



2025 ANNUAL REPORT

STEP Early Learning: Serving children and families in Lycoming and Clinton counties during the 2024-2025 program year. Early Learning programs are funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, PA Department of Human Services, PA Department of Education, and the Affordable Care Act.



STEP Head Start Program Vision:

to be a catalyst for inspiring positive change and fostering hope in children, family, and community.



STEP Head Start Program Mission:

to foster hope, growth, self-sufficiency, and social competence in children and their families through partnerships with parents and the community.

STEP Head Start is a part of STEP's Early Learning Pathway to Success



STEP's **mission** is to engage diverse individuals, families, and communities in the pursuit of social and economic success.

STEP Head Start PROGRAM GOALS

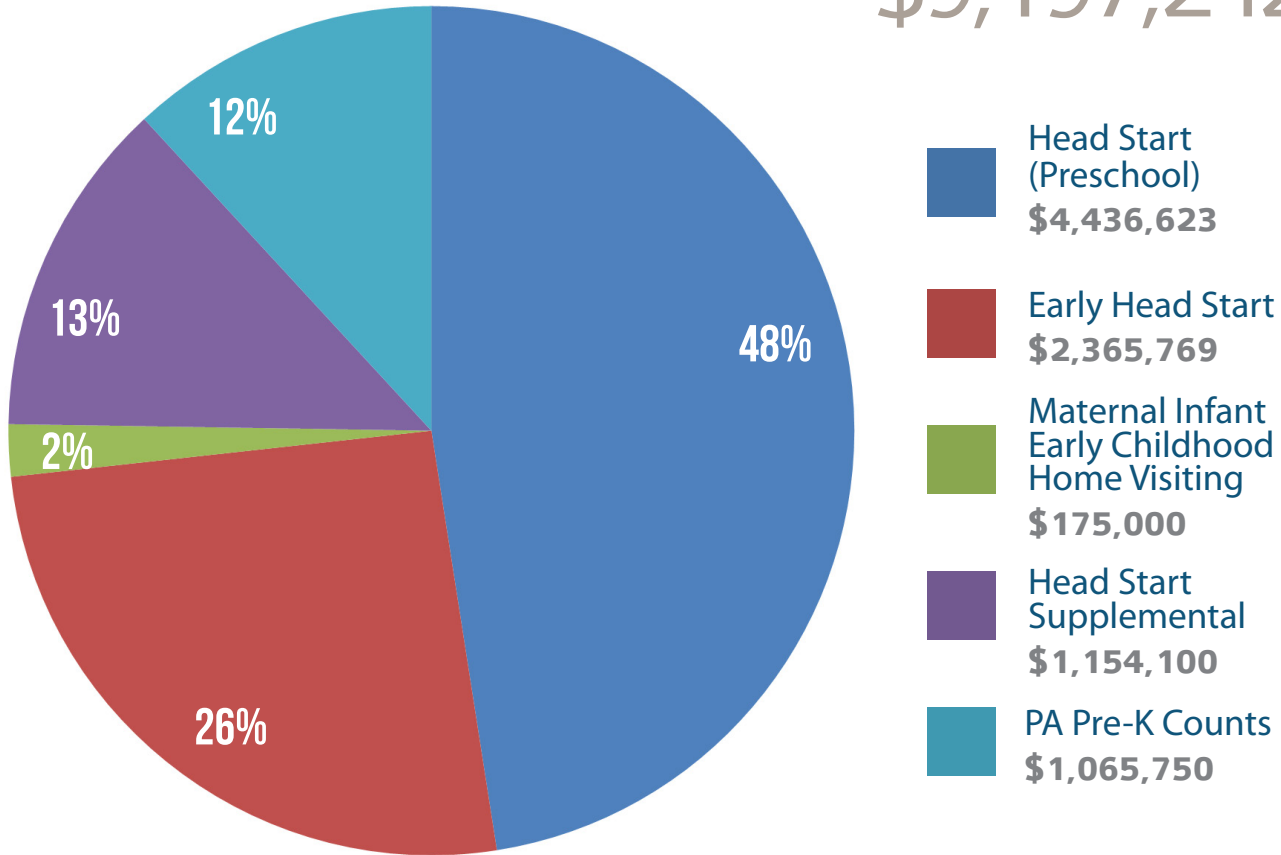
- 1 Increase capacity to achieve results.
- 2 Ensure facilities are located in areas to provide optimal service delivery.
- 3 Low-income people, especially vulnerable populations, achieve their potential by strengthening family and other supportive environments.
- 4 Partnerships among providers of services to low-income people are achieved.
- 5 Ensure that Head Start facilities are prepared to address any emergency situation that may occur.
- 6 Head Start families will be strengthened.

