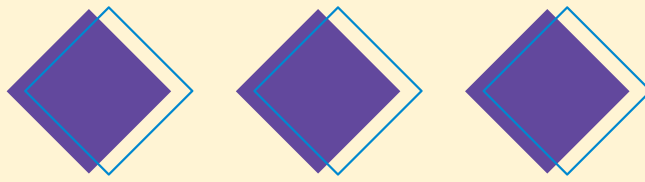


Early Head Start



ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

“Our home visitor was the missing piece to understanding our child’s behaviors. Her support allowed our child to thrive and also gave unconditional support for the parents and allowed us to achieve so many goals as a family.”



Who We Are

Martha's Vineyard Early 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. 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 a former Head Start parent whose children are now enrolled in our public school system.

Our Staff

Martha's Vineyard Community Services Chief Executive Officer: Dean Teague

Fiscal Officer: Glen Mattera

Program Director: Heather Quinn

Program Coordinator: Cindy Flanders

Home Visitors: Jean Crocker, Amy Heil, Louise Hazelton, Marina Hahn Bonjour

Bilingual Community Engagement Provider: Suelen Fernandes

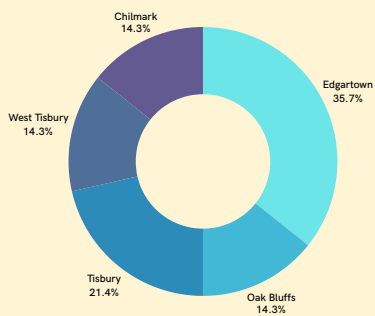
Our Home Visitors, our Program Coordinator, and our Bilingual Community Engagement staff are former Head Start parents.

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

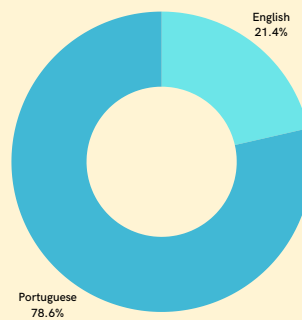
Who We Serve

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. Recruitment efforts include community wide events and collaborations to reach the widest demographics.

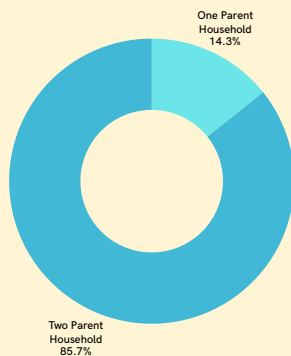
Family Location



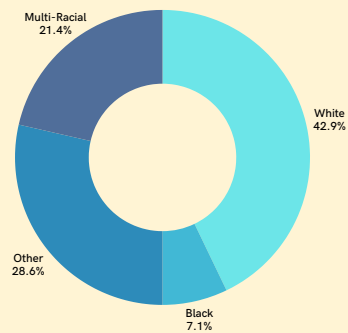
Home Language



Family Structure



Racial Composition



Total Number of Families Served: 14

Total Number of Children Served: 14

Average Monthly Enrollment: 7.58



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 in 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. Due to the lack of local dental providers, we have developed a partnership with Polished LLC to provide dental screenings and preventive services to our enrolled children and families twice annually. We can also refer siblings and caregivers to Polished for care. We have purchased vision and hearing screening equipment which is administered to enrolled children by our Health Consultant. A local eye doctor provides comprehensive vision screenings for some older enrolled children and our local audiologist will take referrals when indicated. 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%

Dental Home: 29%

Health Insurance: 100%

Nutrition Services: 13%

Vision Screening: 64%

Hearing Screening: 64%

Dental Screening: 79%

Up to Date Immunizations: 79%



Nutrition Services

Food insecurity continues to climb in our community. The number of people served by the Island Food Pantry has doubled since 2019; now 1 in 5 year round residents of Martha's Vineyard are in need of support. 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
Martha's Vineyard Family Center
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



