



# EARLY HEAD START

## 2 0 2 3 A N N U A L R E P O R T

### Family Engagement

Early Head Start (EHS) staff believe that parents are a child’s first teachers and therefore have the most influence in their child’s life. EHS offers many exciting learning opportunities to adults seeking to enhance parenting skills and experience positive parent/child interactions. Families are encouraged to participate in the program design and family activities. Below are just a few of the opportunities:

- Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh Child Safety Program
- EHS parent committee meetings
- Local parent meetings
- Policy Council
- Transition activities
- Book lending library
- Health Advisory Committee
- Positive parenting peer support
- Active recruiting for EHS programs
- Poison control activities

### Education

The EHS program follows the Parent as Teachers ‘Born to Learn’ curriculum. For pregnant families, we supplement the Parents as Teachers curriculum with ‘Partners for a Healthy Baby’ curriculum. With parental permission, staff complete developmental and sensory screenings with incoming children to identify strengths and areas in need of support. Children’s educational goals are individualized and developed based on screening results, on-going assessments and parental input.

### Health

The Early Head Start program understands children and pregnant mothers who have an ongoing source of continued, accessible health care and receive preventive treatment are more likely to thrive in their environment, community and succeed in school.

The health team and staff support these families in a multitude of ways including but not limited to ensuring proper prenatal and postnatal care, if needed, helping to find pediatric care within their community, maintaining up-to-date Early and Periodic Screenings, assisting families to follow the EPSDT schedule, and tracking lead and hemoglobin screenings. Interpreting services are utilized to aid ESL families navigate their medical needs with pediatric services, dental, Early Intervention, health screenings, and WIC.

Expanding on the importance of screenings for our Early Head Start children. All three socialization sites have successfully demonstrated, completed and were given the certificate of compliance (Lead Hazard Free) based upon the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requirements.

Staff are available to answer any questions that families may have regarding their children’s health, growth, and development.

### COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Acculturation for Justice, Access and Peace Outreach (AJAPO)
- AIU Adult Education Program
- AIU Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness
- AIU Family Centers
- AIU Stand for Children
- Allegheny Co. Courts Family Division
- Allegheny Co. Health Department Dental Unit
- Alliance for Infants and Toddlers
- Bair Foundation Foster Care Services
- Barnes & Noble Settlers Ridge
- Beverly’s Birthdays Baby Showers
- Boys and Girls Club of Carnegie
- Catholic Charities
- Carlow University
- Children, Youth and Families Office
- Children’s Hospital South
- Choices Pregnancy Center
- Fatherhood Collaborative Council
- Food Pantries
- Fred Rogers Institute
- Healthy Child
- Health Centers
- Hello Neighbor
- Jewish Families
- JFCS ISAC Program
- North Hills Community Outreach
- PA Association for Infant Mental Health
- PBS/WQED
- Pittsburgh and Allegheny Co. Together
- Pittsburgh Poison Center
- Salvation Army
- Safe and Healthy Homes
- School Districts
- Second Chance Foster Care Program
- United Healthcare Managed Care Organization
- UPMC Highmark Wholecare Nurse Case Manager
- UPMC 4 Kids
- UPMC 4 You Managed Care Organization
- United Way
- UPMC Children’s Hospital
- Wesley Family Services
- Women, Infants, and Children
- Women’s Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh

**2023 AIU EARLY HEAD START  
FEDERAL BUDGET**

Salaries:	\$441,187
Fringe Benefits:	\$322,875
Equipment:	\$0
Supplies:	\$24,890
Contractual:	\$33,264
Other Costs:	\$64,072
Other Costs (Training):	\$18,130
Indirect Cost:	\$72,353
USDA Subsidy:	\$0
<b>Total Federal Program Funds:</b>	<b>\$976,771</b>
<b>Non-Federal Share:</b>	<b>\$224,296</b>
<b>Total Federal, State and Non-Federal Share:</b>	<b>\$1,201,067</b>

Approved March 25, 2024 by  
Early Head Start/Head Start  
Policy Council

Approved by  
Early Head Start/Head Start  
Governing Body

The AIU's Financial Audit was prepared by  
Maher-Duessel, ending June 30, 2023. No  
findings or questioned costs were reported.



## Federal Review

THE EHS PROGRAM underwent a federal review from October 3 through October 6, 2022. Based on the information gathered, the AIU Early Head Start program successfully passed the Focus Area Two Review and was in compliance in all program areas.

### EARLY HEAD START FUNDED ENROLLMENT

- Federal – 72 children
- Year to Date Served – 86 children
- Average Monthly Enrollment – 54%
- Eligible Children Served – 100%
- Medical Exams – 83% complete
- Dental Care – 70% complete
- Immunizations – 94% complete



## Recruiting Opportunities Through 2023

The AIU's EHS program has established relationships with community stakeholders and programs both internal and external to support recruitment efforts. The following provided recruitment opportunities for the program.

