

Lorain County Community Action Agency 2021 Head Start Annual Report



MEETING UNIQUE CHALLENGES

Head Start families know challenges and they meet them with strength and resolve. COVID-19 has been no different for Lorain County Head Start families.

LCCAA Head Start knows each family situation is unique. As we made changes to safely maintain services, we took the details we gleaned from regular family interaction into account. Our staff sent things by mail, email and even did porch drop off when needed. Families were referred for help with rent, utilities and more. We sent food home as often as we could.

All changes were made with safety in mind. We checked temperatures, washed hands and sanitized everything in sight. Time after time, our families again demonstrated the strength and determination they use every day. Every time we turned a corner, there was a new obstacle. Yet never once did anyone associated with LCCAA Head Start back down.

The joy of the young children we serve sustained us all through this unpredictable time. It always means so much to see a child grow past his unique challenges or conquer a skill she has struggled to master. These times have been different, but our goal of creating lifelong learners has not been thwarted.

Thank you for helping us prove how well Head Start Works.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shauna Matelski Ed.D.".

Shauna Matelski, Ed.D.
Head Start Director



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stefanie S. Drew".

Stefanie Drew
Assistant Head Start Director

RESPONDING TO COVID-19



COVID-19 created unprecedented challenges for all of us. LCCAA Head Start was faced with the need to pivot quickly in order to continue serving our vulnerable population.

Head Start families rely on LCCAA for child care, education and, oftentimes, food. As an agency, LCCAA never closed. Instead, all programs adapted to deliver services differently and continue to meet families needs.

LCCAA Head Start's COVID response included the following:

- ▶ Established a virtual learning platform to continue education.
- ▶ Loaned 39 tablets to families to allow them to take advantage of virtual learning and activities.
- ▶ Mailed hundreds of packets of worksheets, graduation certificates and other items to families for home use.
- ▶ Distributed 1,900 CareBags to help keep families fed.
- ▶ Created agency-wide wellness procedures including temperature and symptom checks for all staff and visitors.
- ▶ Established safe curbside drop-off and pick-up procedures including temperature and symptom checks.
- ▶ Facilitated drive-by bridging and offered photos to families.
- ▶ Purchased new sanitizing equipment and established vigorous sanitizing procedures; provided masks and other PPE with federal COVID funds.
- ▶ Sent hundreds of learning kits, books and other items home to support families.
- ▶ Adapted family activities to a virtual platform holding scavenger hunts, BINGO games and more.



WHO WE SERVE



Head Start and Early Head Start are federally funded programs focused on comprehensive child development. LCCAA is Lorain County's only Head Start provider. We offer center-based, school-based and home-based options.

Based on LCCAA's 2019 Community Needs Assessment, approximately 5,000 eligible children live in Lorain County. Current funding allows LCCAA Head Start to serve approximately 18.5% of those eligible.

Early Head Start supports pregnant women and monitors growing babies for unique needs. Head Start students prepare for kindergarten and become lifelong learners. Full- and part-day options are available. LCCAA is deeply committed to early intervention. Head Start works with local school districts through screenings and referrals on a wide range of disabilities.

Each child is unique and LCCAA Head Start's approach honors that uniqueness with a variety of teaching methods designed to prepare all of them for kindergarten success.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Head Start and Early Head Start serve low-income children ages 0 to 5 and pregnant women.

Both programs use 100% of the Federal Poverty Level for priority placement. In addition, the programs can serve 35% of families whose income is between 101 and 130%.

Ten percent of families can exceed 130% of the FPL.

Families receiving TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) or SSI (Supplemental Security Income) are automatically eligible. Homeless children and children in foster or kinship care are also automatically eligible.

Children with disabilities are also served.

For 2020-2021, we reduced class size in Head Start due to COVID. We also implemented virtual learning.

LCCAA Head Start includes 891 slots which in 2020-21 served 575 students.

Early Head Start includes 40 slots which served 46 young children and/or pregnant mothers. Full enrollment is maintained with a waiting list.

SERVING THE WHOLE COUNTY

LCCAA Head Start meets children and families where they are by taking care to locate its centers and collaborative partners where needs are the greatest.

LCCAA also considers pockets of poverty in areas that are harder to reach due to lack of public transit – just one reason for offering a home-based option.

LCCAA has relationships with all 21 school districts in Lorain County. These and other collaborations extend the reach of Head Start.

