

# Capstone Head Start & Early Head Start

## 2018 Annual Report

### Program Year Snapshot

Head Start's 2017-2018 program year was one of opportunities and challenges faced by early educators in Vermont. Along with other Head Start programs we were challenged in finding both qualified staff and eligible families, in part due to Vermont's early childhood education system being fully implemented in the past two years. Universal Pre-K has reduced the population of preschool families in need of services and continued to make it challenging to find qualified teachers. As we succeed in moving families out of poverty we further reduce the number of eligible families in the populace. Due to our commitment to serving children and families, and the perseverance of our staff we were able to fill those vacancies.

Capstone's Early Head Start Child Care Partnership ended the year over enrolled with 36 children receiving care in family child cares and licensed centers; Head Start and Early Head Start also achieved full enrollment.

Act 166, Vermont's universal preschool legislation, provides 3 and 4 year olds with 10 hours of high-quality early education during the school year regardless of family income. The state of Vermont won a U.S. Department of Education PreK Development Expansion (PDE) grant that provides 4 year old children at or below 200% of poverty with 6 hours per day of high-quality early education during the school year, and Capstone was funded to serve children through this grant. PDE funds supported services to our preschoolers at the Learning Together Center in Barre.

In March Capstone opened its new Lamoille County Early Learning Center comprised of three pre-school classrooms, a gross motor/multi-purpose room, a nature-based playground and on-site kitchen facility all housed within Capstone's Lamoille County Integrated Services Center. The new facility is becoming a key factor in strengthening our community collaborations within Lamoille County. We ended collaborations with the Orange County Parent Child Center, Cambridge Elementary School, and Johnson Elementary School after expanding collaboration with Washington County schools last year. In the end the outcome of these changes has been positive. We also made many physical improvements to our full year center in downtown Barre.

We continue to provide both Head Start and Early Head Start home-based services in all three counties for families best served by this option.

Along with the rest of the country we have faced the challenges of the increasing numbers of families experiencing homelessness and the repercussions of the opioid crisis. We have seen escalating numbers in ACES reported, an increased number of reports made to DCF, and decreased numbers in the 0-5 age population while the senior population is increasing annually in Vermont.

Despite the challenges we are all facing, Capstone Head Start has fared well this past year.



### Parent Engagement

Our birth to five Head Start/Early Head Start program encourages parent engagement in every aspect of the program. In the 2017-2018 program year we had many Head Start and Early Head Start parent volunteers working with their children to achieve their developmental milestones.

Our program offers family outing socialization opportunities, consisting of a shared meal or snack and a structured activity, designed to enhance parent/child interaction and help parents to further promote their child's development. One event this year was a trip to the local cemetery for an alphabet scavenger hunt (finding and identifying letters on the headstones). Parent trainings are offered on literacy, preventing child abuse and neglect, social emotional development, budgeting, and the importance of well-child visits. Parent workshops are offered on topics parents have indicated are of interest to them through a survey. Some workshops offered this year were toddler and baby yoga and financial literacy, among others. Family outings are welcoming events for all family members and provide opportunities for each parent to meet other parents with children of similar age.

Parents also participate in program leadership opportunities such as planning committees, Policy Council, hiring committees, Vermont Head Start Association and New England Head Start conferences and meetings, and the Capstone Board of Directors. Families take part in field trips to apple orchards, local libraries, maple sugaring operations, and other events of their choosing.

#### Head Start / 180 children ages 3-5 in 165 families

- Average monthly enrollment: **100%**
- Medical Exams: **72%**
- Dental Exams: **60%**

#### Early Head Start / 181 children birth to 3 in 165 families

- Average monthly enrollment: **99%**
- Medical Exams: **77%**
- Dental Exams: **0%\***

#### Early Head Start Child Care / 53 children birth to 4 in 51 families

- Average monthly enrollment: **103%**
- Medical Exams: **66%**
- Dental Exams: **0%\***

*\*Early Head Start children generally receive dental screenings as opposed to exams. These are provided by both family dentists and our program's Tooth Tutors, who are certified dental hygienists.*

**81%** of eligible applicants served through Head Start.  
**68%** of eligible applicants served through Early Head Start.

