



Annual Report 2022-2023

**Orange County
Head Start, Inc.**

Brilliant Beginnings.
Bright Futures.

*Today's
Learners,
are
Tomorrow's
Leaders.*

Empowering Children & Families

Mission, Vision, & Guiding Principles

MISSION

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



VISION

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



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

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

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

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

We deliver services through **partnerships** and collaboration.

We ensure the **quality** of our programs through continuous improvement and outcome-based practices.

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

Leadership & Governance

Strong leadership and governance systems that include a Board of Directors and Policy Council, help guide the path for Orange County Head Start, Inc. (OCHS) to provide high quality child and family outcomes.

As part of the governing body, the Board of Directors assumes legal and fiscal responsibility for the administration and oversight of the program while safeguarding federal funds. The Board also ensures compliance, monitor's program progress, and approves major policies and decisions for the program.

As required by federal regulation, the Board is composed with community members with expertise in fiscal management, legal council in law or governance, and early childhood education and development.

The Policy Council is composed of parents of currently enrolled children in both Head Start and Early Head Start programs and community members. The Policy Council provides program direction, oversees the overall program design and operations, and participates in setting goals and objectives.



Financial Report

Budget Overview



2022-2023 Budget vs. Actual

	Budget	Actual
Revenue - Budget vs. Actual	\$36,147,820	\$40,786,412
Expenses - Budget vs. Actual	\$36,147,820	\$40,932,369
Difference	\$0	-\$145,957

2022 - 2023 Actual

Revenue		Expenses	
Early Head Start/Head Start	\$36,267,453	Personnel	\$19,667,519
CACFP	\$1,220,754	Benefits	\$6,135,105
In-Kind Contributions	\$3,265,664	Contractual	\$2,710,972
Other	\$32,541	Supplies	\$2,096,823
		Other	\$5,835,532
		CACFP	\$1,220,754
		In-Kind/Non-Federal Shar	\$3,265,664
Total Revenue	\$40,786,412	Total Expenses	\$40,932,369

Decrease in Net Assets (\$145,957)

It was determined that in the auditors opinion, OCHS complied, in all material respects, with the compliance requirements. The Orange County Head Start, Inc. full 2022-2023 Financial Audit Report is available upon request.

