2020 - 2021

ANNUAL REPORT

ROCK & WALWORTH COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE FAMILY SERVICES

MISSION

In partnership with parents, and collaborating with stakeholders, RWCFS will support children's readiness for school and life success, by developing independence and self-sufficiency, strengthening families and promoting social justice.

VALUES

1. We celebrate every individual's strengths, as well as each family's definition of itself.
2. We believe in providing healthy, safe environments and encouraging life-long learning.
3. We believe in shared leadership where opportunities are present for everyone to develop to their fullest potential.
4. We believe every family is its child's most influential teacher and most powerful prevention mechanism.
5. We know we are stronger when we have meaningful partnerships within the community.
6. We believe healthy relationships will result when we reflect compassion, dignity and mutual respect for diversity.
7. We believe all activities should promote the wellness and growth of our communities.
8. We embrace and encourage change to improve opportunities for our staff, children and families.
9. We believe that our children and families deserve excellence in service provision.

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Lonnie Randall
Executive Director
Vicky Mortimer
Finance Director
Melissa Reed
Program Design Director
Cheryl Hutchison
Family Services Manager
Janice Kuchelmeister
ERSEA Specialist
Michelle Genthe
Health and Nutrition Manager
Eve Smith/Paige Lehr
HS Child Development Manager
Chelsea Miller
EHS Child Development Manager
Randy Brewer
Transportation & Maintenance Specialist
Brian Gile
Site Team Leader
Stefanie Kranz
Site Team Leader
Allison Kestol-Bauer

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR:

"We believe our diversity makes us stronger, smarter, and more innovative, helping us better serve the needs of our clients, our people, and our communities."
~Julie Sweet

It's that time of year where I have the opportunity to share with you The Rock and Walworth County Comprehensive Family Services Inc. 2020-2021 Annual Report. I would also like to take this time to thank the entire RWCFS Staff who have worked through one of the most stressful and trauma induced times in our history. Through their dedication we were able to continue providing services to children and families as well as collaborating with community partners.

Thank you,
Lonnie Randall M.S., M.Ed.

FINANCIALS

We received funding for fiscal year 2020-2021 from the Department of Health and Human Services to serve 259 Head Start children and 110 Early Head Start children from February 1, 2020 to January 31, 2021. Federal funds, through the State of Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, provided funding for our child nutrition program. The State of Wisconsin funded 11 additional Early Head Start children under a Head Start Supplemental Funding grant. We also received stipends from the School District of Beloit, and the School District of Janesville for 4 year old Kindergarten collaborations.

Federal Head Start/Early Head Start $5,008,664
Covid 19 HS/EHS $2,57,418
School Districts 4K $147,565
USDA Child Nutrition $47,231
Wisconsin State EHS Supplemental $125,266
Other Grants $4,200
Donations $7,672
Program Revenue $3,125
In-Kind Contributions* $674,699

Personnel $2,876,007
Fringe Benefits $1,512,823
Contractual $307,833
Travel/Transportation $117,751
Supplies/Food $258,552
Facility/Construction$0
Space/Occupancy $254,710
Minor Equipment/Equipment $16,087
Other (includes insurance, phone, etc.) $155,884
Other (Donations) $4,895
In-Kind Contributions*674,699

Results of FY 2020-2021 Independent Fiscal Audit by WIPFLI LLP:

- Met/exceeded all necessary audit requirements
- No audit exceptions or recommended changes
- Major federal award programs audit: Questioned costs, none

Personnel $3,11,383
Fringe Benefits $1,258,312
Contractual $441,296
Travel/Transportation $136,487
Supplies/Food $284,984
Facility/Construction $0
Space/Occupancy $295,191
Minor Equipment/Equipment $0
Other (includes insurance, phone, etc.) $188,004
Other (Donations) $0
In-Kind Contributions* $1,200,241

RWCFS operated a variety of program options designed to meet our community needs, including home-based programming and center-based options.

