

2018-2019 Annual Report

Genesee County Community Action Agency
(GCCARD) Head Start



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Director's Report

The Genesee County Community Action Resource Department (GCCARD) program's service area in 2018-2019 included Early Head Start (pregnant mothers and children from birth to age three) county-wide, with the exception of Bendle/Carman-Ainsworth. We continued Head Start (children age three to kindergarten entry) services to eligible children in Genesee County, with exception to those in Flint, Beecher, and Carman-Ainsworth. All families receive comprehensive services including health and oral health, nutrition, parent engagement, mental health, and educational opportunities with the ultimate goal of enhanced school readiness.

The content of this report shares data related to programming for the year and highlights some of our points of pride. The continued success of our program would not be possible without the support of additional funding sources, Genesee County Board of Commissioners, Head Start Parent Policy Council, school district and community partners and volunteers, dedicated staff, and the families themselves. Working together, we can continue to make a positive impact for a bright future.

Again, thank you to all and keep up the good work!

-Kelli Webb
Head Start Director



School Readiness Goals

COGNITION

Children will develop math knowledge in part through active participation and exploration of the world around them. Children need opportunities to expand their knowledge through a variety of hands on experiences.

- Verbally counts to 12; counts up to 5 objects accurately using one number name for each object (20a). HSELOF:IT-C 8/P-MATH 1
- Uses classification skills (13). HSELOF: P-SCI 3
- Connects numerals with their quantities (20c). HSELOF: IT-C 8/P-MATH 3

APPROACHES TO LEARNING

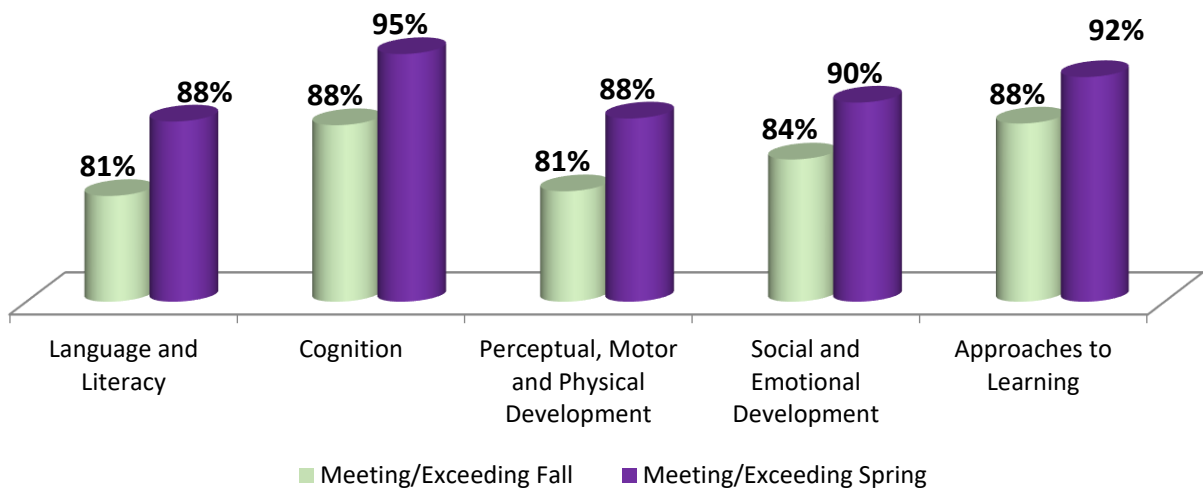
- Practices an activity many times until successful
- Shows curiosity and motivation



LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Children will move along the continuum of emerging literacy and will develop competence as listeners, speakers, readers, writers, and viewers.

- Engages in conversations of at least three exchanges. (10a). HSELOF: IT-LC 4/P-LC 4
- Recognizes and names a few letters in own name(16a). HSELOF: P-LIT 3
- Asks and answers questions about the text; refers to pictures (18a). HSELOF: IT-LC 12/P-LIT 5
- Writes mock letters or letter like forms (19a). HSELOF: IT-LC 13/P-LIT 6
- Notices and discriminates rhyme (15a). HSELOF: IT-LC 9/P-LIT 1



PERCEPTUAL, MOTOR AND PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Children will develop overall physical growth including muscle control, fine and gross motor development and the acquisition of the self-help skills. Children will gain knowledge of healthy practices.

