



North Hudson Community Action Corporation Head Start

Annual Report



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Getting kids off to a better start

Five Head Start centers help children between birth and age 5 to grow in every area of development and learning. Throughout each day teachers schedule activities to encourage youngsters to strengthen their language, cognitive, physical and social-emotional skills. More than 500 children were enrolled in 2022.

The children came from families where the primary language spoken at home was Spanish, English or Arabic. Sixty four children are classified as disabled.

Recent federal monitoring reviews showed 100 percent of students met or exceeded expectations for social-emotional health, cognition, and physical abilities. Ninety-nine percent met or exceeded standards for math and literacy, and 97 percent were proficient in language.

Head Start students receive two meals and a snack every day and foods meet all nutritional standards, including meals made especially for students with special dietary needs.

All children enrolled in Head Start have health insurance, 94 percent provided by New Jersey Medicaid. Ninety-eight percent of Head Start and 92 percent of Early Head Start enrollees were up to date with immunizations, and 363 children had had dental exams.

Head Start collaborated with other North Hudson and area agencies to assist students' families with other problems, such as housing assistance, ESL and adult education classes, substance abuse, domestic violence and parenting services, and job training.

Director Message

NHCAC Head Start/Early Head Start

Vision Statement

To establish NHCAC Head Start/Early Head Start as a leader in early childhood, including comprehensive family support in all nine North and West Hudson County, New Jersey communities.

Mission Statement

Our goal is to promote and improve the quality of life and eliminate factors leading to poverty for northern New Jersey residents by providing comprehensive health



NHCAC Head Start serves resident children between the ages of birth - 5 with an experience that allows all children to grow and develop in every area of development and learning. At the NHCAC Head Start, we have 5 centers that are built on an inclusive community, with a variety of activities tailored to all students with or without disabilities.

Throughout the day teachers plan developmentally appropriate activities that encourage students to strengthen their language, cognitive, physical and social-emotional skills. Content areas are carefully integrated into these major areas of development so students can take part in daily, rich literacy activities, hands-on math experiences, exploration in science, art, and more.

Reflecting on the previous school year, all program staff will agree this school year was extremely challenging due to the impact COVID pandemic had on our students academically and emotionally. Throughout the school term of 2022-2023 our program staff remained diligent, persistent, and provided the best services possible for Head Start & Early Head Start students.

As we move forward, our staff will continue to strive for positive changes not only within the program, but also in the lives of the Head Start and Early Head Start students and families we serve. In closing, we want to thank all of our Staff, Parents, Policy Council members, Community Partners, NHCAC Governing Board who provided support and encouragement throughout this past school year.

Respectfully,

Monica Charris Tabares

Head Start Locations

Kearny

380 Kearny Avenue
Kearny, NJ
201 246-8786

West New York

314 67th Street
West New York, NJ
201 622-7722

5800 Kennedy Boulevard
West New York, NJ
201 617-0901

North Bergen

7611 Broadway
North Bergen, NJ
201 453-1469

Union City

401 Palisade Avenue
Union City, NJ
201 863-7511



Head Start Administrative Office

Center for Early Learning and
Parent Engagement

5800 Kennedy Boulevard
West New York, NJ
201-617-0901

Early Head Start Locations

401 Palisade Avenue
Union City, NJ
201 863-7511

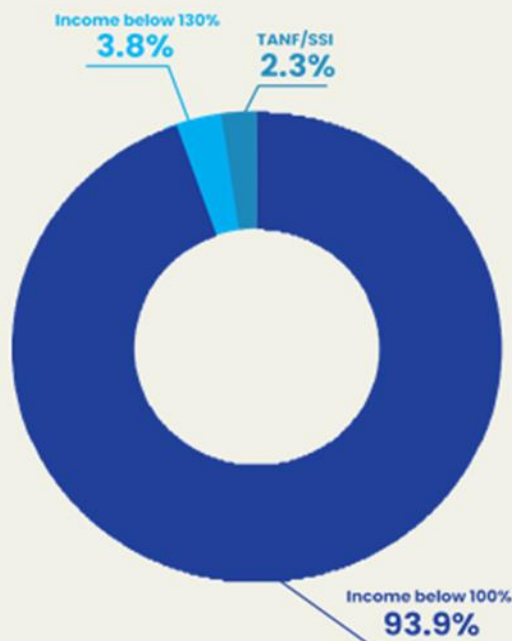
5800 Kennedy Boulevard
West New York, NJ
201 617-0901

