



A Message from the Director



To Our Community,

I wish to thank you for taking the time to review the PEACE, Inc. Head Start / Early Head Start Annual Report.

PEACE, Inc. Head Start has been servicing families in Onondaga County since 1968 and we at PEACE, Inc. are extremely proud to be a part of this association. Our Head Start program has been providing services to pregnant women, children, and their families for over 50 years, and currently provides services to over 1,000 children and families.

PEACE, Inc. Head Start / Early Head Start mission is to inspire personal growth and empower families, children and staff to reach their maximum potential.

Head Start recognizes that parents are the primary educators of their children and provide many services to support the learning and development of the children in our care. These comprehensive services are provided at no cost to families.

We welcome all who give their time and talents so generously and encourage each parent / guardian to support the Head Start / Early Head Start program.

We hope this report informs you of the efforts we are endeavoring to accomplish to enrich our community / and to improve the quality of life for our children.

Best Wishes,

Rebecca L. Heberle

Director
PEACE, Inc. Head Start / Early Head Start

Our Mission:

At PEACE, Inc. Head Start/ Early Head Start, we inspire personal growth by providing an enthusiastic, diverse and supportive environment that contributes to one common goal: empower families, children and staff to reach their maximum potential.

Our Philosophy:

Head Start/Early Head Start strives to promote the school readiness of low-income children by enhancing their cognitive, social, and emotional development.

2022/2023 Funded Enrollment

Total Head Start (HS) - 829
Total Early Head Start (EHS) - 214

Atonement (HS & EHS) - 20
Baldwinsville - 34
Catholic Charities - 110
Children's Consortium - 14
Elmcrest (HS & EHS) - 7
Genesee - 69
James Street - 34
Jamesville - 22
Jordan Elbridge - 15

Home Based (HS / EHS) - 97
LaFayette - 34
Liverpool - 62
Lydia's Lullaby Daycare (HS & EHS) - 14
OCC (HS & EHS) - 20
Merrick (HS & EHS) - 172
Sumner (HS & EHS) - 132
Syracuse City School District - 157
The Salvation Army—Cab Horse Commons - 30

Program Eligibility

Eligibility is based on some of the following*:

- Families living in Onondaga County
- Children ages 0-5 years old
- Household income within the Federal Poverty Guidelines
- Families receiving Public Assistance, Food Stamps, Foster Care, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and/or Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)
- Homeless families
- Children with special needs
- Pregnant women
- Teen mothers

**HS/EHS is regulated to serve at least 90% low income participants, program wide. Income eligibility is based on the Federal Poverty Guidelines.*

Our Policy Council 2022 / 2023

Darrell Williams - Policy Council Chair
James Simpson - Policy Council Vice Chair
Syiesha Byrd - Community Representative
Hon. Judge James H. Cecile



**A Special Thanks to Our
Wonderful Policy Council**



MEMBERS

Jenesis Barr
Jacob Denney
Lataha Luckie
Gabriel Macinkewich
Jess Smith
Jacob Connors
Siobhan Grevelding
Raheim Newman
Virginia Bear

If you wish to become a member of our Policy Council
please contact Jacki Evans at (315) 470-3346

