



Head Start Annual Report 2023-2024



The Guidance Center's Head Start program provides comprehensive services to Early Head Start and Preschool children and their families in 21 communities in the Downriver area and Southwestern Wayne County.

Enrollment Information

111 children transitioned to kindergarten at the end of the school year.

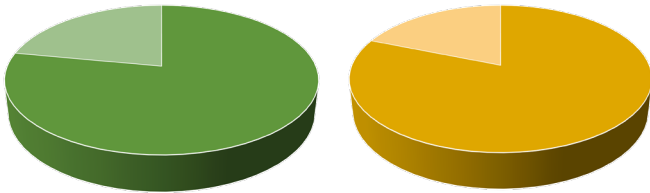
10 children transitioned from Early Head Start to Head Start.

4 pregnant women who transitioned their babies into Early Head Start after their birth

During 2023/24 more than **117** total staff were employed in Early Head Start/Head Start program, with more than **30%** being former or current Early Head Start/Head Start parents.



Average Daily Attendance



Early Head Start: **78%** Head Start: **81%**

84% Average monthly enrollment for Early Head Start/Head Start.

During 2023-24, Early Head Start enrolled 14 children with an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) and Head Start enrolled 35 children with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Most were children deemed eligible for special education services under speech and language impairment (SPLI), early childhood developmental delay (ECDD) and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).



The Guidance Center served

8 pregnant mothers
101 Early Head Start children
401 Head Start children

children throughout the program year, both income eligible and over income, with no more than 10% of the children being over income.

During 2022/23, services were provided at **6** sites in our community:

Belleville-Owen
Lincoln Park
River Rouge
Romulus
Taylor-Fisher
Taylor-New Hope



Collaboration Highlights

The program maintains a strong focus on collaboration. We rely on the generous support of local human service programs, businesses, city government, 19 local educational agencies (school districts), service clubs, the faith-based community and other organizations for their partnerships which bring valuable resources and support to the program. With a comprehensive continuum of care, The Guidance Center's internal programs also provide valuable support, both within the Center for Early Childhood as well as with other TGC programs. This year, our program collaborated with Western Wayne Family Health Centers, Coventry Community Care, Wayne County Health Department Lead Testing and Hearing and

Vision Units, MiLeap, National Kidney Foundation of Michigan and Blue Cross Blue Shield Complete to host 6 Summer Health Fair family engagement events at our sites where 140 of our families participated, completing their children's health and educational screenings before the start of the 2023-24 program year. Our program partnered with local donors and community organizations to provide **Adopt-a-Family** holiday assistance to 23 of our Early Head Start/Head Start families with the highest needs during the holiday season. The families who were selected to participate were provided with food, personal care items, clothing, shoes, toys and so much more.

During the 2023-24 program year, we partnered with **PEDALS** (positive emotional development and learning skills) program which provides various levels of support to all of our Head Start teachers using a consulting and coaching model. The PEDALS program concentrated on improving the social and emotional skills of our children using five components which includes the Second Step social emotional early childhood education curriculum, coaching in the Head Start classrooms, screening tools creating connections to child and teacher support, and data evaluation for improvement and sustainability planning.

Art in the Park

On Thursday, June 6, 2024, over 315 adults and children joined The Guidance Center's Nurture the Future, Early Head Start/Head Start Program and the Taylor Community Library at Heritage Park in Taylor for our second annual Art in the Park event. Families enjoyed making slime, sock puppets, paper plate frisbees, and origami; dancing with Beverly the Music Lady; blowing bubbles; drawing with chalk; and so much more.



Health Information

During the 2023-24 program year, we centered our focus on helping families establish connections with medical and dental homes. We continued to work with community organizations such as Western Wayne Family Health Centers, Wayne County Health Department Lead Testing and Hearing and Vision Units, Coventry Community Care and WIC (Women, Infants and Children) to provide additional support for our children and families.

Head Start Students: 401




- 88% received physicals
- 67% received dental care
- 93% received immunizations




Early Head Start Students: 101



- 29% received well-child exams
- 47% received oral care
- 71% received immunizations

Pregnant Women: 8

- 100% received prenatal healthcare
- 75% received postpartum healthcare
- 100% received oral/dental care

		
Head Start Medical Homes: 344 (86%)	Head Start Medical Insurance: 355 (89%)	Head Start Dental Home: 303 (76%)

		
EHS Medical Homes: 86 (85%)	EHS Medical Insurance: 90 (89%)	EHS Dental Home: 64 (63%)

	
Obstetrical Homes: 6 (75%)	Pregnant Mom Medical Insurance: 6 (75%)

Parent Engagement Highlights

Family Engagement is a core component of our program and offers a wide variety of opportunities throughout the year. We now implement an in-person and virtual family engagement strategy to help serve all of our staff, children and families which allows them to actively participate in our program in a variety of ways.



Parents participated in monthly parent committees at their individual sites working with staff

to plan events and programming for their children. At the agency level, parents from all the parent committees along with members of the community served on the virtual Policy Council which functions as a shared decision-making group. In consultation with staff, the council helped with program planning to develop budgets, set short term goals, establish and revise policies and procedures which positively impacts a number of core program functions

885 volunteers gave their time, with 689 being Early Head Start and Head Start parents.

