



Teaching Children · Supporting Families · Impacting Communities

2020-2021
Annual Report





Dear Community,

Our program is truly honored to make a difference in the lives of children and families of Tazewell and Woodford Counties each day. The past year has been extremely challenging, but our program is proud that we were able to provide in-person learning from June of 2020 throughout the entire 2020 – 2021 School Year. Through increased sanitization, masking, and commitment, our program was very success in providing experience-rich opportunities to prepare children for kindergarten.

With ever changing guidance, our program worked to be very flexible in keeping students and staff as safe as possible. By putting children in classroom “families”, we were able to limit their exposure and therefore lessen the likelihood of quarantine. Our partnership with the Tazewell County Health Department was vital in our ability to make the best decisions possible. Our primary focus is the health and safety of our children, families, and staff. We will continue to follow guidance as we navigate these challenging times. We truly believe the best place for children is in the classroom where they can learn social-emotional and kindergarten readiness skills the best. We are committed to having children participate in-person as much as possible.

We are all in this together, and we could not provide all the services we do without our valuable partnerships in the community. Our School District Sites continued to welcome us in their space, even with all the challenges and restrictions in place. We are grateful to Robein School, Roanoke Mennonite Church, Creve Coeur School District, Midwest Central School District and Pekin 108 School District that provided a space for our classrooms. These partnerships are crucial in our receipt of Head Start Funding and providing services to some of the most at-risk children in our community.

A special thank you to our Governing Board and Policy Council. They have helped us with our decision making during this very challenging time.

Our program is committed to providing quality programming. This report highlights some of the positive outcomes we saw at Tazewell-Woodford Head Start and how our resources were allocated.

With best regards,

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

Donna Ashley
Executive Director
Tazewell-Woodford Head Start
dashley@twhsp.org



TAZEWELL-WOODFORD HEAD START 2020-2021 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 2020 –2021 School Year, **265 children*** from **242 families** were provided with Head Start Services.

*Although funded for 234 children, full enrollment is always maintained. Children leaving the program are replaced by those on the Waiting List.

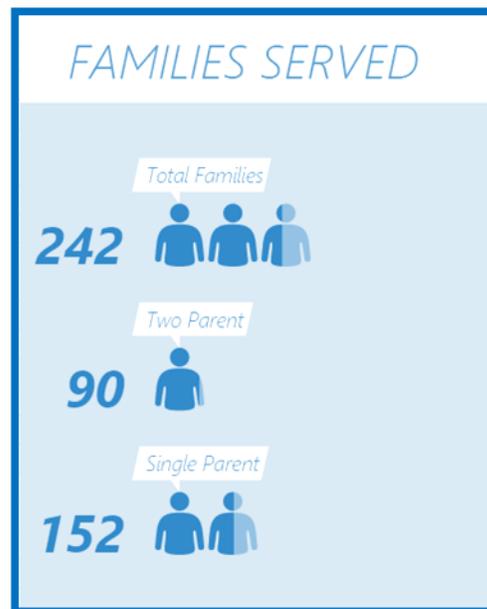
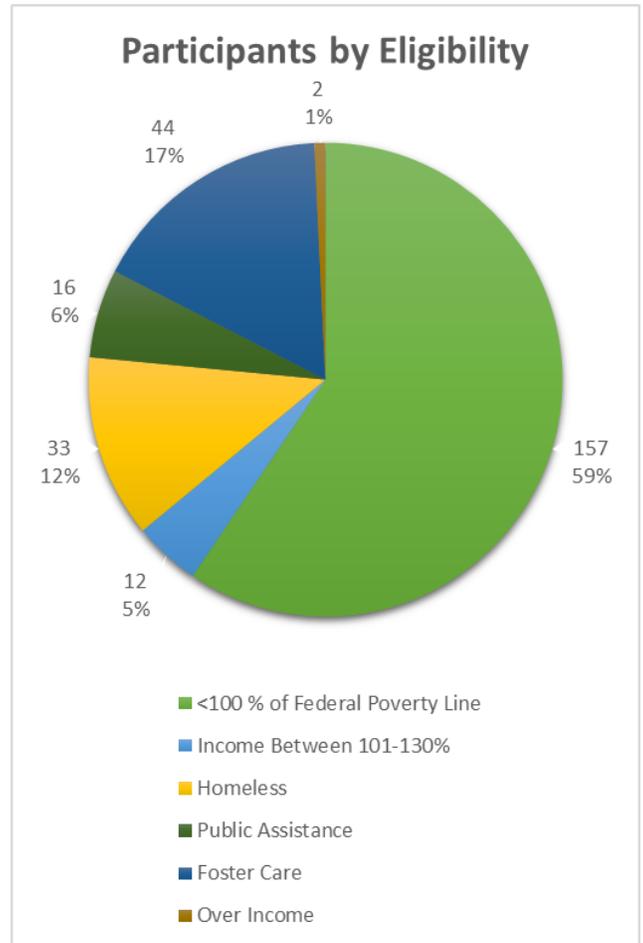
This included:

AGES OF CHILDREN SERVED

15 2 Year Olds

78 3 Year Olds

172 4 Year Olds



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 2020-2021 School Year, thirteen full day classrooms were located at six sites. All classes were full day and held five days per week. 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. Tazewell-Woodford Head Start provides services to 234 children and their families 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 educational program is designed to meet the individual needs of all children. The program is provided 6.5 hours per day, 5 days per week. The Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework: Birth to Five and the Illinois Early Learning and Development Standards are used to guide fun, meaningful activities in the classroom. Children are assessed three times per year in Approaches to Learning; Social and Emotional Development; Language and Literacy; Cognition and General Knowledge; and Perceptual, Motor, and Physical Development. Parents are given ways to support their child's development at home through monthly activities, Home Visits, and Conferences. All program activities are focused on preparing children for kindergarten and lifelong learning.

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 be 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:

In other years, nutritious meals are served family style to children in the program, and parents are always welcome to join the classroom for a meal. COVID restrictions did not allow for family style eating or parents to join us for meals. We are looking forward to welcoming parents in to join us again soon. With reduced hours in the 2020-2021 School Year, each child was provided with breakfast and lunch. Parents were provided with education 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:

All children are welcome at Tazewell-Woodford Head Start! 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.



388 Volunteers

**79% of our volunteers are current or former
Head Start Parents.**

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 2020-2021 School Year were much lower than in years past. Classrooms were not allowed to have volunteers, and COVID-19 restrictions prohibited other volunteer opportunities. Our parents were valuable volunteers during this time by helping their child learn from home. Classroom quarantines, at times, forced many parents into the role of volunteer Teacher. Packets were provided by Teachers which provided fun, engaging activities to do while at home.

Tazewell-Woodford Head Start could not provide the services they do without the assistance of our very supportive community! A big thank you to **PNC Bank** for providing at-home learning materials for every child in our program!



