

**Community Services for Children, Inc.**  
**Head Start/Early Head Start of the Lehigh Valley**  
**2010-2011**  
**Community Assessment**

**Executive Summary**

Community Services for Children, Inc.'s Head Start and Early Head Start programs currently have funding for a total of 1,203 children through a combination of federal, state, and county dollars, as well as local in-kind match. **With 6,564 children ages 0-4 living in poverty (based on 2000 Census data\*), the Head Start and Early Head Start program combined is only serving 18% of eligible children in the Lehigh Valley.** This is only a 1% increase in capacity over the past 3 years. Alarming, of the 3,604 children birth to three living in poverty, Early Head Start is serving less than 6% of the eligible children. Because of a program design shift and recent ARRA funding, this is a 3% increase over 2008-2009, but does not reduce the gap between eligible children and available program slots in any substantial way. Head Start is serving 34% of the 2,960 children 3-4 years of age in poverty, a 1% increase over 2008-2009. We anticipate the number of children living in poverty under the age of 5 to increase when the 2010 Census data is released in Spring 2011. Anecdotal information suggests that the number of children birth to 5 living at 100% or below of poverty has increased since the 2000 Census, especially with the recession.

In 2009-2010, Early Head Start had two opportunities to expand programming for both the Home Based program and Center Based EHS – “SafeStart” (CSC’s therapeutic child development collaboration program for drug impacted infants and toddlers). Expansion of these two programs was a priority goal for CSC based on the past several Community Assessments that demonstrated less than 5% of the eligible population being served. This expansion was made possible through the changes in the Head Start Act allowing programs to shift services from Head Start to Early Head Start and EHS ARRA funding, based on demonstrated community need. By changing our Head Start Program Design to make the PA Pre-K Counts children dually enrolled and eliminating the Head Start Home Based program, CSC was able to increase the number of children served in EHS Home Based option by 63 children. This accomplished several things related to community need including a) reaching a previously underserved population in the city of Easton, b) increasing opportunities for the preschool center based option, and c) expansion of capacity to reach more families with children birth to three years. EHS ARRA, along with Lehigh County Child Welfare, Department of Human Services

funding, enabled CSC to expand the EHS-SafeStart program by 24 children. Along with this expansion is the construction of a state-of-the-art Therapeutic Infant/Toddler and Family Center to house all 5 EHS-SafeStart classrooms. Construction of this building will complete the vision of the Donley Children's Campus and turn a building liability into a community benefit.

Although there have been recent increases for both Head Start and Early Head Start due to Head Start State Supplemental Assistance funding, Head Start/Early Head Start ARRA funding, and the Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts funding, it is quite probable that the 2011-2012 program year will result in reductions for state funded slots. Already in the 2009-2010 program year, 7 slots were lost in our Head Start/Pre-K Counts classrooms due to the looming deficit in the state of Pennsylvania. The program was able to move these slots to one of the Allentown School District collaboration classrooms; however, it was a 5% reduction in funding, which had significant effects on the program. It is anticipated that additional cuts will be proposed as a new Governor takes office in January 2011. Additionally, flat funding at the Federal level along with the possible loss of ARRA funding on 9/30/2011 required the program to evaluate its overall program design and make some difficult decisions to reduce expenses for the 2011-2012 program year.

Aside from the direct effect on Head Start, other Lehigh Valley Early Childhood Education programs are also facing significant funding challenges in the coming year. Both Bethlehem Area School District and Allentown School District have major budget deficits, which may result in a loss of non-essential programs including their Pre-K classrooms. Additionally, all Lehigh Valley Pre-K Counts providers lost slots this past year. In summary, there is real concern that high quality early education services across the valley will decrease in overall capacity, leaving those children most at-risk for school failure without access to a needed program. This will directly affect school readiness outcomes for children in our community.

The methodology to the development of the Community Assessment includes data collection from a variety of sources; surveys and interviews with program staff, enrolled parents, and community partners; HS/EHS program data and outcomes from the 2009-2010 program year; and feedback from various committees. This information is gathered, synthesized, and analyzed to complete a thorough assessment of the needs in the Lehigh Valley.

