



# 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 Staff: Suelen Fernandes

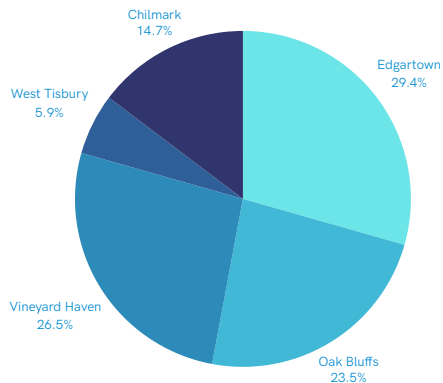
Three of our Home Visitors and our Program Coordinator are former Head Start parents.

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

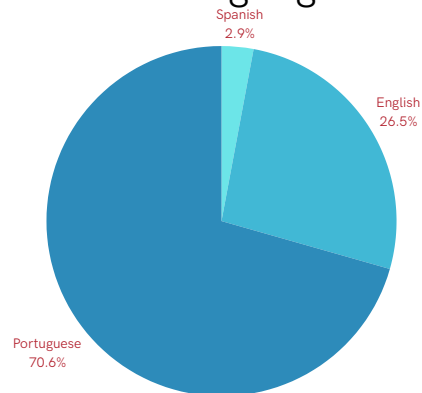
# WHO WE SERVE

Our Head Start program serves the families of Martha's Vineyard in the six island 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.

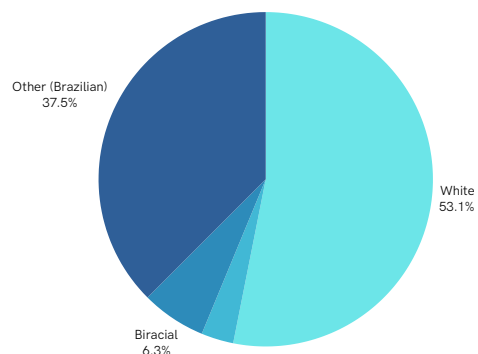
## Family Location



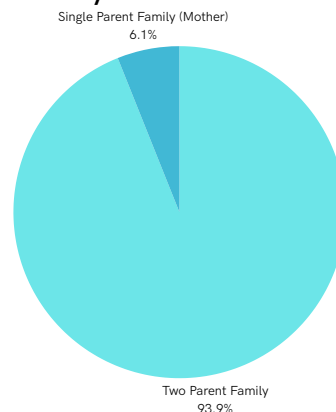
## Home Language



## Racial Distribution



## Family Structure



Total Number of Families Served: 32

Total Number of Children Served: 34

Average Monthly Enrollment: 28.3



# 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. The Vineyard Health Care Access program 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 94%

Hearing Screenings 91%

Health Insurance 100%

Vision Screenings 97%

Dental Home 26%

Dental Exams 91%

Nutrition Services 91%

Up to Date  
Immunizations 94%



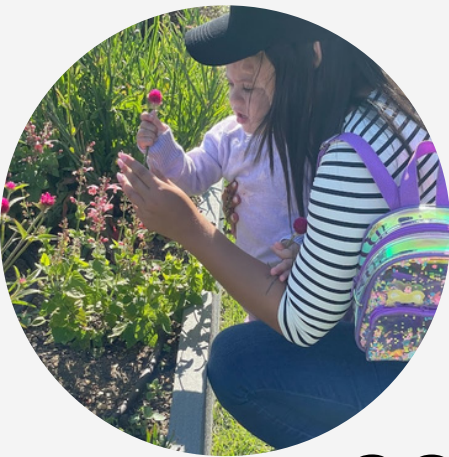
*Head start has helped us connect with the Family Support Center who helped me apply for disability services for my son and have access to their sensory lending library. Head Start has also help me sign my son for free dental exams and cleaning which has been huge.*



# 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 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. 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.



*"Head Start helped me with resources that I wasn't aware of, and has been great to have their support in dental hygiene, food resources, etc."*



## 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

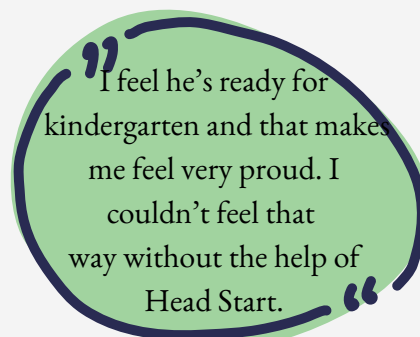
# SCHOOL READINESS

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.

