



City of Rockford

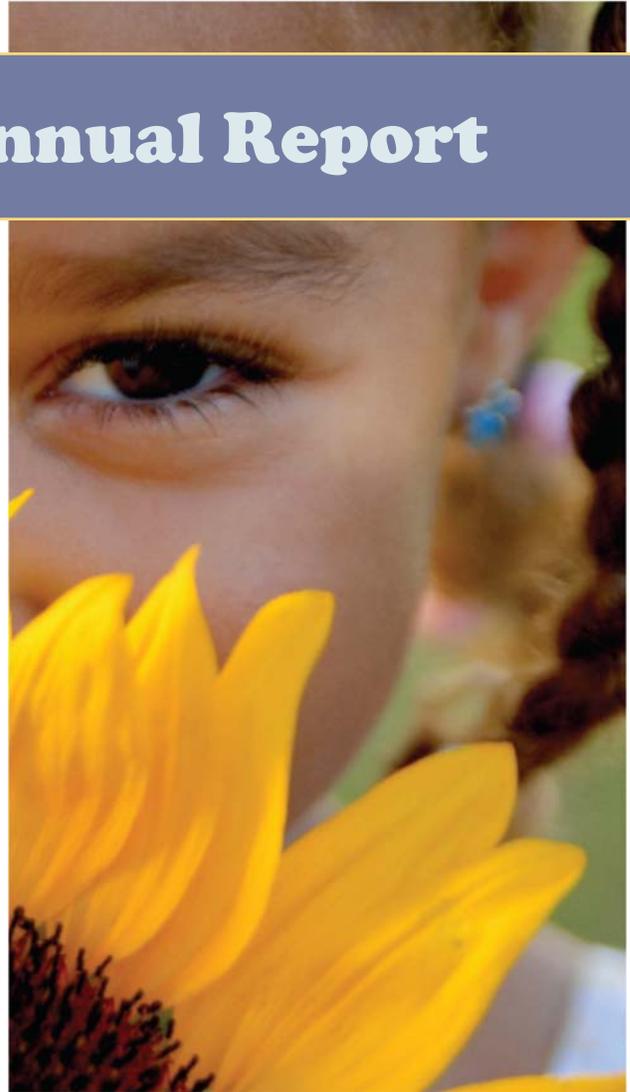


**Human Services Department
Head Start**

612 N. Church Street | Rockford, IL 61103 | Phone 815.987.5480 | Fax 815.987.8279
E-mail headstart@rockfordil.gov - Website www.rockfordil.gov

2013 – 2014 Annual Report

Head Start has the overall objective of breaking the cycle of poverty by preparing children to be effective learners and by assisting families to achieve greater economic, social and personal self-sufficiency in support of their children.



Lawrence J. Morrissey, Mayor

George Davis, Executive Director
Joanne Lewis, Head Start Director

To the Citizens of Winnebago County:

Head Start services have been provided to families in Winnebago County since 1965. In 1975, the City of Rockford received the federal award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to operate Head Start in Winnebago County. Each subsequent year continuation grants have been funded to provide comprehensive education and health services to children from low-income families. Parents and caretakers are provided services, information and referrals to meet the needs and goals of the entire family.

Parents and family members are the “forever” people in a child’s life. Head Start and Early Head Start programs build relationships with families that support family well-being, strong parent-child relationships and ongoing learning and development of parents and children alike.

Grant funds are primarily spent in the community, through salaries, materials and services.

Eligibility for services is based on family income. The program strives to maximize a child’s strengths, provide a rich learning environment and prepare children for success in their home, school and community.

