

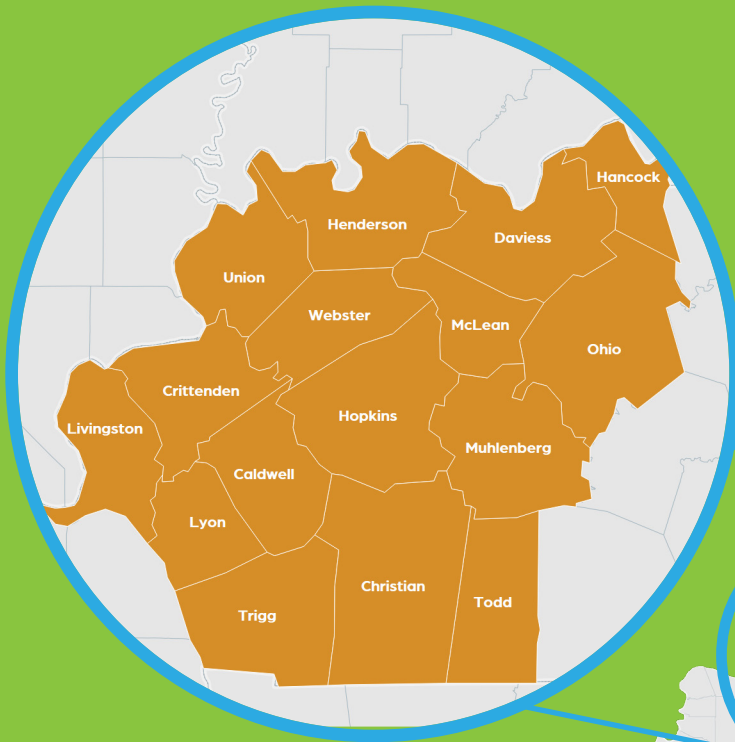


2020-2021
Annual Report

Who We Are

The Audubon Area Head Start program consists of Head Start, Early Head Start, Child Care Partnerships (EHS-CCP), and Western Kentucky University Delegate (WKU). Program options include center-based classrooms, home-based visitation, a combination model,

and child care partners. We promote school readiness for at-risk children from birth to age five by providing comprehensive child and family centered services that foster healthy development of children throughout 16 counties in western Kentucky.



64 Sites

140 Classes

435 Employees



Program Goals

Health

To ensure all families have access to a support system designed to assist children and engage families in comprehensive services including health, nutrition, mental health, and disabilities.

Child Development

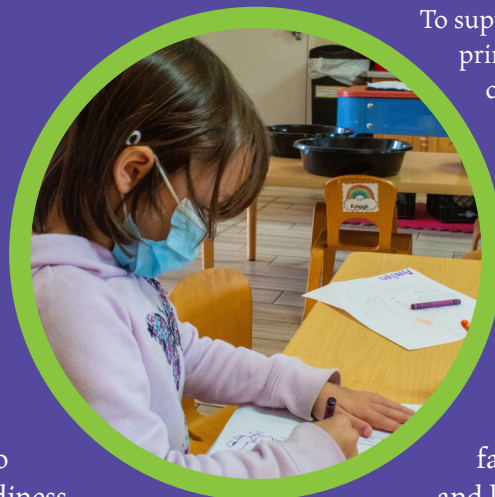
To provide children and their families comprehensive services that foster children's development and competence in all learning areas to support the foundation for school readiness during the early years.

Parent Engagement

To support parents/guardians in their role as primary caregivers and educators of their children, in meeting family goals, and provide support so parents may achieve self reliance and self sufficiency.

Program Design and Management

To ensure comprehensive services are provided to Head Start children and families by maintaining all federal, state, and local regulations and ensuring a system that guarantees proper planning and efficient program operation.



1,957 Children Served

Head Start- 1,415
EHS- 412

EHS-CCP- 110
WKU- 20

Percentage of Children with Disabilities Served

19%
HS

8%
EHS

9%
WKU

10%
CCP

1,733 Families Served

Head Start- 1,276
EHS- 345

EHS-CCP- 92
WKU- 20



Number of Funded Slots

2,036

Audubon Area Head Start uses selection criteria updated annually to identify and enroll children from the most at-risk backgrounds.

