

TRI-COUNTY HEAD START



ANNUAL REPORT
2020-2021

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LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Joseph Goepfrich - Chair**
- Brian Saxton - Vice-Chair**
- Cheri Bell - Secretary**
- Dr. Zechariah Hoyt - Treasurer**
- Maria Zavala-Paredes**
- Dr. Teresa DiStefano**
- Nicholas Hogue**
- Ashley Jaffee-Montgomery - Parent**

POLICY COUNCIL

- Stephanie Newcomb - Bangor CEC**
- Jacqueline Gilmore - Benton Harbor**
- Jennifer Unger - Cassopolis**
- Perla Medina Caro - Decatur**
- Ashley Jaffee-Montgomery - Dowagiac**
- Meghan Neff - Edwardsburg**
- Tara Hamilton - Gobles**
- Caroline Hurd - Marcellus**
- Meggan Lesnick - New Buffalo**
- Magdalene Mather - Niles Bell**
- Tiffany Lawrence - Niles Brandywine**
- Bethanie Cawley - Sawyer**
- Stacey Staley - SMC**
- Evelin Garcia - South Haven**
- Amy Willis - Spinks**
- Lakesha McKinney - River of Life**
- Kristy Osby - Watervliet**
- Roselle Stout - Gray St Home Based**
- Sherry Bennett - Community Member**
- Kristen Chism - Community Member**
- Anna Carter - Community Member**