EDUCATION OUTCOMES

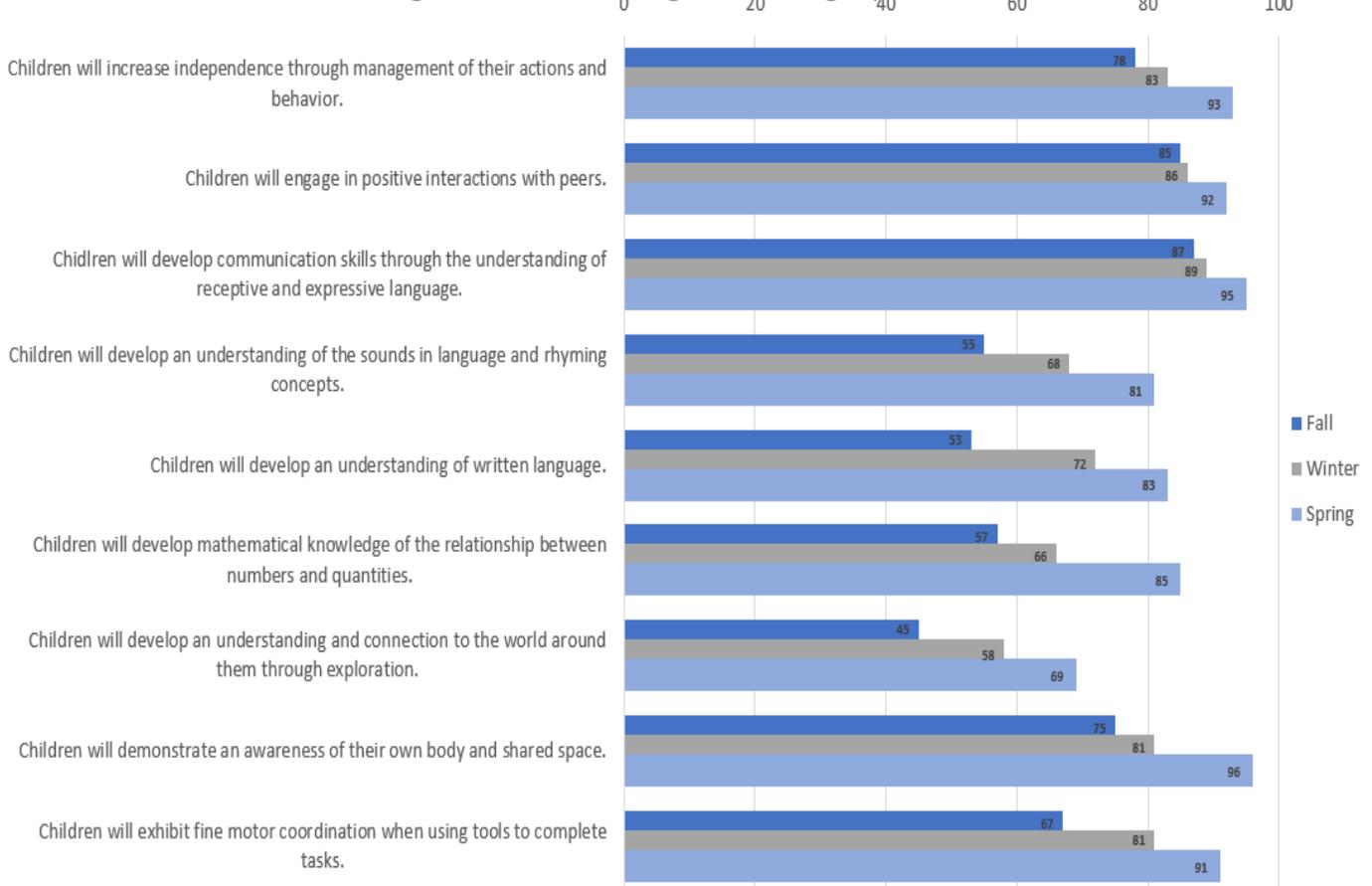
All children enrolled in Head Start are screened for developmental delays within 45 days of the start of school. If needed, children are referred to their local school districts for further screening, evaluation and services. Tazewell-Woodford Head Start's utilizes Creative Curriculum, follows Federal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

Children are assessed three times per year utilizing the Early Learning Scale Assessment 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 directs programming 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.

2020-2021 School Readiness Outcomes

Percentage of Children Meeting or Exceeding Expectations



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:

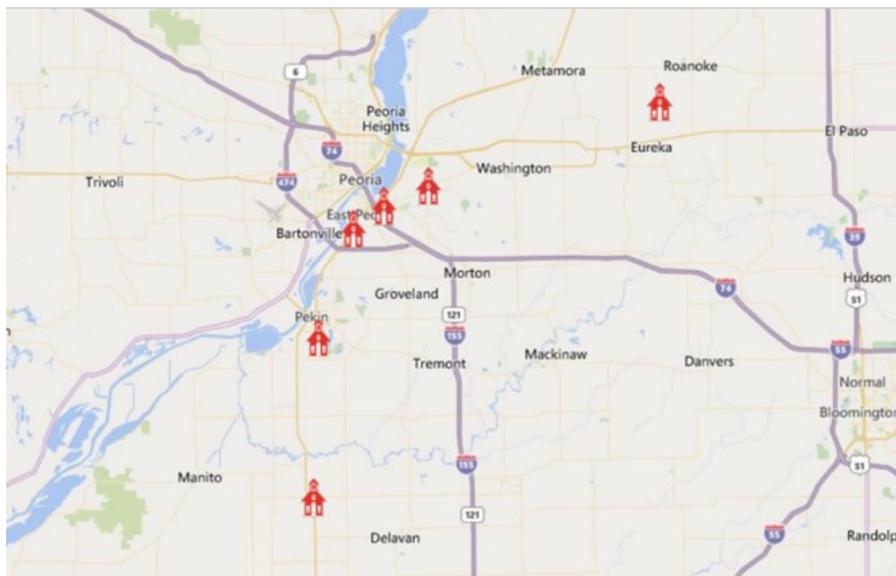
- 41 Children from Washington District #50, #51, #52
- 27 Children from Creve Coeur District #76
- 59 Children from East Peoria District #86, Robein District #85, and Riverview District #2
- 12 Children from Morton District #709
- 88 Children from Pekin District #108, Rankin District #98, North Pekin/Marquette Heights District #102 and South Pekin District #137
- 15 Children from Midwest Central District #191, Delavan District #703, and Deer Creek-Mackinaw District #701
- 23 Children from Woodford County School Districts

POVERTY RATE

9.9% of children in Tazewell County live in poverty (2019 Kids Count Data)

6.9% of children in Woodford County live in poverty (2019 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.

