



City of Rockford

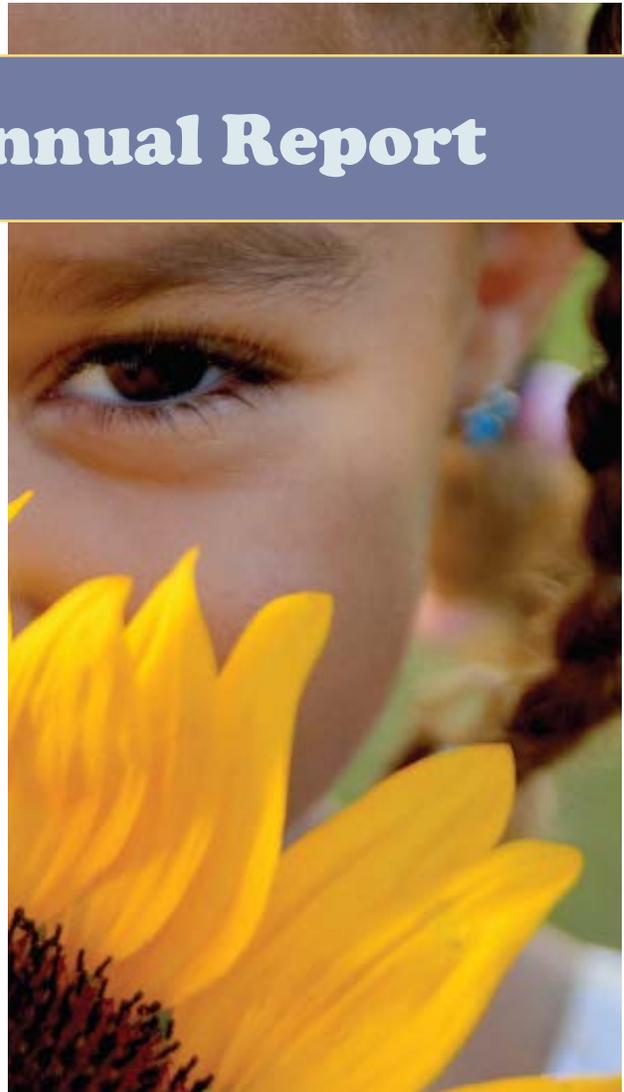


**Human Services Department
Head Start**

612 N. Church Street | Rockford, IL 61103 | Phone 815.987.5480 | Fax 815.987.8279
E-mail headstart@rockfordil.gov - Website www.rockfordil.gov

2012 – 2013 Annual Report

Head Start has the overall objective of breaking the cycle of poverty by preparing children to be effective learners and by assisting families to achieve greater economic, social and personal self-sufficiency in support of their children.



Lawrence J. Morrissey, Mayor

George Davis, Executive Director
Joanne Lewis, Head Start Director

Head Start Locations

To the Citizens of Winnebago County:

Head Start services have been provided to families in Winnebago County since 1965. In 1975, the City of Rockford received the federal award from the Department of Health and Human Services to operate Head Start in Winnebago County. Each subsequent year continuation grants have been funded to provide comprehensive education and health services to children from low-income families. Parents and caretakers are provided services, information and referrals to meet the needs and goals of the entire family.

Parents and family members are the "forever" people in a child's life. Head Start and Early Head Start programs build relationships with families that support family well-being, strong parent-child relationships and ongoing learning and development of parents and children alike.

Head Start employs 81 full and part-time staff, 22 are former or current parents. Head Start is funded to serve 591 children, ages 3-5 years old. Early Head Start serves 12 pregnant women and 80 children, ages birth to three years old. Grant funds are primarily spent in the community, through salaries, materials and services.

Eligibility for services is based on family income. The program strives to maximize a child's strengths, provide a rich learning environment and prepare children for success in their home, school and community.