WHO WE ARE

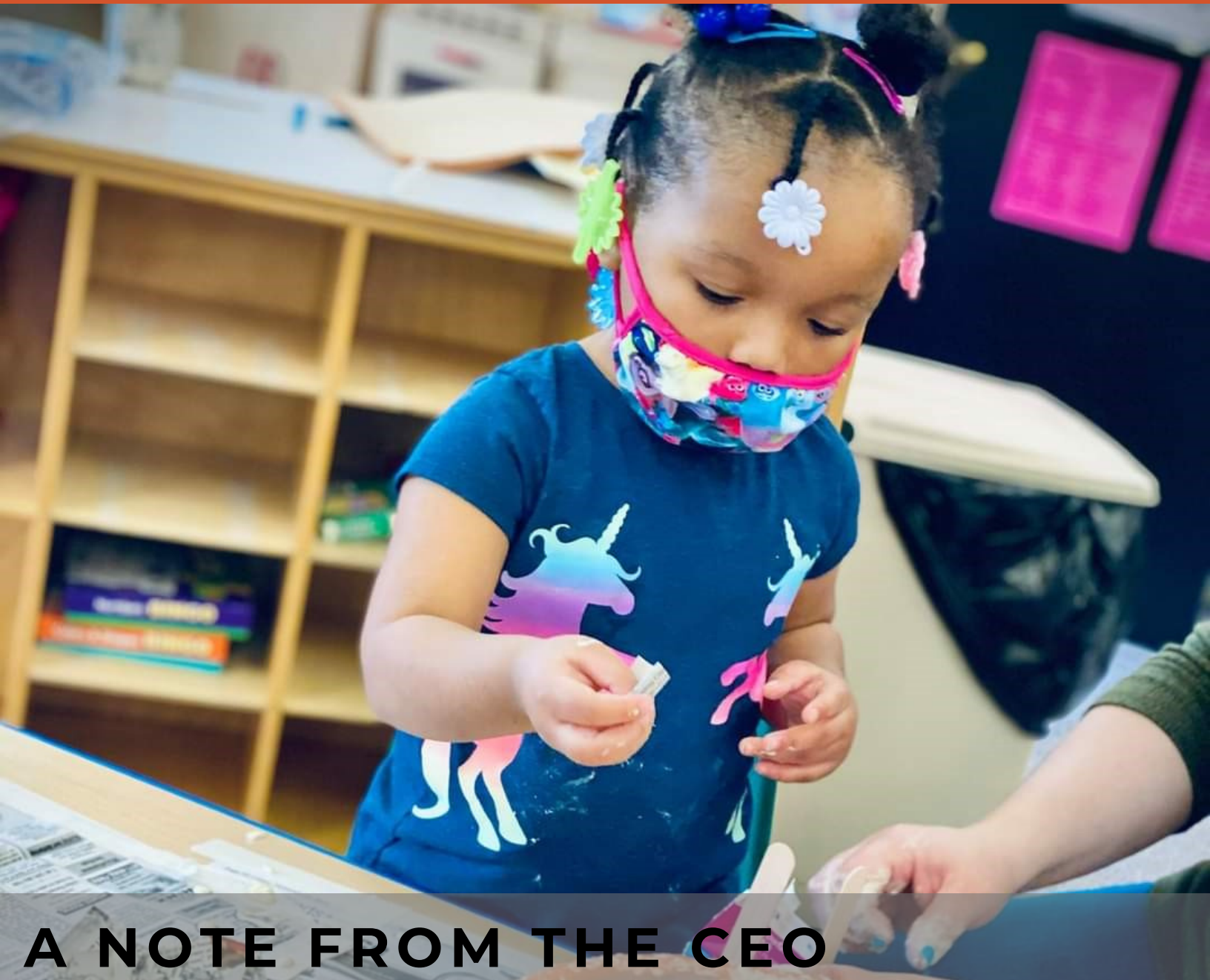
MISSION

To be a vibrant and progressive educational agency supporting the development of children 0-5 years of age while promoting healthy family functioning for Head Start children and families in Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren Counties

Since our inception, in 1972, we have served over 40,000 children and families in Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren counties. Tri-County Head Start currently serves 908 children from birth to five years of age, and their families in both our home-based and center-based programs.

At Tri-County Head Start, we support children, families, and communities on their path to success. We use a comprehensive approach, focusing on the “whole child” and their family which means partnering with families so students develop academically, socially, intellectually, and emotionally.

We are committed to high-quality services and apply an always learning mindset to everything we do.



A NOTE FROM THE CEO

I am pleased to present Tri-County Head Start's 2020-2021 Annual Report. This entire year has been shadowed by the COVID-19 pandemic, we have experienced increases and decreases in cases, the hope that came along with a vaccine, and finally a beginning of a return to normalcy.

Through it all our staff have been committed to the health and safety of children while still providing the highest-quality early learning experience. We may have all been experiencing the trauma and tragedies from this pandemic but we pulled together and still achieved some amazing things.

I thank our staff for making this happen, it is because of their hard-work and perseverance that our agency continued to move forward. I am proud to work alongside such amazing people.

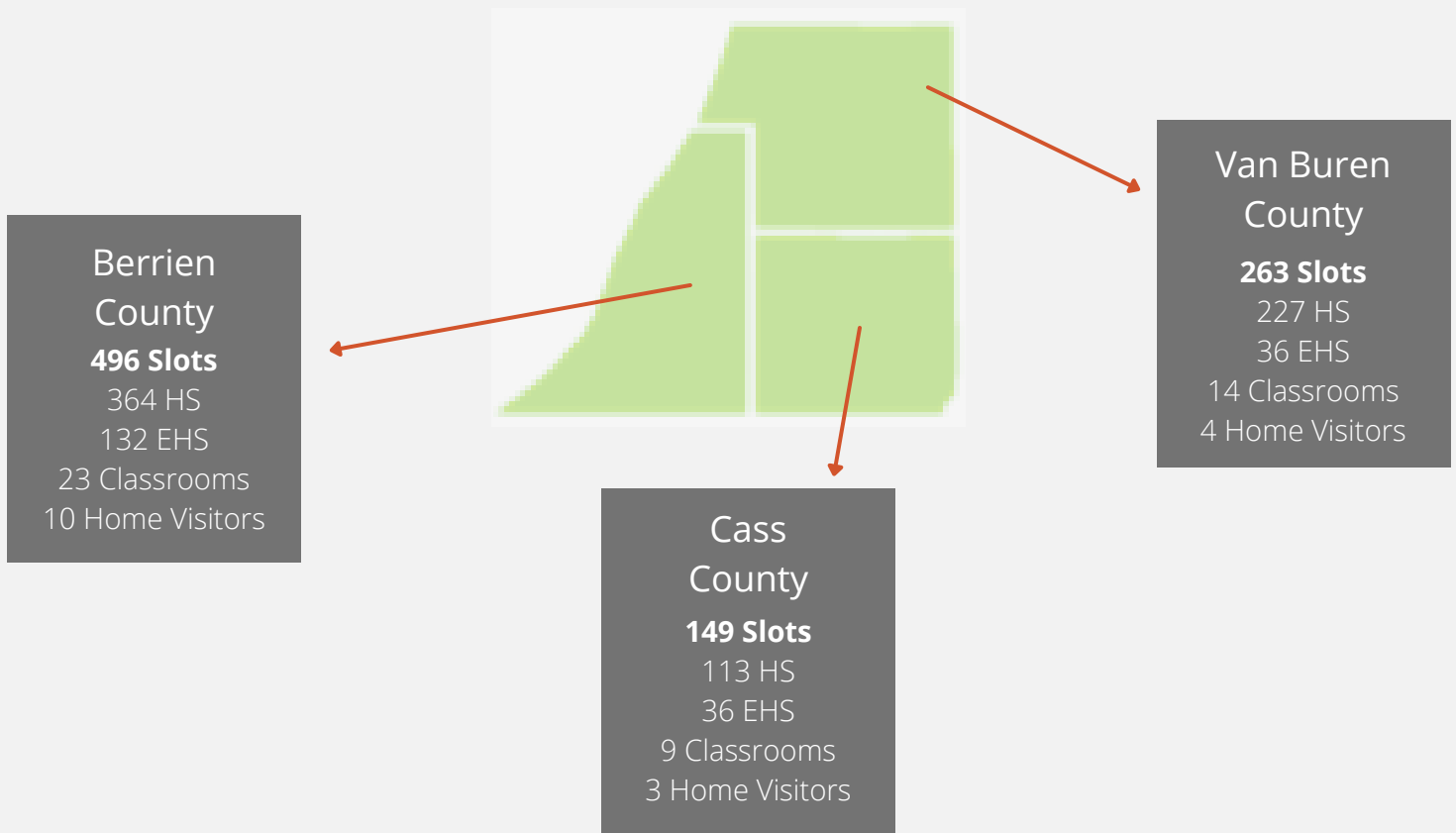
Sincerely,
Chanda Hillman
CEO/Executive Director

