



# YORK COUNTY CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

*Mission:*

*To develop partnerships that promote quality opportunities for children's educational readiness, at all levels of ability, and to foster success for families and staff."*

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# Table of Contents

<b>ABOUT US</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2022-2023 DEMOGRAPHICS</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>SCOPE OF SERVICES</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>OUTCOMES</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>FINANCIAL STATEMENT</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>LOOKING AHEAD</b>	<b>11</b>

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# ABOUT

## YORK COUNTY HEAD START

### 2022-2023 PROGRAM YEAR

York County (County) is a Head Start grant recipient agency that provides quality education and family support services to children ages three to five and their families in York County. During FY23, York County offered center-based Head Start services to young preschoolers and their families at its three locations: Griffin-Yeates Center, Bethel Manor Head Start, and Yorktown Head Start. Full-day and part-day early education and care were offered to families for 6.5 or 4.5 hours per day for 160 days per year.

Federal, state, and local county funds, and donations from community partners are used to operate the County's Head Start program. Through the generous donations of community partnerships like Kiwanis Club of Colonial Capital, Kiwanis Club of Grafton, York Lions Club, Virginia Peninsula Foodbank, Zion United Methodist Church, and Olde Towne Medical Center, York County was able to maximize its funding to ensure the provision of services during this reporting period to promote children's school readiness.

As a governmental entity, York County provides a wide range of municipal services, including general government administration, judicial services, public safety, management services, education, social services, public works, community development, and community services. Because of this, York County continues to work diligently to plan and prepare for the future to meet the needs of the target population and the surrounding community.

Throughout the year, the County operated, maintained, and implemented effective systems to provide quality services to Head Start program participants. York County did not have any federal or state monitoring reviews, and *the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022*, found the County of York compliant with the Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the Specifications for Audits of Counties, Cities, and Towns issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Accordingly, no deficiencies in internal controls were identified.

Both the Policy Council and the Board of Supervisors played an active role in developing and approving Head Start's budget to focus on overcoming the challenges brought about by COVID-19 to minimize the impacts it had on children, families, and staff. The budget period for FY23 started on July 1, 2022, and ended on June 30, 2023, the last period for the 03CH012257 grant award. Moving forward to FY24, the County will start a new grant period with the continued commitment to offering low-income, at-risk children and their families programming that promotes school readiness, life-long learning, advocacy, self-sufficiency, family support, and well-being.

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## 2022-2023 DEMOGRAPHICS

**The total cumulative enrollment for the 2022-2023 school year was 99 children.**

**14% of enrolled students were children with a diagnosed disability.**

**91 families benefitted from family support services.**

**48% of families were two-parent families and 52% were single-parent families.**

**28% of families served were military families.**

**13% of the program's enrollment were dual-language learners**

**20% of enrollees were from families whose income was above the federal poverty line and 75% were from families whose income was below the federal poverty line or their family was a recipient of public assistance.**

**1% of Head Start students were children in foster care and 4% were experiencing homelessness.**



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## SCOPE OF SERVICES

York County Head Start (YCHS) provides comprehensive, high-quality early childhood services to at-risk and low-income families in York County, Virginia. For the 2022-2023 school year, York County was funded to serve 117 children. Despite efforts to resume normal, pre-COVID-19 operations, the program encountered a few challenges. The primary challenge was staffing shortages, which caused the program to operate five classrooms instead of seven. In spite of challenges, York County continued to make progress toward fulfilling its mission and achieving program goals.

Staff have worked diligently with the governing body, parents, community partners, and other County staff to provide needed services to children and their families. Some of the milestones from FY23 included York County:

- a. Providing 100% of Head Start families with information from the parent curriculum, *Conscious Discipline*, using a variety of modalities and methods.
- b. Funding a part-time Family and Community Support Specialist position for a second year to support mental health services and coordinate activities to address trauma and the social and emotional well-being of participants and staff.
- c. Organizing four summer events (i.e., Family Fun Day, Water Fun, Summer Fun Bowling Kickoff, and Health Screening Fair) to provide socialization opportunities, build family connections, and support successful transitions into and out of the program.
- d. Offering extended care opportunities under the Childcare Subsidy program at the Griffin-Yeates Center.
- e. Coordinating a host of parent-child activities to promote school readiness, positive parent-child relationships, connections to the program, and parent's engagement in their child's education. Activities included but were not limited to STEM Night, Zumba Nights, a Sweetheart Dance, Field Day, Literacy Night, Family Putt-Putt Golf, and Parent training from the Virginia Workforce and York County Housing & Neighborhood Preservation.



