



Annual Report

SOUTHERN SEVEN HEALTH DEPT./HEAD START

Southern Seven Head Start's Annual Report is available to the public on our website at <https://southern7.org/s7hd-board-and-reports/>

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Southern Seven Health Department is to promote a safe and healthy environment by providing preventive health care, family support services, and child development programs.

Southern Seven Health Department/ Head Start/Early Head Start ANNUAL REPORT

2023 - 2024



MESSAGE FROM THE EARLY CHILDHOOD ADMINISTRATOR

I am thrilled to share with you the highlights and achievements of the past year in the pages that follow in our Southern Seven Head Start annual report. Now in our 32nd year of operation, our Head Start and Early Head Start program has continued to thrive and make a positive impact on the lives of children and families in the communities we serve. Here are some of the key accomplishments we have achieved over the past year:

Quality Education - Our dedicated teaching staff continues to maintain a high standard of early childhood education, helping children develop essential skills and a love for learning. They met all aspects of the QRIS which is the Illinois Quality rating and improvement system for silver circle. This program establishes standards for helping infant, toddlers, and preschool age children develop intellectually, physically, socially, and emotionally. It provides a framework for early learning professionals to identify opportunities for improvement, increase their skills, and take steps to make positive change.

Parent & Community Engagement - We have worked hard to strengthen our engagement with parents and the broader community. Our Head Start Policy Council has played a vital role in shaping the program's direction and ensuring that it remains responsive to the needs of the families we serve.

Diversity & Inclusion - We continue to celebrate diversity and inclusivity in our program, ensuring that every child feels valued and respected for who they are. Toys, books, posters, and activities expose students to multiple cultures and nationalities, races, languages, abilities, and socio-economic backgrounds.

In my role as Early Childhood Administrator, it is my privilege to oversee a dedicated team that works tirelessly to provide early childhood education and support to young learners and their families in seven rural counties in Southern Illinois. Our success would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of this incredible team along with the unwavering support of our partners and the trust that the communities we serve place in us. We remain committed to our mission of ensuring that every child has the opportunity to reach their full potential and that families have the support they need to thrive. As we move forward, continued support and collaboration will be invaluable in helping us further our mission and create a brighter future for our children and families. Together, we can make a lasting impact on the lives of those we serve.

ADMINISTRATION

Jennifer Parks, Early Childhood Administrator

Rhonda Andrews-Ray, Executive Director

Emily Boyd, Human Resources Administrator

Sarah Goddard, Fiscal Officer

GOVERNANCE - BOARD OF HEALTH

The Board of Health is a governing body responsible for overseeing the management and operations of the Southern Seven Health Department. The Board is comprised of four members from each of the seven counties in the Health Department's jurisdiction. These members are appointed independently by each respective county's Board of Commissioners (CBM). The Board of Commissioners --essentially the local government leadership-- selects and appoints individuals to serve on the Board of Health based on the appointees' qualifications, expertise, and dedication to Public Health. The Board of Health is responsible for the oversight of quality services for Head Start children and families and for making decisions related to program design and implementation.

| <u>Alexander County</u> | <u>Massac County</u> | <u>Pulaski County</u> |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Rebecca Glodo | Dr. Terry Heisner (President) | Mike Sharp (CBM) |
| Joe Griggs (CBM) | Jayson Farmer (CBM) | Debbie Brown (Treasurer) |
| <u>Hardin County</u> | Dr. Sharon Burris (Vice President) | Jayson Fitzgerald |
| Darrick Armstrong (CBM) | Brian Horn | <u>Union County</u> |
| Jordan Austin | <u>Pope County</u> | Dr. Kathy Swafford |
| Dr. Loni Jo Banks | Dr. Karla Cunningham | Debby McKibben |
| <u>Johnson County</u> | Rita McKinley | Marsha Griffin (Secretary) |
| Jason Taylor | Lindzey Barger (CBM) | Brandon Bierstedt (CBM) |
| Emily Taylor | | |
| Chrissy Hayden | | |
| Joashley Ross | | |

