

TRI-COUNTY HEAD START

2022/2023



ANNUAL REPORT

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OUR LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Arthur Havlicek - Vice Chair

Chris Burns - Treasurer

Linda Tinsley- Secretary

Danielle Persky

Kacee Dochenetz

Mark O'Reilly

Angelica Hatchew - Policy Council Chair

Mary-alice Wirick - Policy Council Vice Chair

POLICY COUNCIL

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Efrain Chavez - Bangor

Shanell Jamison - Dowagiac

Michael Zellmer - Gobles

Amanda Simpson - New Buffalo

Mary-alice Wirick - Niles Bell

Kayla Wolford - Sawyer

Samantha Campbell- SMC

Katelyn Gresham - Mattawan

Ruvid Flores - South Haven

Kenisha Harrington - Watervliet

Alma Rodriguez - Decatur

Sherry Bennett - Community Member

Kristen Chism - Community Member

Mellody Buzalski - Community Member

OUR MISSION

Since our inception in 1972, Tri-County Head Start (TCHS) has served over 40,000 children and families in Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren counties.

TCHS, supports children, families, and communities on their path to success. Using a comprehensive approach focusing on the whole child and their family by partnering with families to allow students to develop academically, socially, intellectually, and emotionally.

TCHS is committed to high-quality services and applying a learning mindset to everything we do.



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

MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO



I am delighted to present the 2023 Annual Report for Tri-County Head Start. With immense pride and gratitude, we reflect upon our accomplishments and the positive impact we have made in the lives of those we serve.

Tri-County Head Start has always been dedicated to providing high-quality early childhood education, comprehensive services, and vital resources to children and families in our region. As we continue to navigate unprecedented times, our mission remains more critical than ever, fueling our determination to ensure that every child has an equal opportunity to thrive, grow, and succeed.

Our dedicated team of passionate staff worked tirelessly to create enriching and inclusive learning environments that fostered creativity, curiosity, and resilience. We also strengthened our focus on promoting parental involvement, recognizing families' invaluable role in their children's educational journey.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the opportunities that lie before us. Tri-County Head Start remains committed to adapting and evolving, ensuring that we meet the needs of the children and families of Southwest Michigan. By staying at the forefront of innovative practices and leveraging community collaborations, we will continue to make a lasting difference in the lives of the most vulnerable among us.

On behalf of Tri-County Head Start, I extend a heartfelt thanks to all those who have stood beside us, championing our cause and enabling us to create positive change. Together, we will continue to build a brighter future, one child at a time.

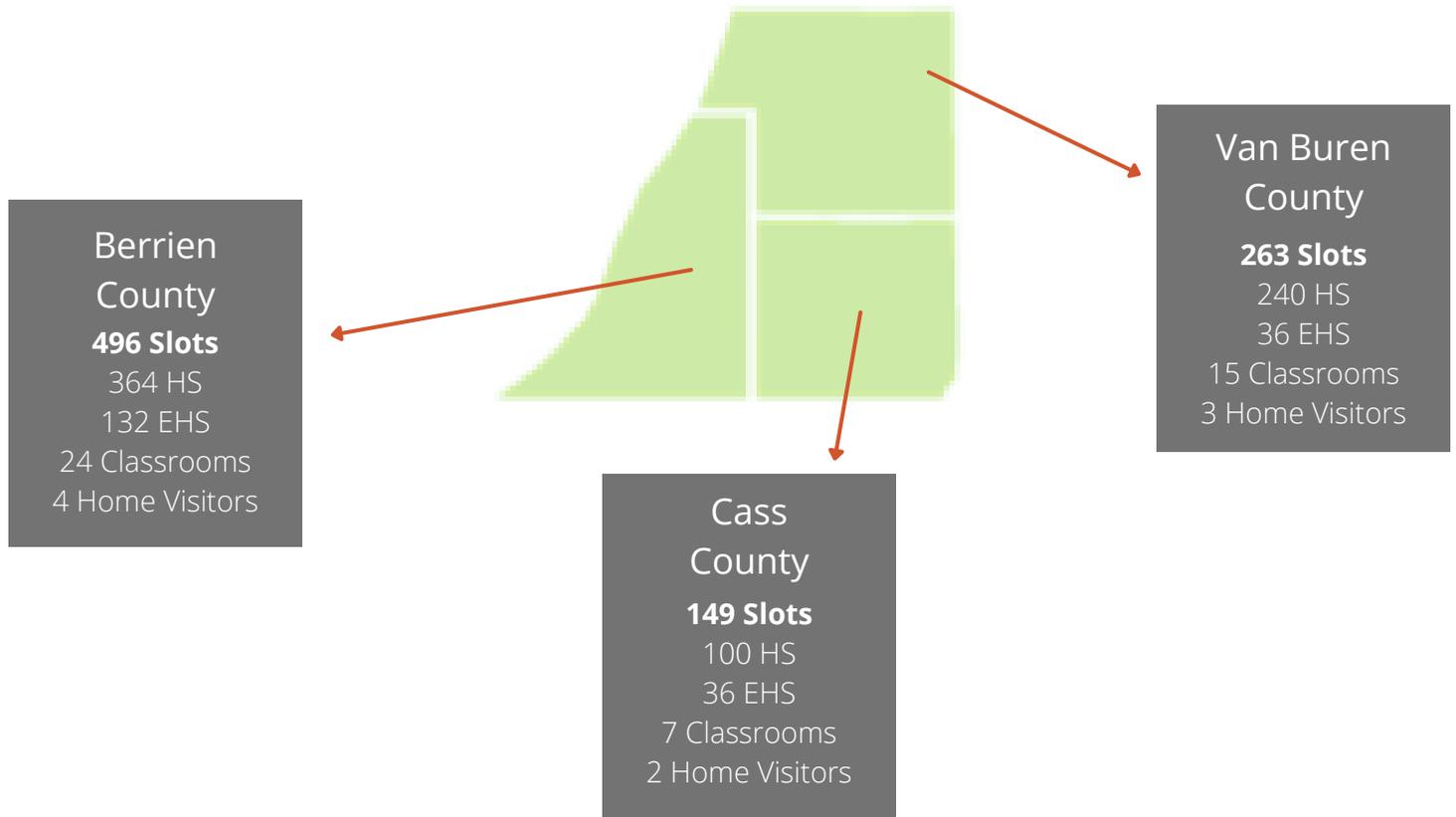
Sincerely,
Chanda Hillman
CEO/Executive Director

