Head Start

2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT
ACAP works in partnership with families and communities to empower people to achieve economic self-sufficiency and an improved quality of life

**Vision**

- A trusted and reliable leader in community relationships.
- A leader in business operations, demonstrating continual improvement in the skills, systems and teamwork that create excellence.
- A good neighbor, investing human and financial resources in the communities around us.
- A leading advocate, naming and breaking down societal barriers to economic self-sufficiency.
- An innovator and collaborator, allied with other organizations that seek creative, intentional solutions to longtime challenges and changing community needs.

**Values**

**Community**

Our community includes a diverse array of people and institutions. We respect this diversity, each person’s life circumstances, and the privacy of every individual we serve. We recognize that we are stronger by working together and by accepting our differences as well as our commonalities.

**Action**

We will be pro-active in meeting customer needs, addressing community issues, and striving for excellence in all that we do. We believe that people should be empowered to self-advocate, assume responsibility, become self-sufficient, and use their inherent strengths to thrive and succeed.

**Partnership**

We see partnership as the catalyst for achieving our goals.

We work collaboratively with the families we serve as well as with stakeholders who share our values.

ACAP is one of New York State’s 51 Community Action Agencies (CAAs) and one of 1,100 CAAs nationwide. CAAs are independent nonprofit organizations designated by the federal government.
Albany Community Action Partnership (ACAP) operates a comprehensive Head Start program that provides education, special needs, health, nutrition, dental, mental health, parent involvement, and family development services at multiple locations throughout Albany County.

### Program Overview

1. **224** four year old’s from our Head Start programs are transitioning to Kindergarten this Fall.

2. **90%** of children graduating are meeting or exceeding benchmarks for Social/Emotional readiness. **92%** of children transitioning to Kindergarten meet or exceed readiness for literacy and language.

3. Focus Area One Monitoring event - Results of most recent review by Secretary - on 03/04/2019 ACAP was notified that standards were met for various goals. See more: https://bit.ly/2KKyuFg

4. **This year we had 385** parent volunteers in the classroom.

5. **96%** - The percentage of children with access to health insurance

### Impact Numbers

- **512** - Total number of children served by our Head Start programs

- **487** - # of families served

- **306** - # of Single parent female households (63%)

- **95%** - Average monthly enrollment (as percentage of funded enrollment) and **91%** of children enrolled were income eligible for Head Start (19% of children served were under 130% of the Federal Poverty Guideline).

- **84%** - parent participation

- **169** fathers participated in various activities throughout the year.

- **483** - number of children who have a medical home - this is **84%** of all children served.

- **367** - Number of children served who received dental services - this is **71%** of all children served.

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**SEAL - A - SMILE**

With our partner Seal-A-Smile, we have provided 360 dental services for our Head Start children. Dental health in young children is critical for their overall health, as tooth decay is the most common childhood disease, but tooth decay is preventable! Children with dental pain can have trouble speaking clearly, eating, and learning. Thank you to Seal-a-Smile for providing dental screenings to our Head Start children!
Funding and Expenditures Information

ACAP’s financial statements are prepared according to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, with an independent audit completed annually. As required, ACAP’s most recent audit, for the fiscal year that ended XYZ included review for compliance with the United States’ Office of Management and Budget’s Circular A-133 requirements for Audits of States, Local Governments and Non-Profit Organizations. No Findings, Material Weaknesses or Significant Deficiencies were found.

FUNDING AND EXPENDITURES

Comparison of Budgeted vs Actual Expenses

Head Start Funding Sources

Federal (68.65%)  In Kind (10.06%)
School Districts (21.29%)
EARLY HEAD START

Head Start & Early Head Start serves children based on federal income poverty guidelines. Children can also be eligible if they receive public assistance, are homeless, or because they are in foster care.

Percent of eligible children served - 85% (55 out of 64)

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**Impact Numbers**

- **64** - Total number of children served by our Early Head Start programs
- **58** - Number of families served in Early Head Start
- **55** children have received age appropriate immunizations, 85% of children enrolled
- **85%** of children have a medical home
- **55** - Number of children with medical insurance, 85% of children enrolled

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**FAMILIES**

- **72%** - average monthly parent participation for this school year
- **32** - Number of parent volunteers in the classroom.
- **55%** - fathers who participated in activities (35 out of 64)
- **81%** - Single female head of household
Preparing for Kindergarten

Kindergarten readiness represents the development of the skills necessary to be academically, socially, and emotionally ready for a formal academic setting. Why is this crucial?

