



Teaching Children · Supporting Families · Impacting Communities

## 2019 -2020 Annual Report





Dear Community,

The staff of Tazewell-Woodford Head Start are honored to serve the children and families of Tazewell and Woodford Counties with a quality preschool program. The preschool years are critical in giving a child the strong foundation needed for lifelong success. Our federally funded program has income-based eligibility serving children and families living under 100% of the Federal Poverty Level. For example, a family of four has an income of \$26,200 or lower to qualify for the program. With values of excellence, dedication, teamwork, support and compassion, staff are committed to supporting the child and the whole family.

In March of 2020, everything changed. With a Stay-at-Home Order issued throughout the State of Illinois, Tazewell-Woodford Head Start had to change the way services were offered to our children and families. The staff pulled together to provide at-home learning for the 234 children enrolled in the program. At home learning packets were delivered by bus; classrooms held Zoom meetings; parents received weekly check-in calls; and food baskets were delivered. Although everything had been shut down, the families of Tazewell-Woodford Head Start were still being supported.

Tazewell-Woodford Head Start had the opportunity to provide a Summer School Program this year. With additional funding from the Office of Head Start, fifty children that would be entering kindergarten were given the opportunity to learn and socialize before going to kindergarten. To hear the children laughing and learning after so much time at home was worth every effort made by staff to provide a safe, nurturing environment to offer some "normal" during this not so normal time.

This year's Annual Report will look somewhat different. Some data was not collected for the final quarter of the School Year. With no events or meetings, parent involvement looked very different as well. Parents needed to become teachers at home, and the program did their best to support them in that role. Volunteers were unable to come to help in classrooms, cut out activities, or come help with a variety of projects. We are looking forward to a time we can get back to business as usual.

We are grateful for our strong partnerships in the community that help us receive the funding necessary to provide our Head Start Program. We are especially thankful to the School Districts that provide us with classroom space and disability services; PNC Bank for their monetary and time donations; and Heart of Illinois United Way Success by 6 for monthly books to distribute to children.

This report highlights some of the positive outcomes seen during the 2019-2020 School Year and how our resources were allocated. Although this year we need to limit our visitors, we are hopeful to invite everyone back to see us soon. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Donna M. Ashley'.

Donna Ashley  
Executive Director  
Tazewell-Woodford Head Start



## TAZEWELL-WOODFORD HEAD START 2019-2020 ENROLLMENT

Tazewell-Woodford Head Start receives funding to provide services to 234 children residing in Tazewell and Woodford Counties.

An Eligibility Questionnaire is completed by the family and evaluated to ensure the most at-risk families are a priority to receive services.

During the 2019 –2020 School Year, **266 children** from **253 families** were provided Head Start services.

This included:

### Ages of Children Served

1  
2 Year Olds



87  
3 Year Olds



178  
4 Year Old



### Families Served

253  
Total Families



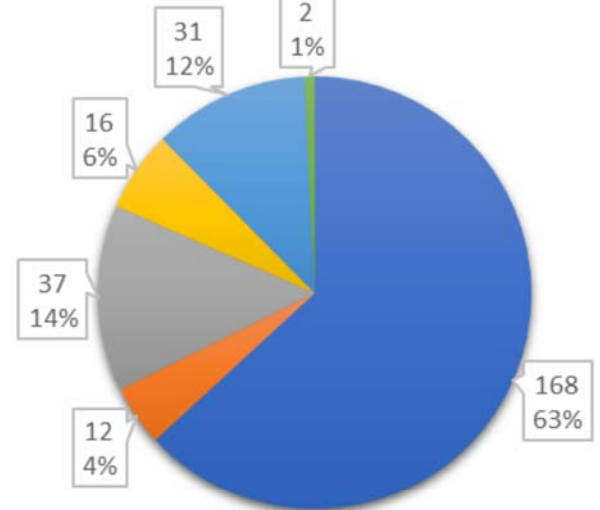
100  
Two Parent



153  
Singel Parent



### Participants by Eligibility



■ <100 % of Federal Poverty Line

■ Income Between 101-130%

■ Homeless

■ Public Assistance

■ Foster Care

■ Over Income



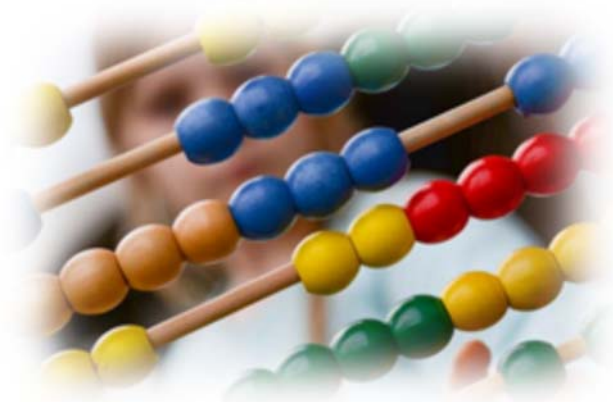
## WHAT IS HEAD START?