Joanne Lewis, Director
City of Rockford Head Start

Head Start Locations

**Human Services Department
Administration Office**
612 N. Church Street, 61103
Early Head Start Home Base Funded
Enrollment: 84

Fairgrounds Head Start
902 Acorn Street, 61101
Funded Enrollment: 133

**Dennis Early Education Center
Head Start Classrooms**
730 Lincoln Park Blvd., 61102
Funded Enrollment: 238

Orton Keyes Head Start
653 Ranger Street, 61109
Funded Enrollment: 132

Circles of Learning
Child Care Partner
2909 N. Main Street, 61103
Funded Enrollment: 34
Early Head Start Funded Enrollment: 8

**Rockford Day Nursery
Early Learning Center**
Child Care Partner
2323 S. 6th Street 61104
Funded Enrollment: 20

Head Start Program Options

Four program options are available to families:

Part-day (3.5 hours per day, four days a week)	Part-Day Collaboration Classrooms (3 hours per day, five days a week)
Full-day, full-year (Full-day, year round services, provided through a child care partner)	



Early Head Start Program Options

Two program options are available to families:

Home-base (Home visit 1.5 hours a week)	Full-day, full-year (Full-day, year round services, provided through a child care partner)
--	--

Early Head Start – Services include one classroom with a child care partner. The majority of families are served through home visits. Teachers partner with parents to support their child’s optimal development. Families have opportunities throughout the year to attend parent-child socialization groups with their infants and



toddlers. Eighty groups were offered to families and 303 Early Head Start parents/guardians and 313 children attended. During these groups children and their caregivers participate in literacy activities, such as songs and book sharing, art exploration, and imaginative play. Our community partners, The Literacy Council and Music Academy in

Rockford, co-facilitated several groups.

Early Head Start Participant Success Stories – This past year, two families enrolled in City of Rockford Early Head Start were recognized for their many accomplishments. Leah Shackelford was nominated and received the Family of Distinction Award and Sharon DeBerry served on a parent plenary at a national conference for Early Childhood professionals. Parents were also given additional opportunities to participate in education meetings related to first aid and CPR for very young children.

**Early Head Start
Funded
Enrollment: 92**

**Birth - 3 years old
and pregnant
women**

- 143- Children Served
- 123 - Families Served
- 20 - Two Parent Families
- 103 - Single Parent Families
- 12 - Homeless Families Served
- 5 - Pregnant Women Served
- 99% - Income Eligible Children Served at or below 100% of Federal Poverty guidelines



In 2013 Leah Shackelford completed an application with Early Head Start after attending the “Week of the Young Child” event. At the time, Leah was participating in the Women’s Life Recovery Program at the Rockford Rescue Mission, where she lived. Two of her children were in DCFS care with their maternal grandmother and her oldest son lived with his paternal grandmother. Leah was working with the Community Action Agency (CAA) of Boone and Winnebago County Housing Advocacy Services where she received case management and assistance to locate housing. Obtaining permanent housing was the final step Leah needed to regain custody of her children.

Through her work with a CAA case manager and her Early Head Start Home Visitor, Leah was able to obtain permanent housing and set several attainable goals including obtaining employment, enrolling the children in child care and continuing her sobriety. Leah was able to gain knowledge about child development and beneficial activities to engage in with her children, which Leah states lead her to become more confident in her parenting. She continues to make positive choices toward the goal of improving her life and the lives of her children. Leah has successfully completed counseling, an anger management course, obtained a driver’s license, completed her G.E.D., and regained custody of her children. She continues to give back to her community by volunteering at her church’s food pantry and serving as an “Accountability Sister”, providing support to other individuals completing the Women’s Life Recovery Program. Leah received this award because of the major obstacles she has overcome and the strength she demonstrated to give her children (Mason, Madison, Makenzie and Micah) a better quality of life including greater economic self-sufficiency and a healthy lifestyle.



