

2013 - 2014
ANNUAL REPORT

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY
rpc
REGIONAL
PLANNING
COMMISSION

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HEAD Start



**2014-2015 Policy Council Parents,
Alternates and 2 Staff**

Current Policy Council Members

Rita Conerly
Champaign – Parent

Shavonne Elam
Champaign – Parent

Carol Olivero
Rantoul – Parent

Jeff McGuire
Rantoul – Parent

Christina Rosa
Savoy – Parent

Valena Claiborne
Urbana – Parent

Aamina Iftikhar
Home Base – Parent

Bria Morrison
Family Child Care -- Parent

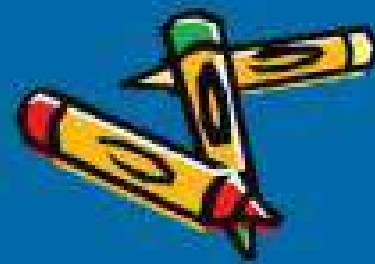
Jeannette Hernandez
Rantoul -- Parent

Tanta Powe Johnson
Past Parent
Community Representative

Patti Hood
Kindergarten Readiness Goal Group
Community Representative

Jennifer Ball
Urbana Early Childhood
Community Representative

Jenny Diskin
Middletown Early Childhood
Community Representation





This year Champaign County Head Start has two parents who have been received awards. The awards are for the State of Illinois and for Region 5 includes the states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.

Erin Van Horn. Award Winner for Parent of the Year, State and Regional Winner

Erin Van Horn and her three children have been enrolled in Head Start for four years. From 2012-2014, she was the chairperson for the center family committee and chairperson for the program's Policy Council. While her children were enrolled in Head Start, Erin completed an Associate degree in Healthcare Administration and a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work. With the completion of her degree, Erin volunteered at Head Start to support the Social-Emotional Development Specialist with entry and paper work. Erin was also an Illinois Head Start Association Parent ambassador for two years. Since she has been involved with Head Start, Erin has developed leadership and communication skills to advocate for her children as well as all Head Start children and families. Erin has put these skills to use speaking with her state legislators, congressional members and community leaders.

Kaleena Robinson. Beating the Odds Parent Award, State and Regional Winner

Kaleena Robinson has definitely "beaten the odds". Kaleena arrived in Champaign Urbana area with her 4 month old daughter and nothing but clothes and a few dollars to her name. She had no job, no support system, no car and a very bleak future. She lived in a homeless shelter for about 18 months and during her stay at the center, she finished her Associates Degree of Applied Science in Criminal Justice with a 3.0 GPA. She obtained a job and advanced herself by obtaining higher paying positions with other companies. Kaleena now has her own apartment and her own vehicle. Kaleen joined the Head Start Policy Council and regularly attend the Family Committee meetings. Kaleena's next set of goals includes becoming debt-free from student loans and building her savings so she can purchase her own home. She would like to earn a second degree that involves working with youth so she can give back and empower young single parents. In Kaleena's own words "I believe that all things are possible with some hard work and a little perseverance. My ultimate goal is to run my own business and become an advocate for at-risk teens: Kaleena has definitely "Beaten the Odds"!

Champaign County Regional Planning Commission Mission

Champaign County Head Start / Early Head Start is a program of the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission. It is the mission of the CCRPC to promote, plan, facilitate, and accomplish the improved health, safety, welfare, education, economic conditions, environment, and regional development within Champaign County in particular, and also within the greater area of East Central Illinois.

