

Bayonne Head Start FY 2021 Annual Report



Head Start

Administrative Offices

555 Kennedy Blvd., Bayonne, NJ

Center I

21 West 8th Street

Center II

557 Kennedy Blvd.

Center III

7 West 9th Street

High Quality Preschool Education Serving the Bayonne Community Since 1965

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Introduction

Bayonne Economic Opportunity Foundation Head Start (Bayonne Head Start) strives to bring about a greater degree of social competence in children of low-income families. To accomplish this, a comprehensive developmental program has been designed to meet the needs of children, including disability, education, health, nutrition, social services, and parent engagement. The program strives to establish a pattern of success within each child that will promote a feeling of confidence in future endeavors. Experiences for the child and family help to foster a sense of dignity and self-worth that promote active involvement in family and community for the overall improvement of the family's living standards. The program supports and strengthens the parent-child relationships and engages families around children's learning and development.

Mission Statement

Bayonne Head Start's overall mission is to promote school readiness of children ages 3 to 5 from low-income families and children with special needs from Bayonne, N.J. by supporting their development in a comprehensive way. Children's readiness for school and beyond is fostered through individualized learning experiences. Its economic development, educational and human services programs shall be directed towards that goal.

Bayonne Head Start believes that every person has the ability to enhance their being if their individual needs are met. Therefore, Bayonne Head Start will engage parents

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in setting priorities to set goals by providing resources and opportunities for social, intellectual and physical growth for both the family and child. Bayonne Head Start is responsive to the ethnic, cultural and linguistic heritage of each child and family.

Description of the Program

The Bayonne Head Start program has provided high quality preschool and early childhood educational services to low-income children and families in Bayonne, New Jersey for 56 years. We offer a full-day program to children in three centers located in the city of Bayonne. Our focus is to provide children with the best possible services and support to promote their cognitive, intellectual, social, emotional, health, nutrition, and developmental needs so that they can reach their highest potential to be successful in life.

The program operates from 8:30 am until 2:30 pm. Transportation services are available to a limited number of students who do not live within walking distance to any of the three centers. All children receive a nutritious breakfast, lunch, and snack during the day.

The Bayonne Head Start curriculum and child development services are based on the Head Start Child Development Early Learning Framework. This framework comprises two areas which early childhood education experts believe are critical for the developmental needs of children ages three to five:

Knowledge and Skills Domains

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- Literacy, Mathematics, Science, Logic and Reasoning, Social Studies, Language Development, Creative Development, Physical Development and Health, and English Language Development

Domain Elements

- Early Writing, Book Appreciation, Phonological Awareness, Number Concepts, Relationships, Quantities, Geometry, Measurement, Patterns, Scientific Skills, Methods, Reasoning and Problem-Solving, Symbolic Representation, History, People and the Environment, Community and Family, Receptive and Expressive Language, Music, Art and Drama, Gross Motor and Fine Motor Skills, Health Knowledge, and Healthy Lifestyle Practices

Early Childhood Education

- We use the **High Scope Curriculum** which incorporates core outcomes and benchmarks of the *New Jersey State Department of Education Preschool Teaching & Learning Expectations: Standards of Quality* - www.nj.gov/education/ece/guide/standards.gov
- All children receive behavioral, health, mental health, developmental and disabilities screenings and assessments *within 45 days of enrollment in Bayonne Head Start*. Formal Developmental Screening is performed annually using the Brigance Preschool Screen – www.curriculumassociates.com
- Tracking and assessment of learning and development is performed three times annually with each child using the **Online Classroom Observation Record (COR Advantage)**

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- Parent/Teacher conferences are held three times a year for each child
- Portfolios are developed for each child showing their work throughout the year

STAFF TRAINING & PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS

Bayonne Head Start teachers may possess a combination of the following: Bachelor's Degree, the Bachelor's Degree with P-3 certification and the Associate's Degree in Early Childhood. Teacher assistants have met professional standards by possessing a CDA Credential, Associate's Degree or Bachelor's Degree in early childhood education.

