



2022-2023

ANNUAL REPORT

*To Our Community*



Community Services for Children, Inc. (CSC) is a leader in providing early childhood education and family services for economically disadvantaged families throughout 17 counties of Northeast PA. Headquartered in Allentown, CSC is a 501(c)3 not for profit organization employing over 400 individuals who are committed to ensuring a successful future for children.

**Community Services for Children’s mission is**

“ *to prepare young children and their families to succeed in learning and in life through comprehensive, innovative, leading edge services.* ”

We believe that every child should have equal opportunity for success, and that early experiences shape the future. We believe that parents are a child’s first and most important teacher, and children grow in the context of the family and community experience. We are committed to providing the care necessary to ensure that every vulnerable family can have a bright future. And in all we do, we strive to realize our vision for “engaged communities where every child thrives and every family succeeds.”

Community Services for Children has core values of Excellence, Inclusion, Equity, Integrity, and Connection, which guide all of our services.

# Program Overview

## HEAD START/ EARLY HEAD START OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY

CSC operates Head Start, the nation’s premier early childhood and family development program serving economically disadvantaged children birth to age five. Its mission is to ensure the school readiness of children, and family stability by providing comprehensive programming in addition to education, such as: health, nutrition, mental wellness, disability, and family / parent engagement services. Services are delivered in 61 classrooms in collaboration with eleven school districts.

## EARLY LEARNING RESOURCE CENTERS

Since 2018, CSC operates Pennsylvania’s Early Learning Resource Centers for 5 regions in the Commonwealth, consisting of 17 counties, with a goal to increase access to and quality of early learning supports for families with young children. A one-stop hub of information and assistance, the ELRCs provide family assessments, resource and referral services, applications and eligibility services for the Child Care Works program, and quality supports and technical assistance for childcare providers.



## COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

The Community Initiatives Team provides education and outreach opportunities for children and families aimed at supporting greater family success. The team facilitates the BUILD initiative, and oversees the organization’s fundraising efforts including hosting major events. The team also sponsors Project Child, a program specifically designed to address child abuse and neglect prevention.

## PRESCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP AND INNOVATION

Through PA’s Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program, CSC is able to provide scholarships for low-income children to attend high quality childcare and early education, as well as STEM/Innovation Lab classrooms that support 21st century learning for Allentown Head Start Children.



# CONNECTION

When I first started at CSC, a wise colleague consistently reminded us that “all learning takes place in the context of a relationship”. Connections and authentic relationships are the heartbeat of our work, creating a sense of safety and belonging, helping to remove hindrances, and cultivating strong foundations from which to build. During the last year, we have submersed ourselves in CSC’s value of connection. Connection with children, families, communities, and each other.

Throughout this annual report, you will see the product of trusting relationships and deep connections.

- Children who are healthy physically and emotionally, and who are academically ready for school.
- Families who have accomplished amazing achievements and who have embraced their role as leader and advocate for their children.
- Incredible staff serving as a connector, a referral to community resources, helping families to access services to address critical needs like food insecurity, housing instability, child-care services, mental health services, and healthcare.

Woven throughout is an organization overcoming obstacles, embracing excellence, pushing ahead, and remaining true to its mission, vision, and values. You will also meet our esteemed Board of Directors, to whom we are so appreciative, who give graciously of their time, talent, and treasure, guiding CSC, pressing toward our vision of engaged communities where every child thrives and every family succeeds.

Yet, we couldn’t do this life-changing work without you. Your generosity, your partnership, and your connection with CSC make these outstanding outcomes possible and to each of you we are profoundly grateful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deidra E. Vachier".

Deidra E. Vachier



# HEAD START & EARLY HEAD START OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY

Head Start (HS) and Early Head Start (EHS) of the Lehigh Valley, serving two generations, supports the cognitive, social, and emotional competence of children from birth to age five. In addition to education, HS/EHS provides children and their families with health, safety, wellness, and family development education. Programs are responsive to each child and family's ethnic, cultural, and linguistic heritage and focus on whole child development in the context of the family and community. HS/EHS provides early education within a comprehensive service framework that is committed to the engagement of families in the development of their children. HS/EHS recognizes parents as the child's first and most important teacher and as leaders in program governance.



