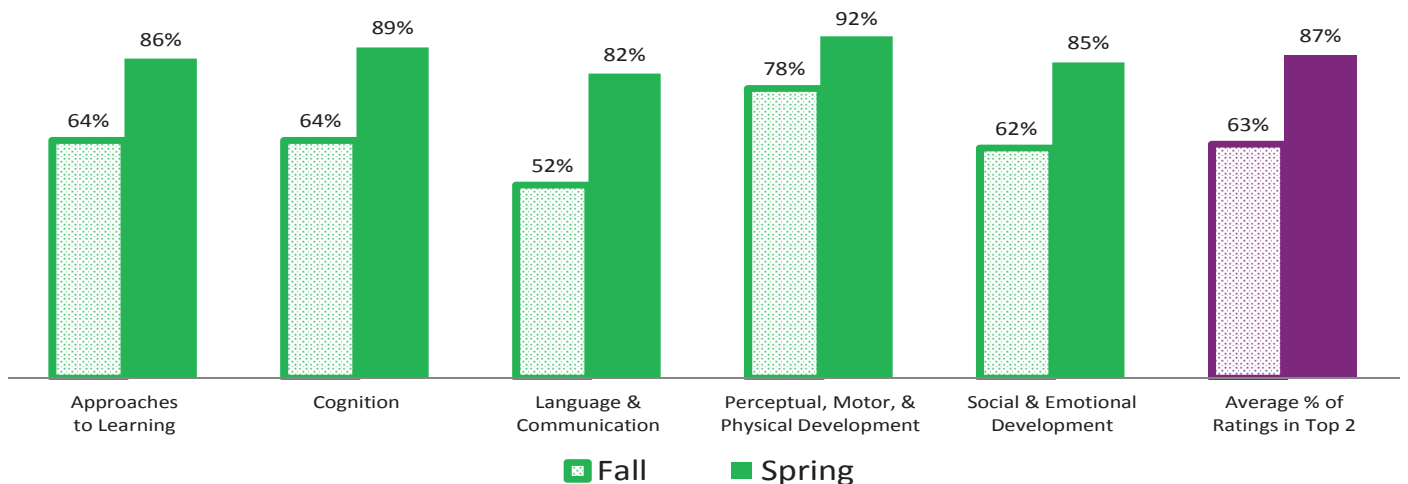
School Readiness Goals: Overall at least 95% of children transitioning to kindergarten will be in the top two developmental levels in each of the Head Start **Early Learning Outcomes Framework** Domains.



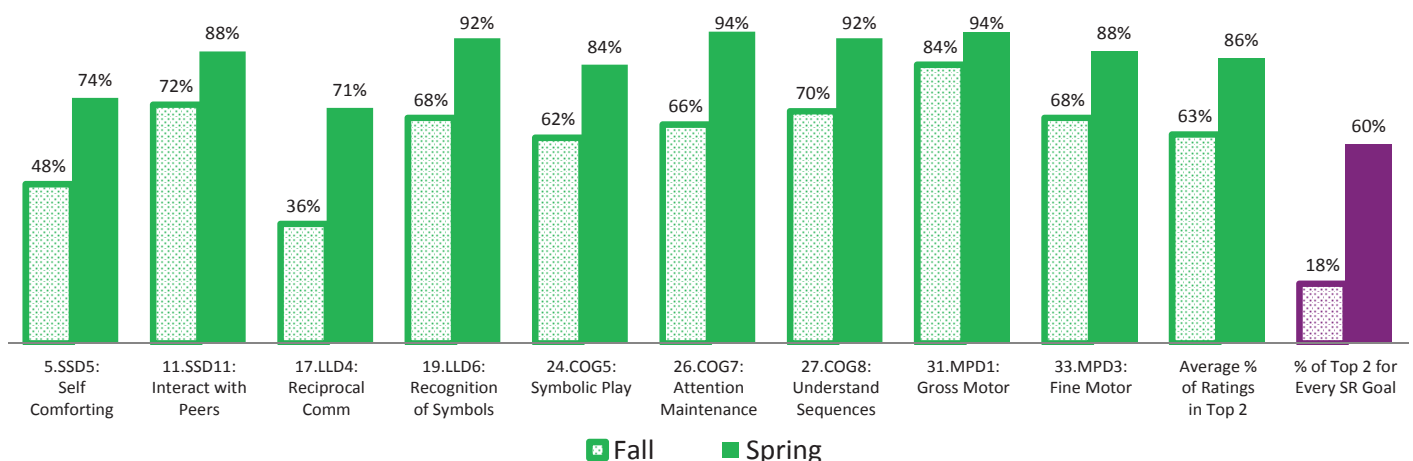
School Readiness Goals: At least 95% of children transitioning to kindergarten will be in the top two developmental levels in each of the **DRDP School Readiness Measures** as stated below.