In 2020-2021, highest priority was given to children in foster care, families receiving public assistance, and those experiencing homelessness. Other targeted populations included children with disabilities and pregnant women.



Pregnant Women Served

25

Percentage of Eligible Children Served in the AAHS Service Area



119 Children Served Experiencing Homelessness



222 Children Served in Foster Care

2020-2021

Average Monthly Enrollment



Parent, Family, and Community Goals

Family Well-Being

To ensure parents and families are safe, healthy and have increased financial security.

Positive Parent-Child Relationship

To ensure parents and families will develop warm relationships that nurture their child's learning and development.

Families as Lifelong Educators

To ensure parents and families observe, guide, promote, and participate in the everyday learning of their children at home, school, and in their communities.

Families as Learners

To ensure parents and families advance their own learning interests through education, training, and other experiences that support their parenting, careers, and life goals.

Family Engagement in Transitions

To ensure parents and families support and advocate for their child's learning and development as they transition to new learning environments, including entry into EHS, EHS to HS, EHS/HS to other early learning environments, and HS to kindergarten through elementary school.



Family Connections to Peers and Community

To ensure parents and families form connections with peers and mentors in formal or informal social networks that are supportive and/or educational and that enhance social well-being and community life.



Families as Advocates and Leaders

To ensure parents and families participate in leadership development, decision-making, program policy development, or in community and state organizing activities to improve children's development and learning experiences.

97% of Families received at least 1 program service to promote family outcomes

- Emergency/crisis intervention
- Housing assistance
- Asset building services
- Mental health services
- Substance misuse prevention
- English as a Second Language (ESL) training
- Assistance with enrolling into an education or job training program
- Research-based parenting curriculum
- Involvement in discussing their child's screening and assessment results and their child's progress
- Supporting transitions between programs
- Education on preventive medical or oral health
- Education on health and development consequences of tobacco product use
- Education on nutrition
- Education on postpartum care
- Education on relationship/marriage
- Assistance to families of incarcerated individuals

AAHS Makes a Difference

Kolton's family is just one of our many success stories that have come from the resources and assistance that Crittenden County Early Head Start full day/full year program provides. Kolton began our program at around 6 weeks of age. Through developmental screeners, we were able to recognize that Kolton's speech was not progressing at his developmental age. He was able to receive speech therapy during school hours to assist his Nana, Suzzanne, with ensuring his speech foundation was growing even though she was at work. When COVID hit, Kolton received virtual services with an SLP (speech-language pathologist) his teacher was able to provide one-on-one interventions aligned with instructions from his SLP. Kolton began his disability intervention journey with our teachers in June 2020 and was not speaking any words or interacting with his peers. As of today, Kolton is joining in on games, singing songs, following instructions, speaking words, phrases and sentences. Kolton can count to 10 and identify his colors. We are so proud of the progress that Kolton is making through developmentally appropriate, individualized activities, and speech services!



AAHS Responds to COVID-19

The 2020-2021 program year was full of hope for a return to normal from COVID-19. While we had moments of normal, like getting out of masks and reduced COVID numbers, our nation continued to have peaks of COVID cases and returns to mask mandates. Our program has taken pride in the fact that we have been open throughout the entire COVID process in some form and open to in person services as soon as allowable by the Governor. In 2020-2021 we saw mandated school closures in late 2020, and we experienced impacts of classroom closures due to COVID exposure as well as staff shortages in the spring of 2021.

Audubon Area Head Start staff worked long and tiring hours to provide services for the children of Western Kentucky. Often understaffed and having workloads larger than normal, the staff worked through ever changing rules and regulations to provide high quality education to the students in their care. Advocates worked with families to provide resources and information to assist in getting through the COVID pandemic. Education about the benefits of the COVID vaccine were provided to staff and families throughout the year in addition to updated vaccine clinic information. Managers and support staff worked behind the scenes to adjust staff schedules, recruit potential candidates, and hire new staff to ensure uninterrupted service delivery for children and families.