Children & Families Served

1698

Children & Pregnant Women Served



The Total Number of Children and Families Served

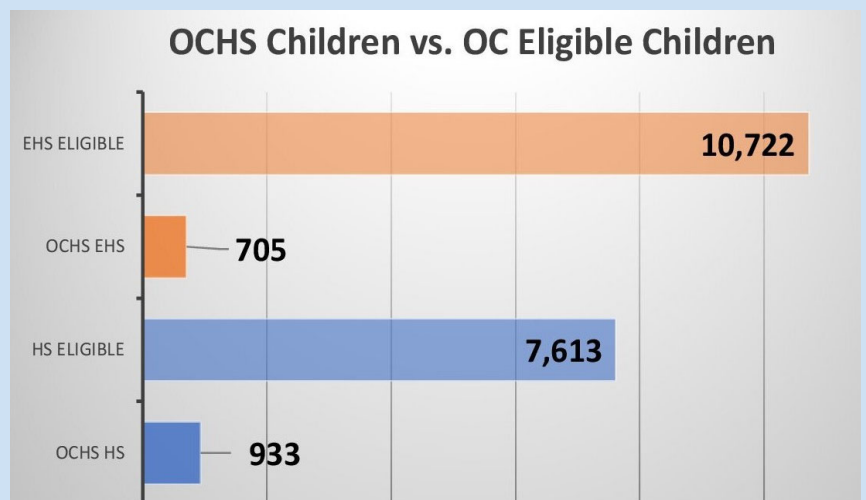
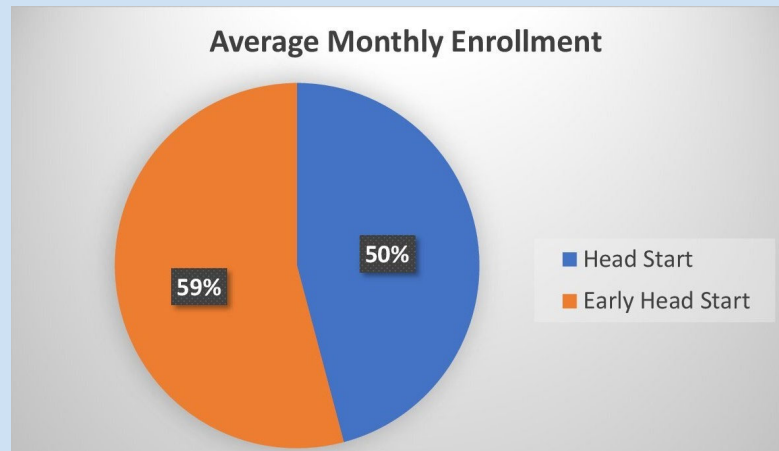
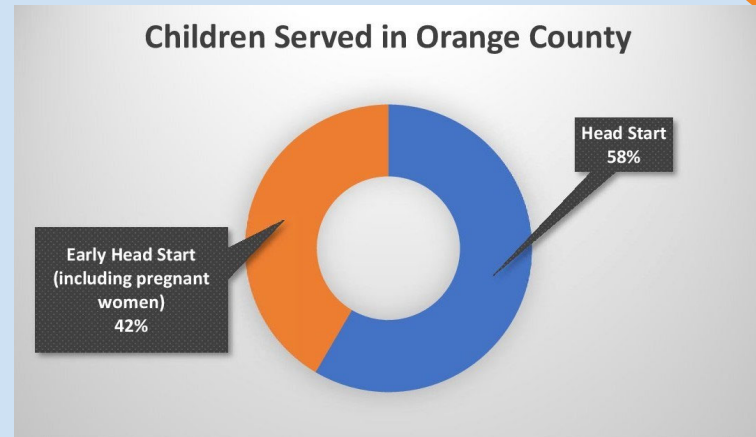
In 2022-2023, Orange County Head Start, Inc. served 1,698 children and pregnant women throughout Orange County, California. This included 993 children ages three to five in the Head Start program, and 705 children, newborn to age three, and pregnant women in the Early Head Start program.

Average Monthly Enrollment

The average monthly enrollment (as a percentage of funded enrollment) was 50% for the Head Start program and 59% for the Early Head Start program.

County's Eligible Children Served

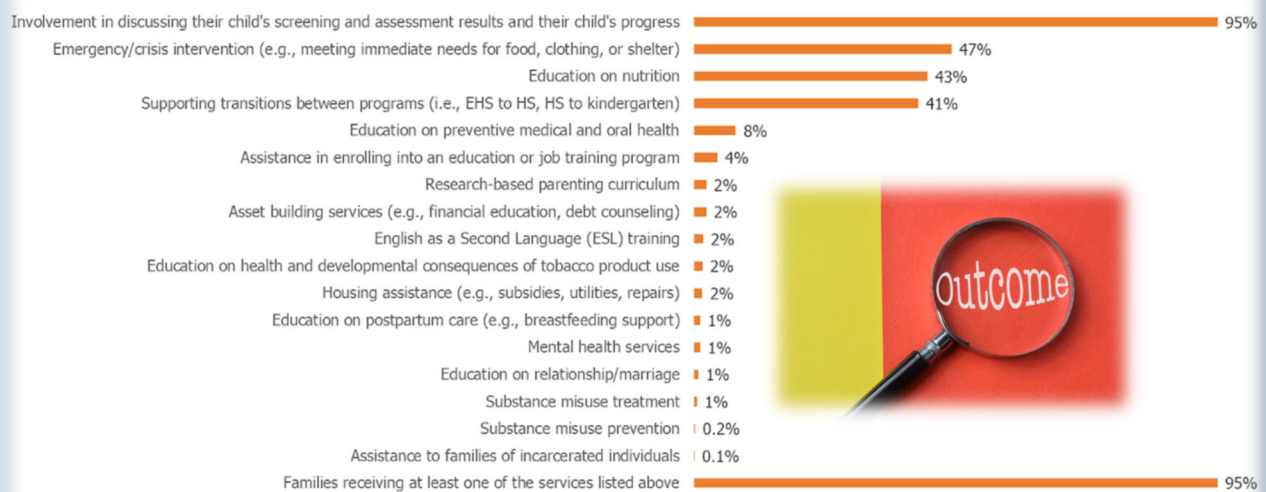
Head Start: 13% (993 of 7,613)
 Early Head Start: 7% (705 of 10,722)