WHO WE SERVE

TOTAL FUNDED ENROLLMENT

908

Head Start (HS)	704
Early Head Start (EHS)	204



Berrien, Cass, Van Buren Counties

CUMMULATIVE ENROLLMENT

878

AVERAGE MONTHLY ENROLLMENT

82.9%

TOTAL FAMILIES

731

CHILDREN ENROLLED FOR MORE THAN 1 YEAR

338

ELIGIBLE CHILDREN SERVED

22.3%

AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE

77.29%

14,020

Books given to children this year

1,816

Remote learning kits to children and families

TYPES OF ELIGIBILITY

63%

100% POVERTY

18%

HOMELESS

6%

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

3%

FOSTER CHILD

10%

OVER-INCOME



RACE & ETHNICITY

Black 28%
White 56%
Multi-Racial 15%
American Indian/Alaska Native 1%
Hispanic/Latino 20%



FAMILY EDUCATION

Advanced Degree or Bachelors Degree 6%
An Associates, Vocational School, or some College 27%
High School or GED 54%
Less then High School 13%



PRIMARY LANGUAGE

English 94%
Spanish 5%
Other 1%



Family Status

Single parent families 31%
Two-parent families 69%



Family Status

Caregiver employed 75%
Caregiver enrolled in job skills training or post-secondary education 10%