In difficult times, the staff of Audubon Area Head Start continued to provide and often increased the services to families. Along with education services, Audubon staff provided health services, family services, and increase mental health services to the children and families served. These services are central to Head Start and became even more important throughout the course of the pandemic.

The challenges of working through the COVID pandemic have been substantial. Audubon Area Head Start would like to thank every staff member, school partner, childcare partner, and the families associated with Head Start! Working together as a community and pulling together resources allowed Head Start to achieve success in the midst of a most challenging environment!

School Readiness Goals

Physical Development

Children will use their large and small muscles. They will also use healthy and safe habits.

Language Development

Children will be able to understand and use expanded language to express their wants and needs to engage in conversations and follow directions.

Social and Emotional Development

Children will learn how to recognize and regulate their feelings. They will also develop positive relationships with adults and peers.

Literacy

Children will have knowledge of print and know that print is meaningful.

Approaches to Learning

Children will demonstrate flexibility, inventiveness, curiosity, motivation, persistence, and engagement in learning.

Cognition and General Knowledge

Children will use math in everyday routines to count, compare, pattern, and problem solve.

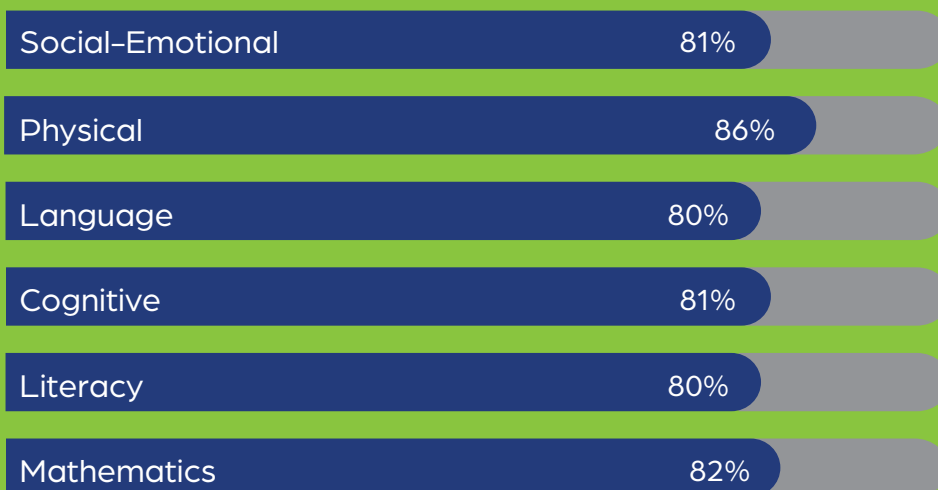
Preparing Children for Success

Curriculum

At Audubon Area Head Start, The Creative Curriculum for Infants, Toddlers, and Twos is used in Early Head Start. The Creative Curriculum for Preschool is used in our preschool classrooms. These curricula are research-based which allows and encourages teachers to involve children in their own learning by choosing activities and topics that are meaningful to the children. This approach ensures that children make gains in all developmental domains outlined in the Kentucky Department of Education’s Early Childhood Learning Standards and the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework.

