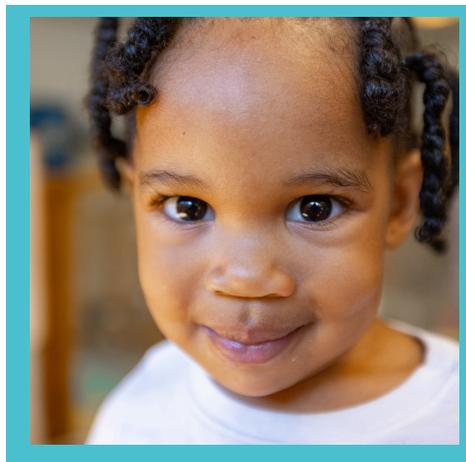




# ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024





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2023-2024

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# 25 Years of Early Head Start

Child Development Resources' (CDR) Early Head Start (EHS) is a federally funded program that provides comprehensive child and family development services to income eligible prenatal women and parents of infants and toddlers, ages birth to three years of age, who live in the City of Williamsburg, James City County, York County, and the City of Poquoson.

EHS offers both home-based and center-based options to 146 prenatal women and children. All families receive information on education, health, immunizations, well child checks, nutrition, child development, services and supports for children with disabilities, prenatal development, parenting, and playgroups. Families also receive social and emotional assistance, access to mental health consultants, along with linkages to community resources.

Families enrolled in the home-based option receive weekly 90-minute home visits with a Family Advocate who provides support for the parents in their role as their child's first teacher and they are offered weekly playgroup opportunities for their child.

Early Head Start celebrated their 25th year May 2023 through April 2024. In 1998 Child Development Resources was awarded an Early Head Start grant from the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Head Start to serve prenatal women and children in the Cities of Williamsburg and Poquoson and the Counties of James City and York. Over the course of those 25 years, the program has served countless families through home visits and center-based services.

During the year-long celebration, we recognized staff, held family events, celebrated success stories, did radio promotions, and it all culminated in a gala.



**Mission: "To inspire and empower children, families, and early childhood professionals to reach their full potential, whatever their challenges."**

# Take-Home Dental Bag Initiative

## Promoting Oral Health Awareness

In October 2023, Elizabeth Butler led a parent engagement initiative titled the "Take-Home Dental Bag" to emphasize the importance of oral health and encourage families to establish a "dental home" with regular dental visits. The activity was thoughtfully designed to raise awareness about the benefits of good oral health practices, specifically aimed at young children and expectant mothers.

Each dental bag contained a variety of items, including a toothbrush, floss, a day-of-the-week calendar, a sand timer or clock to guide brushing duration, and a healthy, age-appropriate snack. The bags also featured a fall-themed book, stickers for parents, and educational materials available in both English and Spanish. These materials provided essential information on topics such as baby bottle tooth decay, dental care during pregnancy, proper brushing techniques, tooth decay prevention, and an overview of what to expect during a dental visit.

A total of 74 children and 4 prenatal mothers received these dental goodie bags. Distribution was carried out during home visits by Family Advocates and during school pick-up times, ensuring each family could access these valuable resources. This initiative not only supplied tools for maintaining oral health but also reinforced the importance of early and consistent dental care for families in the community.



# Fostering Togetherness and Celebrating Diversity

## Overview of Activities

The program hosted several events to foster family engagement and celebrate cultural diversity:

- **Thankful for Families Week:** Held during Thanksgiving week, families joined for a family-style lunch to promote togetherness and appreciation.
- **Hispanic Heritage Celebration:** From mid-September to early October, activities included sharing traditional foods, cultural dance parties, and highlighting diverse traditions, with a focus on embracing differences as part of a cultural “melting pot.”
- **Spirit Week:** Themed days like Pajama Day and Cookie Baking encouraged parents to join activities such as reading time, sharing cultural foods, and baking with their children.



## Parent Feedback

Parent participation and direct appreciation during events reflected high satisfaction, with engagement being the strongest feedback.

## Mission Alignment

These events supported the Early Head Start mission by engaging parents in their children’s education, celebrating diversity, and providing resources to help families succeed. Families felt valued and connected, reinforcing a strong program community.



# Early Head Start Success Story

Larissa and her three children spent over four transformative years in the Early Head Start program, during which each child overcame unique challenges and achieved significant milestones. Through close collaboration with program coordinators and family advocates, Larissa saw remarkable growth in her children's development and acquired valuable parenting skills that have positively impacted her family's future.

