

TAZEWELL-WOODFORD HEAD START ANNUAL REPORT

2022
2023

Teaching Children - Supporting Families - Impacting Communities





Dear Community,

Since 1966, Tazewell-Woodford Head Start has had the opportunity to provide a quality preschool experience for children and support to their families. During the past few years, we have met many challenges but have continued to maintain a safe learning environment where children are thriving. We are focused on providing children with opportunities to socialize, learn new skills, and make their first school experience positive. Children are given opportunities to develop the social-emotional skills they need to make friends, calm when they are angry, and resolve conflicts. These are skills we all need to become productive members of society, and these are the skills that will last a child a lifetime. We are focused on giving children a Head Start to a lifetime of learning and supporting families to make a positive impact on our community.

The community is so supportive of our program from donors that give their time and resources to the schools and church that provide us space for our classrooms. We are especially grateful for the collaboration with Robein School, JL Hensey School, LaSalle School, Pekin School District 108 and Roanoke Mennonite Church for providing us with classroom space.

So many other organizations are supportive of us as well. Children receive a Snack Pack each Friday thanks to the support of Glad Tidings Assembly of God Church in East Peoria, Washington Christian Church, Metamora Mennonite Church, and the Pekin Outreach Initiative. PNC Bank has provided us with classroom volunteers, gift cards for classroom materials and countless additional hours and donations for special projects.

It is an honor to lead an organization with staff that is so deeply committed to providing quality services to children and families in Tazewell and Woodford Counties. This report will highlight some of the positive outcomes for the 2022-2023 School Year as well as how resources were allocated.

Please feel free to contact me to visit our classrooms or with questions about our services.

Best regards,

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

Donna Ashley
Tazewell-Woodford Head Start
Executive Director
309-699-6843



dashley@twhsp.org

TAZEWELL-WOODFORD HEAD START 2022-2023

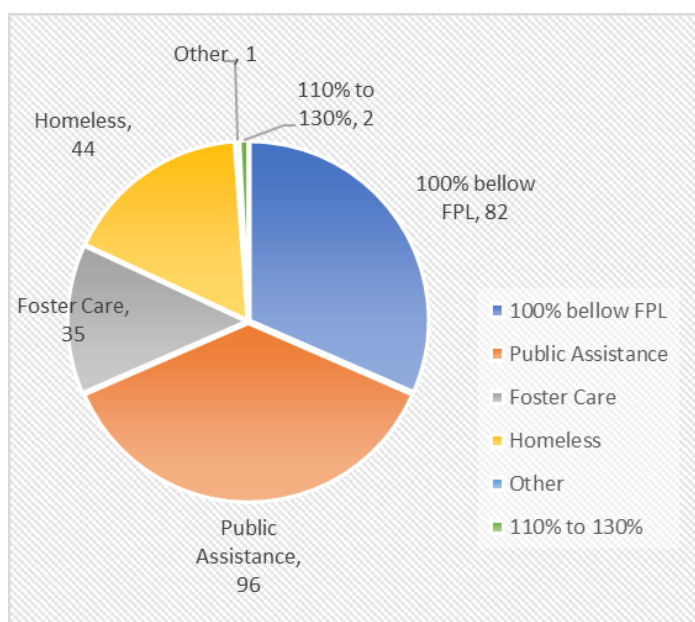
The Children and Families We Serve



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

The program was fully enrolled throughout the entire 2022-2023 School Year.

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



OUR CHILDREN

During the 2022–2023 School Year,
260 children* from **243 families**
were provided Head Start services.

This included:
97 two-parent families
146 single-parent families

1 2 year olds

79 3 year olds

180 4 year olds

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

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 2022-2023 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, JL Hensley in Washington, 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, Parent Workshops, 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 38 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

Comprehensive services are provided that focus on the whole child and the whole family. Tazewell-Woodford Head Start provides:

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. An inclusive environment provides for the needs of all students. 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. Additionally, 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. In collaboration with community organizations, Tazewell-Woodford Head Start was able to help children receive medical and dental exams and needed immunizations. Hearing and Vision Screening are also provided to 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 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. Due to some COVID-19 restrictions, volunteering in the classroom was limited during the 2022-2023 School Year. 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.

