

# SIUE Head Start/Early Head Start Program

## 2021-2022 Annual Report

"The question is not whether we can afford to invest in early childhood; it is whether we can afford not to." -Marian Wright Edelman

**Service Area:** St. Clair County, Illinois

### Population Served

Expectant Families  
Children Six Weeks-Five Years of Age  
Children with Specialized Needs

### Funded Enrollment

Head Start: 536  
Early Head Start: 329  
Total: 865

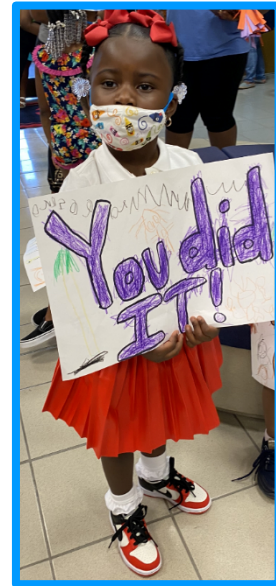
### Cumulative Enrollment

Head Start: 400  
Early Head Start: 242  
Total: 642

### Program Options

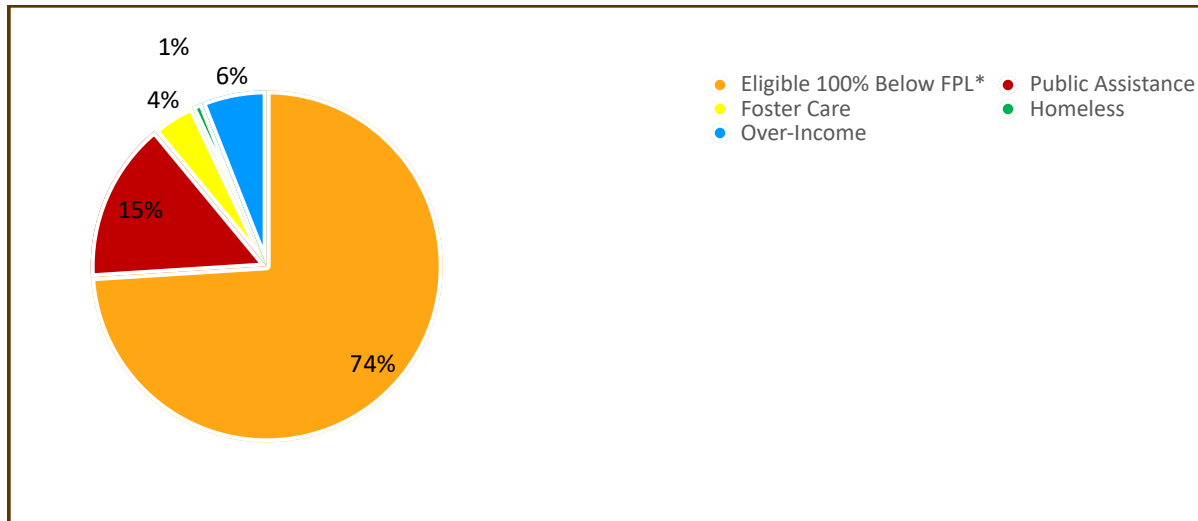
Part day (6.5 Hours), Full-day (7.0 Hours), Home-based

**Average Monthly Attendance: 79%**



**At a Glance**

## 2021-2022 Eligibility of Children Served



FPL-\*Federal Poverty Level

## Empowering Children for Success



With diminishing effects of the pandemic, SIUE Head Start/ Early Head Start was able to provide in-person services to more than six hundred children and families. This number understandably reflects the residual effects of the pandemic, but even more so reflects the effects of a national and local staffing shortage, specifically, teachers and teacher aides. Unfortunately, several Head Start and Early Head Start classrooms remained closed in 2021-2022 due to a critical staff shortage. However, SIUE was able to provide the normal array of comprehensive services for 2021-2022. In-person services such as educational instruction, nutrition, dental, vision screenings were provided in all managed and partner sites. Families received communications regarding updates and discussions about the importance of follow-up medical and dental treatment. As needed, behavior health services were also provided in-person. As of August 2022, 80%-of Head Start children were up-to-date on the schedule of preventative and primary health care and due to social distancing requirements, 70% received preventative dental services, and 49% had continuous and accessible dental care. At the end of enrollment 82% were up-to-date on all immunizations for their age. As of August 2022, 41% of Early Head Start children were up-to-date on the schedule of preventive and primary health care and \*45% received preventative dental services. At the end of enrollment 79% were up-to-date on all immunizations for their age. Over 95% of Head Start and Early Head Start children began the 2021-2022 program year with an on-going source of continuous, accessible health care—a medical home. \*(Only children ages 2 and older are recommended to have a dental exam).