Head Start is a federally funded, income-based program providing early education services to children three to five years old and their families. During the 2019-2020 School Year, full day classrooms were offered five days per week in 13 classrooms. Classrooms were located at the Family Center in East Peoria, Pekin District 108 Preschool Family Education Center in Pekin, Roanoke Mennonite Church in Eureka, LaSalle School in Creve Coeur, Midwest Central Middle School in Green Valley, and Robein School in East Peoria. All services are provided to children and families at no cost.

The Head Start Program is designed to prepare children to enter kindergarten ready to learn. Funding for Tazewell-Woodford Head Start allowed for enrollment of 234 children in Tazewell and Woodford Counties. Head Start Services focus on the whole child including: education, medical care, dental care, nutrition, social-emotional development and family engagement.

Along with School Readiness Goals, the program focuses on the entire family's well-being. Tazewell-Woodford Head Start has a strong belief that parents are their child's first and most important teacher and provides supportive services to engage the entire family. Many opportunities are available for parents to become involved and support their child's early education. Some of these include: Parent Committees, Literacy Events, take home learning activities, and the opportunity to become involved in Policy Council. Each family sets Child Goals as well as Family Goals to accomplish during the year.

The Head Start Program was designed to give children a "head start" to compensate for the inequality in opportunities for children living in poverty. This program, developed in 1964, has provided quality services for over 30 million children since its inception. At Tazewell-Woodford Head Start, we are committed to ensuring the children and families served by our program are off to the right start and have a HEAD START!





# TAZEWELL-WOODFORD HEAD START SERVICES

## **Education:**

Tazewell-Woodford Head Start's education program is designed to meet the needs of each individual child. Classrooms follow the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework as well as Illinois Early Learning and Development Standards. A child's growth and development is assessed three times per year to track progress toward School Readiness Goals. Lesson Plans are individualized to provide opportunities for optimal development.

## **Family Service:**

Family Service staff develop positive, goal-oriented relationships with families to better support the child's school readiness and the family's overall well-being. Head Start believes that a parent is a child's first and most important teacher, and parents are educated and supported to encourage their child's development. Family Engagement Coordinators assist parents in exploring opportunities to expand their education, obtain employment, and assist with access to needed resources available in the community.

## **Health:**

Children must be healthy in order to grow and ready to learn. Head Start works with each family to provide for a child's medical and dental needs, immunizations, and other health needs. Health, Nutrition, Hearing and Vision Assessments are completed for each child.

## **Nutrition:**

Nutritious meals are served family style to children in the program, and parents are always welcome to join the classroom for a meal. Each child is provided with breakfast, lunch and a snack. Parents and children are educated about the benefits of healthy eating. Special menus are also prepared for children with medical and religious restrictions.

## **Transportation:**

Transportation is provided to as many children as possible with bus stops as close to a child's home as possible. Each bus is staffed with a Driver and a Monitor and is equipped with integrated safety seats. The program sees a positive impact on attendance with the availability of reliable transportation.

## **Mental Health Services and Disabilities:**

Support is provided to ensure children with disabilities are included in all program activities. Screenings and assessments are completed by teachers to provide additional information about needed referrals for additional services.



**Parent Involvement:**

Head Start encourages parents to become involved in their child's education; both in and out of the classroom. Head Start Teachers welcome parents and family members in the classroom. Parents support their children while attending Head Start by: attending Parent-Teacher Conferences, serving on Policy Council, attending Parent Committee Meetings, participating in trainings and family activities, and completing take-home activities with their child. The program emphasizes a positive first school experience for both the parent and the child.

**Volunteers:**

Tazewell-Woodford Head Start has many volunteer opportunities available for parents and the community. Volunteers can provide: additional hands in the classroom for more individualized attention, be guest readers in classrooms, provide extra hands on field trips, and assist with community and literacy events.

Volunteer numbers for the 2019-2020 School Year were much lower than in years past. Due to the COVID-19 Stay-at-Home Order, classes were not in session and volunteers were not in the classroom for the last quarter of the School Year. During this time, our parents became our most valuable "volunteers". They kept their children learning and safe at home.

Tazewell-Woodford Head Start could not provide the services they do without the assistance of our very supportive community!