## A Positive Impact on Her Children

Early Head Start played a crucial role in addressing her children's developmental needs. Activities like playtime and musical exploration helped expand their social and creative skills. The program also identified her child's ADHD diagnosis and connected her to occupational and speech therapy, helping her child overcome a speech delay and improve communication. These resources provided Larissa with clarity and confidence as a first-time parent.

## Family Growth and Empowerment

Beyond her children's development, Larissa gained life-changing knowledge and skills through the program's workshops and events. Money management sessions, in particular, equipped her with financial literacy that led to purchasing her first home. She credits events like baby showers and parenting workshops with providing the tools to support her family. Working with four family advocates expanded her understanding of how to meet her children's needs and foster their success.

## A Collaborative Effort

Larissa's journey highlights the power of collaboration between parents and the program. She committed to weekly visits, screenings, and other activities, ensuring her children received the full benefits of Early Head Start. This partnership empowered her with resources and tools to address challenges and set her family up for long-term success.

## Looking Ahead

Although her children have since graduated, Larissa continues to stay in touch with Family Advocate Dolly Suid, who remains a valuable resource. Equipped with knowledge, tools, and confidence, Larissa feels prepared to support her children's future growth, reflecting the lasting impact of Early Head Start on her family.



# Transition to GoEngage: Enhancing Data Management From Paper-Based to Digital Solutions

Recognizing that the old, locally-designed database—used for over 20 years—no longer met the needs of the Early Head Start (EHS) program, the EHS team embarked on a search for an updated data management solution. After reviewing multiple software options, the team selected GoEngage, which was launched at the start of the 2023-2024 program year. This transition marked a significant step forward, allowing for a shift from paper-based files to digital records.

After nearly a year with GoEngage, the program is now almost entirely paper-free. As a web-based platform, GoEngage is particularly valuable for the program, which operates across three locations. Staff can now securely access and update child records from any location with internet access, eliminating the need to wait until returning to the office to update physical files. This improved accessibility and efficiency represent a substantial enhancement in data management processes, enabling more timely and coordinated care across the facilities.



**GoEngage**  
by **Cleverex Systems**

# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS 2023 - 2024

Breakdown by  
Source:

United Way:

**\$1,425**

YC Subsidy:

**\$58,285**

York County:

**\$75,000**

JCC Subsidy:

**\$62,026**

Misc Donations &  
Fees

**\$2,153**

Federal  
Drawdowns:

