



NORTH HUDSON
COMMUNITY ACTION CORPORATION



2014 Head Start / Early Head Start

Annual Report

September 1, 2013 to August 31, 2014





North Hudson Community Action Corporation (NHCAC)...

is a major non-profit agency in Northern New Jersey that provides a robust range of services responding to many needs of vulnerable low income people.

Our services include early childhood education, comprehensive family health care, dental, discount pharmaceuticals, and social services such as veteran programs, English as a Second Language, homeless prevention, housing counseling/tenant advocacy, immigration assistance, employment services/job placement, and other pertinent services to assist in meeting the health care and self-sufficiency needs of our clients.

We are the largest Federally Qualified Health Center in New Jersey with 11 delivery sites strategically located throughout Hudson, Bergen and Passaic Counties. In addition, mobile units provide health screenings and WIC enrollment. Established in 1965, today over 750 NHCAC employees at 22 sites assist over 90,000 people annually in collaboration with over 25 community partner organizations. Discover more about us at www.nhcac.org



NHCAC Head Start / Early Head Start programs...

provide comprehensive, center-based, child development services at 6 Hudson County sites for preschoolers, infants and toddlers, their families and pregnant women, at no cost to those who are eligible.

Our Mission is:

1. to provide a range of high-quality individualized services in the areas of education and early childhood development, social services, medical, dental, mental health, and nutrition to the children and families we serve;
2. to work together with parents to enhance family strengths; and
3. to empower staff and families to identify their needs and develop their strengths.

Our Goal is: to prepare the children to be ready for school and enhance their ability to succeed.

In Support of our mission and goal, NHCAC provides a wide range of health, social and human services to families enrolled in the Head Start and Early Head Start programs.

Head Start & Early Head Start Budget

FUNDING SOURCE	FISCAL YEAR 4/1/13 – 3/ 31/14 ACTUAL BUDGET	4/1/14 – 3/ 31/15 PROJECTED BUDGET
Head Start Federal	\$ 3,096,032	\$ 3,096,032
Head Start Training	\$ 37,569	\$ 37,569
Early Head Start Federal	\$ 1,446,970	\$ 1,446,970
Early Head Start Training	<u>\$ 38,187</u>	<u>\$ 38,187</u>
TOTAL Head Start/Early Head Start	\$ 4,618,758	\$ 4,618,758
Dept. of Human Services Before & After School Preschool /Summer Camp	\$ 163,388	\$ 96,166
Dept. of Human Services Preschool Wrap	\$ 111,836	\$ 100,546
Dept. of Education Family Worker	\$ 16,825	\$ 21,015
N.J. Cares for Kids	\$ 38,688	\$ 0
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Head Start	\$ 342,908	\$ 344,870
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Early Head Start	\$ 103,328	\$ 104,528
Union City Dept. of Education Preschool	\$ 942,165	\$ 970,430
West New York 58th Street Dept. of Ed. Preschool	\$ 380,440	\$ 375,949
West New York 67th Street Dept. of Ed. Preschool	<u>\$ 441,478</u>	<u>\$ 441,690</u>
TOTAL Other	\$ 2,541,056	\$ 2,455,194
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 7,159,814	\$ 7,073,952

Federal Monitoring Review – Head Start Federal Monitoring Reviews, conducted every three years, assess the performance, compliance, and accomplishments of Head Start and Early Head Start programs in meeting statutory and regulatory requirements. The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) conducted a monitoring review of NHCAC Head Start/Early Head Start and found one deficiency (recordkeeping) and 4 non-compliances. A Corrective Action Plan was submitted to ACF and updates completed.

Independent Financial Audit – In addition to ongoing monitoring and Federal Reviews, the NHCAC HS/EHS is required to have an independent accounting firm complete an annual financial audit. The 2013 audit included no adverse findings.

Head Start and Early Head Start Programs



Our Head Start/Early Start programs are funded to provide comprehensive child development and human services to 397 preschoolers, 96 infants and toddlers, and 28 pregnant women (total 521) during the 2013-2014 school year at 6 operating facilities in Union City, West New York, North Bergen and Kearny in Hudson County, New Jersey.