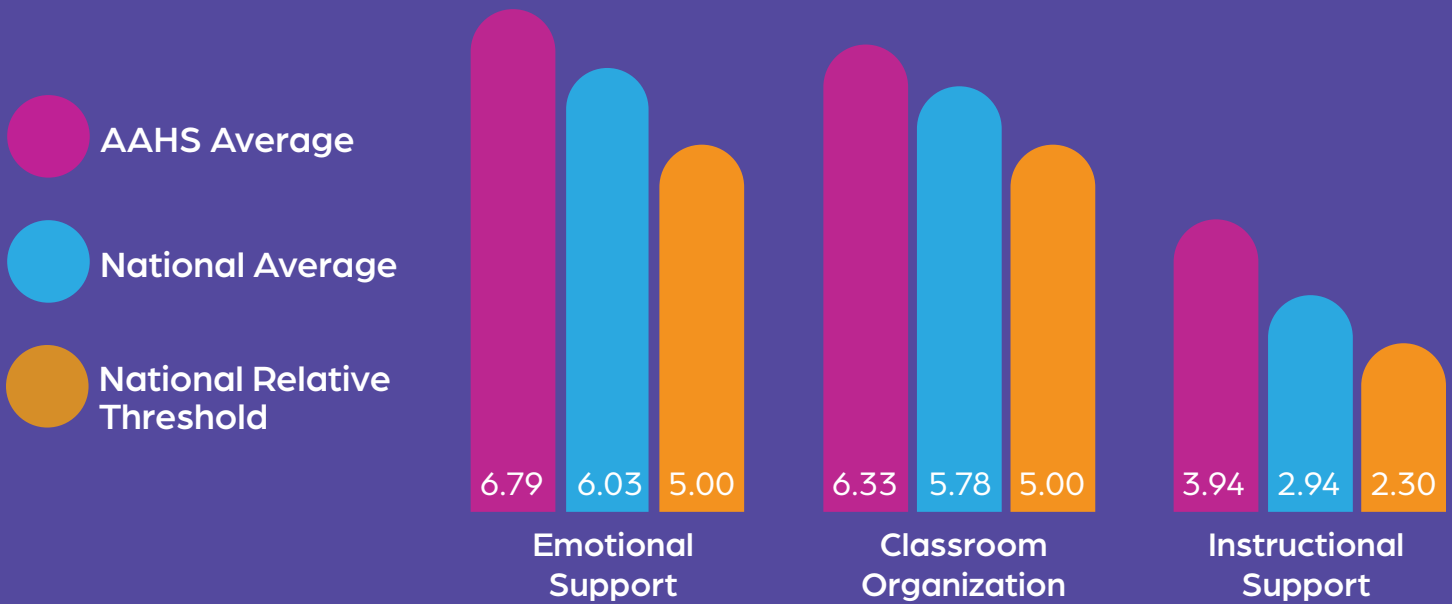


Percent of Children Ready for School

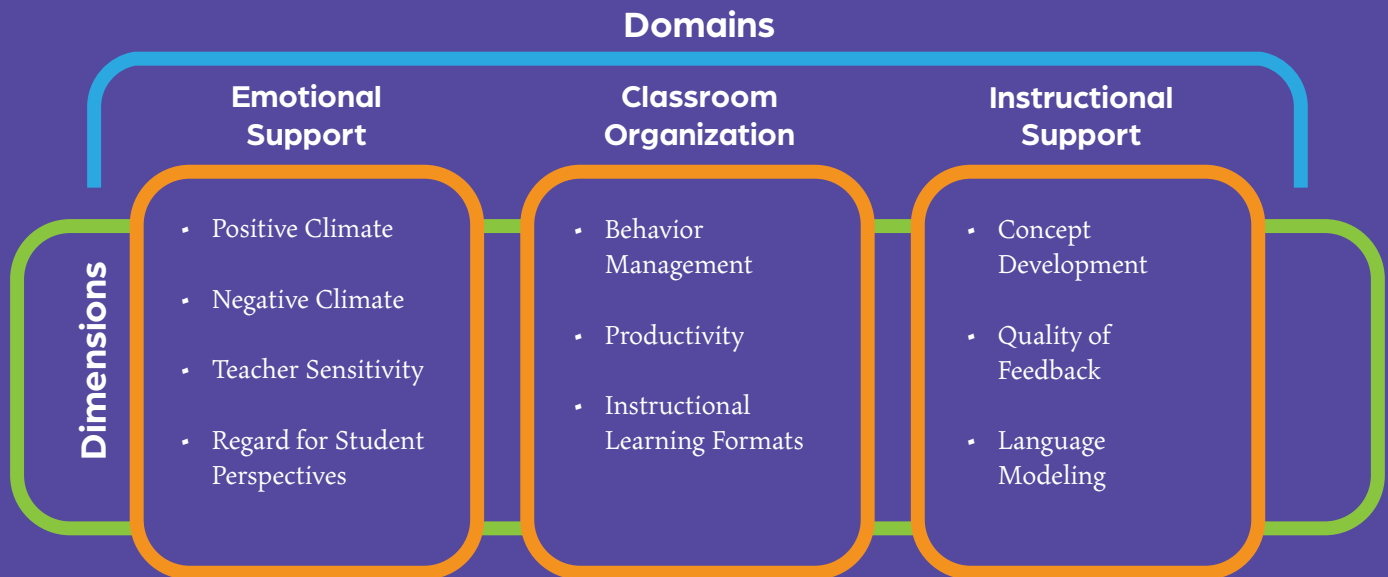


My Teaching Strategies is the authentic, observational assessment system used by Audubon Area Head Start. It aligns with The Creative Curriculum and is used to document children’s development and learning over time. We are able to collect and gather child outcome information to guide program planning and professional development. Our teachers complete a comprehensive assessment on each child three times per year. Teaching staff assess the work collected for each child’s portfolio and determine the skill level of children on various learning outcomes. They use this information to design activities that support and encourage individual skill development. The results of each assessment are shared through home visits and parent teacher conferences.

CLASS Scores



The Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) assesses interactions between teachers and children in ten dimensions within three domains. The Office of Head Start believes the domains of quality measured by CLASS remain central to its approach to child development and education and serve as important indicators of the future school readiness of all Head Start children.



Dual Language Learners

Who are dual language learners? According to the Office of Head Start, “Dual language learners are children learning two or more languages at the same time, as well as those learning a second language while continuing to develop their first (or home) language.”

Spanish	84
Far Eastern Asian Language	12
African Languages	2
Middle Eastern Languages	2
Vietnamese	1
Native Central American	1
South American	1

AAHS has **103** Dual Language Learners

Health

2020–2021 Health and Dental Summary	HS	EHS	EHS-CCP	WKU
With Health Insurance	97%	98%	99%	100%
With a Medical Home	94%	97%	92%	100%
Up-to-Date on EPSDT Well-Child Schedule	81%	71%	74%	85%
Up-to-Date on Current Immunizations	99%	99%	96%	100%
With Dental Home	92%	95%	91%	100%
