

The Ohio State University

Early Head Start Partnership Program

2021 - 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



EHS-CC
EARLY HEAD START
CHILD CARE



**THE OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY**

SCHOENBAUM FAMILY CENTER

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Since 2015, The Ohio State University Early Head Start Partnership Program has served as a comprehensive model of education and support for at-risk children and their families. Our program serves as a buffer to prevent and address childhood trauma, hunger, health disparities, and other outcomes associated with living in poverty, which disproportionately affect children of color. This involves examining and understanding where inequities exist and committing to culturally competent and racially affirming practices.

We know early childhood education is essential for infant and toddler development, but many of our families face hard choices. High-quality child care is hard to find and often unaffordable. The foundation we provide for our infants and toddlers shapes their future and subsequently impacts positive outcomes in our communities. With a continuum of prevention and intervention strategies, our goal is to reach children and families who need the most support.

To that end, we have built much momentum over the last 12 months through our newly established home visiting and prenatal programs made possible by a \$10 million federal expansion grant award. The efforts by our home visitors and prenatal educator have helped families navigate the challenges of educating their children from home and supported pregnant women throughout their pregnancy to deliver a healthy newborn. Whether learning about prenatal health, child development, parenting skills, or connecting to essential community resources, the families in these programs have found the support they need at a critical time in their lives. Last year's grant also enabled us to add 38 child care center slots and 10 new family child care home slots located in priority zip codes. This increase combined with our home visiting and prenatal programs has allowed us to serve 64% more families.

Though encouraged by our impact, those of us in the early childhood field find ourselves at a critical juncture in an increasingly difficult world. Our educators have made it clear that the work they do enables all other work, and that they deserve respect and equitable compensation.

While the challenges of these times often feel overwhelming, our team of education coaches along with behavioral and developmental specialists have been a constant presence in Early Head Start classrooms. They practice with teachers to enhance their skill sets, understand and prevent challenging behaviors, and identify possible developmental needs in their young students. Also vital to the success of our program is the work of our family specialists who act as lifelines to families in helping them achieve their goals, reduce barriers to success, and bridge the gap between school and home.

And we know it's working. Early Head Start students show significantly better social-emotional, language and cognitive development. They are more likely to be immunized and receive services if they have a diagnosed disability. We also realize that none of these investments happen without caring and compassionate communities. Our university and community partners, child care providers, policy council and governing board contribute significantly to the lives of many. We are grateful for your unwavering support and genuinely thank you for being valued members of our partnership.

As we look ahead, we are excited to collaborate with new and longstanding partners who share our desire to create better communities for all children by embracing diversity and inclusion, upholding principles of social justice, and working to eliminate inequities that limit early learning opportunities.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sherrie Sutton". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Sherrie Sutton, M.S.Ed., LPCC

Director, The Ohio State University Early Head Start Partnership Program

About

Mission

Through robust partnerships with university and community agencies, we improve the quality of early childhood education and comprehensive services for infants and toddlers in Columbus' most vulnerable neighborhoods.

Vision

To ensure that all caregivers engage their children in lifelong learning while strengthening their stability, economic outcomes and well-being.

Goals

- Increase opportunities for parents to become partners to encourage greater involvement in the program and their child's learning
- Maintain existing community and university partners to provide high-quality comprehensive services as well as identify any gaps to leverage new partnerships
- Create a professional development framework based on developmentally appropriate best practices to enhance classroom quality and student achievement
- Implement data-driven decision-making for continued quality improvement and growth

Program

Early Head Start provides multiple options to meet the needs of our Columbus families:

- 14 center-based programs offer 173 children birth to three classroom care in high-quality education environments
- 11 family child care programs provide the nationally recognized Early Head Start model in private homes for 35 children
- Home visiting services bring staff to 30 families (at any given time) to support child development through weekly 90-minute home visits and bi-monthly group social activities
- Prenatal services offered to 25 pregnant mothers (at any given time) provide information, education and support during pregnancy and six weeks after giving birth



