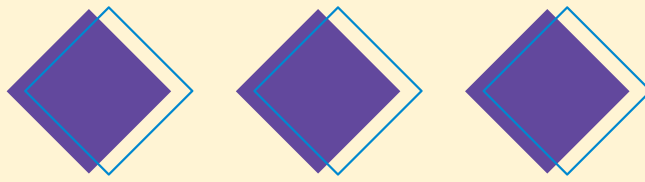


Head Start



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

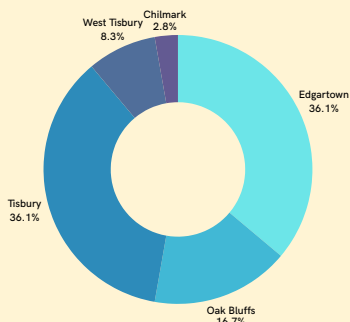
Our Home Visitors, our Program Coordinator, and our Bilingual Community Engagement staff are former Head Start parents.

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.

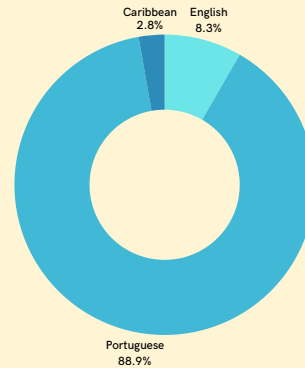
Who We Serve

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.

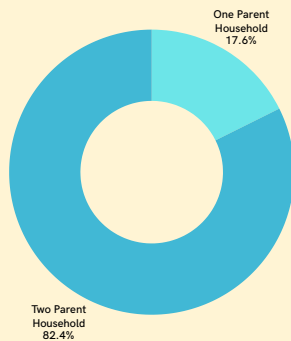
Family Location



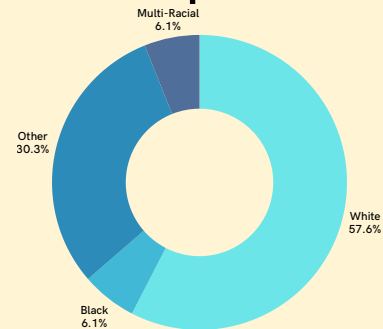
Home Language



Family Structure



Racial Composition



Total Number of Families Served: 34
Total Number of Children Served: 36
Average Monthly Enrollment: 26.1



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. Vineyard Health Care Access 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: 92%

Vision Screening: 97%

Dental Home: 17%

Hearing Screening: 78%

Health Insurance: 100%

Dental Screening: 75%

Nutrition Services: 86%

Up to Date Immunizations: 81%



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
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
The Farm Institute
Rhythm of Life



"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.

Children	Responding Earlier Early Infancy	Responding Later	Exploring Earlier	Exploring Middle	Exploring Later	Building Earlier	Building Middle	Building Later	Integrating Earlier Kindergarten
Approaches to Learning-Self-Regulation (ATL-REG)									
Spring 2025	14			1			7	5	1
Winter 2025	14			1		5	5	3	
Fall 2024	14			1	4	3	6		
Social and Emotional Development (SED)									
Spring 2025	14				1	2	7	2	2
Winter 2025	14				1	7	3	3	
Fall 2024	14			1	2	6	5		
Language and Literacy Development (LLD)									
Spring 2025	14				1		5	8	
Winter 2025	14				1	1	9	3	
Fall 2024	14			1	1	5	5	2	
Language (LANG)									
Spring 2025	14				1		4	9	
Winter 2025	14				1	2	8	3	
Fall 2024	14				3	3	6	2	
Literacy Development (LT)									
Spring 2025	14					2	5	6	1
Winter 2025	14					2	10	2	
Fall 2024	14				1	6	5	2	
Cognition, Including Math and Science (COG)									
Spring 2025	14					1	2	7	4
Winter 2025	14					1	3	10	
Fall 2024	13			1		1	4	6	1
Math (MATH)									
Spring 2025	14					1	1	7	4
Winter 2025	14					1	3	8	2
Fall 2024	13			1		1	4	6	1
Science (SCI)									
Spring 2025	14					1	1	7	5
Winter 2025	14					1	2	10	1
Fall 2024	14					2	4	8	
Physical Development-Health (PD-HLTH)									
Spring 2025	14					1	5	8	
Winter 2025	14					3	6	5	
Fall 2024	13				1	4	5	3	
Physical Development (PD)									
Spring 2025	14					1	5	7	1
Winter 2025	14					3	7	4	
Fall 2024	13				1	6	2	4	
Health (HLTH)									
Spring 2025	14					1	5	8	
Winter 2025	14					5	4	5	
Fall 2024	14				1	4	7	2	

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 from the time of their enrollment, but 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 thirteen children to Kindergarten, four children moved out of service range and three children left the program. We continue to support transitions to kindergarten by preparing transition reports for the receiving schools, participating in transition meetings, and hosting kindergarten playdates at each elementary school.

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.

