

# Riverside Early Head Start

## 2018—2019 Annual Public Report

*Our mission is: to promote the health, well-being,  
social emotional growth and development of  
young children and to support the self-empowerment of fami-  
lies.*



The Riverside Early Head Start is a federal program for low-income families living in Cambridge, Medford and Somerville with infants and toddlers, as well as pregnant women. The program is designed to support families by promoting healthy prenatal care, infant/toddler care, and the well-being of the entire family. The program's main goal is to give their young children an early head start in their intellectual, social, physical, language and emotional development. With sensitivity to families whose first language is not English, the program reflects the diversity of the three cities. Most of our employees often speak

two languages and our program is respectful of the various cultural norms practiced within each family.



This annual report has been prepared in order to comply with the Head Start Reauthorization Act of 2007. The Act Section 644 (2) states that: "Each Head Start agency shall make available to the public a report published at least once in each fiscal year that discloses the following information from the recently concluded fiscal year, except that reporting such information shall not reveal personally identifiable information about an individual child or parent:

- (A) The total amount of public and private funds received and the amount from each source.
- (B) An explanation of budgetary expenditures and proposed budget for the fiscal year.
- (C) The total number of children and families served, the average monthly enrollment (as a percentage of funded enrollment), and the percentage of eligible children served.
- (D) The results of the most recent review by the Secretary and the financial audit.
- (E) The percentage of enrolled children that received medical and dental exams.
- (F) Information about parent involvement activities.
- (G) The agency's efforts to prepare children for kindergarten.
- (H) Any other information required by the Secretary."



**The Program’s Director Corner:**

Parents, Community Members, and Partners:

Over the previous program year, Riverside Early Head Start has made much progress in fostering and sustaining quality improvement efforts. Specifically, we have been actively exploring partnerships and recruiting within the cities of Cambridge and Medford to bolster our enrollment catchment within these communities. Our program has made great strides in developing contacts that have helped support family enrollment across our three service area communities of Cambridge, Medford, and Somerville. We are proud to report our enrolled population now consists of 40% Cambridge and Medford families, a remarkable increase year to year.

Additionally, we have increased our available funding from the Office of Head Start (OHS) and Massachusetts’ Early Education and Care (EEC), which has assisted the program in their pursuit of recruiting and hiring qualified staff. Further, this additional funding ensures we have ample resources to support the delivery of a quality Home Visiting product you all deserve. One such example being the continued offering of an onsite Home Visitor CDA credential, to best support compliance and quality improvement efforts program wide.

We’ve made great effort to align with strengths based approaches, and have supported this transition with two additional staff attending the wonderful Touch Points training, we have targets to train all staff in the model.

Further we have prioritized building capacity which meets identified community need, including building our library and skillsets to meet needs of Substance Misuse, Homelessness, Domestic Violence, and Infant and Toddler Mental Health needs.

It is our intention to best support you the community, within a responsive, warm, and engaged environment; we hope to deliver on this promise and will remain steadfast with the collective trust you have place in our hands.

Thank you.  
Matthew Kardonsky

**(A) Total amount of public and private funds received and the amount from each source.**

DHHS/Administration of Children and Families/ Office of Head Start	1,353,060.00
Head Start State Supplemental Grant	56,592.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,409,652.00</b>

**B) Budgetary expenditures and proposed**

	Total Budget Federal	20% NFS	Actual Expenditures
a. Personnel	819,052	22,512	764,189
b. Fringe Benefits	142,918	4,503	137,554
c. Travel - T & TA	4,000		-
d. Equipment	-		-
e. Supplies	36,000	500	53,987
f. Contractual	19,325	24,200	23,522
g. Construction	-	-	-
h. Other	151,703	283,565	164,869
h. Other - T & TA	26,931	-	27,885
i. Total Direct Charges	1,199,929	335,280	1,172,007
j. Indirect Charges	153,131	2,985	128,712
k. TOTALS	<b>1,353,060</b>	<b>338,265</b>	<b>1,300,719</b>
Federal Funding	1,353,060		1,300,719
NFS Match	338,265		325,180
	1,691,325		1,625,899

***(C) The total number of children and families served, the average monthly enrollment (as a percentage of funded enrollment), and the percentage of eligible children served.***

The total number of children and families served this year was 157. Out of the total families served 17 (11%) were pregnant women.