Social-Emotional Learning:

Tazewell-Woodford Head Start is committed to providing children with the tools they need to become successful in life and in school. A child must be socially-emotionally competent to be ready to learn. Pyramid Strategies are taught that allow children to name their emotions, control their feelings, calm when they are angry or frustrated, and make friends.

We are Head Start Heroes! At Tazewell-Woodford Head Start, "We are Kind!", "We are Safe!" and "We are a Team"! Children are taught these expectations and are celebrated when they are a Head Start Hero.



Every classroom is equipped with a Safe Place where children can go to manage their big emotions. Children are taught different ways to calm down and are provided with a calming space to do so. One way children are taught to calm down is to use the "Tucker Turtle Technique". This strategy allows children to calm down and think of a solution to help with their emotions and become problem solvers.

Social-emotional learning is a critical piece to a child's healthy development. Tazewell-Woodford Head Start is committed to providing children with the tools they need to manage their emotions and create strong friendships.



Tucker Turtle is the universal calming strategy at Tazewell-Woodford Head Start. Tucker came to visit and taught us how to calm down when we are angry or frustrated.

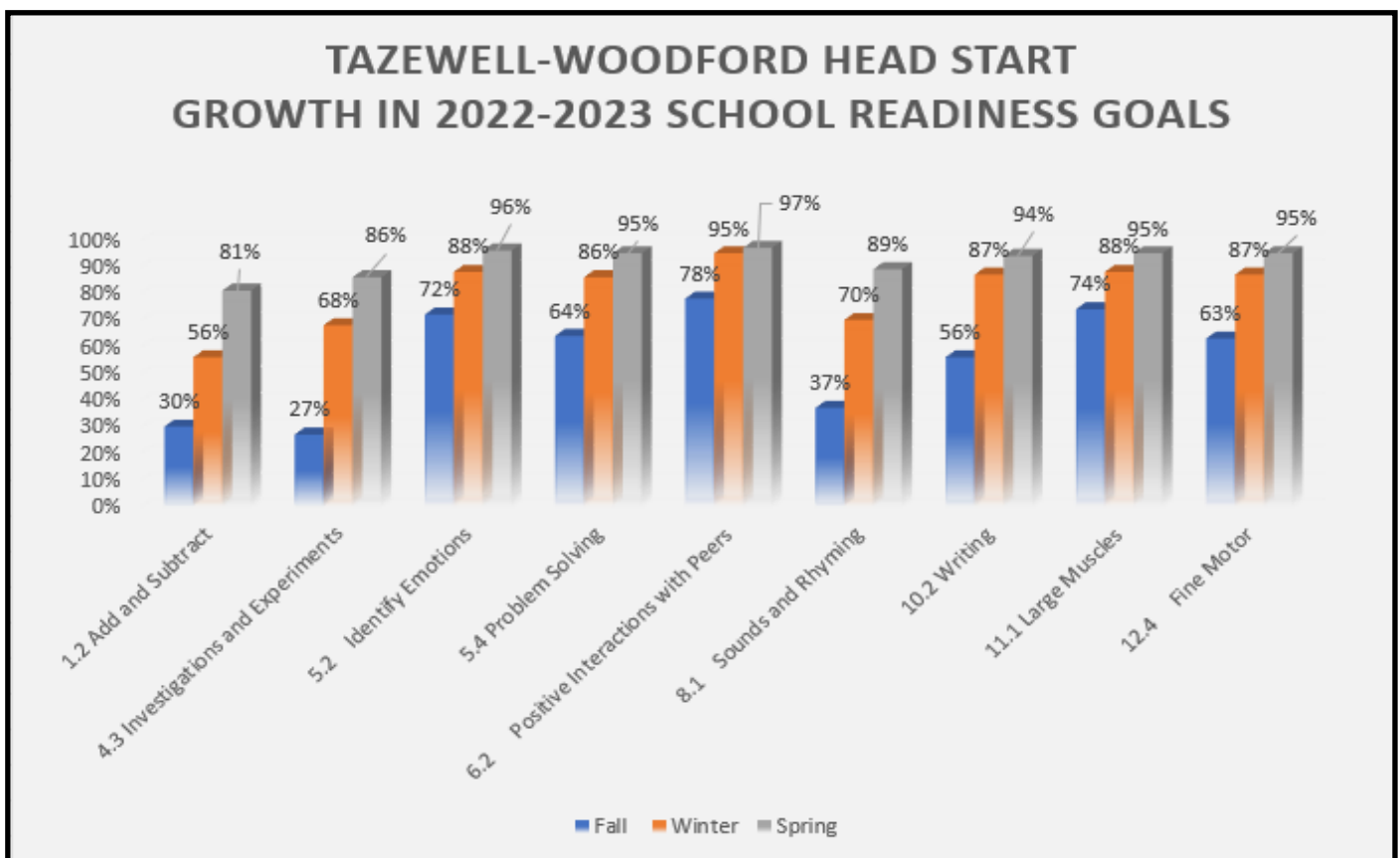


EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES

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 using the Early Learning Scale. Assessment is completed 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 staff, Governing Bodies, State and National Head Start Associations and the community.



Outcome Data was acquired using the Early Learning Scale Assessment. The above information shows the growth in the percentage of children meeting or exceeding expectations for the 2022-2023 School Year.

AREA DEMOGRAPHICS

Tazewell-Woodford Head Start collaborates 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:

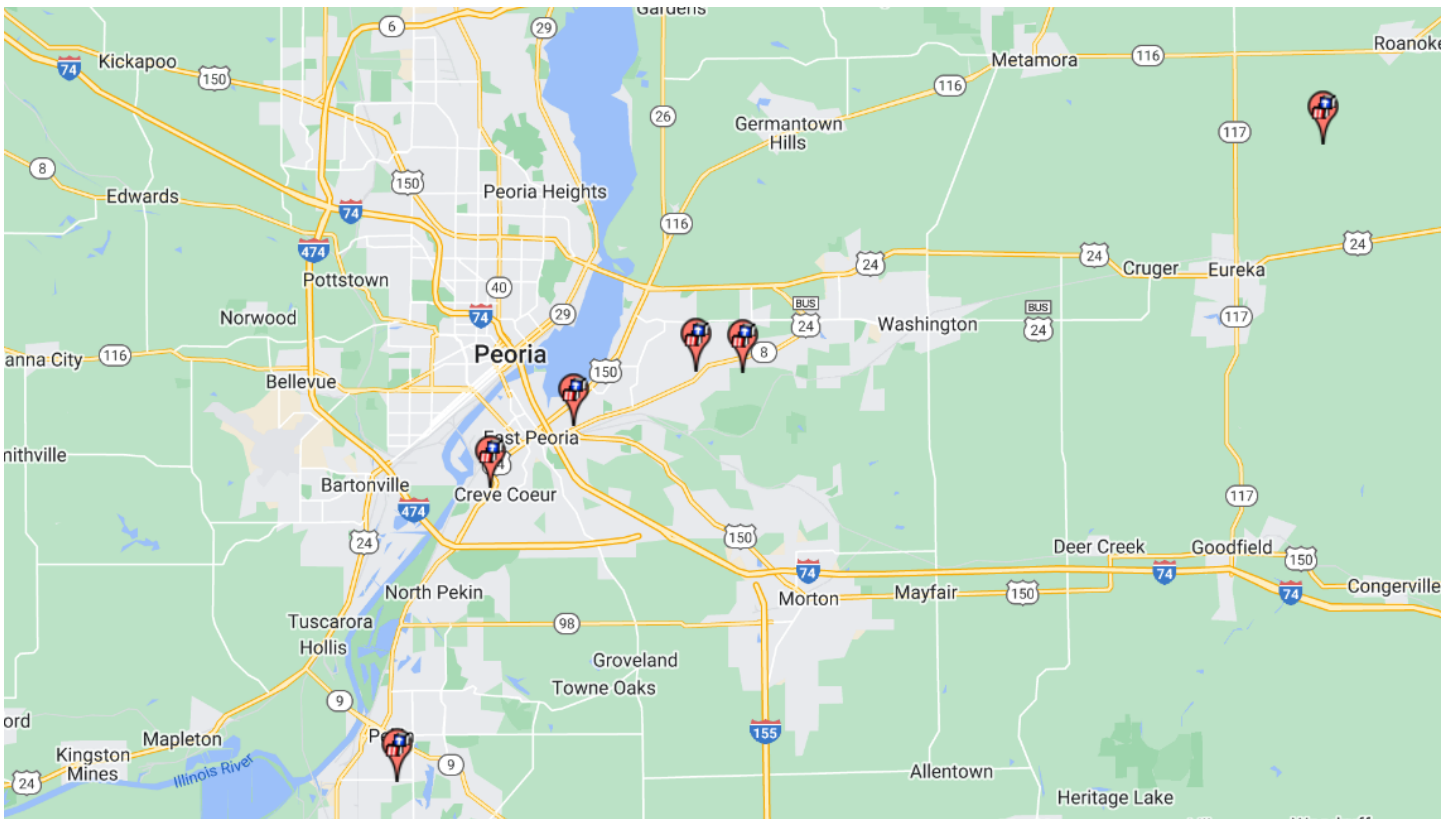
- 37 Children from Washington District #50, #51, #52
- 25 Children from Creve Coeur District #76
- 68 Children from East Peoria District #86, Robein District #85, and Riverview District #2
- 10 Children from Morton District #709
- 76 Children from Pekin District #108, Rankin District #98, North Pekin/Marquette Heights District #102 and South Pekin District #137
- 26 Children from Woodford County School Districts

POVERTY RATE

9.3% of children in Tazewell County live in poverty (2022 Data USA)