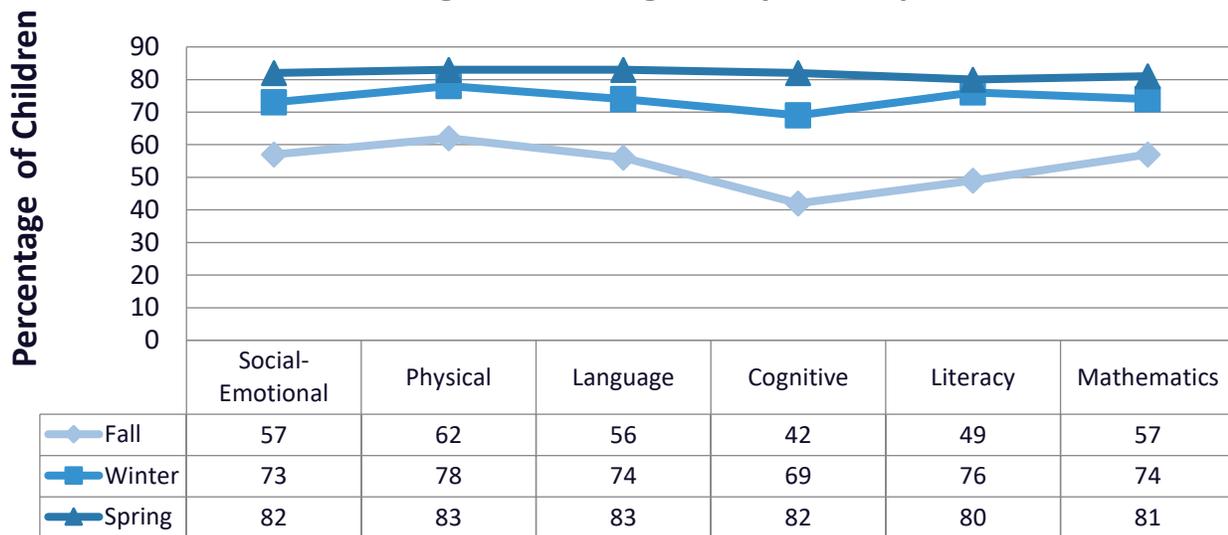
# OUTCOMES

York County Head Start strives to prepare children for school and lifelong learning by providing comprehensive services that support their health, wellness, and physical development. During the 2022-2023 program year, the division coordinated and provided nutritious meals, mental health support, and health, dental, lead, and developmental screenings for students, while connecting their families with needed medical, education, and family support services. Below are the program outcomes for FY23.

## Child Education Outcomes

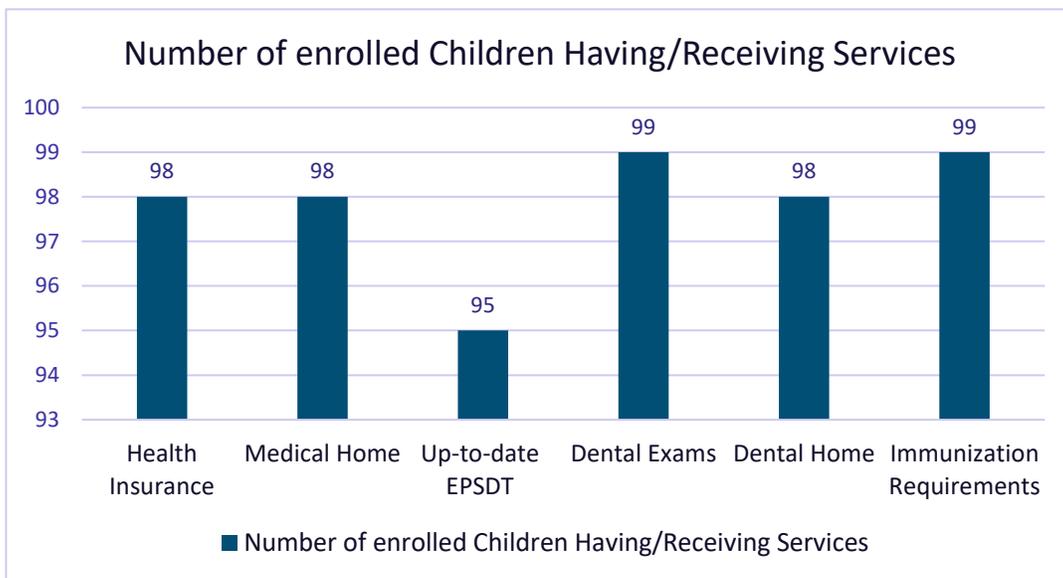
The overall program goal for the 2022-2023 program year was for 85% of children to meet or exceed the widely held expectations for their age, as established by the Teaching Strategies Gold developmental assessment. Children's developmental skills are assessed at three checkpoints each school year (Fall, Winter, and Spring). Below is an analysis of the average target scores of all children that met or exceeded the widely held expectations for their age for the three checkpoint periods. Based on the outcomes of aggregated data, York County Head Start children exceeded target scores in all areas. Additionally, children made gains in all areas of development from the first checkpoint at the beginning of the school year to the last checkpoint.