During a typical school year children receive nutritious, well-balanced meals and snacks that meet at least two-thirds of their daily nutritional requirements. In full-day sessions, children received breakfast, lunch and a healthy snack. In the home-based option, one meal is served during each group socialization experience. With the return to in-person services, the number of meals served for 2021-2022 was much greater than the previous school year. However, due to the staff shortage and the inability to enroll more children the number of meals served for 2021-2022 did not compare to the number of meals served pre-pandemic.

#### **Head Start Meals Served**

Breakfast: 16,444

Lunch: 17,879

Snack: 16,428

#### **Early Head Start Meals Served**

Breakfast: 6289

Lunch: 7632

Snack: 7160

### **Behavioral Health**

The program recognizes the impact a child's health, including his or her behavioral health, has on a child's school readiness. Research demonstrates that behavior health provides an essential foundation of stability that supports all other aspects of human development and academic achievement. The program supported children's behavioral health and social/emotional development by building trusting relationships with children and families, and proactively addressing challenging behaviors. In-person interactions provided opportunities for children to practice self-regulation, work collaboratively and address challenges/conflict. Art Enrichment and psychology graduate students promoted universal social competence through play-based activities and a licensed child mental health professionals completed direct observations in order to determine targeted and individual supports.



### **Instructional Services**

**Center-based  
Curriculum:**

**Creative Curriculum  
System**

**Home-based  
Curricula:**

**Baby Basics**

**Parents as  
Teachers**

**Student  
Assessment Tool:**

**Teaching  
Strategies  
GOLD**

The SIUE Head Start/Early Head Start Program believes that a parent is the child's first teacher and utilized the parent-lead developmental screener *Ages and Stages Questionnaire(ASQ)*. The ASQ established the reciprocal sharing of information between the school and home. The program's School Readiness Goals were created in partnership with parents and include children's development of a positive attitude toward the learning process, discovery of the breadth of their capability (even if it is initially challenging) and demonstration of the knowledge and skills needed to experience a smooth transition into kindergarten and subsequent grades.

Children's progress toward school readiness was measured through the Teaching Strategies GOLD assessment tool. Teaching Strategies GOLD assesses 38 widely held, age-appropriate learning expectations in the areas of social/emotional development, physical development, language, literacy, cognitive development and mathematical skills. The 38 widely held objectives directly align with the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework Central domains of Approaches to Learning, Social and Emotional Development, Language and Literacy, Cognition, and Perceptual, Motor, and Physical Development. The SIUE Head Start program's School Readiness Goals were designed to utilize the Teaching Strategies Gold assessment tool to measure children's progress toward each goal within the learning domains. During 2021-2022, 21 of 38 objectives were selected to assess children's development. The program's School Readiness Goals guided this limited selection.

