

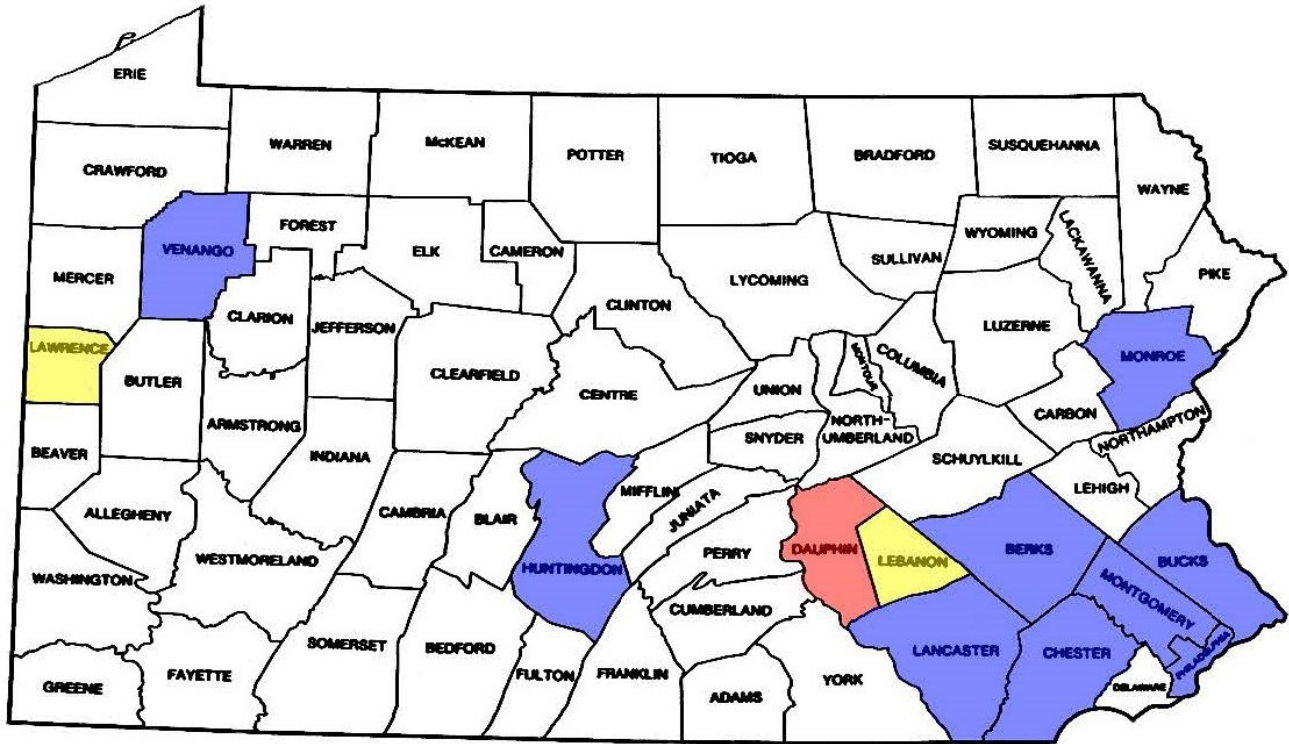
The Pennsylvania
Office of Child
Development and
Early Learning

Combined Program Report to the Public

Home-Based FY: 2020-2021

Early Head Start Child Care Partnership FY: 2020-2021

Early Head Start Child Care Partnership Service Areas



Grantee Headquarters



OCDEL Early Head Start- Child Care Partnership and OCDEL Early Head Start Home Visiting



OCDEL Early Head Start- Child Care Partnership

The Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) holds two Early Head Start grants. In the first, OCDEL partners with two community-based agencies to deliver services to children and families in 128 home-based (HB) slots. For the second, OCDEL partners with seven community-based agencies (Hubs) to deliver comprehensive services to 368 infants and toddlers and their families through the Early Head Start Child Care Partnership (EHSCCP) grant.

The Pennsylvania Key serves as a program managing partner to ensure compliance with the Head Start Performance Standards, including technical assistance and program monitoring.