WHO WE SERVE

TOTAL FUNDED ENROLLMENT

908

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



Berrien, Cass, Van Buren Counties

CUMULATIVE ENROLLMENT

705

AVERAGE MONTHLY ENROLLMENT

60%

TOTAL FAMILIES

591

CHILDREN ENROLLED FOR MORE THAN 1 YEAR

214

ELIGIBLE CHILDREN SERVED

21%

AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE

77%

3,600

Books given to children this year

OVER 100

Parents attended different events

TYPES OF ELIGIBILITY

39%

100% POVERTY

16%

HOMELESS

29%

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

2%

FOSTER CHILD

8%

OVER-INCOME (101-130%)

7%

OVER-INCOME (OVER 130%)



RACE & ETHNICITY

Black 29%
White 46%
Multi-Racial 18%
American Indian/Alaska Native 1%
Hispanic/Latino 27%



FAMILY EDUCATION

Advanced Degree or Bachelors Degree 7%
An Associates Degree, Vocational School, or some College 29%
High School or GED 59%
Less than High School 13%



PRIMARY LANGUAGE

English 93%
Spanish 6%
Other 1%



Family Status

Single parent families 37%
Two-parent families 63%



Family Status

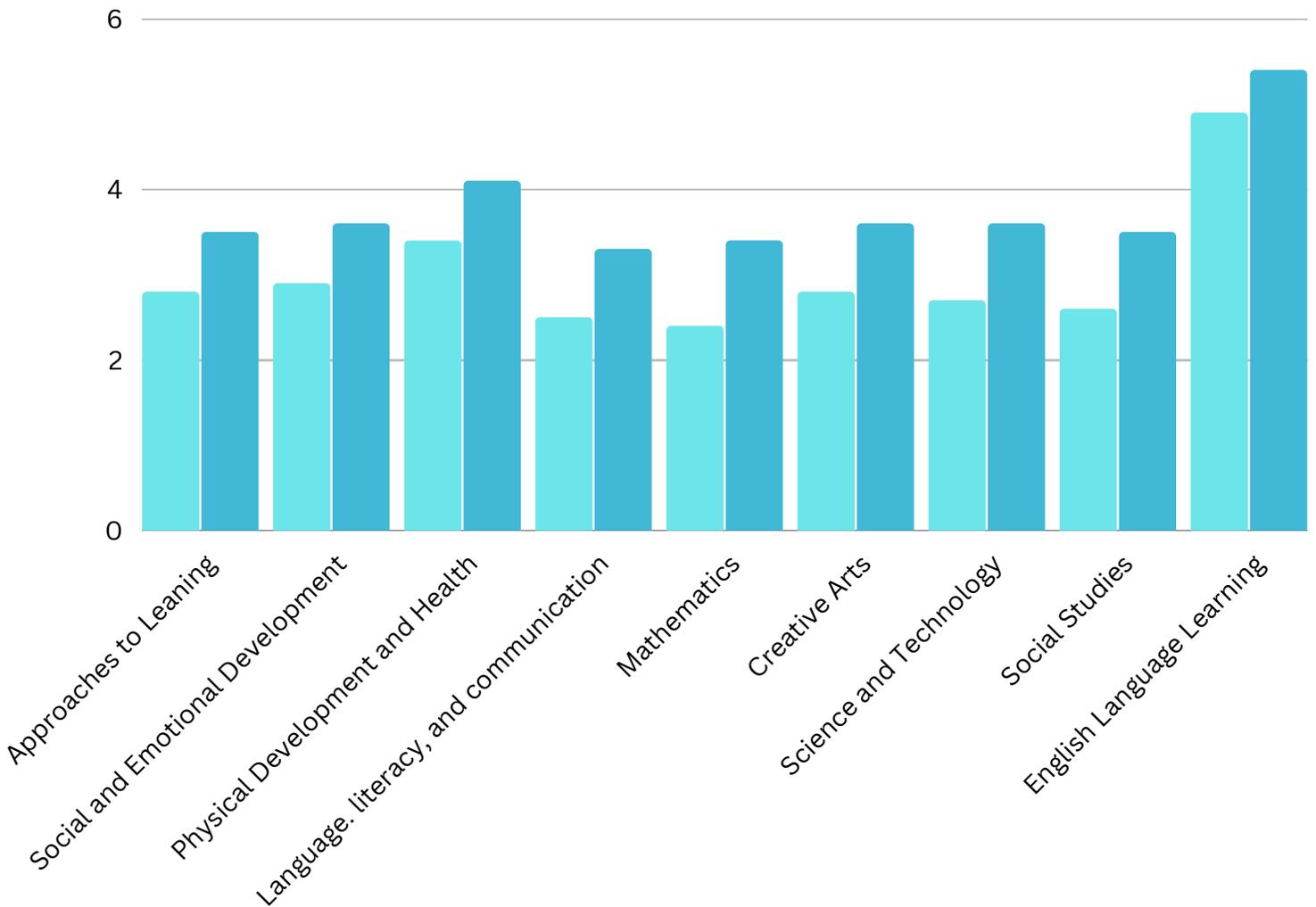
Caregiver employed 83%
Caregiver enrolled in job skills training or post-secondary education 17%

LIFE AND SCHOOL READINESS



The 2022-2023 school year was not easy, but progress was made towards normal classroom life. More of our classrooms were in person, Early Head Start and Head Start operated five days a week for the majority of the school year, and Home Based served students and families in-person and virtually.

With classroom closures due to staffing shortages and illness the school year was not without struggles. But, The resilience of our students shines through in the graph below from quarter 1 to quarter 3.



FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

At Tri-County Head Start it is our mission to serve the whole family, we do this by supporting, engaging, and educating families. A Family Advocate is assigned to each family to build personal relationships, support them in meeting their needs and helping them identify and achieve goals.

Family Relationships



40% of all families completed the Family Strengths Assessment (FSA). The FSA is a strengths assessment that helps determine a family's strengths and needs.