GOVERNANCE - POLICY COUNCIL

The Policy Council is responsible for the direction of the Head Start Program, including program design and operation, long- and short-term planning goals and objectives, and gathering information from the annual communitywide strategic planning & needs assessment and self-assessment. The Policy Council is made up of parents of children (a representative & alternate - A) currently enrolled in the Head Start Program and members of the community (community representative - CR) served by the Head Start Agency.

| | | |
|---|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Susan Armstrong (CR) | Kim Clayton (CR) | Serina Logeman |
| Cymone Ballard (A) | Shirley Cook | Artie McBride (CR) |
| Nanci Berger (CR) | Willie Dennis | Trinity Patton |
| Sharon Burris | Chelsi Diles (CR) | Jamia Purdiman (A) |
| (Crossover Member from Board of Health) | Tammy Hopson (A) | Kevin Westall (CR) |
| Alexandrea Cepeda | Kathy Hutcherson (CR) | |



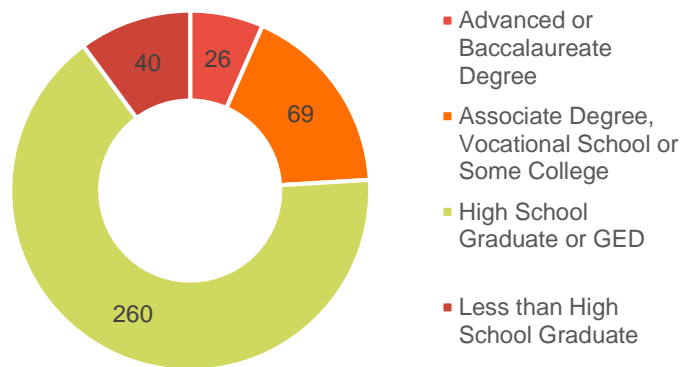
STAFF DEMOGRAPHICS

| | Head Start | Early Head Start |
|--|------------|------------------|
| Number of Staff | 94 | 84 |
| Number of Current/Former Parents Who Are Paid Staff | 40 | 40 |

FAMILY DEMOGRAPHICS

| | Head Start | Early Head Start |
|---|------------|------------------|
| Families Served | 249 | 144 |
| Two Parent Families | 112 | 64 |
| Single Parent Families | 137 | 80 |
| English – Primary Language at Home | 265 | 175 |

Educational Attainment



| | |
|---|-----|
| At time of enrollment, at least one parent/guardian is employed, in job training, or in school | 290 |
| • Of these families, the number in which one or more parent/guardian is employed | 284 |
| • Of these families, the number in which one or more parent/guardian is in job training | 15 |
| • Of these families, the number in which one or more parent/guardian is in school | 8 |

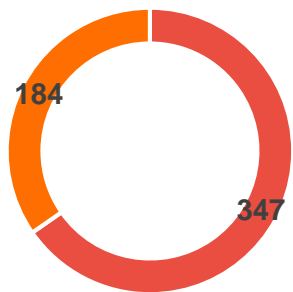


PARENT, FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The services that Head Start/Early provides is far more than just a classroom setting. The whole family is our concern. Each family is important and we strive to meet the needs on an individual basis. Parent meetings are held, officers are elected and events are planned that are both fun and educational. The support for the family or individuals is provided in the good times and during those difficult times as well. Educational opportunities are provided to give parents the “edge” when it comes to nutrition, parenting skills, job training and support. Parent Coordinators are located at each site to assist parents with their needs.

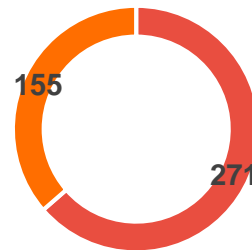
| Parent Involvement Opportunities | Training Opportunities |
|---|--|
| Parent Curriculum | University of Illinois Extension – Nutrition/Cooking |
| Parent Orientation | Bus Safety |
| Family Fun Nights | Heart Health |
| Center Volunteers | Literacy |
| Parent/Teacher Conferences | Financial Literacy/Money Management |
| Health Services Advisory Committee Meetings | Social-Emotional |
| Parent Group Meetings | Transition to Kindergarten |
| ERSEA Committee Meetings | Family Fun Nights |
| Policy Council Meetings | Fire & Gun Safety |
| Field Trips | Child Guidance |
| Family Partnership Agreements | CPR/First Aid Certification |
| Male Involvement | Equity, Inclusion & Diversity |
| Community Involvement Events | |