TYPES OF ELIGIBILITY

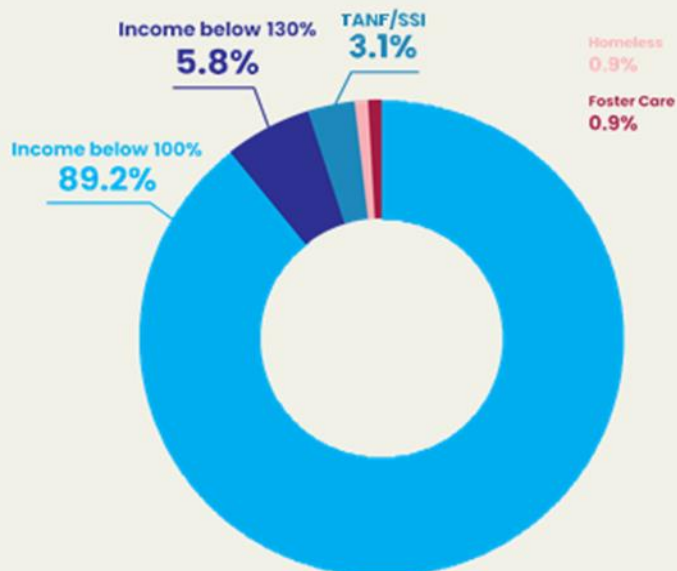
Head Start programs must use current federal guidelines issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Many programs across the federal government, as well as state governments and non-profit organizations, rely on these guidelines to determine family eligibility for systems and services. Below is a chart to show families that are below 100% of the poverty guidelines (low income), who receive public assistance like TANF and SSI, children who are in foster care, families that are homeless, families who are over income, and families who are not low income but their income is below 130% of the poverty line.