The Education, Mental Health /Disabilities and Social Service Managers possess MA Degrees in their field of expertise. The Health and Nutrition Manager has an R.N. Managers focus on key service areas and work as a team to integrate learning, development and inclusion in: Education, Disabilities, Health, Mental Health, Family and Community Partnerships.

Teachers and managers are supported by the following professional consultants and practitioners:

- Mental Health Consultant
- Nutrition Consultant
- Education Consultant
- Coaching Consultant
- Learning consultants through High Scope, State of NJ Head Start Collaboration Office, and the Early Childhood Education (ECE) Specialists from the Department of Health and Human Services / Administration for Children and Families Region II Head Start
- Best Practices in early childhood education are supported at Bayonne

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Head Start by research and practice from leading scholars and practitioners in the field of early childhood education

Individualization to Support School Readiness

Bayonne Head Start, in collaboration with the family, individualizes the program to meet each child's unique characteristics and strengths.

Individualization for all children is integral to the Bayonne Head Start program and children's success at being ready for kindergarten. Relationships with parents allow us to tailor the program to each individual child. Our education, health, mental health, disabilities, nutrition, and family and community partnership services are supportive of children's individual needs, abilities and learning styles.

Bayonne Head Start focuses on:

- Allowing children to learn at their own pace by interacting with the environment, through experimentation.
- Engaging activities which focus on cognitive and language development with attention to English language learners, children's unique attributes and strengths, and children with special needs
- Children's communication, literacy, mathematics, reasoning, and school readiness skills through exploration in the environment and engagement in activities with classmates, teachers, staff, and parents
- Working with children at their own pace to develop skills which will enhance cognitive development

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- Working in partnership with parents to support children’s individual needs through regular meetings, conferences, updates, and providing suggestions for activities that can be utilized at home

Bayonne Head Start FY 2020-2021 Enrollment Facts

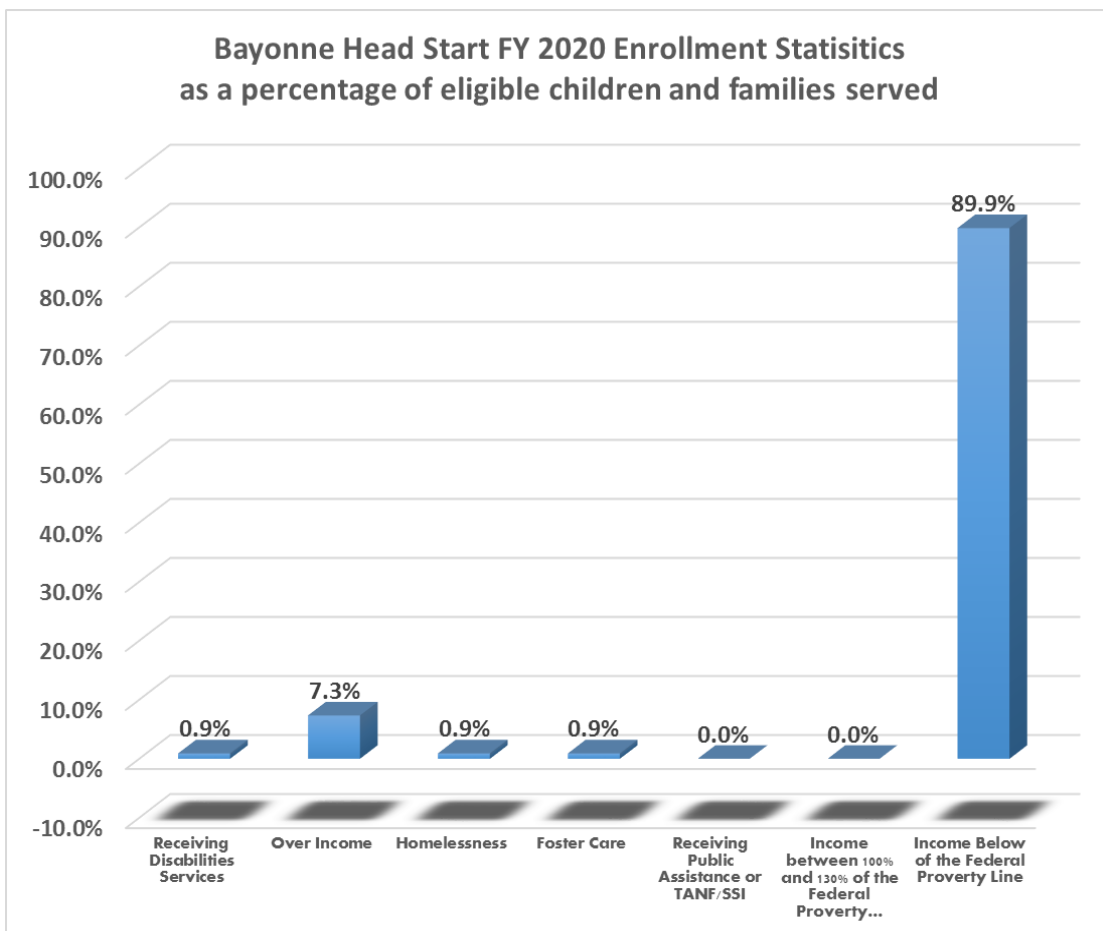
| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| Funded Enrollment | 156 |
| Cumulative Enrollment | 109 |
| Number of Children Enrolled | 109 |
| Head Start total number of families served | 107 |
| Number of Children served as a percentage of all income eligible children in the Bayonne Community | 90% |
| Monthly enrollment | 100% |