36 children with a diagnosed disability received Head Start services

21 children were referred to their local school district for additional services



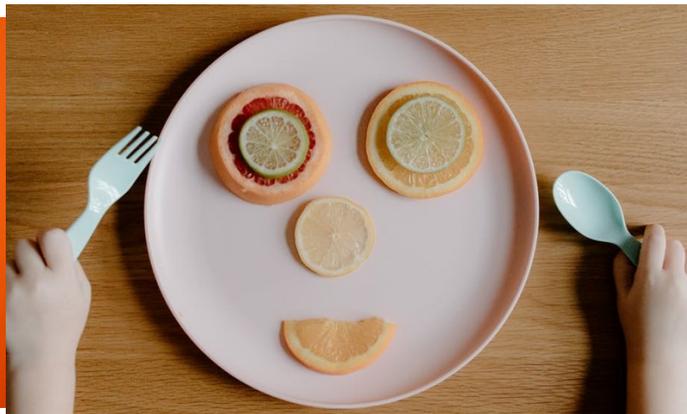
NUTRITION OUTCOMES

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

23,331 breakfasts were served to children

23,341 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.



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



**224 children were up-to-date
on Immunizations**



**204 children were provided
Hearing and Vision Screenings**



162 children received preventative Dental Care

18 children were linked with permanent dental homes and provided with free restorative care.

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



**When you are nervous about
the dentist, all you need is a
friend to hold your hand.**

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. For the 2020-2021 School Year, many Parent Committee Meetings were held virtually or in-person with an option to join virtually.

In an effort to engage and educate families, Meals and Mingle was held. During Parent-Teacher Conferences, parents were able to pick up a crock pot with ingredients to make a meal as a family. Family Conversation Jars were also included to encourage cooking and eating together as a family with meaningful conversations. A healthy Recipe Book with crock pot meals was also provided. Parents sent pictures of their family cooking and eating together. The virtual event was a huge success with 89 families participating.

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.

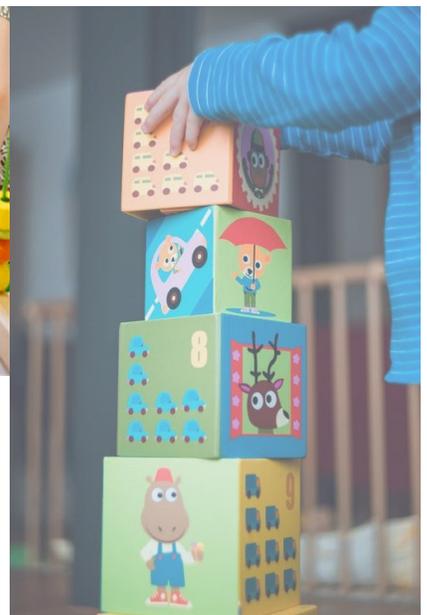
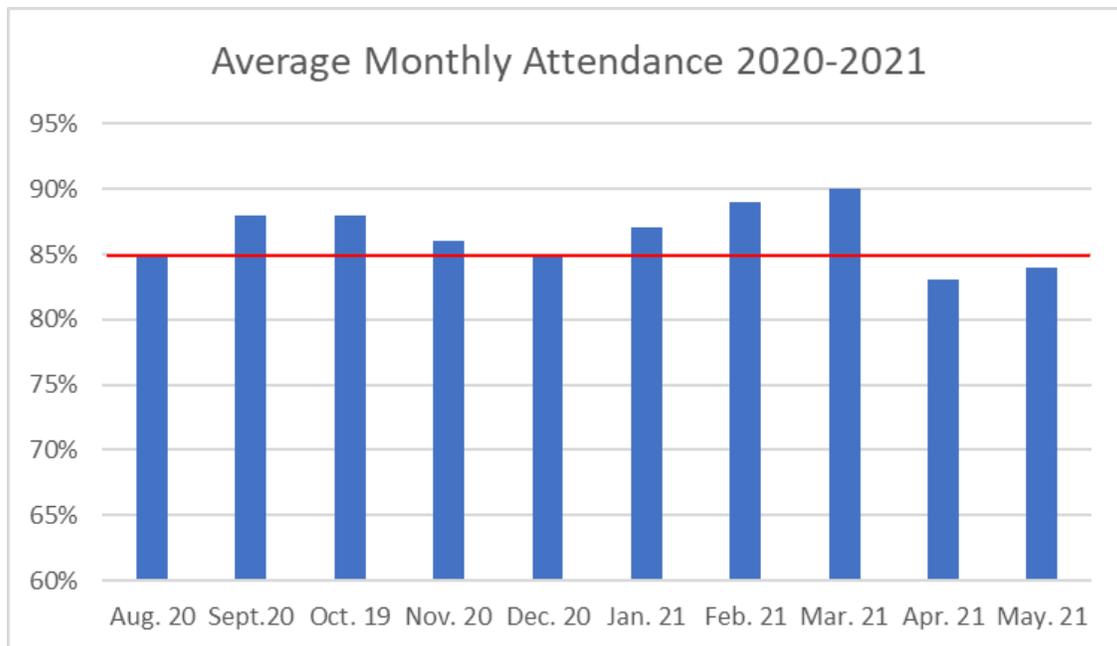
In an additional effort to engage parents virtually, Tazewell-Woodford Head Start implemented Ready Rosie. This program allowed Teachers to send videos and activities for parents to do at home with their child. During the 2020-2021 School Year, 191 families participated in 3,409 videos and activities.