390

children and families served



211


well-child checks



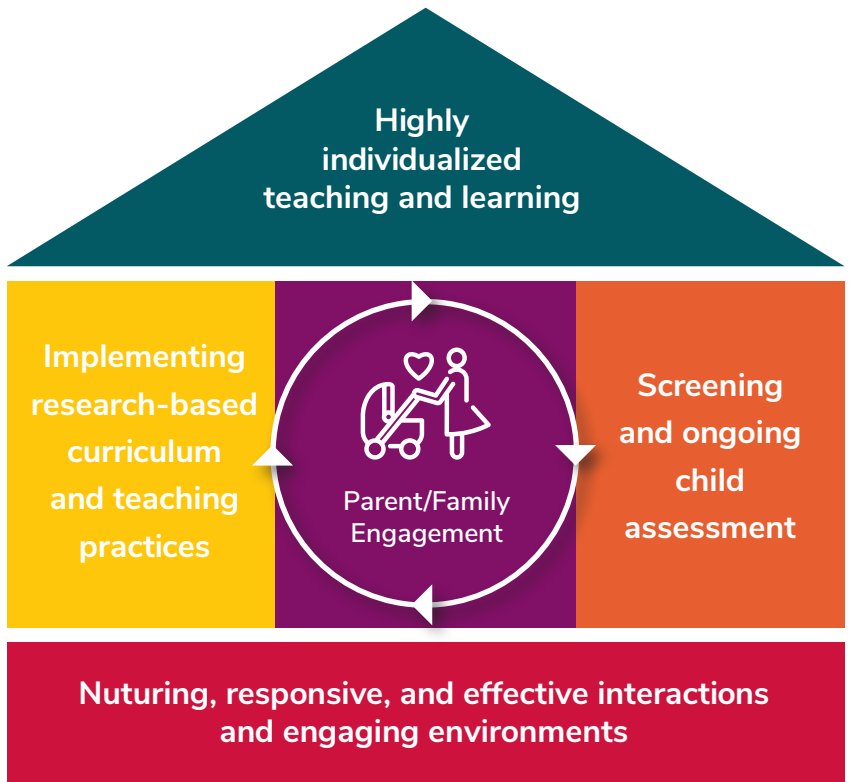
211

vision screenings, exams


209
 dental
 screenings,
 exams


208
 hearing
 screenings,
 exams


354
 family need
 assessments
 identified and
 completed



Framework

Head Start’s National Center on Quality Teaching and Learning supports school readiness for all children. The framework represents four integral elements of quality teaching and learning: engaging in everyday interactions with children, choosing and implementing a strong curriculum, using regular assessment of children’s skills and individualized teaching. These elements correspond to parts of a house including the foundation, two pillars, and a roof. When connected, they form a single structure that fosters children’s learning and development.



Center

As a lead community program located within the College of Education and Human Ecology’s Schoenbaum Family Center, Early Head Start and Crane Center for Early Childhood Research and Policy partner in research, practice and policy to improve the well-being of young children. The Schoenbaum and Crane Centers also serve as a training ground for Ohio State students studying early care and education.

Engaging in New Ways

Offering online opportunities

This past year we developed additional professional development online opportunities for our educators. With the expertise of Ohio State's Nisonger Center partners and our education team, we created "Teachable Moments." The 15-20 minute podcast-style conversations were based on the feedback from EHE child care providers to help them navigate classroom challenges. Topics included challenging behaviors and teaching mixed-aged groups. Due to their success, five more conversations are planned for the coming year.

Bringing research to life

A new seed grant will fund a team of Ohio State Crane Center scientists and EHS staff who aim to improve classroom conversations in terms of both quality and equity through video-based coaching that delivers feedback to teachers in real-time. This technique can serve as a structure to foster personal reflection and growth by allowing teachers to see their practice and share it with others in a safe, supported way. The project called "Using real-time and video-based teacher coaching to improve teacher facilitation of high-quality and equitable dialogue in Early Head Start classrooms" is slated to begin in the spring.

Digitizing new tools

Piloted by the YMCA Future Scholars Learning Center, our new in-kind tracking process has been embraced by providers and families alike. The phone option allows parents to quickly scan a QR Code on classroom posters to report their time spent working on learning activities at home, an EHS program requirement. The goal? To offer a less time-consuming method of tracking data for our caregivers while going paperless to benefit the environment.