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FY 2020-2021 Health Insurance Indicators

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Children with health insurance | 109 |
| Children enrolled in Medicaid and /or CHIP | 104 |
| Children enrolled in state-only funded Insurance | 5 |
| Children with private health insurance | 0 |
| Children with no health insurance | 0 |



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FY 2020-2021 Health Services Performance Indicators

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| Percentage of children up to date on preventative health care | 97% |
| Percentage of children up to date or have received all possible immunizations | 97% |
| Percentage of children up to date on professional dental exams or age-appropriate preventive or primary oral health care | 94% |
| Percentage of children with ongoing source of continuous, accessible medical care | 100% |
| Percentage of children with continuous, accessible dental care | 100% |
| Percentage of children who meet the state's guidelines for an exemption from immunizations | 3% |

FY 2020-2021 Disabilities Screening and Assessment

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| Percentage of children who completed developmental, sensory, and behavioral screenings | 100% |
| Percentage of children who completed developmental, sensory, and behavioral screenings and were identified as needing follow-up assessment or formal evaluation to determine if they have a disability | 100% |
| Percentage of children who were determined to be eligible to receive special education and related services and have received services | 100% |

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GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

SHARED GOVERNANCE

Board of Trustees

Community Representatives
Parent Representatives

Policy Council

51% Parent representatives of
currently enrolled children

CEO/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – Samantha Howard

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Anthony Timpanaro,
Chairperson

Diane Liming,
Vice Chairperson

Nala Ortiz
Secretary

Treasurer
Denise Dorans

REPRESENTATIVES

Chester Banks

Michelle Byrd
Victor Pesantez
Kenneth Poesl

POLICY COUNCIL

Mahwish Chaudhry
President

Nalleli Willmore
Vice-President

Julissa Torres
Secretary

Nala Ortiz
Community Representative

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Head Start Program Managers

| | | |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Director Rosemary Simnowitz | FCP COORDINATOR Lourdes Nunez | CFO Anthony Segarra |
| Health Manager Tracey Chrzanowski | Mental Health Manager/Dis. Manager/Consultant Karla Infante | Education/Literacy Manager Gail Lovell |

Financial Audit

Bayonne Economic Opportunity Foundation's annual independent audited financial statements for the year ended January 31, 2021 were issued by the HBK CPAs & Consultants, PC, CPAs and Consultants on July 14, 2021. An unqualified opinion was issued on the financial statements and no internal control or compliance findings were reported for the Head Start program.