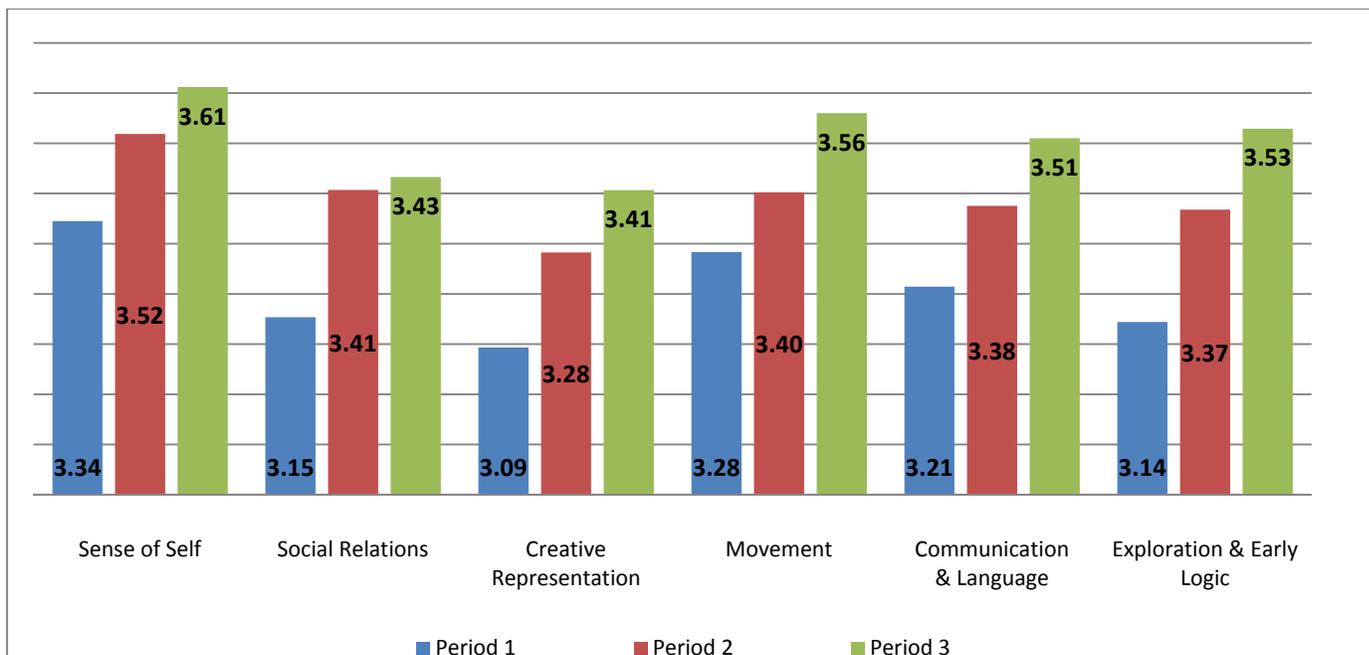
In July 2014, Sharon DeBerry, was asked by her Early Head Start Home Visitor if she would consider participating on a parent panel at the national Birth to Three conference in Washington D.C. The annual conference hosts more than 2000 Early Childhood professionals from across the county. The topic of this year’s plenary was “Working with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Families”.

Sharon and her spouse, Margaret, are raising five foster children who are all Native American. Sharon works to keep the children tied to their culture as well as providing extra care to the youngest child who was born with several birth defects and has undergone many surgeries.

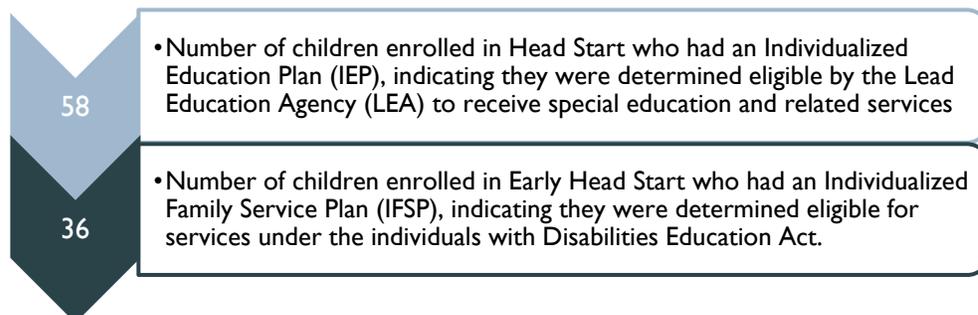
Despite her busy schedule, Sharon agreed to apply and began completing the necessary paperwork as well as participating in phone interviews with the plenary’s moderator. She soon was selected to be one of three panelists to answer questions and share information on this timely topic.