Supporting home learning

Although the pandemic continued to disrupt child care environments over the past 12 months, our education team developed learning kits to support families who educate their infants and toddlers at



home. These activities for ages birth-1 and 2-4 highlighted several play-with-purpose books and supplies for parents to share with their children. The themes included diversity, color, cooking, animals, art, writing, construction, and my body.



School Readiness GOALS

The Head Start Approach to School Readiness means that children are ready for school, families are ready to support their children's learning, and schools are ready for children.

Domain: Approaches to Learning

Goal: Children will make discoveries and initiate learning on their own

Domain: Social & Emotional Development

Goal: Children will engage in positive relationships with adults and peers

Domain: Language & Literacy

Goal: Children will participate in shared interactions with others

Domain: Cognitive

Goal: Children will use appropriate skills to solve problems

Domain: Perceptual, Motor and Physical Development

Goal: Children will develop motor skills to participate in self-care routines

703

hours of EHS professional development shared with educators



“When children have undiagnosed hearing loss, it affects their ability to speak, understand language, thrive in a classroom, and interact with others. That’s why early exams are critical for developmental progress. Each year, the referrals from our exams address medical and audiological issues to help give infants and toddlers the best start in life.”

Dr. Gail Whitelaw
Clinical Associate Professor,
Director of Ohio State’s
Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic



Forging New Partnerships

Playing with purpose

As a component of our home visiting program, our play and learn groups allow children to play with peers while parents learn from the community and connect with other EHS families. Some of the activities included health and nutrition guidance from graduate students from Ohio State’s College of Nursing. Topics shared with families highlighted childproofing the home and the importance of child well-visits and immunizations. These bi-monthly social activities were held at downtown Columbus Metropolitan Libraries offering families a convenient bus line location. The success of the groups includes plans with Columbus Recreation and Parks to offer the groups at community recreation centers in priority zip codes in 2023.

Improving learning environments

A new partnership with Ohio State students in the Advocates for Communities and Education Scholars (ACEs) program brought a fresh look to Fresh Start Learning Academy. Students raked, mulched and landscaped the property, and also disinfected the playground area. ACEs is a program for undergraduate students from all majors with an interest in community through education, awareness and service.



Building program support

Eight new partnerships were developed in 2021-2022 to help build and support our new home visiting and prenatal programs as well as our expanded child care services. Providing comprehensive child development services in the home environment, supporting expectant mothers with prenatal care, and providing high-quality early childhood education takes a community-wide effort. The referrals and services provided by community and university partners assures essential comprehensive services are offered to infants, toddlers and their families enrolled in EHS.

University and Community Partners

Ensuring that infants and toddlers have equal access to early childhood education and comprehensive services takes more than one organization. That's why the heart of our unique model is a strong collaboration with many partners. During 2021-2022, these agencies provided vital services to EHS families and child care providers:

Action for Children – assists families with finding child care, offers training to providers, and assists family child care providers pursuing Step Up To Quality rating

CelebrateOne* – facilitates city-wide community events with opportunities for EHS families

Center for Healthy Families – provides comprehensive services for pregnant and parenting teens, refers clients to EHS

Children's Hunger Alliance – assists family child care providers in meeting the nutrition requirements for Ohio Healthy Programs designation

Columbus Metropolitan Library* – provides safe, free space for EHS play & learn groups at various library locations

Community Properties of Ohio – provides subsidized housing and supportive services to their residents including referrals to EHS programs

Columbus Recreation and Parks* – offers socializations and family-friendly programming to EHS families at community centers in high-priority zip codes

Directions for Youth and Families – provides social workers who recruit, enroll and offer support to EHS families by connecting them to community resources such as housing stability, workforce development, continued education and financial security

Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services – assists families in applying for publicly funded child care, provides training for EHS directors, partners and staff to support families

Franklin County Family and Children First, Help Me Grow – assesses children with developmental concerns and creates plans to help families find a successful learning environment for their child

Linden McKinley STEM Academy* – works with EHS to offer on-site, prenatal care to high school students

Moms2B – provides support for parenting families through their child's first year, refers pregnant mothers to EHS services

Nationwide Children's Hospital Community Wellness Initiatives – provides children access to well-child checks, immunizations and sick visits through Primary Care Centers and mobile unit visits at EHS child care centers

Nationwide Children's Hospital Dental Clinic – provides EHS children with complete dental exams along with parent oral health education

Ohio State Community Care Coach* – provides prenatal appointments for pregnant mothers

Ohio State College of Education and Human Ecology – places undergraduate students in EHS classrooms to help them gain classroom experience and learn about the effects of poverty

Ohio State College of Nursing – provides children's clinical medical record review

Ohio State Department of Speech & Hearing – provides EHS children with hearing exams and follow-ups.