Receiving a Dental Exam	48%	-	-	56%

Children Must be Healthy to Learn

Enrolled children and pregnant mothers receive comprehensive health services including medical, dental, mental health, nutritional and prenatal assistance. Staff work with parents to ensure children are up-to-date on medical and dental requirements outlined in the Kentucky Early Periodic Screening Diagnostic Treatment Plan (EPSDT).

A wide range of partners including pediatricians, dentists, health departments, managed care organizations and hospitals work with Head Start program staff to meet the health care needs of children and pregnant mothers. Children with special health care needs are welcomed into the program.

We partner with First Steps and local school districts to make certain children receive specialized therapies addressing individualized needs. Nutritional needs of children are evaluated, individualized and met on a daily basis.

Health literacy events are implemented to educate families on diabetes, colds vs. flu, when to take their child to the doctor and nutrition as it relates to healthy brain development and healthy eating. Other parent health activities focus on the importance of early childhood health screenings.

Federal Review

From June 8, 2021 to June 11, 2021, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) conducted a Focus Area One (FA1) monitoring review of the Audubon Area Community Services, Inc. Head Start and Early Head Start programs. The FA1 review allows the OHS to understand how programs are progressing in providing services in the 5-year grant cycle. The resulting report contains information about the grantee's performance and compliance with the requirements of the Head Start Program Performance Standards (HSPPS) or Public Law 110-134, Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007. The report for Audubon Area Community Services, Inc. Head Start and Early Head Start programs contained no Opportunity for Continuous Improvement, no Area of Concern, no Area of Noncompliance, and no Deficiencies.