6.7% of children in Woodford County live in poverty (2022 Data USA)

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.

38 children (15%) with a diagnosed disability received Head Start services

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

7 children were referred to a Mental Health Professional for additional services



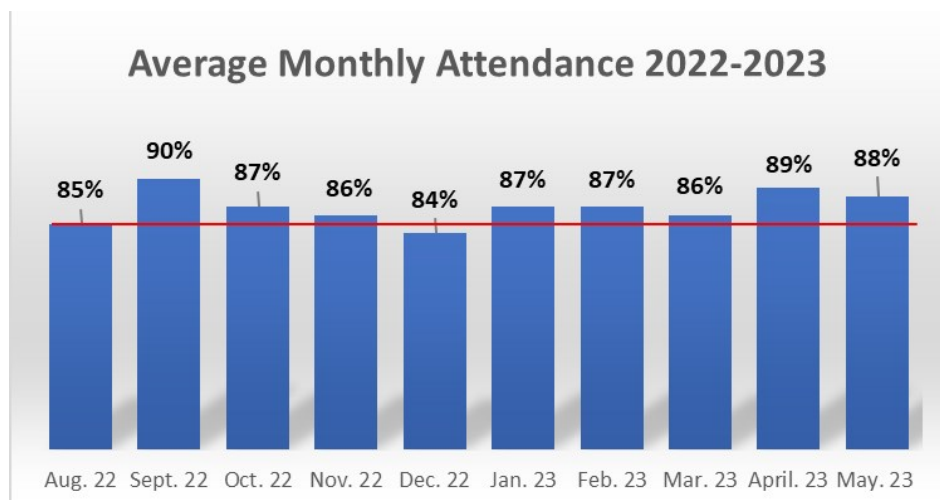
OFF TO KINDERGARTEN

Tazewell-Woodford Head Start sent 164 children off to kindergarten ready to learn. We had a fun send off event to celebrate our kids and their families.