- We prepare the students to be ready to enter school – to enter elementary school with the skills, understanding and knowledge to succeed. We provide a robust preschool program and provide full day, Monday through Friday, year round services.
- We provide a range of individualized services in the areas of education, medical, dental, mental health, nutrition, and social services to children and their families.
- Parent engagement is valued and highly encouraged in all aspects of the program. NHCAC HS/EHS families greatly benefit from the close integration of many other services and activities provided by the North Hudson Community Action Corporation to engage families and the community, and to build families' knowledge, skills, and health as well as life opportunities.

Enrollment

	Head Start	Early Head Start	Pregnant Women
Funded Enrollment	397	96	28
Cumulative Enrollment	428	117	29
Children with Disabilities (Individualized Education Plan or Individualized Family Service Plan)	7%	21%	0
Homeless	3%	8%	0
Average Monthly Enrollment	97%	97%	97%
Total Number of Families	412	112	29

Family Characteristics

	Head Start	Early Head Start
Ethnicity		
• Hispanic/Latino	93%	94%
• Black/African American	1%	3%
• White	5%	3%
• Asian	1%	0%
Primary Language Spoken at Home		
• Spanish	79%	75%
• English	15%	25%
• Middle Eastern & South Asian	4%	0%
• Other	2%	0%
Parent Education		
• Less than high school graduate	30%	25%
• High school graduate or GED	29%	35%
• Associate degree, vocational school or some college	29%	33%
• College degree	12%	7%
Single Parents	53%	80%
Employed	71%	70%
Income Below 100% of Poverty Line	88%	83%
Public Assistance Recipients	7%	12%
Over Income	2%	3%

Human Resources – Our staff are well prepared and experienced. They have significant child development experience and training. The vast majority have a college degree and/or a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential and are bilingual (English/Spanish). Since over one third of staff have been HS/EHS parents, our team well understands the challenges faced by HS/EHS parents.

Program Governance – The Policy Council, composed of parents and members of the communities served, shares in decision making and program governance with the NHCAC Board and Head Start Director. Policy Council members are nominated by participating parents during Center Parent Committee meetings, and Community Representatives are appointed by NHCAC Board of Directors.

Communication – We are committed to our students' and families' success, and consistently reflect core values of quality, accountability, respect, trust, diversity, dedication, communication, recognition and celebration.



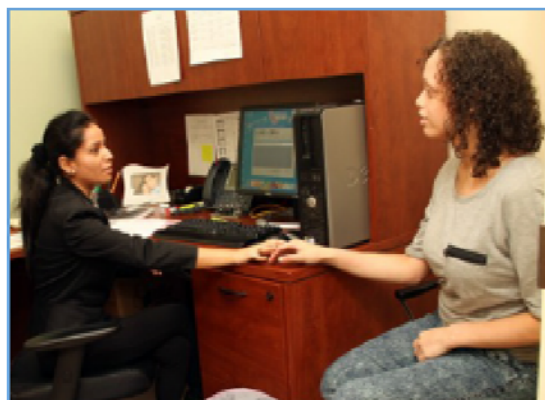
Health, Mental Health, Disability Services

– It is critical that families have access to health care, mental health and disability services. We facilitate children's access to physical, dental and mental health, nutrition education, disabilities identification, support and referrals.

By school year end, according to the 2013-2014 Program Information Report:

- 99% of HS & EHS children had health insurance
- 99% of HS & EHS children had a source of continuous, accessible health care
- 99% of HS & EHS children were up to date on immunizations
- 99% of HS children had a dental home & practiced tooth brushing in classrooms
- 36 HS and 12 EHS children were treated for chronic conditions
- 18 HS children and 2 EHS children received mental health referrals

Family Engagement – We strongly believe that parents are the primary nurturers of their children and are essential participants in their children's growth and development. We invest intensive efforts in partnering with parents to develop and provide services that involve them in all aspects of the program, such as providing parent structure and guidance to set personal goals that are monitored throughout the school year to ensure parent success.