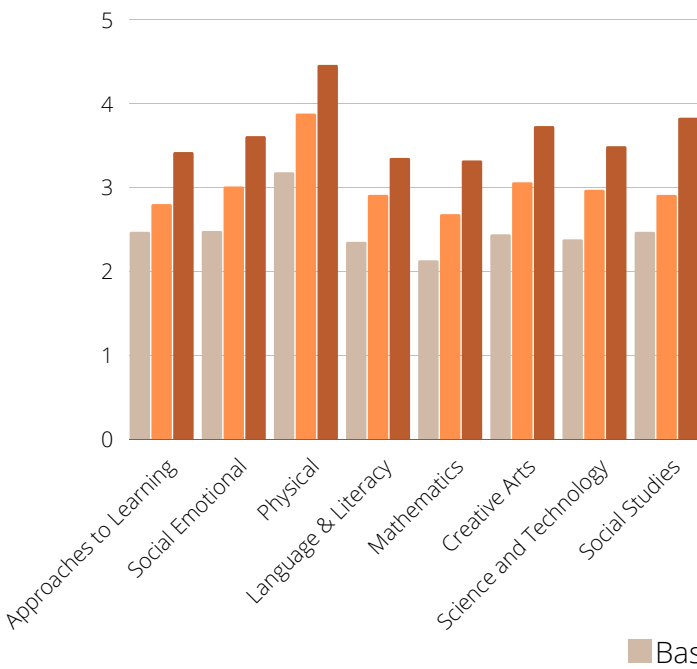
LIFE & SCHOOL READINESS



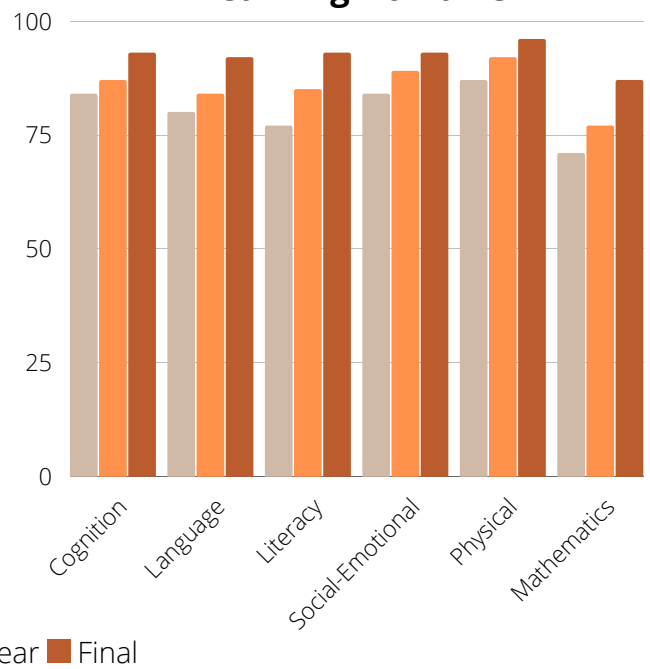
The 2020-2021 school year brought both challenges and advantages when assessing students' skills. With lower teacher-student ratio in classrooms, teachers were able to connect, observe, and facilitate learning more individually. However, only having in-person class two days a week challenged our teaching staff to engage and educate families in how to observe and assess. Even given these challenges, our students were able to make great growth this school year. Early Head Start operated at four days a week, due to the already low teacher-student ratio, with a shorter day. Home Based served students and families in -person and virtually.

The graphs below illustrate the progress in both of our Curriculum/Assessment systems as we transition to High Scope. Seven classrooms used High Scope and COR Advantage. Thirty-six classrooms used Creative Curriculum and Teaching Strategies GOLD

COR Advantage



Teaching Strategies GOLD Learning Domains



FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Our entire agency wraps our arms around the whole family to support, engage, and educate families. A Family Advocate is assigned to each family to build a personal relationships and support them in meeting their needs and helping them identify and achieve goals.

Family Relationships



53% of all families completed the Family Strengths Assessment (FSA). The FSA is a needs assessment that helps to determine a families strengths and needs.



Of the families that completed an FSA, 88% of them completed a Family Partnership Agreement (FPA). The FPA is an individualized goal setting process to help support families.



Of the families that completed an FPA, 30% of them were able to accomplish their goal in the 2020-2021 program year.

Family Activities

Due to the pandemic, all family activities were conducted virtually. Families still reported that they enjoyed the events and in some events attendance increased.

Policy Council

Parent Committee Meetings

Conscious Discipline Parenting classes

Conscious Discipline Book Club

Fantastic Fathers & Families

The Whole Child Family Expo

Location Review Committee

50th Anniversary Committee

CLASS - THE CLASSROOM ASSESSMENT SCORING SYSTEM

CLASS is an observation instrument that assesses the quality of teacher-child interactions in center-based preschool classrooms. It monitors three domains of the interactions that support children's learning and development: Emotional Support, Classroom Organization, and Instructional Support. The CLASS scoring system is used in the Federal Monitoring of Head Start classrooms. To ensure impactful child-teacher interactions, Tri-County Head Start has several certified, reliable CLASS observers that in a typical year observe and score classrooms to ensure our high-quality expectations and standards are maintained.

During the 2020-2021 school year, TCHS did not complete CLASS observations, to maintain a low number of visitors in classrooms. The Education Team consistently provided feedback related to the CLASS domains while doing other classroom observations via camera and zoom sessions.