Ohio State Nisonger Center – provides developmental screenings and early childhood mental health assessments for enrolled infants and toddlers; serves as a child development resource and supports families through the referral and evaluation process

Ohio State College of Optometry – provides EHE children with comprehensive vision exams and glasses.

Star House* – serves as a drop-in center for homeless teens, offers education, employment, and wellness services, and refers clients to EHS resources

YCares* – works with pregnant families and those who have infants under the age of one, refers eligible caregivers to EHS prenatal services

Youth Build Columbus Community School* – serves high school students who wish to receive their diploma while earning certifications and learning technical skills, refers students to EHS programs

**new partners in 2021-2022*

Strengthening the Voice of Early Childhood

Promoting teacher-parent relationships

To help educators understand core life skills, education and community program manager Lisa Welsh presented, “Training Our Teams: How to help staff in childcare centers work with parents” at the OCALICON November 2021 conference. Participants learned to work with parents in ways that reduced stress, were culturally responsive and helped build positive relationships to promote the best start for children in classrooms. Over 3,000 virtual participants were in attendance.

Engaging with policymakers

As part of the Head Start fall 2021 leadership conference, EHS principal investigator Don Fuzer (left) met with Congressman Mike Carey (right). They discussed the vital role EHS plays in the community and the importance of investing in the birth to five arena to improve outcomes for Ohio’s youngest children and their families.



Elevating the voices of families

Last September, prenatal educator Jennifer Cheeks (middle) participated on a panel led by Councilmember and President Pro Tempore Elizabeth Brown to discuss findings of the Landscape Study conducted by the Crane Center. The study explored the early education experiences of families with children from birth to five in Columbus’ low-income neighborhoods. Researchers sought to learn more about the types of care arrangements in which children were enrolled, their home learning experiences and challenges to quality care. Cheeks added to the discussion with her knowledge of barriers and perceptions of early-care participation among caregivers.



Rethinking family engagement

Melissa Johnson, director of Starting Point Learning Center and founder of the Family Adolescent and Child Community Engagement Service, presented her philosophy on developing and strengthening families to nearly 100 virtual breakout session participants at the October 2021 Crane Center Symposium on Children.

Investing in educators

EHS family child care provider, Cheryl Odem and some children in her care have received assistance from the Franklin County RISE program, launched last March. The program promised \$23 million in funds from the federal American Rescue Plan to increase access to affordable child care, support child care programs and early educators, and ensure more children have access to quality early learning opportunities. As the first 5-star Step Up to Quality provider in the state, Odem transformed her learning environment last year, successfully becoming a TYPE A provider serving up to 12 children.



“The support from EHS not only improves my learning environment and growth as a family child care professional, but the children in my care also receive hearing, dental, vision, and well-check exams, plus nutrition and developmental and mental health assessments.”

– Cheryl Odom
family child care provider



Advocating for family child care

Family child care educator (FCC) Trina Averette (center front) was elected the state representative for the National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC). In her role, Trina functions as an ambassador working directly with FCC educators and state and local associations. Her leadership is helping address the needs and concerns of FCCs in Ohio and advocate on their behalf.



Learning from leadership

In April, EHS hosted Dr. Bernadine Futrell, Director of the Office of Head Start in Washington D.C. (left) who discussed her role in leading national Head Start priorities. A Head Start child herself, Dr. Futrell toured Starting Point Learning Center and read to a classroom of EHS children. During a meet and greet, she was introduced to EHS providers, partners and staff. The event concluded with a roundtable discussion of EHS program successes and future challenges.



