



**YORK COUNTY  
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2023-2024**

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## **ABOUT YORK COUNTY HEAD START 2023-2024 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 FY24, 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 early education and care were offered to families for 6.5 hours per day for 160 days per year.

Federal, state, 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 the Kiwanis Club of Williamsburg, Kiwanis Club of Grafton, York Lions Club, Virginia Peninsula Foodbank, Abundant Life Partners, York County Housing Division, and Virginia Department of Health, York County Head Start was able to fulfill its mission. 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.

Throughout the year, the County operated, maintained, and implemented effective systems to provide quality services to Head Start program participants. York County did receive a Focus Area 1 Federal Review. This review explored the program's compliance as it relates to the Head Start Program Performance Standards and the Head Start Act of 2007. The focal areas included: Program Design, Management, and Improvement; Education and Child Development Services; Health Services; Family and Community Engagement Services; Fiscal Services; and Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment, and Attendance (ERSEA). The program was compliant in all areas! *The Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023*, was also a great success as the County of York was founded to be compliant in meeting Government Auditing Standards.

Both the Policy Council and the Board of Supervisors played an active role in developing and approving Head Start's operating budget. The budget period for FY24 started on July 1, 2023, and ended on June 30, 2024, the last period for Year 1 of the 03CH012257 grant award. Moving forward to FY25, the County will start a new grant project 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.



## 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 2023-2024 school year, York County was funded to serve 87 children. The primary challenge was connected to staffing shortages. During the school year, we also experienced a challenge as one of our off-site locations, Yorktown Elementary, lost the use of its HVAC. Despite challenges, York County continued to make progress toward fulfilling its mission and achieving program goals.

### 2023-2024 Demographics

**Funded Enrollment: 87 Children**

**Total # of Children Served: 92**

**Total # of Families Served: 89**

**Percentage of Children Served with a  
Diagnosed Disability: 15%**

**Percentage of Dual Language Learners: 18%**

**76% of our enrollees demonstrated  
economic challenges**

**Family Services supported 91% of our  
families with emergencies and crises.**

**Percentage of Families Experiencing  
Homelessness: 5%**

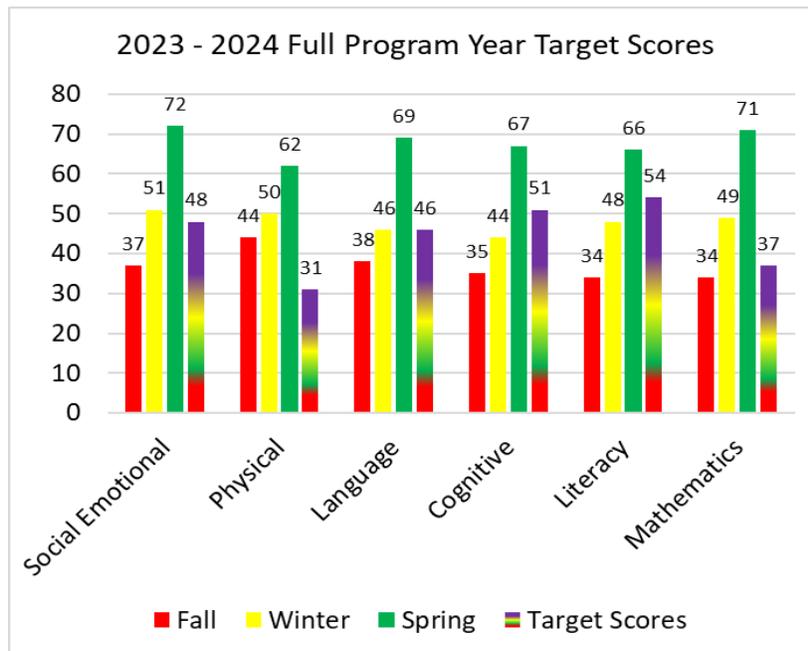
**Percentage of Families in Foster Care: 3%**

## 2023-2024 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 2023-2024 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.