- Uses refined wrist and finger movements (7a). HSELOF: IT-PMP 6/P-PMP 3
- Sustains balance during simple movement experiences. (5). HSELOF: IT-PMP 3/P-PMP 1



SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Children will develop a healthy sense of self concepts, practice self regulations and will be able to establish and maintain positive relationships with adults and peers.

- Self Regulations: Manages feelings (1a). HSELOF: IT-SE 3/P-SE 6
- Demonstrates concerns about the feelings of others. (2b). HSELOF: IT-SE 8/P-SE 7
- Forms relationships with adults. (2a) HSELOF: IT-SE 1/P-SE 7

Happenings and Events

Baby Café

Babe Café of Genesee County provides weekly breastfeeding support for breastfeeding moms and any other family or friends that are providing support to that mom. Babe Café is offered weekly at Atherton Vern Van Y in the Pals socialization room to provide an easily accessible family friend atmosphere. It is facilitated by professional peer lactation consultants who are able to assist with questions about latching, positioning, spacing between children, returning to work, pumping and storing breastmilk, weaning or just provide that little extra support. A infant scale is available for pre and post weight checks. Refreshments and resources are always available. Follow us on Facebook @ babycafeofgenesecounty



Sloan Museum

Beecher EHS attended the Sloan Museum at Courtland Center on April 16, 2019 to explore the rainforest in an interactive maze. In the “Rainforest Adventure,” children and parents experimented with physical and mental challenges as they made their way through the four layers of the rainforest. Starting up high above the rainforest and following the maze down to the forest floor, everyone received a better understanding of how humans impact this diverse yet fragile forest, and how they can make a difference. 30 families attended the event.



The Lullaby Project

Once again, the Flint School of Performing Arts selected GCCARD Head Start to participate in the Lullaby Project. Flint School of Performing Arts was one of fifteen art organizations in the United States selected by Carnegie Hall for participation in this project. Families from our program composed lullabies dedicated to their children with the assistance of artists from Flint Institute of Music (FIM). Those lullabies were professionally recorded and uploaded to the Carnegie Hall sound cloud. The families were invited to attend a sharing session at FIM to listen and share their lullaby recordings and celebrate their creations. Each family received an individual CD copy of their lullaby, a CD with all of the lullabies from the group, multiple copies of the lyrics on parchment paper and a beautiful copy of the lyrics written in poem form in a frame. For the first time ever, one of our family’s lullabies was chosen to be composed and played by the Flint School of Performing Arts Symphony Orchestra with a vocal solo and families were invited to attend.



Children and Families



Enrollment Information

Funded

Actual



Of those children enrolled:



86%

Obtained complete physicals



87%

Obtained dental exams / dental care



99%

Had insurance @ endyear



99%

Had a medical home



93%

Had up to date immunizations

Average Monthly Attendance

HS - 97% EHS - 99% EHS Exp. - 88%

Families Served



Of those families:



27 received job training



38 received housing assistance



45 accessed asset building



46 received mental health services



232 received emergency intervention



1,014 received parenting and health education

gearing up for Kindergarten

211 Transitioned to Kindergarten



367 males were actively involved in our program



A Step Back in Time

May 31, 2019 about 583 enrolled children and families attended our annual Crossroads Village Field Trip, complete with restored 19th century buildings to visit an authentic narrow-gauge railroad to ride. About 1500 total children and families had a wide variety of experiences from the smithing of the iron to the churning of the butter to a magic show at an old-time theater. In addition, we held a community resources fair on the grounds at Crossroads Village to help inform families of the resources available in our community including Blue Cross Complete, Little Lambs, Hispanic Technology and Community Center, Genesee District Library, Carriage Town Ministries, Genesee Health Systems, Hamilton Community Health Network, MSU Extension, U of M Social Work Department, Flint Public Library, Easter Seals, the Social Security Administration and GCCARD Neighborhood Services. Families gained valuable information and had a great time!

