



SOUTH PIEDMONT, 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 the Save the Children NC South Piedmont Head Start and Early Head Start Program.

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.

The Save the Children Head Start/Early Head Start Program began serving children in Moore, Montgomery and Stanly Counties in North Carolina just one year ago.



During this year I have had the honor of serving as the first Head Start/Early Head Start Director for this program and it has been an honor working with the children, families and staff of these three counties. Here, 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 Policy Council; our staff who remained focused and motivated, 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 Moore, Montgomery and Stanly Counties.

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 Moore, Montgomery and Stanly Counties.

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
Ivelisse Valentin, 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 South Piedmont Head Start

In August 2019, Save the Children was awarded \$1,677,410 in base grant and technical assistance funds (prorated) to serve 220 Head Start and 104 Early Head Start children through center-based services in Moore, Montgomery and Stanly Counties, North Carolina. Area demographics show that there are about 3,169 children five years and under living at or below poverty in the South Piedmont Region.

This year we applied for \$ 4,086,799 for operation of the Head Start/Early Head program in South Piedmont from November 1, 2020 through October 31, 2021.



Save the Children Head Start South Piedmont, NC

BY THE NUMBERS

| | |
|--|------|
| Number of Centers | 6 |
| Total Children & Families Served | 310 |
| Children with Disabilities Served | 9 |
| Percentage of Eligible Children Served | 100% |
| Number of Local Head Start Staff | 75 |

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 Policy Council, and 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 whatever 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

The Save the Children Head Start/Early Head Start Program 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 the 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 | 302 |
| Number of children with continuous, accessible dental care provided by a dentist | 151 |
| Children Who Received Medical Exams | 292 |
| Children Who Received Dental Exams | 294 |

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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 Head Start includes preparing children for kindergarten and engaging parents in the process of nurturing and educating their children.

We Believe:

1. A parent is a child's first and best teacher.
2. When we identify families' needs and goals, connecting 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 pre-kindergarten by conducting Transition meetings in February 2020. The goal of these meetings was to inform parents of the necessary requirements for enrolling their child in kindergarten. Parents were informed of their responsibilities for registering their child for kindergarten at the transition meetings. Families of children that 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

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

- 94% in Social & Emotional Development
- 97% in Approaches to Learning
- 89% in Physical Development
- 83% in Cognitive Development
- 95% in Literacy Development

Disabilities

Save the Children's Head Start program is funded to provide services to 324 children. We were unable to achieve the enrollment of 10% of children with diagnosed disabilities (32 children). During the 2019-2020 program year, we enrolled 9 children who have diagnosed disabilities and receiving services; 16 children were referred for further assessment and evaluations; and an additional 5 children were observed, re-screened and supported by our staff to determine if a referral is needed.

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 children's family home language; provided support for dual language learners; and furnished parents with developmentally appropriate activities for home learning.



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Looking Forward

Building upon a successful 2019-20 program year, Save the Children Head Start Moore, Montgomery and Stanly Counties continues to make School Readiness our primary goal to ensure that children are ready for pre-kindergarten.

Save the Children has developed a Birth-Five strategic plan to help enhance the education services of all enrolled children. 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. Streamlining procedures for data collection, unifying the implementation of curriculum, improving the application of assessment, CLASS™ and ITERS, data and ensuring classrooms are completely supplied with materials are goals set in an effort to enhance curriculum assessment and instruction.

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 to love to learn, but also helping every child to be physically, emotionally and socially ready to learn and this begins 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

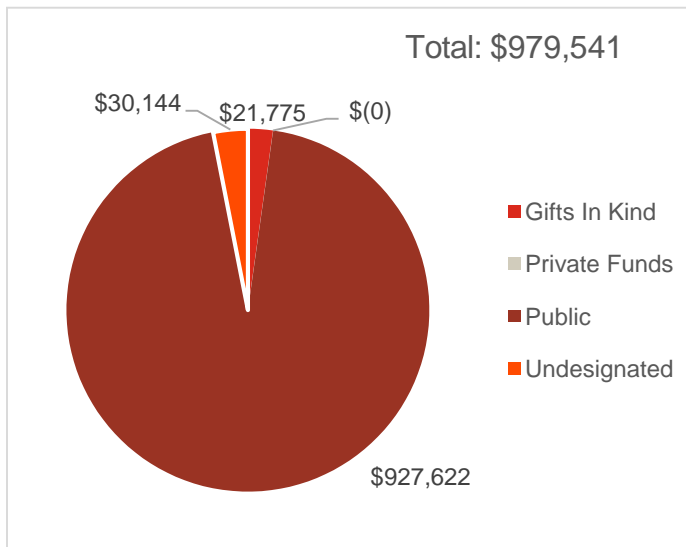
- 100% of our teachers Head Start are degreed
 - 99% Bachelor's degree
 - 1% Associate Degree
- 99% of our teacher assistants possess an Associate's degree
 - 1% CDA or Associate's degree
- 100% of our Early Head Start Teachers are degreed
- 100% of our Family Service Worker possess a degreed
 - 99% Bachelor's Degree
 - 1% Associate Degree