Directly Operated

LCCAA Head Start @ Cascade,
233 Bond Street, Elyria 44035

LCCAA Head Start @ Elyria,
631 Griswold Road, Elyria 44035

LCCAA Head Start @ Firelands
10779 Vermilion Road, Oberlin 44074

LCCAA Head Start @ Hopkins-Locke,
1050 Reid Avenue, Lorain 44052

LCCAA Head Start @ Wellington
305 Union Street, Wellington 44090

LCCAA Head Start @ LaGrange
12079 LaGrange Road, LaGrange 44050

Partners

Horizon Educational Centers
2500 Colorado Avenue, Lorain 44055
4911 Grove Avenue, Lorain 44055
10347 Dewhurst Road, Elyria 44035
109 Loudon Court, Elyria 44035

Little Lighthouse Learning Center
1715 Meister Road, Lorain 44053

Lorain City Schools
Eight locations in Lorain



What is Step Up to Quality?

Ohio created its five-star rating system to recognize and promote early learning and development programs that meet quality standards over and above the minimum health and safety licensing requirements.

All of LCCAA's directly operated centers have earned the highest rating from Step Up to Quality: five stars. LCCAA has been fortunate to have partners who work hard to exceed minimum standards. Most of our partner centers are also rated at five stars and none has fewer than three.

Higher ratings are given to programs employing teachers with more specialized training as well as enhanced parent, family and community engagement, among other criteria.

LCCAA's last federal review was conducted in November 2018 by the Office of Head Start. The review found LCCAA Head Start met the requirements of all applicable Head Start Program Performance Standards, laws, regulations and policy requirements.

PREPARING LIFELONG LEARNERS



Head Start graduates are curious, creative and ready for kindergarten.

LCCAA Head Start follows exacting standards from both federal and state agencies as well as our agency's own core values and strategic goals.

Our teachers use curriculum and assessments based in years of scientific research on what young children should know and be able to do. These Widely Held Expectations apply to all children in an age group regardless of their household income.

Even as COVID-19 disrupted our established routines, children continued to show tremendous progress with LCCAA Head Start services.

| | Fall Data | Winter Data | Winter Growth | Spring Data | Spring Growth |
|-------------------------------|-----------|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| Social & Emotional | 68.71% | 68.55% | -.16% | 77.50% | + 8.95% |
| Physical | 76.03% | 77.42% | +1.39% | 80.45% | +3.03% |
| Language | 69.39% | 73.16% | +3.77 | 79.06% | +5.90% |
| Cognitive | 60.82% | 68.44% | +7.62% | 75.31% | +6.87% |
| Literacy | 57.43% | 68.29% | +10.86 | 76.34% | +8.05% |
| Math | 58.6% | 66.04% | +7.44 | 74.80% | +8.76 |

After completing LCCAA Head Start, children can confidently leave their parents and caregivers, care for their own basic needs and are ready to learn to read and write. They are also beginning to reason and solve problems as they learn to imitate their teachers in becoming enthusiastic lifelong learners.

Head Start Framework

Approaches to Learning

Approaches to Learning

Creative Arts Expression

Cognition and General Knowledge

English Language Development

Logic and Reasoning

Mathematics Knowledge and Skills

Science Knowledge and Skills

Social Studies Knowledge and Skills

Language and Literacy

Language Development

Literacy Knowledge and Skills

Physical Development and Health

Gross and Fine Motor Skills

Social and Emotional Development

Mental and Behavioral Health

HEALTH & NUTRITION SERVICES

LCCAA Head Start knows children cannot learn if they are hungry. They won't learn to identify letters if they need glasses. Our health and nutrition staff and partners work to identify and address any developmental needs in each child.

Screenings are done for both medical and dental needs. Staff and partners also assess each child's sight, hearing, lead exposure, hemoglobin levels, height and weight. Children in need of additional services can be referred to a local provider.

LCCAA also serves food three times a day in each classroom. The central kitchen provides more than 78,000 meals annually. The experienced staff creates delicious homemade foods that kids want to eat while meeting strict USDA guidelines and managing dozens of allergies.



A TWO-GENERATIONAL APPROACH

Head Start is designed as a two generational approach. We support parents with information about important developmental milestones, guidance on family self-sufficiency goals and more.

Family Service Workers serve as a bridge between parents and Head Start teachers and then between parents and school or community programs. Their work means children are ready for school and families are ready to support their children's learning.

Head Start works to empower parents by connecting them with other needed services. They also provide support by building relationships and making sure each unique need is met.