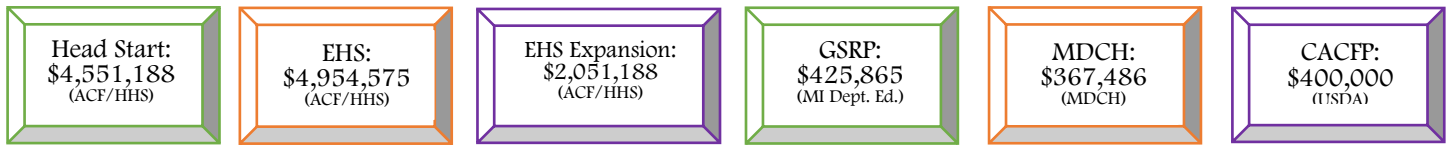
A Royal Ball

On February 22, 2019, 286 kids and families attended our 2nd Annual Royal Ball. Special guests of the event included Snow White, Elsa, Anna, Teonna, Jasmine, Cinderella, Rapunzel, and Merida (some of our amazing staff who dressed up to the delight of children and families). Families enjoyed the music provided by Brandon Buffey, who dressed as Prince Charming and offered his DJ services and equipment to our program at no charge. Children also enjoyed other royal festivities including a bowling activity, making a royal crown, playing with castles and dragons, enjoying a storytime, and fun with Mr. Potato Head pirates. All children were able to select a book to read at home and remember the fun they had at GCCARD Head Start's Royal Ball.