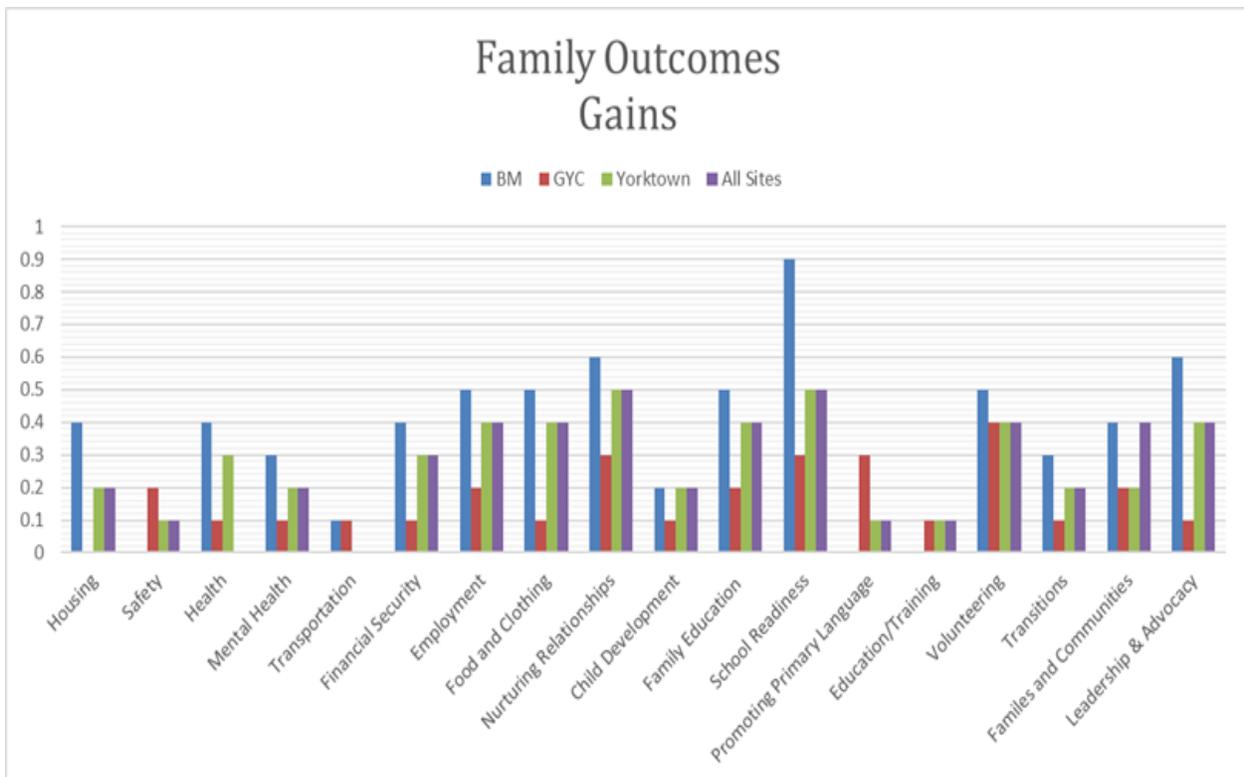
### Child Education Outcomes

Children's developmental skills are assessed at three checkpoints each school year (Fall, Winter, and Spring). Our students' skills are assessed utilizing the Teaching Strategies Gold developmental assessment. Below is an overview of our students' scores for the 23-24 school year. York County Head Start children made gains in all areas of development from the first checkpoint at the beginning of the school year to the last checkpoint. During the 2023-2024 school year, Social-Emotional Development, which can be one of the more challenging areas for students, made the most significant gain. This demonstrates the benefits of peer-to-peer interactions and how they aid in students' development.



