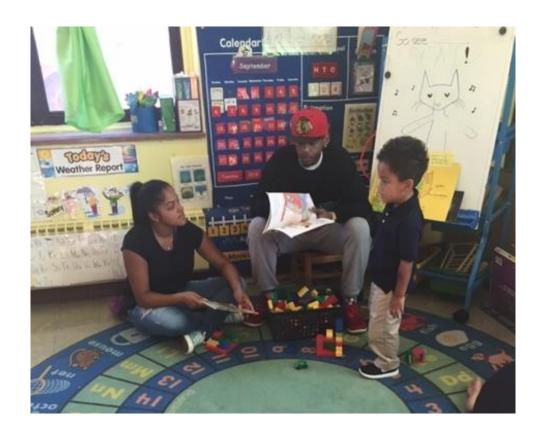


NORTH HUDSON COMMUNITY ACTION CORPORATION

2015 Head Start/Early Head Start

Annual Report September 1, 2014 to August 31, 2015



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.

North Hudson Community Action Corporation (NHCAC), a major not-for-profit organization located in Union City, New Jersey, has a strong legacy of providing social services and health care to the communities in Northern Hudson County. The Organization began in 1965 as a small Community Action Program; it quickly expanded to include over 750 employees and over 22 sites and locations. North Hudson Community Action Corporation provides health care services at its eleven Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC), and offers community support services through administration of 20 social services programs..

In 1977, North Hudson Community Action Corporation sought to fulfill the childcare needs of its low-income Hispanic population. Head Start was added as a social service program to the North Hudson Community Action Corporation in 1978, providing comprehensive child care services to pre-school age children. Early Head Start classes were added to the Corporation in 1999 to expand childcare services to eligible families who demonstrated the need for infant-toddler care. Today, North Hudson Community Action Corporation offers early education and supportive health and family services to 397 preschoolers; 96 infant and toddlers; and 28 expectant mothers.



HEAD START / EARLY HEAD START PROGRAMS

 NHCAC Head Start/ Early Head Start prepares its students to enter kindergarten 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.

FISCAL YEAR FUNDING SOURCE	4/1/14 – 3/ 31/15 ACTUAL BUDGET	4/1/15 – 3/ 31/16 PROJECTED BUDGET
Head Start Federal	\$ 3,310,758	\$ 3,096,032
Head Start Training	\$ 37,569	\$ 37,569
Early Head Start Federal	\$ 1,547,328	\$ 1,446,970
Early Head Start Training	\$ 38,187	\$ 38,187
TOTAL Head Start/Early Head Start	\$ 4,933,839	\$ 4,933,839
NJ ECC /CCAP	\$ 65,750	\$ 68,500
NJ ECC / Department of Education (DOE)	\$ 68,865	\$ 68,865
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Head Start	\$ 333,389	\$ 340,000
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Early Head Start	\$ 95,703	\$ 97,000
Union City Dept. of Education Preschool	\$ 1,005,819	\$ 1,029,525
West New York 58th Street Dept. of Ed. Preschool	\$ 372,846	\$ 388,849
West New York 67th Street Dept. of Ed. Preschool	<u>\$ 445,055</u>	<u>\$ 461,880</u>
TOTAL Other	\$ 2,394,627	\$ 2,454,399
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 7,328,466	\$ 7,388,238

Federal Monitoring Review –The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) conducted a follow-up review of the NHCAC Head Start/Early Head Start program; the report cited two deficiencies (Program Governance, and Human Resources). The findings were corrected, and Corrective Action Plans were submitted to ACF. The report also noted and five corrections reflecting improved performance, compliance, and accomplishment of Head Start and Early Head Start.

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 2014 audit included no major material findings of major Federal and State programs.



Happy Birthday Head Start! Parents, children, staff, and community affiliates participated in a birthday celebration commemorating 50 years of early education and positive impacts on children and their families. The 50th birthday party the program reviewed the history of Head Start, and parents were able to share their stories about how NHCAC Head Start/Early Head Start positively impacted their children and families' lives.





FIFTY YEARS OF SERVICES TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

NHCAC Head Start/Early Head Start seeks to promote and improve the quality of life of its children and families. We strongly believe that access to information, human service delivery, and positive enforcement of life skills increases success amongst our families. Close collaboration between NHCAC Head Start/Early Head Start 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.

Learn more about our services on our website, www.nhcac.org.



This year North Hudson employed 4 qualified parents to work within Head Start and Early Head Start programs; two family engagement advocates, one security guard, and one Early Head Start Caregiver. The Program encourages parents to participate in their children's education by volunteering in the classroom or other areas of the program. Parents benefit from spending time with their children in a child care setting, attain applicable work experience, and gain knowledge in program operations.