80% of families worked on their family goals.

This year we continued to implement **ReadyRosie**, a researched based parenting curriculum, family engagement and early learning resource that supports child development and parenting skills. ReadyRosie harnesses the power of video and mobile technology to empower families and schools to work together to

promote school readiness. The program provides short model moment videos for families with simple, quick and fun activities which are rooted in the learning goals for children. We connected more than 400 families to the ReadyRosie system, with 333 of those families actively using the program throughout the year. Our families completed a total of 11,124 videos.

254 fathers/father figures engaged in program activities including home visits, parent/teacher conferences, goal setting, volunteering, parent meetings, family events, workshops and trainings.

Each year, our program partners with The Guidance Center's Family Literacy Program funded by PNC Bank to provide free family literacy events at our Head Start sites. This program year, 3 literacy events were held at the River Rouge, Romulus and Taylor-New Hope sites which allowed our families to come together for an afternoon of activities, crafts, snacks, raffles & resources. Each family in attendance also received free books and a literacy activity bag to take home.

Throughout the 2023-24 program year, we partnered with TGC's Nurture the Future program to host several workshops, trainings and family engagement events. Our large family events included the Wildlife Family Fun Adventure Day, Art in the Park and Leap into Fun with Math and Science which provided our families with fun age appropriate activities, crafts, food, books, resources and give-a-ways. We also hosted several workshops and trainings covering topics such as gun safety, self-care, nutrition, developmental milestones, healthy bedtime

Nutrition Information

Our program works very hard to serve meals to our children that are diverse, nutritious and colorful. Realizing children cannot learn on an empty stomach, we sought to serve fresh fruits and vegetables in season.

We provided:



36,404
Breakfasts



36,498
Lunches



32,169
Snacks



School Readiness Highlights

- The Online COR Advantage system is used to aggregate The Guidance Center Early Head Start and Head Start child outcome scores to assess the gains made by the children during the 2023-24 program year. The COR Advantage assessments are conducted three times per school year for Head Start and four times per year for Early Head Start. Gains were made in each of the domains with the most significant gains in Physical Development and Health (gross motor and fine motor skills) for Head Start and Social Emotional (building relationships with other children) and Physical Development and Health (gross motor skills) for Early Head Start.
- During the 2023-24 program year, we hosted a virtual Developmental Workshop Series Milestones Matter which included 3 different workshops with the first two focusing on child development from ages birth to 36 months and the preschool years ages 3 to 6. Families received information on their child's development and activities they could do at home to support their child's learning while enrolled in our program. The last workshop focused on kindergarten readiness and transitions to provide families with information about how they can prepare their children for kindergarten, a typical day in a kindergarten classroom and what they can do at home to support their child's successful transition

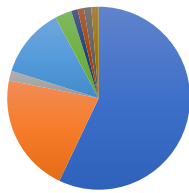
Wildlife Adventure Family Fun Day

On Saturday, October 7, 2023 over 300 adults and children joined The Guidance Center's Nurture the Future program and Early Head Start & Head Start program at the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge for Wildlife Adventure Family Fun Day. Families had lots of fun learning about the Refuge by doing a scavenger hunt nature hike, meeting Puddles the Blue Goose, playing a fishing game, doing arts and crafts, and face painting.



Head Start Financial Information

Head Start/Early Head Start Budget PY 23-24



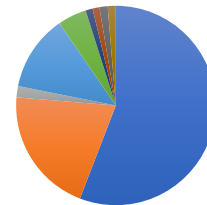
Salaries / Contractual - \$4951620	Fringe Benefits - \$1823295
Supplies - \$151713	Equipment - \$0
Occupancy - \$1068573	Food - \$259182
Other Expenses - \$98638	Training - \$97033
Insurance / Legal / Audit - \$112108	COVID Funds - \$113159

Total Head Start / Early Head Start Budget: \$8,675,321

Head Start Program (Federal Funds) - \$8,302,980
 Head Start COVID (Federal Funds)* - \$113,159
 USDA Child Food Program - CACFP (Federal Funds) - \$259,182

**Total Head Start / Early Head Start Funding:
 \$8,675,321**

Head Start/Early Head Start Expenditures PY 23-24



Salaries / Contractual - \$4846721	Fringe Benefits - \$1772333
Supplies - \$159277	Equipment - \$0
Occupancy - \$1068091	Food - \$403367
Other Expenses - \$99519.27	Training - \$97033
Insurance / Legal / Audit - \$115821	COVID Expenditures - \$113159

Total Head Start / Early Head Start Expenditures: \$8,675,321

Head Start Program (Federal Funds) - \$8,302,980
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**Please note that HS COVID Funds are 7/1/21 to 6/30/23*

Per TGC Financial Audit FY 22-23 (Most recent Audit Report)

Received an Unqualified Opinion for FY ending 9/30/23

Total Assets @ 9/30/23 - \$36,974,662 | Total Liabilities @ 9/30/23 - \$11,515,052 | Net Assets @ 9/30/23 - \$25,459,610

The Guidance Center audit of fiscal year 22/23 was completed on January 16, 2024 and was good with an unmodified opinion.

Funded by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.