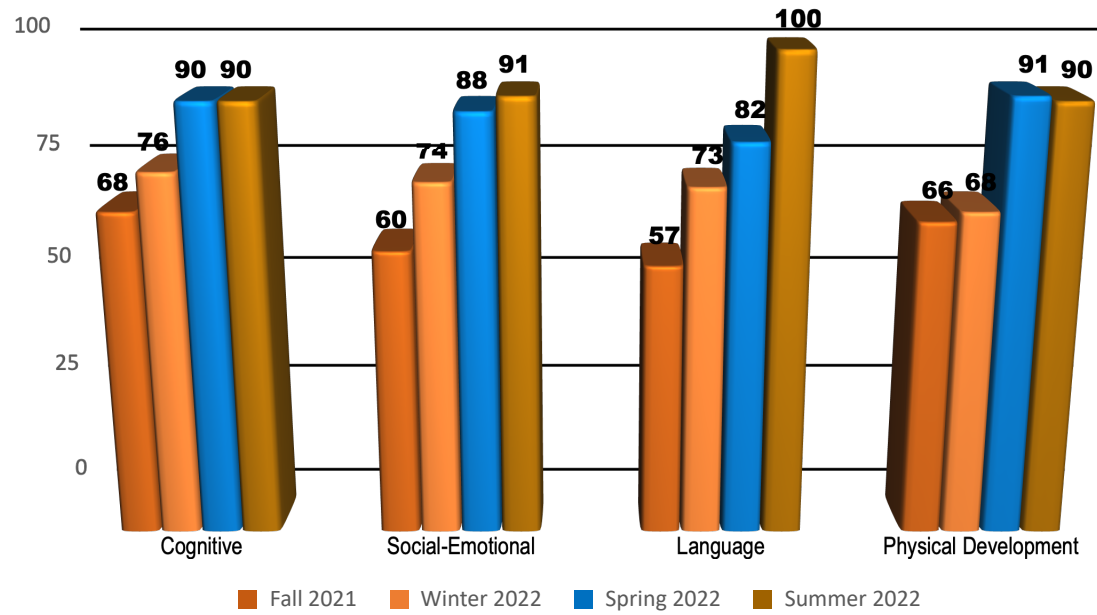
Throughout the 21-22 school year, our program continued to work toward formally assessing our Head Start children **three times** and our Early Head Start children **four times** during the school year, based on the program term. Individual child assessment results were shared with families during virtual visits and conferences with families.

The following graphs provide an overview by Head Start and Early Head Start in selected learning domains. They depict the progress of the SIUE Head Start/Early Head Start children's achievement as assessed utilizing Teaching Strategies GOLD from the Fall assessment period to the last assessment, during the 2021-2022 school year. Each year our program strives to enhance each child's development to **80%** of the widely held threshold. It is important to note that although there is a typical progression toward each school readiness domain, mastery of progression is not rigid. This can specifically be found with development of children under three years of age, development and learning is often varying, overlapping and interrelated.



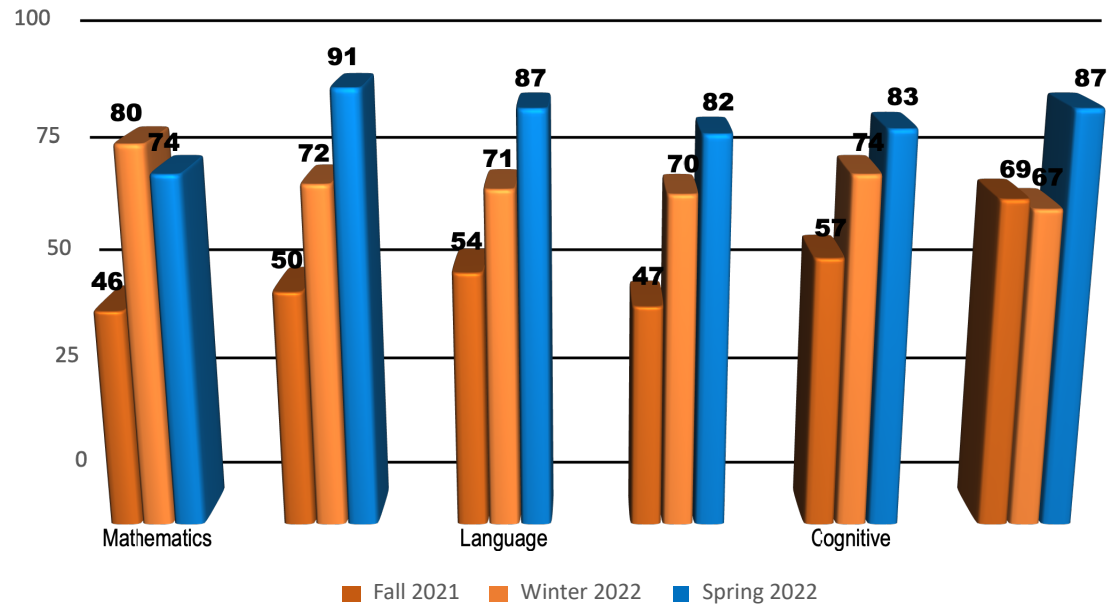
## **2021-2022 SIUE Early Head Start Program Child Outcomes**