Research demonstrates that starting early and providing children with skills across the domains described in kindergarten readiness definitions (e.g., academic, emotional, and social) can make a critical difference in the student’s long-term success.


We have 224 children transitioning to Kindergarten at the end of the 2018-19 academic year.

Approaches to Learning
- Follows Expectations
- Follows Directions
- Attends and Engages
- Persists

Social-Emotional Development
- Manages Feelings
- Takes care of own needs
- Establishes positive relationships with adults
- Establishes positive relationships with peers
- Participates cooperatively and constructively in activities

Language and Literacy Development
- Uses an expanding and expressive vocabulary
- Engages in conversations
- Applies phonics concepts and knowledge of words
- Identifies and names letters
- Identifies letter sounds
- Uses emergent reading skills
- Writes names

Cognitive Development
- Balances needs and rights of self and others
- Solves Problems
- Recognizes and recalls
- Counts
- Connects numbers with quantities
- Understands shapes
- Demonstrates knowledge of patterns

Physical Development
- Demonstrates Gross Motor skills
- Demonstrates Fine Motor skills

Health and Nutrition
- Medical Home (measured by identification of name and address of a medical practice and a minimum of a physical examination with the identification information of that practice)
  - Children enrolled in the Head Start program will have ready access to developmentally appropriate medical and health care as reflected by verification of a "medical home."

- Dental Examination and/or screening (measured by signed form from a dental care provider/practice reflecting dental care provided to the Head Start child)
  - Children enrolled in the Head Start program will receive developmentally appropriate dental care as reflected by a dental form from a dental practice, reflecting dental care provided to the child (screening and/or examination).

- Medical/Health Insurance (measured by verification of insurance coverage as reflected by a current and valid insurance card, which reflects coverage for the Head Start child)
  - Children enrolled in the Head Start program will have the financial means to access required and developmentally appropriate medical and health care as reflected by current and valid health and medical insurance coverage.

- Parent Engagement and Advocacy (measured by tracking participation in various program activities such as teacher conferences, classroom volunteers, home visit participation, classroom events; parent committee, policy council)
  - 60% of children enrolled in program shall have a parent/family member participate on average, 2 times per month.

Attendance - Average attendance of 85% or better (measured by YTD program wide, average attendance)
Kindergarten Readiness

ACAP Head Start utilizes Creative Curriculum System for Preschool which offers comprehensive support in four essential areas: curriculum, assessment, professional development, and family connection. ACAP utilizes the Teaching Strategies GOLD Early Childhood Assessment Tool to tie curriculum to goals and outcomes for children.

GOLD Scores - 3 year olds

3 year olds - Cognitive Development

3 year olds - Language and Literacy Development

3 year olds - Physical Development

3 year olds - Social and Emotional Development
Kindergarten Readiness

GOLD Scores - 4 year olds

4 year olds - Cognitive Development

4 year olds - Language and Literacy Development

4 year olds - Social and Emotional Development

4 year olds - Physical Development
Workshops -
We offer a wide array of workshops and work with various organizations to put on programs that are helpful and relevant to parents’ lives.

Among the topics this past year:
- Nutrition and Physical Activity with the Dept. of Health
- Literacy Workshop with Albany Public Library
- A multi-week course with Cornell Cooperative Extension on the magic years
- Home Ownership with Albany Housing
- Smart Snacking with Capital District Child Care Coordinating Council
- Traffic and Pedestrian Safety with AAA

Men’s Nights -
Men (typically fathers or father figures in the children’s lives) are often involved in various events at our ECE centers. In Spring, the men worked with the children to create planters and planted grass seed, and then participated in a scavenger hunt in the neighborhood.

Father engagement is a vital part of our educational and community work. Our Head Start and Early Start staff engage fathers as advocates for their children and as the first teachers of their children.

Male family members and father figures serve key roles in the healthy development of their children and families and contribute so much to our Head Start communities.

Policy Council -
Our Policy Council is comprised of Head Start and Early Head Start parents, as well as community members, who are elected from each of our locations throughout the county.

Their role is to provide leadership and direction to our program, by ensuring the delivery of quality services and education to our children and families.

Since Head Start began in 1965, parent involvement has always been an integral part of the mission. We believe parents must be involved in decisions about how the program is operated in order for Head Start to be successful. Parents are the best advocates for their children, and the voice for other parents.

Parental involvement leads to success for children, brings about real change in the lives of parents, and also results in long-term community change as a whole.

