



Early Head Start 2023-2024 Annual REPORT





WHO WE ARE

Martha's Vineyard Head Start is an early childhood program of Martha's Vineyard Community Services. We are committed to giving every child the opportunity to succeed in school and life beyond school. Our program is home-based and locally designed for the community we serve.

Our home-based model is structured to capitalize on the learning opportunities in the home environment. While one of Head Start's goals is to help prepare children for school, our program believes that supporting the needs and goals of the whole family builds strong, nurturing relationships, strength, and resilience in the family- all key factors to successful transitions to kindergarten.

PROGRAM GOVERNANCE

Our program is governed by the Martha's Vineyard Community Services Board of Directors. The Board includes one former Head Start parent and community members who represent diverse areas of expertise.

Our Policy Council membership consists of three Head Start parents and one representative from the community. Our community representative is the Director of English Language Learning for the Martha's Vineyard Public Schools.

OUR STAFF

Martha's Vineyard Community Services Chief Executive Officer: Beth Folcarelli

Fiscal Officer: Glen Mattera

Program Director: Heather Quinn

Program Coordinator: Cindy Flanders

Home Visitors: Jean Crocker, Amy Heil, Louise Hazelton, Mikaella Batista

Bilingual Community Engagement Provider: Suelen Fernandes

Three of our Home Visitors and our Program Coordinator are former Head Start parents.

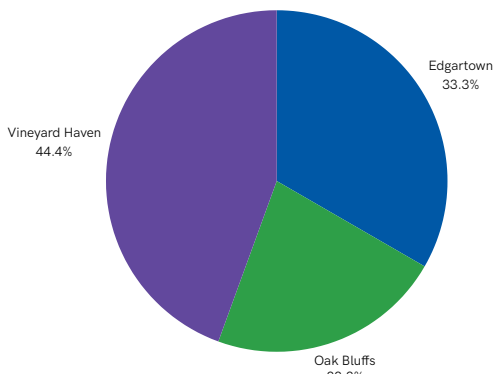
We also contract with a nutritionist, a mental health professional, interpreters and translators, and a nurse consultant to meet the requirements of the Head Start Program Performance Standards.

MVCS Early Head Start Annual Report published to our website September 2024.

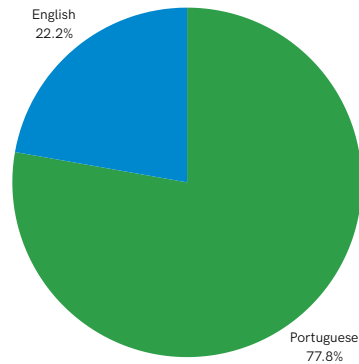
WHO WE SERVE

Early Head Start program serves the families of Martha's Vineyard in the six towns of Aquinnah, Chilmark, West Tisbury, Tisbury, Oak Bluffs, and Edgartown. Our program reflects the diversity of our island community in culture, language, and ethnicity.

Family Location



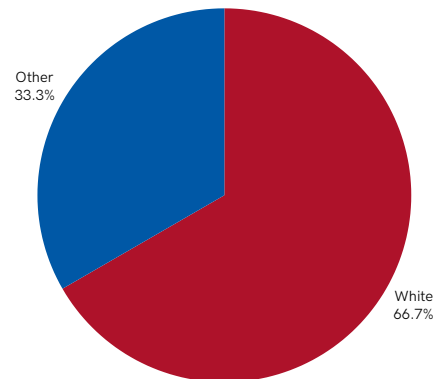
Family Home Language



Family Structure



Racial Composition



Total Number of Families Served: 8

Total Number of Children Served: 9

Average Monthly Enrollment: 6



MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

We partner with our local pediatricians and other family practitioners to identify and follow up on ongoing care. Living on an island can present barriers to access to treatment, particularly from medical and dental specialists. We collaborate with our Family Resource Center to provide financial support for families who need to travel away from the island for treatments. We have community partners who provide dental screenings and preventive services to our enrolled families, including parents. A local eye doctor provides comprehensive vision screenings for our enrolled children and our local audiologist screens for hearing loss. Our Vineyard Health Care Access organization supports families who are trying to access medical insurance. Throughout COVID spikes, we continued to provide comprehensive services as well as providing test kits, masks, hand sanitizer and consistent information to our families about COVID vaccine availability, as well as community data regarding the local spread of COVID.

Medical Home 100%

Hearing Screenings 89%

Health Insurance 100%

Vision Screenings 100%

Dental Home 25%

Dental Exams 89%

Nutrition Services 91%

Up to Date
Immunizations



NUTRITION

Food insecurity continues to climb in our community. The Martha's Vineyard Food Pantry saw an increase in services over the last three years with more than 5000 Islanders now registered. We made multiple referrals for families to their services, as well as to the Food Baskets ministry of the Church of the Good Shepherd and Serving Hands/Family to Family. We continue to house a small food pantry here on our campus that enables us to bring food to families when needed.