Joanne Lewis, Director

City of Rockford Head Start

Human Services Department

Administration Office

612 N. Church Street, 61103

Early Head Start Home Base Funded Enrollment: 84

Head Start Home Base Funded Enrollment: 24

Fairgrounds Head Start

902 Acorn Street, 61101

Funded Enrollment: 133

Dennis Early Education Center Head Start Classrooms

730 Lincoln Park Blvd., 61102

Funded Enrollment: 238

Orton Keyes Head Start

653 Ranger Street, 61109

Funded Enrollment: 132

Circles of Learning,

Child Care Partner

2909 N. Main Street, 61103

Funded Enrollment: 44

Early Head Start Funded Enrollment: 8

Rockford Day Nursery,

Child Care Partner

2323 S. 6th Street 61104

Funded Enrollment: 20

Head Start Program Options

Four program options are available to families:

Part-day (3.5 hours per day, four days a week)	Part-Day Collaboration Classrooms (3 hours per day, five days a week)
Full-day, full-year (Full-day, year round services, provided through a child care partner)	

Early Head Start Program Options

Two program options are available to families:

Home-base (Home visit 1.5 hours a week)	Full-day, full-year (Full-day, year round services, provided through a child care partner)
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Head Start

Funded Enrollment: 591

3–5 years of age

- 664 - Children Served
- 611 - Families Served
- 116 - Two Parent Families
- 495 - Single Parent Families
- 12 - Homeless Families Served
- 84% - Average Daily Attendance
- 95% - Income Eligible Children Served at or below 100% of Federal Poverty guidelines

Early Head Start

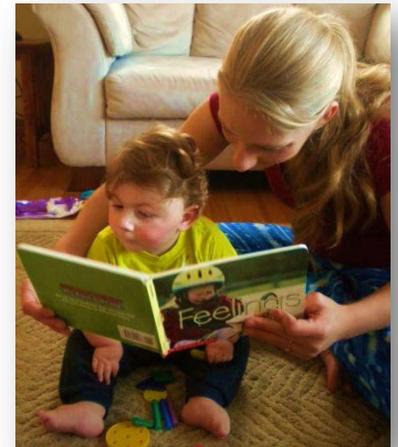
Funded Enrollment: 92

Birth - 3 years old and pregnant women

- 159 - Children Served
- 130 - Families Served
- 23 - Two Parent Families
- 107 - Single Parent Families
- 4 - Homeless Families Served
- 12 - Pregnant Women Served
- 97% - Income Eligible Children Served at or below 100% of Federal Poverty guidelines

Early Head Start – Services include one classroom with a child care partner. The majority of families are served through home visits. Teachers partner with parents to support their child’s optimal development. Families have opportunities throughout the year to attend parent-child socialization groups with their infants and toddlers. Eighty groups were offered to families and 303 Early Head Start parents/guardians and 313 children attended. During these groups children and their caregivers participate in literacy activities, such as songs and book sharing, art exploration, and imaginative play. Our community partners, The Literacy Council and Music Academy in Rockford, co-facilitated several groups.

Parents were also given additional opportunities to participate in education meetings related to first aid and CPR for very young children.

