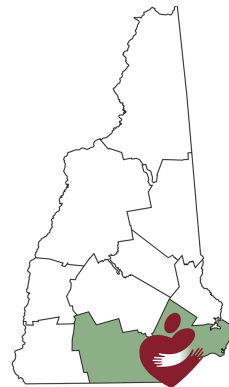


# SOUTHERN NH SERVICES HEAD START EARLY HEAD START ANNUAL REPORT

2023  
-  
2024



*Helping People, Changing Lives.*

# SNHS

**The Community Action Partnership serving  
Hillsborough and Rockingham Counties**



## Program Mission Statement

The mission of our program is to empower families to meet present and future challenges with confidence.

## Program Vision Statement

To form partnerships built on mutual respect to support child and family development and promote lifelong educational success.

### **Program Description**

Southern New Hampshire Services, Inc. (SNHS) Child Development provides Head Start and Early Head Start services for Hillsborough and Rockingham Counties, NH. The program has both rural and urban sites and provides program options including part-day Head Start, Head Start with wrap around child care, and center based Early Head Start.

### **Head Start**

Part Day Head Start program model provides preschool experiences for children 3 to 5 years of age. It is designed to involve the whole family in a multifaceted approach to literacy and the child's developmental needs. In addition to individual classroom education activities, each child's medical, dental, nutritional, emotional, and social needs are addressed. There are three (3) part-day classrooms that run 9:00am -1:00pm. Eleven (11) part-day classrooms have increased program hours and run 8:30am-2:30pm. Located in Manchester, Nashua, Derry, Seabrook, Raymond, and Hillsborough.

Head Start with wrap around child care program model provides child care options before and after the Head Start day to families who are working, in school, or engaged in a job training program. The program has four (4) centers that provide full day services to Head Start eligible families. Each center accepts state scholarship assistance for families of low-income. The program hours are 7:00am-5:00pm and they are located in Nashua, Manchester, Derry, and Hillsborough.

### **Early Head Start**

Early Head Start serves children birth through 3 years of age in a **center based** setting. Early Head Start provides services to infants and toddlers, as well as their families. This is a comprehensive program addressing physical health, mental health, social, emotional, and developmental needs. Located in Nashua and Manchester.

## Enrollment Data - Prior Program Year 2022- 2023

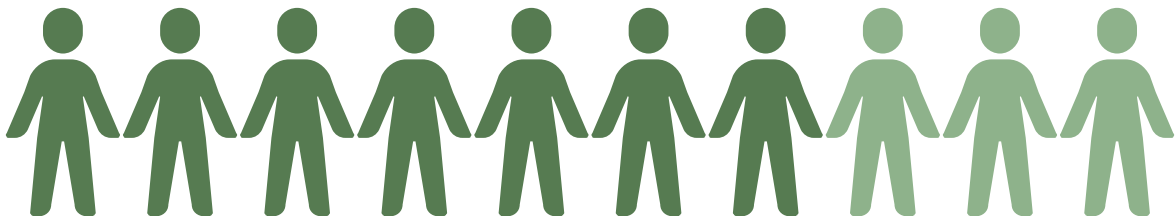
The enrollment information is identified below as funded enrollment and cumulative enrollment. Cumulative enrollment is inclusive of all enrollees who received services during the program year. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic our enrollment has been low for different reasons, but currently enrollment is low due to staffing vacancies, especially in Early Head Start.

Funded Enrollment	Children
Head Start	400
Early Head Start	108
Cumulative Enrollment	Children
Head Start	282
Early Head Start	39

We estimate that our funded enrollment serves approximately **23.2%** of the income eligible children and families in our service area.

### Average Monthly Enrollment 2022-2023

Head Start - 65%



Early Head Start - 33%



## Family Engagement

Family engagement is a cornerstone of the Head Start and Early Head Start programs. In a typical program year, we provide a variety of opportunities for families to spend time in the classroom, attend family engagement events, learn strategies to support their child's learning and take on leadership roles. The chart on the following page identifies family engagement opportunities provided in the program. The 2022-2023 program year was still a building back year from the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic resulted in changes in our ability to have families freely enter program buildings and volunteer in our classrooms. We expect more of a return to our normal engagement in 2023-2024.

The shaded areas in the chart on the following page reflect the engagement opportunities that we were able to continue through the pandemic with adaptations to meet health and safety protocols.

## Volunteers

For the 3 program years prior to the COVID-19 pandemic we averaged **695** individuals volunteering in our program. Of this number an average of **278** individuals volunteering in the program were current or former Head Start parents/guardians. In **2022-2023** we had **266** individuals volunteering in our program. Of those **82** were current or former Head Start parents/guardians.