**35%**

of children 0-5 years old living below 100% of the federal poverty guideline served by HS/EHS

**1,800+** applications processed

**1,244** HS/EHS funded enrollment

**15%**

of children living in Lehigh Valley are below the federal poverty guideline

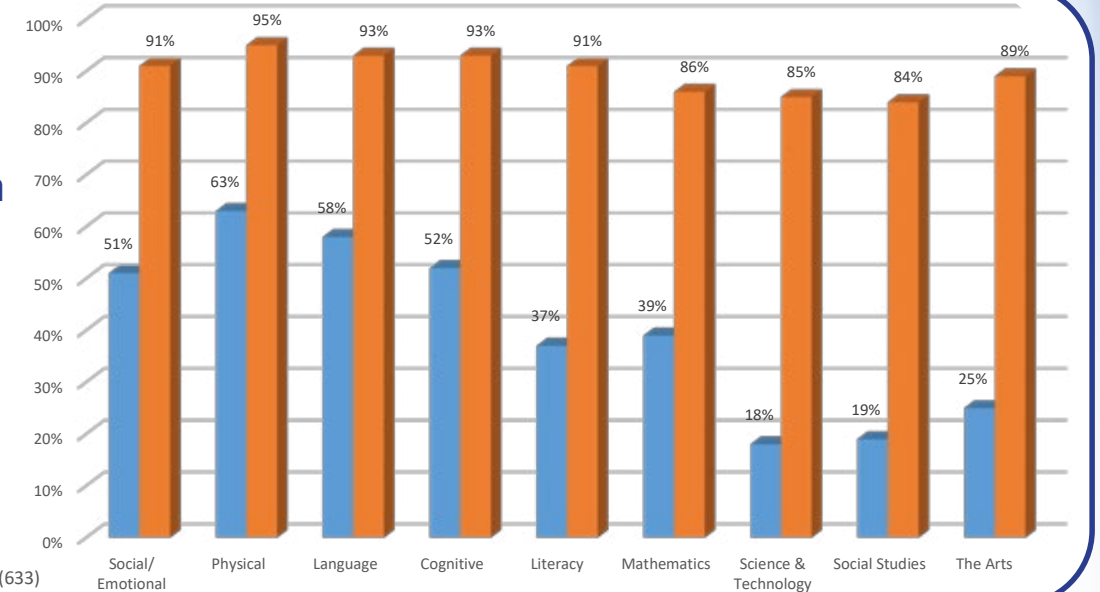
**100%**

of our families meet program eligibility requirements

**1,439** number of children and families served  
**835** Children served from Lehigh County  
**409** Children served from Northampton County

**2022-2023**

**HEAD START**  
 Classrooms Learning Domain Outcomes - End Year All Children without Disabilities Meeting Expectations



## Parent and Program Partnership



**97%** of families report they feel comfortable sharing the challenges they have as parents with program staff  
**98%** of families report the program tries to meet their family's specific needs  
**95%** of families report they are encouraged to become involved in helping to improve the program

## School Readiness



**98%** of families report that the program helped them understand the importance of attendance  
**100%** of families report the program provided activities that help their children prepare for Head Start or school  
**98%** of families report they trust the program to help their child grow and learn

## Children Receiving Well Care



**84%**: physical exams  
**78%**: dental exams  
**89%**: immunizations

## Parent Engagement Activities



**98%** of families chose to develop individualized goal plans  
**100%** Of families participated in the read-a-book initiative to promote literacy in the home  
**100%** Of enrolled families participated in research-based parenting education  
**100%** of enrolled families participated in home visits  
**100%** of families for whom a need was identified received a referral for services

# EARLY HEAD START **IMPACT**

Early Head Start of the Lehigh Valley is a comprehensive child and family development program whose mission is to prepare children and families for success early in life. EHS serves pregnant women, infants and toddlers ages 0-3, who are living in poverty.

EHS meets the health, safety, and development needs of children through a home visitation model or therapeutic classroom model of service. Research validates that children who attend EHS, like HS, have better outcomes. Children who attend high-quality early learning programs are more likely to stay in school, are more successful in school, graduate at a higher rate, engage in less risky behavior, and are more likely to become successful adults. In addition, research indicates that children in EHS are more likely to be immunized, parents read more to their children, and families have high levels of self-sufficiency.

# EARLY HEAD START **OUTCOMES**

## Early Head Start Childhood Development Outcomes\*

<b>SOCIAL &amp; EMOTIONAL</b> .....	<b>97%</b>
<b>COGNITION &amp; GENERAL KNOWLEDGE</b> .....	<b>90%</b>
<b>APPROACHES TO LEARNING</b> .....	<b>93%</b>
<b>LANGUAGE &amp; LITERACY</b> .....	<b>81%</b>
<b>PHYSICAL WELL-BEING &amp; MOTOR DEVELOPMENT</b> .....	<b>91%</b>

\* Percentage of proficiency for children who turned three in 2023

Community Services for Children – Head Start of the Lehigh Valley’s most recent monitoring report dated 4/13/2022 finds our program in full compliance with all federal regulations.