Head Start



Early Head Start

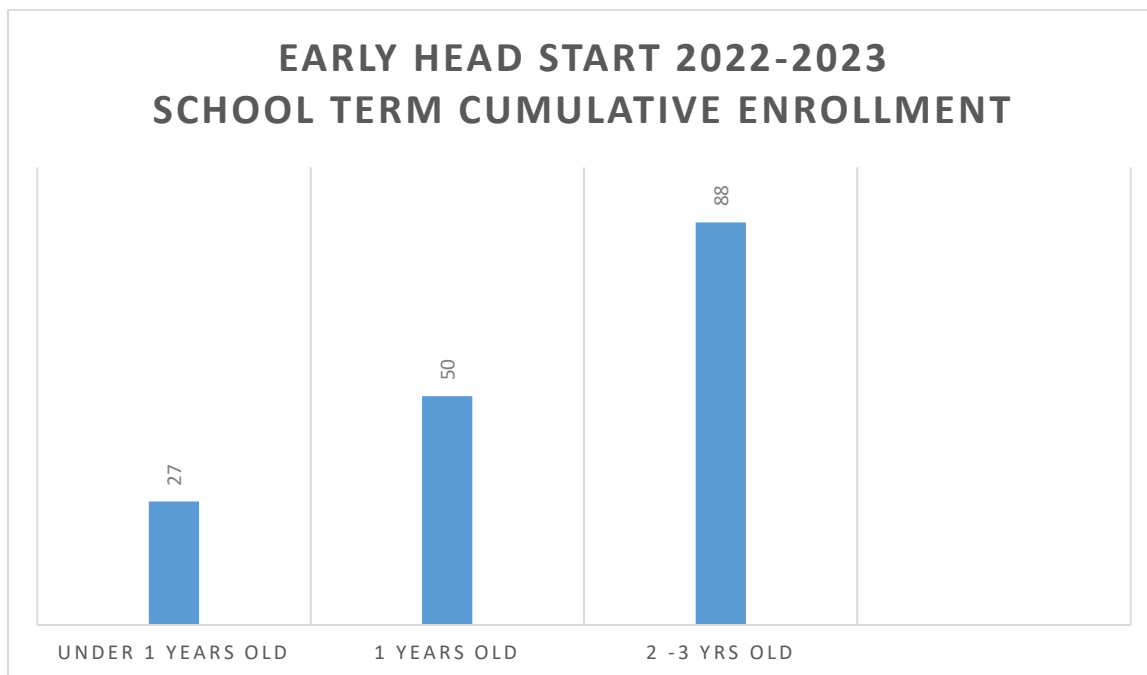


Who We Service

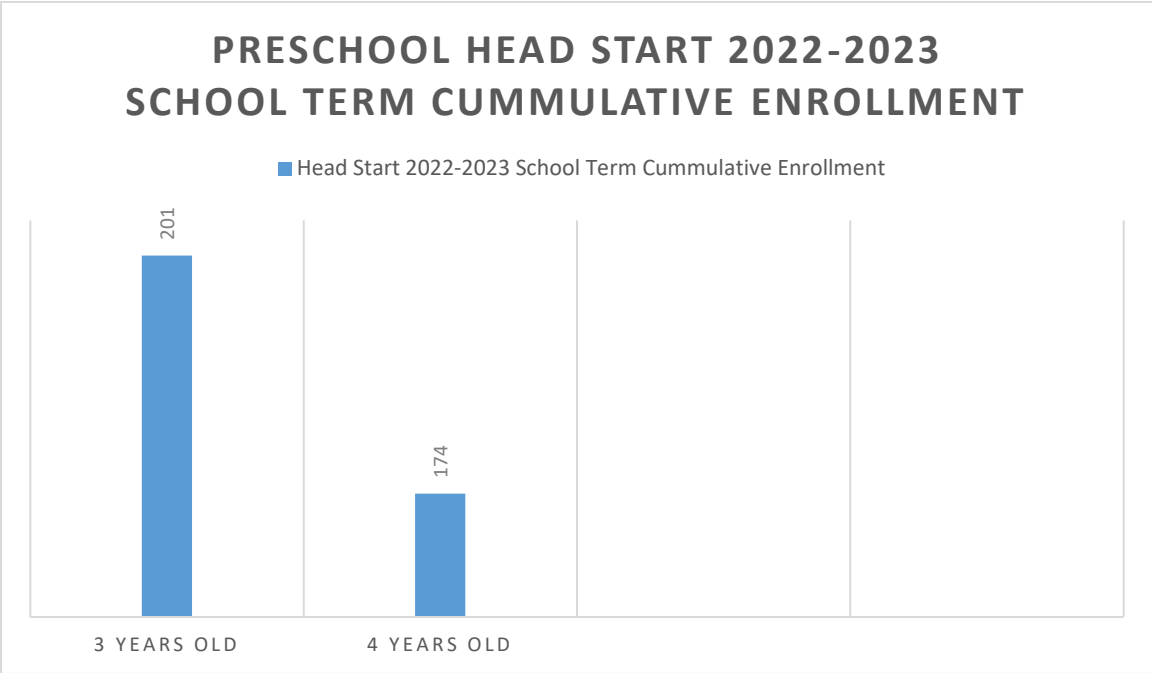


Our early childhood education programs serve children ages 0-5 who are from low-income families and face other barriers to school success. As of December 2023, current enrollment:

319 children were enrolled in Head Start (Preschool)
134 students were enrolled in Early Head Start (Infant and Toddlers)



Total enrollment Early Head Start 2022-2023 School Term: 165 (includes students that left the program during school term)



Total enrollment Preschool 2022-2023 School Term: 383 (includes students that left the program during school term)

Family and Child Demographics

Family demographics data was gathered using the 2022-2023 Program Information Report. The family demographics below include: number of families, types of families, primary language spoken, race and ethnicity of our families.

