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## Head Start Policy Council

Milissa Aponte	Cassie Leslie
Pedro Aponte	Meggan McDonald
Alyssa Bunker-Rivera	Heidi Olivo
Delilah Charest	Rakisha Perez
Cheryl Collazo	Ann Robbins
Kiahna Carrasco	Nicole Swift
Charles Kombo	

## Worcester Community Action Council, Inc.

Head Start  
25 Cole Avenue  
Southbridge, MA 01550  
Co-Directors: Kathleen Dow & Evelyn Velez  
508 765-4738  
Jill Dagilis, Executive Director  
508 754-1176



[www.WCAC.net](http://www.WCAC.net)

# Worcester Community Action Council, Inc.



WCAC's Head Start  
Celebrates 25 years



## Head Start & Early Head Start FY17 Annual Report

Worcester Community Action Council's (WCAC) Head Start and Early Head Start programs provide early learning services to children and support services to families in Southern Worcester



County. Head Start classrooms, serving 203 children, are presently located in one location—at the former high school at 25 Cole Avenue in Southbridge (serving children from Leicester, Millbury, Oxford, Webster and Southbridge). Early Head Start serves 60 children in a home based model.

The mission of Head Start is to prepare low income children and their families so they may succeed in life. Head Start is a comprehensive program that provides children with learning experiences focusing on language and literacy, social and emotional needs, cognition and general knowledge, physical development and health, and approaches to learning which is the framework that ultimately prepares the child to achieve success in school. Head Start/Early Head Start is focused on preparing children for school readiness. The goal for families is to engage the family in a way that they develop achievable personal goals while developing strong relationships with their children that lead to positive learning environments.

WCAC's Head Start programs successfully collaborate with many community organizations and school districts to meet the needs of the children and families it serves. School readiness goals encompass the educational goals of local school systems, mental health services are provided to children who have behavioral concerns, early intervention services are provided to children who need extra assistance to ensure their development is on track for their age, and on-site dental services are provided to all children.

## Financials

### SOURCES OF FUNDS

Federal Funding Direct	2,496,567
InKind contributions	405,438
InKind Non GAAP	70,660
USDA Meals	153,612
EEC Salary Grant	100,337
QRIS	20,000
UPK Southbridge (MA DOE)	90,000
Southbridge Cultural Council	1,000
Foundation Trusts	25,000
<b>Total Operating Revenues</b>	<b>3,362,614</b>



## Financials



### In-Kind Good & Services

Kennedy Donovan Center  
YOU Inc.

Apple Tree Arts

Southbridge Public Schools

Home Depot

Insulation Retro-Fit Systems

MAPFRE

St. Joseph's Parish of Auburn

Town of Southbridge

United Way of Southbridge, Sturbridge, Charlton

WGBH Educational Foundation

Worcester Business

Development Corporation

The Agency's complete audit is available upon request.  
For more information please contact 508.754.1176

## Celebrating 25 Years

### Quarter Century of Serving Children

2017 marked the 25th anniversary for WCAC's Head Start program. Throughout the year the agency hosted a variety of special activities to celebrate the momentous occasion.



In May, the Head Start team was awarded one of the agency's coveted Action Hero Awards at the annual Action Hero Celebration. We were thrilled to welcome Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito as our keynote speaker as our

Co-Directors Evelyn Velez and Kathleen Dow were presented an Action Hero caricature noting their combined 46 years of service.

Throughout the year WCAC welcomes several special cultural performances as part of the 25th anniversary celebration. With the support of the Southbridge Cultural Council, we welcomed the Tanglewood Marionettes, the Pumpernickel Puppets and the Southeast Asian Coalition's Dragon Dance troupe. Children and their families enjoyed the diverse performances and the opportunity to get up close to the various puppets and performers.



Cheers to the next 25 years!

## On the Move



### Big News for Webster Project

On Thursday, August 31, 2017, WCAC was joined by local, state and federal officials for the announcement of resources totaling \$1.1 million dollars to support the agency's renovation of the former Webster Senior Center to relocate four Head Start classrooms.

Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito announced that WCAC has been awarded \$600,000 from the Baker-Polito Administration's 2017 Early Education and Care Out-of-School Time (EEOST) Capital Fund. WCAC was one of five agencies across the state that was selected to receive funding. Congressman James McGovern shared that \$500,000 in one-time capital funds have been committed to the project through the federal Administration for Children and Families (ACF).

In addition to the public funds secured, WCAC is working with MassDevelopment and undertaking a private fundraising campaign to raise the balance needed to support the estimated \$1.7 million dollar project. To date the private fundraising campaign has secured: \$200,000 - Donna & Randy Becker; \$25,000 - Webster Five Foundation; and \$12,500 - Janet Malser Humanities Trust.