The Education Directors are planning a complete CLASS refresher training for both CLASS observers and the teaching staff. This training will cover the basics of CLASS and how to improve in specific areas where TCHS scores have been traditionally low. It is expected TCHS will have a Federal CLASS review in the next 1-2 years.



HEALTH & NUTRITION

Wellness and Mental Health

Wellness, trauma and behavior support, and mental health has always been a top priority at TCHS with our children, families, and staff. We are proud that we have six licensed Mental Health Consultants on staff. This year have added four Peer Support Teachers to our staff. They work along side our Conscious Discipline Support Consultant and our Education Coach in our Interdisciplinary team to ensure children and families are receiving the essential support they need to be successful.

Child Abuse Prevention

TCHS partnered with the Child Advocacy Center of Southwest Michigan CAC, bringing prevention education using the "Play it Safe!" curriculum. The CAC via Zoom, provided information sessions to our students, staff; and provided parents the opportunity to join. Each child received a "Play it Safe" book to take home and work through with their parent.

CHILDREN UP-TO-
DATE ON WELL
CHILD EXAMS

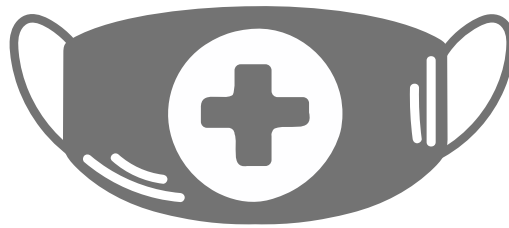
89%

CHILDREN UP-TO-
DATE ON
IMMUNIZATIONS

98%

CHILDREN UP-TO-
DATE ON DENTAL
EXAMS

62%



CHILDREN UP-TO-
DATE ON DENTAL
TREATMENTS

87%

33,000

Meals and Snacks
Served at Centers

84,000

Meals and Snacks
Delivered to Homes

13.8%

Children served with an IEP or IFSP

Head Start requirement is at least 10%

Tri-County Head Start helps children and families learn and maintain a healthy lifestyle. We support healthy families in ensuring children are up-to-date on all immunizations, medical, dental exams, and dental treatments. We have a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist on staff who, with the help of families, designs our menus and teaches both children and families about nutrition and creating healthy habits. Our Health Services team help families keep track of up-coming appointments and due dates. Our Family Advocates connect families with health providers in our area.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

FUNDING 2020-2021

TCHS is funded through the Department of Health and Human Services Head Start Award. The Federal grant period and fiscal year for Tri-County Head Start is February 1 through January 31. TCHS operated both a Head Start and an Early Head Start program, in addition to five blended classrooms with the Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP), the State-funded preschool program.

\$12,028,243

Department of Health & Human Services Head Start Award	\$10,619,702
↳ Operating Funds	\$10,483,689
↳ Head Start	\$7,338,907
↳ Early Head Start	\$3,144,782
↳ Training and Technical Assistance	\$136,013
↳ Head Start	\$67,849
↳ Early Head Start	\$63,164
In-Kind	\$828,570
↳ Head Start	\$524,094
↳ Early Head Start	\$304,476
CACFP/USDA	\$196,541
GSRP	\$372,526
Miscellaneous	\$10,904

Monitoring Results

An annual audit for fiscal year 2020 was conducted by Kruggel Lawton, CPA, and independent auditor, with no findings.

As part of our Federal Grant Award, three monitoring reviews are conducted, results of the most recent reviews are as follows:

- Focus Area 1 Monitoring Review: January 2021 - No Findings
- Focus Area 2 Monitoring Review: May 2018 - No Findings
- CLASS Review: April 2018 - No Findings