**100%** of eligible applicants served through Early Head Start Child Care Partnerships.

## Ready for Kindergarten

At **Capstone Head Start** we believe that school readiness means children are ready for school, families are engaged in supporting their children's development and well-being, and receiving schools are ready for children. The *Capstone Head Start School Readiness Goals* serve as a guide for staff and families while preparing young children, birth to five years, for school.

Staff partner with parents to prepare young children for school. Staff facilitate parents' understanding of their children's development and together, staff and parents implement a broad range of strategies that lead to positive child outcomes. Capstone Head Start recognizes play, both facilitated and child initiated, as the primary mode of learning for young children.

By articulating school readiness goals linked to the *Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework: Ages Birth to Five*, *Capstone Head Start Program Goals*, the *Vermont Head Start Association School Readiness Goals* as well as the *Vermont's Early Learning Standards*, we create a culture of educators, caregivers, and families that work together to prepare children for school.

Our program continues to use *Teaching Strategies GOLD* to measure children's progress in learning and our program's progress in meeting school readiness goals. This was our second year using the PAT research-based tool with families receiving home-based services and the Milestones outcomes assessment tool. We also use *Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework: Ages Birth to Five*.

Preschool teachers are observed using the CLASS research-based tool. This tool assesses teacher interactions in the domain areas of emotional support, classroom organization, and instructional support.

## Head Start Program Funding Sources

\$ 4,387,611 — U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
 \$ 435,948 — State of Vermont DCF/CCFAP  
 \$ 353,038 — U.S. Dept. of Ed Pre-K Development and Strengthening Families Grants  
 \$ 173,461 — State of Vermont Act 166 Funds  
 \$ 219,375 -- USDA Nutrition Program/CACFP

### Statement of Expenditures

|              | FY 2018<br>Proposed Budget |           | FY 2018<br>Actual |           |
|--------------|----------------------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|
| Expenditures |                            |           |                   |           |
| Direct       |                            |           |                   |           |
| Personnel    | \$                         | 2,115,494 | \$                | 2,229,744 |
| Fringe       | \$                         | 785,098   | \$                | 736,880   |
| Travel       | \$                         | 17,898    | \$                | 21,323    |
| Contractual  | \$                         | 69,080    | \$                | 51,314    |
| Supplies     | \$                         | 114,847   | \$                | 103,153   |
| Other        | \$                         | 1,892,132 | \$                | 872,129   |
| Indirect     | \$                         | 620,676   | \$                | 735,816   |
| Totals       | \$                         | 5,615,225 | \$                | 4,750,360 |

## School Readiness Goals 2017-2018

The five developmental areas for school readiness are:

- Social Emotional
- Physical Development and Health
- Approaches to Learning
- Language and Literacy
- Cognition

The School Readiness Plan was updated on August 8, 2018 by the education manager to be reflective of the various tools used by program options for curriculum and assessment.

The school readiness goals are aligned with the domain indicators for:

- *Teaching Strategies GOLD*
- *The Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework (ELOF)*
- *Vermont Early Learning Standards (VELS)*
- *Parents as Teachers (PAT) curriculum and Milestones for School Readiness*
- *The Ounce Scale*

These alignments create a culture of educators, caregivers and families that work together to prepare children for school. From the onset of enrollment into our program to the time a child transitions to their next placement, school readiness is a priority for their experiences while in Head Start.

Capstone Head Start's *School Readiness Plan* is available by request.

## Program Review Results

Financial and Compliance Audits (Federal Uniform Administrative Requirements) are conducted annually by the certified public accounting firm of Leone, McDonnell & Roberts. The results of the most recent audit (FY2018) found that financial statements were presented fairly and identified no significant material weakness. The audit found no instances of non-compliance or other matters required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards.

We were not scheduled for any Head Start performance reviews during the 2018 program year.