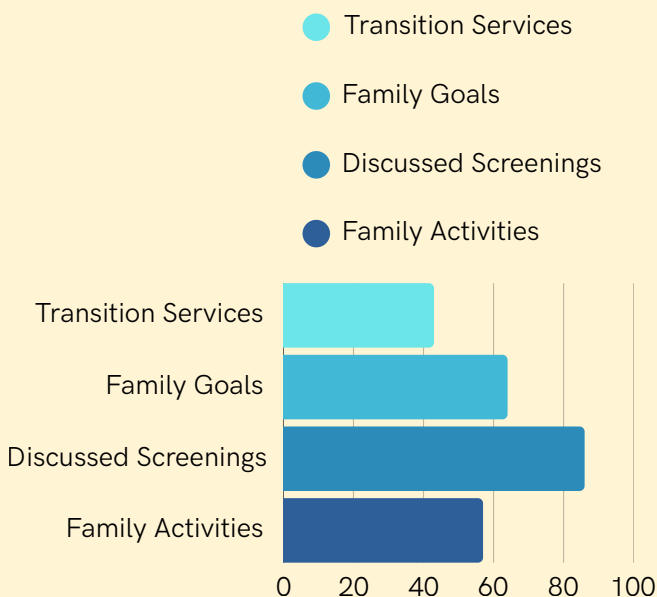
Head Start collaborated with CONNECT to End Violence, a program under the umbrella of Martha's Vineyard Community Services, to offer Keeping Kids Safe, a program of The Children's Trust. This workshop is designed to help parents learn how to use age-appropriate language, understand the signs and symptoms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

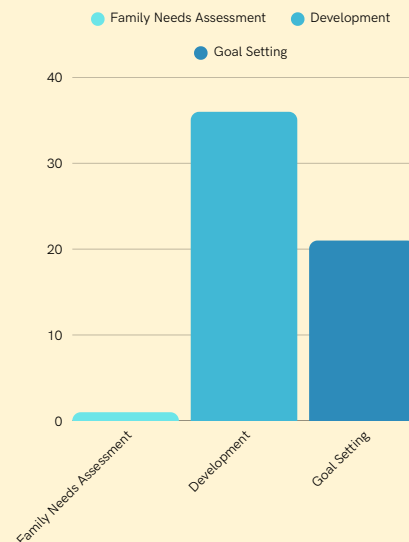
Head Start collaborated with the Family Center to offer the twelve week series Parenting Journey, an evidence-based, strength-focused program designed to help all of parents increase their confidence and resilience while laying the groundwork for strong family relationships.

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

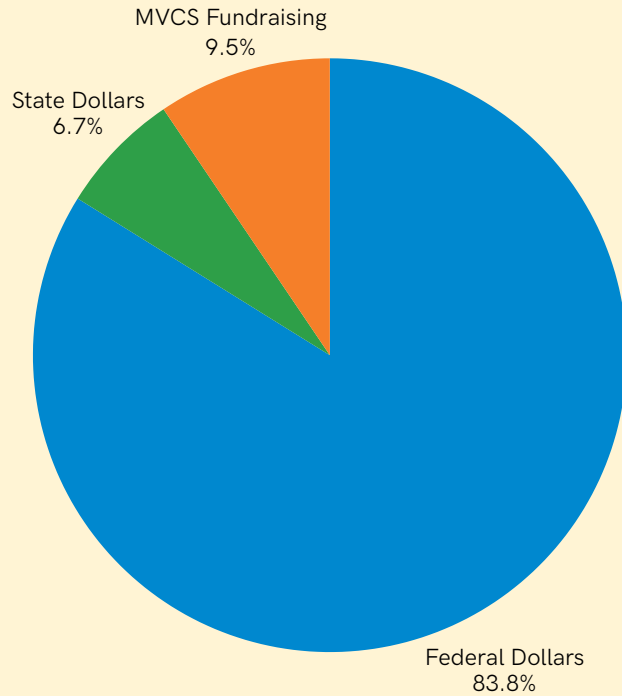


Percentage of Father Engagement in Specific Activities

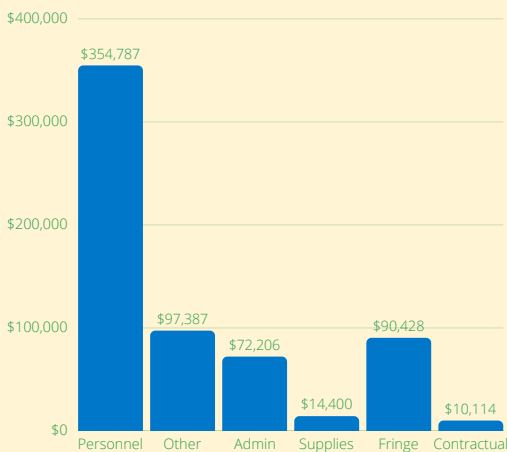


Head Start/Early Head Start Funding and Expenditures

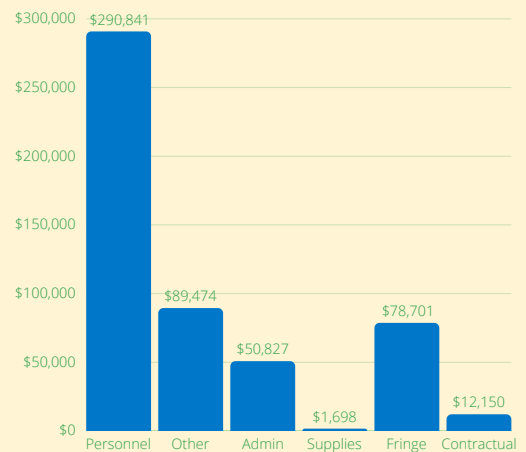
FY 24 FUNDING BUDGETED
(From Agency FY24 Board-Approved
Budget)
TOTAL FUNDING: \$611,875



Budgeted



Actual





"Our home visitor was amazing and she was incredibly knowledgeable and skilled. I can't say enough good things about her and how much she made me feel supported and cared for!"

"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."



"Absolutely amazing program that truly helps families succeed and connect with the community."

"The parenting education available helped my supporting and understanding my child. Events like sensory friendly movies also allowed my child to enjoy things that would typically be overwhelming for them."

"Our home visitor helped me to identify learning opportunities in the context of daily routines and activities; for example helping with the things home, like taking the dishes away"