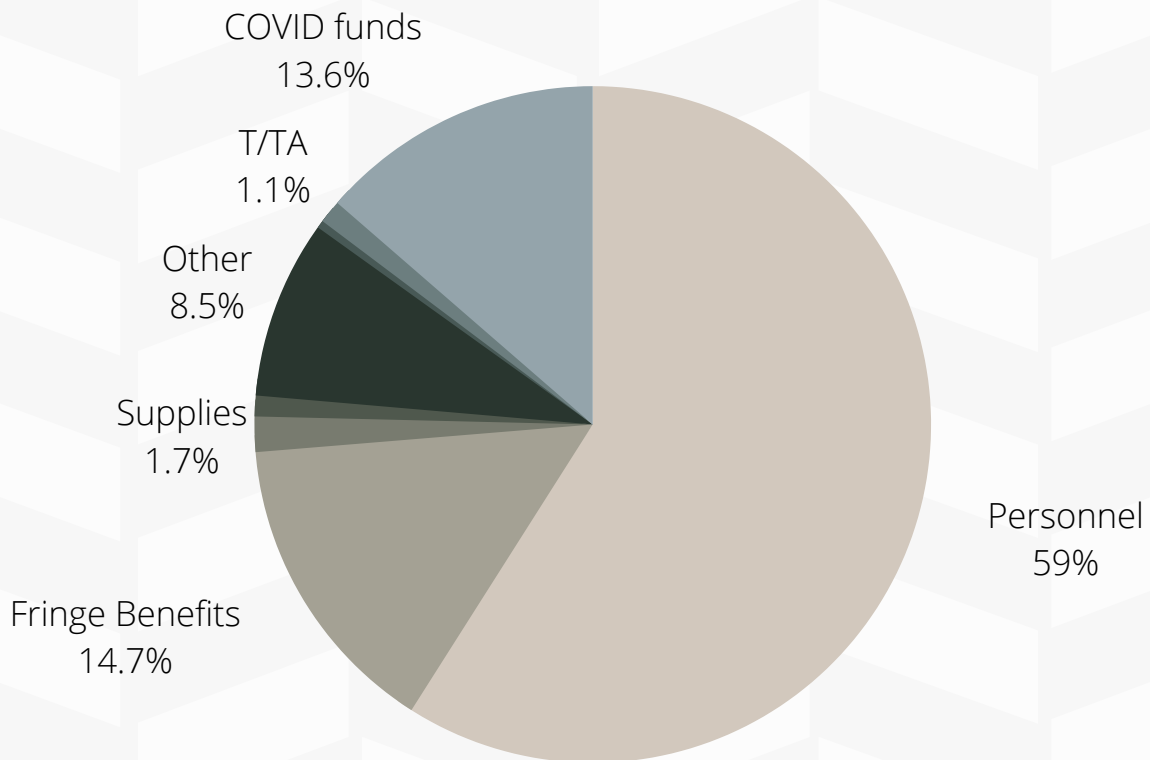
BUDGET VS. EXPENDITURES

2020-2021

CATEGORY	BUDGET	EXPENDITURES
Personnel	\$6,824,198	\$6,381,321
Fringe Benefits	\$1,958,918	\$2,383,695
Supplies	\$404,397	\$356,971
Contractual/Agreements	\$157,154	\$113,799
Other	\$1,139,022	\$1,031,128
Equipment	\$0	\$0
T/TA	\$136,013	\$70,341
Cares ACT Funds	\$797,958	\$489,921
TOTAL	\$11,417,661	\$10,827,177

BUDGET 2021-2022

\$12,295,198



WHAT'S AHEAD

Our organization is committed to providing children a high-quality early learning experience, built on a foundation of research, that prepares them for success in Kindergarten and beyond. Despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, our staff were able to not only move forward in their commitment but they adapted, were innovative, and created systems and routines that will continue into the future.

We were proud to be honored as one of Moody on the Markets Top 20 Best Places to Work in Southwest Michigan, as well as receive the United Way of Southwest Michigan's Collaboration Award. These recognitions are testaments to the hard work that happens everyday throughout our agency.

Our agency will continue on it's path of Continuous Quality Improvement as we seek new and innovative ways to make the biggest impact on the children and families we serve. Below are some of the initiatives we will be working on in the year ahead.

Location and Facility Projects in Benton Harbor and Cass County

Our 50-year Anniversary

Work to gain NAEYC Accreditation - the hallmark of quality in Early Childhood Education

Continue progress on our 5-year goals

2020-2025 Goals

GOAL 1:

Tri-County Head Start will enhance strengths-based professional development and training opportunities for all staff members to maximize potential and quality of services

GOAL 2:

Tri-County Head Start will increase community awareness that we are leaders in Early Childhood Education

GOAL 3:

Tri-County Head Start will improve access to community resources and services for the children and families we serve.





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TCHS is a 501(c)3 funded through grants and community support
This report is also available at www.tricountyhs.org.
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