Head Start Locations



Center-based Locations		Collaborations	
<p>Baldwinsville Grace Episcopal Church 110 Oswego Road Baldwinsville, NY 13027 (315) 638-2295</p>	<p>Liverpool 911 Old Liverpool Road Suite 5 Liverpool, NY 13088 (315) 451-9377</p>	<p>Atonement Day Care Center 116 West Glen Avenue Syracuse, NY 13205 (315) 701-1867</p>	<p>Catholic Charities Diocese of Syracuse 240 E. Onondaga Street Syracuse, New York (315) 470-1415</p>
<p>Genesee 1125 West Genesee Street Syracuse, NY 13204 (315) 488-0987</p>	<p>Merrick 175 Hudson Street Syracuse, NY 13204 (315) 470-3349</p>	<p>Children's Consortium 1010 James Street Syracuse, NY 13203 (315) 471-8331</p>	<p>Lydia's Lullaby Daycare 213 Canton Street Syracuse, NY 13205 (315) 471-4750</p>
<p>James Street 1507 James Street Syracuse, NY 13203 (315) 299-4390</p>	<p>Jordan-Elbridge Christ Church 25 North Main Street Jordan, NY 13080 (315) 689-0079</p>	<p>Northside Early Education Center (Elmcrest) 516 Prospect Avenue Syracuse, NY 13208 (315) 477-0780</p>	<p>Onondaga Correctional Facility (Jamesville) 6660 E. Seneca Tpk. Jamesville, NY 13078 (315) 435-5581 x 1152</p>
<p>LaFayette 2777 Route 11 North LaFayette, NY 13084 (315) 677-7814</p>	<p>Sumner 215 Bassett Street Syracuse, NY 13210 (315) 470-3346</p>	<p>Onondaga Community College 4585 West Seneca Turnpike Syracuse, NY 13215 (315) 498-2547</p>	
		<p>The Salvation Army: Cab Horse Commons 677 South Salina Street Syracuse, NY 13202 (315) 479-1112</p>	

Home-based Office Location

Home-based Visitors' offices

Genesee
1125 West Genesee Street
Syracuse, NY 13204
(315) 488-0987

Early Head Start Locations

Center-based Locations

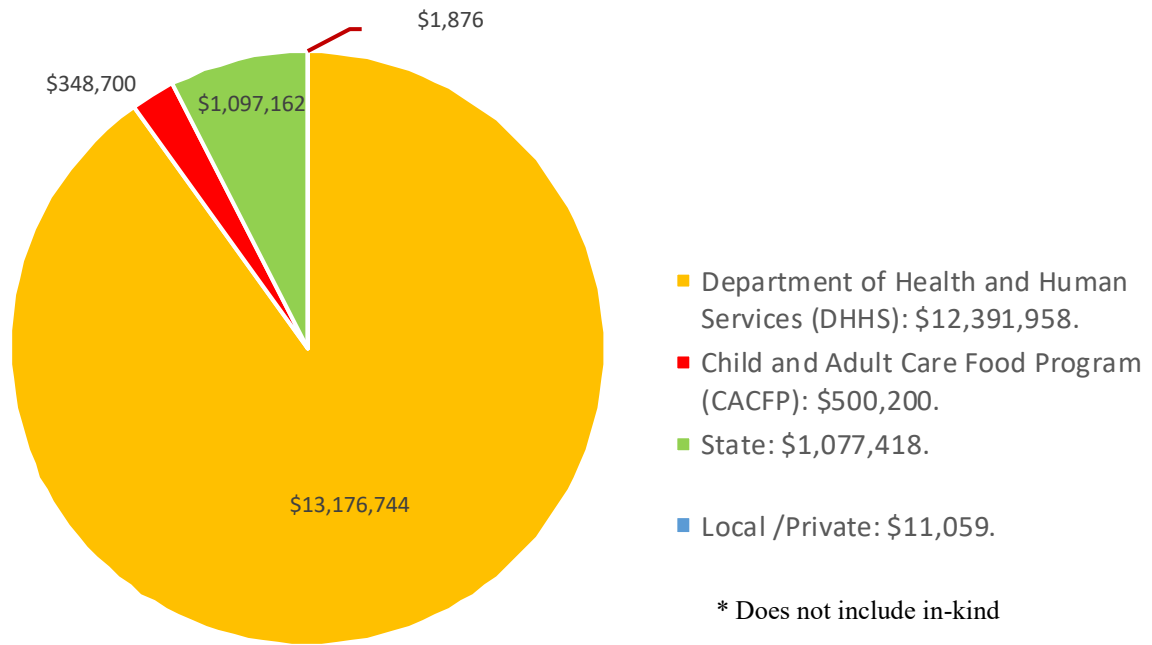
Merrick
175 Hudson Street
Syracuse, NY 13204
(315) 470-3349