8 CENTERS

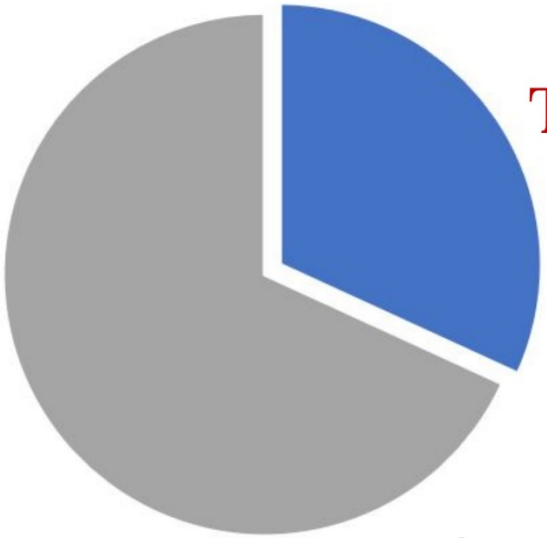
Early Head Start

- **10 Home-based Caseloads**
- **7 Rock County**
- **4 Full-Day Center-Based**
- **3 Walworth County**

Head Start

- **3 Rock County Centers**
  - **10 Full-Day Classes**
  - **2 Part-Day Classes**
- **4 Walworth County**
  - **2 Full-Day Classes**
  - **2 Part-Day Classes**

Demographics of Children



TOTAL FUNDED = 380

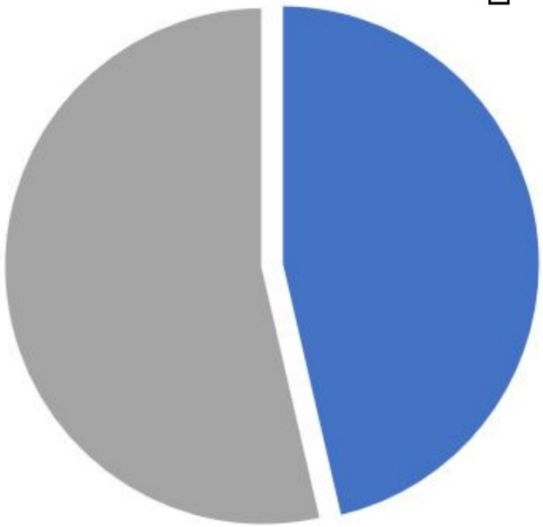
Head Start = 259

Early Head Start = 121

TOTAL SERVED = 414

Head Start = 222

Early Head Start = 192



HEAD START

ENROLLMENT BY RACE:

Caucasian: 109
African American: 68
Bi-Racial/Multi-Racial: 44
American Indian/Alaskan Native: 1

ETHNICITY:

Hispanic: 65 Non-Hispanic: 157

PRIMARY LANGUAGE SPOKEN:

English: 199 Spanish: 23

EARLY HEAD START

ENROLLMENT BY RACE:

Caucasian: 106
African American: 46
Bi-Racial/Multi-Racial: 40

ETHNICITY:

Hispanic: 54 Non-Hispanic: 139

PRIMARY LANGUAGE SPOKEN:

English: 174 Spanish: 18

AVERAGE ENROLLMENT

80%

EHS Average Monthly Enrollment (of funded enrollment)

159%

Percentage of eligible children served

62%

HS Average Monthly Enrollment (of funded enrollment)