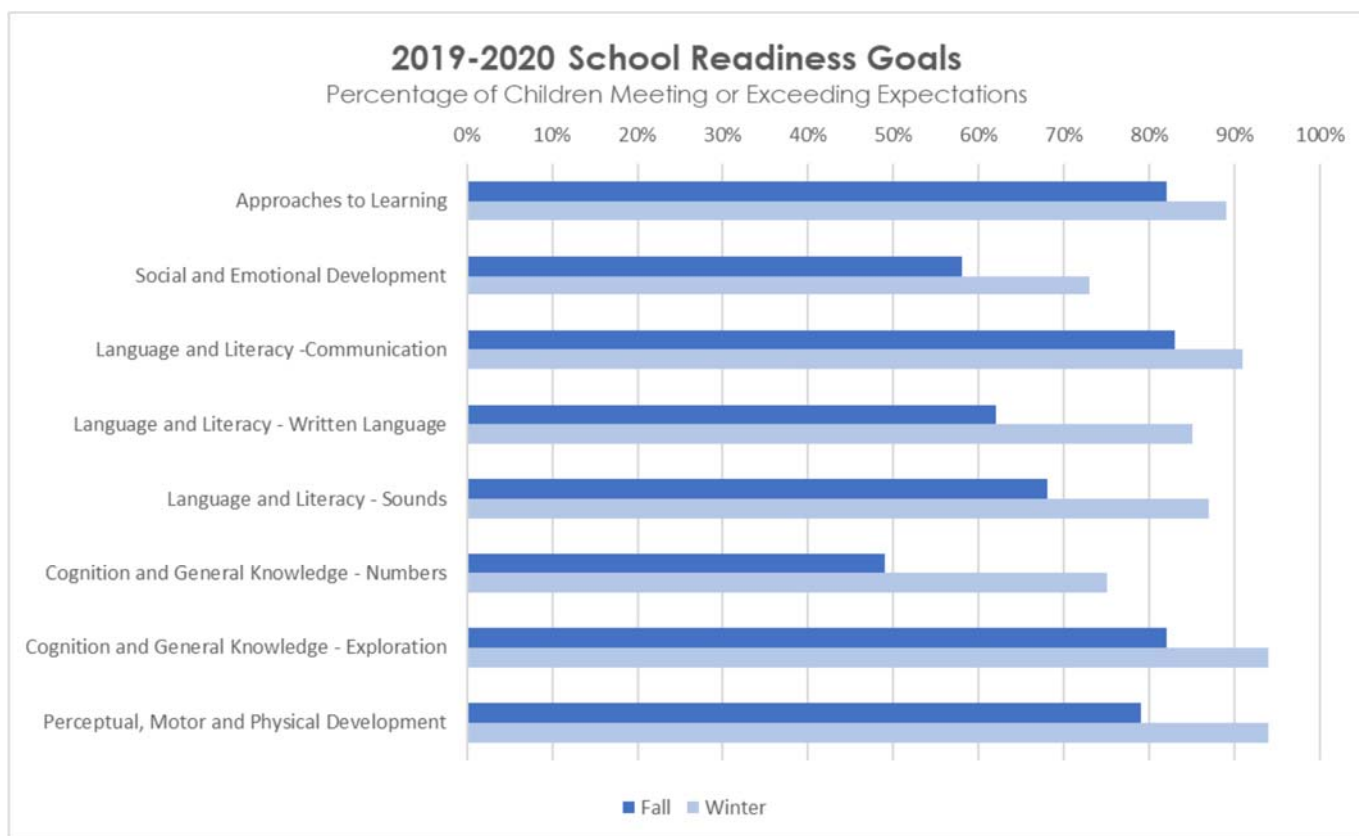


## EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES

All children enrolled in Head Start are screened for developmental delays within 45 days of the start of school. If needed, children are referred to their local school districts for further screening, evaluation and services. Tazewell-Woodford Head Start's Curriculum, Creative Curriculum, follows Federal and State Learning Standards and addresses all areas of a child's development.

Children are assessed three times per year in the following areas: Approaches to Learning; Social and Emotional Development; Language and Literacy; Cognition; and Perceptual, Motor and Physical Development. Assessment results are shared with parents, and activities are provided that can be completed at home to support their child's development.

Developmental information is collected and utilized for classroom and individualized lesson planning and ongoing professional development for teachers. Outcome data is shared with employees, Governing Bodies, State and National Head Start Associations and the community.



Outcome Data was acquired using the Teaching Strategies Gold® Assessment. The above information indicates the percentage of children meeting or exceeding expectations in the Fall and Winter. Due to COVID-19 Shutdown, complete data was not available for the Spring Collection Period.

## AREA DEMOGRAPHICS

Tazewell-Woodford Head Start collaborated with School Districts in Tazewell and Woodford Counties to ensure children are entering kindergarten ready to learn.