STEP Head Start PHILOSOPHY

- 1 Children's educational achievement and growth are key to their success in life.
- 2 Children must be understood in the context of their family, community, and culture.
- 3 Children and their families must be well to do well.
- 4 Children's potential is best realized when they are healthy, well nourished, and nurtured, when their parents are active partners in their educational experiences, and when they are supported by their communities.
- 5 Parents are a child's first and most important teachers. We respect them and honor their love and care for their children.
- 6 Communities have a moral, ethical, and practical responsibility to help low-income children and families succeed.
- 7 Staff investment of time, energy, resources, care, and compassion fosters hope, growth, self-sufficiency, and social competence in children and their families.
- 8 Staff can inspire positive change. We are proud of our staff, of who they are as human beings, of their commitment to children, families, and the program, and the high quality of the work that they do.
- 9 Our program is enriched by our individual differences and the diversity of our children, families, staff, and communities.
- 10 Head Start is a sound investment in the future. We take seriously our responsibility as stewards of public funds.

STEP Early Learning 2024-2025 FISCAL EXPENDITURES

\$9,197,242



AUDIT REPORT

The March 12, 2025 Audit Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024 reported no findings.

The most recent Monitoring Review was an FA2 conducted on March 17-21, 2025. There was one area of noncompliance regarding staff credentialing.

Unaudited Expenditures for Agency Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (7/1/2024-6/30/2025)

Expenditures	Head Start	Early	Maternal Infant	Head Start	PA Pre-K Counts
	(Preschool)	Head Start	Early Childhood Home Visitation	Supplemental	
Personnel - Wages	\$ 2,597,236	\$ 1,390,893	\$ 98,268	\$ 731,879	\$ 711,558
Personnel - Fringe Benefits and Occupancy	781,502	393,311	26,365	196,257	183,473
Communication	394,609	252,841	24,391	98,443	89,356
Supplies & Equipment	29,810	14,229	1,207	7,680	6,439
Transportation	100,946	29,116	2,225	61,300	34,771
Contract Services	96,675	31,725	4,459	15,719	5,672
Other	109,943	46,664	18,004	39,657	30,912
Total Expenditures	325,902	206,990	81	3,165	3,569
	\$ 4,436,623	\$ 2,365,769	\$ 175,000	\$ 1,154,100	\$ 1,065,750

PROGRAM IMPACTS

2024-2025

PA Pre-K Counts

PA Pre-K Counts provides early learning and school readiness experiences to center-based classes of preschool children.

- ▶ **74** three- and four-year-old children benefited from a comprehensive, individualized educational program, including quality early learning experiences to foster social, emotional, intellectual, and physical growth.
- ▶ **59** Pre-K Counts families were supported in their roles as primary educators of their own children and offered opportunities for participation, decision making, and personal growth.
- ▶ **100%** of children are up to date on immunizations.
- ▶ **100%** of children received snack and lunch, meeting one-third of their daily nutritional requirement, and regular nutrition education.
- ▶ **25** children with disabilities (**34%** of enrollment) received inclusive education and early intervention services.

2024-2025

Volunteers

Most of our volunteer hours are contributed by parents who practiced parenting and other child development skills, requested and received training on a wide variety of subjects, and participated in program planning and decision making.