EHS has been and is an integral part of my healing process and trauma recovery. This program has allowed me the space to do the difficult work in Intensive OutPatient Therapy. Knowing my son, Julius, is in a loving, capable, and transparent center with a teacher plugged into him has given me a sense of security and safety to truly be present in my therapy sessions. It is difficult to put into words the magnitude of the truly necessary support I have and am receiving from my EHS case manager. Together we have navigated difficult topics and situations in real time. EHS has enabled me to be the best parent I can be to my sons. It is through this program that I am able to do the work necessary to break the generational cycles of trauma so that my children and I can have safe, healthy, and happy lives and secure the futures of their children.

Jennifer O., Warwick parent

Public and Private Funds Received and the Amount from Each Source

| HB Grant Number of Partners | Allocated Slots | Program Type | HB Contracts FY 20 | HB Contracts FY 21 |
|--|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Children's Advocacy Center of Lawrence County | 52 | Head Start Grantee | \$583,132.78 | \$539,580.85 |
| Lancaster-Lebanon IU #13 | 76 | Head Start Grantee | \$844,567.00 | \$788,618.09 |
| Pennsylvania Key | 0 | Head Start Grantee | \$218,984.22 | \$218,984.06 |

| EHSCCP Grant Number of Partners | Allocated Slots/Number of Partners | Program Type | HUB Contracts FY 20-21 |
|--|--|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Berks County IU #14 Head Start | 16 total Touching the Future (16) Live-n-Learn Station (16) | Head Start Grantee | \$506,435.19 |
| Chester County IU #19 Head Start | 144 total The Care Center (16) Warwick: South Coventry (4) Warwick: North Coventry (8) Warwick: Cedarville (8) Warwick: Lionville (8) Warwick: Frazer (8) CCIU Infant Toddler (8) Crayon Kids (16) KenCrest (32) Wonderspring (16) Tri-County YWCA (20) | Head Start Grantee | \$2,440,817.30 |
| Child Development Centers | 40 total Cranberry (4) Franklin (20) Oil City (16) | Head Start Grantee | \$649,394.56 |
| Huntingdon County Child and Adult Development Centers Head Start | 16 total Mount Union High School (8) First Choice (8) | Head Start Grantee | \$255,539.97 |
| Lawrence County Community Action Program (Head Start) | 40 total Ben Franklin ELC (22) Elwood City (18) | Head Start Grantee | \$664,112.97 |
| Lancaster Lebanon IU #13 Head Start | 88 total CAP of Lancaster (24) CAP of Columbia (8) Lancaster YWCA (32) CAP Grace Place (16) Lebanon YMCA (8) | Head Start Grantee | \$1,478,773.14 |
| Pocono Services for Families and Children | 8 total The Mountain Center (8) | Head Start Grantee | \$133,758.52 |
| Pennsylvania Key | 0 | Head Start Grantee | \$819,734.35 |

Results of the Most Recent Review and the Financial Audit

| HB Program | Audit Submitted | Accepted | Findings | Concerns | Extension |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| LLIU | 10/20/2021 | Yes | No | No | No |
| CAC | 10/20/2021 | Yes | No | No | No |
| ESHCCP Program | Audit Submitted | Accepted | Findings | Concerns | Extension |
| BCIU | 10/20/2021 | Yes | No | No | No |
| CCIU | 10/20/2021 | Yes | No | No | No |
| CDC | 10/20/2021 | Yes | No | No | No |
| Huntingdon | 10/20/2021 | Yes | No | No | No |
| LCCAP | 10/20/2021 | Yes | No | No | No |
| LLIU | 10/20/2021 | Yes | No | No | No |
| PSFC | 10/21/2021 | Yes | No | No | No |
| BCIU | 10/20/2021 | Yes | No | No | No |
| Commonwealth of PA | 10/20/2021 | Yes | No | No | No |



I have found the Early Head Start- CCP Program Families & Staff ebb, flow, and adjust sails for the ever changing storm that has faced the nation over the last year. Center leadership and teachers have worked longer hours, been creative, and engaged families in ways they never have before. Families have had more patience and resiliency because of the support provided from the program.

While other resources have become over logged, the demand for support from EHS-CCP has never been higher.