**Head Start children will attend the following School Districts:**

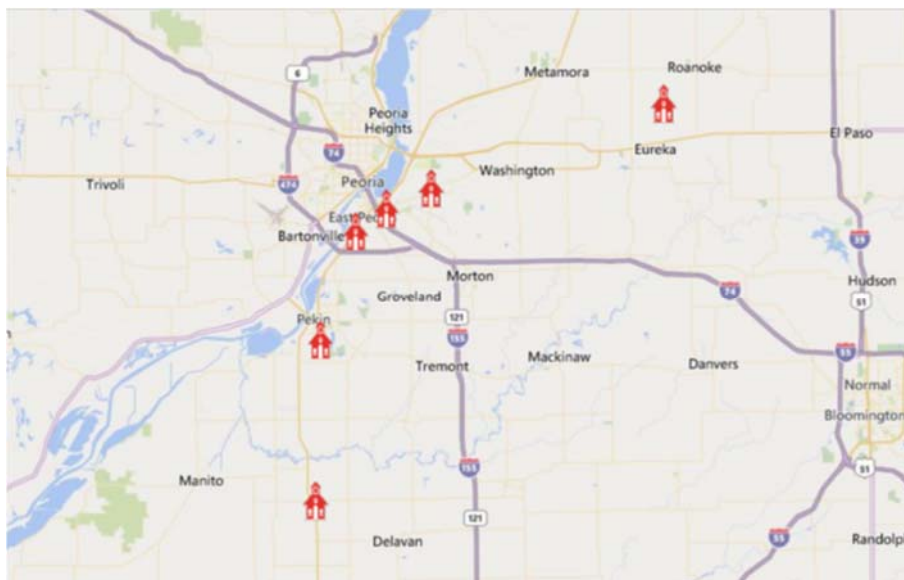
- |     |   |
|-----|---|
| 46  | Children from Washington District #50, #51, #52   |
| 25  | Children from Creve Coeur District #76  |
| 47  | Children from East Peoria District #86, Robein District #85, and Riverview District #2  |
| 16  | Children from Morton District #709  |
| 101 | Children from Pekin District #108, Rankin District #98, North Pekin/Marquette Heights District #102 and South Pekin District #137 |
| 9   | Children from Midwest Central District #191, Delavan District #703, and Deer Creek-Mackinaw District #701                         |
| 22  | Children from Woodford County School Districts  |

## POVERTY RATE

11.4% of children in Tazewell County live in poverty (2017 Kids Count Data)

7.7% of children in Woodford County live in poverty (2017 Kids Count data)

Tazewell-Woodford Head Start has 13 classrooms at six locations throughout Tazewell and Woodford Counties.





## CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Head Start regulations require at least 10% of the total number of children served by the program are children with disabilities. Tazewell-Woodford Head Start works closely with all local school districts to serve children with disabilities in the most appropriate setting. Each child has an individualized plan to assist the program in meeting their needs.

**29 children with a diagnosed disability received Head Start services**

**12 children were referred to their local school district for additional services**

**6 children were referred to a Mental Health Professional for additional services**



## NUTRITION OUTCOMES

Food costs are primarily funded by the USDA Food Program and are supplemented by Head Start funds. Children attending the program receive one-half to two-thirds of their nutritional needs for the day. The program provides a variety of nutritious foods for children, and all children are encouraged to try new foods. A variety of educational and food related learning activities are provided to children and families to encourage a healthy lifestyle.

**13 children were provided special menus for medical and religious needs**

**22,850 breakfasts were served to children**

**23,555 snacks were served to children**

**23,980 lunches were served to children**



# HEALTH AND NUTRITION OUTCOMES

## HEALTH OUTCOMES

Parents are given resources and are encouraged to establish medical and dental homes for their family. Head Start Staff partners with parents to ensure that children are up-to-date with medical and dental care. Attendance is monitored in order to track health issues and assist with treatment and follow-up, if needed. The program's Health Advisory Committee guides decisions related to children's health and safety.



**240 children had current Physicals,  
TB, Hemoglobin and Lead Testing**



**243 children were up-to-date on  
immunizations**



**217 children received preventative  
dental care**

*Thank you to Peoria District Dental Society for providing our children  
with dental check-ups!*

*Special Visitors on Give Kids a Smile Day included: Senator Dave Koehler,  
Representative Keith Sommer and Flossie.*