Sumner
215 Bassett Street
Syracuse, NY 13210
(315) 470-3346

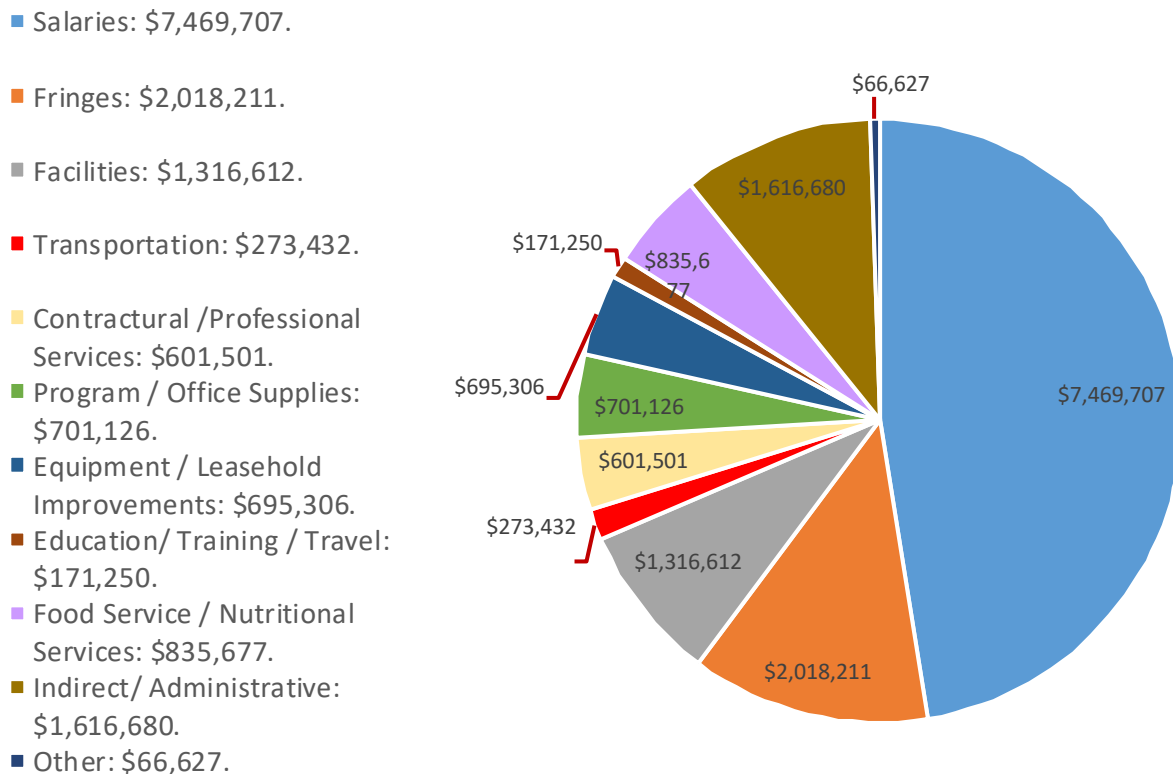
<p>Syracuse City School District</p>	<p>UPK, EPK, 3PK</p>
<p>Dr. King School 416 E. Raynor Avenue Syracuse, NY 13202</p>	<p>Dr. Weeks School 710 Hawley Avenue Syracuse, NY 13207</p>
<p>Franklin Magnet 428 S. Alvord Street Syracuse, NY 13208</p>	<p>Van Duyn 401 Loomis Ave Syracuse, NY 13207</p>