Families know that they can trust the program, as it is made up of people who have always been reliable. While certain program aspects such as Home

Visits have gone down as family's comfortability with people in their home have waxed and waned, other aspects like one on one phone conversations to have someone to talk to have increased. It has never been clearer that EHS-CCP, and more specifically the people who make the program what it is play a vital role in the lives of our participants. And it's been an honor to work alongside them all.

*Kelsey Houdeshel, BSW, Early Head Start Family Service Worker
Chester County Intermediate Unit*



Total Number of Children and Families Served,
Average Monthly Enrollment (as a percentage of funded enrollment)
and Percentage of Eligible Children Served

| Program | Total number of children and families served | Ave monthly enrollment (Percent of funded enrollment) | Percent of eligible children served |
|---|---|--|--|
| Home-based | 188 as of August 31, 2021 | 96.88% | 100% |
| Early Head Start Child Care Partnership | 548 | 97.55% | 100% |

Percentage of Enrolled Children that Received Medical and Dental Exams

| Cumulative Enrollment | HB: 188 CCP: 548 |
|--|---------------------|
| 1. Number of children who have been determined by a health care professional to have received all immunizations possible at this time, but who have not received all immunizations appropriate for their age, at the end of enrollment | HB: 62 CCP: 173 |
| 2. Number of all children who are up to date according to the dental periodicity schedule in the relevant states EPSDT schedule | HB: 29 CCP: 123 |
| 3. Number of children who had health insurance at the end of the program year | HB: 188 CCP: 539 |
| 4. Number of children up to date on a schedule of preventative and primary health care according to EPSDT schedule | HB: 123 CCP: 298 |
| 5. Number of children with continuous, accessible dental care provided by an oral health care professional which includes access to preventive care and dental treatment | HB: 77 CCP: 348 |
| 6. Number of children with a medical home | HB: 188 CCP: 546 |



I have been a foster Mom and this program has helped and supported not only myself in this journey of fostering, but also helped [A'vione] receive all of the additional outside support(EI). He has grown so much with the help of his amazing teacher, Cheryl, and I am forever grateful for this program and the staff. A'vione has come such a long way since being in this program and I will always recommend this program to anyone looking for quality childcare.

Warwick parent

Parent Involvement Activities

During the COVID-19 pandemic, stressors such as social distancing, distance and isolation from extended family, re-organization of family life, virtual school for school age children, a shortage of necessities such food and other resources, fear of COVID-19 infections, and possibly loss of family members/friends impacted Early Head Start families. Families who were already geographically and socially isolated experienced higher levels of stress, depression and anxiety, as well as food insecurities.

Throughout the challenges of the past two years, there is a continued the strength of the Early Head Start programs. All programs have worked diligently to retain relationship with families, even during closures, to ensure families were supported with resources (food, diapers/wipes, formula etc.) to meet their basic needs, as well as provided emotion support.

- All partners/hubs, both home-based and centered based, provided meals and food to families throughout the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- All partners ensured families who needed diapers, wipes and formula were provided with these, either by delivering through a porch drop off, or parent pick up at the center.
- After mandatory state closures during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, all programs resumed services to families either virtually or in-person. Most of the EHS center-based programs provided in-person services to families who were prepared to return to work and ready to leave their child in care.
- Parents were provided the option to receive services either virtually or in-person, based on what best met their needs.
- Home-based services were provided virtually from March 2020 through December 2020.
- Family Service staff were able maintain contact with families through various platforms, at minimum through text, phone calls, emails, and/or email blasts with resources and information.
- Family Service staff offered biweekly, virtual parent cafes to include a variety of educational and resource information throughout the pandemic.

Working with EHS provides unique challenges and rewards. I enjoy working with the children and being able to involve myself in their upbringing. We work within a time frame of critical development, and I can recognize my role in ensuring that every child in my care has a place where they can explore their environment and grow at their own pace. I work with incredible teachers, social workers, food service staff, administrative officials, and parents who do all they can for each and every child. My only wish for this field would be that of the general public recognizing the work of every single staff member that aid these children being held in high esteem and being compensated fairly for their efforts.