Our Head Start enrolled children continue to show a high percentage of elevated BMI. In response, we incorporated nutrition modules from our Growing Great Kids curriculum and home visitors planned more gross motor activities in home visits across both programs. We offered many outdoor socializations and field trips to introduce island families to all the trails and parks. Our nutrition consultant met with several families to discuss healthy meal planning and snacking.



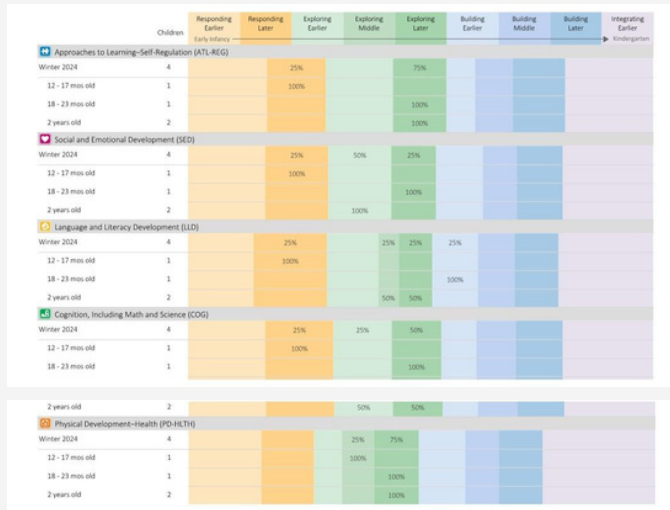
COMMUNITY PARTNERS

The Martha's Vineyard Museum
Polly Hill Arboretum
Felix Neck Wildlife Sanctuary
Misty Meadows Equine Learning Center
Martha's Vineyard YMCA
Martha's Vineyard Ice Arena
Jazen's Art Studio
Island Food Pantry
United States Coast Guard
Dr. Lesley Segal, Audiologist
Dr. George Santos, Optometrist
Native Earth Teaching Farm
Slough Farm
Oak Bluffs Fire Station
The Martha's Vineyard Boys and Girls Club
Birdsong Ceramics
Milokan Cultural Center
Edgartown Public Library
Oak Bluffs Public Library

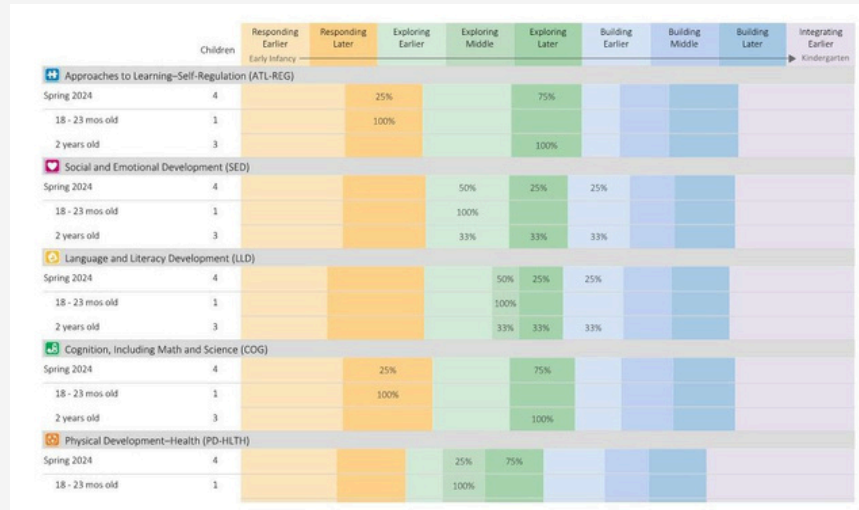
SCHOOL READINESS

We believe that strengthening families is a path for school readiness. We utilize the Growing Great Kids curriculum, which works to support parents as the expert in their child's development. Each week, a home visitor spends 1.5 hours with the family. We utilize the DRDP Assessment tool to measure a child's developmental progression, but equally importantly, to individualize curriculum and drive programming. The DRDP aligns with Head Start's Early Learning Outcomes Framework.

