



The Children's Community
Head Start Birth to Five



ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

INTRODUCTION

The Children's Community Head Start Birth to Five Program is a program of the Community Program Centers of Long Island, Inc. CPC is a 501(c)3, not-for-profit organization located in central Suffolk County, New York. The Birth to Five Program operates a home-based program, as well as two early childhood centers in Ronkonkoma and Port Jefferson. Each center is fully licensed by New York State Office of Children and Family Services, and hold a Quality Stars Rating of 4 stars. The program operates under the guidance of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Board of Directors, and Policy Council.



The Head Start and Early Head Start programs provide a comprehensive experience that includes child and family support in the areas of Education, Health and Nutrition, Mental Health, Disabilities, and Family Engagement.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS & EXECUTIVE MGMT.

Thomas Lowenberg, President
Thomas Pfundstein, Vice President
Tanya Krein, Secretary/Treasurer
Robert Bernard
Patrick Egan
Dylan Saperman, Legal Counsel to the Board
Colleen Crispino, CEO
Kathleen Frigiola, CFO
Christine Beatty, Director
Kerry-Ann Hosek, Assistant Director

POLICY COUNCIL

Candace Marmorato, Chair
Angelica Rivera, Vice-Chair
Makenzie Slobin, Secretary
Ross Thomas
Kateisha Tilton
Angela Borruso
Michele Kenney, Community Rep

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT DATA SUMMARY



As per the Head Start Program Performance Standards, the Birth to Five program is required to complete an extensive Community Needs Assessment every five years, with annual updates. The information gained from the assessment is used to guide planning for the programs, recruit new children and families, and address the unmet needs of individuals in our community. Affordable housing was determined to be a major obstacle for families in Suffolk County. According to a 2025 Point-in-Time report from End Homelessness on Long Island, there was a 13.4% increase in homelessness in Suffolk County, NY from 2024 to 2025. This marks an all-time high for the region. Thirty-two percent of homeless individuals were children less than 18 years. In an effort to serve better homeless children under 5 years, the Birth to Five program maintained collaborations with several homeless shelters, including HELPSuffolk, Mercy House, and informally with Lakehouse. We also worked with Suffolk County Dept. Of Social Services to obtain busing to the centers for homeless children in their Pre-K year.

In the 2024-2025 update to the Community Assessment, families indicated that the community programs that they utilized most during the year were the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Women, Infants and Children nutrition program (WIC). This is a clear indication that the rising cost of food in Suffolk County is impacting families in our community. In order to alleviate the financial burden, the B-5 program expanded our contract with LI Cares, to store frozen items in our food pantry. Additionally, enrollment in the WIC program was streamlined for any pregnant mother or child that is enrolled in the Head Start or Early Head Start program, with verification of enrollment.

ENROLLMENT

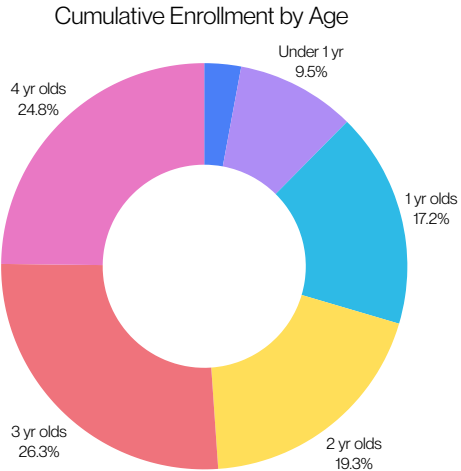
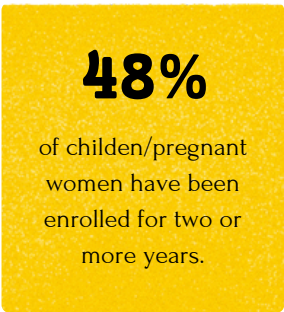
Stemming from the 2020 Covid pandemic, the early childhood workforce in Suffolk County, NY is in crisis. Local community colleges have reported a decrease in enrollment in their Early Childhood degree programs. With out students enrolling in the field, the candidate pool for staff vacancies, is diminiishing. Due to experiencing ongoing under-enrollment since the pandemic, the program applied for and was granted a Change in Scope by the Office of Head Start to reduce the funded enrollment to 236 pregnant women, infants, toddlers and preschoolers at the end of 2024.