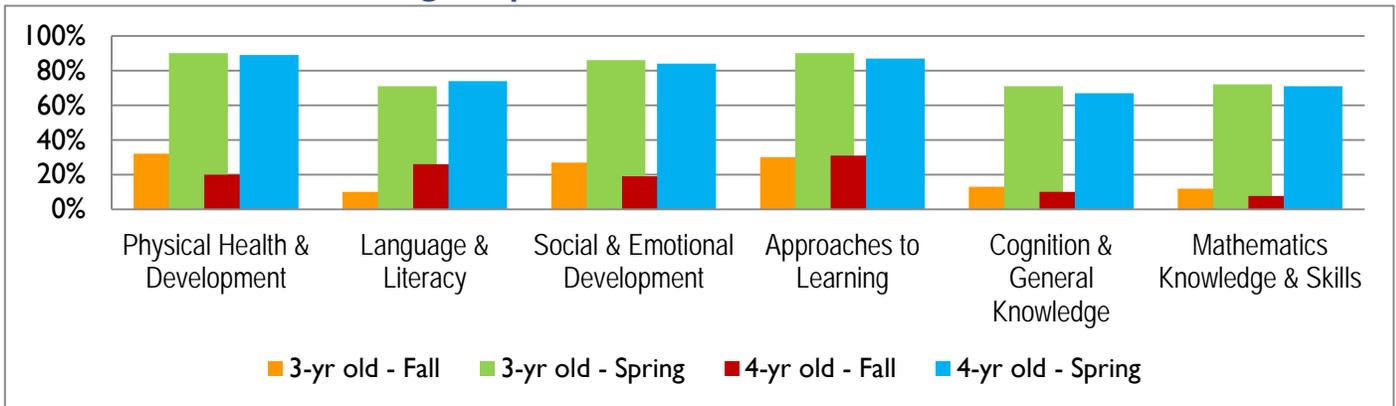


Head Start—Teachers serve as educators and partners with families. They focus on a child’s individual development. Ongoing child assessments are shared with parents to review progress and set goals. A variety of experiences and materials promote children’s development in key School Readiness areas.

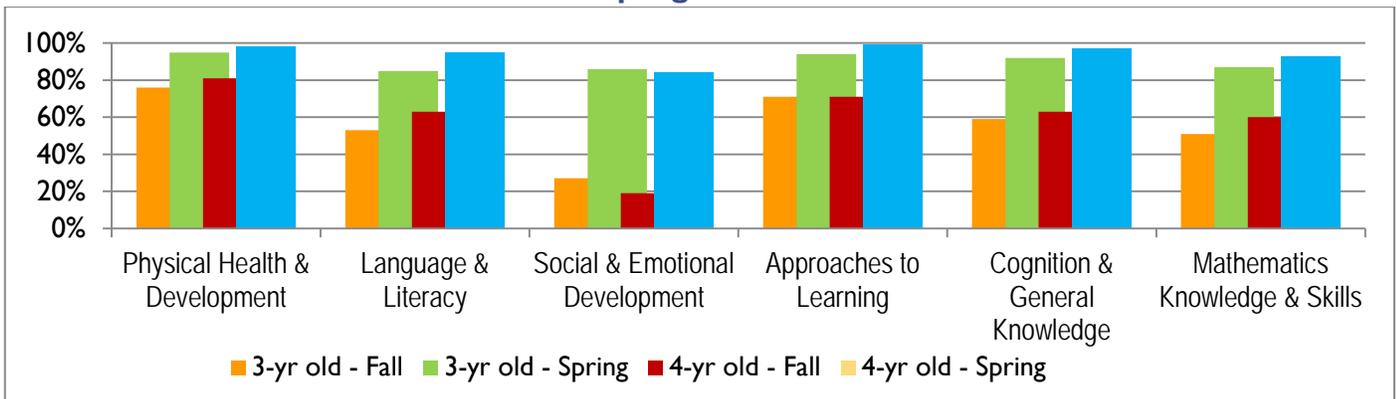


Child Outcomes in 2012-13 demonstrate significant progress towards School Readiness. The graphs show the percentage of children who were competent in specific developmental areas in the fall and by the end of the program year based on two assessment tools that are utilized. Assessments are completed three times during the school year: November, February and May.

**Level of Proficiency in Six Key Areas of School Readiness Skills
2012 – 2013 School Year Fairgrounds, Orton Keyes and Rockford Day
HighScope Child Observation Record**

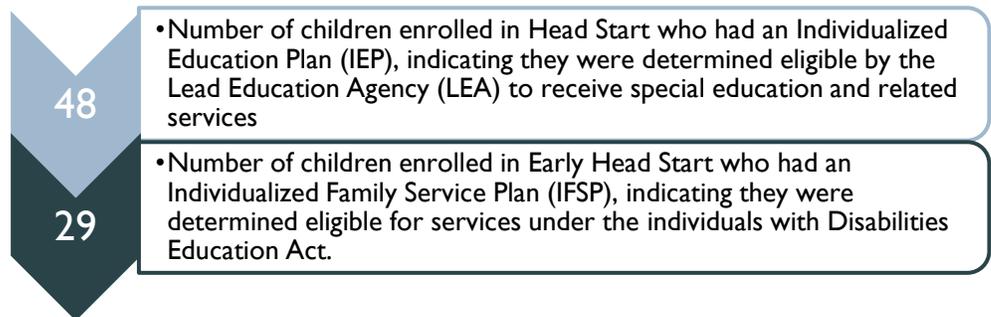


**Level of Proficiency in Six Key Areas of School Readiness Skills
2012 – 2013 School Year Dennis Early Education Center Head Start Collaboration Site
Work Sampling Assessment**