Winter 2024



Spring 2024



TRANSITION ACTIVITIES

Due to the pandemic, many children had fewer opportunities to socialize. In response, we offered programs throughout the program year designed to give children opportunities to build social skills in a group setting. As required by the Head Start Program Performance Standards, we began discussions with families around transition at least six months prior to the child's third birthday. We considered the child's developmental level and health and disability status, progress made by the child and family while in Early Head Start, current and changing family circumstances and, the availability of Head Start, other public pre-kindergarten, and other early education and child development services in the community that would meet the needs of the child and family. This year, we transitioned three children to Head Start, one child to a private child care program, and four children remained enrolled in Early Head Start through the summer. We continue to build a partnership with our Early Intervention program and ensure that children who are enrolled in Early Intervention are referred at least six months prior to their third birthday to our Local Education Agency.

PARENT EDUCATION AND SUPPORT

This year, we were able to offer many opportunities for parents to connect with each other and to engage in parenting groups designed to build resilience, parenting skills, and understanding of children's growth and development.

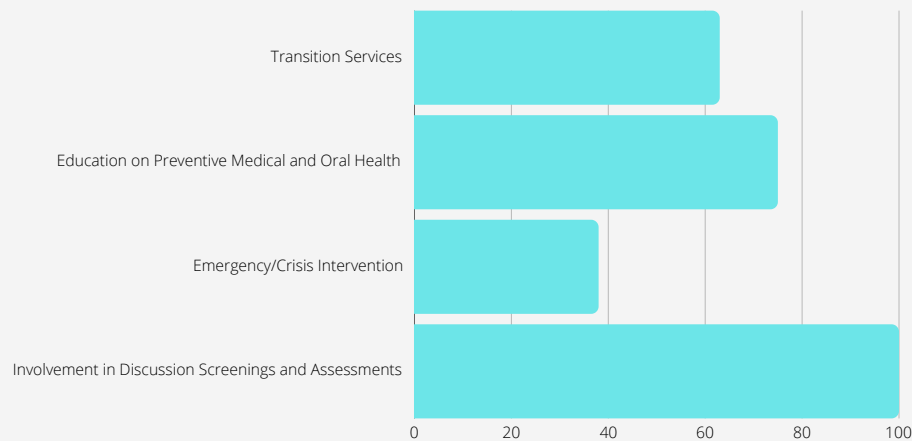
Head Start collaborated with CONNECT to End Violence, a program under the umbrella of Martha's Vineyard Community Services, to offer Keeping Kids Safe, a program of The Children's Trust. This workshop is designed to help parents learn how to use age-appropriate language, understand the signs and symptoms of abuse, create family rules, and learn what to do if a child discloses something has happened to them.

Head Start also collaborated with The Martha's Vineyard Family Center to offer an eight week course in Positive Discipline. Head Start collaborated with the Family Resource Center and the Family Center to offer the twelve week series Parenting Journey, a program designed to help all types of parents increase their confidence and resilience while laying the groundwork for strong family relationships.

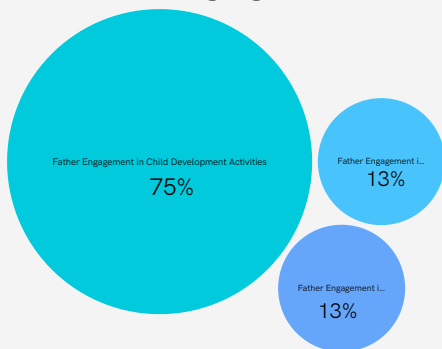
We also offered a monthly parent group facilitated by our behavior consultant Jeanine Fitzgerald on building relationships that empower maximum outcomes for children. We supplemented this series with a "parent cafe" in intervening weeks to give parents another opportunity to connect.