We are so very grateful to all of our elected officials, our public, private and community partners who are helping us bring this project to fruition!



Early Head Start Home Visitors conducted 2,055 home visits.



HEALTH SERVICES	# at start of school year	% at start of school year	# at end of school year	% at end of school year
With health insurance	87	100%	87	100%
With a medical home	87	100%	87	100%
With a dental home	72	87.5%	87	100%



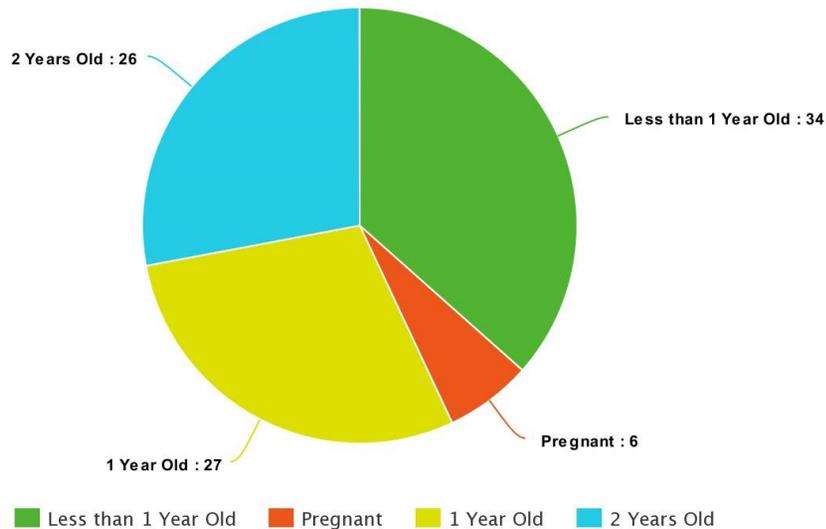
## Early Head Start Profile & Outcomes



WCAC's Early Head Start program provides home visiting services for infants and toddlers, serving as a strong feeder program for Head Start with many families remaining enrolled from a child's birth to age 5.

The focus of the Early Head Start program is to involve the parent or the primary care giver in the education of their child. Early Intervention services are provided when needed.

EHS Enrollment By Age



meta-chart.com

## Parent Participation

Parental involvement in young children's educational growth is critically important. The Head Start model encourages active parent participation in children's learning experiences.



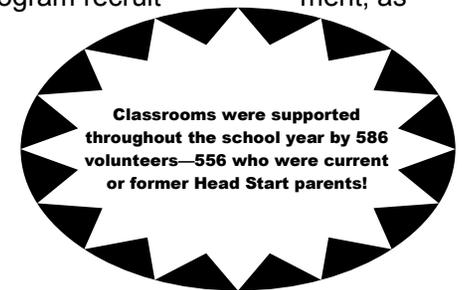
When parents and teachers work well together, everyone benefits. Parents and teachers can provide each other with unique insight and different perspectives about the same child, culminating in a more complete understanding of that child, their abilities, strengths, and challenges. The teacher will know much more about the curriculum and the school culture, while parents know more about a child's personality, tendencies, and family life.

A successful parent-teacher partnership also shows a child that an entire team of adults is on their side.

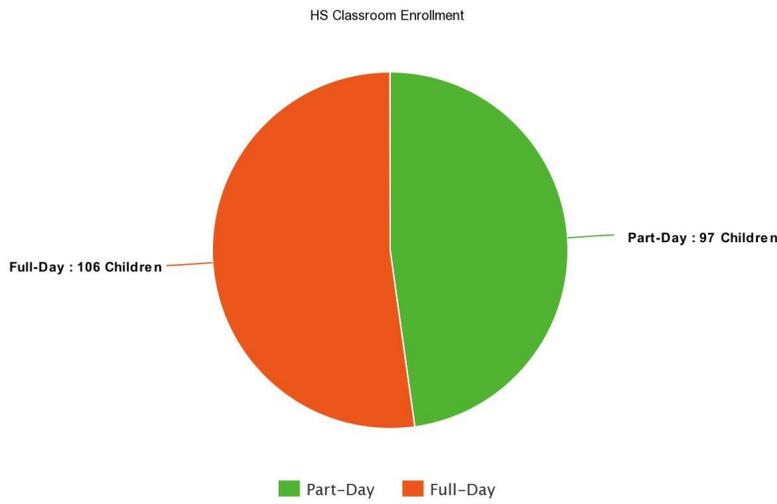
### Policy Council

Head Start Policy Council is a group of parents elected to their post to assist with the governing of the Head Start program. Together the group works to create activities for parent involvement and engagements, program recruitment, as well as budget planning.