School Readiness Goals: Overall at least 85% of children transitioning to preschool will be in the top two developmental levels in each of the EHS **Early Learning Outcomes Framework** Domains.



School Readiness Goals: Overall at least 85% of children transitioning to preschool will be in the top two developmental levels in each of the EHS **DRDP School Readiness Measures** as stated below.



Federal Monitoring Review Results

The Office of Head Start (OHS) uses the Head Start Monitoring System to measure the performance and accountability of Head Start programs across the country.

OHS assesses grantee compliance with the Head Start Program Performance Standards, the Head Start Act, and other regulations.

The Head Start Monitoring System gives OHS a multi-year perspective on grantee operations with a focus on performance, progress, and compliance. It also provides grantees with opportunities for continuous improvement. This system conducts both off- and on-site reviews, and disseminates its findings through formal monitoring reports.

This program year, as part of year three of the agency's five year grant, OCHS received a Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) monitoring review from 12/5/16 – 12/9/16. Observations were conducted in 58 of 169 Head Start grantee and delegate agency classes randomly selected by OHS.

CLASS is an observation tool used to analyze and assess the effectiveness of interactions between children and teachers in preschool classes in three Domains: Emotional Support, Classroom Organization, and Instructional Support. Previous large-scale studies of CLASS have shown that the average preschool classroom scores are higher in the domains of Emotional Support and Classroom Organization than in the domain of Instructional Support.

Data from CLASS observations can be used for a variety of purposes including professional development, program improvement, policy-making, and program monitoring. When monitoring is the focus, as is the case with the use of CLASS in OHS reviews, classes are sampled, not all classes in a Head Start agency are observed, and the actual observations involve only a few CLASS cycles.

The purpose of these monitoring observations is to “take the temperature” of an agency, a region, or even the country. These CLASS observations are a small slice or window, and limit the conclusions that can be drawn about individual classrooms, centers, and agencies. However, the monitoring observations help answer the question, “How are we doing?” at the agency, regional, and/or national level, and can provide a focus for resources and/or decision-making at each of those levels.

Under current law, a Head Start Agency who has an average score (across all the classes observed during its OHS monitoring review) that is in the lowest ten (10) percent in any of the three domains, of programs being reviewed in that fiscal year, are placed into the Head Start Designation Renewal System (DRS) and thus, are required to compete for their next five years of funding.

OCHS is excited to report that not only did the agency not score in the lowest 10% in any of the three domains, OCHS scored higher than the National median in all three domains:

Domain	National Lowest 10% Score	National Median	OCHS's Aggregated Results for Grantee and Delegate Agencies	National Highest Score
Emotional Support	5.5952	6.04	6.14	6.35
Classroom Organization	5.2500	5.76	5.87	6.15
Instructional Support	2.2222	2.74	2.79	3.53

Children and Families Served

Orange County Head Start, Inc., served 3,803 children and pregnant women throughout Orange County, California. This included 3,148 children ages three to five in the Head Start program.

In the Early Head Start program, OCHS served 655 children from newborn to age three and pregnant women.

AVERAGE MONTHLY ENROLLMENT

The average monthly enrollment (as a percentage of funded enrollment) was 98% for the Head Start program and 101% for the Early Head Start program.

COUNTY'S ELIGIBLE CHILDREN SERVED

Head Start Eligible Served 22% (3,148 of 14,197)

Early Head Start Eligible Served 3% (655 of 21,522)



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 3,565 families through referrals to community agencies or programs, and through parent education are as follows:

Emergency/crisis intervention (immediate needs for food, clothing, or shelter)	518	(14.53%)
Housing assistance such as subsidies, utilities, repairs, etc.	105	(2.95%)
Mental health services	362	(10.15%)
English as a second language training	376	(10.55%)
Adult education programs and college selection	576	(16.16%)
Job training	87	(2.44%)
Substance abuse prevention	161	(4.52%)
Substance abuse treatment	40	(1.12%)
Child abuse and neglect services	72	(2.02%)
Domestic violence services	101	(2.83%)
Child support assistance	59	(1.65%)
Health education	1,812	(50.83%)
Assistance to families of incarcerated individuals	20	(0.56%)
Parenting education	1,356	(38.04%)
Relationship/marriage education	99	(2.78%)
Asset building services (such as financial education, opening checking and savings accounts, debt counseling, etc.)	229	(6.42%)
The number of families that received at least one service listed above	2,529	(70.94%)



Parent Engagement Activities

OCHS encourages and supports parents to become actively involved in their children's education, both in and out of the classroom.

Parents are encouraged to volunteer in the classroom, participate in center Parent Committee meetings, as well as opportunities to be elected at the Parent Committee meetings to serve as a Representative or Alternate to the Policy Council, which makes decisions about the entire Head Start program.