**Students Meeting or Exceeding Widely Held Expectations**



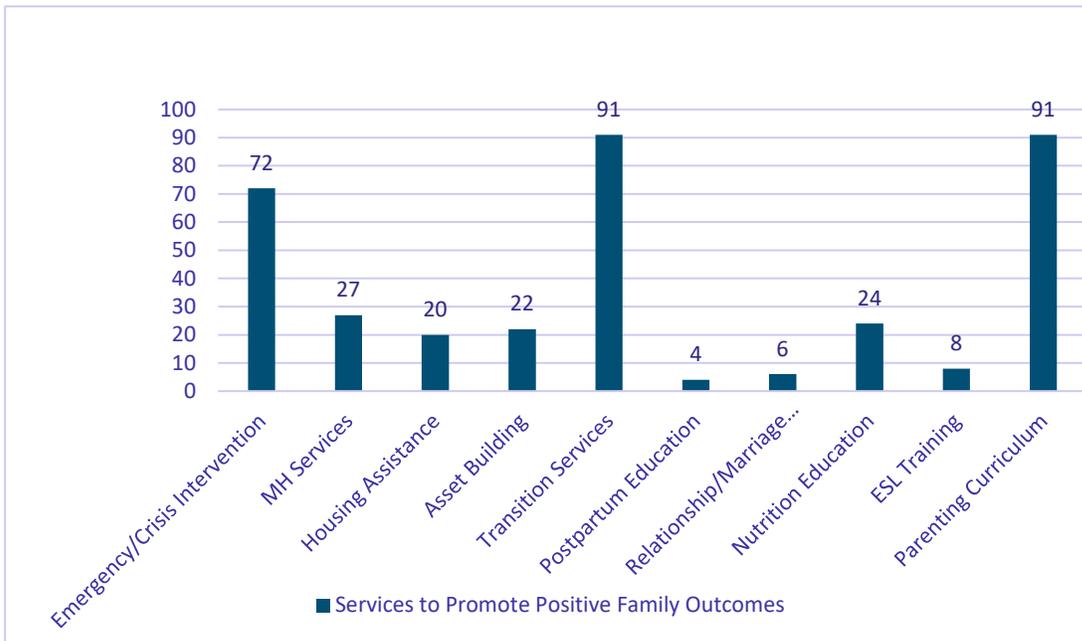
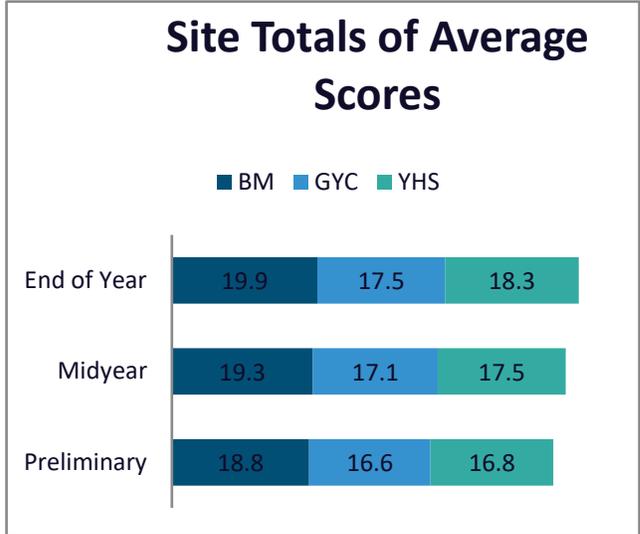
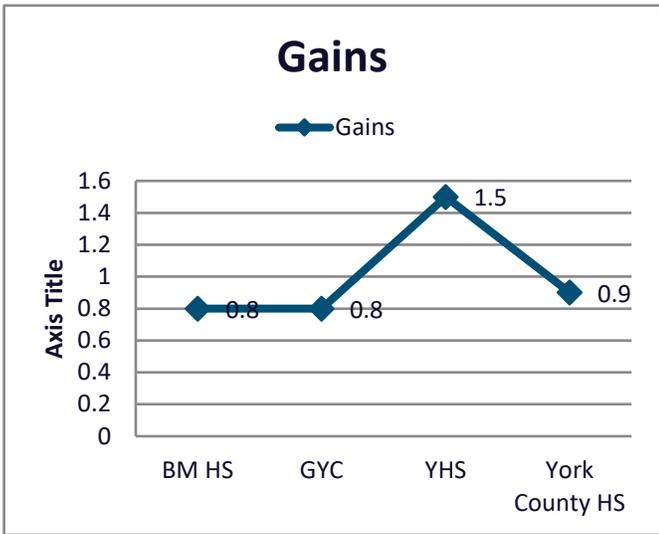
## Child Health Outcomes