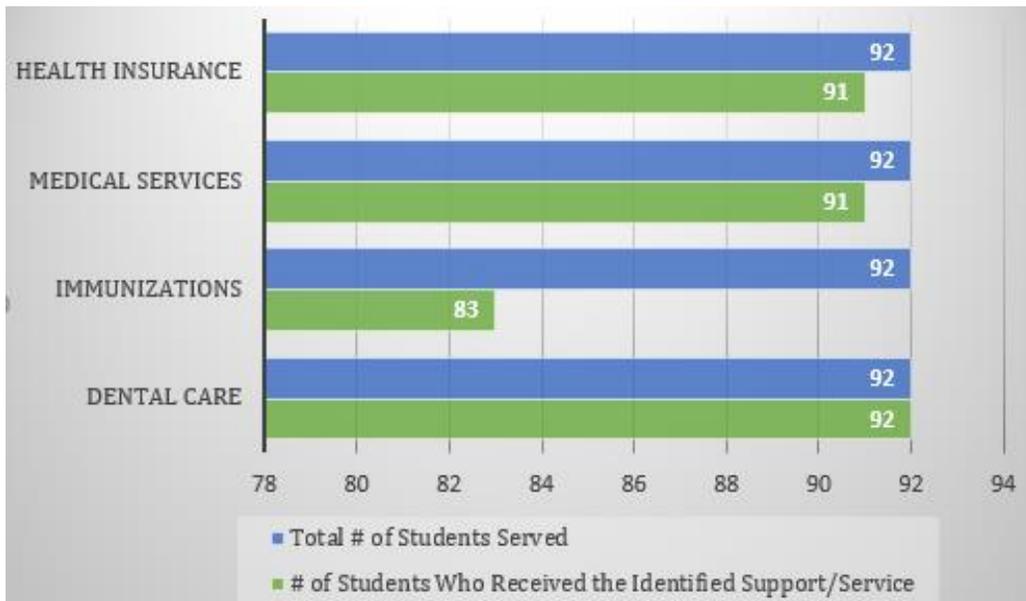
## Family Outcomes

To obtain and evaluate family outcomes data each school year, all Head Start families are assessed utilizing the Family Needs Assessment three times a year (e.g., Preliminary, Midyear, and Endyear). The program uses information from the Family Needs Assessment to identify the needs of families, assess the effectiveness of approaches used to support the well-being of families, and assist in building the capacity of families to support their child's school readiness. As demonstrated in the chart below, enrolled families made the highest gains in the areas of nurturing relationships, school readiness, and leadership advocacy. Safety, Promoting Primary Language, Transportation, and Education, Training, and Life Goals showed the lowest amount of gain.



## 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 demonstrated in the chart below, we were able to ensure that children were connected to dental and medical homes, received their immunizations, and maintained their health insurance. For immunizations, it's important to note that 3 of our students were exempt from immunizations due to religious/personal reasons.



## FY24 Activities and Accomplishments

York County Head Start completed several activities with our families, students, and staff during our 2023-2024 school year. Some of our activities included:

- Burgers with Dad, our first Male Involvement event, was held on September 28<sup>th</sup>. Twelve fathers attended the event, which was 24.5% of our enrollment. A dad volunteered to cook burgers on the grill, families participated in a fun game, completed a craft at the table, and a volunteer from CDR's Fatherhood program read a book to students.
- Harvest Meet & Greet was held in October 2023. Families were invited to GYC for some family fun. The program had a petting Zoo, games, a pumpkin decorating contest, snowcones, and dinner for families.
- The Education Specialist and Early Childhood Intervention Specialist held the first Professional Learning Community meeting. The initial focus was on building the staff's understanding and utilization of the Conscious Discipline curriculum.
- In December 2023, we held a trauma-informed skills for educators training. The training was offered through a grant from the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) to Colonial Behavioral Health. It was a 6-hour in-service designed to enhance educators' knowledge about trauma and its impact on students, as well as enhance educators' ability to engage youth who've been exposed to trauma provided by the Center for Safe & Resilient Schools and Workplaces.
- We celebrated Dr. Seuss' Birthday and held a Sweetheart Dance in February 2024.
- In April 2024, to help prepare our families for the transition to Kindergarten, students were able to visit and explore a Kindergarten classroom at their local school.
- In May 2024, we celebrated students' participation in the program at our annual Stepping Up ceremonies for all of our sites.