Champaign County Head Start Goals

- **Developing partnerships with parents and families, agencies and organizations, businesses and industries;**
- **Linking parents and families to community services;**
- **Providing services that enhance social/emotional, intellectual and physical development;**
- **Supporting parents and families to meet self-identified goals and needs.**

About Champaign County Head Start

Head Start/Early Head Start is a Federal program for child and family development that:

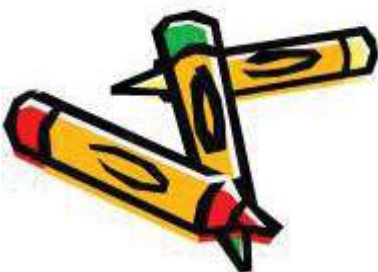
- **Focuses on ensuring children's cognitive, social-emotional and health readiness for kindergarten;**
- **Promotes family strengths for long term benefit to child and family;**
- **Serves families with children from birth to kindergarten age and pregnant mothers.**
- **Head Start / Early Head Start services are free to all enrolled families.**

Operating Statistics

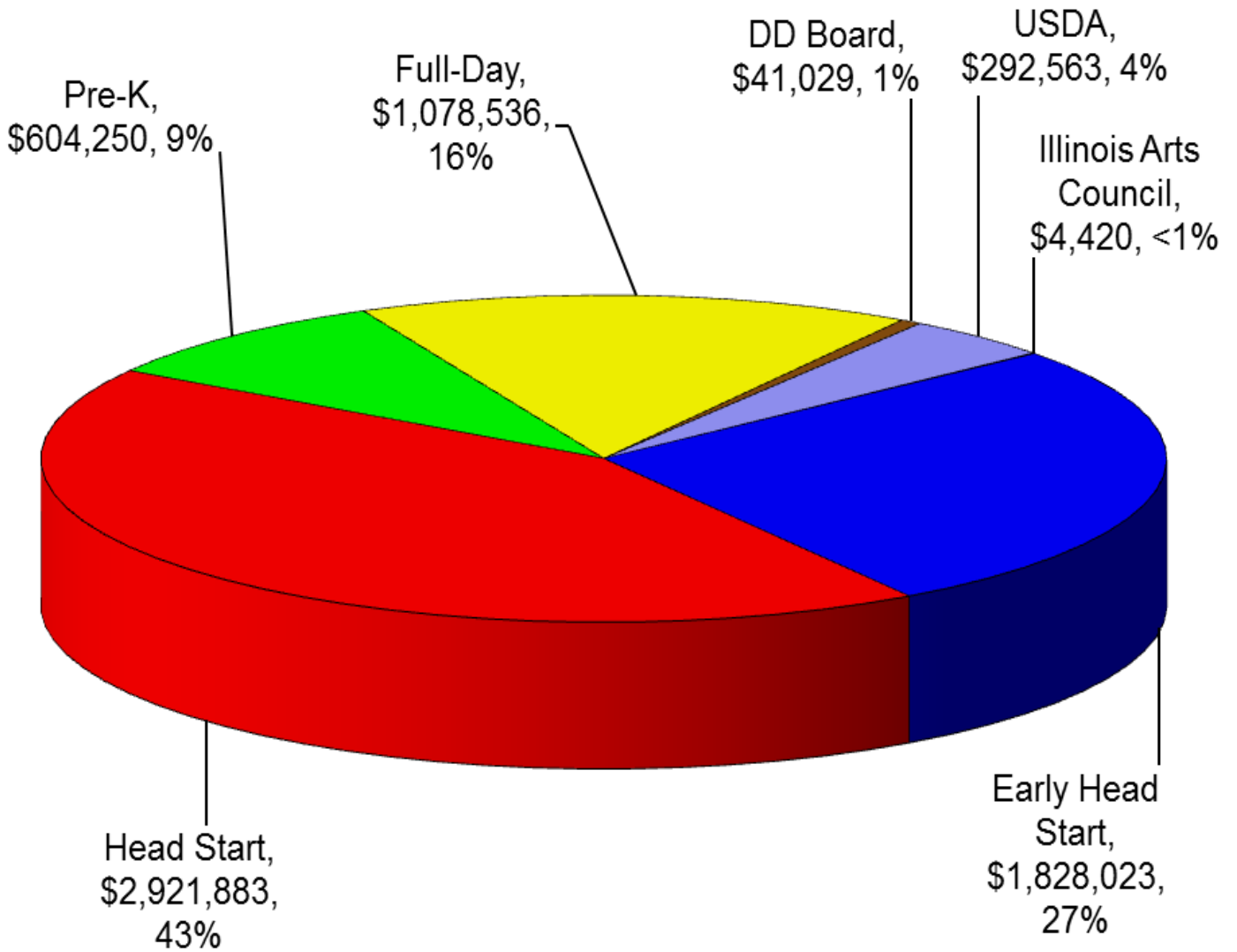
- **\$6.8 Million Budget:** Head Start, Early Head Start, IL State Board of Education (ISBE), Child-Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), Full-day Child Care, Champaign County Developmental Disabilities Board, Illinois Department of Human Services, Illinois Department of Child and Family, Illinois Arts Council, gifts and donations.
- **Volunteer time and other in-kind (non-cash) contributions totaled \$1,568,525.**
- **134 Staff:** 76 teaching staff, 14 supervisors, 13 family advocates, 6 transportation staff, 7 home visitors, 5 culinary staff, 4 clerks, 4 partnership mentors, 4 service area specialists, and 1 secretary.
- **With the Federal funding allotted, Champaign County Head Start/Early Head Start was able to serve approximately 21% of the income eligible children living in the County.**