Child Care

PROVIDERS

Centers

- Columbus Early Learning Center* – Bridgeway, newly opened center in the licensing and SUTQ process
- Columbus Early Learning Center – Champion, 5 stars
- Columbus Early Learning Center – Main, 5 stars
- Creative Child Care – East, 5 stars
- Creative Child Care – North, 5 stars
- Creative Child Care – West,* 4 stars
- Fresh Start, 5 stars
- YMCA Future Scholars Learning Center, 5 stars
- Heavenly Kids,* 5 stars
- Kiddie Academy of KIPP Columbus,* 5 stars
- Kid’s Care Academy, 5 stars
- Ohio State’s A. Sophie Rogers School for Early Learning, 5 stars
- SproutFive, 5 stars
- Starting Point, 5 stars

Family Child Care Professionals

- Trina Averette, 5 stars
- Rhonda Brown-Daniels,* 5 stars
- Diane Burton-Horton,* 3 stars
- Kiara Dickerson,* 4 stars
- Liz Gayle,* 5 stars
- Brittany Glen,* 1 star
- Esther Jefferson-Moore, 5 stars
- Marcia Jones, 3 stars
- Cheryl Odom, 5 stars
- Lori Whaley,* 1 star
- Lori Wilson, 5 stars

**new providers in 2021-2022*



92%

of providers have a 3-star or higher rating (1-5 scale)



Last spring, EHS distributed over \$20k of materials to families and providers including medical kits, outdoor play equipment, puzzles, books, summer games, art supplies and household items.

Serving the Community

Giving back to families

Last December, The Malcolm Jenkins Foundation (MJF) brought the spirit of giving to 135 EHS families through its annual Holiday Dinner Basket Surprise. EHS staff volunteered alongside Directions for Youth and Families, Ohio State Nisonger Center and EHS board member and former Buckeye football player, Obie Stillwell, to prepare and distribute food to families. Due to the event's overwhelming success, the MJF chose director Sherrie Sutton among the first class to be highlighted in a new volunteer spotlight program for her leadership role in bringing the foundation's work to Ohio.



Enhancing children's learning through play

What's better than playdough? More playdough...plus finger paints, markers, brushes, and books. To help our providers with the rising costs of materials, our friends at Ohio State's Wexner Medical Center's Clinical Trials Management Office purchased a generous supply of art materials for our children to enjoy last year. As a yearly contributor to EHS efforts, this group of professionals donates much-needed items to our classrooms.



Building relationships with communities

The greatest gift our community can give each baby is a healthy and safe first year of life that sets them on a path to thrive each year beyond that. That's why we joined CelebrateOne last fall at Linden Community Center to reach out to new moms and young families about our prenatal, home visiting and child care programs. The results were outstanding. Over 90 caregivers requested to learn about our services. The day-long event also brought Mayor Andrew Ginther (far right) to the table to discuss the EHS model and its positive impact on Columbus families.



Identifying early intervention needs

A growing body of evidence reveals a rise in developmental delays and challenging behaviors in children from birth to age five belonging to the COVID generation. Many of these children are talking, walking, and interacting later and less frequently. They are more prone to certain behaviors such as physical aggression and separation anxiety. Unfortunately, the national trend matches what we have seen in our program over the past year. The good news? Through the guidance of Ohio State's Nisonger Center developmental and behavioral specialists, our team was able to provide developmental and mental health support to 17.5% of our EHS children in 2021-2022.



2,810

personal or virtual
contacts with families



106,870
diapers distributed to
providers and families



“I cannot express how much EHS is appreciated. The program has been a blessing to our family. We have struggled financially over the last year, so when my grandson Curtis received boxes of diapers, wipes and detergent from our family specialist, I almost cried. I could only afford to buy a small amount – they were almost gone, and we weren’t getting another check for a week. Thank you so much.”