Twenty-first Century Parenting Skills Development – Many HS/EHS parents attended **workshops** throughout the year that facilitate parenting best practices in such areas as critical thinking, problem solving, communication, collaboration, budgets, and creativity leading to self-sufficiency. This past year one of the highlights focused on a **domestic violence workshop series** presented in collaboration with local community organizations. Crucial domestic violence information and resources were provided to many parents, with a focus on pregnant women as well as others.

Parent-Child Education Fun Night – A multi-function event was held May 2nd which enabled children and parents to be led in dance exercise by a Zumba instructor, participate in workshops led by a nutritionist showing how to create healthy plates, and sing and dance with Rosario Star Show, Minnie Mouse and other Disney Friends.

Health Fair – Many children and their families attended our health fair with over 20 health vendors. Attendees received free health screenings, explored a fire engine, and participated in fun activities like face painting, bouncy house, and trackless train. Barbecue and other food were provided to all families.

NHCAC Family Support – Close collaboration between NHCAC HS/EHS and other NHCAC programs provide families with opportunities to develop critical skills that empower them to succeed at becoming self-sufficient. Some key programs included the following.



- **Literacy Classes** – Parents learn **how to improve** their literacy and to foster within their family a love of reading and learning in order to help nurture the literacy development of the children.
- **English as a Second Language** – ESL classes are provided to help non-native speakers improve their English conversational skills.
- **Immigration Workshops** – Workshops and coaching assist families in acquiring knowledge and permanent resident status since over 90% of our families are of Hispanic or Latino descent and some family members don't have US residential status.
- **Basic Computer Skills** – Participants are helped to understand the basics of operating a computer as well as how to use MS Office programs and the internet.

Community Partnerships – Identifying needs and coordinating comprehensive, effective and appropriate responses is the core of NHCAC’s mission. Need is defined in a broad context, given the origin of the organization as a Community Action Agency (CAA), and includes the health and social service needs of all clients. Because of the wide range of activities in which the CAA is involved, there are more than 30 formal and informal linkages with businesses, state, county and local social service agencies, school districts, for- and non-profit organizations, and major healthcare provider agencies (including mental health).

A number of community stakeholders are involved in the successful delivery of comprehensive child development services for the children and families served under the Head Start/Early Head Start (HS/EHS) Program. To ensure HS/EHS families can seamlessly access needed services, the Program itself maintains approximately ten partnerships with agencies to provide child behavioral health, ESL classes, and other individualized services.

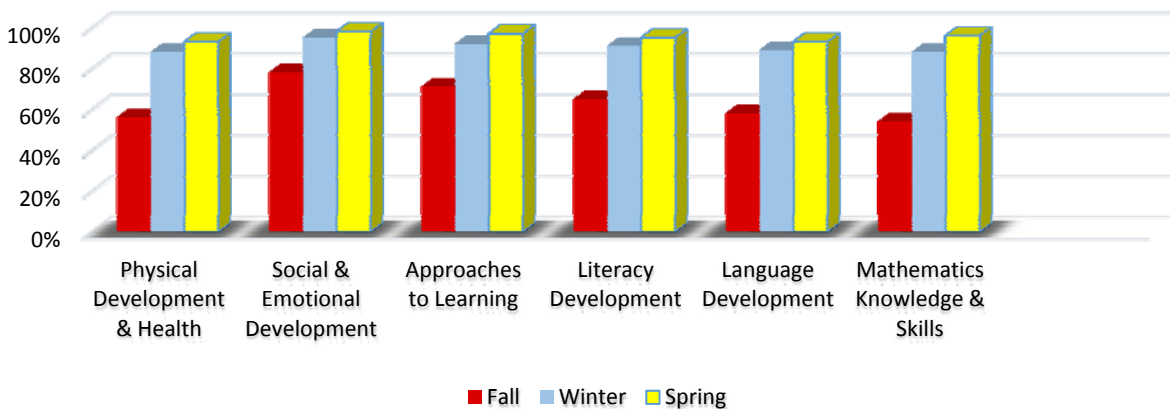
In addition, NHCAC’s executive and management personnel actively participate in interagency groups such as the Health Services Advisory Committee, and on a number of State and regional health and social service boards. Examples include: the Head Start Director’s Association, the Partnership for Maternal and Child Health of Northern New Jersey, and the Hudson County Human Services Advisory Council.