On-Site Monitoring "Fiscal" Review

From October 1, 2018 to October 4, 2018 the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) conducted a Focus Two "Fiscal" monitoring review. Based on the information gathered during the review, the program is fully compliant with all of the requirements of the Head Start Performance Standards, laws, regulations and policy requirements.

The Head Start supports staff efforts through salaries that are comparable to similar positions in the community: teaching staff, managing staff including specialists and directors, family advocates, and other support staff. The organizational structure is aligned with goals, as well as being compliant with the Head Start Act and Head Start Performance Standards.

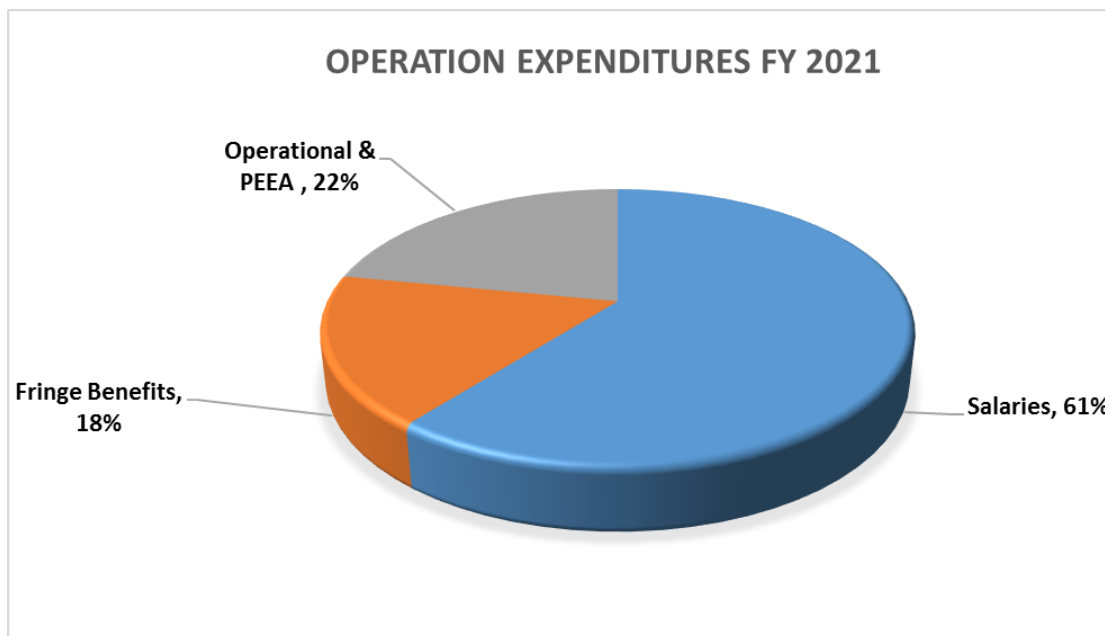
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FY 2021 Budgetary Expenditures (2/1/2020– 1/31/2021)

Bayonne Head Start is supported by Federal Funding:

| Department of Health & Human Services | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Head Start | 1,548,176 |
| American Rescue Plan | 66,404 |
| Head Start COVID Funding | 19,022 |
| Holy Family Renovation | 7,175 |
| Dept. of Agriculture - USDA (Grab and Go meals) | 38,341 |
| Total Federal Funding | 1,679,118 |
| In-Kind | 482,879 |
| <u>Other Funding Sources:</u> | |
| Preschool Education Expansion Aid (PEEA), 6M thru HS FY | 339,924 |
| CDBG Security Guard Grant (City of Bayonne pass thru) | 5,798 |
| Total Other Funding Sources | 345,722 |
| Total Head Start Support (Federal and Other Funding) | 2,507,719 |



