



Cabarrus County, North Carolina

HEAD START
ANNUAL REPORT

2019-20
PROGRAM YEAR



Save the Children®



Head Start

Head Start Annual Report

Reflections from Our Director

Dear Friends,

I am proud to present the Annual Report for Save the Children's Head Start and Early Head Start programs in Cabarrus County, North Carolina.

The significance of Head Start can be found in the many "defining moments" that are captured each day in the memories of parents, children, and teachers.

Save the Children began providing Head Start and Early Head Start services to children in Cabarrus County just one year ago. During this past year, I have had the honor of serving as the first director for these programs, and it has been an honor working with area children, families and staff. At Save the Children, we are committed to making a difference in the lives of the children and families we serve. Our priority is to serve the most vulnerable and at-risk children and their families in our community, including children experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, and those with special needs.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the wonderful groups of parents who serve on committees and the Policy Council, our staff who remain focused and motivated, and our many community partners, school districts, and other contributors for their expertise, guidance and continuous support. It takes all of us working together to provide high-quality, early learning services to children, equipping them with the foundation for lifelong learning and success.

Head Start is recognized as a model preschool program for addressing the needs of the whole child. In every Save the Children Head Start classroom, we individualize services to support the cognitive, social and emotional development of each child served. Most importantly, we support the role of parents as their child's first and most important teacher. We believe that, in partnership with parents, we share a common purpose: each child's success in school and in life, meeting them where they are. We treat each person with respect, dignity, kindness and compassion, customizing services to meet individual needs. We build relationships that motivate families to create

and sustain positive changes in their own lives.

During the current pandemic, Save the Children Head Start has remained committed to serving the children and families of Cabarrus County. During the closure of center-based services, we launched a very comprehensive virtual learning platform to support our children's development. We also continued our family engagement support with parents to ensure they had the tools needed to remain safe during this time. In addition, we provided mental health workshops for our staff to ensure they had the tools needed to support our families and themselves.

We are proud of our accomplishments and want to share them with you. Please take time to learn about the great work we are doing for children and families in Cabarrus County.

Sincerely,

Christopher Felder, M.Ed.
Save the Children Head Start Program
Director North Carolina
cfelder@savechildren.org

Management Team

Christopher Felder, Program Director
Rocquel Rakes, Human Resources Manager
Jasmine Luckey, Administrative Assistant to Head Start Director
Sherry Parson, Health/Nutrition Manager
McKeeba Lindo, Education and Inclusion Manager
Leonard Barlow, Fiscal Coordinator
Ja'Ron Vanderhall, Program Data Coordinator
Jesus Vera, Facilities and Transportation Manager
Brittany Smith, Mental Health Specialist
TBA, Parent, Family, Community Engagement Manager

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About Cabarrus HeadStart

In July 2019, Save the Children was awarded \$1,974,606 in base and technical assistance funds to serve 102 Head Start and 16 Early Head Start center-based children in Cabarrus County, North Carolina. Area demographics show there are about 1,273 children ages five years and younger living in poverty in this county.

This year, we applied for \$1,325,360.00 to operate Head Start and Early Head Start programs in Cabarrus County from June 1, 2020 through May 31, 2021, and serve 118 children.



SavetheChildrenHeadStart Cabarrus County, NC

BY THE NUMBERS

Number of Centers	1
Total Children & Families Served	128
Children with Disabilities Served	9
Percentage of Eligible Children Served	100%
Number of Local Head Start Staff	7

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Save the Children provides families with a supportive and nurturing environment. Parent involvement is encouraged in virtually every area of the program. Parent involvement activities vary from center to center; however, they are similar in nature. From the very first meeting with families, parents are offered the opportunity to be involved in the program. Parents attend center-level parent meetings and serve on Program advisory boards, such as the Policy Council and the Health Advisory Committee. Parents are always encouraged to share their ideas about program improvement, work on projects at home, network with other parents, and volunteer in an area of interest.

Our Latino families are very important to our program, and we accommodate their needs by providing

interpreters and culturally-appropriate activities.