# EARLY LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER

The vision for The Early Learning Resource Center (ELRC) is to serve as a single entry point for families, early learning providers, and communities to gain information and access services that support children and their families with the ultimate goal of improving quality, accessibility, and affordability of early learning in Pennsylvania.

Each of our regional Early Learning Resource Centers is a hub of information for all early learning related services that benefit a child's development; health, education, social, and behavioral. Each Early Learning Resource Center is designed to be customer focused, efficient, integrated, and comprehensive. By fully supporting parent's choices, families are offered a full array of comprehensive supports and programs.

## REGIONS & COUNTIES SERVED

**Region 11** > Bradford, Columbia, Luzerne, Montour, Sullivan, Wyoming

**Region 12** > Carbon, Lackawanna, Monroe, Pike, Susquehanna, Wayne

**Region 13** > Berks, Schuylkill

**Region 14** > Lehigh, Northampton

**Region 16** > Bucks



**4543**  
families received  
**16,103**  
referrals to community  
resources

**OVER \$46**  
million in grants  
distributed to childcare  
providers

**20,386**  
children  
received services through  
the Child Care Works  
program

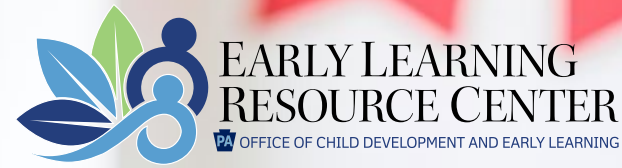
**69**  
programs

received individualized training and support for program improvement, as requested by the PA Office of Child Development and Early Learning

**OVER \$154**  
million in subsidies  
were paid to childcare providers  
to support children of  
working families

**117**  
Childcare  
providers

improved quality as evidenced by raising their STAR level



# COMMUNITY INITIATIVES & ADVANCEMENT

The Community Initiatives & Advancement team oversees three major areas: Communication, Outreach and Advancement. The team provides bilingual outreach and education opportunities to children and families aimed at creating greater family success. Staff serve in weekly health clinics and community events to provide information about literacy, school readiness, and family services. The team supports each area of the organization with fundraising and donation efforts, and hosts our two major events: The Annual Donley Awards and Gala, and the Golf Tournament. Your donations make it possible to purchase classroom materials, keep staff up to date with best practices, provide parent education, and provide emergency assistance to families for diapers, formula, and other necessities. Reach out if you'd like to donate or be involved!



## Communications

**SOCIAL MEDIA GROWTH: 290,000 PEOPLE REACHED**

**WEBSITE TRAFFIC: 76,000 TOTAL VISITORS**

## Outreach CONNECTIONS

Head Start/Early Head Start Intakes received: **100+ 116% increase**  
 Bilingual materials distributed: **4,000+ 78% increase**  
 Families connections made: **2,000+ 66% increase**

## EVENTS



**60+ EVENTS**  
**12,000+ IN ATTENDANCE**



## PARKS AND POOLS SERIES

In partnership with Allentown Summer Playground Program, CSC launched a new initiative called the Parks and Pools Series. Bilingual community outreach staff connected with 120 families, sharing resources for Head Start/Early Head Start and Early Learning Resource Centers. Staff were able to support families on ground as they completed the registration process and were on hand to answer any questions. Our social media efforts reached over 5,500 people.

## PROJECT CHILD

Community Services for Children is proud to sponsor Project Child, a unique and innovative coalition with purpose of preventing child abuse and neglect. To share resources and information, The Parent Project Podcasts were launched with topics such as: the importance of routines, family group decision making, sleep habits, car seat safety and more. Follow us on youtube to learn more.

## THE BUILD HEALTH CHALLENGE®

We are proudly partnering with The Allentown Health Bureau, Lehigh Valley Reilly Children's Hospital, Leonard Parker Pool Institute for Health, Pool Center for Health Analytics and Valley Health Partners to launch a new collaborative that aims to create an equitable early learning environment for young children in Allentown and particularly in the Franklin Park neighborhood. Allentown is among 13 new communities throughout the US in BUILD's fourth cohort. To learn more visit our website [cscinc.org/programs/community-initiatives](http://cscinc.org/programs/community-initiatives)

**Parenting Podcast: 2,000 people reached (4 livepodcasts) & 12 podcasts recorded**



## Special Events

### ANNUAL DONLEY AWARDS AND GALA

*Congratulations to our Donley Award winners:  
 Vicky Kistler, Ruth & Charlie Marcon and Paula Margraf*





# introducing an amazing place designed to put children first in Allentown!



Building on the success of the Learning Hub and Neighborhood Resource Center at 6th and Linden Streets in Allentown, **Community Services for Children is thrilled to develop a unique, state-of-the-art Early Childhood and Family Service center!** With 20 innovative preschool classrooms, and advanced family services spaces, the renovated 85,000-square foot building will serve as a demonstrable, lasting commitment to children.

