

# Riverside Early Head Start

## 2019—2020 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 families.*



Riverside Early Head Start is a federally funded program servicing at-risk and 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 through a in-home visitation model. Our program's main goal is to support families in giving their young children an early head start in intellectual, social, physical, language and emotional development. For families whose first language is not English, the program reflects the diversity and culture of the three cities served, with majority of staff speaking two languages.

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:

This year's pandemic has undoubtedly impacted us all in immeasurable ways. The Riverside Early Head Start program, staff, parents, and community members, have faced challenge after challenge but have been steadfast in their commitment to support each other and provide quality programming in the face of the COVID pandemic. This past year has certainly tested our programs and individual resolve in finding novel approaches which maintain progress made in fostering and sustaining quality improvement efforts.

We continue to actively explore partnerships, such as the well-received Tech Goes Home program, within the cities of Cambridge, Medford, Somerville, and Greater Boston region; prioritizing relationship development which bolster our ability to provide high quality services that target the needs of enrolled families and coalition network partners.

We've made substantial progress in refining internal systems and delivering on our mission to deliver high quality educational in-home activities, effective curriculum planning, and individualized assessment and observations. In efforts to support capacity development within the educational domain we have concluded our usage of the Teaching Strategies Gold Assessment System on August 31, 2020 and have implemented a new assessment and observation system, Desired Results and Developmental Planning (DRDP) on September 1, 2020.

We were fortunate to receive an additional one-time funding appropriation of \$65,521 which addressed several facility needs. Renovations are now complete with 11 window replacements, new entrance way flooring, full office painting, lighting upgrades, 6 movable HEPA air exchangers, and 2 new HVAC-Heat pumps with ionization air exchangers systems installed.

We continue to employ and align with strengths-based approaches, and will continue to prioritize building capacity which meets identified community needs of Homelessness, Domestic Violence, Economic Stability and Infant and Toddler Mental Health needs.

It remains 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	\$1,441,983.00
Head Start State Supplemental Grant	\$99,502.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,541,485.00</b>

## ***B) Budgetary expenditures and proposed***

	<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>Actual</b>
	<b>Federal</b>	<b>NFS</b>	<b>Expenditures</b>
a. Personnel	838,885	22,512	801,115
b. Fringe Benefits	146,487	4,503	150,836
c. Travel - T & TA	4,000		-
d. Equipment	15,000		-
e. Supplies	49,521	500	13,338
f. Contractual	19,325	24,200	14,487
g. Construction	-	-	-
		305,795	
h. Other	188,703		163,582
h. Other - T & TA	26,931	-	31,457
i. Total Direct Charges	1,288,852	357,510	1,174,815
j. Indirect Charges	153,131	2,985	155,345
k. TOTALS	<b>1,441,983</b>	<b>360,4954</b>	<b>1,330,160</b>
Federal Funding	1,441,983		1,330,160
NFS Match	360,495		270,544
	1,802,478		1,600,704

***(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 73. Out of the total families served 4 (5.47%) were pregnant women.

Riverside Early Head Start averaged a monthly enrollment of 97% or better for the majority of the 2019-2020 program year, and is now averaging 80% enrollment for the current program year as a direct result of Covid pandemic barriers.

***(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 20' and FY'19 results show a small surplus for the year. Auditors, CliftonLarsonAllen LLP found no material weakness or significant deficiencies identified throughout the extensive agency audit.

Effective winter 2020, Riverside finalized the renovation work for the summer street building asset project. Agency programming is currently underway with covid health regulations in place.

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. The program was found to be in compliance without noted deficiency or non-compliance.

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

Dental Services : 16

Children with health insurance including pregnant women: 73

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

- The winter family event at Play Union Center occurred on February 26, 2020; 22 Families attended the morning and evening exploratory free play sessions, engaging with program staff, families, and peer to peer play.
- COVID Parent Support Group listening sessions offered via ZOOM every Monday 2-3 pm from May 25 through June 29, 2020. Sessions conducted by Emilie Laforest, Family Engagement Manager and Carmen Rivera, Home Visitor Supervisor.
- Tech Goes Home 8-week training sessions were held in the Spring and the Fall; with 6-8 parents completed the program per session with each receiving a Chrome book laptop; approximately 20% of enrolled families have now successfully completed the program. Parents as facilitators will be recruited to lead upcoming trainings, each receiving credentialing and facilitator support.

***(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 2019-2020 professional development opportunities for staff on school readiness, observations, and partnering with parents reinforced the strategies for promoting school readiness. For 2019-2020 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	87.5%
PHYSICAL	Begin to learn and practice healthy and safe habits	92%
LANGUAGE	Use increasingly complex and varied language for conversations and communication	88.8%
APPROACHES TO LEARNING	Develop strategies to make discoveries and solve problems through the use of creativity, persistence, and imagination	93.1%
COGNITION	Develop emerging mathematical skills and knowledge	87.5%

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.

***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