



# Riverside Early Head Start

## 2017—2018 Annual Public Report

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

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.



## The Program's Director Corner

2017-2018 A year of Expansion:

REHS added Cambridge and Medford to its catchment area. Staff begun making contacts in those communities and we enrolled families from both communities, as well as Somerville.

Both the Office of Head Start (OHS) and Massachusetts' Early Education and Care increased our funding levels this past year. The bulk of these funds were used to increase salaries for the Home Visitors who provide our core services to families in Somerville, Cambridge and Medford.

In order to be in compliant with OHS' regulation that all Home Visitors have a CDA in Home Visiting or a degree in a comparable field, the program offered a CDA Home Visiting course on-site. By July 2018 we had two Home Visitors with the CDA in Home Visiting; and three more awaiting observations in the late summer.

As a result of families and staff's concerns around immigration and "public charge", REHS has held a number of trainings on these topics on-site and distributed information on free trainings within our community to all our families.

In June, REHS went through a new OHS Monitoring process called FOCUS AREA ONE. This week long process ended with the program being found "compliant" under the revised OHS standards.

Heartfelt thanks to everyone on staff and in the community, who enabled the program to serve over 130 individuals this past year Nancy Fredericks

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

DHHS/Administration of Children and Families/Office of Head Start	1,319,556.00
Head Start State Supplemental Grant	30,000.00
Total	1,349,556.00

### ***(B) An explanation of budgetary expenditures and proposed budget for the fiscal year.***

	Total Budget Federal	20% NFS	Actual Expenditures
a. Personnel			
b. Fringe Benefits	764,280.00		745,265.00
c. Travel	144,364.00		161,896.00
d. Equipment	4,000.00		-
e. Supplies	-		-
f. Contractual	58,919.00	2,000.00	43,393.54
g. Construction	30,945.00	60,079.00	8,953.00
h. Other	-	-	-
h. Other - T & TA	159,437.00	266,061.00	141,946.46
i. Total Direct Charges	26,931.00	-	52,892.00
j. Indirect Charges	1,188,876.00	328,140.00	1,154,346.00
k. TOTALS	130,680.00	1,749.00	148,776.00
	1,319,556.00	329,889.00	1,303,122.00
Federal Funding			
NFS Match	1,319,556.00		1,303,122.00
	329,889.00		329,889.00

1,649,445.00

1,633,011.00

***(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 130. Out of the total families served 10 were pregnant women.

Due to staff illness and other circumstances the program was short of staff and as a result the average enrollment was impacted. The average of monthly enrollment was a 85%.



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

In June we had our Focus Area One review. During this review we were able to discuss our program design, management, and governance structure. This focus area is designed to develop an understanding of each grantee's foundation for program services. We described the program's approaches, program design, health services, family services, fiscal infrastructure, education services and program governance.

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

Dental Services : 82                      Children with health insurance including pregnant women: 128

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

Riverside Early Head Start continues to provide opportunities to engage parents in different aspects of the program. The home visitors involve parents in discussions to help them to identify their strengths and set up achievable goals for their families.

- Parents are encouraged to take the lead during home visits and to continue to do activities with their children on an ongoing basis. Families enjoy participating in Socialization groups during which they do activities with their children. Meals are served in a family style and parents teach their children how to serve themselves.
- In February, staff from CAAS Head Start came to our center to talk with parents about their Head Start program and assist them with their preliminary application.
- A parent attended the Health Advisory Committee meeting in April.
- Program Director hosted a Coffee Hour for parents to meet and greet her and discuss topics of interest to families.
- In collaboration with the Somerville Family Learning Center, three family literacy events were offered in the following languages: Spanish, English and Portuguese.
- Two parents had the opportunity to participate in conferences. One went to the NHSA (National Head Start Association) conference in Falmouth and another at The NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) in California
- The program organized a Family Fun Fest event at Grimmons Park in Somerville and about one hundred parents and children attended this joyful event. They had the opportunities to meet and interact with families from different ethnic background and the children played together in the playground and the water sprinklers.
- Information about community activities happening in the community were shared with families.

### ***(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 reflect the goals for each child. During 2017-2018 we had training addressing social-emotional development (“Helping Toddlers Manage Strong Feelings”) and language development (“Working with Dual Language Learn



ers”). We also had a literacy event for parents and children, which included tips on using books with children. A series of staff trainings on family outcomes reinforced the role of parents as their children’s primary educators and linked school readiness to the PFCE outcomes. Analysis of child outcomes data demonstrates the program’s particular strength in promoting gross and fine motor development (with 95% of children meeting or exceeding the standards) and cognitive development (with 90%-98% of children meeting or exceeding the standards). For the upcoming year, we will focus on language, literacy, and mathematics, to increase the percentage of children thoroughly prepared in these areas. We will also fully implement a coaching program for Home Visitors to strengthen and refine their skills in working with parents on school readiness.

### **Riverside Mission Statement**

We are here to make a difference in the lives of individuals, families, and communities by delivering compassionate, locally-based, integrated behavioral healthcare and human services.

- We believe that people possess the ability to grow and change and we are focused on providing high quality and responsive services in support of individual and collective goals.
- We believe quality care should be available to all who need it and we are outspoken and effective public policy advocates.
- We believe in the power of collaborative care and we work to form strong and effective partnerships with the people we serve, healthcare systems, educational institutions, and other public and private organizations.
- We believe that our workplace is vibrant because it is respectful, diverse, and encourages learning and innovation.

*Excellence is the guiding principle in everything we do.*

***Now families can enroll their child by visiting the following link:***

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

**Riverside Community Care**  
THE HELP YOU NEED CLOSE TO HOME