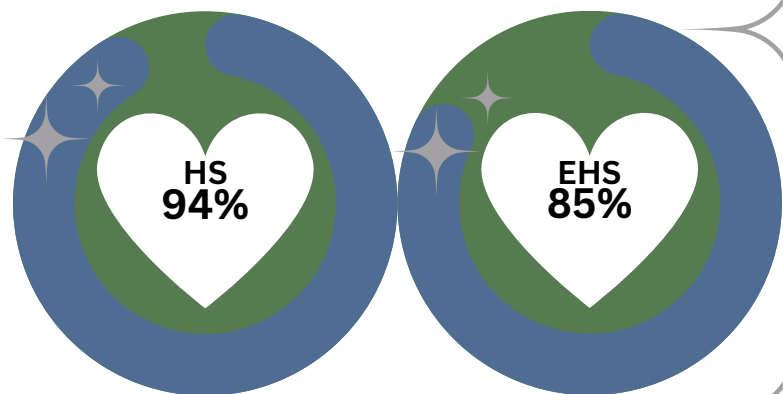
	Family Well-Being	Parent Child Relationship	Lifelong Educators	Family as Learners	Transitions	Connections/ Peers/Comm.	Advocates/ Leaders
Breakfast with Big Buddies	X	X				X	
Abuse/Neglect Awareness Week	X	X		X			
Harvest Celebrations	X	X					
Home School Connections		X	X	X	X		
Read-A-Thons		X	X				
Classroom Lending Library		X	X	X			
Question of the Day		X	X	X	X		
Apple-A-Day	X	X	X	X			
Talk It Up	X	X	X	X			
Positive Solutions for Parenting	X	X	X	X		X	
Family Visits	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Policy Council				X		X	X
Week of the Young Child	X	X		X			
Parenting Home School Connections	X	X	X	X			
Family Engagement Events	X	X	X	X		X	X

## Head Start and Early Head Start Medical and Dental Exams

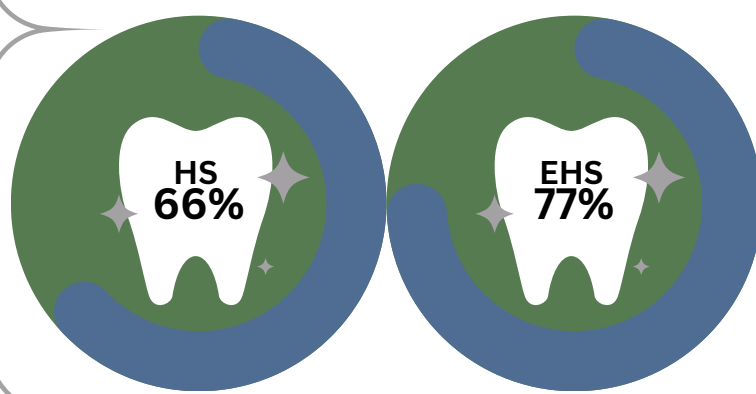
SNHS staff partner with families in helping them establish medical and dental homes (ongoing continuous source of care) for their children to help keep their children up-to-date on their schedule of medical and oral health care. Information is gathered from the parent during enrollment and ongoing through the program year. Staff work in collaboration with the family to obtain necessary documentation from health care providers and oral health care providers to support the individualized needs of the children.

The data below represents the percentage of Head Start and Early Head Start children that received comprehensive medical exams and dental exams for the **2022-2023 program year.**

### Medical Exams



### Dental Exams



*Early on in the pandemic, routine physical exams and routine dental visits were canceled across the state. This initial response impacted the number of children who were able to remain up-to-date and stay up-to-date. Our staff have worked to support families with catching-up, but we are still seeing an impact on the numbers from pre-pandemic levels.*

# Community Assessment Summary

The SNHS, Inc. comprehensive community assessment was completed in 2023. Annually, SNHS, Inc. reviews and updates the community assessment to reflect any significant changes in the community.