2024-2025 Average Monthly Enrollment

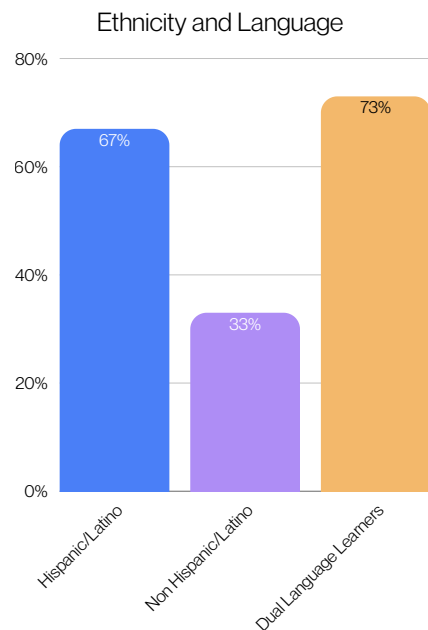
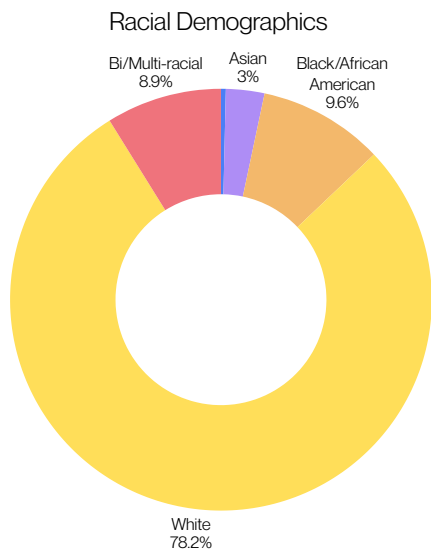
96% HEAD START
AGES 3-5 YEARS

89% EARLY HEAD START
PREGNANCY- 3 YEARS

96% EARLY HEAD START EXPANSION
AGES 0-3 YEARS

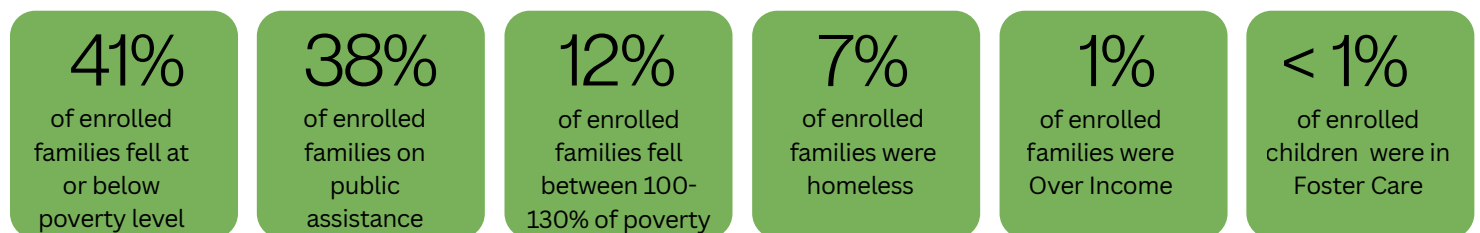


DEMOGRAPHICS



ELIGIBILITY DATA

The Birth to Five Program serves children and families in the community that fall within federal poverty guidelines, are experiencing homelessness, are receiving public assistance, or are in the foster care system. Ten percent of enrolled children may be enrolled as “over income”. A blind Selection Criteria form is used to ensure the neediest families have access to the program. The home-based program serves families who reside in local homeless shelters, who do not have access to transportation. The program recognizes that children who have experienced trauma such as homelessness, need additional supports. Homeless children who are PreK age can receive bussing from the county, to attend center-based classes as a precursor to kindergarten. Through collaboration with Early Intervention and local school districts’ Committee for Preschool Special Education, children with special needs are integrated into all classrooms. Approximately 15% of enrolled children were determined eligible for services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. The program also contracts with a Licensed Social Worker for 24 hours per week, to provide mental health consultation for children, families, and staff.