The following leading trends and significant indicators, identified throughout the Community Assessment, have implications for the program:

- 1) **Diversity-** The Lehigh Valley continues to grow in the area of diverse

populations. The number of individuals identifying as Hispanic in origin has grown by 8.5% since 1990.

Additionally, there has been growth in the number of Arabic and Vietnamese families in the inner cities. As a result, the number of families with limited English proficiency continues to grow. Based on the above, there is an increased demand for bilingual services, especially in schools, medical providers and social service agencies. Despite this need, high quality bilingual employees are often difficult to find and in high demand by area employers creating some competition in the workforce.

- 2) **Poverty-** Poverty continues to increase in areas of the Lehigh Valley with 19.5% of children under five living in poverty- mostly in the three cities of Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton; however, pockets of poverty continue to grow in rural areas such as Slatington. Poverty also continues to increase with the following populations- minorities and children in female head of households. Children, ages 0 – 2 years of age, make up a greater portion of those children 0 – 5 who are living in poverty. Across all census tracts, children birth to two make up a higher percentage of the children in poverty- 3,604 or 55% of the total number of children birth to five. Because recent

Census data was not yet released, this information is based on 2000 data. It is anticipated that poverty rates are even higher than this based on the recession, unemployment rates, increased use of emergency support services, and homelessness. It is anticipated that 1 in 4 children live in poverty in the Lehigh Valley.

- 3) **Economy-** The economy is an overwhelming concern for the Lehigh Valley as a whole. Social service providers have already suffered decreased funding, while faced with increased and complex needs of families. Maintaining existing funding service delivery levels may be a significant challenge in the coming year as programs have already eliminated personnel and non-personnel costs, which results in doing more with less. At some point, programs will need to reduce services to maintain quality programming. This would be a significant loss to the community and affect HS/EHS Partnerships.
- 4) **Educational System Performance-** Lehigh Valley public school systems in the urban areas continue to face poor test scores, high numbers of children in poverty, poor graduation rates, school violence, and crowding. It is of absolute necessity that children enter kindergarten developmentally on age if

we are to reverse this trend. Less than 70% of students across all three urban school districts from Grades 9-12th are proficient or above in Reading based on the 2009-2010 PSSAs. Despite gains being made each year on the PSSA's, proficiency rates are lowest in both Math and Reading in this grade range. Additionally, Allentown School District's rates go as low as 35% proficient or above in Math and 49% in Reading. Not surprising, the proficiency rates are even lower for minority, English Language Learners, and Economically Disadvantaged students. Additionally, Allentown's graduation rate is an alarming 70%.

- 5) **Special Needs-** Children with disabilities in the 0-5 age group continues to grow each year with increasing challenges related to autistic-like behaviors, lack of evaluative resources and appropriate services. Across the Lehigh Valley, approximately 5,000 children birth to five received early intervention services in 2009-2010. Over 50% of those served were diagnosed with a global developmental delay, suggestive of autism like presentation. Inclusion of children with disabilities in integrated classrooms continues to be a pressing need. However, integration requires additional support, training, and skill for

teachers to ensure appropriate classroom management and individualization for each child.

- 6) **Mental Health-** In addition to children with disabilities, the growing mental health challenges with young children present significant obstacles in the Early Childhood setting. For one, there are limited resources available in the community. Despite qualifying for mental health services, such as a Therapeutic Support Specialist, community providers have limited staff to meet the growing needs. Because children are then not receiving the support they require, ECE Teachers are disproportionately providing support to the children with the greatest needs. Secondly, the overwhelming increase of behavior issues detracts from the educational programming and requires more classroom/behavior management than teaching. Overall, this dynamic adds stress on the staff, as well as, the children. Not surprising, parents have also presented greater mental health needs, often resulting in diagnoses such as depression. It is often challenging for parents to access the mental health system, especially if medication management is necessary.
- 7) **Child Abuse-** Northampton County experienced a 4% decrease in the number of child abuse reports in 2009;

however, this followed a 13% increase from 2006 to 2008. Lehigh County, on the other hand, experienced a 5% decrease in reports from 2007 to 2008, but had a 10% increase from 2008 to 2009, which was the trend from 2005 to 2007 also. Rather than a consistent downward trend, child abuse reporting has historically gone up and down. Children under the age of 4 continue to be at the greatest risk of significant physical abuse, sustain damaging injuries, or suffer from extreme neglect due to their vulnerability and reliance on adults. In fact, 84% of all child deaths in Pennsylvania were children 5 and under. Additionally, children under age 5 make up the greatest percentage of children in foster care, while the primary reason for placement in both Lehigh and Northampton County is the parent's alcohol and/or drug abuse.