86%

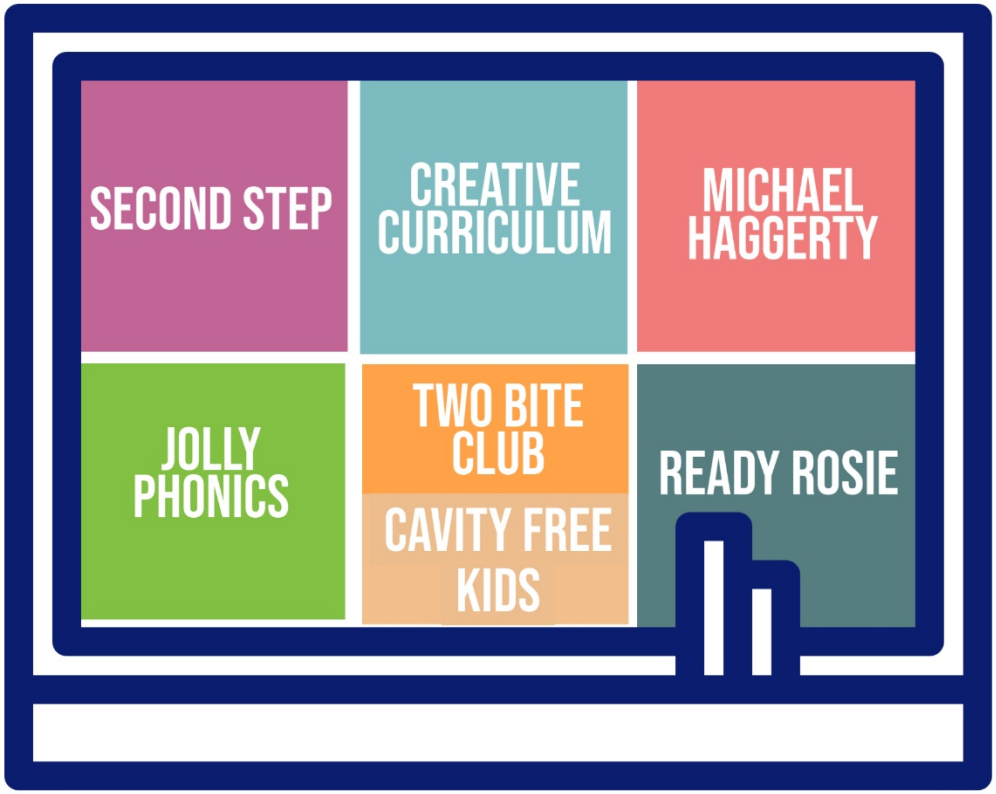
Percentage of eligible children served

Head Start & Early Head Start Curriculum

RWCFS, through foundational learning experiences for all young children including dual language learners and children with disabilities, will prepare and support children and families to be school ready. With a focus on six essential domains, the program works hard to ensure strong school readiness skills for every student and strong partnerships with families. All curricula used in RWCFS programming are research-based and support the agency in meeting and exceeding expectations of Head Start Program Performance Standards, the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework and Wisconsin Early Model Learning Standards. In all program options, instruction is intentional and individualized to meet each child's unique needs as well as engaging students throughout the school day.

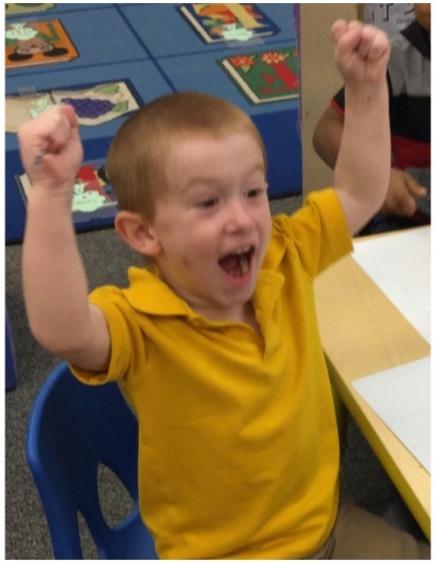
School Readiness Goals

In order to support children in becoming confident and competent learners, Birth to Five School Readiness Goals: Integrating the Six Central Domains and Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework and in Partnership with Family Engagement, are incorporated into the Educational Philosophy and Approaches to Learning to solidify us a Birth (including pregnant women) to Five program. In order to meet Head Start Program Performance Standards and support collaboration between early childhood programs, our school readiness goals align with the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework, and state early learning objectives for our assessment system, Teaching Strategies Gold.



Head Start curriculum that is used.

ASSESSMENTS



Py promoting school readiness with a focus on student social and emotional development, RWCFS is able to utilize assessment data to determine the progress of School Readiness Goals and in turn strategically prioritize educator professional development and a research-based coaching strategy, Practice-Based Coaching, that supports all child development staff.

	Age 1-2	Age 2-3	Age 3	Age 4K
1 Social/Emotional	83.3%	71.3%	95.2%	86%
2 Physical	88.9%	93.7%	93.6%	86.4%
3 Language	61.1%	77.8%	86%	91.7%
4 Cognitive	85.7%	86.7%	90.9%	91.4%
5 Literacy	69.2%	80%	85.7%	87.9%
6 Math	73.3%	93.3%	95.1%	87.3%

FROM VIRTUAL...

