Southern NH Services

2012

Head Start & Early Head Start

Head Start is a cornerstone of our nation's commitment to give every child, regardless of circumstances at birth, an opportunity to succeed in school and in life.

What is Head Start?

Head Start includes two comprehensive early childhood development and family support programs: Head Start (HS) and Early Head Start (EHS). Depending on funding, agencies may offer one or both of these options.

- Head Start serves children ages three through five years and their families.
- Early Head Start serves children ages birth through three and their families. Early Head Start also serves a small number of eligible pregnant women.

What are the Benefits?

Children who have been through Head Start (HS) and Early Head Start (EHS) are healthier, more academically accomplished, more likely to be employed, commit fewer crimes, and contribute more to society.

Head Start benefits last a lifetime.

Head Start produces measurable, long-term results such as school-readiness, increased high school graduation rates, and reduced needs for special education. As a result, 27 million Head Start alumni are successful members of our communities serving as corporate executives, elected officials, teachers, students, lawyers, doctors, small business owners, entrepreneurs, police, military personnel, and even a few movie and sports stars.

Head Start delivers an incredible return on our investment.

It is a smart investment – one of the smartest and most effective we make. Study after study has demonstrated that Head Start has yielded a benefit-cost ratio as large as $7 to $1.

Head Start makes our communities safer.

There is a reason that police and other law enforcement leaders across America support Head Start. Research has shown that Head Start reduces the likelihood of at-risk children being booked or charged with committing a crime by 12%.

Head Start makes our families healthier.

Head Start parents lower Medicaid costs by $198 per family. Head Start has reduced mortality rates for five to nine year olds by as much as 50%. Head Start children are more likely to have had their immunizations, and Head Start reduces childhood obesity. Participation in Head Start even reduces smoking in adults.

Head Start is accountable and efficient.

Head Start has one of the most relentless monitoring and accountability structures around. That is in part because at least 20% of every Head Start program's resources are local, with communities willing and able to hold programs accountable. Head Start programs engage parents, form partnerships with local businesses and churches, and involve more than 1.3 million local volunteers.

Source: National Head Start Association

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Funding

- Direct from the federal government to local grantee (Community Action Program).
- 80% of yearly cost – federal funds; 20% - required local match/in-kind contributions.
- Southern NH Services received approximately $5.2 million in federal funds in 2011-2012. Head Start received $4.2 million and Early Head Start received $1 million.

Helping People. Changing Lives.
SNHS
The Community Action Program for Hillsborough and Rockingham Counties

Eligibility

- Children must be NH residents age birth through five years living in the same household as the parent/caregiver requesting services.
- Families must meet income eligibility guidelines, with certain exceptions.

For more specific qualifications, please contact Southern NH Services HS/EHS.

Enrollment

Federally Funded Enrollment:	**596**	HS Children:	**580**
Non-Federally Funded Enrollment:	**0**	EHS Children:	**144**
Total Cumulative Enrollment*:	**727**	Preschoolers with disabilities (IEP):	**50**
Pregnant Women:	**3**	Infants/toddlers with disabilities (IFSP):	**15**

*Varies due to family relocation and other reasons.

Services

Include a range of comprehensive education, health, nutrition, parent engagement and family support services.

Staff & Volunteers

Staff includes program directors, education/child development staff, managers, and others such as cooks.

Staff: **172** (including 4 parents) Volunteers: **686** (including 515 parents)

Contact

Southern NH has **15** Head Start/Early Head Start sites that serve children/families from surrounding cities/towns, including: Manchester (3 sites), Nashua (4 sites), Hillsborough, Greenville, Hudson, Derry, Epping, Newmarket, Portsmouth, and Hampton Falls. Contact the main office for more information.

40 Pine Street
PO Box 5040
Manchester, NH 03108-5040

603-668-8010
http://www.snhs.org

Head Start is an investment, a commitment, and a promise. Head Start works!

Source: 2011 - 2012 Head Start Program Information Report (PIR).

Contact Southern NH Services Head Start & Early Head Start for information on benefits for participating children and families.

For statewide information please go to http://www.dhhs.state.nh.gov/dcyf/index.htm