PARENT SUCCESS STORY...

I, Mailin Rey, started as a mother in Head Start in 2008 when I registered my son for the program. I was very motivated to enroll as a volunteer parent. It helped me to have more knowledge about the educational opportunities for my son and for me.

I participated in all the opportunities that the program offered for parents: Policy Council Trainings, 21st Century parenting sessions, workshops and meetings. This gave me the opportunity to get to know more about the program and the solid foundation for my child's education.

I was inspired by the program to continue my education. I obtained the CDA certification. In 2013 I returned to the program to register my second child. Again, I obtained many great opportunities for my children and myself.

Finally, I was given the opportunity to work for this excellent program. I feel very proud and very grateful to be part of this outstanding organization. It has greatly impacted my life because I accomplished my goals. I strongly recommend this program to everyone who needs the support while making a change in their lives.









Enrollment

	Head Start	Early Head Start	Pregnant Women
Funded Enrollment	397	96	28
Cumulative Enrollment	421	140	30
On Waiting List	371	110	
Children with Disabilities (Individualized			
Education Plan or Individualized Family	26	33	0
Service Plan)			
Homeless	21	8	0
Average Monthly Enrollment	100%	100%	100%
Total Number of Families	411	128	30

Family Characteristics

	Head Start	Early Head Start
Ethnicity		
Hispanic/Latino	400	132
 Black/African American 	2	1
White	16	3
Asian	3	0
Primary Language Spoken at Home		
Spanish	330	111
English	70	27
 Middle Eastern & South Asian 	14	1
Other	7	0
Parent Education		
 Less than high school graduate 	135	23
 High school graduate or GED 	119	52
 Associate degree, vocational school or some college 	117	39
College degree	39	11
Single Parents	244	85
Employed	330	43
Income Below 100% of Poverty Line	355	113
Public Assistance Recipients	22	11
Over Income	12	9

Human Resources – Our staff are well prepared and experienced. They have significant child development experience and training. The vast majority has 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 children & 100% of EHS children received physical exams
- 99% of HS & EHS children were up to date on immunizations
- 98% of HS children received dental exams
- 99% of HS children had a dental home & practiced tooth brushing in classroom
- 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 teachers 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.

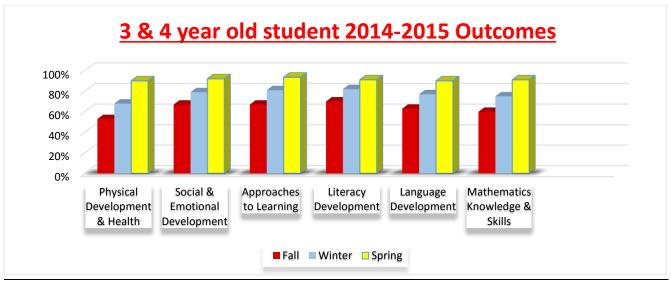
Twenty-first Century Parenting Skills Development – Many HS/EHS parents attended workshops throughout the year that facilitate parenting best practices in such areas as critical thinking, problem solving, communication, collaboration, budgets, and creativity leading to self-sufficiency. This past year 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.

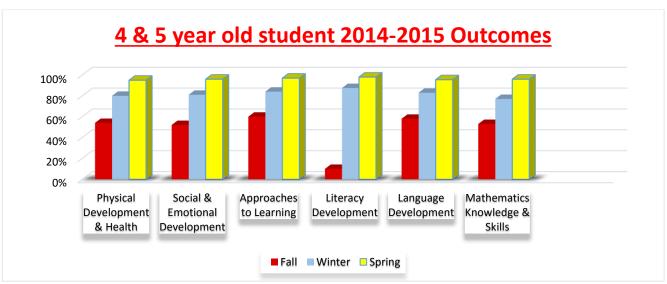
Parent-Child Education Fun Night – A multi-function event we held May 2nd enabled children and parents to be led in dance exercise by a Zumba instructor, participate in workshops led by a nutritionist showing how to create healthy plates, and sing and dance with Rosario Star Show, Minnie Mouse and other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

Community Partnerships – Collaboration with over 50 community partners helps HS/EHS families access specialized services as well optimize graduating HS students' seamless transitions into local school systems. A major new initiative was to respond to an EHS-CC Partnerships RFP. If approved, funding will enable our EHS program to partner with 3 child care centers to expand the number of slots for infants and toddlers. The 3 centers – Little Friends Preschool in Kearny, Home Away III Child Care Center in Union City, and Fire House Kids Academy in West New York – will receive training, technical assistance, management, and support meeting EHS Program Performance Standards to optimize quality care practices. The children will benefit by receiving high-quality, comprehensive education, health, development, and family support.

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. We use *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.





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