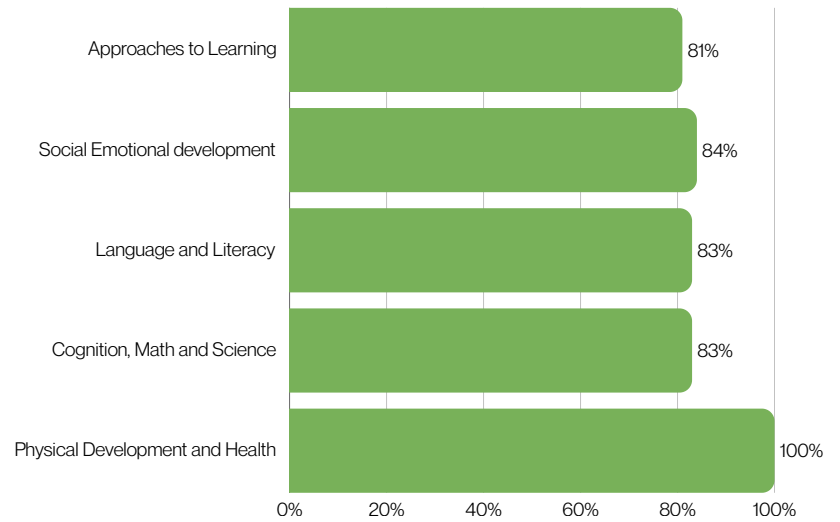


SCHOOL READINESS

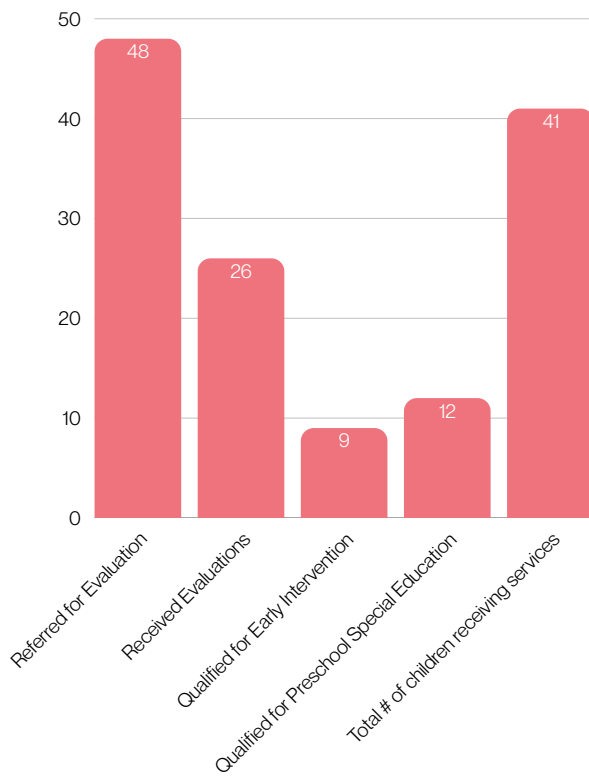
The Birth to Five program works to set a solid foundation for future learning, for all children. Initial developmental screenings are conducted within 45 days of enrollment. These screenings help to identify children with developmental delays. The goal is to assist children and families to proceed with evaluations, and determine eligibility under IDEA. Tri- annual child assessments are conducted to measure progress towards school readiness.