ATTENDANCE

Consistent attendance is critical to a child's success in the Head Start Program. Tazewell-Woodford Head Start provides transportation for a majority of the children 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 assesses the issues contributing to absenteeism. During the 2022-2023 School Year, the monthly attendance percentage was met except in December where there were many cases of colds, flu and RSV.



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. The COVID-19 pandemic created challenges in ensuring children were up-to-date on all their medical and dental needs and immunizations.



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



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



**243 children received hearing and
vision screenings**



**231 children received preventative
dental care**

**A big thank you to
OSF for providing
a health clinic to
make physicals
more accessible
to our families.**



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, 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.

23 children were provided special menus for medical and religious needs

30,663 breakfasts were served to children

30,243 snacks were served to children

32,015 lunches were served to children



FAMILY OUTCOMES

HEAD START FAMILY PARTICIPATION

Tazewell-Woodford Head Start values the parent as a child's first and most important teacher. At the beginning of the year, parent participation was limited due to the COVID-19 Vaccination Mandate. When that was lifted, all parents were again welcome to help in the classroom!

We continued to meet both virtually and in-person for Parent Committees and Policy Council. This, in some cases, gave parents more options to attend. Parent Committees engage parents in socializing with other parents and provide education on topics that are relevant to their family. These topics may include safety, child development, and nutrition.

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

Tazewell-Woodford Head Start utilizes Learning Genie as a way to provide parents with two way communication and activities to do with their child. The program had a huge increase from 3,593 messages sent in the 2021-2022 School Year to 11,911 messages in the 2022-2023 School Year. Parents enjoy getting messages, activities and pictures about what their child is doing during their school day.

We were excited to be able to have events again during the 2022-2023 School Year.

Sweetheart Dance



Kindergarten Transition Night



All Treats, No Tricks



Art Walk



STAFF

Tazewell-Woodford Head Start has dedicated staff working to provide quality early childhood services to children and their families. It takes committed staff to remain fully enrolled with all the recent challenges. Staff filled in for each other when necessary and worked together to give children a positive first school experience.

36% of Tazewell-Woodford Head Start Staff currently are or were Head Start Parents
75% of our Head Start classrooms have a Lead Teacher with a Bachelor's Degree