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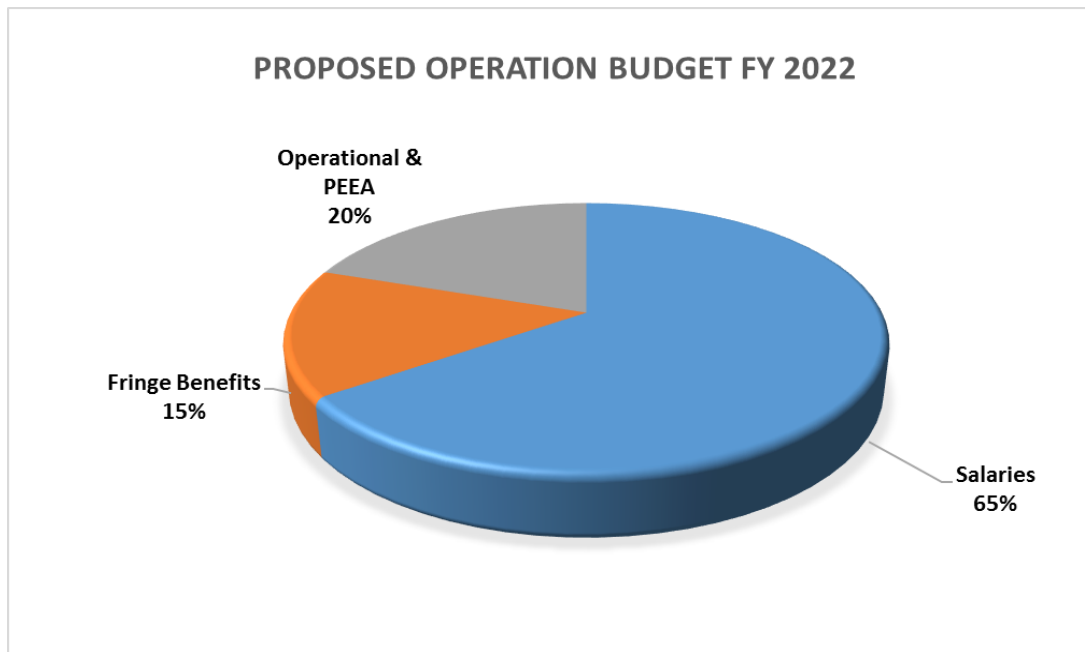
FY 2022 Proposed Budget - Head Start Operation only (2/1/2021–1/31/2022)

Head Start Act for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021, Program Instruction, informed and approved Head Start grantee an increase of cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) of 1.5%, retroactive 2/1/2021.

On February 4, 2019, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy signed A-15, which sets New Jersey on the path to raise the minimum wage to \$15 by 2024. Head Start applied the changes accordingly based on the NJ Law as follows for FY 2021:

- a) July 1, 2019, minimal wages from 8.95 to 10.00.
- b) January 1, 2020, minimal wage from 10.00 to 11.00
- c) January 1, 2021, minimal wage from 11.00 to 12.00
- d) January 1, 2022, minimal wage from 12.00 to 13.00

In July 2021, Bayonne Head Start renewed the contract with the Bayonne Board of Education for 45 slots shared parity to comply with the New Jersey Preschool Education Expansion Aid (PEEA) to expand and continue to provide exceptional services.