“My daughter has really enjoyed the program, both educationally and as a place to interact with other children of her age group.”

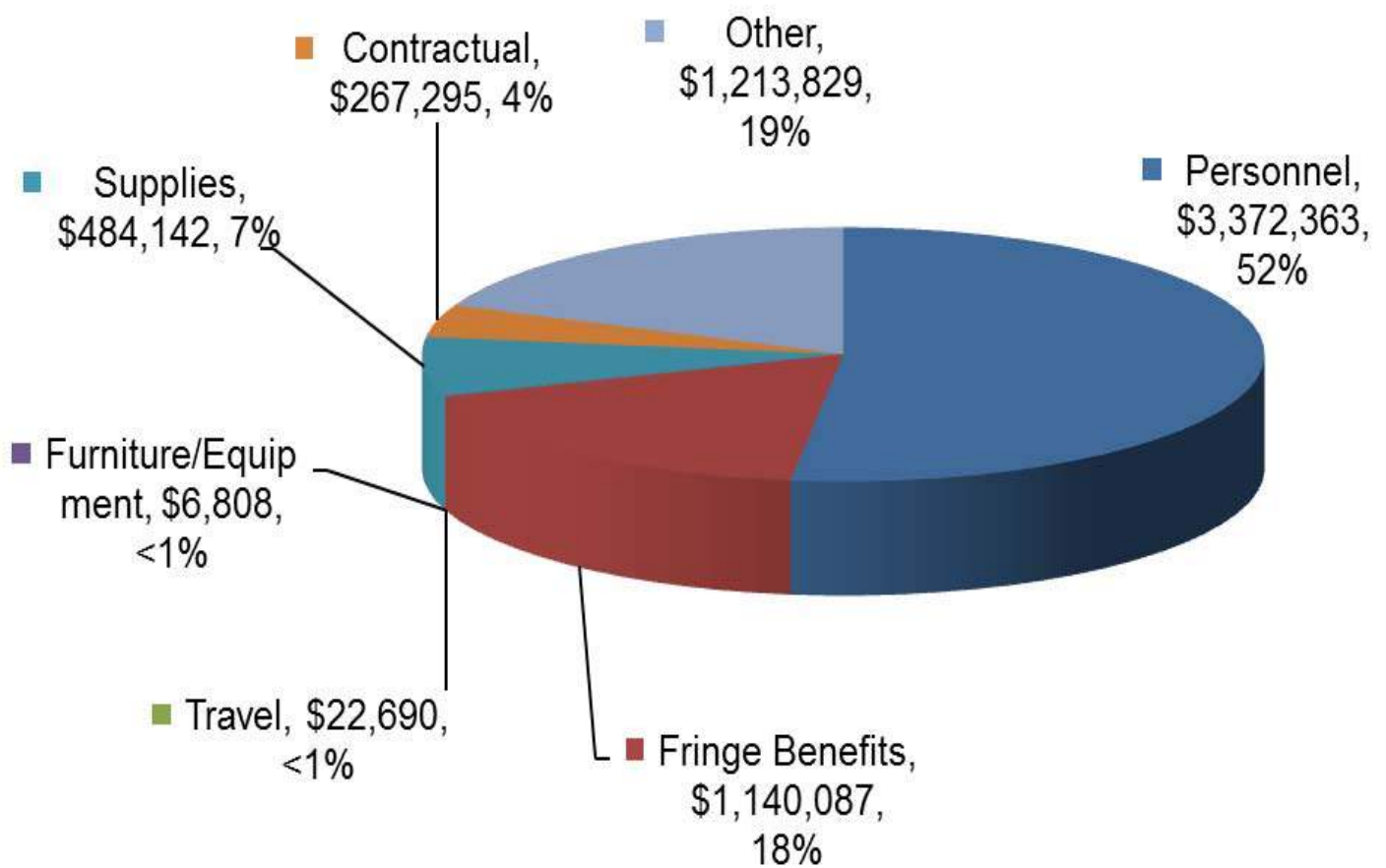
A HS/EHS Parent



Head Start / Early Head Start PY 2013-2014 Revenue



Head Start / Early Head Start PY 2013-2014 Expenditures



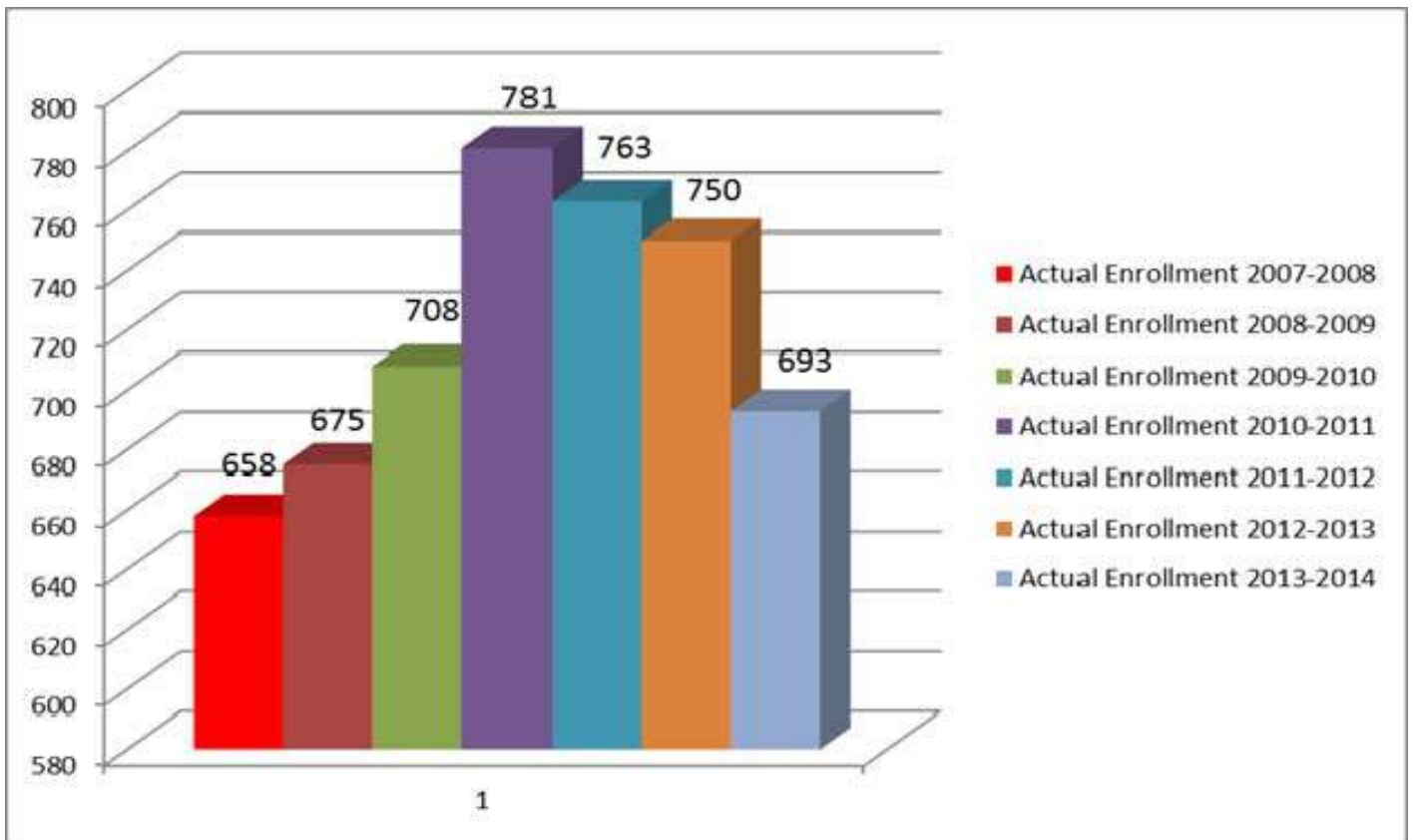
Serving Our Community