In addition to the many health screenings, families can get help with job and computer skills training, housing and utility assistance, and emergency food, clothing and shelter.

Our work with families is based on mutual respect and trust, developing with every interaction between staff and families.

Using intentional tools and strategies to support families, LCCAA's Head Start and Early Head Start family service staff focus on the following objectives to strengthen families and parenting in our community:

- ▶ Family well-being.
- ▶ Positive parent-child relationships.
- ▶ Families as lifelong educators.
- ▶ Families as learners.
- ▶ Family engagement in transitions.
- ▶ Family connections to peers & community.
- ▶ Families as advocates and leaders.



PARENT POLICY COUNCIL



Susan West

Working with parents and supporting children and families along positive developmental pathways really does give families a good Head Start. Our federal funders require the convening of a Policy Council, but we also know it strengthens our program and our families.

“We know that parents are their child’s first teachers,” said Head Start Director Shauna Matelski, Ed.D. “It’s important to have a group of parents coming together to make decisions for their child’s program.”

Parents are encouraged to participate on the Parent Policy Council to help make decisions about the program. Policy Council parents are supported in developing leadership and parent advocacy skills. Many parents report that Head Start has provided empowerment through education to their entire family.

“It gives them an opportunity to help us make decisions that are going to be right for the program and for their child,” she added. “So Head Start has always placed an emphasis on the Parent Policy Council.”

Parents are elected by their centers to serve on Policy Council where they make critical decisions for the entire program. The President of Policy Council holds a full, voting seat on the LCCAA Board of Directors.



Margaret Hartman



**Head Start welcomed
627 volunteers during the
2020-21 school year.**

**They contributed
9,374 hours valued at
\$248,224.**

2020-2021 Policy Council

Susan West, President
Katrina Juchnik, Vice President
Katherine Reynolds, Secretary
Kristin Wandra, Asst. Secretary
Tameem Abdullah
Melissa Carroll
Jessica Hales
Rebecca Raines

2021-2022 Policy Council

Margaret Hartman, President
Stephane Kochco, Vice President
Daphine Jackson, Secretary
Melanie Wiseman, Asst. Secretary

| | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Mercedes Anderson | Hector Rosa |
| Melissa Carroll | Kenny Segure |
| Gregory Elkind | Heather Toney |
| Monica Padua | Caitlin Withers |
| Genesis Rodriguez | Alexandria Young |

NEW FACILITIES & CLASSROOMS



In March 2022, our Head Start Management team will move out of 936 Broadway Ave. in Lorain to the Central Plaza building at 1971 Broadway Ave (below right). This pandemic-related change provides our program with additional space including three new classrooms.

The new classrooms will assist working parents who require year-round services as well as children who were impacted by the pandemic and not able to attend school throughout the year. The site will feature an indoor play space in the former bank branch and outdoor play spaces at the front and back of the building. It will also be the new home for staff in the home-based program.

LCCAA Head Start has also received an expansion grant that will add 16 slots to its Early Head Start program. Early Head Start will have a dedicated facility at 107 Oberlin Avenue in south Elyria. The new facility will have two classrooms and approximately six staff members. Classrooms are expected to open in the fall of 2022.



Also this spring, LCCAA will relocate its central kitchen to the former Campana's Pizza building on 8th Street in downtown Lorain (above left). After 12 years of a warm relationship with the Lorain Metropolitan Housing Authority community at its Kennedy Plaza facility, food service staff are excited about the possibilities for the new facility.

The state of the art kitchen will meet the program's needs for at least the next ten years with dedicated parking, office space for staff and room to expand Head Start's Nutrition Service.

Many of those meals will be transported to our centers in new vans that reflect the spirit of the program. LCCAA Head Start is Wild About Health and Nutrition and the vehicles that deliver meals to our sites now reflect that enthusiasm (top of page).

FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Like all Head Start programs nationwide, LCCAA's program is funded by grants from the department of Health and Human Services and was originally part of the War on Poverty. LCCAA has been the only Head Start provider in Lorain County since 1966.