Riverside Early Head Start averaged a monthly enrollment of 96% for the 2018-2019 year, and has averaged 97-100% enrollment for the current program year.

***(D) The results of the most recent review by the Secretary and the financial audit.***

During this year we did not have a review from the Secretary. Financial audit; FY'19 results show a small surplus for the year. There were no material weakness or significant deficiencies identified.

Effective May 1, 2018, Riverside acquired the assets and assumed the liabilities of Screening for Mental Health, Inc., a Massachusetts non-profit corporation whose mission envisions a world where mental health is viewed and treated with the same gravity as physical health. Its mission is to provide the public with mental health education, screening, and treatment sources.

REHS has completed the Focus Area Two Federal Monitoring Review, having occurred during the week of November 11-15, 2019. The Focus Area Two review consisted of weeklong discussions, data explorations, and interviews with staff, parents, and Board members which audited the overall program design, management, and governance structures. As of January, 2020 the official monitoring review report has not been received, the Annual Report will be updated to reflect the findings after receipt.

***(E) Number of enrolled children that received medical and dental exams.***

Dental Services : 27

Children with health insurance including pregnant women: 101

***(F) Information about parent involvement activities.***

- On 1/29/19, an Early Literacy workshop was offered in our center in Spanish by our partners at the Somerville Early Learning Collaborative. 11 families registered for this event and 6 families attended.
- On 1/31/19, another Early Literacy workshop in English was given by the Somerville Early Learning Collaborative. About 19 families signed up for it but only 7 were able to make it. The frigid temperature made impossible for some families to leave their house. Although the program provided them transportation, most of them ended up canceling their presence at the Literacy workshop which affected the overall attendance.
- On 2/12/2019, the Somerville Community Corporation (SCC) came to our center to offer an information workshop on Financial Literacy to our families. A total of 15 parents participated and 12 registered for the SCC program (six sessions) for March. In March 2019, 9 parents attended and completed the Financial Literacy program for which they received a certificate from Somerville Community Corporation.
- 8/7/19, this family event was planned to happen in July to celebrate the summer time with parent and to close the program year but due to some unexpected challenges, it was rescheduled in August. Riverside Early Head Start welcomed several families, about 93 participants, to Grimmons Park where they spent time with each other and meet all the Early Head Start staff members and some community partners from CAAS Head Start.

***(G) The agency's efforts to prepare children for kindergarten.***

Riverside Early Head Start prepares children for preschool and later school experiences through the provision of individualized curriculum that addresses social, emotional, physical, language, and cognitive development, as well as approaches to learning, literacy, and mathematics. Through screenings, observations, ongoing assessment, and family input, each Home Visitor partners with parents to create an individualized plan that reflects the goals for each child. During 2018-2019 professional development opportunities for staff on school readiness, observations, and partnering with parents reinforced the strategies for promoting school readiness. For 2018-2019 we chose five goals to emphasize. Child outcomes data demonstrated that the majority of two-year-olds met or exceeded expectations in these areas as follows:

DEVELOPMENTAL DOMAIN	GOAL	% OF TWO-YEAR-OLDS WHO MET/ EXCEEDED EXPECTATIONS
SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL	Manage emotions with the help of familiar adults	98%
PHYSICAL	Begin to learn and practice healthy and safe habits	97%
LANGUAGE	Use increasingly complex and varied language for conversations and communication	81%
APPROACHES TO LEARNING	Develop strategies to make discoveries and solve problems through the use of creativity, persistence, and imagination	87%
COGNITION	Develop emerging mathematical skills and knowledge	87%

We will continue to focus on language development and mathematics for the upcoming year.

**Riverside Mission Statement**

**We make a difference in the lives of individuals, families, and communities through innovative and compassionate behavioral healthcare and human services, and we use technology to improve access to quality care and expand our impact.**

We believe that –

- hope is an essential element of our work.
- quality care should be available to all.
- excellence must be a guiding force in everything we do.
- advocacy on healthcare and human services is our responsibility.
- a diverse and respectful workforce is essential to attaining our mission

***Now families can apply online:***

<http://www.riversidecc.org/child-family-services/early-childhood-services/early-head-start/>

**Riverside Community Care**

Leading the Way in Behavioral Healthcare & Human Services