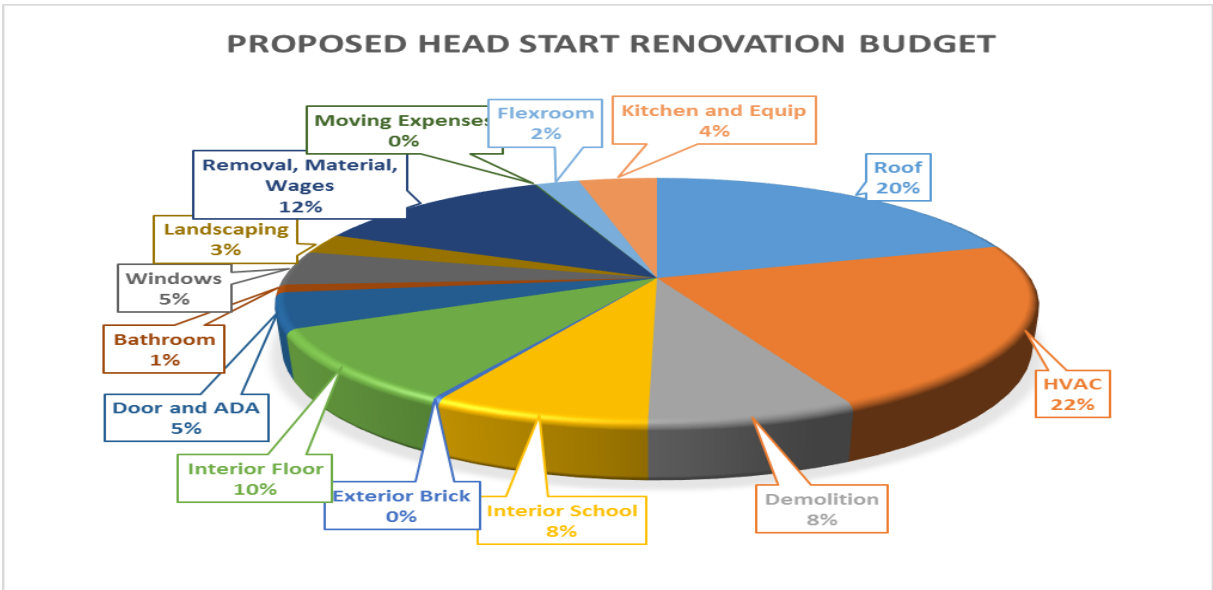
HOLY FAMILY RENOVATION PROJECT

In September 2020, the Bayonne Economic Opportunity Foundation, the umbrella of the Bayonne Head Start was awarded for the Holy Family Major renovation project to relocate our current Head Start program into one location.

Renovations and repairs to the existing school building on the Holy Family Academy grounds will add much value to the Bayonne community. For years, the former school has sat vacant, falling into a state of disrepair and posing many safety and health related issues. With additional Head Start funding and other funding sources, BEOF will revitalize ten classrooms to occupy our current classrooms while breathing new life into a wonderful old structure and allowing it to continue as an integral part of the Bayonne community.

In 2021 an unforeseen U.S. demand greatly outstripped supply. Limited supplies became scarce reaching globally higher than pre-Covid-19 prices. Labor shortages impacted nationwide. The unprecedented pandemic Covid aftermath trigger prices to climb substantially impacted the renovation budget.

Revised renovation budget, along with other funding sources from private donors, is expected to be completed by December 2022.



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Special Services for Children

- All Children receive development, health, and mental health screenings
- All children identified with issues are referred to the Bayonne Board of Education Child Study Team for developmental and health related disabilities evaluation
- All identified children receive in-class support from the Bayonne Head Start service area:
 - **Mental Health / Disabilities**—Oversees the BBOE Inclusion children as well as the children receiving speech therapy
 - Makes observations, conducts parent/staff meetings and refers children and parents for counseling and support to the Bayonne Mental Health Clinic in Bayonne, N.J.
 - Provides in-class support and modifications as necessary
- Children identified as needing additional classroom support and who are awaiting BOE evaluations are referred to the Jersey City Medical Center’s Child & Adolescent Behavioral Health Services or Hackensack University Hospital

Preschool Disabilities Services

Bayonne Head Start had 1 student with an IEP from the Bayonne Board of Education that were enrolled in the 2020-2021 program year.

- Bayonne Head Start provided facilities, teaching staff, nutrition, health services and classroom equipment. Disabilities services were provided through the Bayonne Board of Education.

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- Children were provided speech therapy through the Jersey City Medical Center (JCMC) and Children’s Specialized Hospital.