Types of Program Services



Percentage of Families that Received Program Services by Type to Promote Successful Family Outcomes



Types of Services and Percentages of Families Receiving Services

Comprehensive child and family services are the cornerstone of Head Start and Early Head Start programs. At Orange County Head Start, Inc. (OCHS), these services are delivered directly by our dedicated staff or in partnership with trusted community agencies. This collaborative approach is essential for creating a supportive environment that fosters positive outcomes for children and families. In 2022-2023, families with children enrolled in our OCHS program benefited from a wide range of services, accessed either through our direct staff or through referrals to community programs. By providing comprehensive support, OCHS is committed to helping children and families thrive and reach their full potential.



Head Start & Early Head Start Children



Preparing our Children for Kindergarten

OCHS provides high-quality early childhood programming for children birth to five years old in several program options to meet the needs of children and families. Center-based services offer part and full-day options for Head Start (HS) and full-day services for Early Head Start (EHS). Both HS and EHS offer home-based services, which include weekly home visits and two group socialization experiences per month.

OCHS facilities are licensed and staffed by qualified early childhood education professionals, including Education Managers, Center Directors, Teachers, Teacher Assistants, and Home Educators. All child development staff participates in a comprehensive system of professional development to support the delivery of high-quality teaching practices, including effective teacher-child interactions. The professional development system includes the OCHS Teacher Coaching Academy, a peer-coaching program that provides one-on-one support for new teaching staff and existing staff needing more intensive coaching. Education Development Coaches provide additional coaching to improve and refine teaching practices to implement the High Scope curriculum with fidelity with a focus on high-quality adult-to-child interactions throughout the day. In response to the effects of the pandemic on social and emotional wellness for children, OCHS continued to ramp up training on the Pyramid Model strategies for Education staff and coaches to enhance strategies to support children's social and emotional well-being.

School Readiness Goals

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 (HS) and Early Head Start (EHS).

Overall Head Start Goal: It is expected that 95% of children transitioning to Kindergarten will be Near, At, or Above age expectations in all domains of the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework and specific School Readiness Goal Measures.

- Approaches to Learning – Impulse Control, Symbolic Play
- Social and Emotional Development – Social Interactions with Peers
- Language and Literacy – Language and Communication – Expressive Language
- Language and Literacy – Literacy - Phonological Awareness, Letter and Word Knowledge
- Cognition – Scientific Reasoning – Cause and Effect, Knowledge of the Natural World
- Cognition – Mathematics - Math Operations, Measurement
- Perceptual Motor and Physical Development – Self Care - Dressing

Overall Early Head Start Goal

It is expected that at least 95% of the children transitioning to preschool at 36 months old will be Near, At, or Above age expectations in all domains of the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework and specific School Readiness Goal Measures.

- Approaches to Learning – Self comforting and Attention Maintenance
- Social Emotional Development – Interactions with Peers, Symbolic Play
- Cognition - Classification
- Language and Communication - Expressive Language, Interest in Literacy
- Perceptual Motor and Physical Development – Eye Hand Coordination, Self Care/Healthy Behaviors