Community Assessment

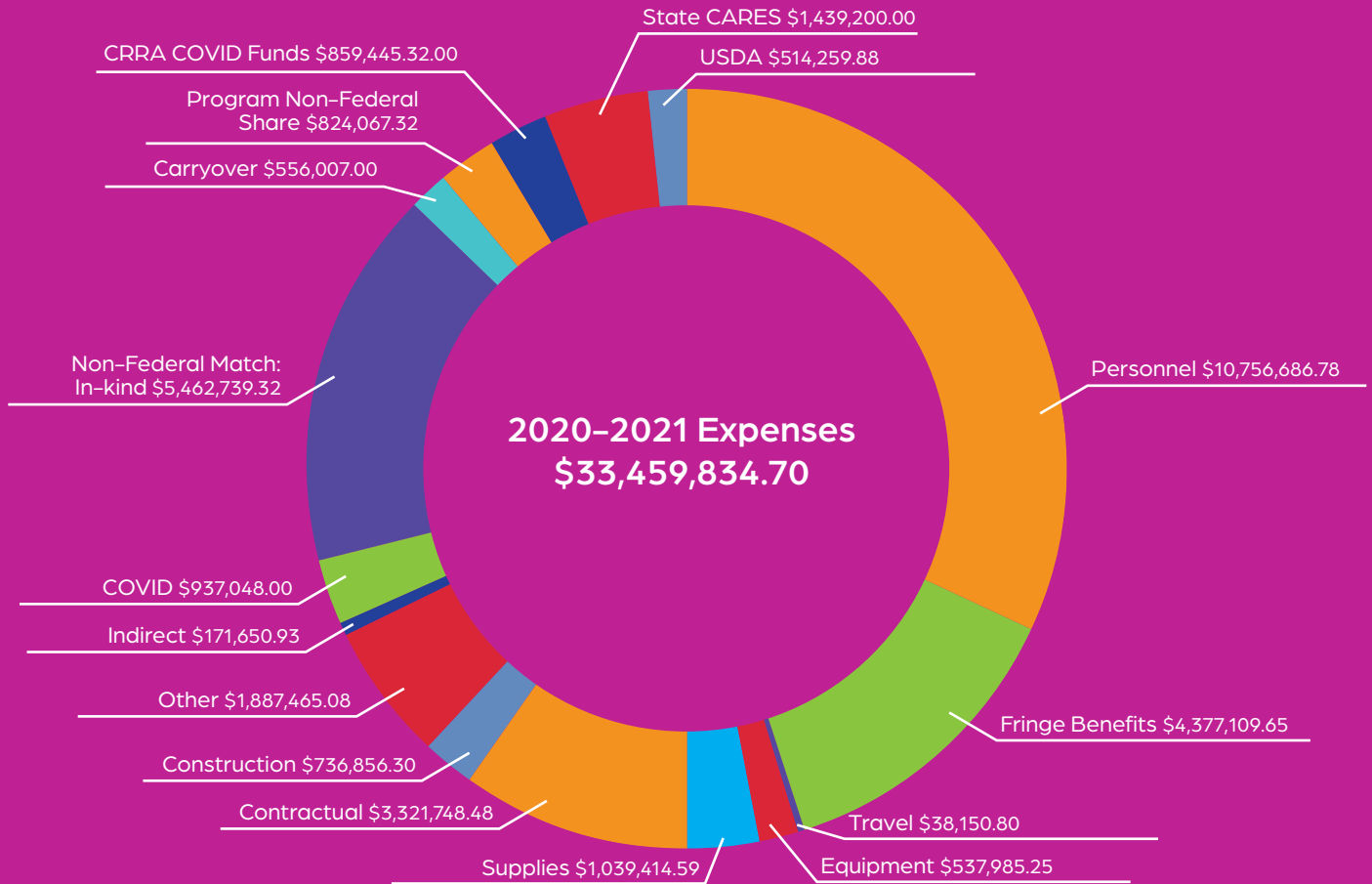
The AAHS Community Assessment provides a snapshot of the service region and identifies characteristics which may have a significant impact on agency planning and program development. The AAHS Community Assessment must guide decisions based on the status of eligible families and the community settings within the service area. A full community assessment must be completed every 5 years with annual updates in between. The last full community assessment was completed in 2018 covering the 2017-2018 school year and can be found on the Audubon Area Head Start website at <http://www.audubon-area.com>.