Officers this past year:
Chair: Earl Alford
Vice Chair: Ashley Strong
Secretary: Alenia Richardson
Treasurer: Chantelle Johnson
Literacy Matters

Charles Touhey and the Touhey Family Foundation is one of the region’s leaders in industry, government and philanthropy. Mr. Touhey has a passion for incorporating cultural diversity and cultural sensitivity in the education of preschool and elementary school teachers and teacher assistants, including Head Start personnel. In addition, Mr. Touhey and the Touhey Foundation have focused on expanding culturally diverse literacy for low income children and their families.

Through a partnership with the Charles Touhey Foundation, ACAP’s literacy program has emphasized family literacy with families of low income in the city of Albany, as well as providing instruction in diversity issues to professionals in the Early Childhood field. Children receive a book each month; using them in their classrooms, with their teachers and family members, enhancing literacy skills and teaching parents new ways to incorporate literacy activities with their families. Ultimately, the children bring home a book each month to place in their personal libraries.

Monthly, teachers included the selected book in their lesson planning. For example, one book read in class was titled, "I Love My Hair". Staff converted the dramatic play area of the classroom into a hair salon, and the class talked about how one child’s hair differs from another’s. Staff also welcomed families into the center once a month for a book-focused literacy event. For example, for the book "Everyone Eats Rice," teachers shared with parents how to make rain sticks (shaker rhythm instruments) with rice and talked about recipes from different cultures using rice.

The project resulted in 93 percent of the program’s children going to kindergarten either achieving or exceeding expectations for academic readiness per the Teaching Strategies GOLD assessment results, which surpassed the program’s goal of 90 percent.

In addition, the Director stated parents shared how the program enhanced their own reading skills and given them more confidence to read to their children. Since 2006, the partnership has impacted over 4,200 Head Start children and their families by providing over 28,000 culturally diverse and developmentally appropriate books to support language and literacy.
Program Sites -
The Heroes We Honor
Three of our sites are named in honor of heroes who made a significant difference in the community.

Ann Klose Head Start -
AK 1st
Ann Klose was ACAP’s first Executive Director and someone we want to honor for her role in guiding ACAP’s growth and mission. It is only fitting that the first Head Start we created be named after the first Director who promoted Head Start in our community.

The Ann Klose Head Start in Albany, New York ACAP Head Start in Albany County was first established as a pilot project in 1965.

Nathan Lebrón
Early Learning Center
Mr. Lebrón was a Board President of ACAP who dedicated his life to helping young students. He championed building the Early Learning Center on Ontario Street in Albany and was instrumental in building the ELC that now bears his name.
The Nathan Lebrón Early Learning Center carries on Mr. Lebron’s mission of ending poverty through education, and is a fitting memorial that helps fulfill that mission.

Nathan Lebrón was born into poverty in NYC and after surviving cancer as a teenager realized his dream of a college education when he attended the University at Albany. He believed college is the key to ending poverty and achieving the American Dream.
He urged students to attend and graduate college.

Prior to his death in 2016, Nathan achieved many dreams, from having a successful career and earning numerous degrees, including master’s degree of liberal arts in information technology from Harvard University.
Nathan was a beloved husband and member of a wonderful family.

Nathan served as chairman of the Board for the Hispanic Coalition of New York and as a member of the Board of Directors for the Albany Community Action Partnership and then Director for many years.

Olivia Rorie Head Start
Olivia Rorie was a community figure and activist. The Olivia Rorie site is named after her because she worked tirelessly as a leading welfare rights activist and a community leader who fought to make sure the poorest in the South End were not left behind.
The Olivia Rorie Head Start carries on that mission in the South End.

She helped transform Albany’s poorest areas though the Better Homes Community Organization. The group was dedicated to delivering quality housing and better living conditions throughout the community, confronting slum landlords whenever necessary. They also worked successfully with then Mayor Erastus Corning to get the City to provide trash removal for the residents. Prior to this, each resident had to secure private removal service, a policy was a burden to many low-income families and led to many backyards and vacant lots being overrun with trash.
Thank you!

We appreciate you taking the time to read our Annual Report and we look forward to continued successes in the coming year.

Please let us know if there is any additional information you would like to read about in the future. A special thanks to our educators, staff, and everyone who makes the work we do possible.

This is dedicated to the parents, families, volunteers and children who have inspired us this year. Thank you for your participation!

Volunteer readers, Workshops and Toy for Tots

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