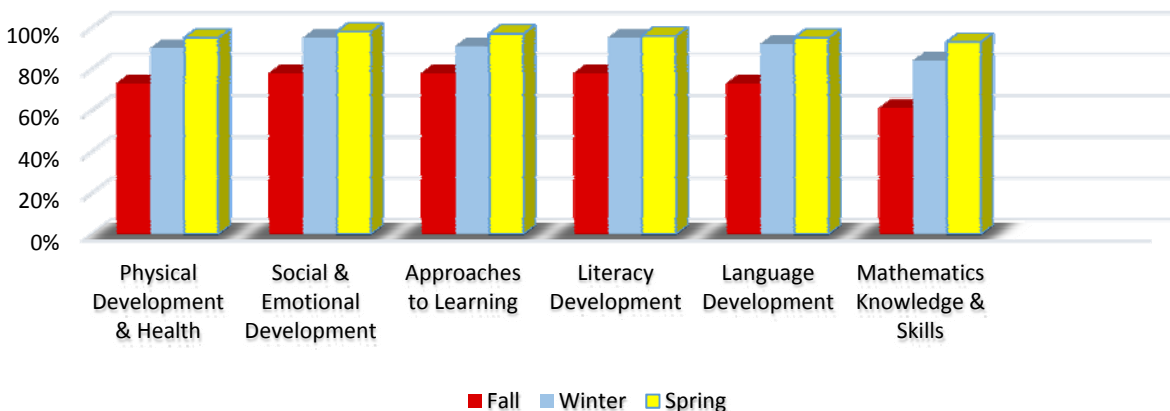
Outcomes

School Readiness – We prepare the children to make the cognitive, physical, and social progress they need in order to perform well in school and to succeed in life. Our Family Engagement programs help families improve their well-being, gain skills to build strong relationships with their children, and take advantage of ongoing learning and development opportunities. Our education department uses *Creative Curriculum* to educate the children, *CLASS (Classroom Assessment Scoring System)* as our observation instrument to assess the quality of teacher-child interactions, and *Teaching Strategies Gold* as our assessment tool to track and measure the children’s progress. *Teaching Strategies Gold* enables us to highlight outcomes for each child across six key domains of development: (1) physical and health; (2) social and emotional; (3) approaches to learning; (4) literacy; (5) language; and (6) mathematics knowledge and skills.

3 & 4 year old student 2013-2014 Outcomes



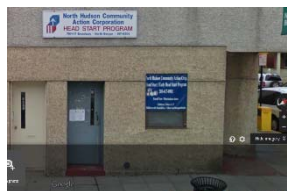
4 & 5 year old student 2013-2014 Outcomes



Head Start and Early Head Start Center Facilities

1. Kearny

380 Kearny Avenue | Kearny, N.J. 07032
(201) 246-8718 | 246-8786

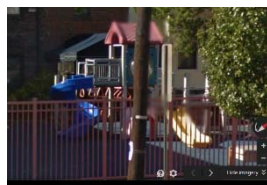


2. North Bergen

7611 Broadway Avenue, North Bergen, N.J. 07047
(201) 453 -1469 | 453-1470

3. Union City I

401 Palisade Avenue | Union City, N.J. 07087
(201) 863-7511 | 863-8849



4. Union City II

4214 Kennedy Blvd.
Union City, N.J. 07087 (201) 864-5181



5. West New York- 67th Street

314 67th Street | West New York, N.J. 07093
(201) 662-7722 | 662-0629

6. West New York- 58th Street

5800 Kennedy Boulevard, West New York, N.J. 07093
(201) 617-0901 | (201) 662-8932/8935



NHCAC Headquarters



North Hudson Community Action Corporation

800 31st Street | Union City, NJ 07087 | (201) 210-0100

This annual report has been produced in accordance with the Head Start Performance Standards, Head Start Act, Department of Education, Department of Human Services, US Department of Agriculture, and New Jersey Cares for Kids, Union City Board of Education, and West New York Board of Education.