At the conference, Sharon shared stories, provided insight and encouraged the participants to work with LGBT families the same as they would work with any other family. She was complimentary of the relationships she has built with the City of Rockford Head Start and Early Head Start staff. As a program, we are pleased that Sharon was willing to take time away from her family to inform and educate so many on the importance of being inclusive of all members of their community.

Early Head Start Child Outcomes Ages Birth – 3 2013 – 2014 School Year



Services for Children with Special Needs (IEP/IFSP)



Head Start—Teachers serve as educators and partners with families. They focus on a child’s individual development. Ongoing child assessments are shared with parents to review progress and set goals. A variety of experiences and materials promote children’s development in key School Readiness areas.

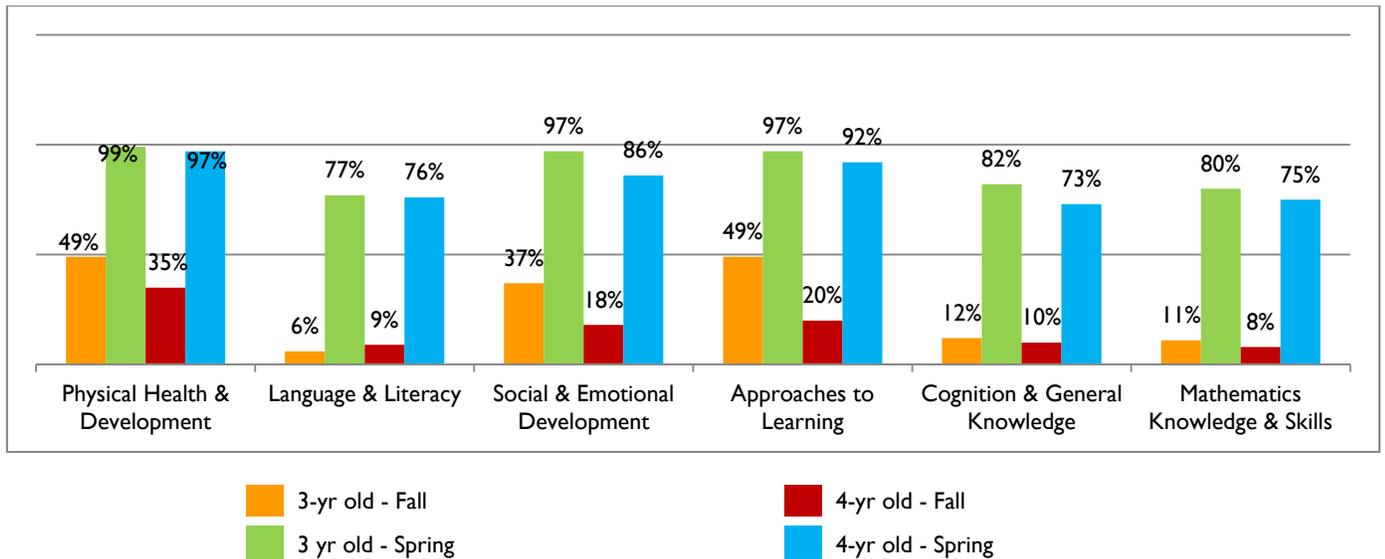
Child Outcomes in 2013-14 demonstrate significant progress towards School Readiness. The graphs show the percentage of children who were competent in specific developmental areas in the fall and at the end of the program year based on the two assessment tools that are utilized. Assessments are completed three times during the school year: November, February and May.