- ▶ **7,248** volunteer hours were contributed to the preschool programs by **651** volunteers, including Head Start and PA Pre-K Counts parents.
- ▶ **6,752** volunteer hours were contributed to the Early Head Start program by **151** volunteers, including Early Head Start parents.



PROGRAM IMPACTS

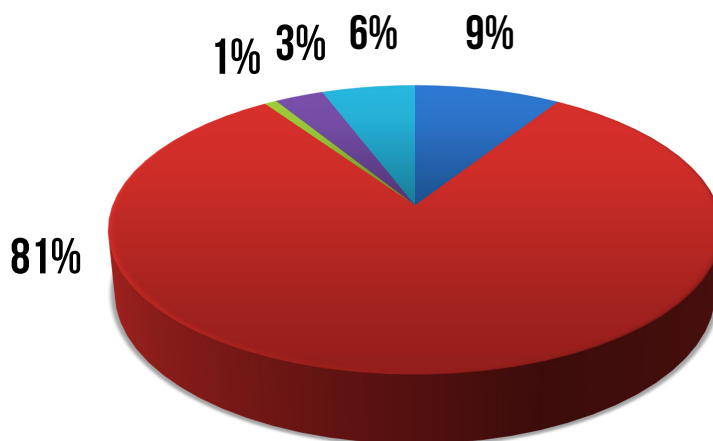
2024-2025 Federal and PA Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program

Preschool Head Start provides comprehensive child development, school readiness, and family support services to children three and four years old, including those with disabilities, and their families during the school year.

- ▶ **405** preschool Head Start children benefited from comprehensive, individualized child development services during the 2024-2025 program year.
- ▶ **219** enrolled children were 4–5 years old and will transition to kindergarten in the fall.
- ▶ **186** enrolled children were 3–4 years old and will return to Head Start.
- ▶ **100%** of Head Start children and their families received regular nutrition education.
- ▶ **332** Head Start families were supported in their roles as primary educators of their children and offered opportunities for participation, decision making, and personal growth.
- ▶ **67** children with disabilities (**17%** of enrollment) received inclusive education and treatment services in Head Start:
 - **39** children were diagnosed for the first time during the 2024-2025 Head Start program year.
 - **14** children were referred to mental health services, and **8** of those children received mental health services outside of Head Start.
- ▶ **100%** of Head Start children were linked with a source for ongoing, accessible medical and dental care:
 - **97%** of children were up to date on a schedule of age-appropriate preventive and primary health care.
 - **100%** of children have continuous accessible dental care.
 - **94%** of children completed a dental exam.
 - **100%** of children are up to date on immunizations.

Head Start - Enrollment by Eligibility

- Income below 100% FPL *
- Public Assistance
- Foster child
- Homeless
- Over income



* Federal Poverty Level

PROGRAM IMPACTS

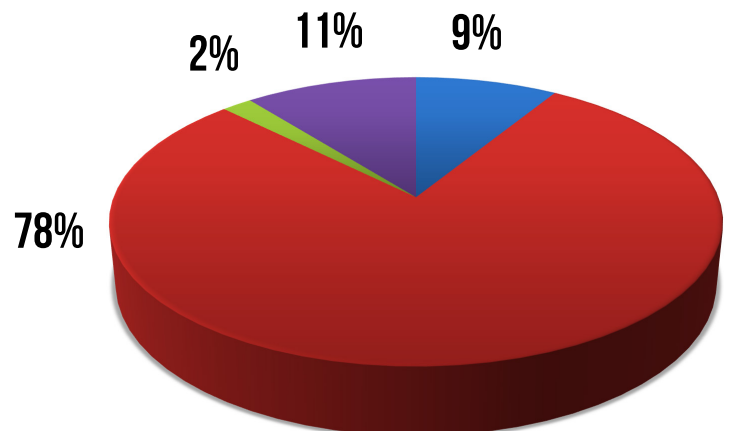
2024-2025 Early Head Start and Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting

Early Head Start provides early, continuous, and comprehensive year-round child development and family support services to pregnant woman, infants and toddlers, including those with disabilities, and their families.