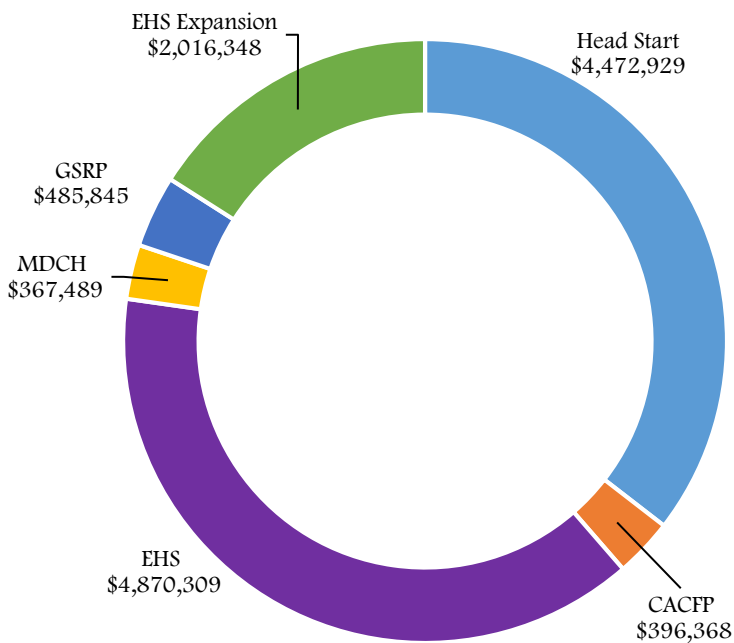
Budget and Financials

19-20 Proposed Budget

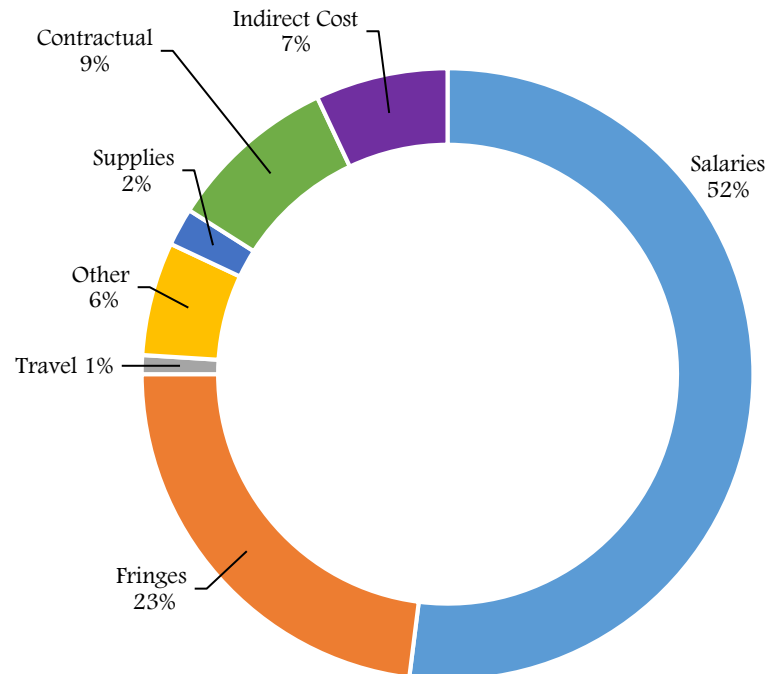


18-19 Revenue/Expenditures

Revenue



Expenditures



Audit Findings

GCCARD Head Start, along with other GCCARD Program Audits, were completed by Plante and Moran, PLLC on May 3, 2019. There were no audit exceptions or findings.



Governing Board

Genesee County Board of Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners is the governing board and policy-making body of county government. While many of its powers, duties and responsibilities are prescribed by law, and diffused through the widespread use of commissions, board, communities, and independently elected county officers, the board is in charge of developing and approving county policy and setting the county budget.

- 👤 District 1 - Bryant Nolden, Commissioner
- 👤 District 2 - Brenda Clack, Commissioner
- 👤 District 3 - Ellen Ellenburg, Commissioner
- 👤 District 4 - Kim Courts, Commissioner
- 👤 District 5 - Mark Young, Commissioner
- 👤 District 6 - Shaun Shumaker, Commissioner
- 👤 District 7 - Martin Cousineau, Commissioner
- 👤 District 8 - Ted Henry, Commissioner
- 👤 District 9 - David Martin, Commissioner



Parent Policy Council

Policy Council members were elected from the Beecher EHS and Grantee Programs to represent the total Genesee County HS/EHS Program. They met monthly and shared in the decision making process regarding quality programming for themselves and their children. Members were also involved in the following committees: personnel, budget, program evaluation and assessment, grant development, school readiness, and bylaws. Thanks to the HS/EHS Policy Council Members and special appreciation to the Policy Council Officers:

- 👤 Josh Strauel, Chairperson
- 👤 Tracy Cudd, Vice-Chairperson
- 👤 Schuyler Kelley, Treasurer (not pictured)
- 👤 Kinea Wright, Recording Secretary
- 👤 Christina Campbell, Corresp. Secretary

Reviews from the Secretary (ACF)

The Office of Head Start performed the Focus Area 1 Review the week of November 26, 2018. This review allows the Office of Head Start to understand how programs are progressing in providing services in the five year grant cycle. We had zero areas of concern or out of compliance findings. Focus Area 2 Review will take place sometime next program year (2019-2020).

Head Start Happenings

Pancakes with Parents



On February 14, 2019, the Grace Emmanuel EHS classrooms provided a wonderful parent engagement activity for children and families. Parents enjoyed an incredible time with their children eating breakfast, telling stories, and spending quality time together.

Fire Safety

The Beecher EHS students learned about fire safety and were engaged in various activities such as splatter painting, firefighter hat matching and fire truck crafts. Students learned how to stop, drop and roll. Lieutenant Chad Ballard from the Mt. Morris Fire Department visited the October 11, 2018 socialization to discuss with families the importance of fire safety and gave a tour of the fire truck. Each student received the “Paw Patrol Lend a Helping Paw” book. Approximately 35 families attended.



Kiwanis Club Thank You!

Thanks goes to the Swartz Creek Kiwanas Club for donating a beautiful rug to the Swartz Creek Head Start classroom. Kiwanis Club generously sponsors the Swartz Creek Head Start classroom with their time and donations. The teachers are very grateful to Kiwanas for the rug. It is brightly colored with numbers and letters and makes a wonderful addition to the classroom.



Children’s Champion Breakfast Award

GCCARD was recognized at the Children’s Champion Breakfast on February 8, 2019. We were chosen to receive the “Volunteer Engagement to Serve Youth Award”, in part for the opportunities Head Start provides for parents and the community to actively participate in program planning and evaluation. Volunteers also can help with special events and enjoy themselves in the classrooms on a daily basis.