## 21-22 SIUE Early Head Start Outcomes



## 2021-2022 SIUE Head Start Program Child Outcomes

## 21-22 SIUE Head Start Pre-K Outcomes



## Empowering Families for Success

During the 2021-2022 school year parents continued to play a hands on and crucial role in their child's developmental growth and academic achievement. This program year parents really gave new meaning to being their child's first teacher.

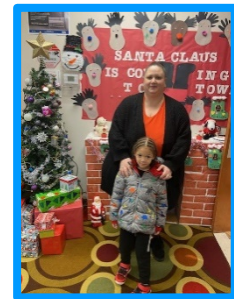


The SIUE Head Start/Early Head Start Program Family Engagement and Support Services staff met with families and collaboratively determined individualized family goals. Goals focused on enhancing family well-being, supporting school readiness with-in the home, promoting life-long learning, entering the work force and advocating for their local community. English

learning families also participated in learning about kindergarten programs in the community as well as the educational system in the US. Parents volunteered by participating via zoom meetings. Parents actively participated in the program's shared governance through virtually engaging in center-based and Policy Council meetings.

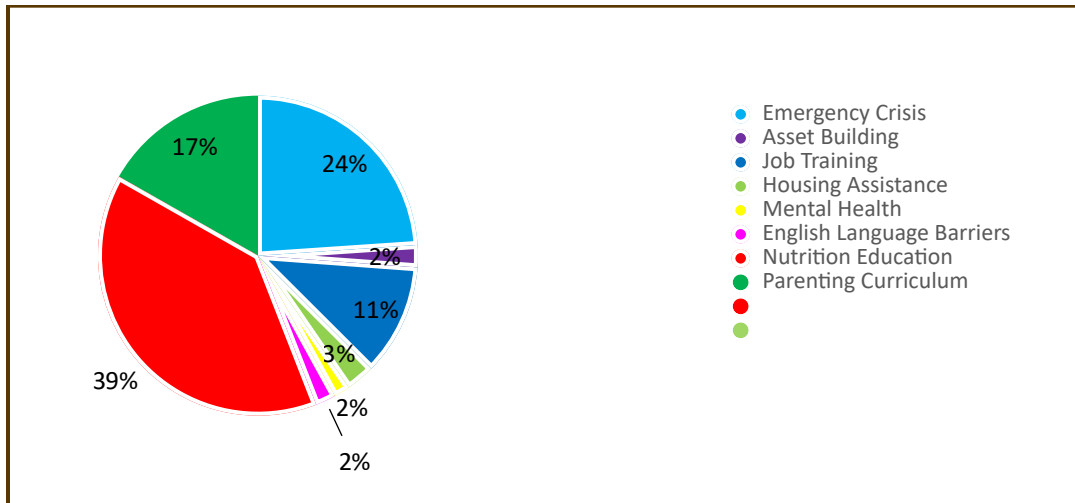
SIUE Head Start is excited to announce that SIUE Belleville Head Start parent, Ms. Angela M. Howard was selected as the 2021-2022 SIUE Head Start Parent of the Year! Ms. Howard also serves on the Belleville Head Start/Early Head Start parent committee and SIUE Head Start Policy Council.

Although efforts were affected and somewhat limited by the pandemic, the program promoted healthy, engaged, self-sufficient families and provided the family support services reflected in the chart below during the 2021-2022 program year.



## 2021-2022 SIUE Head Start/Early Head Start Program: Family Engagement and Support Services





## **Empowering Staff for Success**

The SIUE Head Start/Early Head Start Program is committed to ensuring children and families are engaged with highly qualified staff who have the heart, spirit, and knowledge base to support the achievement of children and families. Tuition waivers were available to staff members and professional development opportunities included an individualized mentoring program, Wellness Retreat, Practiced-based Coaching (PBC), and participation in local, state and national conferences.

The Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) is a nationally recognized professional development tool, based on developmental theory and research that suggests a child's development and learning outcomes are the direct result of teacher-child interactions. CLASS assesses teacher-child interactions and classroom quality in three broad domains—emotional support, classroom organization, and instructional support. CLASS scores range from zero to seven, with the score of seven representing an exceptionally effective teacher. The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Administration for Children and Families (ACF) and Office of Head Start (OHS) established nationally targeted thresholds for the three broad domains with SIUE Head Start teaching staff exceeding those during the 2021-2022 program year. Observation scores are reflected below.



### **Emotional Support**

**Quality Threshold:**  
**6.0**

**Competitive  
Threshold: 5.0**

**\*SIUE Head Start:**  
**5.0**

### **Classroom Organization**

**Quality Threshold:**  
**6.0**

**Competitive  
Threshold: 5.0**

**\*SIUE Head Start:**  
**5.9**

### **Instructional Support**

**Quality Threshold:**  
**3.0**

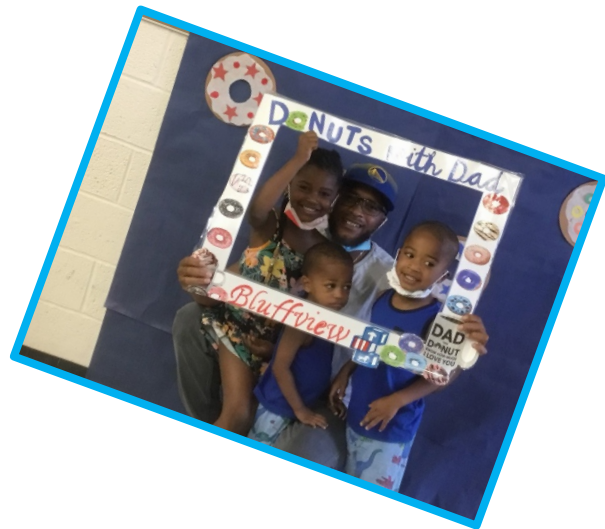
**Competitive  
Threshold: 2.3**

**\*SIUE Head Start:**  
**4.5**

## **Program Year in Pictures!**











## 2021-2022 Fiscal Operations

During the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year (FY), which consisted of a 9-month grant budget period (GBP), ending 3/31/22, the SIUE Head Start/Early Head Start Program expended federal grant dollars from the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families and Office of Head Start in the total dollar amount of \$7,535,439. The program expended an average of 76.57% of program operations and professional development funding.

### FY 2021-2022: SIUE Head Start/Early Head Start Programs

	Budget	Expenditures
Salaries	\$ 4,637,607	\$ 3,376,861
Travel	\$ 16,233	\$ 7,490
Equipment	\$ 0	\$ 0
Supplies	\$ 359,637	\$ 301,475
Contractual	\$ 1,501,431	\$ 1, 471,756
Fringe Benefits	\$ 2,513,478	\$ 1,759,256
Indirect Charges	\$812,553	\$ 618,601
	<hr/>	
	\$ 9,840,939	\$ 7,535,439

The United States Department of Agriculture, Child and Adult Care Food Program provided additional federal funding as reimbursement payments for Head Start/Early Head Start children's meals in the amount of \$167,474. During FY 2021-2022, the value of non-federal share efforts, or matching, included \$148,995 through public sector space and services and \$12,748 through volunteer hours and services from the private sector.

On November 7, 2022 the Office of Head Start (OHS) conducted a follow-up monitoring review of the SIUE Head Start/Early Head Start program. The results of the follow-up review are pending. December 5-7, 2022, OHS conducted a Focus Area-1 (FA1) off-site review. OHS issued a report of compliance on December 29, 2022 for the FA-1 Review.

We would like to thank you our partners, supporters and communities for your commitment to assist in providing quality comprehensive services to the children and families of St. Clair County, IL. As you review our annual report we are confident that you will find evidence of child and family outcomes that is only possible with your support.

With much gratitude,

Carolyn L. Jason, Interim Program Director



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