VANESSA RICH INNOVATION AND LEADERSHIP PROGRAM AWARD

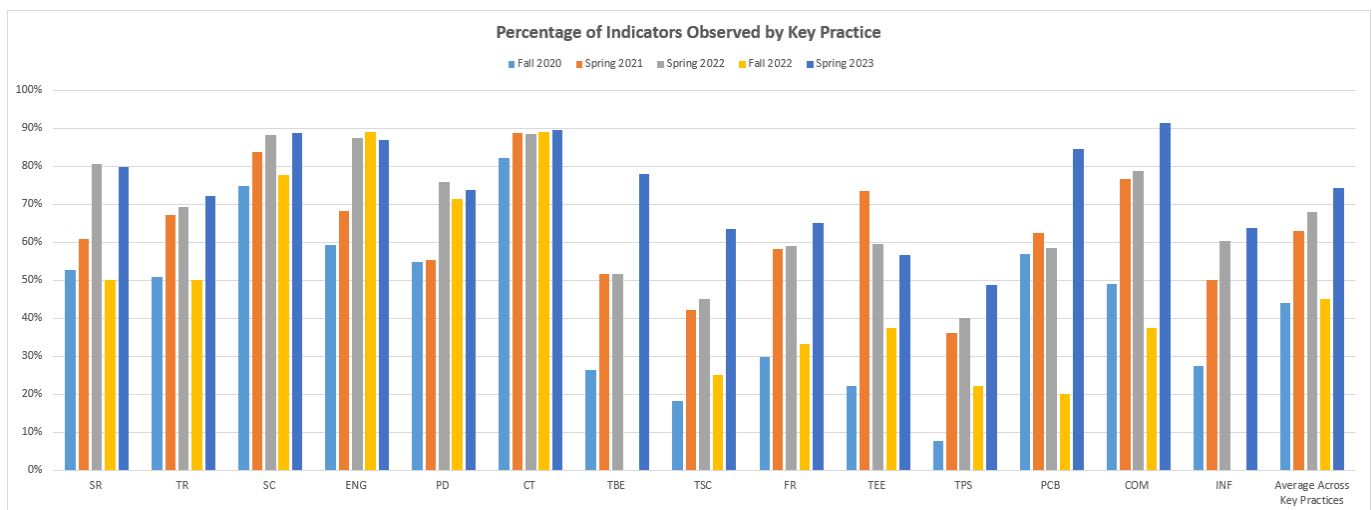


Tazewell-Woodford Head Start was honored to receive the 2023 Vanessa Rich Innovation and Leadership Program Award. This award is given to one Head Start Program in the State of Illinois by the Illinois Head Start Association. Vanessa Rich was a leader in the Head Start community that had a passion about expanding opportunity for vulnerable children and families. She once said, "At Head Start, we don't just stand on the porch; we come all the way in." The Staff at Tazewell-Woodford Head Start go "all the way in" when helping children and families.

EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

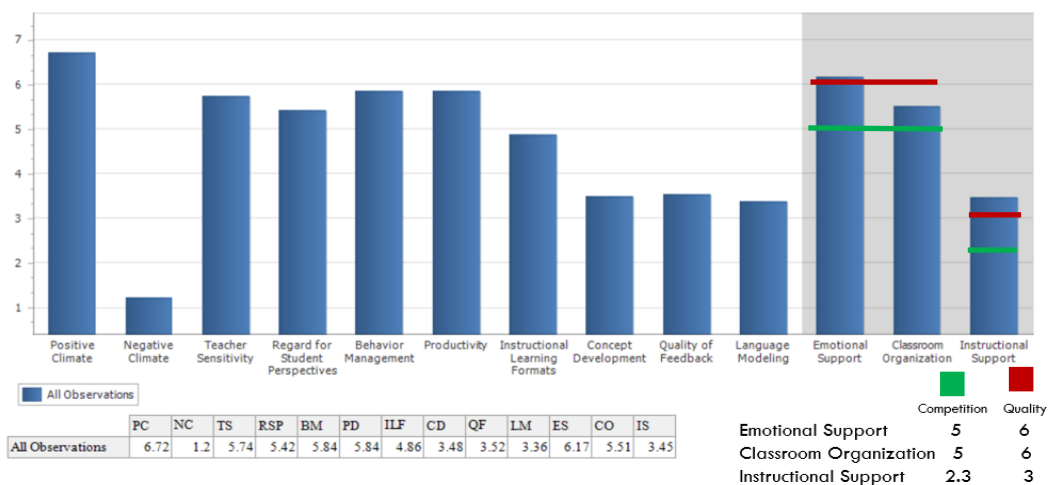
Head Start supports staff by providing ongoing professional development to ensure teachers are educated about best practices in early childhood education. One Friday each month is devoted to providing professional development opportunities for all staff. Additionally, trainings are attended during the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

Professional Development focused on implementing the Pyramid Model to fidelity and increasing CLASS Scores. To evaluate Pyramid Model best practices, the Teaching Pyramid Observation Tool (TPOT) is used. The program has seen significant grow since beginning to implement strategies in 2019. The average of CLASS Scores for the program also exceed grant competition expectations from the Office of Head Start. Our Professional Development Goal is to implement Pyramid Model to fidelity and exceed the Quality Goal for CLASS Observations. The following is the data used to track the growth in Pyramid Model Fidelity and CLASS Scores for the 2022-2023 School Year.