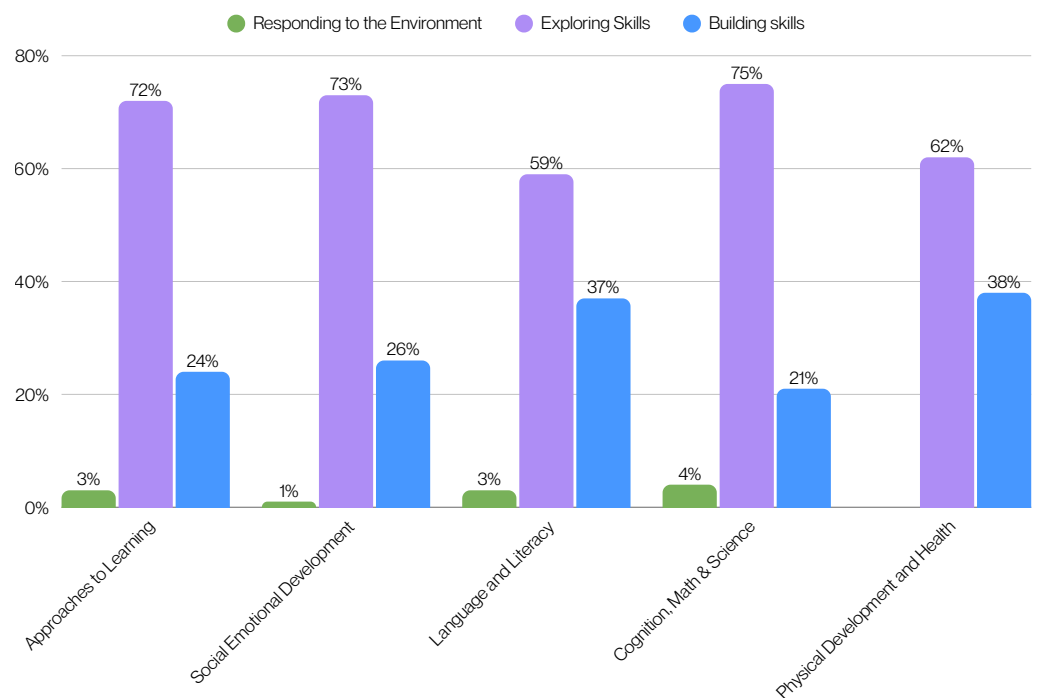
School Readiness for Children Transitioning from HS to Kindergarten



Children with Special Needs



Early Head Start Spring 2025 Assessment Results



91%

of dual language learners ages 3-5, were successfully building on and integrating the use of the English language by the Spring of 2025.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Families are engaged in all aspects of the birth to five program. Bi- annual parent teacher conferences are held to gain valuable information from parents, and to set learning goals for their child(ren). Additionally, family advocates and home visitors work with families to complete a Scaled Family Assessment. Data from the assessment is used to plan parent training and workshops throughout the year. Topics included: Patience and Self Control, Positive Behavior Strategies, Setting Routines, Kindergarten Here I Come, Hopes and Dreams- Goal Setting, Healthy Eating, Healthy Teeth, and Stress Management. The most improved areas during the year were: School Readiness, Child Development/ Parenting Skills, and Family Education/ Literacy in the Home.

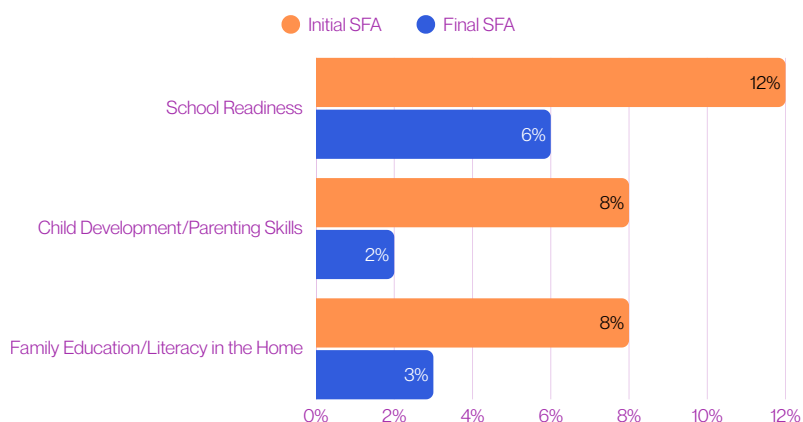
Information from individual needs assessments is used to set goals for their family. Family advocates and home visitors provide families resources; and support them in making progress. All next steps are tracked in individual Family Partnership Agreements. Completed goals included: obtaining a driver's license, registering and completing English classes, obtaining family health insurance, using community food pantries and nutrition programs.