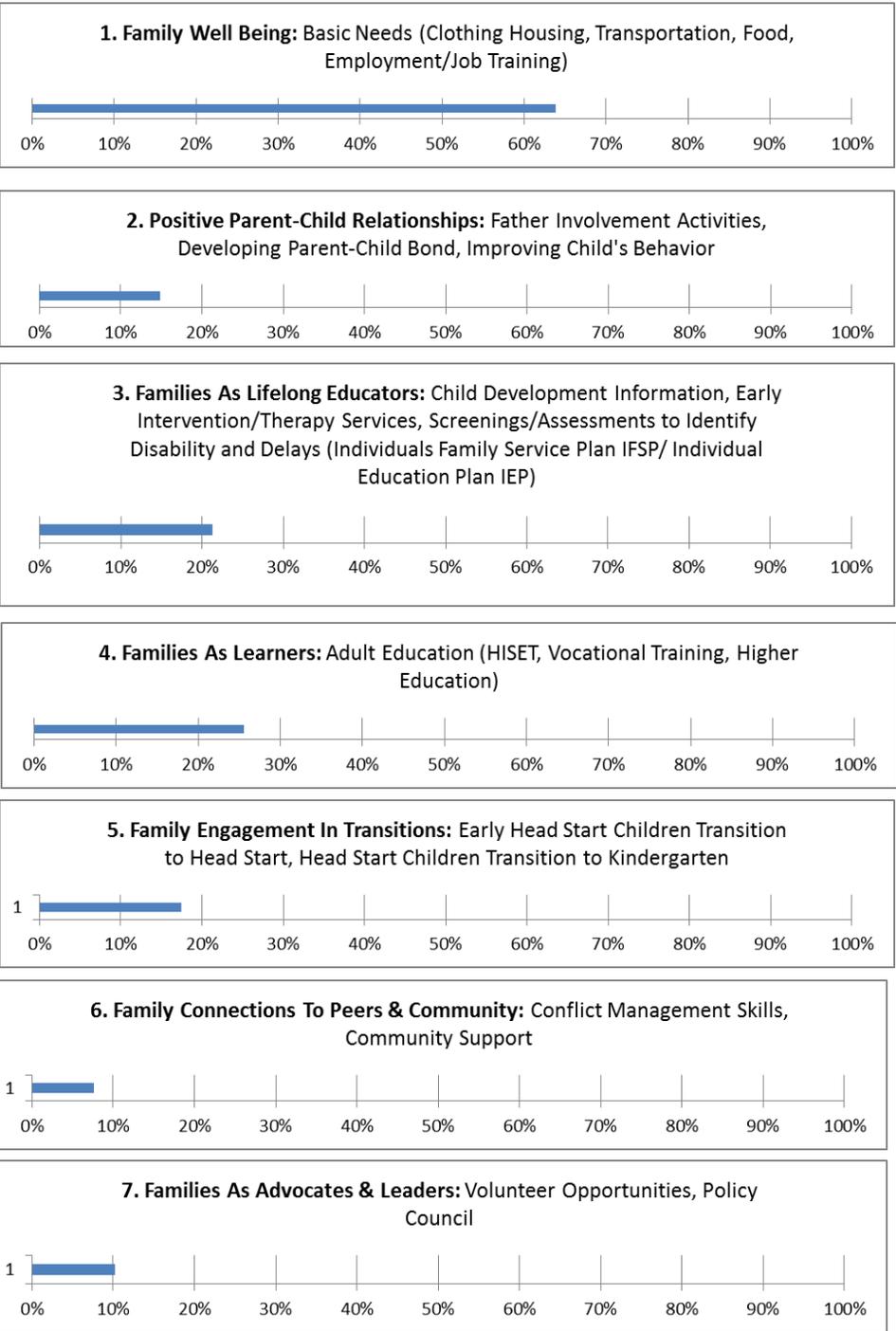
Parents participated in programs such as:  
 Cooking Matters  
 ESL  
 HiSET  
 Parenting Education  
 Multicultural Week  
 Read for the Record  
 Community Reading Day



WCAC Head Start served 235 preschoolers from 219 families during the 2016-17 school year; 106 enrolled in full-day, 97 in a part-day program, which allowed 139 parents to hold employment and another 89 to be able to pursue school or job training.