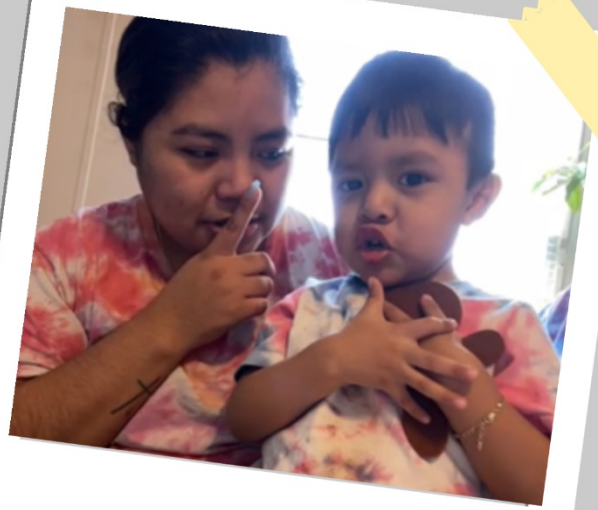
TO OUTSIDE...

EARLY HEAD START CONTINUED TO FIND WAYS TO MAKE MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS WITH FAMILIES AS THE PANDEMIC CONTINUES.

Even though the pandemic made it hard to serve families in our usual ways. Early Head Start adapted services to help keep families safe while still providing quality services. Our home visitors and Nurturers continued to work hard to strengthen virtual events to make them as enjoyable and educational as possible. Parent surveys and feedback were integral in guiding activities provided at playgroups and parent meetings. These events continued to contain fun activities provided not only by our staff but by community partners like the Janesville and Beloit libraries and UW-Extension. For playgroups, families sang songs, listened to stories, went on scavenger hunts in their home, made healthy snacks, created works of art and shared their experiences with the group. Parent meeting events included an at-home spa day, a discussion about building routines, resourcing and sharing experiences about potty training, practicing mindfulness among a plethora of additional meetings focusing on other topics.

Early Head Start continued to operate our Teen Parent Program this past program year. This program serves 8 participants at one time from grades 9-12. Our home visitors also work with in-school teens throughout our service area. Over the year we had 5 more teens graduate from high school.

In August 2020, we provided diapers, wipes and formula to those unable to afford it or go out and buy their own. This is a service that continued from the last program year. Approximately 90 families were provided with this service.



In April 2021, families received curriculum support backpacks to further support family engagement during the pandemic. The backpacks, which include items that are commonly used in our EHS curriculum, support playgroups as well as virtual or distanced in person visits with families. Families can participate in Baby Doll Circle Time and Kindermusik with their own items from their backpack while staff participate with their own materials. Nurturers can share more of the curriculum pieces they are doing in the classroom with families and families can use their backpack to continue doing these pieces at home.

WE CELEBRATED 10 YEARS OF OUR COMMUNITY-BASED DOULA PROGRAM

Our EHS Community-based Doula/Home Visitors work with expecting families at least through their child's first birthday.

"Community-based doulas provide culturally sensitive pregnancy and childbirth education, early linkage to health care and other services; labor coaching, breast-feeding promotion and counseling, and parenting education, while encouraging parental attachment"

“My doula helped me with so many things she went above and beyond what she should have done I was 16 and pregnant I had a father who is dying of cancer and she made it we’re both me and my mother felt like we could do it no matter what the circumstance. I honestly and truly believe that if it wasn’t for my doula I wouldn’t have kept my daughter and I wouldn’t have graduated."

“These parts of the doula program helped me most: Breast feeding support , group activities, emotional support, being at the birth, supplies. I loved having someone I could relate to. ”

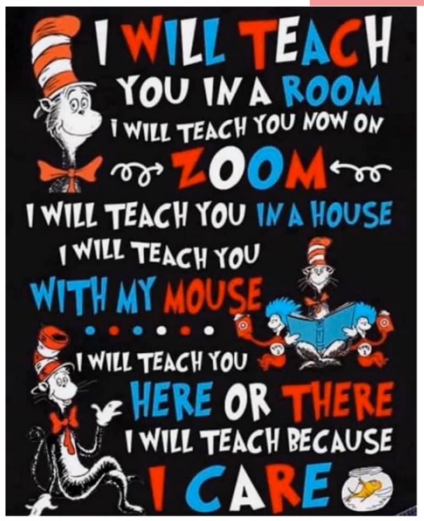
TESTIMONIALS

“Everything stuck out to me. Without this program I wouldn’t have finished high school they are a big help. They help new moms become better moms and they educate them on things they have no clue about . They help them through delivery and help teens while teaching them how to care for their child. A lot of people don’t know how to care for even know what to do when they’re pregnant so it’s very important."

Comprehensive Services

Doctors, dentists, and other healthcare providers were not providing services in our centers due to ongoing COVID concerns, causing a lack of access to care for our children and families.