Of the families that completed an FSA, 96% 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, 13% of them were able to accomplish their goal in the 2022-2023 program year.

Family Activities

This year saw the highly anticipated return of in-person events. Our families were elated to see us returning to normalcy in this way.

Policy Council

Parent Committee Meetings

Conscious Discipline Parenting Classes

Conscious Discipline Book Club

Fantastic Fathers & Families

The Whole Child Family Expo

Location Review 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.

HS	Emotional Support	Classroom Organization	Instructional Support	EHS	Emotional and Behavioral Support	Engaged Support for Learning
TCHS Score	6.42	5.89	4.39	TCHS Score	6.2	4.3
Threshold Score	6	6	3			



Young Athletes

Special Olympics Young Athletes is an early childhood play program for children with and without intellectual disabilities, ages 3 to 5. Young Athletes introduces basic sports skills, like running, kicking, and throwing. It provides children of all abilities the same opportunities to advance in core developmental milestones. Children learn how to play with others and develop important skills for learning. They also learn to share, take turns and follow directions. These skills help children in family, community, and school activities.

During 2022-2023, the TCHS Wellness Coordinator conducted Young Athlete in-person sessions with children and staff in 9 classrooms each week. Each session lasted 30-45 minutes. For those classrooms that did not receive weekly in-person instruction, the Wellness Coordinator provided virtual instructions once a month. Each TCHS classroom received a Young Athletes backpack full of equipment to use throughout the school year.

At the beginning of the school year, 300 Young Athletes' home kits were given to TCHS students to take home and keep. These were equipped with supplies to complete the virtual Young Athlete lessons.

At the end of the 2022-2023 program year, every TCHS student received a summer Young Athlete activity bag. This was a total of 400 summer kits.