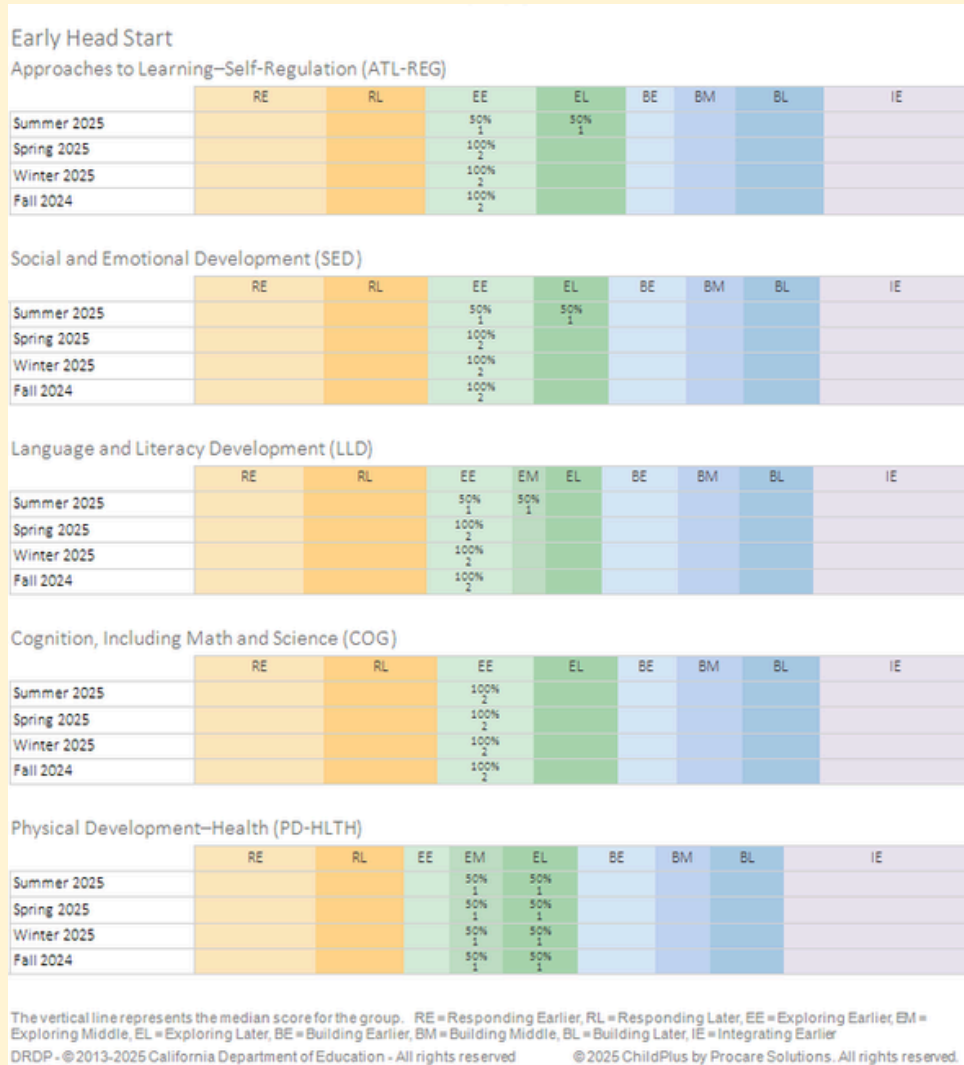
The Farm Institute
Rhythm of Life
MVCS Family Support Center



"Being far away from family and friends was difficult before Head Start; now the community provides the best support and guidance for our family."

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.



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 five children to Head Start, two children moved out of service range 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.

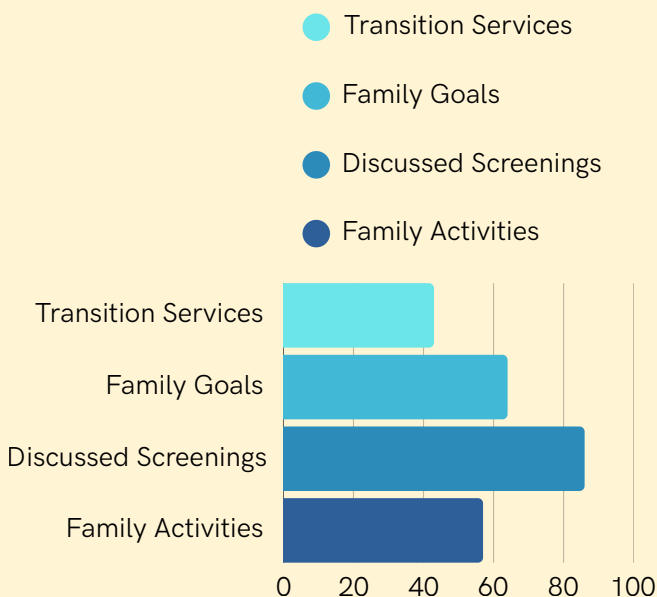
Head Start collaborated with CONNECT to End Violence, a program under the umbrella of Martha's Vineyard Community Services, to offer Keeping Kids Safe, a program of The Children's Trust. This workshop is designed to help parents learn how to use age-appropriate language, understand the signs and symptoms 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 Solutions, an evidence-based series of seven sessions to help parents and family caregivers to promote positive and effective parenting behaviors, which will, in turn, promote children's social and emotional development and address the challenging behaviors of children ages 2-5 years.