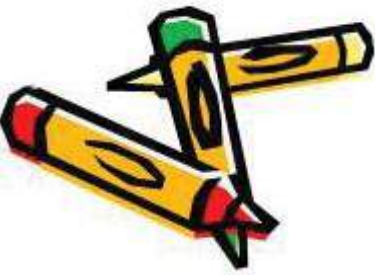
The total number of children and families served during the program year September 1, 2013 through August 31, 2014 was 693.

Champaign County's funded enrollment until March 1, 2014 was 415 Head Start and 125 Early Head Start children. As of March 1, 2014 the funded enrollment for Head Start children increased to 435 and for Early Head Start children increased to 141. Throughout program year 2013-2014, we maintained our average monthly enrollment at 100%.

Enrollment of Children & Pregnant Women FY 2013-2014

(Actual Enrollment includes replacement enrollments due to families leaving the program.)





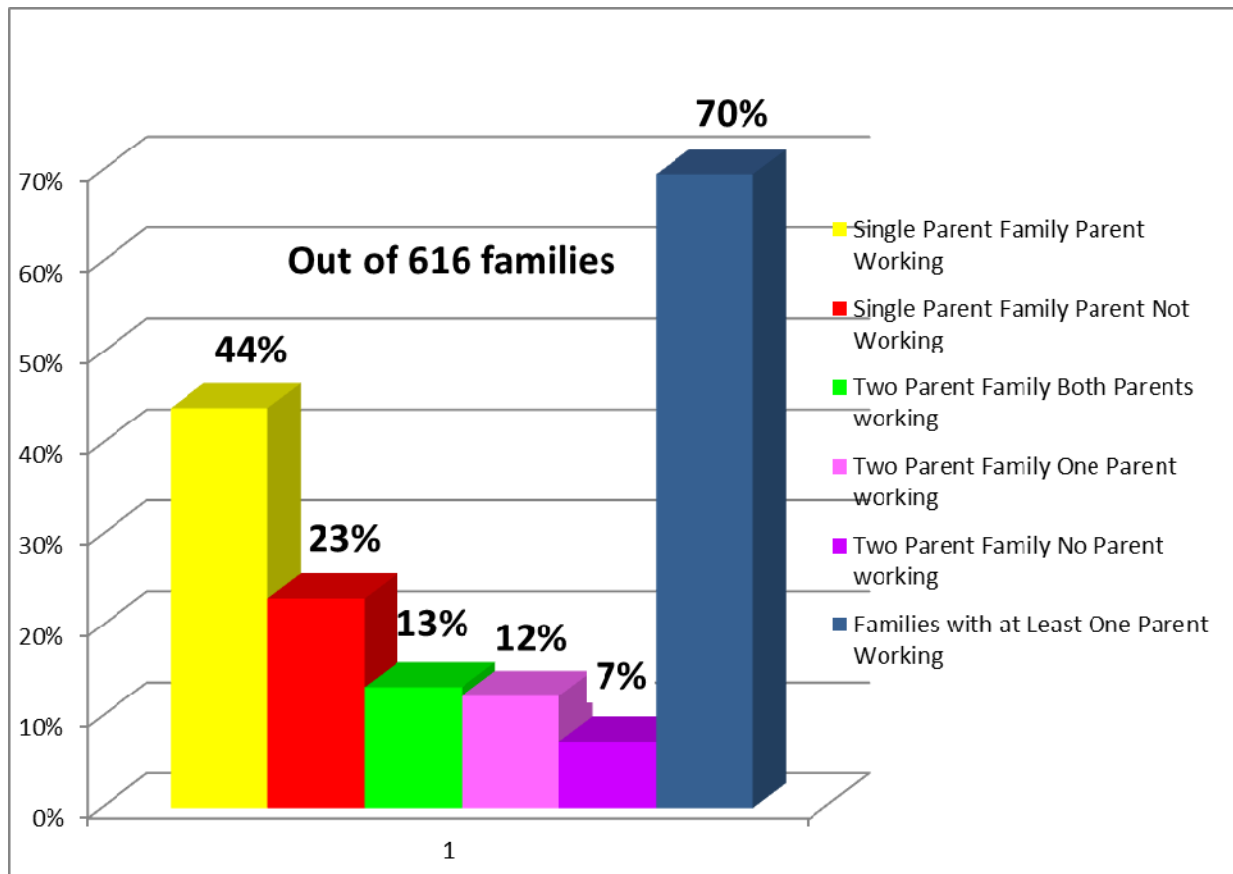
Head Start/Early Head Start Enrollment Options