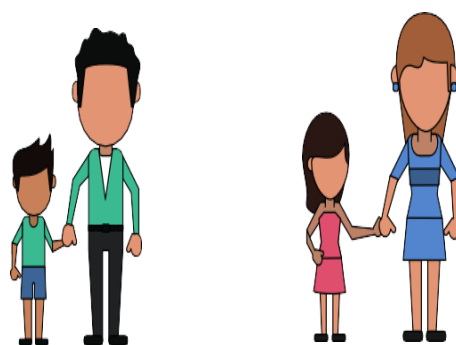
Number of Families

Total number of families: 576

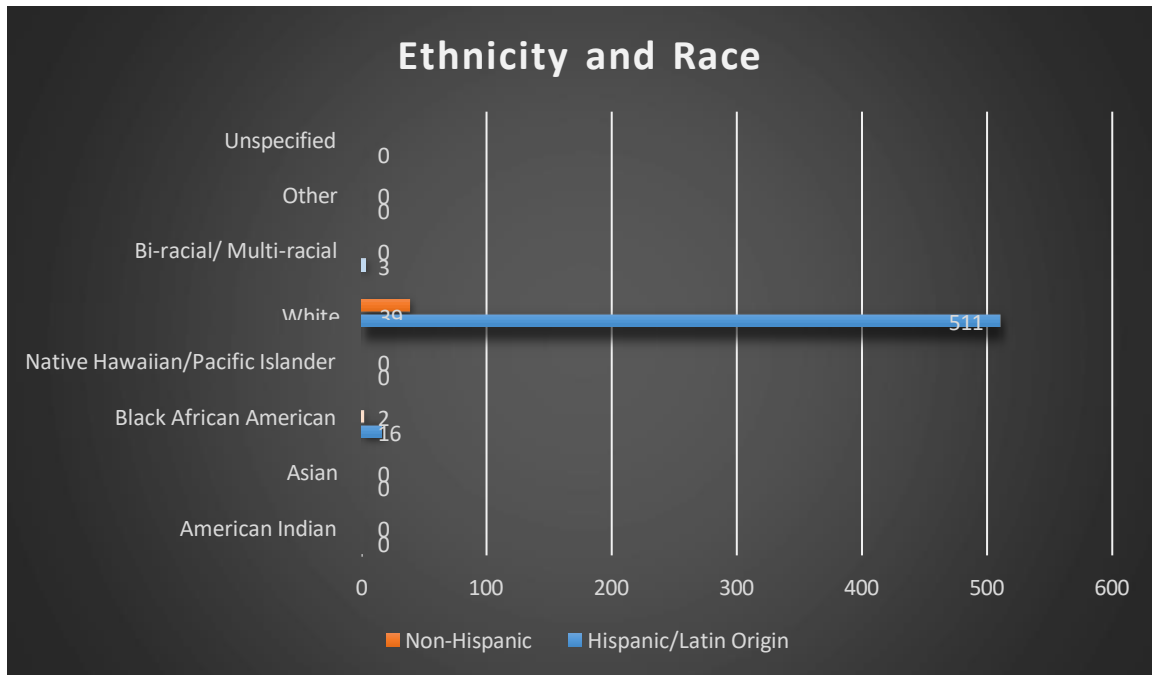
- Total Number of Two Parent Families: 263
- Total Number of Single Parent Families 313

○ Of these, number of families with Mothers only: 301

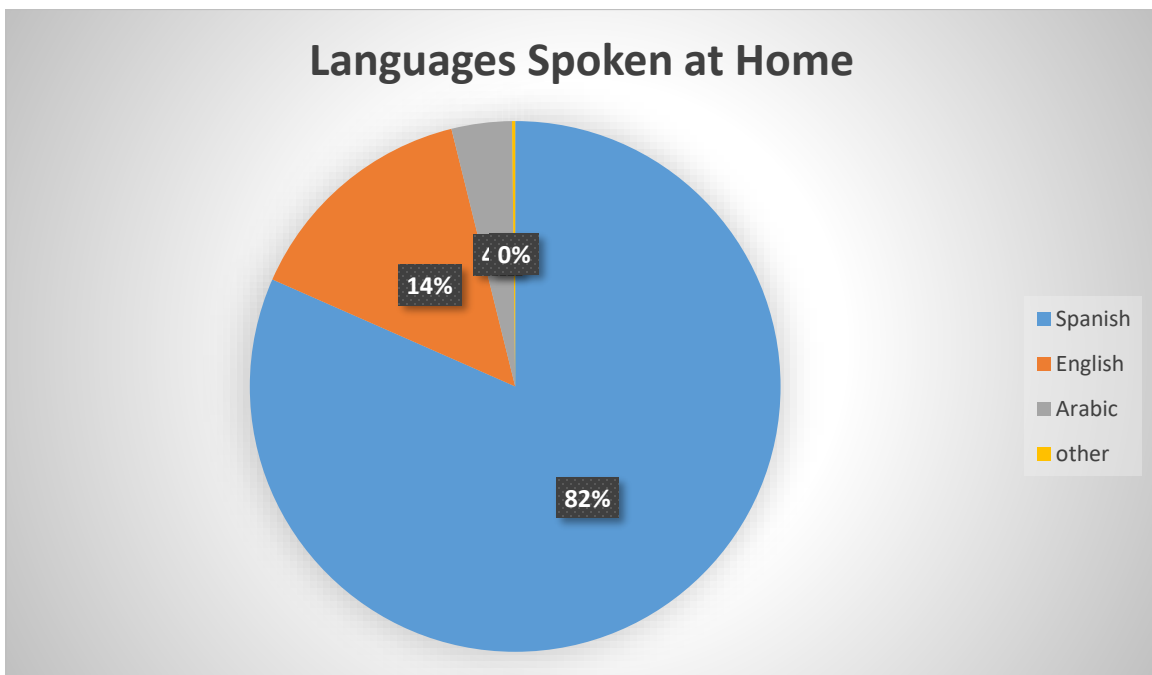
○ Of these, number of families with Fathers only: 11



Race & Ethnicity of Families & Children



Primary Language spoken at home



What We Do for Children...