Mental Health

Save the Children supports a program-wide culture that promotes positive mental health and social and emotional well-being. Our mental health consultants help to ensure the timely and effective identification of and intervention in family and staff concerns about children’s mental health. Mental health professionals provided training or support on social and emotional development, behavior management, strategies for assisting children to develop self-regulation skills, and stress management. The mental health professionals continue to provide ongoing observations of individual children and their environment to assist in determining the need for intensive intervention or a formal evaluation by the local school district.

Health Services

Our goal is to ensure, through collaboration among families, staff, and health professionals, all child health and developmental concerns are identified, and children and families are linked to an ongoing source of continuous, accessible care to meet their basic health needs.

Health Data

Number of children with an ongoing source of continuous, accessible health care	72
Number of children with continuous, accessible dental care provided by a dentist	59
Children Who Received Medical Exams	64
Children Who Received Dental Exams	59

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PRE-KINDERGARTEN /KINDERGARTEN READINESS

Head Start defines school readiness as children possessing the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary for success in school and for later learning and life. One of the goals of Save the Children's Head Start programs is preparing children for kindergarten and engaging parents in the process of nurturing and educating their children. The outcomes of our children are evaluated based on the following school-readiness goals.

We Believe:

1. A parent is a child's first and best teacher.
2. When we identify families' needs and goals, and connect families with resources to address those needs and goals, the life of the child, family and community is improved.
3. Our program must reflect the needs and goals of children and families.
4. When families take an active role in their children's education, the learning is enhanced.
5. All children can learn at high levels regardless of background, experiences, or circumstances.
6. We must create a nurturing environment that enhances each child's individuality, creativity, self-expression, and cognitive growth.
7. We are all learners: staff, children, and families
8. We must provide high-quality, ongoing, professional development/coaching for staff to effectively accomplish goals.

With these beliefs, students and parents were provided several opportunities to learn about and prepare for the 2019-2020 program year. The Head Start program made an effort to prepare students and their families for Kindergarten by conducting transition meetings during the end of January and the beginning of February 2020. Families of children who enroll at the beginning of the program year, or at other times during the year, are provided with a packet of information about the Head Start program, including a copy of the parent handbook. Due to the pandemic, our children were unable to visit schools during a transition day. The program's family services staff worked with families to ensure they had the tools necessary to transition successfully to the child's next educational placement.

Teaching Strategies GOLD Outcomes

The Teaching Strategies GOLD growth summary, as of spring 2019, showed children meeting or exceeding expectations across domains.

- 80% in social and emotional development
- 78% in language development
- 77% in physical development
- 80% in cognitive development
- 64% in literacy development
- 67% in mathematics

Disabilities

Save the Children's Head Start programming in Cabarrus County is funded to provide services to 102 Head Start children and 16 Early Head Start children. During the 2019-2020 program year, we were unable to achieve the enrollment of 10% of children with diagnosed disabilities (11 children). We were able to reach an enrollment of nine children diagnosed with disabilities and receiving services; four additional children were referred for further assessment and evaluations.

Literacy

Our children had a number of books read to them at home during the program year. Every family in our program received over 50 books, which enabled each child to have an at-home library. The books reflected the language each family speaks at home, provided support for dual language learners, and furnished parents with developmentally-appropriate activities for home learning.



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LOOKING AHEAD

Building upon a successful 2019-20 program year, *Save the Children* continues to make school readiness our primary goal to ensure children in Cabarrus County are ready for Pre-kindergarten.

Save the Children has developed a birth-to-five strategic plan to help enhance the education services of all children enrolled. The plan outlines comprehensive strategies in the form of both short and long-term goals, in an effort to build capacity within the education content area. To enhance curriculum assessment and instruction, our set goals include streamlining procedures for data collection, unifying the implementation of curriculum, improving the application of assessment, CLASS™ and ITERS, and ensuring classrooms are completely supplied with materials.

We will partner with families to support their progress toward improved well-being and self-sufficiency. Parents will be able to participate in CSEFEL (Center on the Social Emotional Foundations of Early Learning) training during the year. Additional training will also be provided to parents based on family needs and trends learned from the Family Needs Assessment completed by families during the year.