- 8) **Family Needs-** Significant family needs- including affordable housing, living wage employment opportunities, medical and dental services, mental health evaluation and services, basic education and job skill training, transportation, drug and alcohol intervention, abuse prevention and intervention, child care outside of normal working hours, and English language development- are on the rise and more complex every year. In the

past 2 years, families have reported an increase in homelessness, unemployment, hunger, and even greater poverty – the average annual salary of our families in the 2009-2010 program year was only \$10,000- between \$2,000 and \$5,000 less than prior program years.

- 9) **Health-** Concerning health rates regarding teen pregnancies, limited prenatal care, and low birth weights have not decreased over the years, rather they have remained relatively steady or have had slight increases. These trends also affect minorities and low-income individuals at a much higher rate across the Lehigh Valley.
- 10) **Child Care-** Despite some ARRA funding to increase subsidized child care slots this past year, waiting lists are over 400 children in Lehigh County going back 6 months. Without the ARRA funding, as well as the state budget crisis, there are significant concerns about how the child care needs will be met in the next year. In addition to the waiting list concerns, unregulated child care continues to be the first option for many families who need care but are on the subsidy waiting list and/or need non-traditional hours of care. Although it serves a need for families, unregulated care does not offer high quality early education programming for children

who are potentially at risk for future school failure. Currently only 3.8% of all children in the Lehigh Valley who are birth to 4 years of age are enrolled in a regulated Star 3 or 4 regulated child care provider (a PA measurement of quality).

11) **Early Education-** As high quality Early Education has become more widely understood and promoted, parents look to Head Start, Pre-K Counts Providers, and/or area school districts for their 3 or 4 year old. They are looking specifically for a program that will prepare their child for school. And despite the growth that has occurred over the past 6 years in the state, Lehigh Valley Pre-K Counts providers experienced a 5% decrease in funding, resulting in over 20 slots being eliminated in 2010-2011. Additionally, the Bethlehem Area School District and Allentown School District are facing significant budget shortfalls that may result in reduced funding and support for their pre-k programs. With the shortage of child care subsidy and potential cuts in preschool funding, there is the potential for an even greater reduction in the number of children accessing high quality early childhood education programming, especially for those most at-risk.

Despite these concerning trends, the Lehigh Valley has a number of strengths summarized below:

- The Lehigh Valley has a rich history, beautiful setting, accessible Northeast location, and strong orientation to families and children.
- The Lehigh Valley has a coordinated, resource-rich health care community that is committed to the well-being of its residents, including 4 highly rated hospitals that service low-income families, excellent prenatal services, strong Health Bureaus who are committed to community education and health care, and health related partnerships focused on community health concerns, including St. Luke Hospital's Dental and Health Star Vans and the Bethlehem Partnership for a Healthy Community, as examples.
- Despite the recession and growing challenges of working families, 92% of residents identified the Valley as a positive place to reside (The 2010 Lehigh Valley Quality of Life Survey, Institute of Public Opinion, conducted by Muhlenberg College). Additionally, 87% of residents perceive it as a positive place to raise a family.
- Community providers (social service agencies, local churches, government agencies, etc.) are responsive to the changing needs of Lehigh Valley

residents despite continued funding constraints, finding new ways to partner and implement innovative service delivery models.

- United Way of the Lehigh Valley has made a commitment to children and families through its strategic initiative- Healthy Children Ready for School. This is a community-wide initiative that spans a number of service delivery systems. Included in their efforts is the commitment to engage the Business Community in supporting Early Childhood programs.
- Although local school districts are facing significant challenges, they are committed to researching and implementing new models of service delivery to ensure the success of enrolled students. This includes Family Centers and Community Schools- which both focus on the implementation of wrap around services and the inclusion of parents.