Children		Responding Earlier Early Infancy	Responding Later	Exploring Earlier	Exploring Middle	Exploring Later	Building Earlier	Building Middle	Building Later	Integrating Earlier Kindergarten
<b>Approaches to Learning–Self-Regulation (ATL-REG)</b>										
Spring 2024	26			1	5	1	10	6	3	
Winter 2024	26			3	3	5	7	7	1	
Fall 2023	24		1	4	4	5	5	5		
<b>Social and Emotional Development (SED)</b>										
Spring 2024	26			1	5	2	7	9	2	
Winter 2024	26			3	3	3	13	3	1	
Fall 2023	26		1	2	6	6	7	4		
<b>Language and Literacy Development (LLD)</b>										
Spring 2024	26			1	2	6	8	6	3	
Winter 2024	26			1	3	4	13	4	1	
Fall 2023	25				1	5	8	6	4	1
<b>Physical Development–Health (PD-HLTH)</b>										
Spring 2024	26			1		5	6	9	5	
Winter 2024	25			1	2	6	6	9	1	
Fall 2023	25			2	4	6	7	6		

## KINDERGARTEN TRANSITION ACTIVITIES

Due to the pandemic, many children had fewer opportunities to socialize. In response, we offered many playgroups throughout the program year designed to give children opportunities to build skills in a classroom. We prepared kindergarten transition reports for each child transitioning, attended the kindergarten orientations to support families, and facilitated registration and screenings. We hosted play groups at each receiving school to offer children and parents an opportunity to meet each other in their new community and each child received an "I'm going to Kindergarten" t shirt and a new book. In collaboration with our Family Resource Center, we provided backpacks and lunchboxes, and with our colleagues at the Martha's Vineyard Family Center, we will host a picnic just before school opens for the year.



# 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.

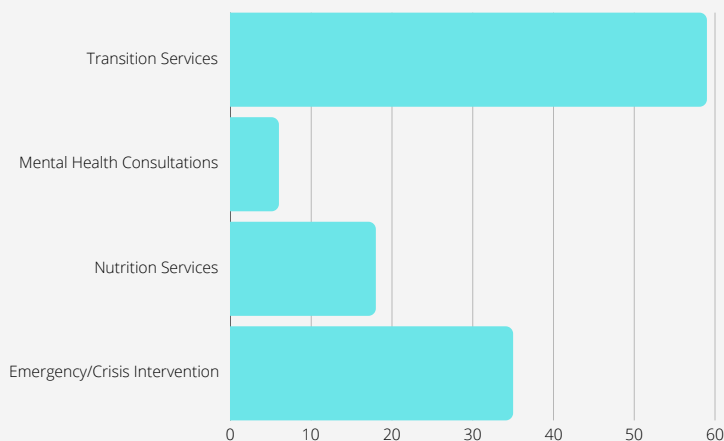
Head Start collaborated with CONNECT to End Violence, a program under the umbrella of Martha's Vineyard Community Services, to offer Keeping Kids Safe, a program of The Children's Trust. This workshop is designed to help parents learn how to use age-appropriate language, understand the signs and symptoms 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.

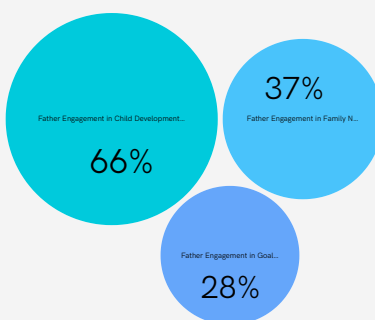
We also offered a monthly parent group facilitated by our behavior consultant Jeanine Fitzgerald on building relationships that empower maximum outcomes for children. We supplemented this series with a "parent cafe" in intervening weeks to give parents another opportunity to connect.

*"Yes the parenting groups have really helped me relax more and not be so stressed or overwhelmed."*

Percentage of Families Receiving Specific Services



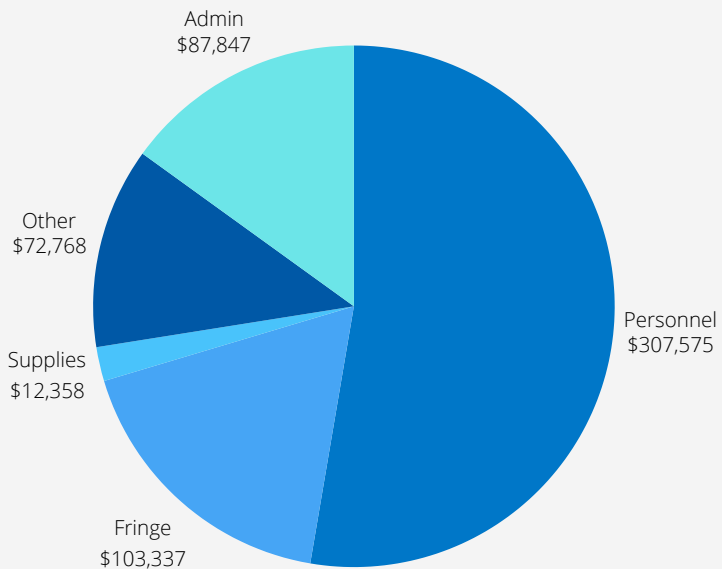
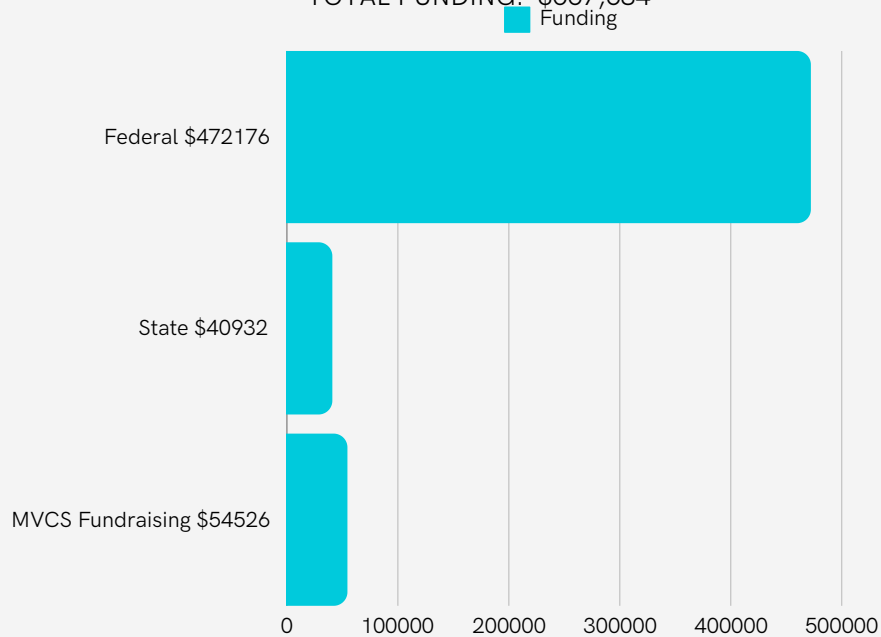
Father Engagement