Children’s Progress School Readiness Goals

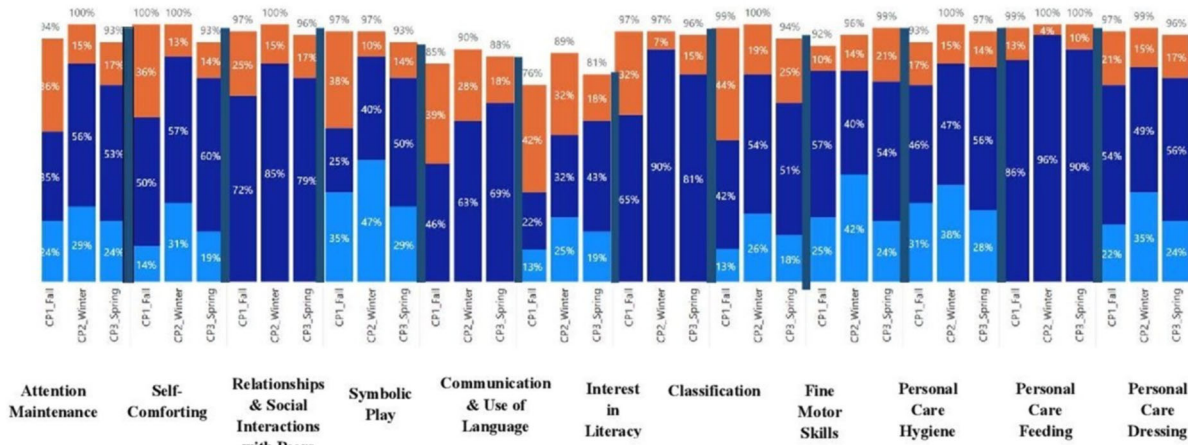
Orange County Head Start, Inc. (OCHS) has selected the Desired Results Developmental Profile 2015 (DRDP) to measure child progress as it is aligned with the California Infant/Toddler Learning and Development Foundations, California Preschool Learning Foundations, Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework: Ages Birth to Five (ELOF), and the research-based curriculum utilized by OCHS.

Early Head Start (Birth – 3-year-olds)

The figures below represent DRDP results for the Fall, Winter, and Spring assessment periods for all EHS children who will be three years old by September 1, 2023.

OCHS EHS Child Outcomes, School Readiness Goal Measures, Two-Year-Old Children, Fall, Winter, and Spring Assessment Data, 2022-2023

Aligned to the HS Early Learning Outcomes Framework: Ages Birth to Five
 Percentage of EHS children **NEAR**, **AT**, or **ABOVE** age expectations as stated in California Infant/Toddler Learning & Development Foundations at 36 months – Goal 95%

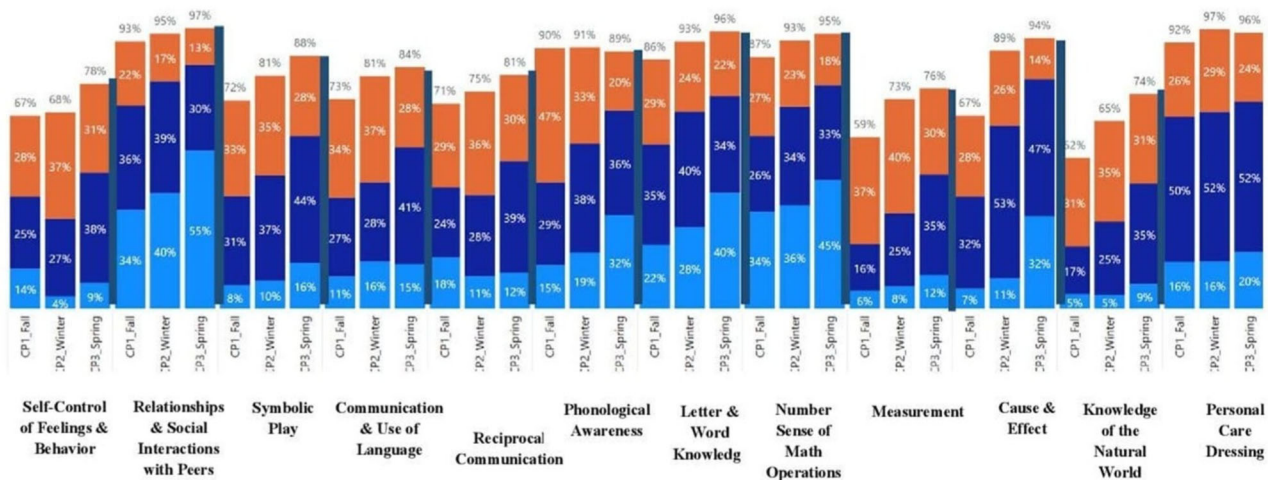




The figures below represent DRDP results for the Fall, Winter, and Spring assessment periods for all HS children who will be five years old by September 1, 2023.