63% of enrolled families engaged in the goal setting process.

29% of those families made documented progress towards thier goals

13% of those families completed thier goals

Percentage of Families with Significant Needs, based on Scaled Family Assessment



FATHERHOOD INITIATIVE

BRING YOUR
DAD TO
BREAKFAST

53 DADS

FATHER CHILD
DINNER

42 DADS

MONTHLY PARENT GROUPS

PARENT
COMMITTEE

105 TOTAL
ATTENDANCE

YOUR JOURNEY
TOGETHER

61 TOTAL
ATTENDANCE

HOME BASED SOCIALIZATIONS

AVERAGE
ATTENDANCE

17%

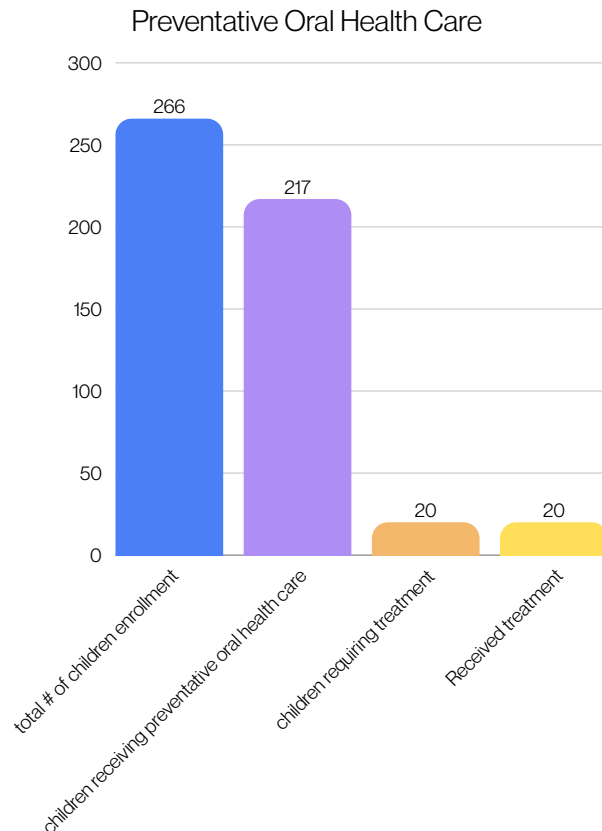
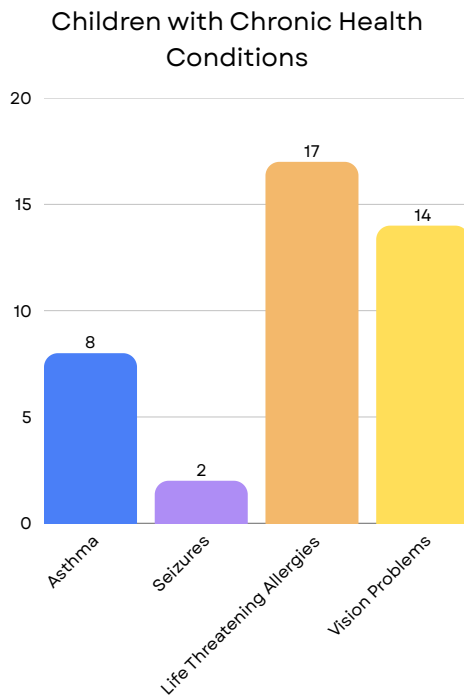
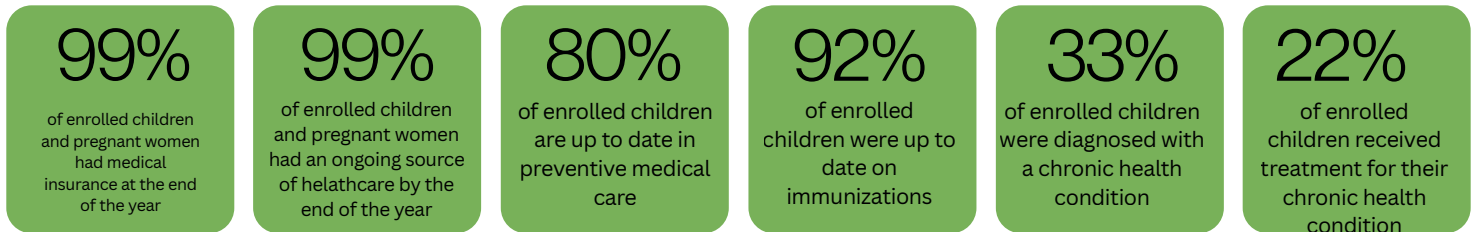
TRANSPORTATION
WAS PROVIDED
FOR

