

**Blue Ridge Community Action, Inc.
Head Start and Early Head Start
Annual Report to the Public
7/1/19 - 6/30/20**

Grant Number: 04CH010159-000



HEAD START

Funding

US Department of Health and Human Services – Head Start	\$2,082,375
CACFP	137,104
BRCA Local Contribution	7,656
Total	\$2,227,135

Major Budget Categories

	Planned	Actual
Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$1,462,932	\$1,480,451
Food and Nutrition Supplies	\$134,169	\$99,281
Educational Supplies	\$15,000	\$51,783
Technology	\$53,568	\$58,055
Indirect Cost	\$305,507	\$291,374

Poverty Information

79% of the children served were income-eligible (up to 100% of income guidelines) for the program based on poverty guidelines, receiving SSI, foster care placement, homeless or receiving TANF funds. 11% had incomes between 100% - 130%. 10% had incomes over 130%.

According to census statistics, there are approximately 847 low-income 3-5 year olds in Burke County and 631 low-income 3-5 year olds in Caldwell County. BRCA served 124 children in Burke County which represents 15% of the eligible population. BRCA served 112 children in Caldwell County which represents 18% of the eligible population.

Number of Children Served: 236

Number of Families Served: 223

Audit and Review Results

Audit – There were no audit findings.

Review – The most recent review (Focus Area 2 and CLASS) was conducted in January 2018. There were no findings.

Funded Enrollment

BRCA's funded enrollment for Head Start of 216 was maintained every day of the program year.

COVID-19 and Head Start

The BRCA Head Start program operated on a normal, in-class schedule until COVID forced the closure of in-class program. From March 21, 2020 - May 21, 2020, the program operated virtually, with staff making at least 3 weekly contacts with each family. An assessment was conducted to ascertain needs each week. Families were provided with school supplies (crayons, markers, scissors, books, paper, etc.) and referrals were made to address immediate needs such as food and housing.

From June 15, 2020 -August 21, 2020, BRCA provided a summer program for children entering kindergarten in August and children with disabilities. 148 children attended the 5 hour, 5 days a week, in-class program.

Average Annual Attendance

The average annual daily attendance for Program Year 2019-20 was 81%.

Medical and Dental

225 (95%) of children received dental exams and 218 (92%) of children received medical exams. No children required medical treatment. Of the 11 children that required dental treatment, 10 (99%) received treatment. 84% of children have health insurance. 97% of children have received appropriate immunizations.

Disability Information

92 children with disabilities were enrolled in the program and received services.

Parent Involvement Activities

The success of BRCA's Head Start program relies on the strong involvement of parents. Parents are always welcome in the center and encouraged to participate in every aspect of the program. Parents are involved in program policy-making and operations and volunteer in the classrooms during non-COVID times. Parents serve as members of Policy Council and center Parent Committees that include the following topics: nutrition, health, dental care, literacy, early childhood education, disability awareness, kindergarten transition, behavior management and other topic of interest to parents. 455 volunteers provided various services to the Head Start program. 443 of these volunteers were parents. 54 males participated in program activities.

School Readiness

BRCA's Head Start and Early Head Start programs prepare children for kindergarten by utilizing the following strategies:

BRCA uses the Creative Curriculum, a state-approved, research-based curriculum that is aligned with the state kindergarten standards.

At the beginning of the year, all Head Start children receive a developmental screen using the *LAP-D*. Early Head Start children receive a developmental screening using *Ages and Stages*. Teachers maintain detailed notes and observations throughout the year using cc.NetGold. Results of on-going assessments are shared with parents three times a year during conferences and home visits. Individualized lesson plans are prepared based on each child needs.

BRCA partners with Burke County Smart Start and Caldwell County Schools program to provide dual enrollment in Head Start and North Carolina Pre-Kindergarten Program (NCPK), a state-funded kindergarten preparedness program.

BRCA teachers possess the required qualifications and experience necessary to provide each child with a high quality early childhood education. The agency ensures teachers receive on-going and quality training and education. 100% of teachers and assistants have at least a two-year degree. As a result of implementing these strategies children entering kindergarten transitioned successfully.