**OCHS HS Child Outcomes, School Readiness Goal Measures,
4-Year-Old Children Transitioning to Kindergarten,
Fall, Winter, and Spring Assessment Data, 2022-2023**

Aligned to the HS Early Learning Outcomes Framework: Ages Birth to Five
Percentage of HS children **NEAR, AT** or **ABOVE** age expectations as stated in the
California Preschool Learning Foundations at 60 months – Goal 95%



**2022-2023
Orange County
Community Assessment Update
Executive Summary**

***Community
Assessment***

The Community Assessment Update revealed two major areas which resulted in a significant influence on the services provided to Orange County Head Start, Inc. (OCHS) children and families. The assessment found that the nationwide shortage in Early Childhood Education (ECE) staff and the changing ECE landscape in the state of California to be these influences. This report addresses the effects of both of these issues on children, families, OCHS, and the community, with particular emphasis on their impact on enrollment for both the Head Start (HS) and Early Head Start (EHS) programs. The Community Assessment Update also provides a review of the needs of families at the time of the assessment which was three years into the COVID-19 pandemic. The information gathered and discussed in this Update will be used by OCHS to determine the strategic direction of the agency and identify opportunities to partner and collaborate with community agencies to provide high-quality services to best meet the needs of children and families.



The teacher shortage in Early Childhood Education (ECE) has become a nationwide crisis, and like other ECE programs across the nation, state, and county, OCHS has been challenged with the recruitment and retention of teaching staff. With the historically low salaries, ECE programs simply cannot compete within the current labor market. With better-paying jobs widely available, it is not uncommon at this time for childcare staff to leave their current positions in the profession for higher wages in other industries. In addition, to the growth of Universal Pre-kindergarten (UPK) in California, childcare programs are also losing

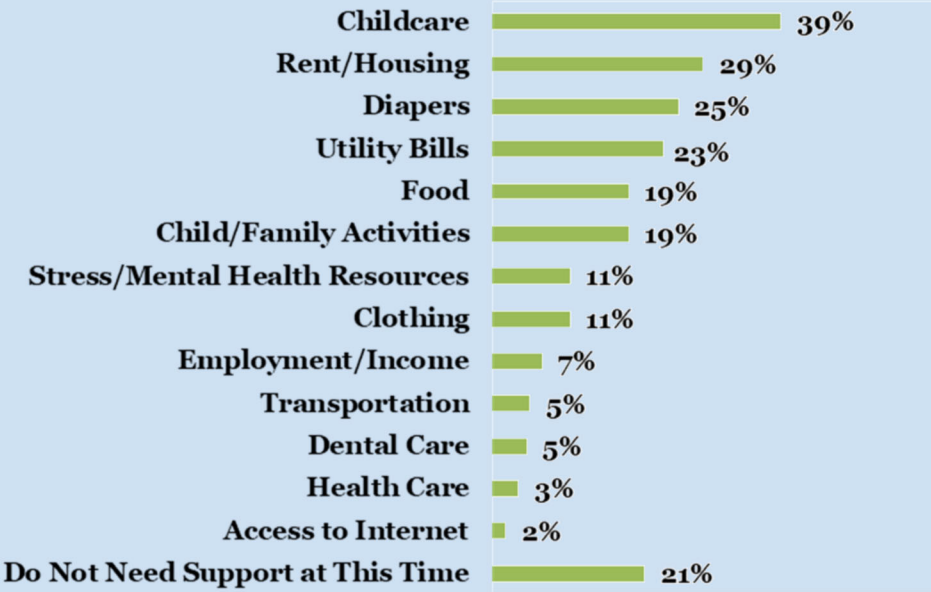
qualified teaching staff to local school districts that can afford to offer higher salaries and more benefit packages. With a shortage of teaching staff, HS and EHS Programs, including OCHS, have been forced to temporarily close classrooms, which has greatly contributed to program under-enrollment. In response to the current circumstances, a call to action is being taken across the country, including by the federal government, to address the ECE workforce crisis, including building an ECE career pipeline and improving the ECE workforce wages. OCHS is strategically working towards these goals as well.