70%
OF ATTENDEES



CHILD HEALTH AND WELLNESS

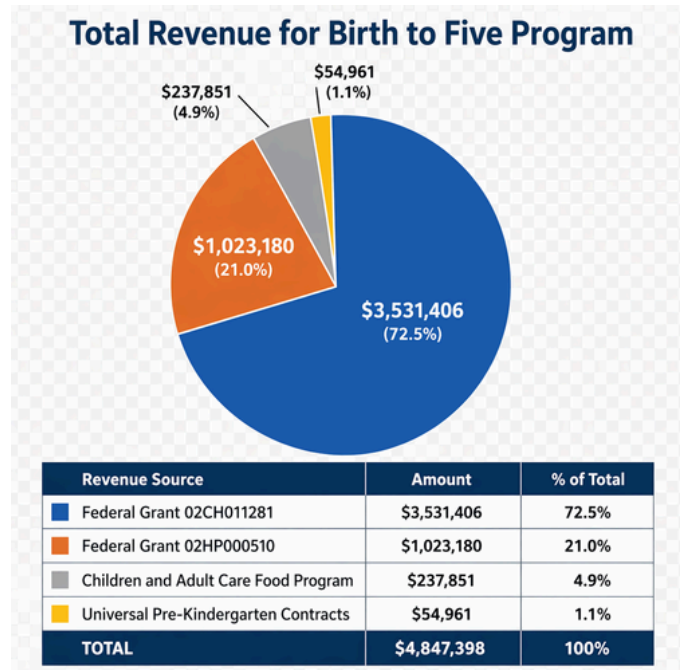
In April of 2025 the program underwent a Focus Area 2 review by the Office of Head Start. One area of non-compliance was noted. At the time of review 13% of enrolled children did not have an oral health determination within the required 90 days. The program immediately responded by consulting with its Health and Mental Health Advisory Committee. Changes to the physical and dental forms were made, requirements for appointment cards at enrollment were added, and tracking systems were modified to allow for better monitoring. The program also tracks medical insurance, immunization schedules, and assists families in establishing and maintaining a medical and dental home for their child.



Children under 12 months are required to obtain an Oral health screening for their child. This screening can be conducted by their primary care physician. Once a child turns 12 months, or upon the eruption of the first tooth, parents are encouraged to bring their child to the dentist for an Oral Health Exam. All children over 12 months at enrollment are required to provide an Oral Health Exam. The health team and the family advocates remind parents of the requirement and benefits of early oral health care.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The Children's Community Head Start Birth to Five Program is funded through multiple sources, with the majority coming from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services grants. Additionally, the program receives funding from the Child and Adult Care Food Program, which is used to offset the cost of food service for our enrollment. The program also contracts with local school districts to provide UPK services to children the year prior to kindergarten. The total revenue for the year totaled \$4,847,398.



- During the year, there was a major purchase of a new Frog Street curriculum, classroom materials, and teacher manuals for a total of \$47,071.
- Additionally, \$33,920 was used to repair the cement work on the front of the Ronkonkoma center.
- The program used \$21,645 of Training and Technical Assistance funding to provide Practice Based Coaching to staff.
- The program received a waiver for the Inkind portion of the budget.
- Unspent funds acquired due to staff vacancies was used to provide a retention bonus to strengthen the Head Start workforce.

ALL FINANCIAL INFORMATION WAS REVIEWED AND CERTIFIED BY GRANT THORNTON AND ASSOCIATES