Head Start staff work with parents and local health providers to complete screenings, child observations, and family education to address students' health and nutritional needs. Parents are empowered to be involved in all aspects of their child's health. As a support to families, program staff will serve as a liaison to assist families in scheduling necessary appointments, providing or coordinating needed transportation, obtaining appropriate healthcare services and current information, and acquiring needed health insurance coverage, treatment, and follow-up. Olde Towne Medical Center and York Lion's Club have been instrumental in helping York County Head Start complete timely lead, vision, and dental screenings. Child health outcomes for FY23 are below.



## Family Outcomes

Families made strides in improving identified areas of need for their family during the 2022-2023 school year. Analyzing the gains that families made from the first assessment to the most recent assessment showed that enrolled families made the highest gains in family relationships, health, and employment. Food/clothing and transportation showed the lowest amount of gain. They all showed a gain of  $\Delta 0$ . For the three Head Start locations, the total average overall gain in all areas of needs assessed were: Griffin-Yeates  $\Delta 0.8$ ; Bethel Manor Head Start  $\Delta 0.8$ ; and Yorktown Head Start  $\Delta 1.5$ . The average gain in all assessed areas of need for York County Head Start families was  $\Delta 1$ .

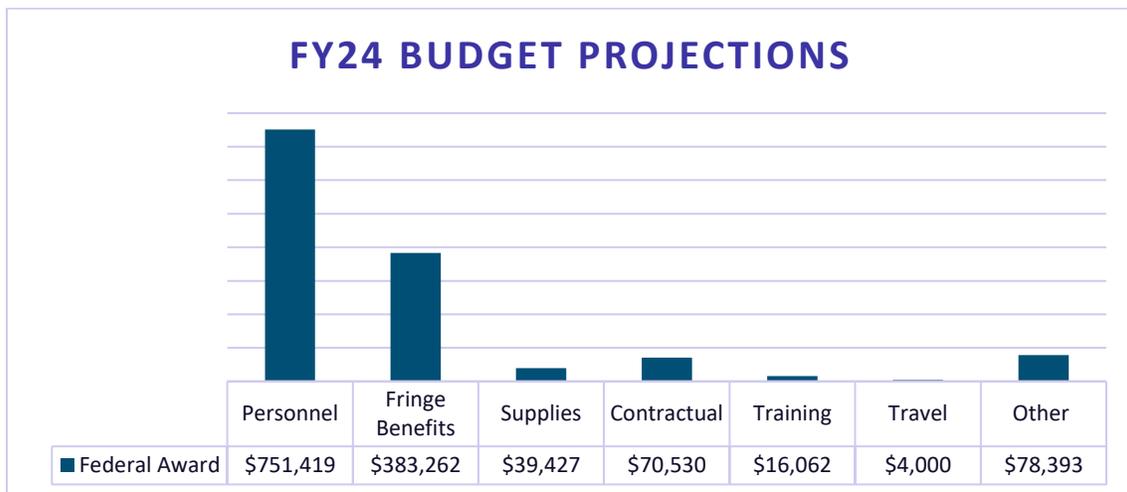


# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

York County is a recipient agency of the Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children & Families Office of Head Start. For 2022-2023, the Office of Head Start awarded York County \$1,419,668 to provide comprehensive early education and family support services to eligible children and families participating in the Head Start program. The County of York allocated local funds to support the Head Start program to meet the 20% required non-federal match. CRRSA and ARP funds remaining from FY21 were used in FY22 to close out funds provided by OHS to help programs prevent, respond to, and prepare for COVID-19.