# FAMILY OUTCOMES

## HEAD START FAMILY PARTICIPATION

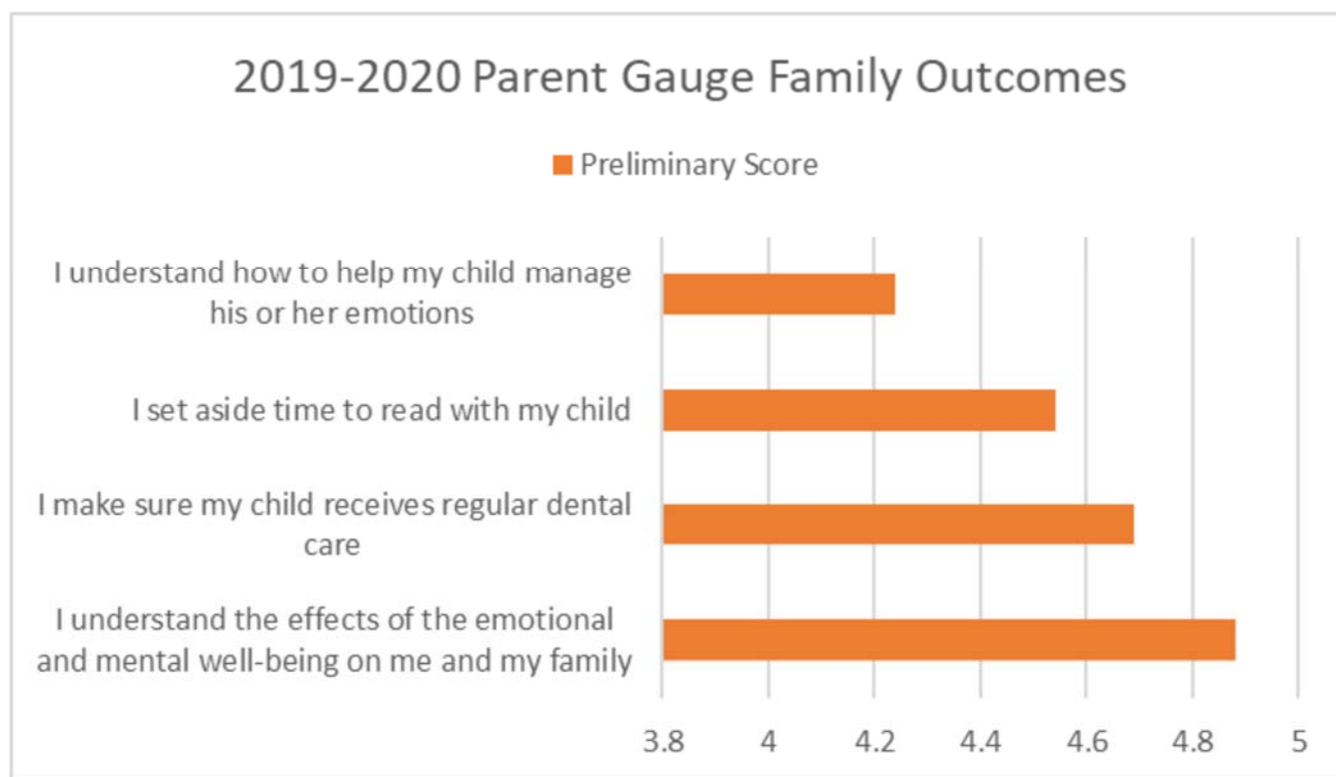
Tazewell-Woodford Head Start values the parent as a child's first and most important teacher. Parents are welcome to visit and participate in the classroom as much as their schedule allows.

Parent Committee Meetings are held monthly at each center. These meetings provide opportunities for parents to learn about upcoming events, receive education about relevant child development topics, and socialize with other parents in the program.

Parents are elected from each Parent Committee to represent their center on the Head Start Policy Council. Meetings are held monthly from October to May to provide parents the opportunity to have input into program services.