Health, Nutrition, Disability and Mental Health

Health

- 100% had health insurance; of those,
 - 443 children had health insurance through State CHIP/Federal Medicaid
 - 32 children had private health insurance
- 356 Head Start Children and 151 of Early Head Start children are up-to-date with EPSDT
- 383 of Head Start Children and 163 of Early Head Start children were up-to-date with, or had completed all, immunizations.

Chronic Health Conditions Requiring Medical Treatment

- Asthma – 8 students
- Overweight – 75 students
- Obesity – 98

Dental

- 363 children completed a dental exam

Mental Health & Disability Services

- 67 classroom teacher received assistance from mental health consultant through observation to help their students.

Pregnant Women

- 100% have health insurance and received: prenatal and postpartum care; prenatal education on fetal development; information on the benefits of breastfeeding (from NHCAC WIC).


- Enrolled During –
 - 1st Trimester (0-3 months): 6
 - 2nd Trimester (3-6 months): 31
 - 3rd Trimester (6-9 months): 19

... And Services to their Families

- Housing assistance such as subsidies, utilities, repairs, etc. – 8
- English as a Second Language (ESL) training – 24
- Adult education such as GED programs and college selection – 62
- Job training – 58
- Substance abuse prevention/treatment – 14
- Domestic violence services – 18
- Health education – 1
- Parenting Education – 400

Number of families that received at least one service – 546 (100%)

Disability services:

									
	North Bergen	4 th street	58 th PEP	58 th St. HS	67 th street	Kearny	EHS 5800	EHS – 4 th Street	TOTAL
# Disability Children enrolled	10	2	0	0	0	4	37	11	64
# Disability Waitlist	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Developmental Screenings to date (6/2023)	99	66	20	64	54	27	ASQ-3 3	ASQ-3 4	337
EHS/HS ASQ:SE-2 screening	0	4	0		0	17	1	4	26

HEAD START STORIES

Alexis was only an infant when his mother and father fled El Salvador in 2019, and they had to leave his stepbrother behind to be cared for by other family members.

But his parents were determined to find a better life for themselves and their baby son.

They crossed through Mexico and petitioned for asylum at the US border, where they were sent to deportation housing during the Covid pandemic. Asylum was eventually granted and the family made its way to New Jersey. No one spoke English when they arrived, but everyone, including Alexis, learned fast. Dad works odd jobs while he and his wife await legal permission to seek regular employment.

Meanwhile, four-year-old Alexis is enrolled in Head Start and preparing to enter kindergarten next year.

When Lesvia and her family arrived in the United States from Colombia, someone suggested they enroll their kids in Head Start. They did. The elder daughter started in 1988 and the younger one the following year. Lesvia volunteered in their classrooms almost every day, as a way of ensuring they were happy and as a way she could integrate into the overall community.

After the girls graduated into elementary school, Lesvia was offered the role of teacher assistant, and a few years later she was promoted to teacher. She took advantage of Head Start's funding support for educational growth and enrolled in Hudson County Community College and later transferred to Caldwell College for her BA in Psychology, which she earned cum laude.

She and her two daughters completed college at the same time. One daughter works for an investment bank and the other is sales director for an education franchise. Lesvia is Early Head Start Supervisor.

Monica was only two years old when her parents brought her here from Barranquilla, Colombia

She was eager to become just another American kid but was also determined to appreciate and hold onto her Hispanic heritage. She learned to sew and make her own clothes, to cook and dazzle her friends with recipes, and to learn traditional Colombian dance, dazzling friends even more with her energy and talent.

She earned a BA in English Literature, an MA in Bilingual Education, and she's working toward her doctorate. She has teaching licenses in P-3, K-5,

Bilingual Education Supervision and Principal CE. She also has two kids and a loving husband.

She's North Hudson's Vice President in charge of Head Start and Early Head Start services, and in 2022 she was chosen the Hispanic Parade of New Jersey's Educator of the Year.