CLASS SCORES

Tazewell-Woodford Head Start



SUPPORT FROM THE COMMUNITY

Tazewell-Woodford Head Start could not provide as many quality services without the support of the community. Just a few of the generous groups that supported us this year are:

PNC Bank included us in their Home Room Huddle Program!
Anthony Walters of the Chicago Bears read the children a story. It was a lot of fun for both Bear and Packer fans alike!



Summit Church landscaping at Family Center.



Robein, JL Hensey, LaSalle, Pekin 108 and Roanoke Menonite Church for allowing us to use their space for our classrooms!



Peoria Dental Society's Give Kids a Smile Day!



Volunteers
530 volunteers
350 are current or former Head Start Parents

SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY

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

\$278,039 was spent locally for Food
\$25,287 was spent on Fuel for Transportation
\$34,028 was spent on Utilities
\$21,636 was spent on Phone and Internet
\$27,913 was spent on Staff Training
\$37,816 was spent on Classroom Supplies

In addition, Tazewell-Woodford Head Start employed 71 Staff Members that supported the local economy.



2022 – 2023 FUNDING SOURCES

Federal

Grant Award	\$3,227,312
COVID Funding	112,922
USDA Funds	233,290

Non-Federal

Cash Donations	4,758
INCCRRA	<u>44,880</u>
Total	<u>\$ 3,623,162</u>

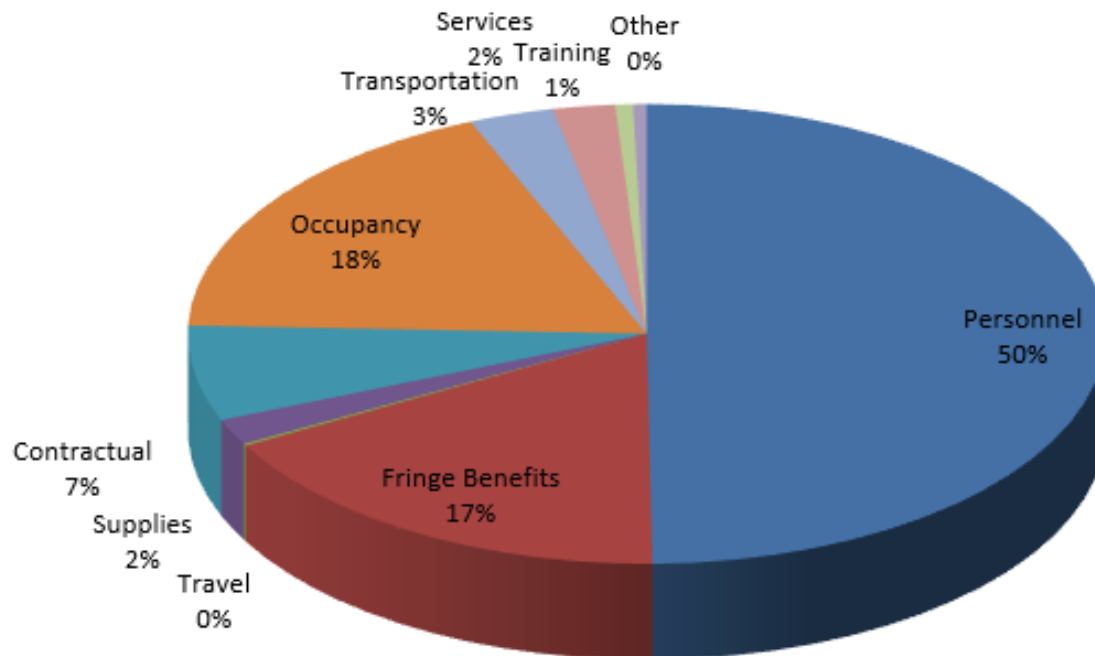
In-Kind Contributions

Donated space for classrooms	\$591,428
Parent & Community Volunteers	177,583
Donated Bus Service & Storage	2,435
Classroom & Literacy Supplies	13,047
Other Services	<u>1,475</u>

Total **\$785,968**

(Waiver awarded to reduce requirement)

2022-2023 Operating Costs



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 control were disclosed during the audit for the fiscal year ending March 31st.