Also, the state of early childhood education is rapidly changing in California, with the governor’s Master Plan for Universal Prekindergarten (UPK) promising all four-year old’s access to ECE services by 2025-2026. These changes bring challenges for OCHS with program enrollment, but also new opportunities. One opportunity being OCHS taking the lead in providing infant and toddler care in Orange County which means more EHS services. The county’s supply of infant and toddler care is scarce, with only enough subsidized slots to serve 8% of the county’s EHS-eligible population. In addition, with a great need, but limited supply, of full-day preschool care in Orange County for working families with young children. The second opportunity being a primary source of full working day care (10 continuous hours) for the county’s preschool population. OCHS has been on a path for the last decade moving towards more infant and toddler care and full-day programming for preschool-age children. It is essential that OCHS continue to plan strategically moving forward to ensure that the HS and EHS programs continue to play a fundamental role in Orange County’s child care system.



In addition to needing childcare, OCHS families have reported the need for support in the areas shown in Figure 1 below, with rent/housing, diapers, utility bills, food, and child and family activities topping the list. OCHS has been successful in assisting families with monthly food and diaper distributions through a partnership with Community Action Partnership of Orange County (CAPOC), as well as access to low-cost child and family activities abundant throughout the county. However, the high cost of living in Orange County fueled by exorbitant housing prices, in addition to high utility bills, have been more challenging areas for staff to successfully offer support.



Orange County Head Start, Inc. (OCHS) continues to strive to stay informed of the most current needs of children, families, and the community and to work in collaboration with community organizations through mutually beneficial partnerships to address these needs together.

Parent, Family, & Community Engagement (PFCE)

Family Needs

Every family served by Orange County Head Start, Inc. (OCHS) is assigned a Family Engagement Advocate who collaborates closely with the family to develop a Family Success Plan (FSP) using the Transition to Success Map of My Dreams Workbook. This plan includes individualized goals tailored to the family's needs and interests.

The Family Engagement Advocates build strong relationships with families, helping parents articulate their strengths, challenges, and needs, identify their interests, and set and achieve goals. Through this process, Family Engagement Advocates assist families in acquiring skills and education, and connect them to community resources and support systems, empowering them to succeed beyond their time with the agency.



OCHS uses a Family Outcomes Rating Scale to measure each family's progress in six domains: Family Well-Being, Positive Parent-Child Relationships, Families as Lifelong Educators, Families as Learners, Family Connections to Peers and Community, and Families as Advocates. Families are encouraged to set goals in areas where they may be vulnerable, with the objective of supporting progress toward stability. Family Engagement Advocates encourage parents to become actively involved in their child's education, both in the classroom and at home.

Volunteer Opportunities

Families are encouraged to participate in various activities, programs, and volunteer opportunities that promote and strengthen parenting, advocacy, and leadership skills. Opportunities include participation in Parent Committee meetings, serving on the Policy Council and Health Services Advisory Committee (HSAC), engaging in OCHS's parent educational and volunteer programs such as Safety Assistant Monitor (SAM), Parent Nutrition Assistant (PNA), Resilient Families Program (RFP), and parenting classes like Dads Matter and Moms Motivate.

Parent Committee Meetings

Comprised exclusively of parents of children currently enrolled at the center level, Parent Committees advise staff in developing and implementing local activities and services. Parents decide how to utilize the Parent Education Funds, which provide opportunities to develop activities that address their interests and needs. Meetings are held monthly.