Percentage of Families Receiving Specific Services



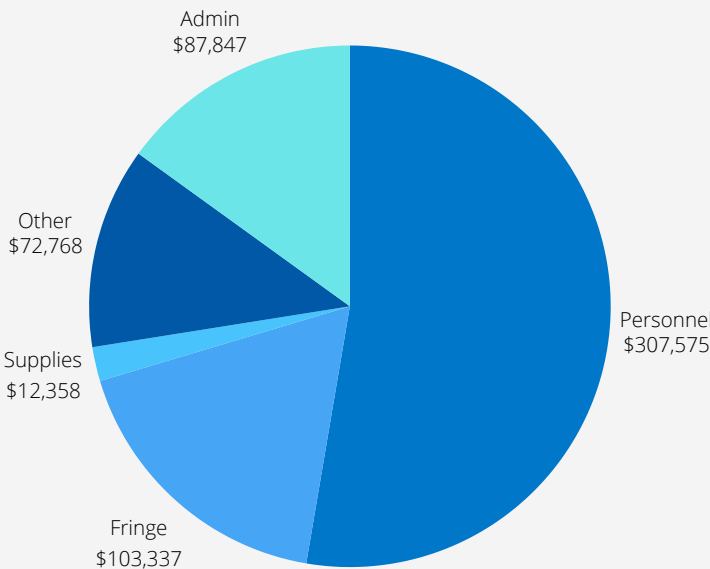
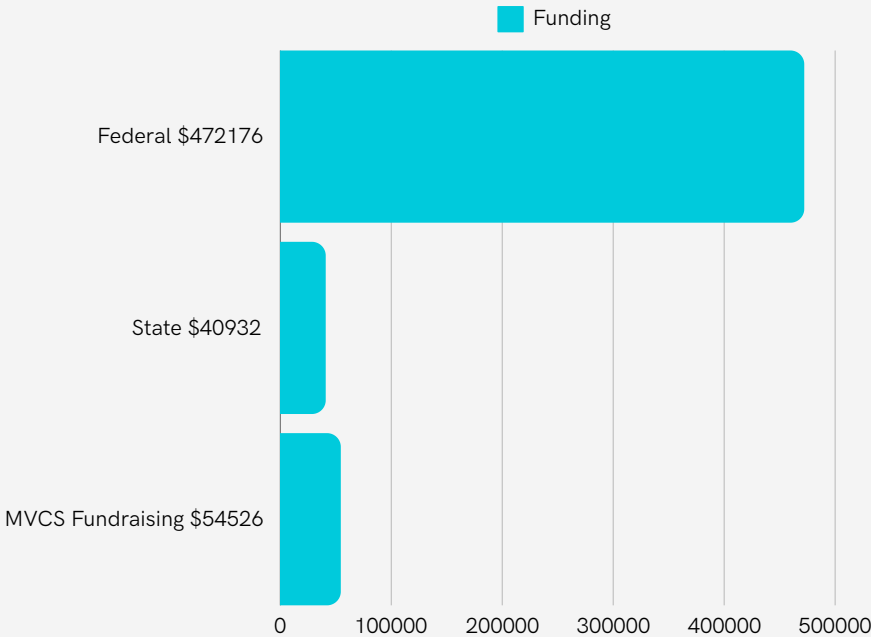
Father Engagement



HEAD START/ EARLY HEAD START FUNDING AND EXPENDITURES

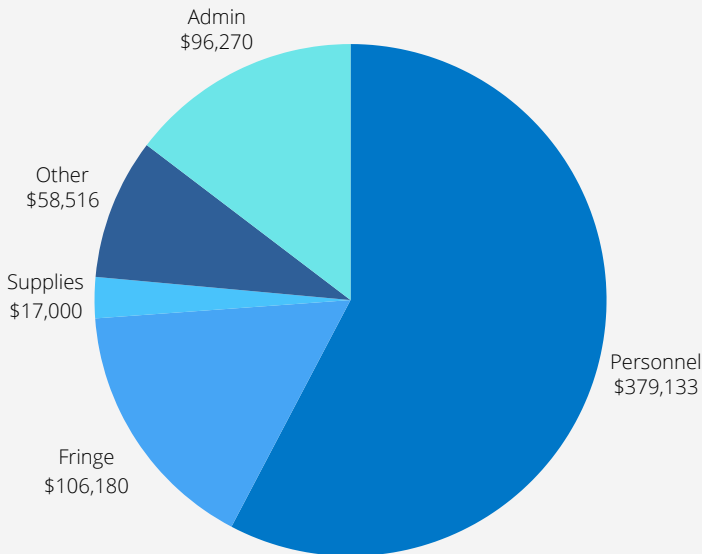
FY 21 FUNDING BUDGETED
(From Agency FY24 Board-Approved
Budget)

TOTAL FUNDING: \$567,634



ACTUALS

December 1, 2022 - November 30, 2023



BUDGETED

December 1, 2023 - November 30, 2024

Financial Audit: No findings
2023 FA2 Review: 3 areas of noncompliance; all corrected.

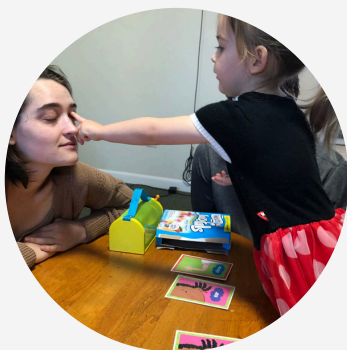


"Growing Great Kids helped us learn to talk about what everyone is feeling and taking the time to listen to each other."

"Home visits helped me learn to narrate everything I am doing by myself and with my child to help with their communication. My home visitor showed me that child led play/activities are great to help learn new skills like fine motor, language, and daily living skills."



"We are now more able to utilize the resources around us and use the things we have at our home more efficiently to build better family connections and learning together."



"I love that I could participate in Head Start; my kids loved being part of that. I can't thank you enough for all the things me and my children learned together with our home visitor and all Head Start."