Promoting staff development is an essential part of successful classroom learning. Staff training and professional development plays a key role in the strategic plan for education services. *Save the Children* ensures that staff training needs are identified and addressed throughout the year. In addition to professional development, appropriate monitoring practices – including classroom observation of education staff – provide opportunities

for coaching. This offers opportunities to guide and support

teachers

to become more proficient classroom teachers.

Another important goal is to maximize each child's learning potential to become life-long learners. This involves not only helping each child love to learn, but also helping every child to be physically, emotionally and socially ready to learn starting at birth. In order for our teachers to be successful in helping children love to learn, we have to support parents as their child's first and best teacher. This involves helping parents understand and learn how to be an advocate for their child, be a partner with their child's teacher, and be willing to promote and encourage their child to learn. Children have a greater potential to become life-long learners when their parents support and promote learning at home and school.



High-Quality Care begins with Highly Qualified Staff

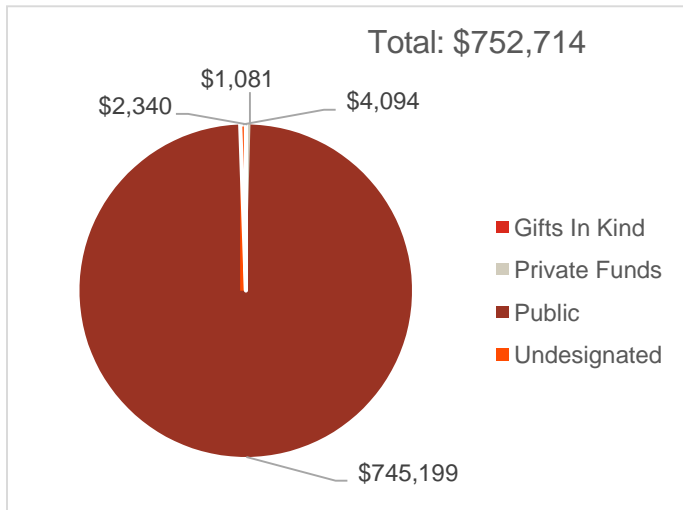
- 100% of our teachers have degrees
 - 100% have bachelor's degrees
- 99% of our teacher assistants possess an associate's degree
 - 1% in school working on CDA or associate's degree
- 100% of our family service workers possess a bachelor's degree

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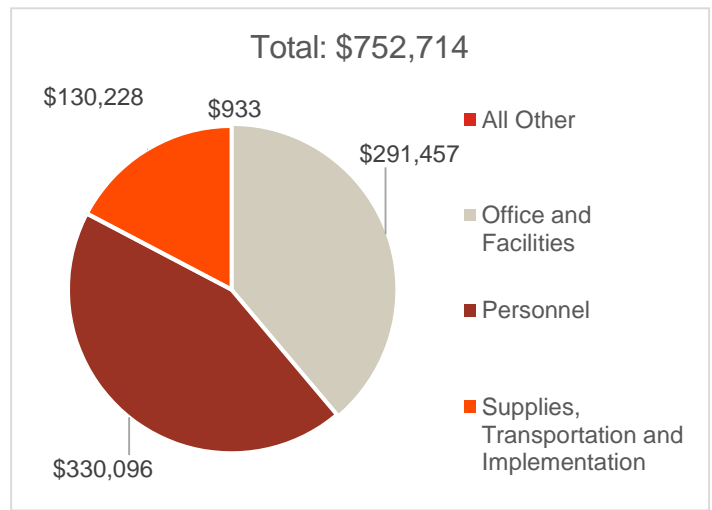
FINANCIALS

Save the Children began operating the Cabarrus, NC Head Start program in June 2019, and the program remained in a startup phase through the end of the year. The program received \$752K, primarily in public funds. During this startup phase in 2019, the majority of funds – approximately \$621K, or 82.5 percent – were used for personnel, office, and facilities costs, with the remainder of funds used for supplies or other program implementation costs.