**\$1,833,009**

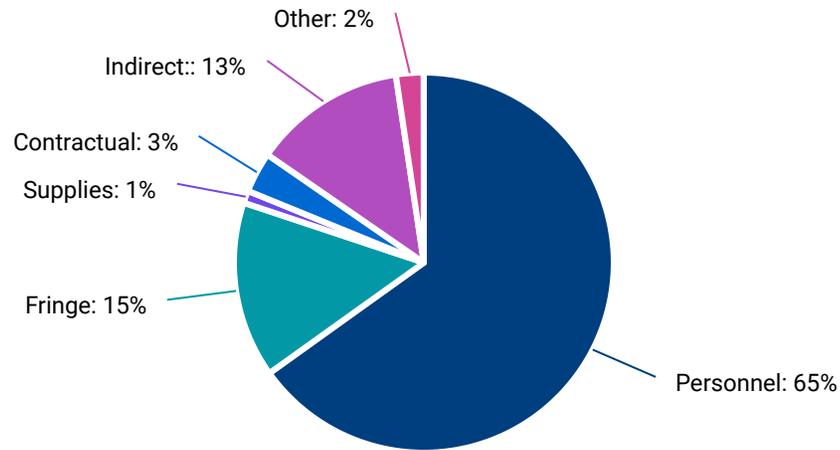


TOTAL

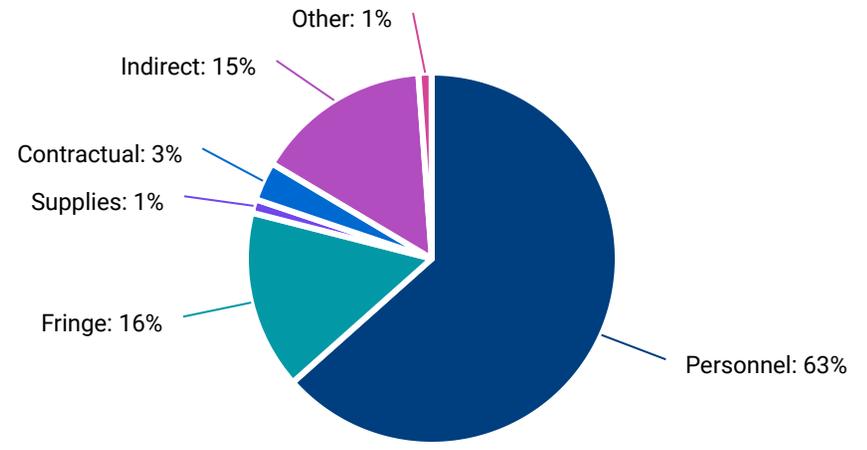
**\$2,031,898**

# Early Head Start Budgeted And Actual Expenses

## EHS Budgeted Expenses 2023 - 2024



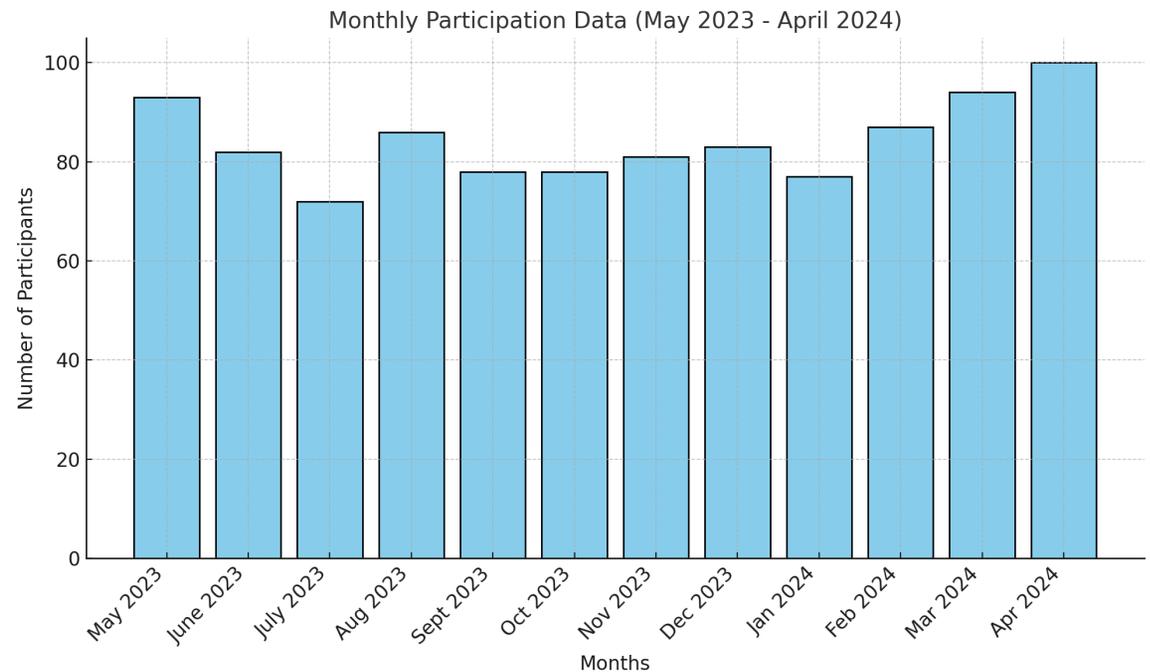
## EHS Actual Expenses 2023 - 2024



# Program Participation Overview

## Program Year Summary

- **Timeframe:** May 1, 2023 – April 30, 2024
- **Total Participants Served:**
  - Children: 137
  - Prenatal Women: 19
  - Families: 122
- **Funding Details:**
  - May–December 2023: Funded for 146 prenatal women and children.
  - January–April 2024: Funded for 116 prenatal women and children.



# Enrollment Overview

## Funded Enrollment:

Originally funded for **146** prenatal women and children (May-December)

Adjusted to **116** through a grant (January-April)

## Total Number of Children and Families Served:

Children: **137**

Prenatal Women: **19**

Families: **122**

**Average Monthly Enrollment:** Approximately **9.56%** of funded enrollment (calculated based on program year and adjusted caps)

## Percentage of Eligible Children Served:

1. The program served **156** children and prenatal women (137 children + 19 prenatal women)
2. Based on the community's challenges and limited childcare resources, we can estimate that the program served approximately **31.2%** of Eligible children and prenatal women in the service area

## Dental Screenings:

- **100%** due to dental screenings done within 45 days by a Family Advocate
  - Referred to pediatric dentist if there was a concern

## Physical Examinations:

- Families who reported their child having a physical examination was **44%**





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