## REVENUE & EXPENSES

OHS Five-year Grant (7/1/2018-6/30/23)	FY23 Revenue	FY23 Expenses	FY24 Budget
Federal Award	\$1,254,188	\$1,255,079	\$1,343,093
Non-federal Share	\$310,341	\$311,207	\$335,773
CRRSA	\$22,041	\$22,041	\$0
ARP	\$120,805	\$119,740	\$0
FY22 Carry-Over	\$22,634	\$22,634	\$0



**Financial Audit:** As required by the Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133, the Head Start program is audited to an opinion on York County's compliance with the requirements of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants governing the program, as well as the internal controls over compliance FY2022, Cherry Bekaert LLP issued opinions on compliance for major programs finding no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal controls over financial reporting. In addition, there were no findings or questions regarding costs for major federal awards, including the Head Start program. A copy of the independent audit may be found at <https://www.yorkcounty.gov/DocumentCenter/View/46712/FY2022-Annual-Comprehensive-Financial-Report?bidId=>

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# COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

The Office of Head Start requires all Head Start recipient agencies to conduct a thorough Community Assessment (CA) every five years and an annual update to identify needs in their catchment area. The CA is a compilation of data obtained from internal and external stakeholders, census data, community information, and other public data sources. Programs use information from the Community Assessment process to:

- develop short and long-range goals.
- guide program and service implementation.
- identify recruitment needs and program locations.
- determine recruitment and selection criteria.

York County's 2022-2023 Community Assessment included data about the community's demographics, strengths, resources, and needs. In analyzing this data, York County identified the following as areas of need for individuals within the community:

- Affordable housing, childcare, and preschool opportunities
- Transportation
- Strategies to address workforce shortages in the education and childcare industry
- Language and Translation Services for limited and non-English speaking individuals



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## LOOKING AHEAD

York County intends to enroll 87 children in five Head Start classrooms for the 2023-2024 school year. All classrooms will be center-based and operate five days per week, 6.5 hours per day for 159 days. Over the next five years, York County will collaborate with the governing body, Policy Council, Head Start staff, and other stakeholders to develop and implement plans to strengthen program participation and service quality to improve child and family outcomes.

For the next five years, York County intends to focus on meeting full enrollment, building parents' connection to the program and other supports to improve family outcomes, and utilizing mentor/coaching as a professional development tool to enhance the program's social and emotional curriculum implementation. Program Leadership will prioritize this in collaboration with Head Start staff, York County Administration, Policy Council members, the Board of Supervisors, parents, and community partners. York County Head Start is committed to providing quality, comprehensive early childhood services to children and their families.

Head Start is built on the notion that children's care and education require engaging and partnering with families and other community organizations. For FY24, York County plans to improve its family support, educational, and mental health services offered to families by:

- Funding a permanent part-time Family & Community Support Specialist position and improving the program's mental health services.
- Offering extended care services to families for continuity of care after regular program hours.
- Focus on staff professional development and offer incentives for specialized credentials and certifications to promote staff morale and build the workforce.
- Coordinating activities for children, families, and staff that promote healthy social connections and social-emotional development, and acquiring supplies and resources to promote children's acquisition of literacy, cognitive, and social-emotional skills.
- Purchasing and implementing Ignite by Hatch Ignite™ as a curriculum enhancement to assist teachers in providing instruction and obtaining data to promote children's learning success. Hatch Ignite™ provides children engaging, research-based learning experiences using digital play technology.



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York County's Division of Children and Family Services/Head Start would like to thank York County's Board of Supervisors, Policy Council members, and Administration for their leadership and support. Because of their ongoing support of Head Start, York County is preparing preschoolers for elementary school through the provision of appropriate services, learning, and parent engagement opportunities for these young scholars and their families.



*Note: A copy of the most recent York County Head Start Annual Report, Head Start Federal Review, and Financial Audit may be obtained from the Administrative Office located at the Griffin-Yeates Center, 1490 Government Road, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185, or can be viewed online at <http://www.yorkcounty.gov>.*



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