CSC Downtown serves the most vulnerable of children and families, those at or below the poverty level, and works with families struggling to meet the basic needs of living while striving for a more financially secure future.

The renovated, expanded site allows Community Services for Children, along with their partners to provide a one-stop hub of educational and social services in the area of greatest need. Specifically, the center will house:

**Head Start comprehensive PRESCHOOL**  
for up to 400 children

**Advanced programming in LITERACY, STEM, and CREATIVE ARTS**

Unique Innovation labs focus on **critical thinking, creativity** and **innovation, communication** and **collaboration**

**A 5,000 square foot OUTDOOR PLAYScape**  
for exploration of the natural world

**Creative ARTS STUDIO**

**Parent engagement and TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**

**INDOOR FUN and FITNESS SPACES**

**Private, family-friendly INTERVIEW ROOMS**

The on-site application process to provide quick access to and **financial assistance for HIGH-QUALITY CHILD CARE**

**Technical support for child care businesses to PROMOTE QUALITY**

Early Learning Resource Center programming, providing **FAMILY RESOURCES** and referrals to health, early learning, nutrition, housing, and social services

**COMMUNITY TRAINING and conference rooms**



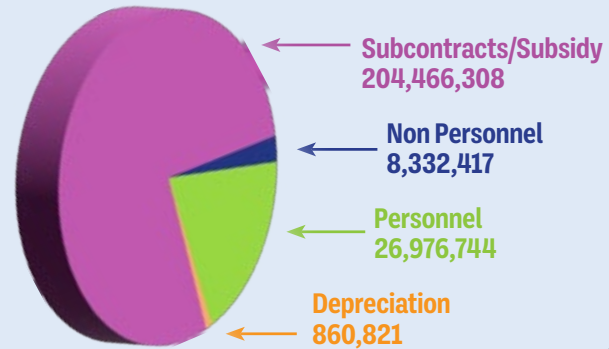


# SUMMARY OF AUDITED FINANCIALS

BY FUNDING SOURCE	2022-23 FISCAL YEAR	%	2021-22 FISCAL YEAR	%
<b>GOVERNMENT</b>				
FEDERAL				
DEPT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES	\$12,053,381	5.0%	\$12,567,113	4.2%
STATE				
PA DEPT OF EDUCATION	654,059	0.3%	556,673	0.2%
PA OFFICE OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT & EARLY LEARNING	225,178,533	93.5%	286,983,553	94.9%
LOCAL				
CHILDREN & YOUTH	1,500,905	0.6%	1,304,170	0.4%
OTHER LOCAL FUNDING	40,000	0.0%	40,000	0.0%
<b>NON-GOVERNMENT</b>				
FOUNDATIONS	413,916	0.2%	118,350	0.0%
CONTRIBUTIONS/FUND RAISING	352,296	0.1%	321,332	0.1%
OTHER LOCAL FUNDING	408,665	0.2%	576,800	0.2%
IN-KIND	132,510	0.1%	66,255	0.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$240,734,265</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$302,534,246</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



## EXPENSES BY CATEGORY



## EXPENSES BY PROGRAM



**TOTAL EXPENSES: 240,636,290**





# Our Supporters

This report recognizes gifts made to Community Services for Children between July 1, 2022–June 30, 2023. We have made our best effort to accurately reflect each gift made during this time and apologize for any errors or omissions. If you have a correction or update, please call our Advancement Office at 610-437-6000; ext. 2303. We also wish to extend our appreciation to those donors who choose to remain anonymous.



## \$500,000+ (IN KIND SUPPORT)

- City Center
- Lehigh Valley Health Network

## \$50,000-\$250,000

- The Leonard Parker Pool Institute for Health
- Stabler Foundation

## \$25,000-\$49,999

- Harry C. Trexler Trust
- Embassy Bank for the Lehigh Valley
- Avalon Insurance Company
- Air Products

## \$10,000 - \$24,999

- Lehigh Valley Community Foundation
- Donley Family Foundation
- Julius & Kathryn Hommer Foundation
- The John & Margaret Post Foundation
- Highmark Blue Shield
- Kappa Delta of Lehigh University
- PNC Financial Services Group
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- AmerisourceBergen Sourcing L.L.C
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- PPL Electric Utilities

- United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley
- Mr. Donald Bernhard

## \$5,000 - \$9,999

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- Greater Lehigh Valley Auto Dealers Foundation
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- Herron Funeral Homes
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Save the date

CSC ANNUAL  
GOLF TOURNAMENT

MONDAY, APRIL 29, 2024  
at Northampton Country Club