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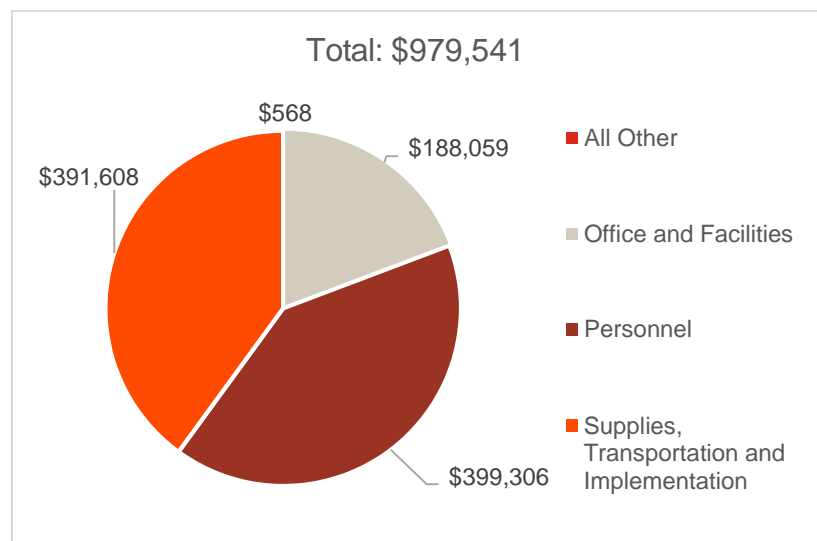
FINANCIALS

Save the Children began operating the South Piedmont Region, NC Head Start program in August, 2019 and the program remained in a startup phase through the end of the year. The program received \$979K, primarily in public funds. During this startup phase in 2019, the majority of funds—approximately \$791K, or 81 percent—were used for Personnel and Supplies costs, with the remainder of funds used office, facilities, or other program implementation costs.

SOURCES OF FUNDING



FY19 BUDGETARY EXPENDITURES

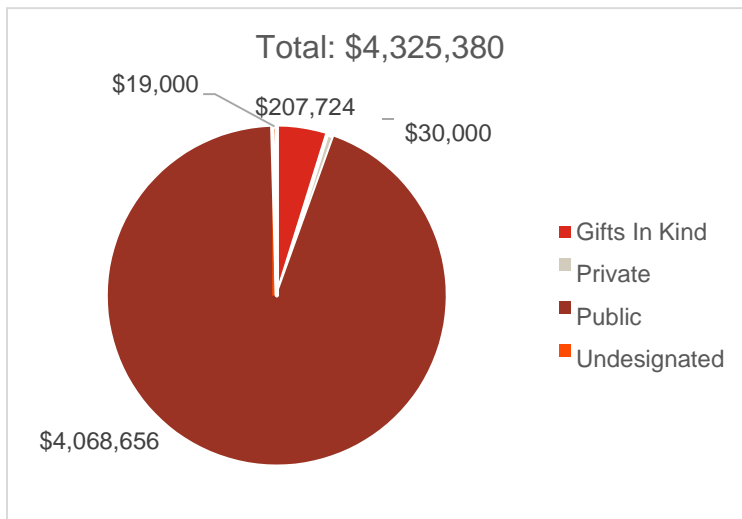


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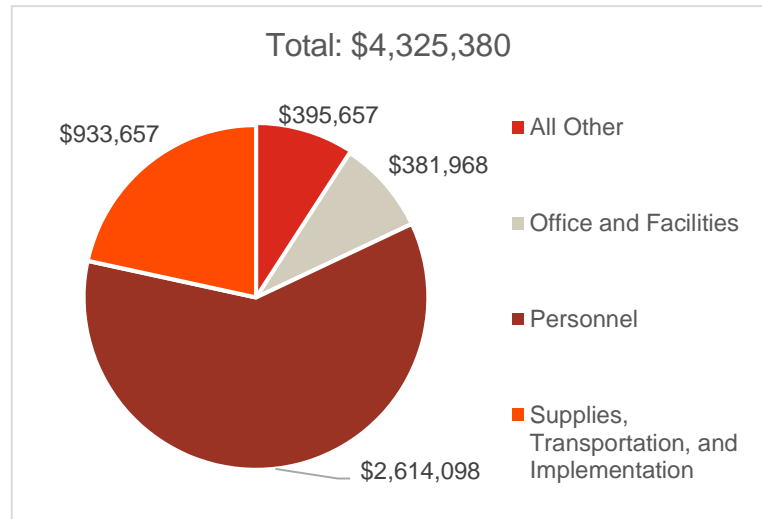
FY20 BUDGET

Our FY20 budget is \$4.3M which includes funds for ongoing start-up projects as well as funds awarded for COLAs (cost-of-living adjustment). Below is the allocation breakdown for 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 South Piedmont Sites

| SITE | City | State |
|--|----------------|-------|
| Administration Office/Troy Academy | Troy | NC |
| Albemarle Head Start/Early Head Start Academy | Albemarle | NC |
| Troy Head Start/Early Head Start Academy | Troy | NC |
| Candor Head Start/Early Head Start Academy | Candor | NC |
| Aberdeen Head Start/Early Head Start Academy | Aberdeen | NC |
| Southern Pines Head Start/Early Head Start Academy | Southern Pines | NC |

Save the Children's Commitment to Head Start

Every child deserves the best chance for a bright future. That is why, for over 100 years, 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 the South Piedmont Region of North Carolina should 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, who can be reached at kgarvin@savechildren.org.



Save the Children.



Head Start