Total Volunteers



■ Head Start ■ Early Head Start

Volunteers Who Are Current/Former Parents



■ Head Start ■ Early Head Start



PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE COMMUNITY

Head Start's comprehensive approach to services is achieved through partnering with local agencies and public schools. The list of organizations and agencies have agreements and/or memorandums of understanding with our program.

| School Districts *has a Head Start/Early Classroom | Special Education Cooperatives & Early Intervention Services | Community/Other |
|---|---|----------------------------------|
| Anna | Child & Family Connections | CHESI |
| Buncombe | JAMP Special Education | Bethany Village |
| Cairo | Tri-County Special Education | Cairo Women's Shelter |
| Century | Wabash Ohio Valley Special Education | Dental Safari |
| *Cobden | Massac County Schools | Rural Health |
| Cypress | | WIC/Family Case Management |
| *Dongola | | Prairie Farms |
| *Egyptian | | Lewis Bakeries |
| Goreville | | Reppert's |
| *Hardin | | Supply Works |
| *Jonesboro | | US Foods |
| Joppa | | Local Businesses |
| Lick Creek | | University of Illinois Extension |
| Massac | | Mental Health Agencies |
| Meridian | | DCFS |
| New Simpson Hill | | Shawnee Community College |
| *Pope | | Arrowleaf |
| Shawnee | | Centerstone |
| Vienna | | |

TRANSITIONS & SCHOOL READINESS

One of the main educational goals is to assure children are ready for Kindergarten. To accomplish this task, Site Supervisors and Teachers review the Kindergarten expectations from each child's future school district and incorporate those items into daily lesson plans. Individual Educational Goals are set that helps each child succeed at their own pace. This information is shared with parents and is sent to the school district before the child enters Kindergarten. For the Early Head Start Program, families are included in the process as children transition from Early to the Head Start Program.

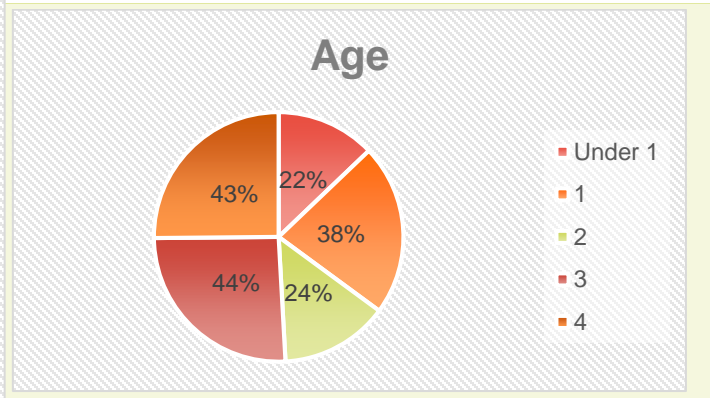
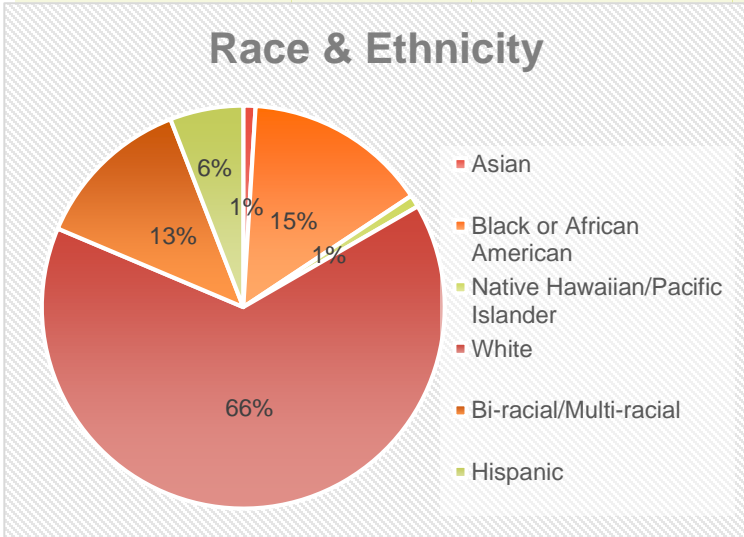
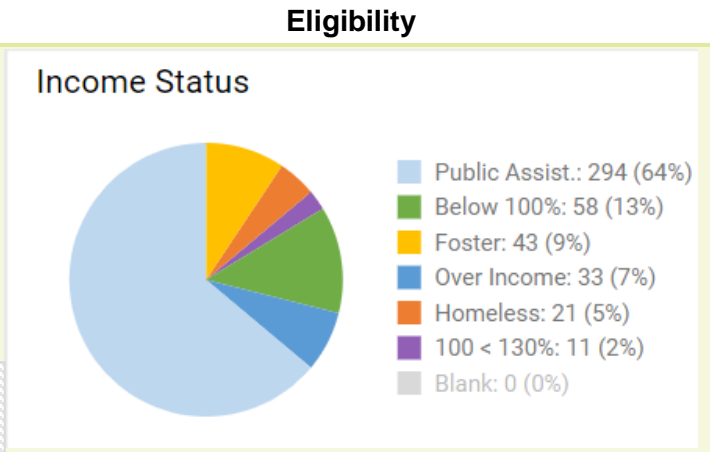
| | |
|--|----|
| Number of Children that Transitioned to Kindergarten | 97 |
| Number of Families that Transitioned to Head Start | 23 |