Bonita Tyes, Early Head Start Teacher



School Readiness and Efforts to Prepare Children for Kindergarten

Since inception of the EHS HB grant, and with the addition of the EHSCCP grant, OCDEL has strived to ensure school readiness goals reflect the individual communities and the needs of families and children in that community.

In 2018, programs attended an Administrator's meeting that provided training from OCDEL's EHS Technical Assistance Grant and Program Specialist regarding the development of school readiness goals, as expected by the Office of Head Start and the Program Performance Standards (PPS). During this meeting, programs worked collaboratively with their child care partners and home-based staff to determine if they had, in fact, developed goals in accordance with the standards. The programs took these goals, or the process to develop new goals, back to their respective communities and revised or created goals reflective of the process as identified by the PPS.

In 2019, the Early Head Start Team and partners began the process of gathering data and reporting on growth for each of the programs and their individual goals. As with most processes, there were barriers identified and systems to refine, which are ongoing process.

OCDEL EHS partners are preparing infants and toddlers and their families in the following ways:

- OCDEL Early Head Start Home-based (EHS HB) and Early Head Start Child Care Partnerships (EHSCCP) are focused on ensuring that enrolled children have received developmental, medical, and sensory screenings to identify and, when appropriate, refer children demonstrating concerns.
- OCDEL EHS Partners utilize the Pennsylvania Early Learning Standards to help drive curriculum decisions. By supporting children's development with aligned Standards, PA EHS is establishing the foundation of future learning in Pennsylvania and assures learning opportunities across a continuum.
- OCDEL EHS works with parents to support them as the primary educator of their children and support their growth and understanding of child development and positive practices for social emotional development. Home visits, conferences, etc. identify families' goals for children.
- The OCDEL EHS HB and EHSCCP service area addresses counties in the commonwealth, identified as low reach for early care and educational services. By providing services in previously under-served areas, children and families are accessing new services.
- OCDEL EHS HB serves two counties and EHSCCP serves nine counties. All partners either have, or are working to, complete Letters of Agreement with the Head Start agencies in those counties to support families' transition to Head Start after their 3rd birthday. If a family is no longer eligible for Head Start, or wishes to enroll in child care or other early childhood education environment, partner agencies assist in exploring options in support of transition.
- OCDEL EHS-CCP center-based staff received training sponsored by OCDEL on the implementation and use of the Creative Curriculum, Trauma Informed Practice, Staff Wellness, Motivational Interviewing, Dual Language Learning, and other individualized trainings as identified by each hub or partner.
- OCDEL EHS HB staff received training on trauma informed practice, Staff Wellness, ACES, Community Assessment Mapping, Motivational Interviewing, and other individualized trainings as identified by each hub or partner.

OCDEL and the Pennsylvania Key anticipated fully implementing an assessment of School Readiness Goals for the duration of 2020 and ongoing. The outcomes process has been impacted significantly by the COVID-19 pandemic and the mandated closing of centers and delivery of both virtual and in-person services for over 12 months. In September 2021, the EHS team was able to collect and aggregate data with a newly revised system.

School Readiness and Child Outcomes

2019-2020 brought unique and unprecedented challenges to child care providers and Early Head Start programs across the country. The state's mandated closures interrupted the assessment process of EHS enrolled children, and ongoing closures due to outbreaks, continued to disrupt the education process.

Programs had the flexibility to provide virtual services to children and families as needed during closures. Providing virtual services enabled staff to maintain contact with families. Virtual meetings enabled teachers and home visitors to involve parents/families in the assessment process at a higher level than previously. The opportunity allowed families to learn more about their child's development and milestones by relying on them to share observations that contributed to determining developmental levels of children using the assessment tool. Greater family engagement in this process was a benefit for programs and for families.

Center-based staff had significant challenges when it came to completing assessments. In some cases, staff were unable to collect enough data to complete what they considered to be a reliable assessment of a child's development. Many staff were focused on ensuring that children had safe environments, regular routines throughout the day, and smooth transitions into the program at the beginning of the day, throughout the day, and at the end of the day as they prepared to return home. Curriculum planning was individualized whether children were receiving virtual or in-person services. During closures, programs used virtual learning platforms, video messages, zoom meetings and other technology to keep children and families engaged.