Speech and Language Services for Head Start Children:

- Identified children are referred to the Jersey City Medical Center or Children’s Specialized Hospital
- Teaching staff support integrated speech and language development in the curriculum based on a child’s individual needs

Disabilities Services are an Integral Part of Kindergarten Readiness

- Bayonne Head Start is a key provider of disabilities services to preschool-aged children in Bayonne
- Our early intervention and integrated services model address major developmental delays
- Providing Preschool Disabilities Services for speech and language is valuable because children are better prepared for kindergarten and costs may be reduced to support these children once they enter kindergarten
- Bayonne Head Start Preschool Disabilities Services can positively impact children’s success in kindergarten and beyond
- Preschool Disabilities Services for speech and language can mitigate the need for increased and additional services once a child enters Kindergarten

Preparing Children for Kindergarten

Throughout the year Bayonne Head Start children’s development is assessed and monitored to ensure success in their cognitive growth. Families are encouraged to

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participate in trainings, workshops and conferences to maintain a strong partnership between school and home. Various in-house and community services such as intervention for a child are available to better serve our families' needs. Education Curriculum meetings are offered several times a year to assist parents with math and literacy in the home to support school readiness goals.

School Readiness

Bayonne Head Start provides a full range of high quality early childhood education services that prepare children to be successful in school:

- Classroom routines (attendance, following schedules, listening)
- Emergent academic skills
- Familiarity with taking standardized testing
- Appropriate social behaviors
- Self- management

The High Scope Curriculum supports children at their developmental level and helps them build upon it in a social setting. Our CLASS (Classroom Assessment Scoring System) is used to assess the quality of teacher-child interactions.

COR Advantage is used to track and measure children's progress.

COR Advantage Domain Report by marking period:

| COR Domain | Period 1 | Period 2 |
|---------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Approaches to Learning | 2.62 | 3.69 |
| Physical Development and Health | 3.14 | 4.14 |

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| | | |
|--------------------------------------|------|------|
| Language, Literacy and Communication | 2.54 | 3.62 |
| Mathematics | 2.63 | 3.65 |
| English Language Learners | 4.52 | 5.43 |

Transition

Visits to the district kindergartens are scheduled so children have a realized and positive experience with transitioning from pre-school to kindergarten. An annual Kindergarten transition meeting is held for families. District school members such as the Director of Early Childhood Education and kindergarten teachers are invited to present an informative meeting for families along with handouts regarding what to expect.

The children prepared an “*All about Me*” booklet with their families to give to their kindergarten teachers on their first day of school. The children visited the local District Schools for a kindergarten transition activity.

Family Involvement

Bayonne Head Start parents had an opportunity to participate in trainings that included child growth and development, child abuse, lead poisoning and poison control, emergency preparedness, and clean air. Parents also had ample opportunities to volunteer to assist teachers in the classroom.

Additional family involvement activities included:

- Parent Committee

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- Policy Council
- Classroom Workshops
- Parent Orientation Meeting
- Education Curriculum Meetings
- Mental Health / Disabilities Group Meetings
- Health Advisory Committee Meetings
- Fatherhood Activities
- Fathers Bring Your Child to School Day
- Multi-cultural Activities in the Classroom
- Reading in the Classroom on Dr. Seuss Day
- Parent Teacher Conferences
- Family Fun Day
- Self- Assessment

New Head Start 5 Year Grant

Bayonne Head Start received notification and was awarded year 2 of the 5-year continuation grant from 2/1/2022 - 1/31/2023.

On-Site Monitoring Review

From October 1, 2018 to October 4, 2018 the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) conducted a Focus Two “Program” monitoring review. Based on the information gathered during the review, the program is fully compliant with all of the requirements of the Head Start Performance Standards, laws, regulations and policy requirements.

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Head Start agencies have a five-year grant with the Administration of Children and Families. Throughout the five-year grant process an agency can receive an on-site monitoring review in year two or year three of the five-year grant.

From March 2020 to June 2021 Head Start began virtual learning due to the outbreak of COVID-19. Thanks to the American Rescue Plan and COVID funds the children were given supplies to work with at home during virtual learning. Head Start staff connected with the children and parents through daily zoom meetings. At that time Grab and Go meals including breakfast and lunch were distributed to the families three times a week. In July 2020 a virtual summer camp was held to prepare the children for entry into kindergarten and to support children with special needs. In July 2021 an onsite summer camp was held to support school readiness. In September 2021 onsite learning began again.