	Early Head Start		Head Start	
	19-20 PY	20-21 PY*	19-20 PY	20-21 PY*
Percentage of children that received medical exams	43%	52%	54%	52%
Percentage of children with identified disabilities	8%	15%	13%	17%
Percentage of children who received dental assessments and/or exams			79%	19%



"I cannot say enough good things about the impact Head Start has had on my family. The teachers and staff cultivated a love of learning in my son and daughter as well as a sense of independence. I definitely see the difference between my two children who participated in the Head Start program, and my oldest daughter who did not."

-Alyssa Bushaw, Policy Council Representative

WE PARTICIPATED IN THE FARMERS TO FAMILIES PROGRAM, DISTRIBUTING OVER 1000 BOXES OF FOOD A WEEK TO PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITIES FOR 2 MONTHS.

WE RECEIVED GRANT MONEY/DONATIONS FROM SOUTHERN WISCONSIN AHEC & BAKER TILY TO BEGIN CREATING GARDENING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

Parent, Family, & Community Engagement

Head Start and Early Head Start has established a two-generational approach, focusing on young children and adult family members, in order to promote school success. The Office of Head Start has re-emphasized the importance of Family Engagement in support of children's learning and strengthening parents as the primary educators of their children. OHS has introduced the Parent, Family and Community Engagement Framework which will guide programs in being even more intentional in promoting parent and family engagement to achieve better outcomes for children and families.

Even though we had to go to virtual Policy Council meetings due to Covid, our wonderful PC members stayed engaged and active.

When I felt like the district wasn't giving my son enough Head Start gave him the time he needed and he made incredible leaps in his learning.
- Jaime Little, Policy Council Representative

ELECTED POLICY COUNCIL PARENT LEADERS 2020-2021

Chairperson: Veronica Burton
Vice Chairperson: Tawyna Castellanos
Secretary: Gail Kuney
Claudia Vasquez, Janesville H.S.
Alyssa Shire, Janesville H.S.
Tawnya Castellanos, Beloit H.S.
Heather Hill, Lake Geneva Star Center
RaStar Shipp, Beloit H.S.
Brittany Demontigny, Beloit H.S.
Dawn Paulson, Rock County E.H.S.
Angelia Potts, Rock County E.H.S.
Sarahi Sanchez, WC E.H.S.
Elizabeth Bols, Whitewater H.S.

Parent, Family, & Community Engagement continued

Through the coming year, family engagement outcomes will be addressed in the following areas:

- Family engagement in transitions
- Family connections to peers and community
- Parents as leaders
- Family well-being
- Parent-child relationships
- Families as lifelong educators

Below is a small sample of formal and informal community partnerships:

Clippers & Curls - Ecolab, Inc - Grand Geneva Resort - Randolph Park - Fairbanks Morse - Commercial Services - Bernier's Towing & Recovery, LLC - Frito-Lay & Pepsi - Slumberland - Cranked, Inc. - Green Bay Packers - Whitewater Chamber of C. - Beloit Area Community Health Center - Kerry Ingredients - QPS of Walworth County - Janesville Morning Rotary - Marine Corp. League - Loyal Order of Moose - Outreach Ministries - Rockford Speedway - Staples - Rock County Health Department - Old Navy - UW-Extension BookWorms™ Rock and Walworth County - Rock and Walworth Counties Libraries - U-Rock English Honor Society - SSM Health -CAI's Fresh Start - Welty Environmental Center - Rock & Walworth County WIC programs - Give Me Twenty by Book-It and Pizza Hut

TRANSPORTATION

We transport most Head Start children to and from our schools. We provided bus transportation for 180 individual Head Start children this year.

We offer our Early Head Start home based family's transportation services to and from one play group per month. We also provided individual transportation services for dental appointments and or dental surgery.

In addition to our fleet of seventeen school buses, we maintain four other vehicles to support staff transportation, internal courier assignments and assisted with maintenance issues throughout the organization.

Our buses meet the highest safety standards in the public transportation industry, are all equipped with child safety restraints. Two trained adults are on every bus each day to ensure the safety of children we transport.
Our buses traveled 52,306 miles during the program year.
We recorded 27,768 "child transports" during the program year (excluding field trips, playgroups and "incidental" transport).

Along with Learning Kits, we delivered food to our families in need. Anywhere between 58-118 families were delivered food each week for 3 months.