Based on the findings in the Community Assessment, implications for the Head Start/Early Head Start program include:

- Focus on quality early education and child development programming that results in the achievement of school readiness of children to ensure future success, including the implementation of a program design that meets the needs of

families (a 4.5 hour to 6 hour part year or school year schedule was rated highest in the October 2010 Parent Community Assessment Survey).

- Explore additional expansion of 0-3 EHS programming to address an underserved and critical population.
- Advocacy to increase child mental health support and access to diagnostics to address the increasingly complex needs of children birth to five (HS/EHS) experiencing abuse, homelessness, and extreme poverty
- Continued hiring of bilingual staff and development of culturally-sensitive services and delivery methods.
- Increased collaborative programs in the Allentown School District to continue alignment of preschool programming, improve school readiness outcomes, support the improvement of district PSSA scores, and support the financial needs of both CSC and ASD.
- Explore collaborative programming with rural school districts (i.e. Bangor Area School District) to support the needs of rural families and improve school and family outcomes
- Continued partnership with other social service organizations to meet the complex needs of families, specifically in the area of parenting, job training, literacy, and workforce development to

combat the multi-faceted elements of poverty.

- Continued implementation of service models and delivery systems to children with special needs, including disabilities and drug impact, in collaboration with Early Intervention, Child Welfare, and the Intermediate Units.
- Continue health initiatives, such as I Am Moving, I Am Learning and Healthy Voices for Healthy Choices, to focus on obesity prevention, healthy pregnancies and birth weights, access to continuous and preventative health and dental care for adults and children, and healthy lifestyles.

With the relatively low percentage of children and families able to enroll in Head Start/Early Head Start compared to those eligible and a lack of early, preventive services, the area can expect continued problems in school readiness, poor performance on high-stakes testing, high expenditures in remedial education, higher rates of juvenile crime, lower rates of graduation, and lower rates of job-ready skilled labor available to area employers. It is imperative that we continue to expand our capacity to serve more children birth to age five through the comprehensive, child-centered and family-focused approach of the Head Start Program to reverse these trends.

## COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT DATA COLLECTION MATRIX

Data Collection Topics	Information Source
------------------------	--------------------