Total 2022 / 2023 Revenue \$15,766,129. *



Total 2022 / 2023 Expenditures: \$15,766,129.*



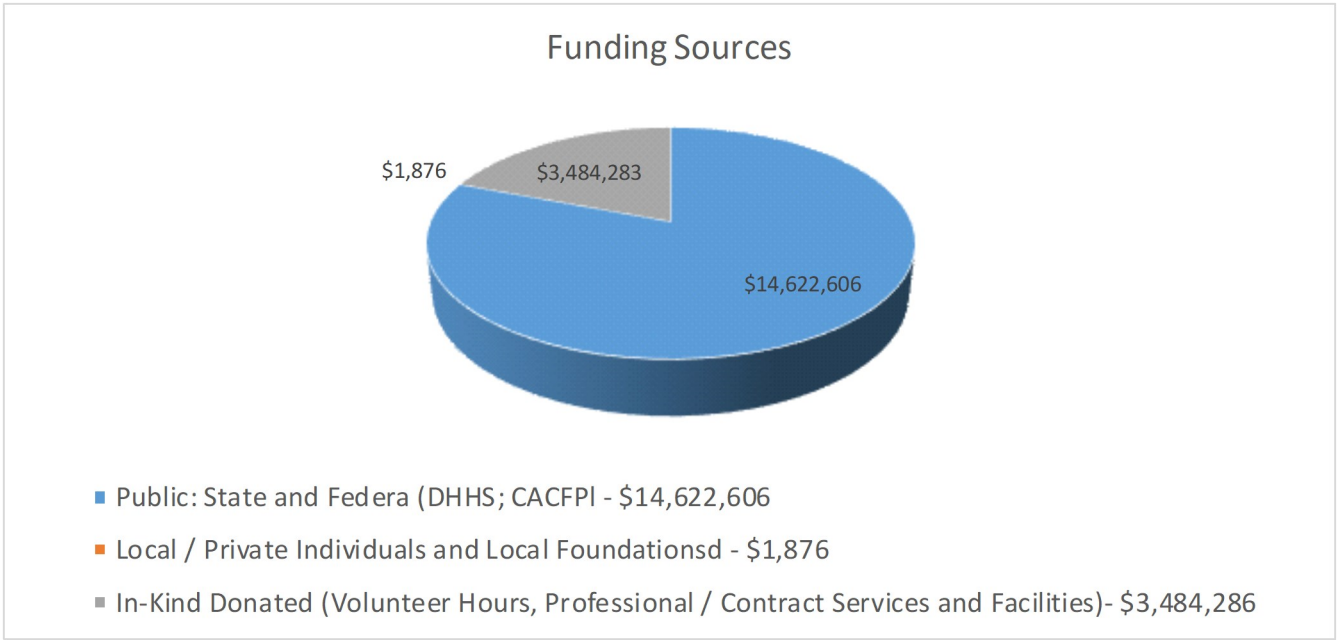
PEACE, Inc.'s Financial Statements

are available online.