**Head Start
Funded
Enrollment:
557 - 591**

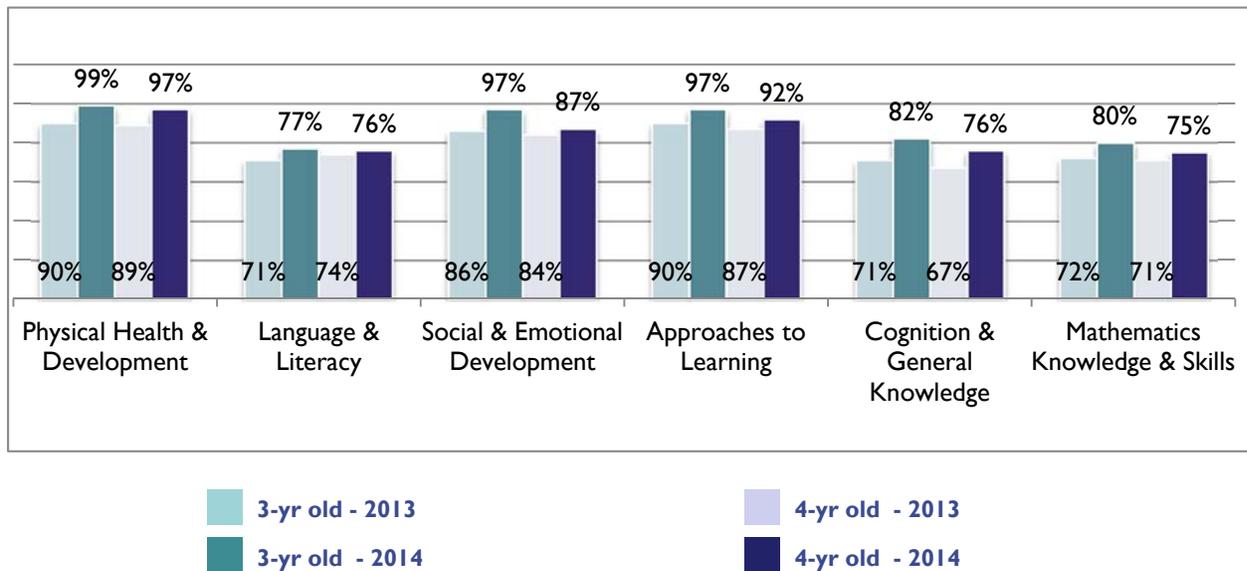
**3–5 years of
age**

- 613 - Children Served
- 566 - Families Served
- 116 - Two Parent Families
- 450 - Single Parent Families
- 19 - Homeless Families Served
- 85% - Average Daily Attendance
- 97% - Income Eligible Children Served at or below 100% of Federal Poverty guidelines

**Level of Proficiency in Six Key Areas of School Readiness Skills
2013 – 2014 School Year Fairgrounds, Orton Keyes and Rockford Day
HighScope Child Observation Record**



**2012–13 and 2013-14 Comparison
Level of Proficiency in Six Key Areas of School Readiness
Fairgrounds, Orton Keyes and Rockford Day HighScope Child Observation Record**



Partnerships with community organizations enrich children’s educational experiences. Partners include Discovery Center Museum, Burpee Museum of Natural History, University of Illinois Extension, Rockford Public Library and Music Academy in Rockford.