Financial Data

2020-2021 Revenue

Federal _____ \$32,228,920.00 Program Non-Federal Share ___ \$1,205,993.83
 Non-Federal Match _____ \$5,174,705.00 State _____ \$347,066.96

Total: \$38,956,685.79



2021-2022 Budget

Personnel _____	\$10,939,400	Contractual _____	\$3,350,340	United Way _____	\$44,609
Fringe Benefits _____	\$4,177,788	Construction _____	\$6,210,949	USDA _____	\$564,045
Travel _____	\$207,757	Other _____	\$1,745,841	*COVID Funds _____	\$542,461
Equipment _____	\$587,242	Indirect _____	\$1,531,517	*CRRSA COVID Funds _____	\$1,953,499
Supplies _____	\$1,418,337	Non-Federal Match: In-Kind _____	\$5,891,202	*State CARES _____	\$3,200,000

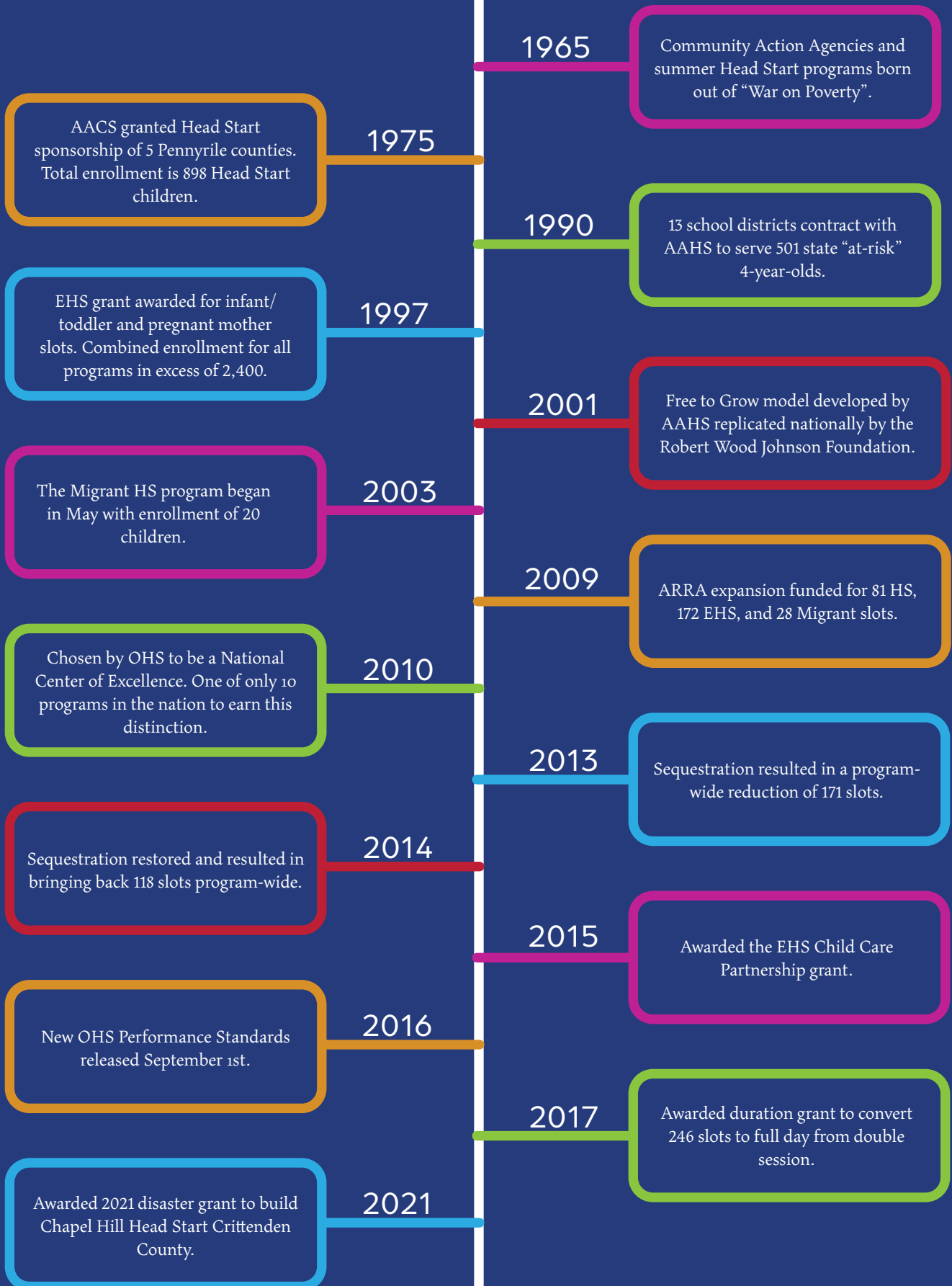
Total: \$42,364,987

* COVID Funds & CRRSA COVID Funds were awarded by the Office of Head Start while State CARES were awarded from the state of Kentucky. These funds each have guidelines as to how they are to be used to support our program during this pandemic.

Financial Audit Results

The agency is required to have a single audit conducted on an annual basis in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards. The published Independent Auditors' Report expresses an unmodified opinion on the consolidated financial statements of Audubon Area Community Services, Inc. (The Agency) and on all major federal award programs for The Agency, including Head Start. The report also stated the audit disclosed no significant deficiencies, no instances of noncompliance material to the financial statements of The Agency and no audit findings required to be reported in accordance with 2CFR Section 200.516(a).

History Timeline



Policy Council

Policy Council Officers

- Lissa Gibson-
Chairperson
- Ann Kay Smith-
Vice-Chairperson
- Amanda Roberts-
Secretary
- Holly Davis-