<p><b>General Area Description- Demographics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Geographic Boundaries- size, counties, distinguishing characteristics, boundaries of Service Area (maps)</li> <li>✓ Quality of Life Indicators for the Lehigh Valley</li> <li>✓ Governing Structure</li> <li>✓ Population and Related Trends- size, growth or decline, urban and rural distribution, and changes including reasons</li> <li>✓ Racial and Ethnic Composition</li> <li>✓ Gender, Ages</li> <li>✓ Household Composition</li> <li>✓ Economic Activities- rates of growth</li> <li>✓ Future Trends</li> <li>✓ Overall Educational Rates of Total Population</li> <li>✓ Median Income Level</li> <li>✓ Primary Employment Sources</li> <li>✓ Labor Market Information</li> <li>✓ Employment Data</li> <li>✓ Principle Source of Income</li> <li>✓ Poverty Population- proportionate to service area, geographic concentrations, principal characteristics (i.e. “working poor”) and trends</li> <li>✓ Citizen Involvement</li> <li>✓ Emergency Preparedness of the Lehigh Valley</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Census and American Community Survey Data- <a href="http://www.factfinder.census.gov">www.factfinder.census.gov</a></li> <li>• Maps</li> <li>• Lehigh and Northampton County Websites- <a href="http://www.lehighcounty.org">www.lehighcounty.org</a>; <a href="http://www.northamptoncounty.org">www.northamptoncounty.org</a></li> <li>• Lehigh Valley Planning Commission Reports- <a href="http://www.lvpc.org">www.lvpc.org</a></li> <li>• Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber <a href="http://lehighvalleychamber.org">http://lehighvalleychamber.org</a></li> <li>• Pennsylvania Career Link- <a href="http://www.lehighvalleyatwork.org">www.lehighvalleyatwork.org</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://www.city-data.com">www.city-data.com</a></li> <li>• Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation-<a href="http://www.lehighvalley.org">www.lehighvalley.org</a></li> <li>• Pennsylvania Department of Education- <a href="http://www.pde.state.pa.us/early_childhood/">www.pde.state.pa.us/early_childhood/</a></li> <li>• The Morning Call- <a href="http://www.mcall.com">www.mcall.com</a></li> <li>• Center for Applied Linguistics- <a href="http://www.cal.org">www.cal.org</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://www.paworkstats.state.pa.us">www.paworkstats.state.pa.us</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://www.dli.state.pa.us">www.dli.state.pa.us</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>Head Start ELIGIBLE Children and Families In the Lehigh Valley:</b></p> <p><b>General Information:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Geographic Location (are families in poverty moving to new areas?)</li> <li>✓ Racial and Ethnic Composition</li> <li>✓ Primary Language</li> <li>✓ Household Composition</li> <li>✓ Principle Source of Income</li> <li>✓ Median Income Level</li> <li>✓ Employment Availability/Primary Source/Type</li> <li>✓ Number of Children Living Below Poverty Level</li> <li>✓ Ages of Children in Population</li> <li>✓ Number of Public Assistance Recipients</li> <li>✓ Pa Pathways Self-Sufficiency Reports</li> <li>✓ OCDEL Risk and Reach Reports</li> </ul> <p><b>Educational Information:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Academic Achievement by District</li> <li>✓ Adult Educational Attainment</li> <li>✓ Enrollment, retention, attendance, transience, truancy, and drop-out rates</li> <li>✓ Total Enrollments</li> <li>✓ Language proficiency</li> <li>✓ Information on Functional Literacy Levels- English Language Learners- Access to Adult/Child Programs</li> <li>✓ Transition Activities</li> <li>✓ Resources available to students outside of the regular school day (i.e. Community School Activities, Family Centers)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Census and American Community Survey Data- <a href="http://www.factfinder.census.gov">www.factfinder.census.gov</a></li> <li>• US Department of Labor- <a href="http://www.dol.gov">www.dol.gov</a>; <a href="http://www.bls.gov">www.bls.gov</a></li> <li>• Center for Workforce Information and Analysis- <a href="http://www.state.pa.us">www.state.pa.us</a> and <a href="http://www.paworkstats.state.pa.us">www.paworkstats.state.pa.us</a></li> <li>• PA Partnerships for Children- <a href="http://www.papartnerships.org">www.papartnerships.org</a></li> <li>• Center for Law and Social Policy- <a href="http://www.clasp.org">www.clasp.org</a></li> <li>• League of Latin American Citizens- <a href="http://www.lulac.org">www.lulac.org</a></li> <li>• National Center for Children in Poverty- <a href="http://www.nccp.org">www.nccp.org</a></li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area School Districts- Easton, Allentown, Bethlehem, Northern Lehigh- <a href="http://www.allentwonsd.org">www.allentwonsd.org</a>; <a href="http://www.beth.k12.pa">www.beth.k12.pa</a>; <a href="http://www.nlds.k12.pa.us">www.nlds.k12.pa.us</a>; <a href="http://www.eastonsd.org">www.eastonsd.org</a></li> <li>• LC &amp; NC Juvenile Justice Reports</li> <li>• United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley- <a href="http://www.unitedwayglv.org">www.unitedwayglv.org</a></li> <li>• PA Partnerships for Children- <a href="http://www.papartnerships.org">www.papartnerships.org</a></li> <li>• The Annie E. Casey Foundation- Kids</li> </ul>

- ✓ Juvenile Justice Use and Rates

**Children with Disabilities:**

- ✓ Child Development Programs Serving Children with Disabilities- #'s served, types of disabilities, # of referrals, services provided
- ✓ Availability and accessibility of services
- ✓ Trends

**Health Information:**

- ✓ Child Abuse and Neglect Stats
- ✓ Incidence of Drug and Alcohol Abuse (including children born to addicted mothers)
- ✓ Domestic Violence Reports
- ✓ Infant and Child Death Rates
- ✓ Causes of Death from Serious Injury
- ✓ Teen Pregnancy
- ✓ Teen Suicide Rates
- ✓ Single Parent Birth Rates
- ✓ Access/Availability to Insurance, Primary Medical Providers, etc.
- ✓ Mental Health Access, Use, Diagnosis for Adults and Children
- ✓ Crime Rates
- ✓ Low-Birth Weight Rates
- ✓ Prenatal Healthcare Use
- ✓ Immunization Rates
- ✓ Communicable Diseases
- ✓ Prevalent Community Health Problems
- ✓ Air and Water Quality