Many other parent involvement opportunities are also offered to engage parents in areas that meet their interests.

■ Safety Assistant Monitor Program (SAM)

This program focuses on safety in the home and at the center, and also offers parents the opportunity to learn CPR and disaster preparedness.

■ Parent Nutrition Assistant Program (PNA)

This program focuses on nutrition and provides cooking opportunities to parents to learn how to cook on a budget, prepare healthy meals, and understand the contents in the foods they buy and prepare.

■ Health Education Liaison Program (HELP)

This program focuses on health concerns, and educates parents on immunization requirements, the importance of preventive care, CPR and other health related topics that parents express an interest in.

■ Dads Matter Program

This program for fathers focuses on the role of the father in the education of their child and is an opportunity for fathers to bond and share their experiences with other fathers.

■ Moms Motivate Program

This program for mothers focuses on motivating mothers to become advocates for their children and helps mothers build self-esteem and leadership skills.

■ Human Resources Interview Panel

This is an opportunity for parents to learn interviewing skills and participate on actual interview panels for candidates for employment with our agency.

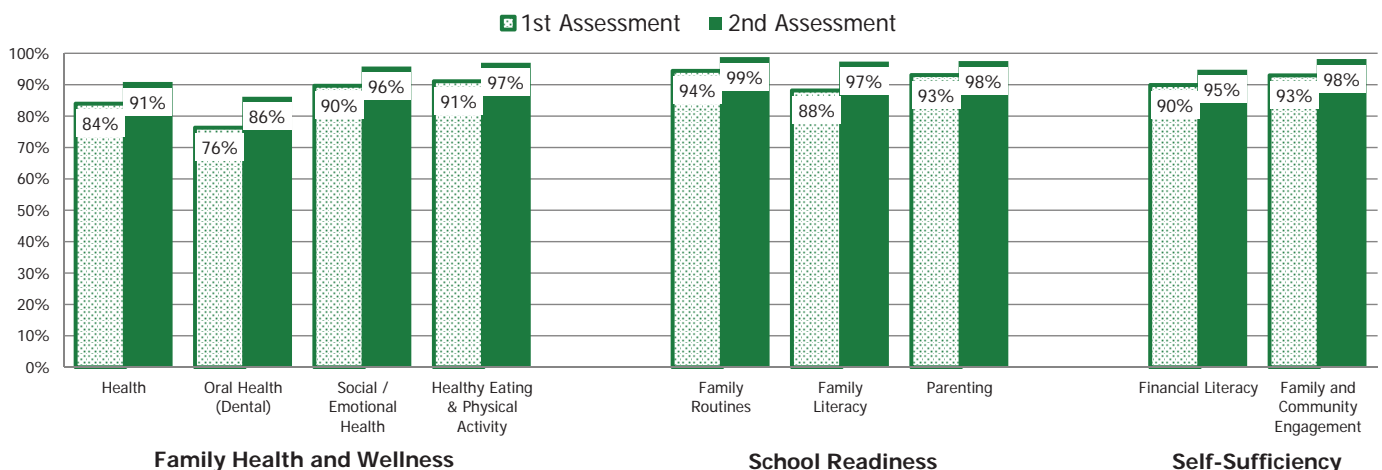
■ Health Services Advisory Committee (HSAC)

This is an opportunity for parents to learn about health topics and concerns within the local community and have discussions with community members working for various health agencies within the county.

■ Abriendo Puertas/ Opening Doors (Parent Leadership Program)

This is an opportunity for parents to build leadership skills and learn their role as the primary educators of their children. This research based parenting program focuses on childhood development, health, nutrition, mental health and is a holistic approach to parenting and advocacy for children within the community.

2016-2017 OCHS Family Outcomes Measures



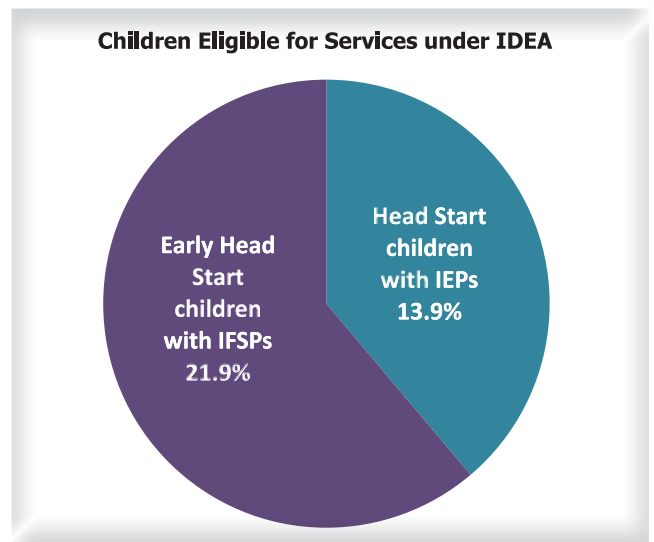
Disabilities / Inclusion Services

OCHS must ensure at least 10% of its funded enrollment is filled by children eligible for services under IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) through an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).