ELIGIBILITY AND ENROLLMENT

Families interested in the Head Start Program must qualify by meeting locally designed requirements. In general, eligibility is based on family income at or below the poverty level. Families with other situations including homelessness, children in foster care, and/or receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Temporary Assistance are also eligible. Below is the 2023-2024 School Year demographics for eligibility & enrollment.

| | Head Start | Early Head Start |
|--------------------------------------|------------|------------------|
| Eligible Income | 247 | 161 |
| Over Income | 22 | 11 |
| Near Low Income | 7 | 4 |
| Total Cumulative Enrollment: | 276 | 176 |
| Percent of Eligible Children: | 89% | 91% |



Average Monthly Enrollment:

| Before Reduction | | | | After Reduction | | | |
|------------------|-----|------------|-----|-----------------|-----|------------|-----|
| EHS | 142 | Head Start | 330 | EHS | 142 | Head Start | 250 |
| | 81% | | 62% | | 86% | | 94% |

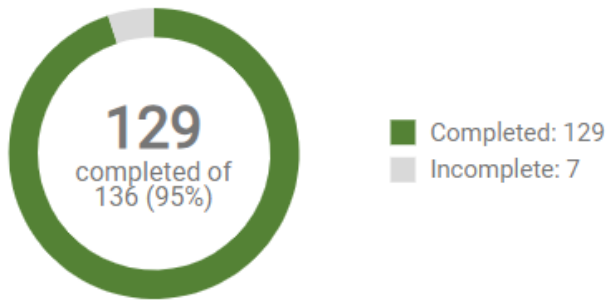


HEALTH

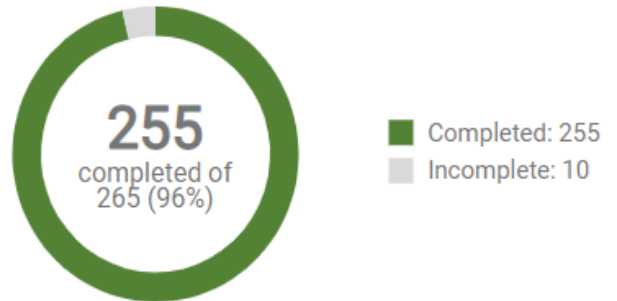
Healthy children are ready to learn. Head Start/Early Families are connected with medical and dental homes to provide families a continuous accessible source of care to support the child's healthy development and well-being. In Head Start/Early, staff support families to ensure that children are up-to-date on immunizations, have a current (within one year) physical, and have a current dental exam.