Health Services Advisory Committee (HSAC)

The HSAC brings together parents, staff, and local health care providers to discuss the planning, operation, and evaluation of health services in each Head Start program. It helps OCHS establish ongoing collaborative partnerships with community organizations. The HSAC determines how to best meet the needs of children and families by identifying and accessing health services and resources that are responsive to families' interests and goals.



Safety Assistant Monitor (SAM)

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the SAM program made adjustments that continued into the 2022-2023 program year. To minimize COVID-19 exposure risks, policies limited center visitors, allowing parents to learn about safety practices at home instead of in the classroom. Parents attended monthly Zoom meetings, where they received support and suggestions from OCHS staff and the SAM team.



Parent Nutrition Assistant (PNA)

Parent volunteers in this program are trained to provide education on healthy eating and physical activity for both children in classrooms and parents through workshops and food demonstrations. PNAs are enrolled in a college course, "Nutrition for the Young Child," and receive one college unit upon completion.



Resilient Families Program (RFP)

The RFP offers family support and engagement, aiming to improve the social-emotional abilities of participating children. Families learn the same approaches teachers use in the classroom during this eight-week program, supporting consistency and resilience for the children.

Moms Motivate

Moms Motivate is a four-week educational workshop series that combines community knowledge and best practices in parent training to strengthen families. Parents and caregivers learn to maintain and improve their family's mental and emotional well-being through therapeutic play, positive communication, positive discipline strategies, and coping mechanisms for anger management.

Dads Matter

The Dads Matter program promotes and supports the importance of fathers in families and communities. Dads share feelings and experiences, encouraging greater involvement in their children's lives. The curriculum includes workforce development, effective parenting strategies, young fathers, co-parenting, individual asset development, and various health and human services.



Health & Dental Services

Health and Dental Services

Significant advances in health and dental services were seen during the 2022-2023 program year. The pandemic transformed health services in the community and changed how care is delivered and accessed. Telemedicine emerged as a major breakthrough, allowing families to consult healthcare providers remotely, which increased access to care and maintained continuity for those unable to visit in person.

Furthermore, public health outreach, education, and other numerous community health initiatives increased. The pandemic's challenges spurred greater collaboration between Orange County Head Start and other public health agencies

and community organizations, setting a precedent for more coordinated delivery of health services.



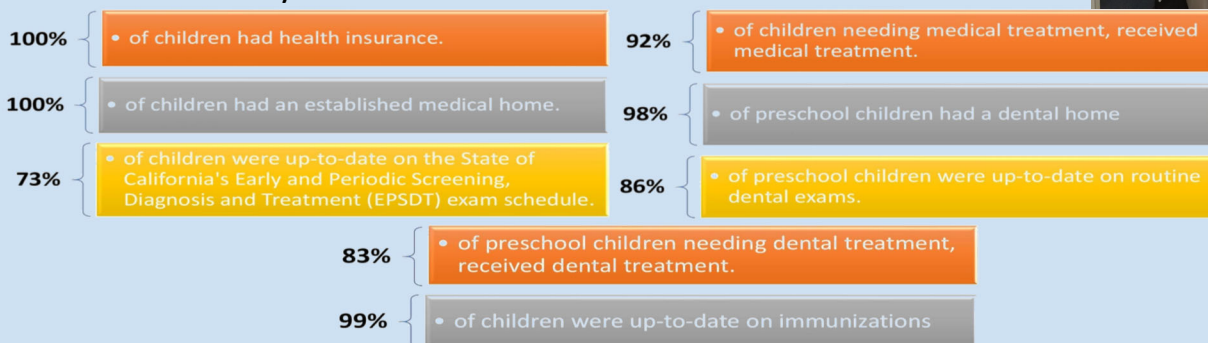
OCHS community partners, University of California, Irvine (UCI) Pediatric Vision Project and Healthy Smiles for Kids of Orange County (HSKOC), continued to provide vision and dental screenings in OCHS classrooms. UCI provided their mobile unit for examination services and free glasses. A total seventy-six (76) children received

free glasses from the UCI Eye Mobile. HSKOC offered free dental screenings at all OCHS locations, ensuring children received oral health education and care coordination (i.e. treatment, referrals, and follow-up).