– Israel Oakley
EHS grandmother and caregiver

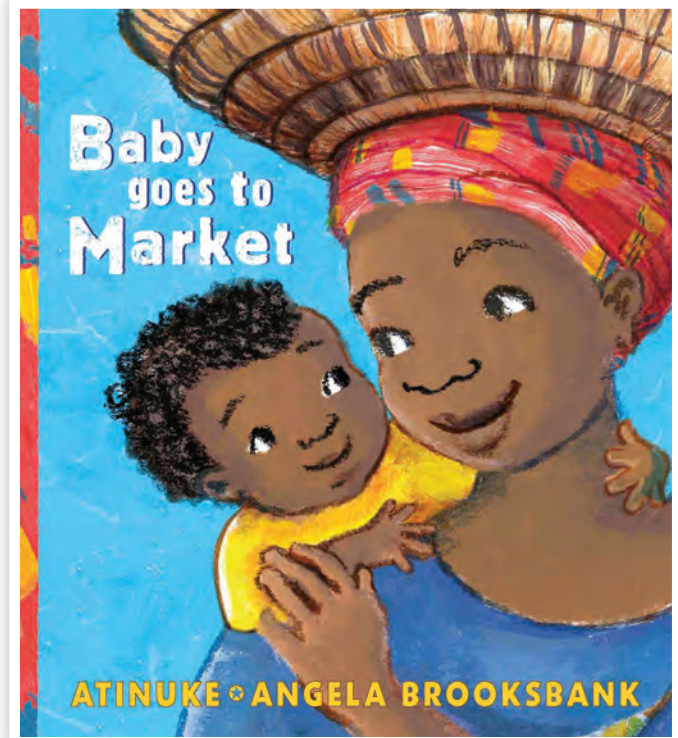
Promoting Anti-Bias and Anti-Racism

Creating culturally aware classrooms

Each February, we celebrate Black History Month. This year, the theme focused on Black health and wellness. To contribute to our classroom libraries, education coach Latoya Jackson launched a monthly series of culturally diverse and racially affirming books with activities that are both teacher and family friendly. The series provides important discussion prompters for families to begin these essential conversations early in life.

Embracing anti-bias practices

In response to the success of the 2020 book study, *Don't Look Away: Embracing Anti-Bias Classrooms*, authors Drs. Iheoma Iruka and Stephanie Curenton and the EHS education team developed an evaluation report this year to determine positive gains in participants' anti-bias classroom practices and engagement with families. Conclusions showed that for women educators working in high-stress jobs, their satisfaction with the book study program provided evidence that educators are willing to participate and remain engaged on issues they find critically vital for themselves and their work.



Engaging in hard conversations

Education coaches Latoya Jackson (right) and Stacy Orbaker (left) presented “Engaging in Hard Conversations: Creating an Anti-Bias and Anti-Racist Classroom” at this year’s National Head Start Association May conference in Baltimore. Speaking to early childhood education providers from across the country, they showcased strategies on how to engage in rich conversations about bias and racism with colleagues and staff to improve the teaching practices to the benefit of all children.



0%

EHS infant mortality rate

OUR TEAM

Jennifer Cheeks
Prenatal Educator

Michelle Dunlap
Grant and Fiscal Manager

Don Fuzer
Principal Investigator

Latoya Jackson
Education Coach

Angela Martin
Home Visitor

Molly McCaw
Home Visitor

Stacy Orbaker
Education Coach

Joppa Person
Home Visitor

Sherrie Sutton
Director

Melanie Tracy
Service Integration and
Marketing Coordinator

Lisa Welsh
Education and Community
Program Manager

Jessica Woodruff
Data Analytics &
Compliance Manager

Erin Woodson
Data and Project Coordinator

OUR BOARD

Melissa Martinez Bondy, LLP
Bricker & Eckler, Partner Senior Attorney, Education Law

Yolanda Burgess, Chair
Former OSU EHS Parent, Executive Assistant, SPPlus Corporation

Bernadette Melnyk, PhD, APRN-CNP, FAANP, FNAP, FAAN
OSU Vice President for Health Promotion, University Chief Wellness Officer,
Dean and Helene Fuld Health Trust Professor of Evidence-based Practice, College of Nursing

Pat Bebo, M.S.
OSU College of Education and Human Ecology Assistant Dean for Outreach and Engagement,
OSU Assistant Director for Family and Consumer Sciences

Susie Breitenstein, PhD, RN, FAAN
OSU College of Nursing Associate Professor, Director, Community Outreach and Engagement

Melissa Johnson, BA
Vice President, Cameron Mitchell Premier Events and Community Relations, OSU Adjunct Faculty,
Hospitality Management

Elena Moore, MSW
Licensed Social Worker, OSU East Hospital

Obie Stillwell, BA
Former OSU Football Player, local television and community personality

