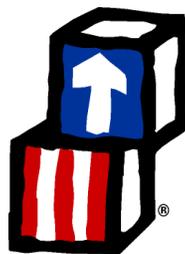


**Blue Ridge Community Action, Inc.
Head Start and Early Head Start
Annual Report to the Public
7/1/22 - 6/30/23**

Grant Number: 04CH011730-000



HEAD START

Funding

US Department of Health and Human Services – Head Start	\$2,115,072
CACFP	202,372
BRCA Local Contribution	139,314
Total	\$2,456,758

Major Budget Categories

	Planned	Actual
Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$1,528,389	\$1,546,691
Food and Nutrition Supplies	\$138,777	\$147,410
Educational Supplies	\$0	\$14,700
Technology	\$57,729	\$48,672
Indirect Cost	\$306,680	\$302,836

Poverty Information

82% of the children served were income eligible for the program based on poverty guidelines, foster care placement, homeless food stamps or receiving TANF funds. 9% had incomes between 100% - 130%. 9% 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 122 children in Burke County which represents 15% of the eligible population. BRCA served 88 children in Caldwell County which represents 14% of the eligible population.

Number of Children Served: 210

Number of Families Served: 196

Audit and Review Results

Audit – There were no audit findings.

Review – The review for Focus Area 2 and CLASS was conducted in January 2018. There were no findings. Focus Area 1 review was conducted in January-February 2022. There were no findings. Focus Area 2 review was conducted in December 2023. BRCA has not received a report as of January 2024.

Funded Enrollment

BRCA's funded enrollment for Head Start of 198 was maintained every day of the program year.

COVID-19 and Head Start

There were no center closings due to Covid.

Average Annual Attendance

The average annual daily attendance for Program Year 2022-2023 was 83%.

Medical and Dental

207 (99%) of children received dental exams and 202 (97%) of children received medical exams. 35 of the children required and received medical treatment. Of the 35 children that required dental

treatment, 31 (89%) received treatment. 210 (100%) of children have health insurance. 210 (100%) of children have received appropriate immunizations.

Disability Information

90 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 policymaking and operations and volunteer in the classrooms during non-COVID times. Parents serve as members of Policy Council and center Parent Committees that include training on the following topics: nutrition, financial management, health, dental care, literacy, early childhood education, disability awareness, kindergarten transition, behavior management and other topic of interest to parents. 186 volunteers provided various services to the Head Start program. 183 of these volunteers were parents or former parents. 108 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's 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 or are in school to complete their 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 local 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 benchmark 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 2022-2023 program year, 100 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	\$379,245
CACFP	31,328
BRCA Local Contribution	0
Total	\$410,573

Major Budget Categories

	Planned	Actual
Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$279,262	\$268,489
Food and Nutrition Supplies	\$14,016	\$23,548
Educational Supplies	\$3,494	\$3,466
Technology	0	0
Indirect Cost	\$55,557	\$52,267

Number of Children Served: 45

Number of Families Served: 44

Poverty Information

91% of the children served were income-eligible for the program based on poverty guidelines, receiving SSI, foster care placement, homeless, food stamps or receiving TANF funds. 9% had incomes between 100% and 130%. 1% had 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 30 children in Burke County which represents less than 1% of the eligible population. BRCA served 15 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 review for Focus Area 2 and CLASS was conducted in January 2018. There were no findings. Focus Area 1 review was conducted in January-February 2022. There were no findings. Focus Area 2 review was conducted in December 2023. BRCA has not received a report as of January 2024.

Funded Enrollment

BRCA's funded enrollment for Early Head Start of 24 was maintained every day of the program year.

COVID-19 and Early Head Start

There were no center closings due to Covid.

Average Annual Attendance

The average annual daily attendance for Program Year 2022-2023 was 80%.

Medical

45 (100%) children received medical exams. 3 children required and received medical treatment. 45 children (100%) have health insurance. 45 (100%) of children have received appropriate immunizations.

Disability Information

16 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 policymaking 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. 25 volunteers provided various services to the Early Head Start program. 24 of these volunteers were parents or former parents. 18 males participated in program activities.

Average Annual Attendance for Head Start and Early Head Start combined was 82%.