ATTENDANCE

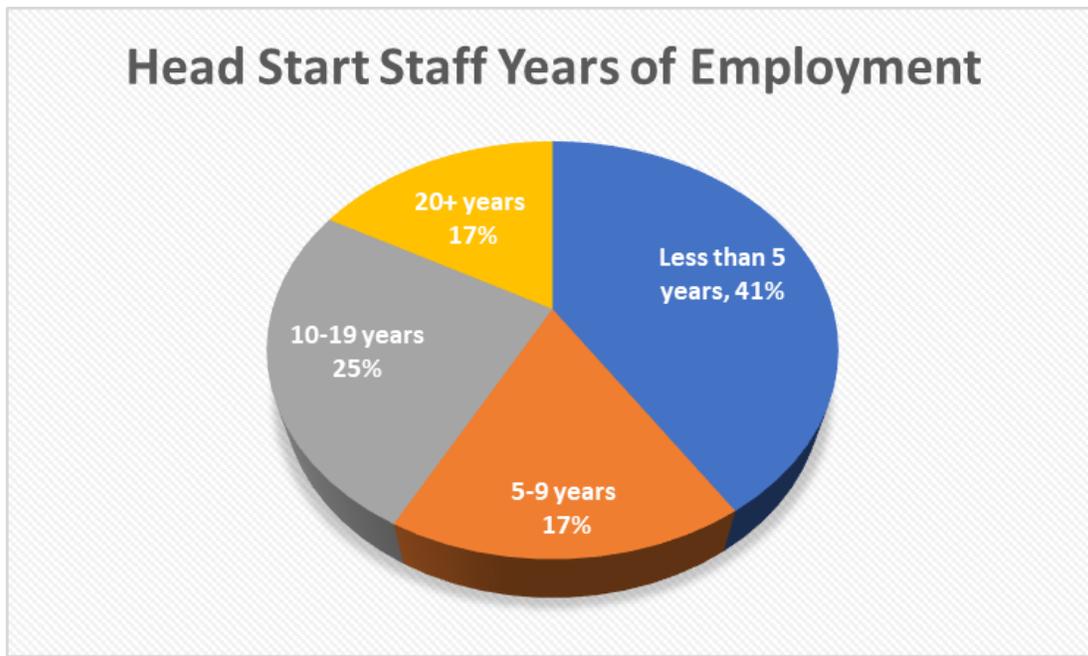
Consistent attendance is critical to a child's success in the Head Start Program. Tazewell-Woodford Head Start provides transportation and supports families to encourage their child's regular attendance. Head Start Performance Standards require a program to maintain an attendance percentage of at least 85%. If this percentage is not maintained, the program evaluates the cause of absences and evaluates the issues contributing to absenteeism.