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. In fact, 13.9% of OCHS Head Start children had IEPs, 21.9% of Early Head Start children had IFSPs.

Support is provided for parents, children and staff through Inclusion Support Facilitators (ISF). 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, the 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.

Throughout the school year, OCHS provided 182 children with behavioral support in the classroom or at home.

Nutrition and Food Services

Throughout the year, the Nutrition and Food Services department incorporated more whole grain foods and fresh fruits and vegetables into the daily menus.

New menu items were added to both broaden the children's food experiences, and expand the selection of foods from the variety of cultures represented by OCHS children and families.

Parent nutrition workshops were facilitated by the OCHS Registered Dietitians and included such topics as healthy eating, healthy cooking, and new food experiences. The Registered Dietitians also provided consultations to assist families of children that presented nutrition concerns, such as unhealthy weight, picky eating, anemia, and more.

In addition, the children participated in classroom food experiences to expose them to a wider variety of foods that included different fruits and vegetables.

OCHS experienced a slight reduction in the overall obesity rate among preschool children (*Body Mass Index equal to or greater than the 95th percentile*) from 20.0% in 2015-2016 to 19.7% in 2016-2017.



Health and Dental Services

OCHS welcomed new community health partners and extended existing partnerships. A new partnership was established with the UCI Pediatric Vision Project.

All OCHS children received vision screenings within the first 45 days of school. An optometrist provided full examinations for children who were referred for a thorough evaluation which was conducted on the UCI Eye Mobile at the OCHS centers.

Children in need of treatment received a free pair of glasses which were delivered to the school within two weeks of their visits.

In addition, OCHS welcomed AltaMed's Oral Health Unit (OHU) in piloting their oral health program at the OCHS Crescent Center which served both Head Start and Early Head Start children. The pilot program will lead to an official partnership for the 2017-2018 school year at additional centers.



By the end of their enrollment in the OCHS program...

- *99% of children had health insurance and an established medical home*
- *86% of children were up-to-date on the State of California's Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) exam schedule*
- *95% of children needing medical treatment received medical treatment*
- *94% of children had a dental home*
- *99% of children were up-to-date on immunizations*
- *82% of preschool children were up-to-date on routine dental exams*
- *82% of preschool children needing dental treatment received dental treatment*

Children received a dental screening on site and direct follow up from AltaMed's OHU for children in need of further evaluation and treatment. Families have the option to follow up with their already established dental home or with AltaMed.

OCHS extended its partnership with Healthy Smiles for Kids of Orange County by piloting their Virtual Dentistry Program at two OCHS centers in hopes of providing services to all children in the program by 2017-2018. The Virtual Dentistry Program offers a dental exam and minor treatment on site with parental consent.

Financials

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).

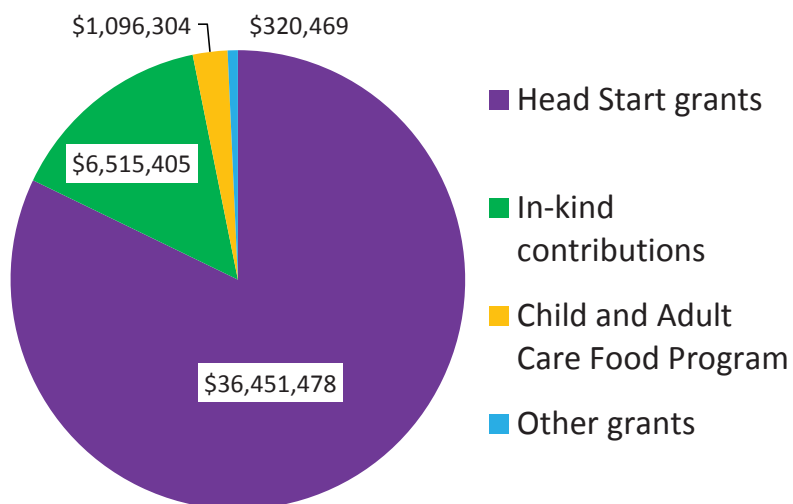
ACF funding for the period July 2016 through June 2017 was \$36,451,478.

EXPENDITURES

Personnel	\$15,873,408
Contractual	\$13,507,674
Fringe	\$6,517,523
Other	\$6,312,739
Supplies	\$1,959,036
TOTAL	\$44,170,380
CACFP	\$1,209,239



REVENUES



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 2016-2017 Federal Awards.

During the fiscal year, \$44,170,380 was expended. The total amount of public and private funds received was \$44,383,656. The proposed budget for the year was \$42,903,655.