- Full Day (10 hours) Classrooms
- Part Day (3 ½ hours) Classrooms
- School Day (6 hours) Classrooms
- Home Base
- Collaborations with Family Child Care Homes
- Collaborations with School Districts
- Collaborations with Women's Shelters
- Expectant Families

Head Start/Early Head Start Eligibility & Enrollment

- Families must have income at poverty level or below and children must be age-eligible. Families must complete enrollment forms and provide documentation.
- Families seeking full-day services must be working and/or attending school/training at least 30 hours a week during hours of program operation. Families also need to qualify for the Child Care Assistance Program.
- While Head Start/EHS services are free, families using full-day services must pay for child care. Child care fees are based on family size and income.
- Thirty-five percent of enrolled families can have income from 100% to 130% of the poverty guidelines. Up to 10% of enrollment can be families with income greater than 130% of the federal poverty guidelines.
- At least 10% of enrollment must be offered to children with disabilities, inclusive of income-eligible and over-income families.
- Enrollment is NOT first come-first served. The national Head Start Program Performance Standards require that, among the families seeking first-time enrollment, the family with the greatest need receives services first, no matter the date of application for enrollment.

Types of Families Served FY 2013-2014



“Head Start has helped all of our kids to be ready for school. We are thankful for it.

A HS/EHS Parent

Highlights of Policy Council and Family Committees' Activities

Hardy's Reindeer Ranch - held in October 2014.

Families and staff meet at the ranch and have a wienie roast, make s'mores and go on a hay rack ride. Families can play on the playground, see the reindeer and go through the corn maze.

Planetarium Nights – held throughout year.

A collaboration between Head Start/Early Head Start, Illinois Public Media and PNC Bank allowed families and staff to attend a show at the Parkland Planetarium several times during the school year.

Read Across America – held March 2013.

Staff and families participated in this nationwide event during the annual Week of the Young Child. Head Start staff helped children decorate and write their names on a hat from *Cat in the Hat*.

Provider Appreciation Day – held May 2014

Families enrolled in the family child care option found low cost ways to celebrate their FCC Provider. Mentors posted signs in each provider's yard and gave them a potted flowering plant and a large wooden pinwheel to draw attention to the sign for families and people in the community. We made them a card thanking them for their services to children and families. We mailed blank cards to all of the families in their care to decorate and write their own message of thanks.