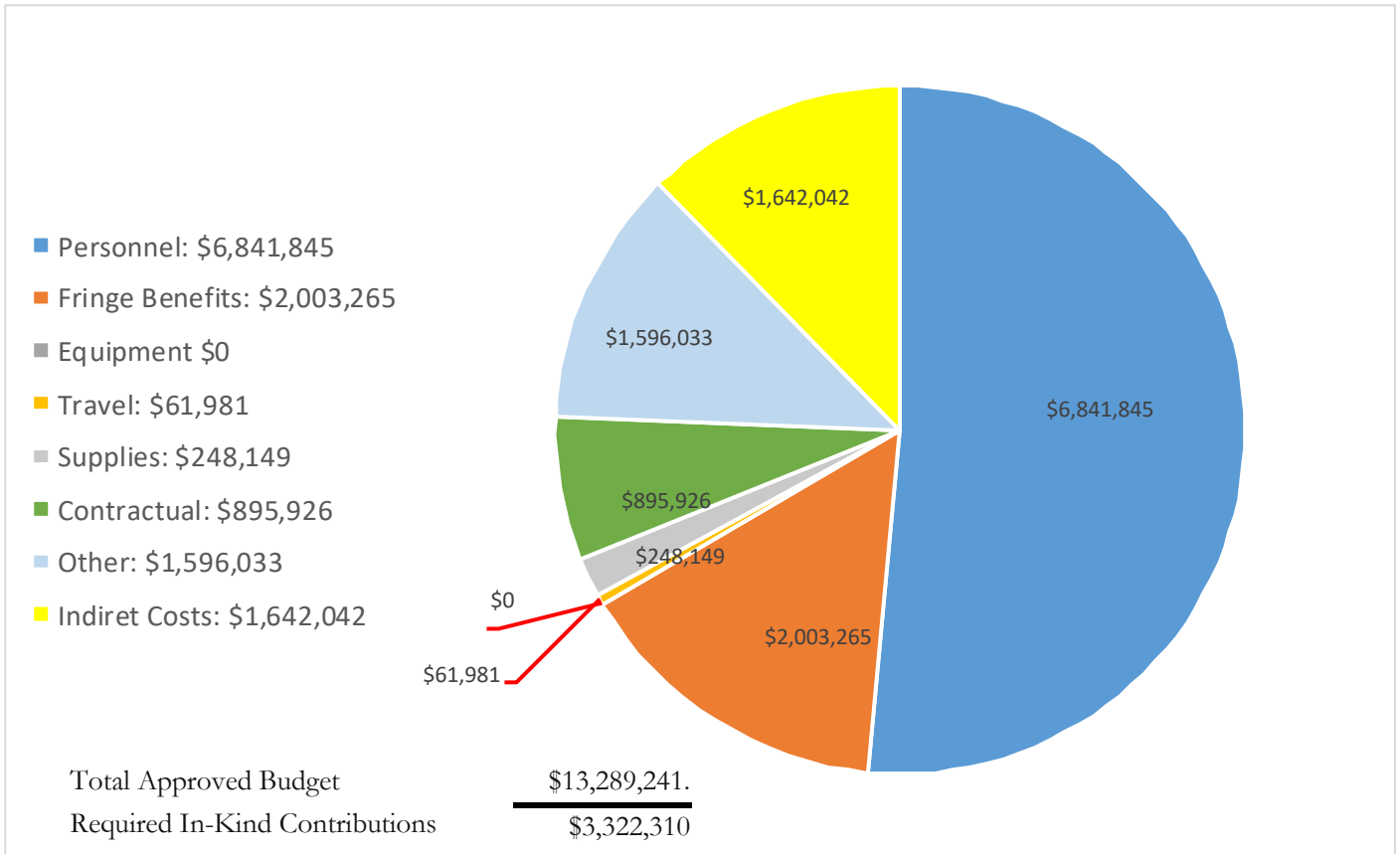
<http://www.peace-caa.org/about-us/re/>

PEACE, Inc. is proud that our agency has received no audit findings or significant deficiencies for the last eighteen financial audits. In addition, PEACE, Inc. has qualified as a low-risk auditee for the last sixteen years.

Total 2022 / 2023 Funding Sources: \$18,108,765.



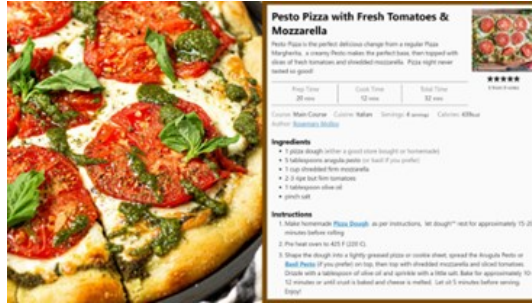
Department of Health and Human Services 2/1/23 - 1/31/2024 HS/ EHS Budget



Program Opportunities

Parent spent about 12, 234.25 hours volunteering in Head Start classrooms, on Parent Committees, Policy Council and helping with educational activities at sites during our last year.

Families participated in family cooking activities such as Make your own Pesto Pizza, which supports all of the learning goals, such as fine motor development, math, literacy and more) for children in our program, as well as positive parenting strategies.



This workshop also supports families in trying new foods while Eating healthy on a budget, check out the cost of this meal when made at home vs purchasing pizza from IOP (\$32 for 2 plain pizzas)

Wegmans:
 12 mini Naan bread-\$12
 1 jar basil pesto-\$4.59
 1 bag shredded mozzarella cheese \$4.59
 Fresh block of mozzarella \$7.49
 \$24.08

Aldi:
 16 Naan bread- \$9.50
 1 jar of pesto \$2.19
 1 bag of shredded mozzarella \$4.09
 1 block of fresh pre-sliced mozzarella \$3.29
 \$19.07