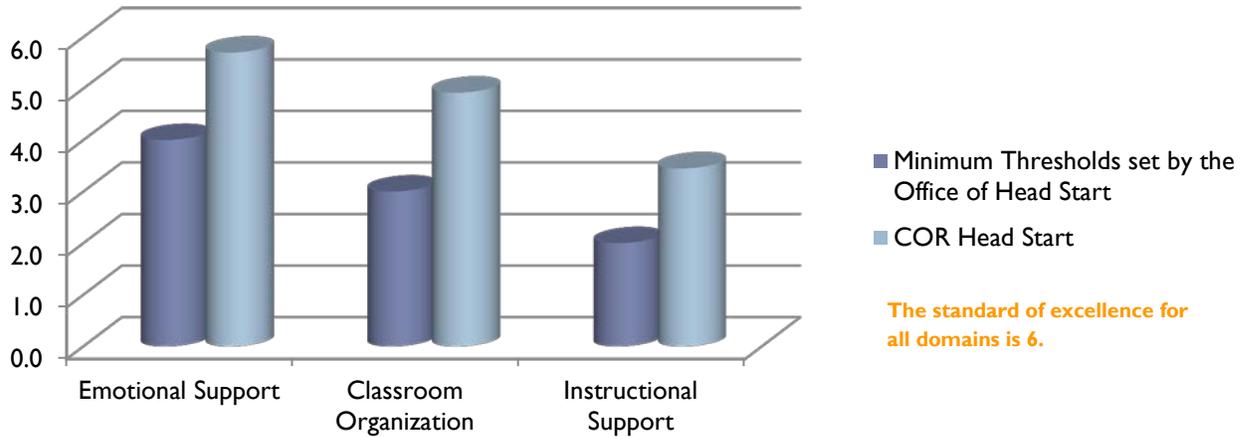


Partnerships with community organizations enrich children’s educational experiences. Partners include Discovery Center Museum, Burpee Museum of Natural History, University of Illinois Extension, Rockford Public Library and Music Academy in Rockford.

Services for Children with Special Needs (IEP/IFSP)



CLASS - The Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) is an observation instrument developed to assess quality in 3 specific domains in early childhood classrooms.



- Emotional Support**
- Positive Climate
 - Negative Climate
 - Teacher Sensitivity
 - Regard for Student Perspectives

- Classroom Organization**
- Behavior Management
 - Productivity
 - Instructional Learning Formats

- Instructional Support**
- Concept Development
 - Quality of Feedback
 - Language Modeling
 - Literacy Focus

CLASS Assessment is part of Head Start Federal Reviews. Programs can be placed in re-competition if CLASS scores are low. Programs will be re-competed if:

- The average score across all classrooms on any of the three CLASS domains are below the minimum thresholds.
- The average score in any domain is in the lowest 10% of all programs reviewed nationally in the same program year.



PNC Foundation - In December of 2010, PNC Foundation awarded a grant to Head Start. The grant provides \$25,000 a year for three years, totaling \$75,000, to enhance arts, science and math. During the 2012-2013 school year some of the \$25,000 allotted for the year was used to purchase two children’s cameras for each classroom. The cameras support the arts by giving the children a chance to experiment with photography. They also support the project approach by allowing children to document their own work during a project. This can support any curriculum area such as science, math or social studies, depending on the topic of study.



An Arts Festival was held at the Discovery Center in May at the end of the year celebration. Over 650 people attended the event and thoroughly enjoyed seeing all the children’s art on display.

Nutrition: - Nutrition activities were provided monthly to the children at Fairgrounds and Orton Keyes Sites. This is a collaboration between Head Start and the University of Illinois Extension. The activities in the classrooms were focused on “Go foods” or healthier foods.

Health Services—Children must be healthy to grow and learn. Head Start works with each family to provide medical and dental services, immunizations and other health assessments.

During the 2012-13 school year:

In Head Start:

- 100% of enrolled children had an ongoing source of continuous and accessible, routine, preventive and acute medical care.
- 98% of children were determined by a health professional to be up-to-date on all immunizations appropriate for their age.
- 99% of children had an ongoing source of continuous and accessible, routine, preventive and acute dental care.
- 97% of children completed a professional dental exam during the operating period or within the last 12 months.