Field Trip Time

Beecher Early Head Start attended the Flint Children’s Museum on October 31, 2018 to explore the Discovery Zone which featured the Big Blocks exhibit. The large blue room allowed students to use their imagination and motor skills to build different things with a variety of large, small, and soft blocks. The museum offered many health and fitness activities for children to participate in including: riding a bike and climbing a mountain wall. Children enjoyed learning how things work, the Tot Spot, and the Smart Mart Grocery Store. The children and parents were also engaged in making ooey gooey slime. Approximately 30 families and children attended. They also attended the Museum again on April 9, 2019 in which 29 families participated. The theme was “A day at the beach.” Activities promoted gross and fine motor skills with fishing, sand castle building, volleyball, sea creatures and boogie board balancing. The museum inspired learning, imagination and discovery through engaging experiences and hands on play.



Events (Continued)

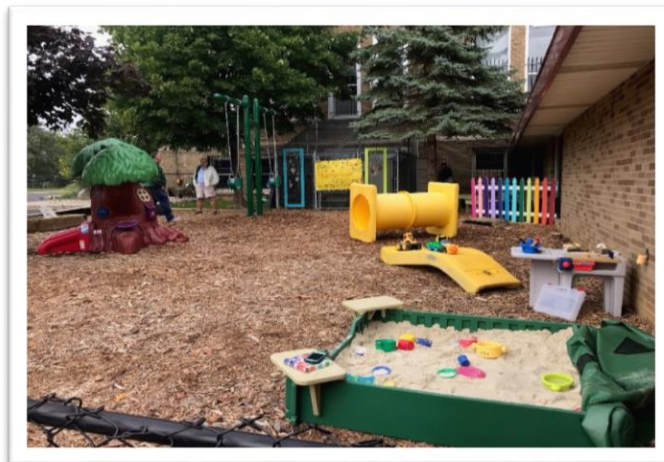
Farmtastic Fun Day

June 15, 2019, GCCARD Head Start partnered with Applewood Estate and the Genesee County 4-H program to provide a farmtastic family fun day at Applewood! Children and their families were able to meet a large variety of animals including baby chicks, bunnies, and goats and explore the magnificent Applewood Estate grounds with a specially designed scavenger hunt. Programming was provided that taught children about farming - what farmers wear, how to grow plants, etc. Children and families got to make butter from fresh cream. Each enrolled family left with a book to read.



Broome Early Head Start Playground

GCCARD Head Start was generously granted money from the Hagerman Foundation to create a new playground at our Sylvester Broome Empowerment Village site. We worked to remove an existing structure that was not age appropriate for our Early Head Start classrooms. We were able to re-purpose some of those pieces into a chalk tower, magnet board, and tunnel. We built a bridge, planter box, tables, and balance beam out of discarded wood. We were able to purchase an infant/toddler T-Swing, household items for a music wall, Tot Tree, and sandbox with cover. We are so appreciative of this new space and all of the engaging activities that the grant has provided.



Community Support

Carriage Town Early Head Start Playground



The wonderful people at Carriage Town Mission, where we have two Early Head Start classrooms, installed a brand new playground with age appropriate equipment for our littles! We are very appreciative of the support and generosity of our friends at Carriage Town. Thank you!



Fun at the "Pumpkin Patch"

The Kearsley EHS and Head Start classrooms have been participating in a variety of family fun activities with the Kearsley School District programs at the Pumpkin Patch. This building wide partnership allows our families to experience a wider range of programming opportunities. Not only are these activities fun and entertaining for the whole family, they also stimulate educational growth and development. The gingerbread building night focuses on developing the ever important fine motor development, as well as being a great opportunity for parent/child interaction. Children that participate in the math night or literacy night activities



enjoy a family dinner before they go from station to station enjoying a wide range of activities geared to the theme of the evening. Each child also takes home a kit to be able to replicate all of the activities that they enjoyed at the school in their own home as well as new book. These family fun nights have been well attended and parents have indicated that their family really enjoyed them. We look forward to continuing this important collaboration with our Kearsley School District friends.



Vision

Believing in the worth of all people, Head Start will work in partnership with families to support the achievement of their goals and their children's educational attainment.



Mission

Head Start is a family focused birth through five program that promotes school readiness, advocates, supports & provides comprehensive quality services for children & families through school, community & family partnerships.