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024

HEAD START FAMILY CENTER, PEKIN, ROBEIN, CREVE COEUR,
JL HENSEY AND EUREKA

Revenue

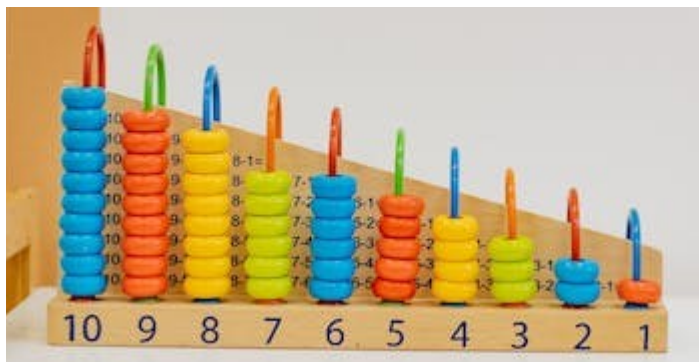
Grant Award	\$3,227,312
USDA Funds	<u>191,406</u>
	<u>\$3,418,718</u>

Expenses

Personnel	\$1,946,917
Fringe Benefits	735,814
Travel	4,000
Equipment	0
Supplies	40,507
Contractual	391,399
Training	18,340
Other	<u>281,741</u>
	<u>\$3,418,718</u>

Community Support

Donated Space for Classrooms	\$609,278
Parent & Community Volunteers	86,053
Donated Bus Service & Storage	83,000
Classroom & Literacy Supplies	<u>28,497</u>
Total	<u>\$806,828</u>



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! We couldn't do it without you!

Carters

Central Missouri Community Action

City of East Peoria

Colgate

Dental Sealants & More

East Peoria Fire Department

East Peoria Police Department

East Peoria High School

East Peoria Kiwanis Club

East Peoria Women's Club

Fondulac Library

Glad Tidings Assembly of God

Safe from the Start Heart of Illinois

Hult Center for Healthy Living

Just Kidz Dentistry

Kiwanis Club of Eureka

Kroger

Lakeshore Learning

Lions Club of Creve Coeur

Lions Club of Pekin

Local School Districts

Metamora Mennonite Church

OSF Health Care Women and Children Services

Pekin Library

Pekin Outreach Initiative

Peoria District Dental Society

PNC Bank

Prairie Farms

Roanoke Mennonite Church

Riders with Heart

Summit Point Church

*Tazewell County Health Department/
All Our Kids Network*

Tazewell County Resource Center

Tazwood Community Services

Tazewell County Health Foundation

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.**

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.



WWW.TWHSP.ORG

ROBEIN SITE

ROBEIN SCHOOL
200 CAMPUS AVENUE
EAST PEORIA, ILLINOIS 61611
309-699-6843

HEAD START FAMILY CENTER

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

PEKIN SITE

PEKIN FAMILY EDUCATION CENTER
1000 KOCH STREET
PEKIN, ILLINOIS 61554
309-347-1971

CREVE COEUR SITE

LASALLE SCHOOL
300 HIGHLAND AVENUE
CREVE COEUR, ILLINOIS 61610
309-699-6843

EUREKA SITE

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

WASHINGTON SITE

JL HENSEY SCHOOL
304 EAST ALMOND DRIVE
WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS 61571
309-699-6843