In Early Head Start:

- 100% of enrolled children had an ongoing source of continuous and accessible, routine, preventive and acute medical care.
- 90% of children were determined by a health professional to be up-to-date on all immunizations appropriate for their age.
- 73% of children had an ongoing source of continuous and accessible, routine, preventive and acute dental care.
- 73% of children were up-to-date on a schedule of age-appropriate preventive and primary oral health care.

Transportation- Head Start provides door-to-door transportation for the majority of children attending part day, center based classes. All children are securely seated in safety vests.

- 585** Children transported in 2012-2013
- 11** Bus Drivers employed by Head Start
- 10** Routes run each day Monday – Thursday between Fairgrounds and Orton Keyes Sites
- 18** Buses owned by Head Start
- 14** Routes run each day Monday – Friday at Dennis Early Education Center



Parent Involvement

Head Start parents:

- Participate in their child’s education and development
- Make decisions and offer suggestions that will contribute to program quality
- Volunteer in the classroom and on field trips
- Develop their skills as their child’s first and most important teacher and advocate



Additional opportunities are available to all parents:

Policy Council is an elected body of parents and community representatives who participate in all important decisions affecting the program. Parent participants are elected at the site or program options and make up the majority of the membership.

Parent Committees are organized at the site level, the committee keeps parents informed about activities and makes recommendations for program plans.

Family Partnerships identify and support the interests, goals, needs and strengths of the family.

Parent education and training is provided at the site level and through community resources. Topics include family literacy, health, child development and self-sufficiency. 31 parent education events were held during the program year and 338 parents participated.