- AIU community programs
- Local community libraries
- Community Centers
- Allegheny County Housing Authority
- Nurse case managers
- Foster care agencies
- Adoption centers
- Pregnancy centers
- Pediatric offices
- ELRC 5
- Jewish Family Children Services
- Allegheny Family Network
- Allegheny County Family Courts
- Allegheny Co. Health Dept. Family and Child Health Programs

# EHS PROGRESS REPORT 2022-2023

Domains Birth to One Year	Fall 2022/2023			Spring 2022/2023		
	% Below	% Meeting	% Exceeding	% Below	% Meeting	% Exceeding
Social-Emotional	16.7%	50%	33.3%	0%	83.3%	16.7%
Physical	16.7%	66.7%	16.7%	0%	50%	50%
Language	16.7%	83.3%	0%	0%	100%	0%
Cognitive	33.3%	50%	16.7%	0%	83.3%	16.7%
Literacy	0%	50%	50%	50%	66.7%	33.3%
Mathematics	0%	83.3%	16.7%	50%	100%	0%

Domains One to Two Years	Fall 2022/2023			Spring 2022/2023		
	% Below	% Meeting	% Exceeding	% Below	% Meeting	% Exceeding
Social-Emotional	12.5%	75%	12.5%	12.5%	87.5%	0%
Physical	25%	62.5%	12.5%	0%	87.5%	12.5%
Language	12.5%	87.5%	0%	37.5%	62.5%	0%
Cognitive	0%	100%	0%	25%	62.5%	12.5%
Literacy	0%	87.5%	12.5%	12.5%	87.5%	0%
Mathematics	12.5%	75%	12.5%	37.5%	62.5%	0%

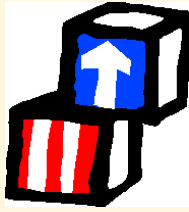
The EHS program provides the groundwork for a child's life-long education and its impact can be seen in preparing children for their entry into kindergarten. EHS children are assessed four times per program year using the GOLD Assessment Tool. This tool provides a structure for observing growth and development of children birth to three-years-old. It is structured around five areas of development: social-emotional, literacy and language, cognitive development and physical development.

The assessment is based on observation records that are documented by staff and the family. The data is broken down by age birth to one year and one-to-two years.

Child assessment data is shared with staff, parents and community members. Data is aggregated and analyzed four times a year. School readiness goals are revised as the data shows a need.



# Early Head Start



To enroll: 412-722-4188

## 2022-2023 GOVERNING BODY

Mr. Robert Shages  
Ms. Lisa Trainor  
Mr. David Schaap  
Mr. Roger Tachoir

## 2022-2023 POLICY COUNCIL COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

Pam Zimmerman

## 2022-2023 POLICY COUNCIL PARENTS

Kristina Arndt  
Jamie Christian  
Nicole Mallon-Loeb  
Darrena McFadden  
Whitney Washington

## EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION

**Shannon McGee**  
Program Director,  
Early Childhood Education Services

**Beverly Mannion**  
Assistant Program Director,  
Early Head Start

## VISION

We will create life-changing opportunities to help develop healthy and successful families that meet their goals.

## MISSION

AIU Early Head Start provides early childhood education and social and emotional development in nurturing environments. We connect families with many organizations to provide services that strengthen and prepare them to achieve their fullest potential. At Early Head Start, we partner with families, infants, and toddlers to foster success for preschool and life.

## Allegheny Intermediate Unit Early Head Start Program

475 E. Waterfront Dr. • Homestead, PA 15120  
412-394-5700 • aiu3.net

# School Readiness Goals

EHS maintains that the foundation for school readiness for infants and toddlers begins in pregnancy and continues for the first three years. The EHS school readiness goals are incorporated into the curriculum.

**Approaches to Learning:** Children will show emerging curiosity in their environment and with activities. Children will show an increasing awareness of interactions with peers and adults.

*Families will learn ways to discover and implement naturally occurring events/routines.*

**Social Emotional Development:** Children will increase their ability to cope with familiar and unfamiliar situations, and to manage their own behaviors. Children will increase their ability to express feelings, needs and wants.

*Families will help children prepare for transitions and unfamiliar situations, and will use feeling words to label emotions that children are experiencing.*

**Physical Well-Being and Motor Development:** Children will develop increasing control and coordination of their large muscle groups. Children will increase eye-hand coordination while manipulating and exploring objects.

*Families will provide an environment where children can explore and offer objects children can hold in their hands.*

*Families will work with Early Head Start staff to find a health home, schedule and keep appointments.*

**Language and Literacy:** Children will respond to frequently heard sounds and words and will use a variety of sounds and motions to communicate. Children will increase their understanding of words and gestures and will increase engagement in age-appropriate conversation.

*Families will increase the amount of time they talk throughout the day. They will also describe actions and new sounds or experiences, and will repeat and extend words and phrases with their children.*

**Cognitive and General Knowledge:** Children will increase their understanding of their environment and will increase their ability to plan before taking action.

*Families will provide opportunities for children to explore their environment and will help children learn to plan their own activities.*

**Oral Health and School Readiness:** Tooth decay is the most common chronic childhood disease, affecting more than one-fourth of U.S. children 2-5 years-old.<sup>1</sup> Children enrolled in the EHS and Head Start programs are the most vulnerable population for oral health disparities. Left untreated, the pain and infection caused by tooth decay can result in problems with eating, speech and learning. In an effort to help battle this silent disease, EHS continues to participate in the Oral Health Task Force Managed Care Head Start Liaison Project and the Cavity Free Kids Program. EHS continues to connect families to ongoing community sources of accessible oral health care. Good oral health is vital to school success and promotes learning in all developmental areas.

<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Preventing cavities, gum disease, tooth loss and oral cancers: At a glance (2011).

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The Allegheny Intermediate Unit is an equal opportunity education institution and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, ancestry, place of birth, national origin, marital status, familial status, genetic information, pregnancy, handicap/disability, status as a handler or trainer of support or guide animals, or any other legally protected characteristic in its educational programs, services, facilities, activities or employment practices as required by Title IX of the 1972 Educational Amendments, Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 Regulations of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1975, Section 204 Regulations of the 1984 Carl D. Perkins Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act, or any other applicable federal, state, or local law. Any person who believes that s/he has been subjected to discrimination shall report all incidents of such conduct to Erin Koebel, Director of Human Resources and Labor Relations, Title IX Coordinator, Allegheny Intermediate Unit, 475 East Waterfront Drive, Homestead, PA 15120. 412-394-5957 erin.koebel@aiu3.net.