The School Readiness Plan was developed as a result of staff, Head Start parents, the School Readiness Committee and school system staff input. The purpose of this collaboration was to align the school readiness goals with the Head Start Child Development Early Learning Framework, State Early Learning guidelines and the expectations of the locate school systems. BRCA's goal is to effectively prepare all Head

Start children and their families for a successful transition to Kindergarten and ongoing success in the public school. The program has developed a School Readiness Committee that meets two times each year. The purpose of this committee is to monitor the effectiveness of the School Readiness Plan, encourage input from Head Start parents, input from the school system and recommend amendments to the plan if needed.

The teaching staff has advanced education and has been provided training on how to achieve successful child transitions. The agency works closely with the school system to achieve all areas of the school readiness plan. With parent permission, the school systems have agreed to provide yearly bench mark reports on all of the Head Start children who participated in the BRCA Head Start program. BRCA will receive a report on each child or group of children from Kindergarten through second grade. The plan is to analyze this information and use it to better train staff, review the curriculum for effectiveness (does it support the five essential domains of school readiness), look at classroom materials and plan accordingly to ensure that all children are prepared for kindergarten. During the 2019-20 program year, 112 children (100% of eligible five year olds) successfully transitioned to kindergarten.



EARLY HEAD START

Funding

US Department of Health and Human Services – Early Head Start	\$272,450
CACFP	\$ 14,107
Total	\$286,557

Major Budget Categories

	Planned	Actual
Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$181,822	\$159,893
Food and Nutrition Supplies	\$9,444	\$9,900
Educational Supplies	\$4,576	\$8,940
Technology	\$13,600	\$8,552
Indirect Cost	\$38,758	\$31,469

Number of Children Served: 34

Number of Families Served: 34

Poverty Information

88% of the children served were income-eligible for the program based on poverty guidelines, receiving SSI, foster care placement, homeless or receiving TANF funds. 12% had incomes between 100% and 130%. There were no children enrolled with incomes over 130%.

According to census statistics, there are approximately 3,047 low-income birth-two year olds in Burke County and 2,693 low-income birth-two year olds in Caldwell County. BRCA served 16 children in Burke County which represents less than 1% of the eligible population. BRCA served 18 children in Caldwell County which represents less than 1% of the eligible population.

Audit and Review Results

Audit – There were no audit findings.

Review – The most recent review (Focus Area 2) was conducted in January 2018. There were no findings.

Funded Enrollment

BRCA's funded enrollment for Early Head Start of 16 was maintained every day of the program year.

COVID-19 and Early Head Start

The BRCA Early Head Start program operated on a normal, in-class schedule until COVID forced the closure of in-class program. From March 21, 2020 - May 30, 2020, the program operated virtually, with staff making at least 3 weekly contacts with each family. An assessment was conducted to ascertain needs each week. Families were provided with school supplies (crayons, markers, scissors, books, paper, etc.) and referrals were made to address immediate needs such as food and housing. On June 1, 2020, EHS returned to the regular classroom setting and operated on a normal schedule until the end of the program year.

Average Annual Attendance

The average annual daily attendance for Program Year 2019-20 was 82%

Medical

33 (99%) children received medical exams. No children required medical treatment. 33 children (99%) have health insurance. 33 (99%) of children have received appropriate immunizations.

Disability Information

6 children with disabilities were enrolled in the program and received services.

Parent Involvement Activities

The success of BRCA's Early Head Start program relies on the strong involvement of parents. Parents are always welcome in the center and encouraged to participate in every aspect of the program. Parents are involved in program policy-making and operations and volunteer in the classrooms, during non-COVID time. Parents serve as members of Policy Council and center Parent Committees that include the following topics: nutrition, health, dental care, literacy, early childhood education, disability awareness, kindergarten transition, behavior management and other topic of interest to parents. 29 volunteers provided various services to the Early Head Start program. 27 of these volunteers were parents. 5 males participated in program activities.

Average Annual Attendance for Head Start and Early Head Start combined was 81.5%