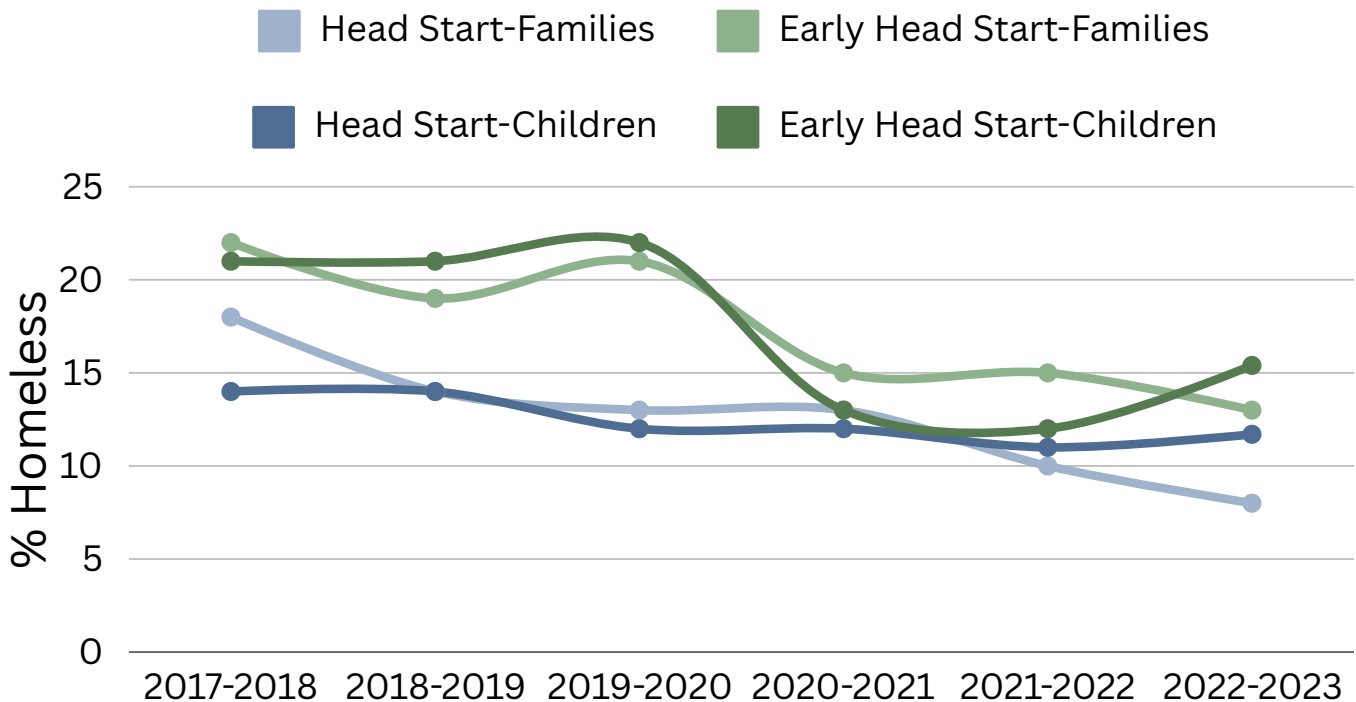
## Availability of publicly funded preschool:

New Hampshire does not fund any public preschool at this time with the exception of classrooms designed to service children who have been identified with educational disabilities.

## Rates of families and children experiencing homelessness:

SNHS, Inc. serves both Hillsborough and Rockingham Counties. The below chart shows the trend for the past 7 years for children enrolled in the SNHS, Inc Head Start/Early Head Start Program. At the program level we have seen a decrease since 2019-2020 program year, but are starting to see an increase again now that emergency funds from the pandemic are no longer available.

For the state of New Hampshire as a whole, 2023 data shows 2,441 homeless individuals, representing a 52 percent increase from 2022 New Hampshire data.



# Community Assessment Summary (Continued)

Community demographics and resources 2022-2023 program year

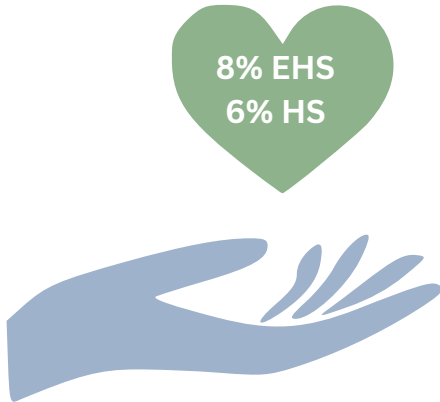
Highest Need for Free/Reduced Lunch in our service area



The population of children under the age of five decreased in the communities served except for:



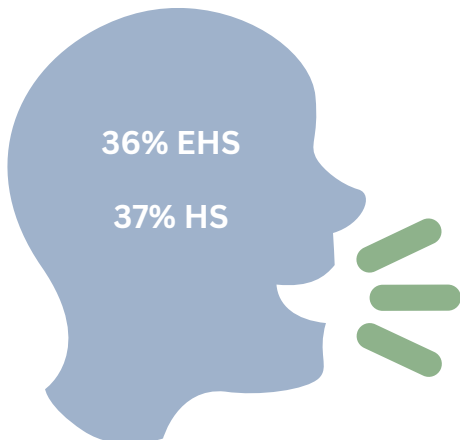
Percent of children living with a relative caregiver or in foster care