**Nutrition Information:**

- ✓ Free and Reduced Lunch Rates
- ✓ Food Stamp Rates
- ✓ WIC Participation Rates
- ✓ Availability of High-Quality, Low-Cost Food to the Community
- ✓ Participant Rates in Food Distribution Programs (food banks, Angel Food ministries)

**Housing:**

- ✓ Overcrowding, Availability and Affordability
- ✓ Conditions
- ✓ HUD Housing Rates (Hope 6 Updates)
- ✓ Utilities
- ✓ Homeless Counts
- ✓ Mobility (how does this affect our program?)
- ✓ Homeownership

Count Data Book-

[www.aecf.org/kidscount](http://www.aecf.org/kidscount)

- US Department of Education- [www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov) ; State- [www.pde.state.pa](http://www.pde.state.pa)
- IU 20- [www.cliu.org](http://www.cliu.org)
- IU 21- [www.ciu20.org](http://www.ciu20.org)
- Easter Seals, Early Intervention
- PA State Data Center
- United Way- the Status of Children and Teens in the Lehigh Valley Report- [www.unitedwayglv.org](http://www.unitedwayglv.org)
- LC & NC Drug and Alcohol Stats
- SAMHSA- [www.drugabusestatistics.samsha.gov](http://www.drugabusestatistics.samsha.gov)
- Child Abuse and Neglect Annual Report- [www.dpw.state.pa.us](http://www.dpw.state.pa.us)
- Crime Rates- <http://socds.huduser.org>
- Health Statistics- [www.health.state.pa.us/stats/](http://www.health.state.pa.us/stats/); [www.cdc.gov/nchs](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs) ; [www.cshcndata.org](http://www.cshcndata.org)
- Bethlehem Partnership for a Health Community Annual Report- [www.mystlukesonline.org](http://www.mystlukesonline.org)
- City Health Bureau- [www.allentownpa.gov](http://www.allentownpa.gov); [www.easton-pa.gov](http://www.easton-pa.gov); <http://easton-pa.gov>
- Maternal and Family Health Services Annual Report- [www.mchb.hrsa.gov](http://www.mchb.hrsa.gov)
- Head Start Health Advisory Board Members
- School Districts
- Department of Public Welfare
- WIC- [www.mfhs.org](http://www.mfhs.org)
- Inquiries to local food banks
- [www.caclv.org](http://www.caclv.org)
- Affordable Housing Assessment (Lehigh Valley Planning Commission)- [www.lvpc.org](http://www.lvpc.org)
- Local Housing Authorities- annual reports
- Reports from local shelters regarding use
- Community Action Agency- [www.caclv.org](http://www.caclv.org)