OCDEL's EHS team identified three categories of virtual service delivery, **good**, **better**, **best**. Child care partners and hubs used their discretion to determine what their programs had the capacity to do and reported this monthly to their specialist.

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| <i>Good</i> | Families are included in all regular communication from the hub and center, and a representative from the hub has a reciprocal communication with families regarding their basic needs (i.e., food, diapers, wipes, mental health issues, housing, etc.) a minimum of one time a week. |
| <i>Better</i> | All the above plus, one general education activity from the classroom teacher (i.e., a video of the reading of a book is shared with all families who aren't attending, the teacher creates a color scavenger hunt to do outside that is shared with all families who aren't attending) |
| <i>Best</i> | All the above plus, individual activities for each child are identified, shared with families, and discussed, based on the child's developmental level; FSW's or Family Engagement staff are continuing to work with families on family partnership goals on a regular basis (i.e., once every two weeks) |

As the OCDEL EHS programs navigate another year of uncertainty, the team is working with individual hubs and child care partners to ensure child assessment and outcomes has a precedence in their priorities. The team has worked to improve the process for collecting and aggregating data from programs, as well as the system for sharing this data with families, partners, and governance.

Coaching

OCDEL partners with seven different hubs to provide Early Head Start services throughout Pennsylvania. Four hubs have had internal coaches who were employed by the hub and performed coaching responsibilities for Early Head Staff, as well as other staff employed by the hub. Coaches involved with all OCDEL's hubs and partners have worked collaboratively since 2017 to understand the systems within programs in western Pennsylvania who have internal coaches and the programs in eastern Pennsylvania that receive coaching through consultants hired by the Pennsylvania Key.

In 2019-2020, OCDEL hired additional coaches to work with all hubs and child care partners. There are currently seven coaches employed by the Pennsylvania Key who provide coaching to all hubs, and two internal coaches at partner hubs. The home-based partners are supported by the same coach.

The Pennsylvania Key has begun developing a coaching platform for use by all coaches. This platform will house all resources used by coaches, trainings for staff, resources for new staff orientation, and a dashboard that will allow for coaches and administration to monitor engagement of staff and progress toward action plan goals. The Lead Coach and EHS team are developing this platform with assistance from Living Strong Consulting and anticipate it will be fully operational by January 2022.

Coaches have had numerous activities to engage in professional development alongside their coachees and as a team. Coaches have had opportunities to participate in trainings in multiple trainings related to curriculum and assessment, coaching to fidelity in curriculum implementation, Motivational Interviewing, Dual Language Learners and Practice Based Coaching.



COVID-19 Related Services

Both of OCDEL's EHS programs worked diligently to support children and families throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Child care partners were mandated to close for two weeks as of March 2020, but continued to support families through the provision of virtual services, meals on a weekly, sometimes daily basis, provision of mental health and health services, provision of formula and diapers, socially distanced visits to ensure children and families were fairing as well as could be expected and to ensure their basic needs were being attended to.

Individual accomplishments of programs include:

- Over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, and during the mandated closures, Program Touching the Future staff prepared and distributed meals for all families in their programs.
- Chester County Intermediate Unit distributed over 9,000 meals a week during months of the pandemic.
- Chester County Intermediate Unit EHS created a Parent Cafe' online to support families, and provide additional services.
- Chester County Intermediate Unit partnered with the National Guard and the Pennsylvania Department of Health to offer J&J COVID-19 vaccine to hundreds of community residents.

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As an Early Head Start teacher, and now director, I have been told many times about the impact I am making on these little lives. But, what no one tells you, is the impact that they are making on my life. Working for Early Head Start has shaped me into not only a better educator, but a better person. Working with infants and toddlers can be exhausting, messy, challenging, and thankless, but there is no greater joy than knowing that I am helping to lay a solid foundation for future generations. I am truly grateful for the opportunity to wake up every day and do what I love.