- ▶ **159** infants and toddlers benefited from comprehensive, individualized child development services during the 2024-2025 program year.
- ▶ **81%** of Early Head Start children and their families received regular nutrition education.
- ▶ **129** Early Head Start families were supported in their roles as primary educators of their children and offered opportunities for participation, decision making, and personal growth.
- ▶ **36** children with disabilities (**23%** of enrollment) received inclusive education and treatment services:
 - **24** children were diagnosed prior to the 2024-2025 Early Head Start program year.
- ▶ **100%** of Early Head Start children were linked with a source for ongoing, accessible medical and dental care:
 - **88%** of children are up to date on a schedule of age-appropriate preventive and primary health care.
 - **100%** of children have continuous accessible dental care.
 - **100%** of children are up to date on immunizations.

Early Head Start - Enrollment by Eligibility

- Income below 100% FPL *
- Public Assistance
- Foster child
- Homeless
- Over income



* Federal Poverty Level

SCHOOL READINESS

Goals



SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL

Children will develop positive relationships with adults and peers, demonstrate self-regulation by managing emotions, internalize rules and routines, and display a sense of confidence and compliance.



PHYSICAL

Children will demonstrate an understanding of their environment by utilizing their perceptual motor and physical development skills.



LANGUAGE & LITERACY

Children will demonstrate literacy and language skills by expanding their vocabulary, developing phonological awareness, increasing knowledge of print, and improving emergent writing skills in English and their home language.



APPROACHES TO LEARNING

Children will develop persistence, solve problems, and show curiosity.



COGNITIVE & GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Children will develop reasoning, memory, problem solving, and thinking skills.