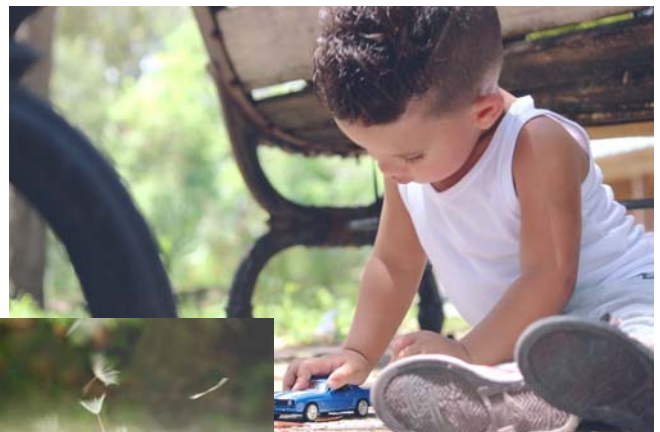
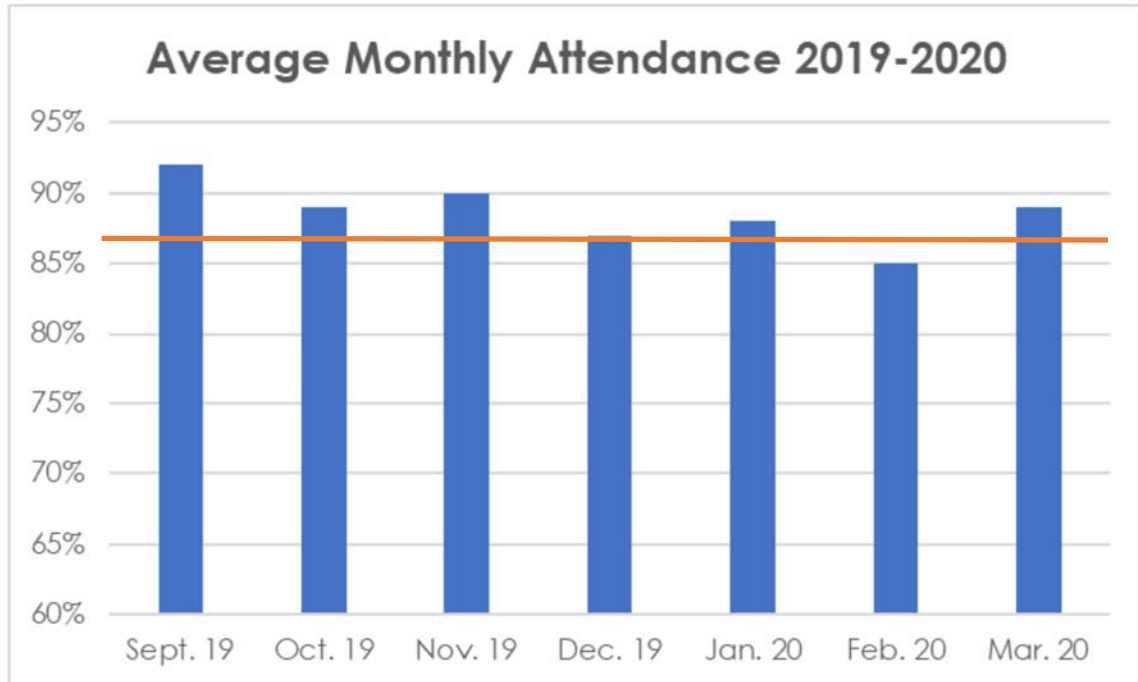
Parent Gauge is a tool used to measure parent experience and the impact of the Head Start Program. Twenty-eight questions are asked to provide information about the strengths and needs of families on a scale of 1 to 5. Preliminary results are evaluated at the beginning of the year to determine services needed by enrolled families. Parent education and involvement activities are focused in these areas.

Due to the Stay-at-Home Order in the State of Illinois, Parent Gauge was not completed with parents to allow for post-test Outcomes. Beginning of the year data was used to guide services provided in the 2019-2020 School Year.



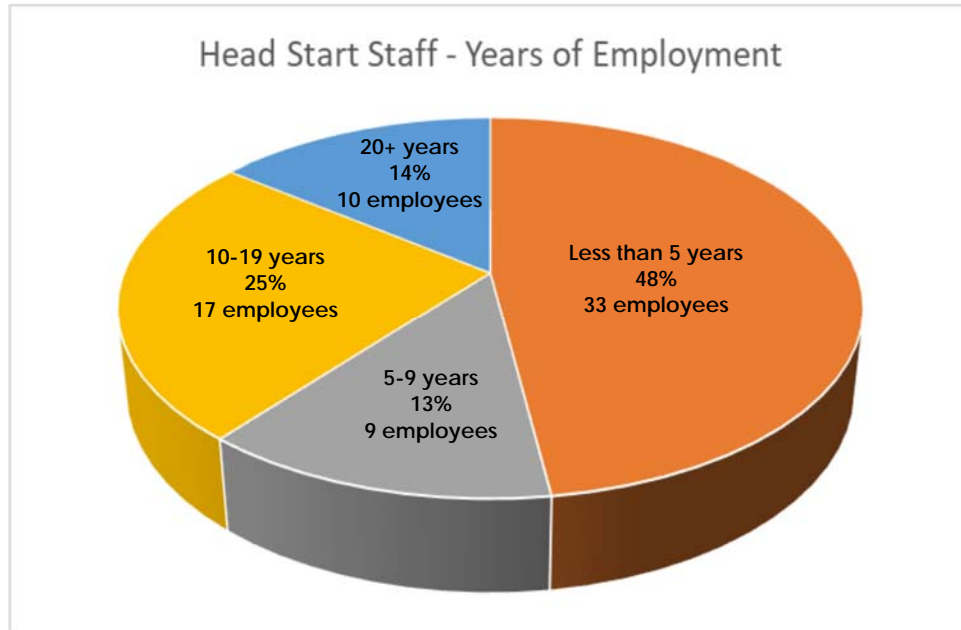
## ATTENDANCE

Consistent attendance is critical to a child's success in the Head Start Program. Tazewell-Woodford Head Start provides transportation and supports families to encourage their child's regular attendance. Head Start Performance Standards require a program to maintain an attendance percentage of at least 85%. If this percentage is not maintained, the program evaluates the cause of absences and evaluates the issues contributing to absenteeism. During the 2019-2020 School Year, the 85% threshold was met every month until the Stay-at Home Order was issued.