SOURCES OF FUNDING



FY19 BUDGETARY EXPENDITURES

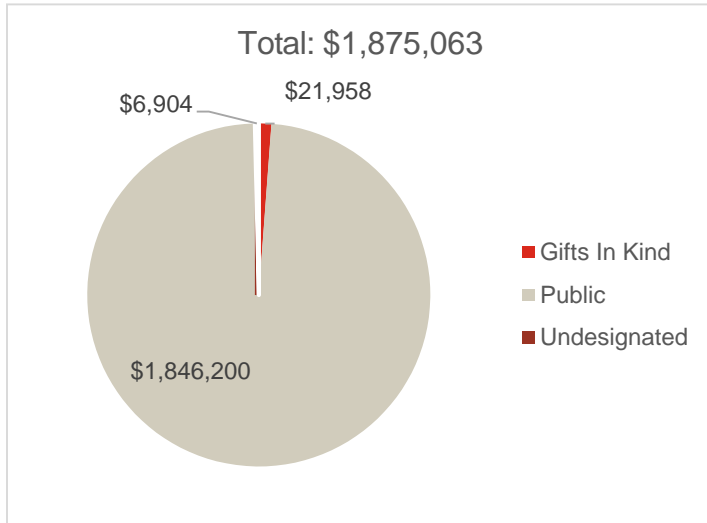


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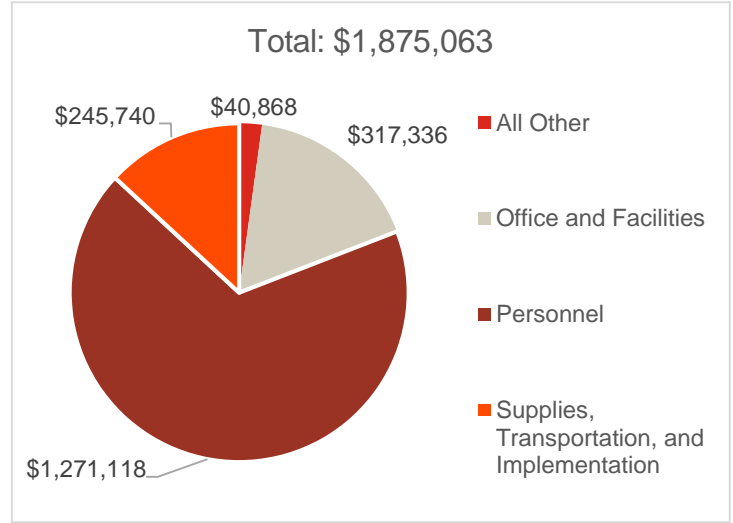
FY20 BUDGET

Our FY20 budget is \$1.87M, which includes funds for ongoing start-up projects and funds awarded for COLAs (cost-of-living adjustment). Below is the allocation breakdown, with the type of funding on the left and the cost category on the right.

SOURCES OF FUNDING



FY20 BUDGET



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SECRETARY REVIEW & FINANCIAL AUDIT RESULTS

Save the Children's Head Start programs are included in the annual Save the Children A-133 Audit. There were no findings related to Head Start in the audit for fiscal year ending 2019.

Save the Children Head Start Cabarrus Sites

SITE	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	PHONE
Administration Office	310 Kerr Street NW	Concord	NC	28025	980-777-1534
Cabarrus Head Start/Early Head Start Academy	310 Kerr Street NW	Concord	NC	28025	980-777-1462

Save the Children's Commitment to Head Start

Every child deserves the best chance for a bright future. That is why Save the Children has been working in the United States and around the world to keep children healthy, educated and safe. We deliver lasting results for millions of children, including those hardest to reach. Here at home, that means focusing our efforts on serving children in rural America. From our earliest days in Appalachia to the present, Save the Children is committed to meeting children's needs, going where others cannot, filling critical gaps in services and delivering scalable solutions to the challenges children face.

Save the Children has been awarded six grants and currently operates Head Start and Early Head Start programs in rural communities in four states: Arkansas, Louisiana (2), North Dakota and North Carolina (2).

Questions about Save the Children's work in Cabarrus County, North Carolina can be directed to Program Director Christopher Felder by email at cfelder@savechildren.org or by phone at (980)-777-1484. Khari Garvin serves as the Executive Director of Save the Children's Head Start Programs, and can be reached at kgarvin@savechildren.org.