End of Year Celebrations – held May 2014.

Head Start/Early Head Start centers held end-of-the-year celebrations with children and parents. Family Committees at each site made suggestions for their site's celebration.

Family Child Care Option – summer activities.

In June we went to AMBUCs Park for a picnic and outdoor play. In July HS assisted two of the providers in attending the NAFCC Conference in Florida. In August the providers attended the In-Service sessions at the I Hotel.

Swim Party – held August 2014.

Families enrolled in home-based services and the family child care option enjoyed their year-end celebration with supper and swimming.

Preparing Children for Kindergarten

- All children receive developmental screenings and ongoing assessments.
- Parents receive Child Progress Reports during home visits and parent-teacher meetings.
- About 87% of children leaving for kindergarten, including any with a disability, at the end of the 2013-2014 program year were assessed to be kindergarten.

“Yes, I feel that Head Start has helped prepare my child for school.”

A HS/EHS Parent

Health and Dental Achievements

- SmileHealthy Dental Clinics at Rantoul and Savoy Head Start sites provide services to not only enrolled children, but also to their families. In the 2013-2014 school year, SmileHealthy provided over 3,000 free dental services for enrolled children
- 89% of the children ended the year up-to-date for preventive health care.
- 96% of the children ended the year current for immunizations.
- 94% of the children received preventive dental care; 88% received follow-up treatment.



"I am so happy and thankful that their services are available."

A HS/EHS Parent

Letter from the Head Start Director



To the families, agencies, units of government and community members of Champaign County:

This report provides information about our most recently audited financial year for Champaign County, Fiscal Year 2013, and the programming information for Head Start/Early Head Start grant year 2013-2014.

This disparity arises between the reporting years due to the fact that the County fiscal year starts in January and our grant year starts in March. We do obviously have overlap between the two types of reporting years.

As of October 2014, Champaign County Head Start has been a program of the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission for 20 years! We celebrated this anniversary throughout the year, including a summer party with music, dancing and cake at Westside Park in Champaign. This year we are celebrating 50 years of Head Start as a national program that began in 1965 with summer sessions for children entering kindergarten.

Eligibility for Head Start/Early Head Start services, which are free, is based on family income. The program strives to maximize a family's strengths, provide each child a rich and nurturing learning environment and ensure children's medical and dental health needs are met. Champaign County Head Start/Early Head Start is a partner with families to prepare children for success at home, in school and in the community.

Thank you for your interest in and support for Champaign County Head Start/Early Head Start. We look forward to continuing to offer high quality services to the children and families in our county.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Liffick

Kathleen Liffick

Director, Champaign County Head Start/Early Head Start

1776 E. Washington Street

Urbana IL 61802

217-328-3313

“Keep up doing a good job, the program helped my son a lot.

A HS/EHS Parent

Triennial Federal Monitoring Review

The national Office of Head Start (OHS) is charged by Congress to review approximately one-third of the nation’s Head Start and Early Head Start programs every year. Champaign County Head Start/Early Head Start’s most recent review was in February 2014. The OHS report documented that our program was in full compliance with all operational, fiscal, and administrative requirements.

Further, the report contained the following key results from the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) observations conducted during the review:

- Emotional Support: a score of 6.3516
- Classroom Organization: a score of 6.3229
- Instructional Support: a score of 3.5208

These scores are out of a possible score of 7 and meet or exceed the national scores for the same 2013-2014 review year. As a result of these laudable scores, OHS approved our program for the recently implemented 5-year-grant designation.

The reviewers are not permitted to include strengths or commendations in the report. However, the team shared with us their recognition that Champaign County Head Start/Early Head Start offers high quality services to children and families in our county.

Annual Audit

The most recently completed audit for Champaign County is for the year ending December 2013. The firm of Clifton Larson Allen issued an unqualified opinion with no non-compliances related to Champaign County Regional Planning Commission. The audit was conducted following the requirements described in the U.S. Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133.