## STAFF

Tazewell-Woodford Head Start has dedicated staff working to provide quality early childhood services to children and their families. The following illustrates the longevity of the staff at Tazewell-Woodford Head Start.



**46% of Tazewell-Woodford Head Start Staff were Head Start Parents.**

## EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Head Start supports staff by providing ongoing professional development to ensure teachers are educated about best practices in early childhood education. One Friday each month is devoted to providing professional development opportunities for all staff. Additionally, trainings are attended throughout the year that are provided by Illinois Head Start Association, the Office of Head Start, Peoria Education Partners and other agencies throughout the area.

**85% of our Head Start classrooms have a Lead Teacher with a Bachelor's Degree.**

## FEDERAL MONITORING

The Office of Head Start assesses Tazewell-Woodford Head Start for compliance according to the Head Start Performance Standards, the Head Start Act, and other regulations through the Aligned Monitoring System. It disseminates its findings through formal monitoring reports that are available upon request.



## SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY

As well as support from the community, Tazewell-Woodford Head Start supports the local economy through the purchase of program needs.

*\$233,419 was spent locally for food*

*\$20,648 was spent on fuel for transportation*

*\$23,509 was spent on utilities*

*\$17,391 was spent on phone and internet*

*\$9,146 was spent on college tuition*

*\$95,396 was spent on classroom supplies*



## A PART OF OUR MISSION...SUPPORTING FAMILIES

At Tazewell-Woodford Head Start, we support children and families in a variety of ways. From helping with food for a family that needs to get by for a few days to a listening ear when families meet an obstacle...we are there to help!

By supporting both parents and children, Tazewell-Woodford Head Start utilizes a two-generational approach to support the entire family. Parents engage in goal setting for both their child and their family. Through Parent Committees, Events, Policy Council Meetings, Parent-Teacher Conference and Home Visits, parents are given the opportunity to participate in education and receive resource referrals. With help from our Community Partners, we are able to assist families with what is needed.

A Head Start parent mentioned that her only friend was her three year old daughter. Because her child was enrolled in the Head Start program, the mother started talking to other parents. She began volunteering in the classroom and joined Parent Committee. She thanks Head Start for giving her the opportunity to learn how to better socialize with adults.



A parent was referred to ICC's GED Program located at our Family Center location. This mother attended classes while her child was attending Head Start. After receiving her GED, she and her children were able to move out of public housing!

"All from a brief call with Ms. Kim during the hottest months, my family received box fans and appropriate clothing for my children. We are so thankful!"

-A Head Start Parent

## 2019 – 2020 FUNDING SOURCES

### Federal

Grant Award \$3,195,494

USDA Funds 202,366

### Non-Federal

Cash Donations 11,258

**Total** **\$ 3,409,118**

### In-Kind Contributions

Donated space for classrooms \$576,003

Parent & Community Volunteers 183,522

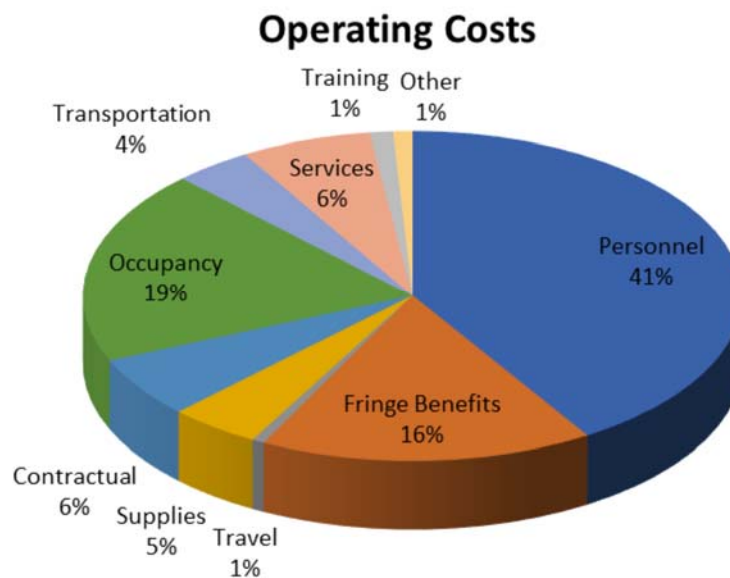
Donated Bus Service & Storage 18,338

Classroom & Literacy Supplies 18,004

Other Services 13,536

**Total** **\$809,403**

## 2019-2020 OPERATING COSTS



Heinold-Banwart, Ltd. conducted the financial audit with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audit contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and the audit requirements of Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements of Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance). No deficiencies or instances of non-compliance in internal control were disclosed during the audit for the fiscal year ending March 31st.

# PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021

HEAD START FAMILY CENTER, PEKIN, ROBEIN, CREVE COEUR,  
GREEN VALLEY AND EUREKA

## Revenue

Grant Award	\$3,311,841
USDA Funds	<u>172,982</u>
	<b><u>\$3,484,823</u></b>

## Expenses

Personnel	\$1,844,014
Fringe Benefits	718,858
Travel	5,000
Equipment	20,000
Supplies	39,648
Contractual	347,403
Training	18,340
Other	<u>491,560</u>
	<b><u>\$3,484,823</u></b>

## Community Support

Donated Space for Classrooms	\$541,839
Parent & Community Volunteers	94,183
Donated Bus Service & Storage	87,440
Classroom & Literacy Supplies	<u>22,695</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$746,157</u></b>

(Required Match reduced in response to COVID-19)



## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Community Partners provide direct and supportive services to  
Tazewell-Woodford Head Start.

Monetary donations and donations of time allow Tazewell-Woodford Head Start to  
increase the number of services offered to children and families.

### Thank you to the following supporters!

*Caterpillar, Inc. Volunteers*

*Children's Hospital-Safe Kids Coalition*

*Children's Home Association of Illinois*

*Dental Sealants & More*

*East Peoria Fire Department*

*East Peoria High School*

*East Peoria Kiwanis Club*

*Eureka Kiwanis Club*

*Fondulac Library*

*Glad Tidings Assembly of God*

*Groveland Township Library*

*Harvest Bible Chapel*

*Heart of Illinois United Way*

*Safe from the Start Heart of Illinois*

*Hult Center for Healthy Living*

*Just Kidz Dentistry*

*Kohl's*

*Lions Club of Creve Coeur*

*Lions Club of Pekin*

*Local School Districts*

*OSF School of Nursing*

*Pekin High School*

*Pekin Hospital*

*Pekin Library*

*Pekin Outreach Initiative*

*Peoria District Dental Society*

*PNC Bank*

*Red Cross*

*Roanoke Mennonite Church*

*Riders with Heart*

*Silver Bullet*

*Tazewell County Health Department/*

*All Our Kids Network*

*Tazewell County Resource Center*

*Tazewood Community Services*

*University of IL Extension*

*Washington Christian Church*





## TAZEWELL-WOODFORD HEAD START MISSION



Tazewell-Woodford Head Start has a mission of teaching children, supporting families and impacting communities.



## TAZEWELL-WOODFORD HEAD START VISION

Tazewell-Woodford Head Start has a vision of providing comprehensive early childhood experiences with knowledgeable, passionate staff that strengthen families; promote child and family well-being; involves the community; and prepares children for kindergarten and life-long learning.

## TAZEWELL-WOODFORD HEAD START VALUES:

**Dedication** - Committed to going above and beyond for children and families as demonstrated through passion and accountability to their profession.

**Teamwork** - Works together at the organizational, community, state and national level to provide quality early childhood experiences for children and their families.

**Support** - Provides an encouraging, nonjudgmental environment for children, families and colleagues.

**Compassion** - Provides an environment based on understanding, care, concern and appreciation of another's perspective.

**Excellence** - Provides high-quality services with a committed, knowledgeable workforce dedicated to high standards and exceeding expectations.

**Tazewell-Woodford Head Start does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, age or disability.**





#### **ROBEIN SITE**

ROBEIN SCHOOL  
200 CAMPUS AVENUE  
EAST PEORIA, ILLINOIS  
309-699-6843

#### **HEAD START FAMILY CENTER**

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES  
233 LEADLEY  
EAST PEORIA, ILLINOIS 61611  
309-699-6843

#### **PEKIN SITE**

HEAD START PEKIN  
1000 KOCH STREET PEKIN, IL  
61554  
309-347-1971

#### **CREVE COEUR SITE**

LASALLE SCHOOL  
300 HIGHLAND AVE.  
CREVE COEUR, IL 61610  
309-699-6843

#### **EUREKA SITE**

ROANOKE MENNONITE CHURCH  
1195 COUNTY RD. 1600 E.  
EUREKA, IL 61530  
309-699-6843

#### **GREEN VALLEY SITE**

MIDWEST CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL  
121 N CHURCH ST.  
GREEN VALLEY, IL. 61534  
309-347-1971