Financial Overview

	Head Start FY 2022	Head Start FY 2023
Program Operations	\$3,930,012	\$4,038,716
T/TA Funds	\$43,632	\$43,632
COLA	\$89,604	\$226,168
Quality Improvement	\$19,100	\$103,869
CACFP	\$284,994	\$404,601
Union City BOE	\$901,182	\$743,213
WNY BOE – 58th	\$476,370	\$485,459
WNY BOE – 67th	\$386,012	\$393,404
Kearny BOE	\$124,095	\$125,531
ARP Stabilization	\$60,000	\$0
US Department of Education	\$ 0	\$ 80,000
NJ DHS Retention	\$92,000	\$0

	Early Head Start FY 2022	Early Head Start FY 2023
Program Operations	\$2,380,027	\$2,448,763
T/TA Funds	\$54,461	\$54,461
COLA	\$54,265	\$137,131
Quality Improvement	\$14,471	\$76,742
CACFP	\$125,800	\$172,312

	Early Head Start / Head Start FY 2022	Early Head Start / Head Start FY 2023
NJ ECC/CCAP	\$175,074	\$136,336
Extended Day Services	\$59,999	\$67,318
ARP	\$827,395	

Federal Monitoring Review

Office of Head Start conducted onsite CLASS® review from 12/10/2018 to 12/14/2018

The CLASS® tool looks at three domains and ten dimensions of teacher-child interactions and measures those observed interactions on a seven-point scale.

From April 8, 2019 to April 12, 2019, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) conducted a Focus Area Two (FA2) monitoring review of the North Hudson Community Action Corporation Head Start and Early Head Start programs. Based on the information gathered during both Focus Area one and two review, the Office of Head Start has found that our program met the requirements of all applicable HSPPS, laws, regulations, and policy requirements. No additional reviews have been conducted by the Office of 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 2020 audit was conducted October 31, 2020 and included no major material findings of major Federal and State programs.

Where are our students academically?

The Standards are National Standards of the Gold Assessment for Creative Curriculum.

Total number of Head Start students in that were included in assessment were 364.

Funded enrollment for school term 2022 was 367 students.

Preschool 3 School Readiness

Content area	Below expectations	Meeting expectations	Exceeding expectations
	June 2023	June 2023	June 2023
Social Emotional	9%	54%	37%
Physical	14%	49%	37%
Language	17%	71%	11%
Cognitive	11%	54%	34%
Literacy	14%	63%	23%
Mathematics	23%	46%	31%
Spanish Language	15%	69%	15%

Spanish Literacy	12%	62%	27%
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Preschool 4 School Readiness

Content Area	Below expectations	Meeting expectations	Exceeding expectations
	June 2023	June 2023	June 2023
Social Emotional	23%	56%	22%
Physical	25%	51%	24%
Language	30%	53%	17%
Cognitive	14%	63%	23%
Literacy	13%	52%	35%
Mathematics	10%	60%	31%
Spanish Language	17%	63%	20%
Spanish Literacy	14%	66%	20%

Early Head Start School Readiness

High Scope Assessment: COR Advantage Overall Bench marks 2022-2023

Center	Approaches To Learning			Social And Emotional Development			Physical Development and Health			Language, Literacy, And Communication			Mathematics		
	BELOW	MEETING	ABOVE	BELOW	MEETING	ABOVE	BELOW	MEETING	ABOVE	BELOW	MEETING	ABOVE	BELOW	MEETING	ABOVE
4th St.	10	19	6	14	19	2	17	18	0	9	20	6	13	16	6
5800	5	27	19	5	33	13	12	30	9	3	27	21	2	28	21
5800 Expansion	13	12	23	10	23	15	18	22	8	10	16	22	12	20	16
Total Students*	28	58	48	29	75	30	47	70	17	22	63	49	27	64	43

Total number of Early Head Start students in 4th street that were included in assessment were 35.
 Funded enrollment for school term 2022 was 40 students.

Total number of Early Head Start students in 5800th street that were included in assessment were 103.
 Funded enrollment for school term 2022 was 104 students.



ON THE COVER

Wiktoria Zajkowski, age 4, comes from a close family who emigrated from Poland twenty years ago. She attends Head Start in Kearny, following in the footsteps of older sister Weronika while Mom stays home to care for little sister Magdalena. Wiktoria attends classes at a Polish school, also, where she learns the language and cultural dancing. She's also fluent in English and at Head Start has learned to speak Spanish, as well.

Diego Carranza's mother came from Honduras in 2021. While three-year-old Diego attends Head Start in Kearny, his mom cleans houses to make a living for him and his brother. On weekends the little family loves to take short trips to have fun and learn more about their new country and its possibilities.

Meet our Administrative Team





NORTH HUDSON
COMMUNITY ACTION CORPORATION

NORTH HUDSON COMMUNITY ACTION CORPORATION
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