Laura Davis, Early Head Start Director

- Chester County Intermediate Unit Gordon Location held several vaccine clinics in partnership with the Pennsylvania Department of Health.
- Hub Pocono Services for Families and Children had weekly contact with families to determine if families were in need, and ensured delivery of meals, diapers, formula and more during closures. Through these gestures the program was able to maintain almost all their enrollment.
- Family Service Staff from hub Lancaster Lebanon Intermediate Unit maintained contact with families enrolled in local child care partners as part of their EHSCCP grant. They ensured families were provided with food and items they needed due to limited availability in the community and limited means of families.
- Home-based partners Lancaster Lebanon Intermediate Unit and Children's Advocacy Center conducted regular visits to families, especially those geographically isolated, to deliver food items, formula, diapers, wipes, and other necessities. These visits were an opportunity to have a visual check with their families and ensure that families were coping sufficiently.
- Hub Berks County Intermediate Unit trained staff so they could hold virtual individual and group meetings with families. They also connected families and child care partners to available resources that surfaced because of COVID-19. Teachers at each partner made materials that were sent home to families to complete virtual instruction, and kept families and children engaged.
- Hub Berks County Intermediate Unit also educated families about COVID-19 and COVID-19 protocols. Families were provided with social stories that supported the transition of children wearing masks when children transitioned back into the classroom. Children were provided with masks if they did not have them.



In 2019, OCDEL's EHS programs served over 800 children and their families, 173 who had been enrolled for three years of EHS services. Without the support of the federal funds, and the officials in the Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning, the work done by the EHS team would not be possible.

On behalf of the children and families served, the Early Head Start team shares their appreciation for the ongoing funding and support. Since March of 2019, and throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the EHS team has collaborated with hubs, child care partners and home-visitors who have worked tirelessly to ensure that the children and families in their communities were provided necessities, access to health care, housing, and mental health supports. The EHS team is grateful for the resilience and perseverance of all EHS staff and administrators who have dedicated themselves to this work.

For more information about Early Head Start Child Care Partnerships (EHSCCP) or Early Head Start Home-based (EHS HB) services in general, please contact: kelwil@pakeys.org

EHSCCP in Berks County: emikav@pakeys.org

EHSCCP in Philadelphia, Chester, Montgomery, and Bucks counties: erisho@pakeys.org

EHSCCP or EHS HB in Lancaster & Lebanon counties: erisho@pakeys.org

EHSCCP in Monroe, Huntingdon, Lawrence and Venango counties: caspat@pakeys.org

EHS HB in Lawrence county: emikav@pakeys.org



My daughter fit in today. She was happy.

New parent, Rokia T.

The Early Head Start Program has changed a lot for me. When I started, I only had one child, Melvin. Our home visitor is Brandie Cool. Before Early Head Start, my son struggled and I was afraid he was behind on his milestones. Meeting with Brandie weekly, he started speaking more, his fine motor skills have increased, and he's learning more and more each day.

Brandie help me set goals for him to accomplish weekly and with setting these goals, not only is it helping Melvin accomplish more and help build his confidence, but it's also helping me become a better mom.

When I announced my pregnancy to Brandie, she was there every step of the way for me and my unborn child. She provided resources, stress activities, and exercises for me to stay calm while pregnant.

She also helped me prepare to be a mom of 2. She introduced me to Ready Rosie that is an amazing app that has activities and more.

I had my doubts about the program. I had my moments where I was annoyed by it and I addressed my issues and concerns with Brandie and she did not give up. She was understanding, she listened to me, and by showing me she cared about what I had to say, she helped change my mind. I saw the bigger picture of the of the program and that was to help my children learn and do activities while dealing with this new life we have due to COVID-19. They didn't give up and stop the program. These Zoom classes are amazing!

We are comfortable and it's fun to have the kids comfortable in their home where they can be themselves.

Melvin and Grayson enjoy the weekly visits and love Brandie. I thank Early Head Start and Brandie for all the help, the resources, and all the activities. Brandie didn't only help set goals for the boys, but she helped me set goals to better myself and now I'm in GED/HiSET classes to get my diploma to get a better job to provide for my family. Brandie, I'm happy you didn't give up on us even when I gave up on myself. You showed me how to make bigger sacrifices and now everything is going so well. I'm ready for more fun and better days in the future!

Thank you,

Sharaybia, Melvin and Grayson