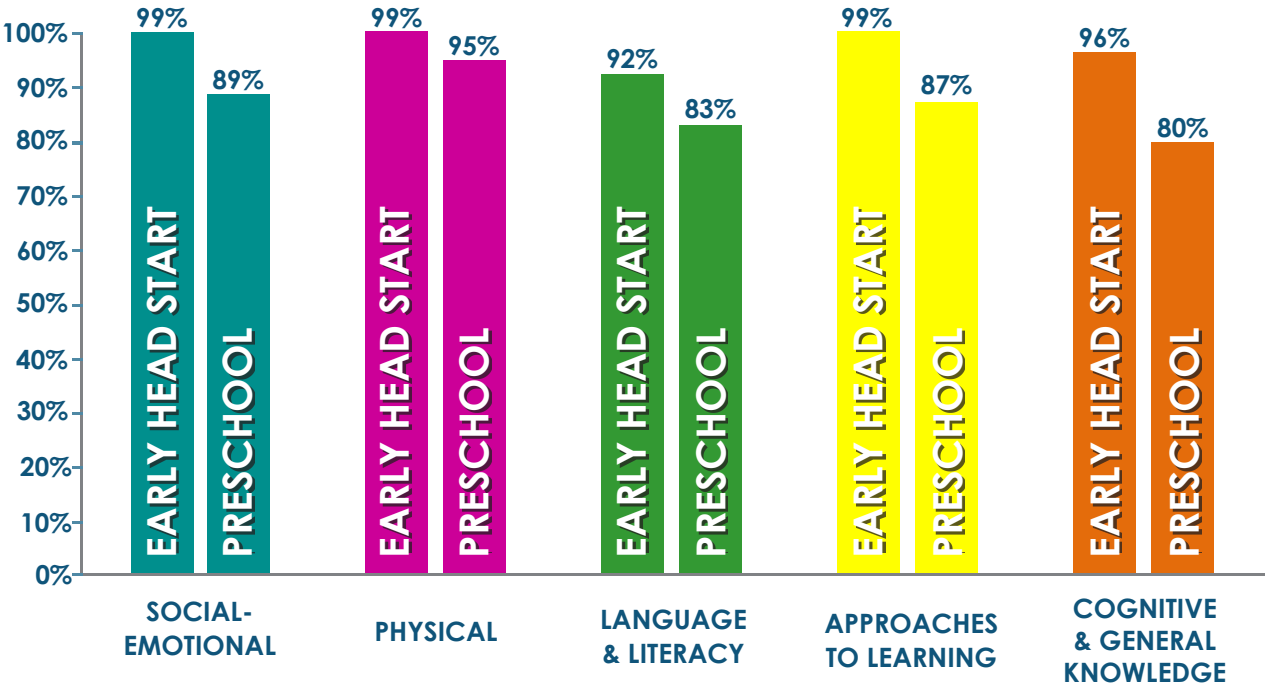
SCHOOL READINESS

2024-2025 Outcomes

Percentage of children birth through kindergarten entrance who met or exceeded School Readiness Goals

- ▶ Early Head Start (EHS): children birth through age 3
- ▶ Preschool includes Head Start and PA Pre-K Counts: children age 3 to kindergarten entrance

STEP HEAD START SCHOOL READINESS OUTCOMES 2024-2025



SPECIAL INITIATIVES AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

► PBIS Fall Kickoff

STEP Head Start's 2024 Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Fall Fest events were held in October to celebrate the season! STEP's Clinton County Community Center had 36 families in attendance from Head Start and Early Head Start on October 2, 2024. STEP's Round Hills Campus saw more than 230 individuals at the event on October 9, 2024.

The events are the yearly kick-off for the PBIS program, which teaches children about emotions and coping skills in order to proactively encourage good behavior.

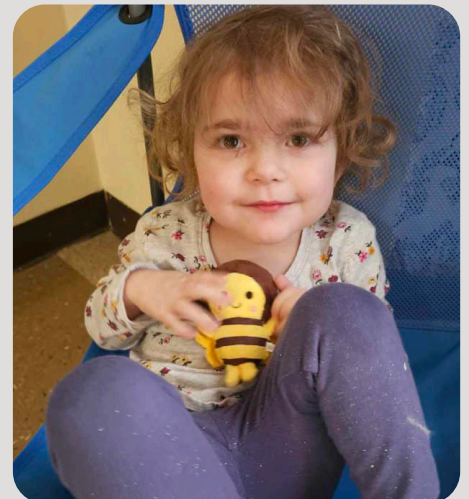


► Flat Phoebe & Baby Bee

For the fourth year, STEP Head Start and Early Head Start implemented the Flat Phoebe & Baby Bee Project. Flat Phoebe was sent home with preschool age children, and a plush Baby Bee was sent out to each Early Head Start child.

The project is a fun reminder for children and their families to continue following our PBIS "Bee Rules" (Be Safe, Be Kind, and Be Responsible) outside of the classroom.

Families were encouraged to take a photo with their Phoebe anytime a child is caught being Safe, Kind, and Responsible at home!



► Vision Screenings

Did you know that 1 in 4 children have a vision issue that needs attention before entering kindergarten?

To address this need, STEP Head Start is proactive with vision screening! All children had their vision screened during the 2024-2025 program year, and **166** children were referred to a vision specialist for follow up. Here are our results:

72 children received glasses or are actively doing patch therapy.

54 children are being monitored for possible future vision problems.

20 children are awaiting their appointments.

14 children left our program before their appointment dates.



► Week of the Young Child

STEP Head Start celebrated Week of the Young Child from April 5-11, 2025. The Week of the Young Child is an annual observance hosted by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

STEP Head Start families and staff organized a fun-filled week celebrating early learning, young children, their teachers, families, and communities. The week's activities included Music Monday, Tasty Tuesday, Work Together Wednesday, Artsy Thursday, and Family Friday.





Success Through Engagement and Partnership

The Mission of STEP, Inc. is to engage diverse individuals, families, and communities in the pursuit of social and economic success.

The Head Start program is a part of STEP's Early Learning Pathway to Success.



STEP does not discriminate in its enrollment, employment, or activities on the basis of age, sex, color, religion, ancestry, disability, or national origin.

For more information, to apply for enrollment, volunteer your time, or to make a contribution please contact STEP Head Start :

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