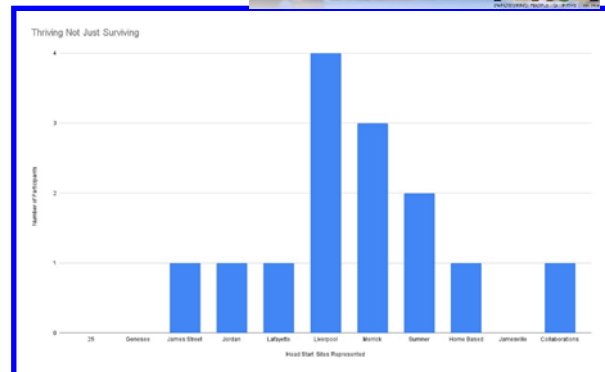
*Children are more likely to try new foods when they participate in the making of the meal!

Families have opportunities for Parent Development, leadership and Advocacy Parenting Classes and Support groups. Our program offered Parenting classes and support groups at several locations. These included the Circle of Security and Fatherhood with PEACE Thriving not Just Surviving.

Some highlights of these groups include: Fatherhood with PEACE received a free narcain training and other community resources. Five of our Fatherhood participants received training to facilitate 24/7 Dad curriculum two of which are currently facilitators in training and will likely be officially co-facilitating groups this program year for other dads! The 24/7 Dad is a parenting curriculum especially designed for the male caregiver/parent. Fatherhood with PEACE provides a safe space for dads of young children to learn about themselves and the development of their children and form supportive relationships with other men in our community.



The Early Childhood Alliance facilitated several support groups for mom's called Thriving Not Just Surviving. This is the breakdown of which head start sites were represented in these meetings. Of the 14 moms and female caregivers that participated in these groups, three are now co-facilitator because their leadership potential was recognized during the sessions.



Our Program

Health Staff:

Our program provides Chompers Dental Clinics in partnership with Syracuse Community Health Center. The program provides exams, cleaning and fluoride varnish. All children receive tooth-brushing kits throughout the school year. The program has resumed tooth brushing in classrooms fall of 2022 with a dry tooth-brushing model. Beginning fall of 2023 teachers may continue with the dry tooth-brushing model or resume back to regular tooth brushing with the children. The dental Clinics have expanded to include the more children in our collaboration with Catholic Charities. These clinics are through Syracuse Community Health Centers school based clinics.

We continue to collaborate with the Syracuse Lion's Club to provide vision screening to the children. They assist our program in screening the children within the first 45 days of enrollment. In the six years of our partnership, approximately 1200 children have been screened, with over 120 children needing glasses. They also cover the cost of lenses and frames for families without insurance; and will also replace a child's glasses if they are broken. When a child is fitted for glasses, and returns to school, the nurse rescreens the child with their glasses on, if the child still does not pass they are referred back to their eye doctor for another evaluation. The SPOT Vision screener is able to detect a potential problem with the child's prescription so it can be corrected.

Fall of 2019, we collaborated with The Gebbie Speech and Language Hearing Clinic through Syracuse University to perform hearing screening on children at our two largest Head Start sites. Dr. Kristin Kennedy, Licensed Audiologist from The Gebbie Speech and Language Clinic through Syracuse University, and her audiology students perform hearing screening at selected location each fall. The medical students screened 70 children this year between the two sites. Planning for fall of 2023 to add daycare collaboration children.

Our program worked with Central NY Regional Emergency Medical Services to create an AED program. Each center is now equipped with adult/child AED's. A Pediatrician on the Health Services Advisory Committee is our provider and oversees the AED program. Each center has many staff members who are trained in CPR/FA/AED and prepared to use the AED in an emergency. Our program is working with Belay- a food allergy training and preparedness program to provide allergy and anaphylaxis training to all Head Start staff. In addition, all PEACE, Inc. centers have emergency epinephrine stations with Auvi-Q auto-injectors. The Auvi-Q auto-injector comes in three different milligram doses based on weight. The program is equipped with all three doses of the epinephrine for use on children, each classroom has a chart that lists the children's weight. In the event of an anaphylactic reaction emergency, teachers look at the weight chart to find which dose to use. Each dose has a second auto-injector if needed. This training and stocking of non-patient specific epinephrine is in compliance of Elijah's Law. The emergency epinephrine stations are kept with the AED and Stop the Bleed kits in proximity to classrooms/ lobbies of each PEACE Head Start center.