<p><b>Child Care Information:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Overall Needs</li> <li>✓ Locations and Numbers Served by Other Child Development Programs (HS Eligible) and Waiting List Information (include relevant characteristics of programs and eligibility criteria)</li> <li>✓ Ability to Serve Children with Disabilities</li> <li>✓ Staffing to Support Racial/Ethnic Diversity- Ability to Serve Non-English Speaking Children</li> <li>✓ Characteristics of Program Hours, Parent Involvement, Priority Enrollees</li> <li>✓ Number or Percent of Working Mothers</li> <li>✓ Participants in Welfare Reform Employment and Training Programs</li> <li>✓ Infant and Toddler Programs (0-3 years)</li> <li>✓ Unmet Needs</li> <li>✓ Subsidy Recipients</li> <li>✓ Quality</li> </ul> <p><b>Transportation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Vehicle Ownership</li> <li>✓ Availability of Public Transportation Services</li> <li>✓ Relevant Aspects of road Conditions, Climate and Weather Relating to Jobs, Services, Isolation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCIS Reports</li> <li>• Unmet Needs</li> <li>• Regional Key- Community Engagement Teams- <a href="http://www.pakeys.org">www.pakeys.org</a>; <a href="http://www.dpw.state.pa">www.dpw.state.pa</a></li> <li>• National Child Care Information Center- <a href="http://www.ccic.org">www.ccic.org</a></li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information from LANTA- Regional Transportation Plan- <a href="http://www.lantabus.com">www.lantabus.com</a></li> <li>• Anecdotal Information from families</li> <li>• <a href="http://www.lvpc.org">www.lvpc.org</a>- Transportation Study</li> </ul>
<p><b>Head Start ENROLLED Children and Families:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Recruitment Area</li> <li>✓ Center Locations</li> <li>✓ Enrollment Patterns for the past 5 years</li> <li>✓ Number and Location of Enrolled Children</li> <li>✓ Ages of Enrolled Children</li> <li>✓ Racial/Ethnic Composition of Enrolled Children/Families</li> <li>✓ Primary Language</li> <li>✓ Employment/Poverty Levels/Household Type/Education Levels</li> <li>✓ Housing and Environmental Conditions</li> <li>✓ Attendance/Waiting List/Over-Income Children</li> <li>✓ Drop/Withdrawal reasons</li> <li>✓ Levels of Parent Involvement</li> <li>✓ Number of Enrolled Children with Disabilities, Types of Disabilities and Services Provided</li> <li>✓ Needs of Families and Resources Provided</li> <li>✓ PIR Data</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maps, center location lists</li> <li>• ERSE Reports- Retention, Waiting Lists, Enrollment Trends, Demographics, Withdrawn Reasons, Over-Income, Disabilities</li> <li>• PIR data from past three years</li> <li>• Monthly Report Stats</li> <li>• Annual Report</li> <li>• Program Self-Assessment Results</li> </ul>
<p><b>Head Start Staff:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Racial/Ethnic Composition</li> <li>✓ Languages Spoken</li> <li>✓ Educational Attainment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PIR Data</li> </ul>
<p><b>Relevant Opinions of Community Needs:</b></p> <p><b>Parent Opinions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Views on educational, health, nutritional and social service needs of children and families in their community (including their own)</li> <li>✓ Views on program design and related services- are we meeting their needs?</li> <li>✓ What are the most concerning community issues or problems?</li> <li>✓ Knowledge of Existing Resources</li> <li>✓ Availability and accessibility of services in their community, what services they most often use, what services are most helpful and which are the most difficult using and why</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent Interviews- Policy Council, Parent Committees</li> <li>• Outcomes and Indicators survey</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Overall customer satisfaction with HS</li> <li>✓ Additional Resources Needed</li> <li>✓ Suggestions for Improving HS Services or the Community in general</li> <li>✓ Differences in What is Available vs. What is Accessible to Parents?/Obstacles to Access?</li> </ul> <p><b>Community Provider Opinions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Services provided, hours of operation, location, eligibility requirements, numbers served, and waiting lists, etc.</li> <li>✓ Prevailing needs of the people they serve</li> <li>✓ Prevalent Community Problems</li> <li>✓ Knowledge of Existing Resources</li> <li>✓ Accessibility of Available Resources</li> <li>✓ Adequate Service Provision by Existing Resources</li> <li>✓ Additional Resources Needed</li> <li>✓ Suggestions for Improving Services</li> </ul> <p><b>Head Start Staff Opinions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Prevalent Community Problems</li> <li>✓ Knowledge of Existing Resources</li> <li>✓ Accessibility of Available Resources</li> <li>✓ Adequate Service Provision by Existing Resources</li> <li>✓ Additional Resources Needed</li> <li>✓ Suggestions for Improving Services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaboration partner feedback</li> <li>• Interviews with key service providers in the Lehigh Valley (i.e. Valley Youth House, Family Answers, Visiting Nurses Association, PIC, Family Centers, Boys and Girls Clubs, etc.</li>   <li>• Staff Survey/Questionnaire</li> </ul>
<p><b>Additional Information about the Agency:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Collaborations/Partnerships and our Results</li> <li>✓ Program Governance Experience/Challenges/Strength</li> <li>✓ Overall Strengths and Challenges as an Organization</li> <li>✓ Strategic Plan/Strategic Goals and Objectives</li> <li>✓ Anticipated Trends for the Next 3 Years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program Design and Approach</li> <li>• Collaboration Chart</li> <li>• Strategic Plan</li> <li>• Short and Long Range Goals and Objectives</li> <li>• Administrative Survey/Questionnaire</li> </ul>

*\*When 2010 Census data is released, an update to poverty statistics will be created as an addendum to this Community Assessment*