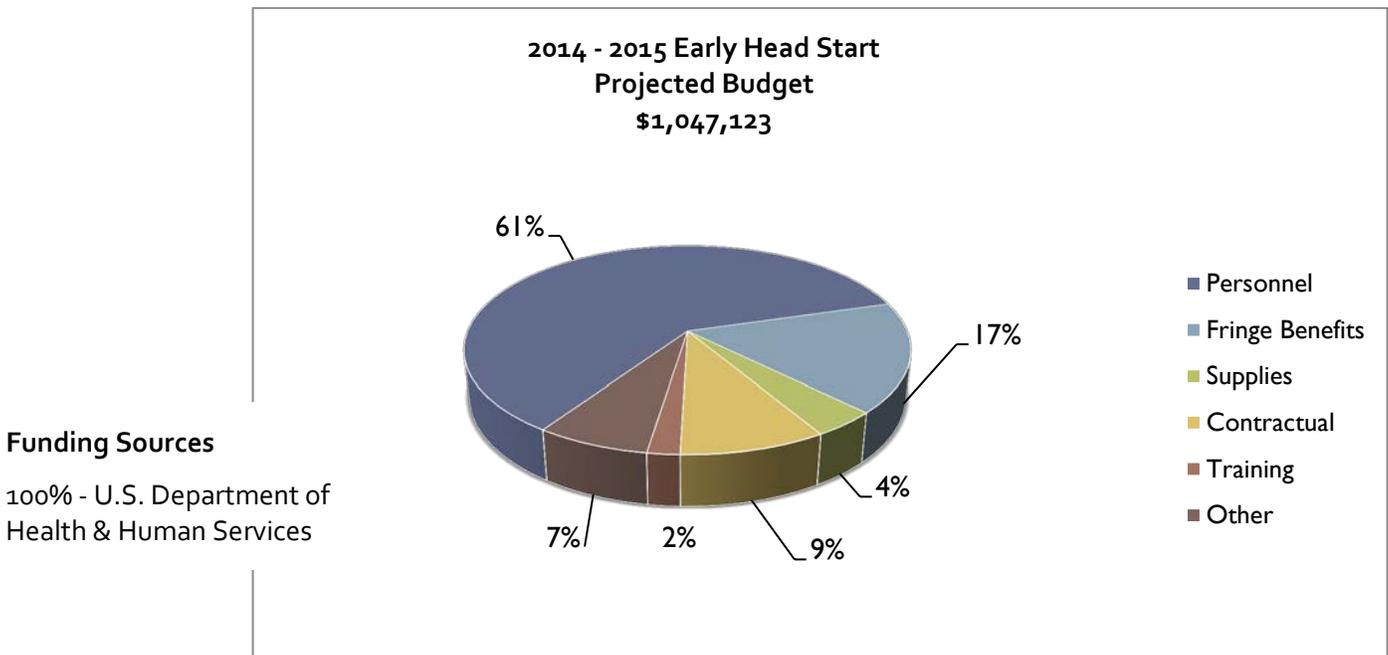
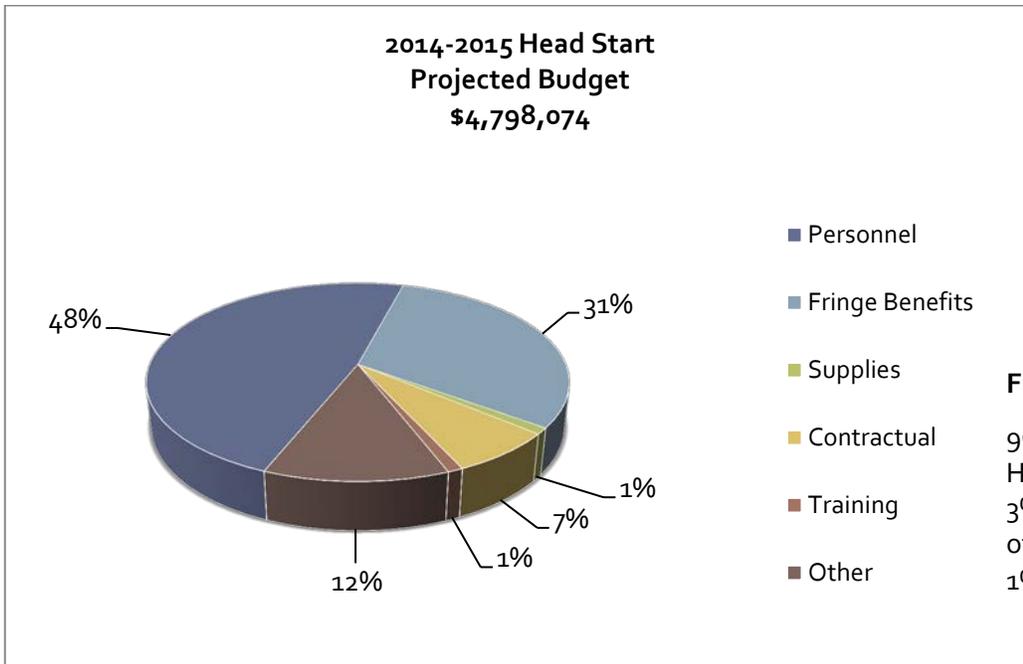
Family Fun Nights are held regularly at the site level. Family-centered events are fun and informative. All members of the family are welcome to participate. 17 Family Fun Nights were held in 2012-13 and 2337 children and families participated in the events.

Family Jamboree – is a yearly event held at the Discovery Center. 650 children and families attended.

Social Services—Family Resource Workers and Home Visitor Teachers support families’ goals and needs. Families make decisions, including the resources they choose to utilize and options they choose to exercise. In some cases, support is provided to families in crisis.

Services Provided:

	Head Start	Early Head Start		Head Start	Early Head Start
Emergency/crisis intervention (addressing immediate need for food, clothing or shelter):	33	10	Adult education (GED programs, college selection, etc)	21	2
Mental health services	9	5	Domestic violence services	4	1
Housing assistance (subsidies, utilities, repair, etc)	11	4	Child support assistance	0	1
English as a Second Language (ESL) training	10	4	Health education	37	46
Child Abuse and Neglect services	14	7	Assistance to families of incarcerated individuals	3	0
Job training	1	0	Parenting education	52	97
Substance abuse prevention or treatments	12	2			



Audit—Lauterbach & Amen conducted the annual financial audit for the year ending December 31, 2012. City of Rockford is in compliance with the requirements described in the U.S. Office of Management Budget (OMB) Circular A-133. There were no findings specific to the Head Start program.