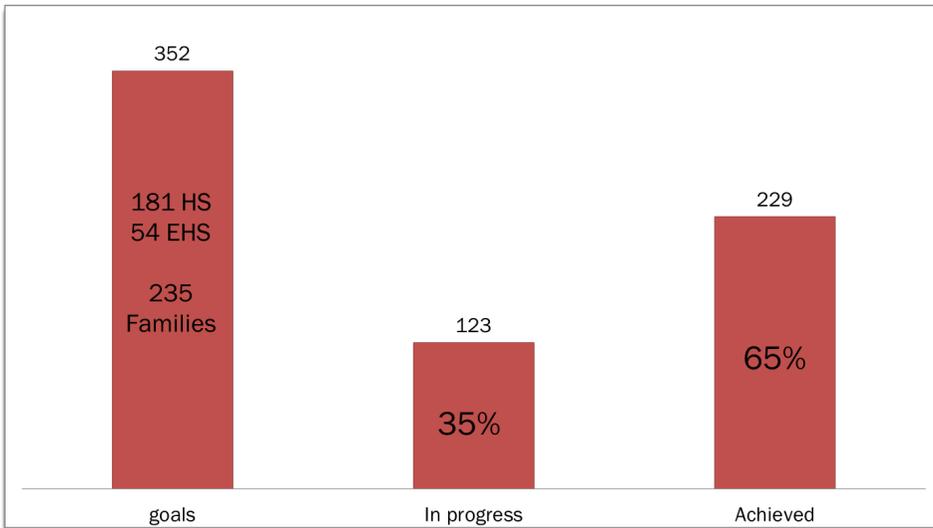
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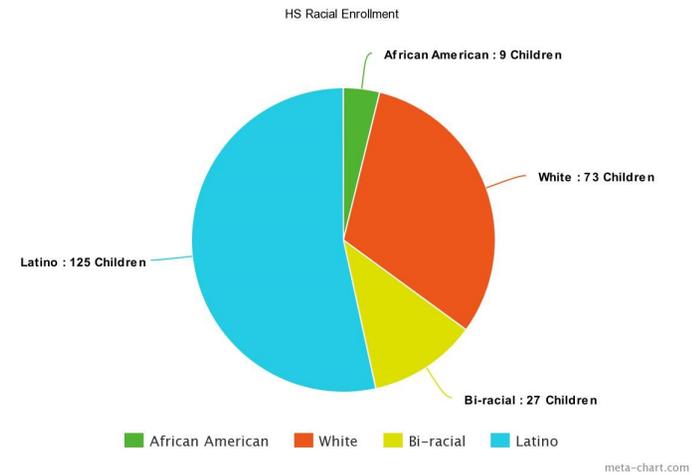
*Family Outcomes*

WCAC Head Start & Early Head Start Family Partnership Agreement (FPA) was created as a family assessment and family goal tracking tool. We have aligned the timeline to mirror child assessments 3 times a year in hopes of connecting family outcomes with child TS Gold outcomes. The FPA measures how many goals and when they are initiated, in progress, complete or not meet 3 times a year. An excel data collection tool was create to aggregate all this information.

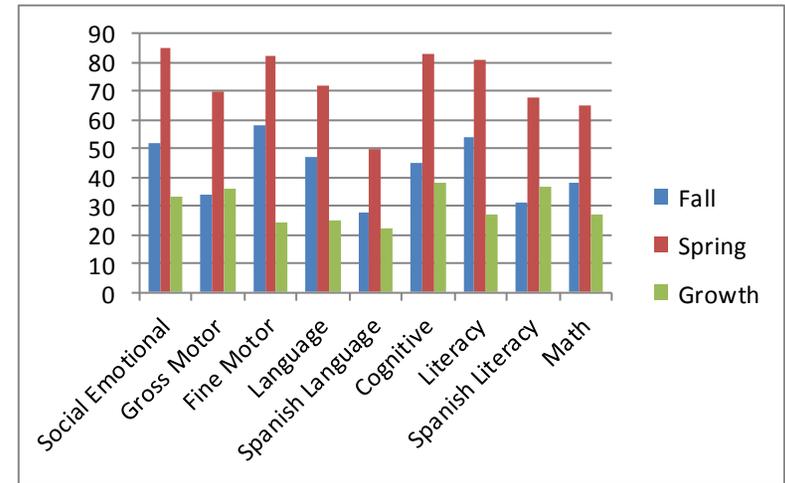
WCAC is proud of our highly credentialed Head Start teaching staff: 3 hold Master's degrees; 13 hold Bachelor's degrees and 8 hold Associate's degrees



Head Start & Early Head Start Family Outcomes 2016-17



Ninety-eight preschoolers 'graduated' from the agency's Head Start program, and enrolled in Kindergarten better prepared, ready and eager to learn due to the 'head start' afforded them.



HEALTH SERVICES	# at start of school year	% at start of school year	# at end of school year	% at end of school year
With health insurance	235	100%	235	100%
With a medical home	224	73.7%	229	100%
With a dental home	211	73.7%	235	100%