With the support of our Health Services Advisory Committee (HSAC), OCHS was able to develop and implement a COVID-19 Mitigation Policy to Implement safety practices as they relate to COVID-19 in the community. Our valued partnership with the Orange County Health Care Agency provided strong guidance and feedback on how to best protect staff, children, and families from COVID-19 infection.



To effectively monitor and improve health services at OCHS, the annual Program Information Report percentages are reviewed. Below is the end of enrollment percentages for some of our key indicators:



Nutrition & Food Services

Orange County Head Start, Inc. has strengthened its collaboration with the Community Action Partnership of Orange County. In the 2021-2022 program year, 1,045 families were served. This number increased to 1,352 families in 2022-2023, reflecting a 29.4% rise in families benefiting from food assistance. A notable enhancement in the program includes Family



Engagement Advocates collecting food for their families during child pick-up times, which has further boosted the number of families receiving support through this partnership. Regarding childhood obesity, Orange County Head Start, Inc. recorded a slight increase of 1.5% from the 2021-2022 to the 2022-2023 program year. Specifically, the obesity rate rose from 13.6% to 15.1%.

To address nutrition-related concerns such as picky eating, bottle use, and weight management, including underweight, overweight, and obesity issues, the program's Registered Dietitian has been actively supporting families. In addition, a Nutrition Educator was hired to enhance Nutrition Education through table demonstrations and workshops.

The central kitchen continues to offer nutritious meals and has introduced new options such as overnight oats, corn esquites, and soy and jelly sandwiches. The meals provided include whole-grain rich items, healthy proteins, and fresh fruits, ensuring children enjoy a diverse and healthful diet.





50/50 Inclusion Classroom

One of the big program highlights for Orange County Head Start, Inc. was the implementation of the 50/50 Inclusion classroom. In September 2022, OCHS launched its first co-taught inclusion classroom at the Topaz Head Start location. This co-taught classroom is a collaborative effort that brings together a special education classroom from Placentia Yorba Linda Unified School District and a general education classroom at Topaz. This classroom is staffed with OCHS teaching staff as well as school district Special Education Teachers. During the creation, staff had to overcome challenges such as differing school calendars, staffing vacancies at OCHS, and the initial learning curve for both teams to work together successfully.

This initiative has become a shining example of inclusion. With a near 50-50 split between children with special needs and their typically developing peers, the classroom environment has fostered remarkable growth.

Visitors would be hard-pressed to identify which children have special needs, a testament to the seamless integration and supportive atmosphere. Additionally, school district staff have observed significant improvements in the social interactions of children in special education, even outside the inclusive classroom, underscoring the positive impact of this innovative approach.

This approach began as a pilot program from reviewing ample research that supports the benefits of inclusion programming not only for children with special needs, but also for typically developing children and teaching staff who participate in such a programs.

The success of this pilot has the potential for not only elevating the inclusion programming offered by OCHS, but also potentially serving as a model program that can be expanded to other districts in the county.

This classroom currently serves nineteen (19) children in the classroom that have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) and were originally slated to be enrolled in a Special Day Class (SDC) for up to 4 hours each day, however, being enrolled in this new inclusion classroom, these children receive the specialized academic services they are entitled to as a result of their eligibility. Without this collaboration, these children would miss out on up to 4 hours of class attending a sperate SDC class.



For more information on our Head Start & Early Head Start programs, please visit us at www.ochsinc.org, call us at (714) 241-8920, or use the QR code below.

Scan me to learn more!



Orange County Head Start, Inc. was established in 1979 as a non-profit 501(c)(3) agency. Orange County Head Start, Inc. is funded by the United States Department of Health and Human Services to provide Head Start and Early Head Start services throughout all of Orange County, CA.



Brilliant Beginnings.
Bright Futures.

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