**CHILDREN UP-TO-
DATE ON WELL
CHILD EXAMS**

97%

**CHILDREN UP-TO-
DATE ON
IMMUNIZATIONS**

98%

**CHILDREN UP-TO-
DATE ON DENTAL
EXAMS**

88%



**CHILDREN UP-TO-
DATE ON DENTAL
TREATMENTS**

68%

102,007

Meals and Snacks
Served at Centers

10.7%

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. By supporting healthy families and ensuring children are up-to-date on all immunizations, medical exams, dental exams, and dental treatments. On staff is a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist who helps families, designs our menus, and teaches both children and families about nutrition and creating healthy habits. Our Health Services team helps families keep track of upcoming appointments and due dates and our Family Advocates connect families with health providers in our area.

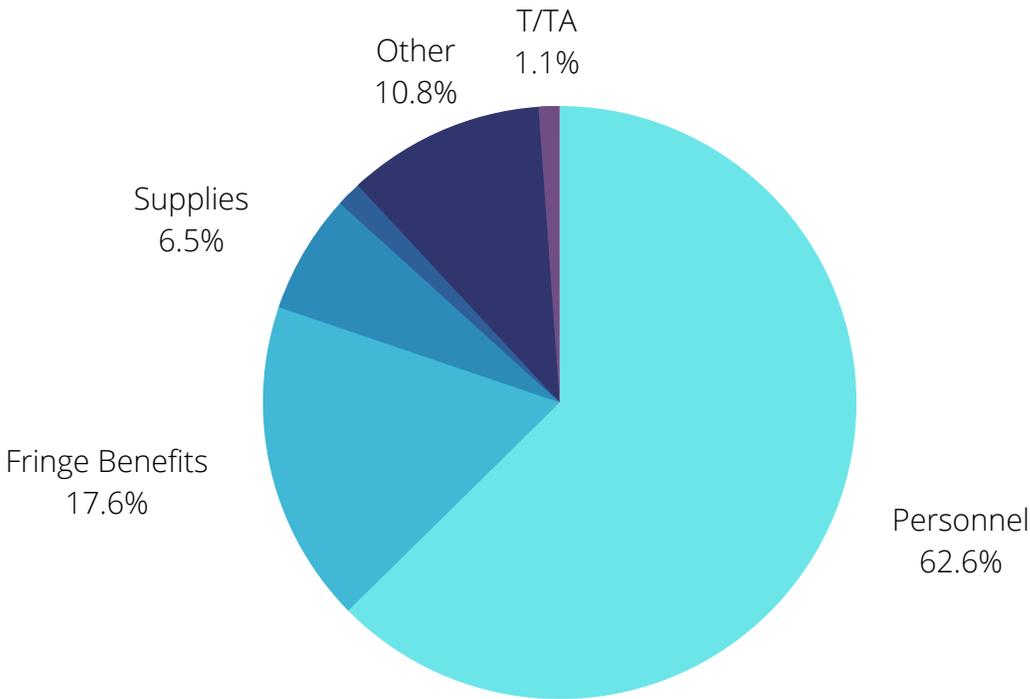
Funding 2022-2023

\$13,696,579

Operating Funds	\$11,242,407
Head Start	\$7,634,449
Early Head Start	\$3,271,945
Training and Technical Assistance	\$136,013
Head Start	\$67,849
Early Head Start	\$63,164
InKind	\$1,023,877
Head Start	\$626,489
Early Head Start	\$397,381
CACFP	\$255,083
GSRP	\$87,752
MISC	\$80,551
Appropriations	\$870,896

BUDGET 2022-2023

\$13,696,579



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

BUDGET VS. EXPENDITURES

2023-2024

CATEGORY	BUDGET	EXPENDITURES
Personnel	\$7,460,170	\$6,541,250
Fringe Benefits	\$2,095,525	\$2,430,102
Supplies	\$776,616	\$370,716
Contractual/Agreements	\$162,265	\$198,264
Other	\$1,282,778	\$1,684,952
T/TA	\$136,013	\$130,386
TOTAL	\$11,913,304	\$11,355,670

Monitoring Results

An annual audit for fiscal year 2021 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: December 2022 – Area of Noncompliance: Background Checks (Head Start Act 648A(g)(3)) Area of Concern: Teachers with waivers and on compliance plans (HSPPS 1302.91(e)(1) and 1302.91(e)(2)(ii))
- CLASS Review: March-May 2023 Video Pilot

Domain	Score	Quality Threshold	Competitive Threshold
Classroom Support	6.1250	6	5
Emotional Support	5.5333	6	5
Instructional Support	2.9750	3	2.3

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.
Approved by Board and Policy Council: June 21, 2023