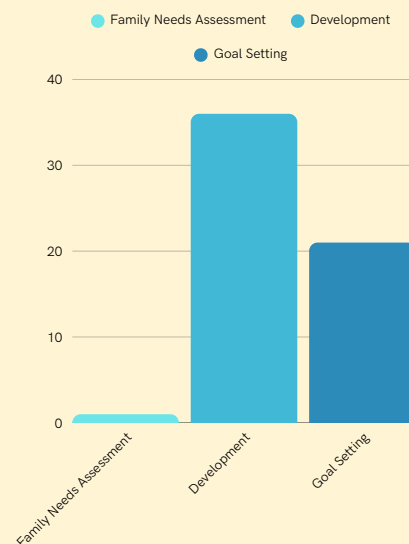
Head Start collaborated with the Family Center to offer the twelve week series Parenting Journey, an evidence-based, strength-focused program designed to help all of parents increase their confidence and resilience while laying the groundwork for strong family relationships.

We also offered a monthly parent group facilitated by our behavior consultant Jeanine Fitzgerald on building relationships that empower maximum outcomes for children. With focus on different temperament styles, parents were able to explore strategies appropriate to their child's temperament style.

Percentage of Families Receiving Specific Services

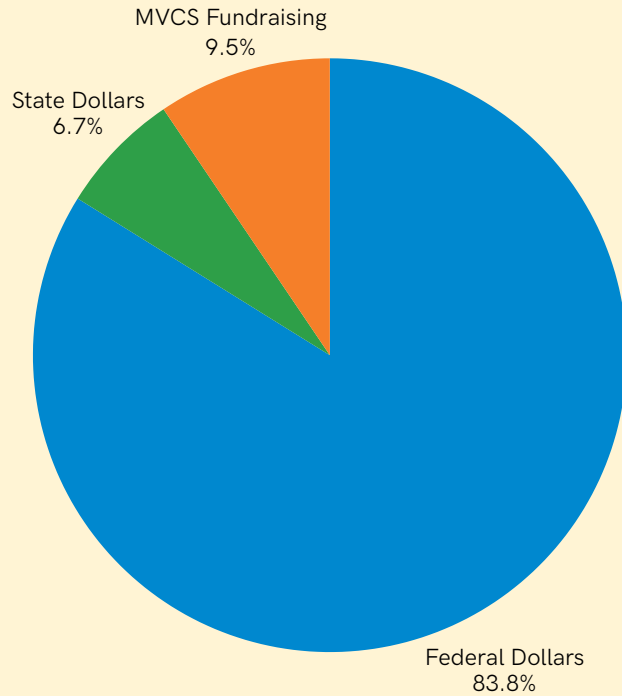


Percentage of Father Engagement in Specific Activities

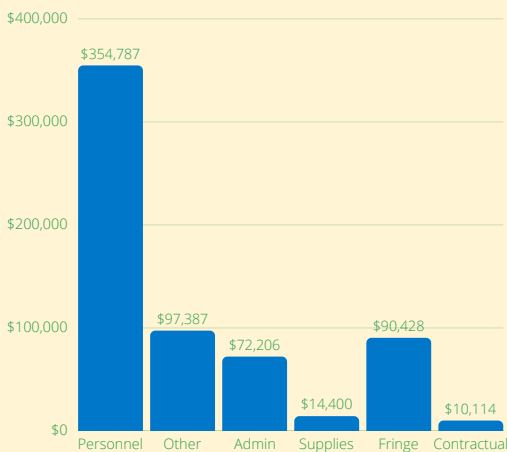


Head Start/Early Head Start Funding and Expenditures

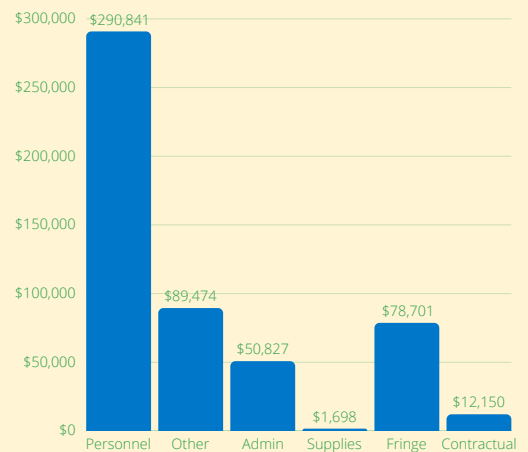
FY 21 FUNDING BUDGETED
(From Agency FY24 Board-Approved
Budget)
TOTAL FUNDING: \$611,875



Budgeted



Actual





“Early Head Start helped us get a new pediatrician for our son Henry when we moved to the island. The program also helped with the process of getting him into school. It has been great to participate in Early Head Start. ”

“With the encouragement of the home visitor my child found a love for a wider variety of foods, including vegetables.”

“As a family, we are able to learn our child’s special interests and explore together.”.



“ At socializations, I loved seeing my daughter interact with other children, learning and discovering new things and places she loves.”

“The honest feedback about observations helped me see behaviors differently and I was provided many ideas to help improve based on my child’s specific needs and interests.”

“I was always provided resources and helped with best practices/people in the community to help support my child’s needs.”