| At the end of program enrollment, children had the following: | Head Start | Early Head Start |
|---|------------|------------------|
| Health Insurance | 100% | 99% |
| Accessible Health Care | 100% | 99% |
| Medical Services | 93% | 61% |
| Immunization Services | 98% | 89% |
| Accessible Dental Care | 47% | 25% |
| Preventative Dental Services | 87% | 56% |

30 Day Health Requirements

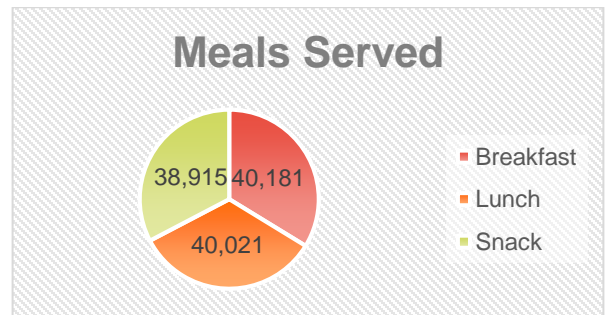


45 Day Health Requirements



NUTRITION

At Southern Seven, the meals are nutritious and served family style. Each meal children receive meets two-thirds of the daily nutritional requirements for vitamins and minerals. Children sit at the table with their teacher and are able to serve their own food and have meaningful conversations with each other while they eat. Meals are reimbursed through USDA.



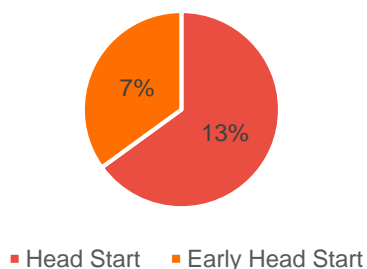
TRANSPORTATION

Transportation is not offered program wide, however Dongola, Egyptian, and Hardin provide transportation through the school district. Transportation also occurs for field trips and special events. Safety is the first priority for all children. Each child is secure in a “car seat” type system. The drivers are thoroughly trained and no child is ever left alone at any time. Parents are provided with bus safety information upon enrolling their child and all children are provided with bus safety lessons and practice bus safety drills. All staff are trained to be bus monitors as well.

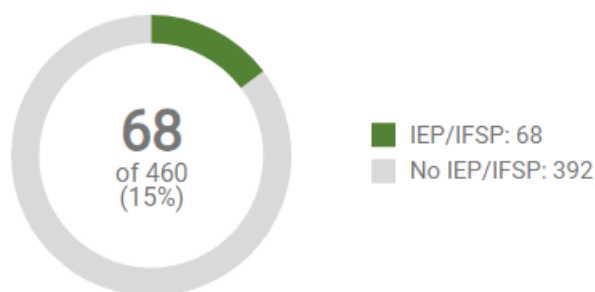
SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL & DISABILITIES

Children with disabilities are fully involved in regular classroom and center activities. Individual plans are developed that assure all needs are met and that teaching staff are prepared to deliver quality services to the child and the family. The Social-Emotional & Disabilities Specialist works with the four Special Education Cooperatives in our counties to help develop IEP’s an assure smooth transition from Head Start to Kindergarten. A close relationship with Child & Family Connections assures that infants and toddlers with IFSP’s are served and that all needs are met accordingly. A Mental Health Consultant visits each classroom four times a year to observe the children and consults with parents if they observe any children who would need further evaluation. The consultant also visits with the teachers if they need tips for working with the children.

Children Served with Disabilities



Participants with IEP/IFSP



EDUCATION & CHILD OUTCOMES

The Early Head Start Program, which serves children ages birth to 3 years, and the Head Start Program, which serves children ages 3 to 5 years, track educational outcomes to assure program effectiveness. Southern Seven uses Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP) which is a web-based assessment tool that allows teachers and administrators to monitor each child's progress. Outcomes are monitored in the Fall, Winter, Spring and Summer (for EHS). The data gathered is analyzed and aggregated to determine classroom and individual needs or concerns. The growth is documented and the information is used to assure children receive the most effective classroom learning environment. Parents are provided with updates on their child's progress during Home Visits/Parent-Teacher Conferences. On the following page is the outcomes for the 2023-2024 School Year. Head Start is listed first followed by Early Head Start.