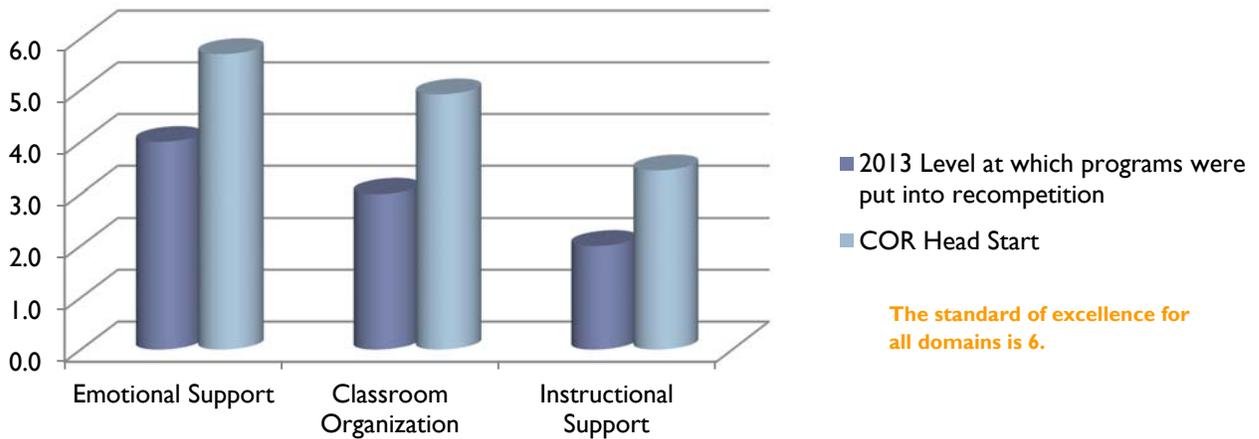
PNC Foundation - In December of 2010, PNC Foundation awarded a grant to Head Start. The grant provides \$25,000 a year for three years, totaling \$75,000, to enhance arts, science and math.

During the 2013-2014 school year the funds allowed Head Start to continue enrichment programs in science, math and the arts. All classrooms had a visit from the Discovery Center and monthly visits from the Music Academy. In addition 8 classrooms received bi-monthly coaching sessions in the arts. Teachers learned how to incorporate visual arts, story-telling and music throughout the curriculum.



CLASS - The Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) is an observation instrument developed to assess quality in 3 specific domains in early childhood classrooms.

CLASS Assessment is part of Head Start Federal Reviews. Programs can be placed in re-competition if CLASS scores are low. Programs will be re-competed if:
 The average score across all classrooms on any of the three CLASS domains are below the minimum thresholds.
 The average score in any domain is in the lowest 10% of all programs reviewed nationally in the same program year.



- Emotional Support**
- Positive Climate
 - Negative Climate
 - Teacher Sensitivity
 - Regard for Student Perspectives

- Classroom Organization**
- Behavior Management
 - Productivity
 - Instructional Learning Formats

- Instructional Support**
- Concept Development
 - Quality of Feedback
 - Language Modeling
 - Literacy Focus



Nutrition: - Nutrition activities were provided monthly to the children at Fairgrounds and Orton Keyes Sites. This is a collaboration between Head Start and the University of Illinois Extension. The activities in the classrooms were focused on "Go foods" or healthier foods.

Health Services—Children must be healthy to grow and learn. Head Start works with each family to provide medical and dental services, immunizations and other health assessments.

During the 2013-14 school year:

In Head Start:

- 100% of enrolled children had an ongoing source of continuous and accessible, routine, preventive and acute medical care.
- 100% of children were determined by a health professional to be up-to-date on all immunizations appropriate for their age.
- 30% of Head Start children were diagnosed with a chronic condition. Of these children 100% received or are receiving medical treatment.
- 100% of children had an ongoing source of continuous and accessible, routine, preventive and acute dental care.
- 99% of children completed a professional dental exam during the operating period or within the last 12 months.

In Early Head Start:

- 100% of enrolled children had an ongoing source of continuous and accessible, routine, preventive and acute medical care.
- 83% of children were determined by a health professional to be up-to-date on all immunizations appropriate for their age.
- 23% of Early Head Start children were diagnosed with a chronic condition. Of these children 100% received or are receiving medical treatment.
- 78% of children had an ongoing source of continuous and accessible, routine, preventive and acute dental care.
- 92% of children were up-to-date on a schedule of age-appropriate preventive and primary oral health care

Several health education opportunities were offered to parents. These include education on lead prevention, anemia, oral health, nutrition, and exercise. Families could also choose to meet one on one with the Nutrition Consultant or the nurse.