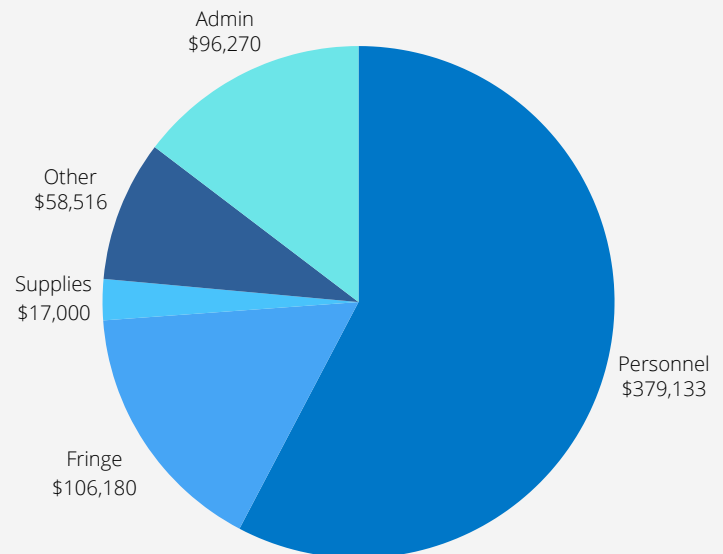
# HEAD START FUNDING AND EXPENDITURES

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.**

This is a great program and has helped my family for both of my kids. We have gotten more out of the program than I can put into words

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Head Start 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, daily living skills.

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We are 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.

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Head Start made me think more about the time I have with my kids and how to can make it even better!

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Our Head Start Home Visitor always encourages me as a parent to speak Spanish with my child to help develop his communication/language. She also encourages me to cook with my son and have him be apart of my Dominican culture in that way.

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With the lessons for both our daughter and us, we have learned so much about learning to communicate with her. She is growing so fast and we now have a plan in place that helps her express herself and gives us insight into how she is learning.

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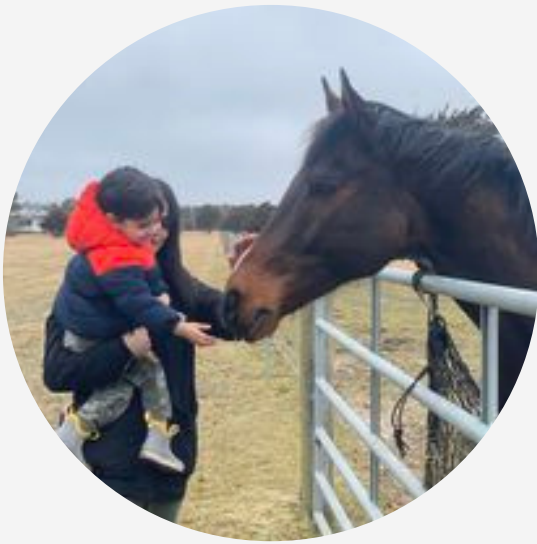
I learned the importance of him being part of the community and that we are his first teachers.

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Without a doubt, Head Start has been fundamental for the changes I have made to better meet my son's needs; it provides me with contact with very useful subjects and courses and activities that help him develop where he needs to.

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Activities done together are an opportunity for quality time and a powerful tool for dialogue and connection. And when we give our daughter quality time, dialogue, question her frequently, and give her decision-making power, I believe she feels understood and connected, and when she is like this, I feel she tends to deal better with her feelings, has more ease in listening, following instructions, and, ultimately, obeying.



*"As Head Start Home Visitors always say, moms and dads are the first teachers and I heard that the first time at Head Start. That made me see the responsibility I have towards my children and made me want to do it all even better."*