Educational Goals & Objectives:

- A focus on school readiness assures that children are ready for Kindergarten.
- Children will develop a holistic mastery of skills that will enable them to attain academic success.
- Children will be physically, socially, and emotionally prepared to learn.
- Early and Head Start Staff will develop partnerships with parents that will allow them to participate as an active member in their child's education.

Education Outcomes:

| Domain | Early Head Start | Head Start |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|------------|
| Approaches to learning | 83% (+28) | 66% (+15) |
| Social and Emotional Development | 72% (+30) | 71% (+25) |
| Language and Literacy | 78% (+26) | 75% (+20) |
| Cognition including Math and Science | 76% (+32) | 72% (+23) |
| Physical Development and Health | 77% (+21) | 68% (+16) |
| English Language Development | NA | 84% (+20) |



AUDIT, FISCAL & MONITORING

The last monitoring review found the program to be in compliance with Head Start Performance Standards. The Federal Monitoring includes a series of events that will take place during the five-year grant cycle. These include a Focus Area 1 & 2 Review and a CLASS Review. The Focus Area 2 Review took place in March, 2022. Interviews were conducted with parents, Head Start Service Team and Administrators, Head Start Policy Council, and Southern Seven Health Department's Board of Health. The issues identified were related to staff qualifications and have been rectified. A Focus Area 1 Review will be scheduled during the 2024-2025 School Year.

Beussink, Hey, Roe, & Stroder, L.L.C. will conduct the annual financial audit for the year ending June 30, 2024 in October, 2024. Southern Seven Health Department strives to remain in compliance with the requirements described in the U.S. Office of Management Budget (OMB) Circular A-133.

| Budgeted 2023 | HS | EHS | Actual Expenses 2023 | HS | EHS | Total |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Personnel Cost | \$2,064,854.00 | \$1,871,262.00 | Personnel Cost | \$2,114,611.74 | \$1,684,700.47 | \$3,799,312.21 |
| Fringe Benefits | \$700,590.00 | \$637,033.00 | Fringe Benefits | \$708,882.94 | \$556,519.28 | \$1,265,402.22 |
| Contractual Services | \$37,205.00 | \$4,800.00 | Contractual Services | \$150,242.00 | \$79,483.03 | \$229,725.03 |
| Supplies | \$34,500.00 | \$35,500.00 | Supplies | \$55,706.66 | \$46,374.85 | \$102,081.51 |
| Facilities | \$52,601.00 | \$22,800.00 | Facilities & Building Mair | \$46,386.62 | \$74,007.74 | \$120,394.36 |
| Building Maintenance | \$15,000.00 | \$15,000.00 | Utilities | \$77,552.43 | \$67,002.44 | \$144,554.87 |
| Utilities | \$59,910.00 | \$35,500.00 | Training and Travel | \$58,460.50 | \$38,629.49 | \$97,089.99 |
| Training and Travel | \$10,000.00 | \$8,000.00 | T/TA | \$35,130.00 | \$31,180.00 | \$66,310.00 |
| Food | \$40,000.00 | \$15,000.00 | Food | \$221,846.11 | \$36,727.66 | \$258,573.77 |
| Other | \$67,614.00 | \$32,600.00 | Other | \$350,866.29 | \$101,432.32 | \$452,298.61 |
| Inkind | WAIVER | WAIVER | Inkind | WAIVER | WAIVER | WAIVER |
| TOTAL | \$3,082,274.00 | \$2,677,495.00 | TOTAL | \$3,819,685.29 | \$2,716,057.28 | \$6,535,742.57 |

| Total Funding 2023 | HS | EHS | Total |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Program Operations | \$3,082,274.00 | \$2,677,495.00 | \$5,759,769.00 |
| Training and Technical a | \$35,130.00 | \$31,180.00 | \$66,310.00 |
| Non- Federal Share | waiver | waiver | waiver |
| COVID | \$364,561.21 | | \$364,561.21 |
| misc. | \$1,550.17 | \$7,382.28 | \$8,932.45 |
| CACFP | \$336,169.91 | | \$336,169.91 |
| TOTAL | \$3,819,685.29 | \$2,716,057.28 | \$6,535,742.57 |