All Head Start nurses are trained in the National Stop the Bleed campaign. The purpose of the campaign is to build national resilience by better preparing the public to save lives by raising awareness of basic actions to stop life threatening bleeding following everyday emergencies and natural disasters. New this spring all staff that take CPR/FA/AED are now trained on Stop the Bleed, the American Red Cross has added Stop the Bleed into its training curriculum.

Our program has been transitioning back to our regular programming this year, while learning to live with the COVID-19 pandemic behind us. Our program created a COVID-19 Mitigation Policy in the spring of 2023, if in the event of an increase in COVID-19 we will refer to our policy. We continue to watch our local community levels and follow the NYSDOH and OCFS in order to make changes safely for children and staff.

Upcoming for fall of 2023 is a new partnership with the Onondaga County Lead Program for a mobile unit to come to the centers and collaborations to do lead testing. Parents must sign a permission form for their child to participate.

School Readiness

The Office of Head Start (OHS) defines school readiness as “children are ready for school, families are ready to support their children’s learning, and schools are ready for children.” Important ingredients of school readiness are the skills, behaviors, and knowledge that children need to acquire in developmental domains. These domains include social emotional; physical; language; cognitive; literacy and mathematics. OHS has outlined research-based birth to five years of age milestones for school readiness in their Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework (ELOF). We implement researched-based curricula that align with the ELOF in both our center-based and home-based models to enhance efforts in helping our children reach age-appropriate school readiness goals. Our program uses the child outcomes assessment tool, Teaching Strategies GOLD, to measure our children’s progress toward reaching the ELOF milestones. The chart below reflects our Spring 2023 GOLD aggregate assessment of children’s skills and knowledge in essential ELOF school readiness domains. These results indicate that the majority of children’s skills and knowledge assessments were in the meeting or exceeding expectations ranges in all domains. The aggregate results also showed the percentages of children’s skills falling in the meeting or exceeding expectations ranges increased in all domains from our Winter GOLD to our Spring GOLD assessment periods.

Spring 2023 Teaching Strategies GOLD Assessment Results

Developmental Domain	Percentages of Children’s Skills and Knowledge Assessed in the Meeting or Exceeding Ranges
Social Emotional	88%
Physical	85%
Language	90%
Cognitive	90%
Literacy	82%
Mathematics	82%

The Improving Head Start Readiness Act of 2007 requires the Office of Head Start (OHS) to implement ongoing monitoring of all programs receiving federal funds. Head Start recognizes that responsive caregiving builds on social, back-and-forth interactions with a child. These interactions support children’s engagement, learning, and school readiness as well as support other positive outcomes that persist into adulthood. OHS uses the Classroom Assessment Scoring System® (CLASS), a valid and reliable researched-based observational tool, to assess grantees’ classroom quality of interactions. Past reviews of this nature have been carried out in-person by a certified CLASS® observer. However, this year OHS piloted the use of Grant recipient video recordings to determine the viability of capturing grantee video observations as part of their monitoring process for CLASS® reviews. Our program’s review was chosen to be part of this pilot. As such, we identified four in-house Head Start staff to be videographers. They were trained by OHS representatives about video technology requirements; how to capture quality video; and trained on video submission procedures. In total, twenty-nine of our program’s pre-school classrooms were videotaped for the review process. Our Head Start Director and Child Development and Health Services Manager reviewed all of the videos for quality purposes before final submission to the OHS. The videos were then observed and scored by OHS contracted CLASS® certified observers. Subsequently, an OHS monitoring review report was provided to us showing program-level aggregate CLASS® scores. These results have been used to guide program training and technical assistance to support our staff in preparing children for school readiness. As example, we offered pre-service workshops to education staff explaining the who, what, when, where, how and why OHS as well as, our program uses CLASS® in its monitoring process and how it relates to professional development and classroom quality.