LCCAA Head Start Funding Sources

| Source | 2020-2021 | 2019-2020 |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| Head Start Grant | \$7,884,131 | \$7,167,669 |
| Non-Federal Match | \$1,971,033 | \$1,791,918 |
| Early Head Start Grant | \$532,768 | \$508,193 |
| Non-Federal Match | \$133,192 | \$127,048 |
| COLA | \$101,531 | -- |
| State USDA | \$381,246 | \$340,948 |
| Early Childhood Expansion Grant | \$667,056 | -- |
| Non-Federal Match | \$166,764 | -- |
| COVID One-Time Supplement | -- | \$818,170 |
| CARES COVID Supplemental | \$280,202 | -- |
| COVID Summer Supplemental | -- | \$331,144 |
| Non-Federal Match | -- | \$82,736 |
| American Rescue Plan | \$1,113,966 | -- |
| OCCRA | \$78,570 | -- |
| State Early Childhood | \$520,000 | \$520,000 |
| TOTAL FEDERAL & STATE FUNDING | \$13,830,159 | \$11,687,826 |

2021-2022 Proposed Budget

| | Head Start Operations | Head Start TTA | Early Head Start Operations | Early Head Start TTA | Total |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Personnel | \$3,874,436 | \$0 | \$236,284 | \$0 | \$4,110,720 |
| Fringe | \$1,668,292 | \$0 | \$166,204 | \$0 | \$1,834,496 |
| Travel | \$4,356 | \$27,203 | \$294 | \$2,000 | \$33,853 |
| Supplies | \$280,136 | \$0 | \$15,015 | \$0 | \$295,151 |
| Contractual | \$909,379 | \$0 | \$34,641 | \$0 | \$944,020 |
| Other | \$1,064,329 | \$56,000 | \$68,910 | \$9,420 | \$1,198,659 |
| Total Direct Charges | \$7,800,928 | \$83,203 | \$521,348 | \$11,420 | \$8,416,899 |
| Totals | \$7,800,928 | \$83,203 | \$521,348 | \$11,420 | \$8,416,899 |
| Non Federal (20%) | | | | | \$2,104,225 |
| COLA | | | | | \$101,531 |
| | | | | | \$10,622,655 |

LCCAA's fiscal audit for 2019-20 has been finalized. There were no deficiencies relating to the audit of financial statements, no instances of noncompliance material to the financial statements, and no deficiencies relating to the audit of the major federal and state award programs.

BY THE NUMBERS

| | Head Start | Head Start | Early Head Start | Early Head Start |
|---|------------|------------|------------------|------------------|
| Family Services | Families | % | Families | % |
| Two-parent families | 166 | 31% | 7 | 18% |
| Single-parent families | 364 | 69% | 31 | 82% |
| Families receiving TANF | 60 | 11% | 0 | 0% |
| Families receiving SSI | 53 | 10% | 5 | 11% |
| Families receiving SNAP (food stamps) | 266 | 50% | 23 | 61% |
| Income below 100% FPL | 396 | 75% | 35 | 87% |
| Income above 101% FPL | 134 | 25% | 11 | 13% |
| Families experiencing homelessness | 25 | 5% | 1 | <1% |
| Homeless families who found housing | 12 | 48% | 0 | 0% |
| Father involvement | 246 | 46% | 24 | 63% |
| Emergency/crisis intervention such as meeting immediate needs for food, clothing or shelter | 411 | 78% | 24 | 63% |
| Housing assistance such as subsidies, utilities, repairs, etc. | 50 | 9% | 11 | 29% |
| Mental health services | 69 | 13% | 14 | 37% |
| English as a second language training | 39 | 7% | 5 | 13% |
| Adult education such as GED programs and college selection or job training | 71 | 13% | 18 | 47% |
| Substance abuse prevention or treatment | 17 | 3% | 21 | 55% |
| Nutrition Education | 483 | 91% | 24 | 63% |
| Research Based Parenting Curriculum | 337 | 64% | 22 | 58% |
| Health education | 374 | 71% | 25 | 66% |
| Assistance to families of incarcerated individuals | 8 | 2% | 0 | 0% |
| Parenting education | 337 | 64% | 22 | 58% |
| Relationship/marriage education | 48 | 9% | 8 | 21% |
| Asset building services | 67 | 13% | 12 | 32% |
| Children with an ongoing source of continuous and accessible health care | 574 | 99% | 43 | 93% |
| Children with continuous, accessible dental care provided by a dentist | 530 | 92% | 37 | 80% |
| Children who have a chronic medical condition or are receiving dental treatment | 113 | 20% | 7 | 15% |
| Children who received a physical exam | 452 | 79% | 37 | 80% |
| Children who received a dental exam | 390 | 68% | 36 | 78% |



936 Broadway Ave., Lorain, Ohio 45052
Coming Soon to 1979 Broadway Ave.!

www.lccaa.net