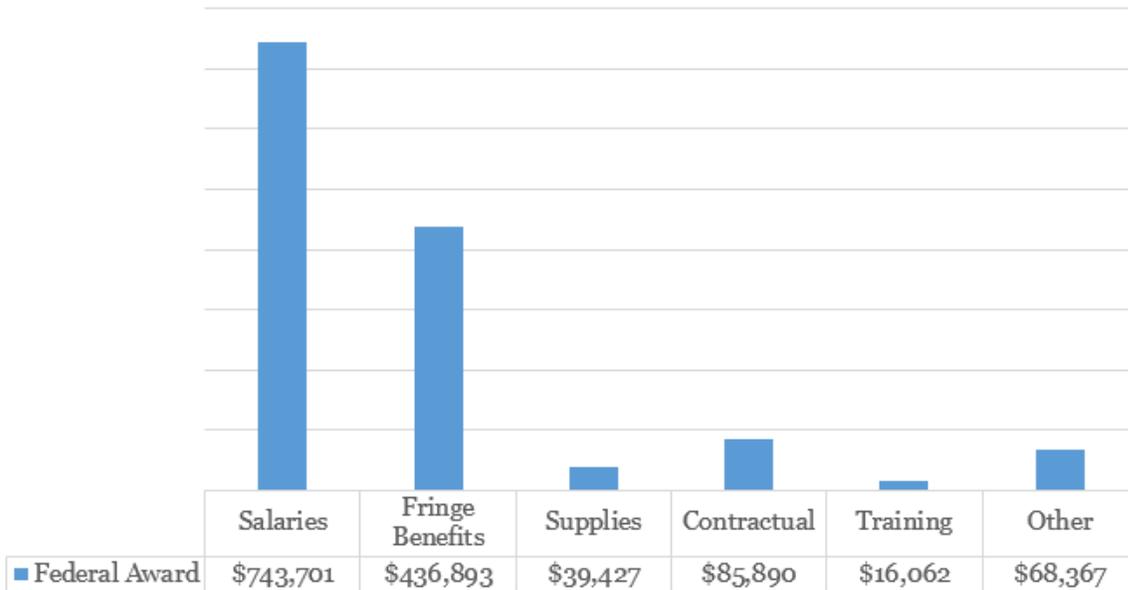
## Financial Statement for FY24

York County is a recipient agency of the Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children & Families Office of Head Start. For 2023-2024, the Office of Head Start awarded York County \$1,343,093 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.

### REVENUE & EXPENSES

OHS Five-year Grant (7/1/2023-6/30/28)	FY24 Revenue	FY24 Expenses	FY25 Budget
Federal Award	\$1,240,448	\$1,348,128	\$1,374,278
Non-federal Share	\$364,773	\$364,773	\$343,570
Supplemental Grant	\$106,669	\$111,079	\$0

### FY25 Budget Projections



## Looking Ahead: FY25!

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.

The data from our 2023-2024 Community Assessment has informed our strategies and program plans as we gear up for the 2024-2025 school year. Our team plans to consider the following as we work with our community, children, and families:

- We will explore strengthening our multicultural lens and focus as we:
  - Develop strategies to engage our Hispanic families as their population continues to grow in York County.
  - Support our bi-lingual families by utilizing communication applications that enhance our ability to communicate in a family's home language
- Build our community partnerships to learn and gain access to resources that can be helpful to our families demonstrating a need for support, specifically with food and housing.
- Explore ways to enhance our support for families that need affordable childcare.
- Deepen our relationship with York County School Division and other Early Intervention entities so that we can further support our students with developmental challenges.

# Thank You!

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 and Head Start Federal Review 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/headstart>.*