

# Riverside Early Head Start

## 2020—2021 Annual Public Report

*Our mission is: to promote the health, well-being, social emotional growth and cognitive 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:

The Riverside Early HeadStart program, staff, parents, and community members continue to remain steadfast in their commitment to support each other and provide quality programming in the face of the ongoing COVID pandemic.

We continue to actively explore partnerships, such as the well-received MASSAIMH Endorsement Pathway, Financial Literacy Training Series, and Tech Goes Home program, within the cities of Cambridge, Medford, Somerville, and Greater Boston region. Each partnership assists us in supporting skills, tools, and resource pathways which bolster programs collective ability to provide high quality services which target the needs of enrolled families and coalition network partners.

We continue to refine internal systems and deliver on our mission to deliver high quality educational in-home activities, effective curriculum planning, and individualized assessment and observations for all enrolled children.

In efforts to support capacity development across all staffing levels we have partnered with the Massachusetts Association of Infant and Toddler Mental Health who will assist all staff in developing I/T Mental Health capacity and secure an endorsement credential which promotes mental health resiliency.

We were fortunate to receive one-time funding appropriation of \$65,521 which addressed several facilities needs, prior to the CV-19 pandemic, including upgrades to the facilities air filtration system and window units, each assisting greatly in supporting our in-person programming mandates. Renovations continue to be ongoing with requests pending to refit our onsite socialization and training spaces.

We extend sincere thanks to our devoted community partners, as each have continued to support our community and program during this ongoing public health crisis, reinforcing a collective community strengths-based approach which continues to foster and build capacity which meets identified and ongoing community 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 all continue to 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	\$1,475,788.00
Head Start State Supplemental Grant	\$133,610.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,609,398.00</b>

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

	Total Budget	20%	Actual
	Federal	NFS	Expenditures
a. Personnel	867,676	75,400	876,121
b. Fringe Benefits	168,332	14,152	186,082
c. Travel - T & TA	4,000		-
d. Equipment	-		-
e. Supplies	43,456	300	61,149
f. Contractual	36,680	22,020	21,779
g. Construction	-	-	-
		222,294	
h. Other	232,011		178,854
h. Other - T & TA	26,931	-	12,357
i. Total Direct Charges	1,379,086	334,166	1,336,342
j. Indirect Charges	149,592	9,950	166,343
<b>k. TOTALS</b>	<b>1,528,678</b>	<b>344,116</b>	<b>1,502,685</b>
Federal Funding	1,528,678		1,502,685
NFS Match	344,166		34,925
	1,872,794		1,537,610

***(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 87. Out of the total families served 4 (4.5%) were pregnant women.

Riverside Early Head Start averaged a monthly enrollment of 97% or better for the majority of the 2020-2021 program year, and is now averaging 50% 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' results show a small surplus for the year, 21' Audits underway. 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 most recent Focus Area Two Federal Monitoring Review occurred during the week of November 11-15, 2019 with no additional Office of Head Start reviews occurring since. 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 concerns.

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

Dental Services : 24                      Children with health insurance including pregnant women: 81 (4PW)

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

- The summer "Fun & Family event at Grimmons Park occurred on Aug 2021; Families and community partners attended the outdoor session engaging in free play sessions and water and sensory activities.
- The Somerville Growing Center continues to support outdoor Parent Support Groups and Socialization experiences for all enrolled families and community members. Staff and parents continue to explore the outdoor space frequently with children and peers; orientations being encouraged and supported across the program to ensure equitable access.
- Tech Goes Home Online-8-week training sessions were held in the Fall; with 8 parents completing the certificate course, each receiving a Chrome book laptop and IT take home kit; approximately 20% of enrolled families have now successfully completed the program. The fall session was led by two program parents as facilitators, each receiving TGH training and day of 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 the program year 2020-2021 professional development opportunities for staff on school readiness, observations, and partnering with parents reinforced the strategies for promoting school readiness. For 2020-2021 we maintained our approach and goal selection. 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	75%
PHYSICAL	Begin to learn and practice healthy and safe habits	80%
LANGUAGE	Use increasingly complex and varied language for conversations and communication	85%
APPROACHES TO LEARNING	Develop strategies to make discoveries and solve problems through the use of creativity, persistence, and imagination	90%
COGNITION	Develop emerging mathematical skills and knowledge	75%

The program will prioritize cognitive development and social emotional development for the upcoming program 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