Transportation- Head Start provides door-to-door transportation for the majority of children attending part day, center based classes. All children are securely seated in safety vests.

- 632 Children transported in 2013-2014
- 14 Bus Drivers employed by Head Start
- 10 Routes operate Monday – Thursday at Fairgrounds and Orton Keyes Sites
- 18 Buses owned by Head Start
- 14 Routes operate Monday – Friday at Dennis Early Education Center



Parent Involvement

Head Start parents:

- Participate in their child's education and development
- Make decisions and offer suggestions that will contribute to program quality
- Volunteer in the classroom and on field trips
- Develop their skills as their child's first and most important teacher and advocate

Additional opportunities are available to all parents:

Policy Council is an elected body of parents and community representatives who participate in all important decisions affecting the program. Parent participants are elected by site and program option level and make up the majority of the membership.

Parent Committees are organized at the site level, the committee keeps parents informed about activities and makes recommendations for program plans.

Family Partnerships identify and support the interests, goals, needs and strengths of the individual family.

Parent education and training is provided at the site level and through community resources. Topics include family literacy, health, child development and self-sufficiency. 25 parent education events were held during the program year and 360 parents participated.

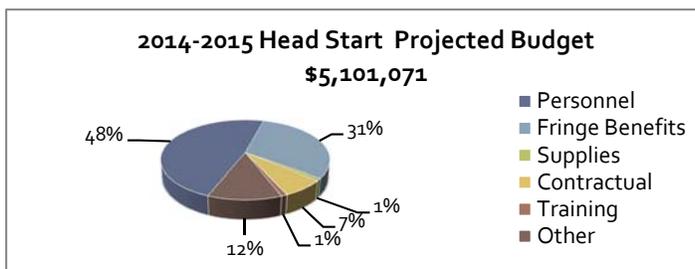
Family Fun Nights are held regularly at the site level. Family-centered events are fun and informative. All members of the family are welcome to participate. 18 Family Fun Nights were held in 2013-14 and 2187 children and families participated in the events.

Family Jamboree – is a yearly event held at the Discovery Center. 654 children and families attended.



Social Services—Family Resource Workers and Home Visitor Teachers support families’ goals and needs. Families make decisions, including the resources they choose to utilize and options they choose to exercise. In some cases, support is provided to families in crisis. Services Provided:

	Head Start	Early Head Start		Head Start	Early Head Start
Emergency/crisis intervention (addressing immediate need for food, clothing or shelter):	54	10	Adult education (GED programs, college selection, etc)	27	7
Mental health services	6	2	Domestic violence services	1	0
Housing assistance (subsidies, utilities, repair, etc)	20	4	Child support assistance	0	2
English as a Second Language (ESL) training	14	4	Health education	129	90
Child Abuse and Neglect services	11	3	Assistance to families of incarcerated individuals	1	0
Job training	0	2	Parenting education	129	95
Substance abuse prevention or treatments	13	3			

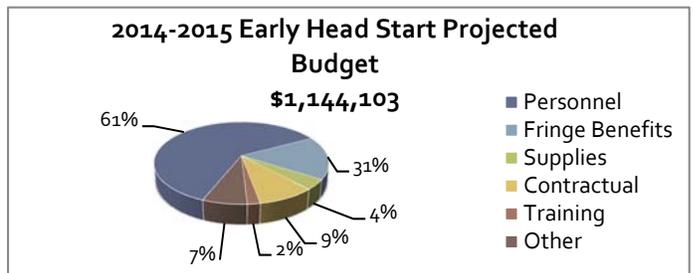


Funding Sources

96% - U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
3% - USDA via State Board of Education
1% - Miscellaneous

Funding Sources

100% - U.S. Department of Health & Human Services



Audit—Lauterbach & Amen conducted the annual financial audit for the year ending December 31, 2013. City of Rockford is in compliance with the requirements described in the U.S.

Office of Management Budget (OMB) Circular A-133. There were no findings specific to the Head Start program.