Our Program Nutrition

During our 2022-2023 PEACE INC EHS/HS program year, Nutrition Staff focused on implementing best practices, policies and procedures that meet the nutrition needs of all enrolled children, including special diets for each individual who requires a modified menu due to a food allergy, intolerance, medical condition, developmental or sensory challenge and cultural preference. Our PEACE EHS/HS special diet modification process has been recognized and videoed by NYS Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS) for special diet management in a child daycare setting. All staff will continue to be trained through Belay on managing food allergies and intolerances.



Our Nutrition Coordinator, as a NYS Certified Dietitian Nutritionist continues to serve on the Syracuse University Falk College, Advisory Board and with the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics as a preceptor to support dietetic interns in learning and demonstrating community nutrition dietetic competencies. This past year, SU interns developed for our program, nutrition related social media communication, activities and videos to support our coordinators in outreach to our family participants. We continue to maintain an ongoing relationship with Syracuse University professors to share nutrition related projects and information that may impact food access and intake among individuals in our community target population.



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Onondaga County
Health Department

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Over this past year, we supported an Onondaga County Health Department Fellow in a nutrition education for pregnant and new moms on how to make baby food at home. We continue conversation and collaboration with the Onondaga County Health Department on community based nutrition initiatives and projects.

As we proceed, we will continue to provide recommended and approved Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) menu of foods that support enrolled participants in their personal growth, development, and school readiness goals.



The Children remain our highest priority



Dedication

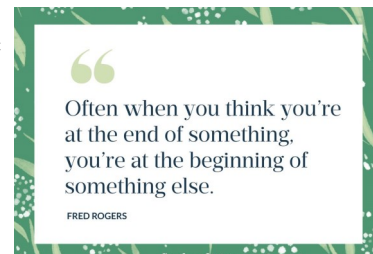
This year we are dedicating our Annual Report to two amazing women Maria Taddeo and Christine Scott. Both retired from PEACE, Inc. this past year.



Maria Taddeo started her journey with PEACE on March 26, 2009. She started at a Teacher Assistant till September 1990. Then she became a Family Worker till July 2001. After that she used her skills to assume the position of Assistant Social Services Coordinator till September 2005 and a Family and Coordinator till September 2011. Her final position with PEACE, Inc. was as the ERSEA Coordinator. Maria retired May, 26, 2023. During her time with PEACE, Inc. she was instrumental with assisting many refugee families and encouraging our families to be advocates for themselves.



Christine Scott began her journey with PEACE on October 20, 2002. She started as a Associate Director of Family and Community Services: till February 2005. From that time till her retirement she held the position of Family and Community Manager. Christine retired June 30, 2023. During her time with PEACE Inc. she oversaw all the collaborations and partnerships as well as the family workers and worked to ensure they had the skills and opportunity to provide excellent services to our Head Start



These ladies clearly showed their true dedication to our program and will be greatly missed. We wish them well in their retirement.

Our Head Start Family



Program Activities

The “Same Book” Program:

This program is part of the Head Start/ Early Head Start Literacy Plan which is designed to implement an effective classroom and literacy program which, in turn, intentionally promotes and facilitates the growth and development of child and family literacy. The belief is that “Same Book” can also increase the reading experience in the community. Each year a book is chosen and sent home with each child in our program. The idea is to interconnect the “Same Book” concept at home and at school to increase and support family connections around literacy and reading.

Head Start/Early Head Start partnered with Liverpool High School Students to plan for the Same Book Distribution and family event. A committee of early childhood education professionals, the Liverpool High School Early Childhood Program, and Head Start parents met to create a guidebook of activities to go home with each family which contains developmentally appropriate recommendations and activities for families to use along with the book which establishes the importance of parents as child’s first teacher.

This year we chose the book *Ice Cream Face* by Heidi Woodward Sheffield. The Early Childhood Education students at Liverpool High school created activities that support our school readiness goals. Together we planned and implemented this event, and children and their families got to experience the activities and even make homemade ice cream!

Families are encouraged to participate in “Same Book” activities in the classroom and center with their child. Children are also sent home with a corresponding Parent Guide.



PEACE, Inc.
Head Start / Early Head Start
Administrative Office
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Syracuse, New York 13202
(315) 470-3300
www.peace-caa.org