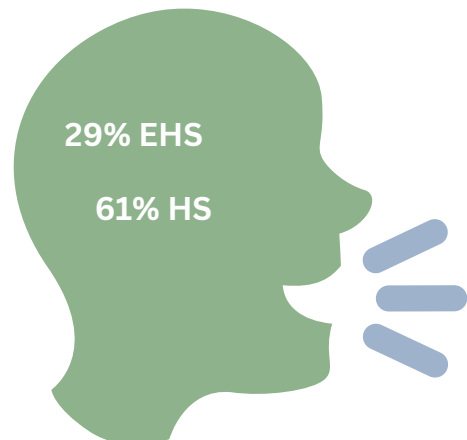
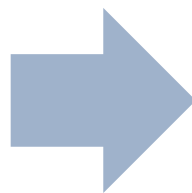
Percent of children from families experiencing a current or past misuse of substances



Percent of enrolled children with primary language other than English



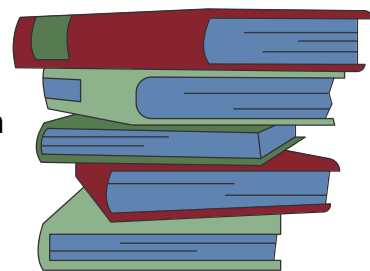
Of those, the percent of enrolled children with primary language of Spanish.





## School Readiness Plan

### READY PROGRAM



Program staff will be focused on providing supports that enable children to be successful in the future through the guidance of school readiness goals, as shown below.

As part of the overarching approach to school readiness we will:

- Ensure the implementation of management systems which sustain high quality services for children and families.
- Help children display the ability to manage their own behaviors and to maintain healthy relationships with others.
- Promote overall child health to support the ability to learn.
- Provide experiences and education for parents to support their role as their child's first and most important teacher.

### READY FAMILIES

Families will be engaged in the long-term, lifelong success of their child. Early Head Start and Head Start recognizes that parents are their children's primary teachers and advocates. Staff will partner with families in establishing school readiness goals and sharing information about their children's progress.

Families can:

- Provide loving and caring relationships that promote healthy social and emotional development.
- Read with children every day.
- Interact frequently with their child each day by talking, asking questions and listening.
- Take children for well child check-ups.
- Provide nutritious meals and opportunities for physical activity.
- Advocate for their children.

### READY SCHOOLS

Early Head Start and Head Start programs work together with local schools and school districts to promote school readiness and to engage families as their children make the transition to Head Start or kindergarten.

Schools will:

- Partner with local education agencies to promote continuity of services and effective transitions to kindergarten and/or other school settings.
- Implement a systematic procedure for transferring, with parental consent, Early Head Start and Head Start program records.
- Partner with families to help each child learn and reach his or her potential.
- Build upon the individual physical, social, emotional and cognitive skills of each child as they prepare to move from Early Head Start to Head Start and then to the public school system.

### READY CHILDREN

School readiness means children possess the skills, knowledge and attitudes necessary for success in school and for later learning and life. This includes all aspects of healthy development, including social, emotional, cognitive and physical development.

## Budgetary Expenditures 2022-2023

Head Start	Early Head Start
<u>Federal Revenue:</u> <b>\$6,237,568</b>	<u>Federal Revenue:</u> <b>\$1,355,442</b>
<u>Nonfederal Share:</u> <b>\$1,285,284</b>	Nonfederal Share: <b>\$121,543</b>
<u>Expenditures:</u> Personnel: <b>\$2,976,148</b> Fringe: <b>\$1,489,006</b> Equipment: <b>\$0</b> Supplies: <b>\$221,077</b> Contractual: <b>\$0</b> Other: <b>\$686,734</b> Indirect: <b>\$505,868</b> Training & Technical Assistance: <b>\$89,127</b>	<u>Expenditures:</u> Personnel: <b>\$654,260</b> Fringe: <b>\$292,750</b> Equipment: <b>\$0</b> Supplies: <b>\$40,360</b> Contractual: <b>\$0</b> Other: <b>\$119,541</b> Indirect: <b>\$108,572</b> Training & Technical Assistance: <b>\$57,122</b>



## Federal Review Results

SNHS has had three recent federal reviews with positive results.

See separate attachments.

- Focus Area One (FA1) - November 4, 2019 - November 8, 2019
- CLASS® Observations - March 9, 2020 - March 14, 2020
- Focus Area Two (FA2) - May 24, 2021 - May 28, 2021

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## Financial Audit

See separate attachment for Southern New Hampshire Services, Inc. and Affiliate  
Single Audit Report Year Ended July 31, 2023.

Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on  
Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements  
Performed in Accordance With Government Auditing Standards.

Performed by Leone, McDonnell, & Roberts Professional Association