Parliamentarian

Community Representatives

- Jennifer Chappell
- Lynn Story
- Randy Scalf
- Lafe Benson
- Gwendolyn Ochoa
- Marilyn Woodruff
- Tyieashia Wills
- Janeen Tramble
- Ashley SESCO
- Tara Alexander
- Dewayne Johnson

Parent Representatives

- Cala Johnson
- Bethany Stone
- Keely Sallee
- Kris Vanover
- Eric Stiff
- Amanda Holman
- Teresa Rubalcava
- Kezrianna Guante
- Shayla Hancock
- Nikki Baird
- Nathan Oliver
- Megan Oliver
- Kristy Franklin
- Elizabeth Arnold

Parent Alternatives

- Micah Blevins
- Stacey Hayden
- Nancy Hayes
- Amy Raval
- Katlyn Barnett
- Mika Dant
- Kimberly Heck
- Kristen Lee
- Hope Gay
- Tina Cook
- Hope Marigny
- Erin Patton

The Role of the Head Start Policy Council

Shared decision-making in planning is an essential element in all Head Start programs. While it is common for the agency board and staff to share the responsibilities for planning in most organizations, in Head Start organizations this process is also shared with the Head Start Policy Council. 71% of Audubon Area Head Start Policy Council members were parents of children currently enrolled in the program. With a majority of members as parents, the Policy Council is guaranteed to represent the needs of the children and families.



Board Officers

Chairperson
Dr. Lynda C Harrison

Vice Chairperson
Ms. Jamie McMichael

Secretary
Ms. Mary Danhauer

Early Childhood Committee

The Early Childhood Committee of the Board works closely with the Policy Council in the oversight and planning of the Audubon Area Head Start Program.

- Dr. Lynda C. Harrison- Chairperson
- Tony Felker
- Bridget Murray (ex-officio)
- Phyllis Church
- Dr. Sandra Obilade
- Keith Sanders (ex-officio)
- Paige O’Nan
- Lissa Gibson (ex-officio)



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