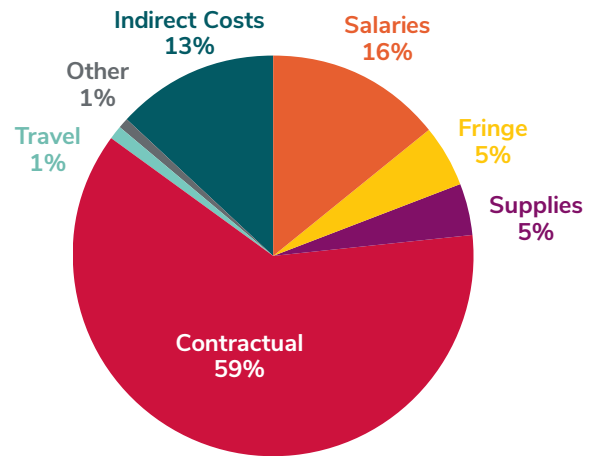
Andrew Wapner, DO, MPH
OSU Assistant Clinical Professor, Director, Center for Public Health Practice, Director,
Master of Public Health Program for Experienced Professionals



2021-2022 Budget

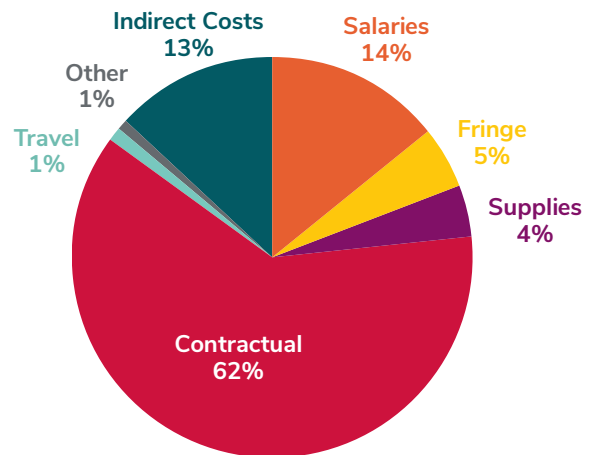
Early Head Start Budget FY22

Salaries	\$750,357
Fringe	\$236,238
Supplies	\$235,527
Contractual	\$2,766,265
Travel	\$44,766
Other	\$44,575
Indirect Costs	\$611,659
Total Direct	\$4,077,728
TOTALS	\$4,689,387



Early Head Start Expenses FY22

Salaries	\$640,937
Fringe	\$226,819
Supplies	\$189,871
Contractual	\$2,781,904
Travel	\$51,749
Other	\$34,536
Indirect Costs	\$588,872
Total Direct	\$3,925,816
TOTALS	\$4,514,688



Object Class Categories	Operations	Training & Technical Assistance	Non-Federal Share	Total
Salaries	\$735,275	\$15,082	-	\$750,357
Fringe	\$231,487	\$4,751	-	\$236,238
Travel	\$12,096	\$32,670	-	\$44,766
Supplies	\$232,362	\$3,165	-	\$235,527
Contractual	\$2,757,265	\$9,000	\$1,172,347	\$3,938,612
Other	\$17,075	\$27,500	-	\$44,575
Total Direct	\$3,985,560	\$92,168	\$1,172,347	\$5,250,075
Indirect Charges	\$597,835	\$13,825	-	\$611,660
TOTALS	\$4,583,395	\$105,993	\$1,172,347	\$5,861,735

Audit opinion on each major federal program: An Independent Auditor's Report, submitted through the Office of Sponsored Programs by Klynveld Peat Marwick Goerdeler (KPMG) concluded that The Ohio State University complied, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirements referred to in the OMB Uniform Guidance that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2022. The program received \$377,213 in start-up funds, \$140,609 in Pandemic Funds during FY21, and \$362,835 in American Rescue Plan Funds for FY22 & FY23.

The Ohio State University

Early Head Start Partnership Program

175 E 7th Ave, Columbus, OH 43201

614-292-7680

go.osu.edu/goodstart



EHS-CC
EARLY HEAD START
CHILD CARE



**THE OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY**

SCHOENBAUM FAMILY CENTER