During the 2020—2021 School Year, quarantine caused many to be absent from school. The program did maintain the 85% threshold each month for most of the year with children in school and ready to learn. The threshold was not met in April and May due to an increase in COVID cases within the program.



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. Staff showed their true commitment and dedication by providing in-person services throughout the 2020-2021 School Year.



40% of Tazewell-Woodford Head Start Staff are current or former 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 Educations 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. No Federal Monitoring of the program was conducted during the 2020-2021 School Year.

SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY

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

\$136,771 was spent locally for food

\$22,915 was spent on fuel for transportation

\$21,487 was spent on utilities

\$23,256 was spent on phone and internet

\$3,842 was spent on college tuition

\$89,229 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 Conferences 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.

As we continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic, we are supporting families through this challenging time. Asking for help is a sign of strength, and Tazewell-Woodford Head Start will continue to strengthen families through education, resources and referrals. The pandemic has been particularly hard on many of our families...but Head Start is here to help and lend a helping hand!



2020 – 2021 FUNDING SOURCES

Federal

Grant Award	\$3,106,200
COVID Funds	205,641
USDA Funds	106,425

Non-Federal

Cash Donations	22,114
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\$3,440,380

Inkind Contributions

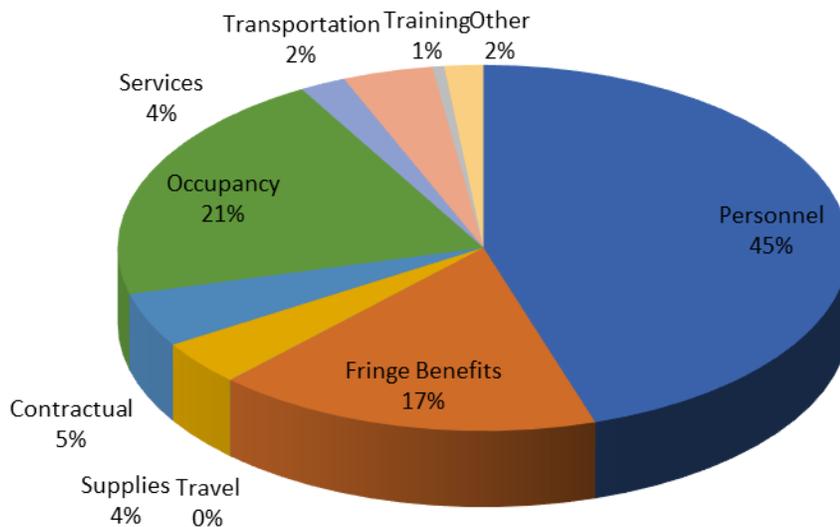
Donated Space for Classrooms	\$542,052
Parent & Community Volunteers	106,718
Donated Bus Service & Storage	2,400
Classroom & Literacy Supplies	25,792

Other Services	12,402
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***\$689,364**

*(Waiver awarded to reduce requirement)

2019-2020 OPERATING COSTS



Financial Audit

Sikich, LLP conducted the Financial Audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to Financial Audits 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 controls 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,
HENSEY AND EUREKA

Revenue

Grant Award	\$3,143,872
COVID Funding	350,408
USDA Funds	<u>172,982</u>
	<u>\$3,667,262</u>

Expenses

Personnel	\$1,983,221
Fringe Benefits	752,242
Travel	2,000
Equipment	8,000
Supplies	79,038
Contractual	338,403
Training	18,340
Other	<u>486,018</u>
	<u>\$3,667,262</u>

Community Support

Donated Space for Classrooms	\$541,839
Parent & Community Volunteers	113,476
Donated Bus Service & Storage	65,345
Classroom & Literacy Supplies	<u>55,890</u>
Total	<u>\$776,550</u>

(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

Carters

The Children's Place

City of East Peoria

Colgate

Christian Union Church

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

Kroger

Lakeshore Learning

Lions Club of Creve Coeur

Lions Club of Pekin

Local School Districts

OSF School of Nursing

Pekin High School

Pekin Library

Pekin Outreach Initiative

Peoria District Dental Society

PNC Bank

Prairie Farms

Red Cross

Roanoke Mennonite Church

Riders with Heart

Silver Bullet

Tazewell County Health Department /

All Our Kids Network

Tazewell County Resource Center

Tazwood Community Services

University of IL Extension

Washington Christian Church

Widows Sons One Five





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 strengthens families; promotes 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 levels 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

PEKIN FAMILY EDUCATION CENTER
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