



Schoenbaum Family Center

# The Ohio State University Early Head Start Partnership Program



## 2020–2021 Annual Report



**EHS-CC**  
EARLY HEAD START  
CHILD CARE



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**  
COLLEGE OF  
EDUCATION AND HUMAN ECOLOGY

## from the director

Over a year and a half has passed since COVID-19 roared into our lives, upending routines and norms. The pandemic has shown us just how essential child care and early learning are, as well as how far we must go to create a high-quality, accessible, and affordable system that works for everyone. During 2020-2021, our partnering Early Head Start (EHS) child care providers struggled to keep their doors open. Our university and community partners curtailed their comprehensive services due to CDC guidelines. Parents supported their children with homeschooling, while at the same time working from home. The economic situation worsened with high levels of unemployment. All of this put immense pressure on children, families, and educators as they struggled with their day-to-day lives. In response, our EHS team was hard at work finding new ways of providing classroom and teacher support, delivering services, and building meaningful relationships remotely.

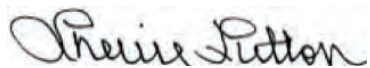
Despite the stresses and challenges, we are reinvigorated in our effort to provide high-quality early education for children through our unique partnership model. I'm pleased to share in this 2020-2021 Annual Report, that The Ohio State Early Head Start Partnership Program was awarded a \$10 million federal expansion grant. The five-year renewable grant allows our team to build upon and expand vital services supporting the health, learning, and well-being of the families we serve.

The grant reaffirms the importance of collaborative partnerships like the ones embedded within our program that make it possible to fully meet the range of needs facing households experiencing poverty and its hardships. The funds will enable the EHS program to expand services to more than 100 additional children for a total of 263 spaces and offer prenatal support to 25 moms-to-be, strengthening the prenatal to early childhood support spectrum.

New child care professionals will join our provider network, and the program will expand community partnerships that offer holistic support for families and children in nutrition and meal planning; dental, vision, and health services, mental health support, and workforce development. The grant will also create new services for families educating their children at home by providing a home visiting educator who will offer training and resources in addition to monthly social gatherings.

The newly created program for expecting moms will support a healthy birth and access to support services through their child's third birthday. The additional funding maximizes our unique strengths of a "two-generation" approach to poverty alleviation. Our services far exceed the requirements of the Head Start Program Performance Standards, and we continuously assess data and make improvements. More than ever, we are grateful for the commitment of our community and university partners, child care providers, policy council, and governing board who offer vital services, early childhood education, and oversight for our program.

Though separated, we will continue to learn from each other. Our conversations will promote anti-racist and anti-bias teaching strategies to change and improve classroom practices. With your support, we are committed to becoming a better and more inclusive organization. Although COVID-19 has changed our daily lives, child development has not paused, and supporting children, families, and care providers are as important as ever. Thank you for your partnership and shared vision on behalf of the EHS children and families we serve together.



Sherrie Sutton, M.Ed. LPCC, Director  
The Ohio State University Early Head Start Partnership Program

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# about the program

## MISSION

Through robust partnerships with university and community agencies, we improve the quality of early childhood education and comprehensive services for infants and toddlers in Columbus' most vulnerable neighborhoods.

## VISION

To ensure that all caregivers engage their children in life-long learning while strengthening their stability, economic outcomes, and well-being.

## GOALS

- Increase opportunities for parents to become partners to encourage greater involvement in the program and their child's learning.
- Maintain existing community and university partners to provide high quality comprehensive services as well as identify any gaps to leverage new partnerships.
- Create a professional development framework based on developmentally appropriate best practices to enhance classroom quality and student achievement.
- Implement data-driven decision making for continued quality improvement and growth.

1,400

personal or virtual contacts with families

470

family engagement opportunities were provided

283

family need assessments were identified and completed



The new expansion grant will allow the OSU-EHS program to serve **64%** more families.



We recognize that all children deserve the chance to learn, grow, and reach their full potential, and ensure that all children begin with equitable resources and opportunities. A consistent support network is essential to assisting families from low-income households and to evaluating the needs of the whole child and family. This new grant allows EHS to expand services to serve even more children and to extend our continuum of support to prenatal mothers.

# provider success

## Child Care Providers

Columbus Early Learning Center – Champion, 4 stars  
Columbus Early Learning Center – Main, 5 stars  
Creative Child Care – East, 5 stars  
Creative Child Care – North, 5 stars  
Fresh Start – Vaughn, 5 stars  
Kid’s Care Academy, 5 stars  
Schoenbaum Family Center, 5 stars  
South Side Learning Center, 5 stars  
Starting Point, 5 stars  
YMCA Future Scholars Learning Center, 4 stars

## Family Child Care Providers

Teri Allen, 3 stars  
Trina Averette, 5 stars  
Alana Barnett, 3 stars  
Hattie Hudson, 5 stars  
Esther Jefferson, 5 stars  
Marcia Jones, 3 stars  
Cheryl Odom, 5 stars  
Lori Wilson, 4 stars

## School Readiness

Teaching Strategies GOLD is an assessment tool that helps our teachers observe infants and toddlers in every day experiences. We are pleased to report that even through a time of isolation, stress and uncertainty, our children achieved the following milestones:

- 89% met the cognitive goal of using appropriate skills to solve problems
- 88% met the literacy goal of laying a foundation for emerging reading and writing
- 88% met the social emotional goal of engaging in positive relationships with adults and peers

## New In-Kind Process for Families

Family in-kind hours have been greatly impacted during the pandemic due to the no contact rules child care centers were required to follow. To help solve this, our team put their heads (and skills) together to develop a new online phone-friendly process piloted by Future Scholars Learning Center. The process includes links which are emailed to families, an in-kind activity handout which includes a QR Code to scan from a phone, and a classroom poster reminding families to track at-home activities.

## Sensory Play During COVID

Sensory play is an important part of a child’s development, especially for infants and toddlers. As educators struggle to incorporate sensory items within COVID-19 guidelines, Education Specialist Stacy Orbaker created a video teacher tutorial to help spark ideas. It showcases how simple objects (such as leaves and water) can still achieve all learning domains. The tutorial showcases ideas that teachers can use to promote mathematical concepts, rich language opportunities, creative expression and problem-solving strategies.

## New Formats For Exploration

This past year we explored the use of more digital formats for our content, including a series of video shorts about building a better early care and education system, and other family video features. Director Sherrie Sutton talked about the increasing difficulties facing families when it comes to quality child care and the EHS approach to holistic support for families.



**100%**  
of EHS providers  
have a 3 star  
rating or higher  
(on a scale of 1-5)



## Combating Anti-bias and Anti-racism

Early childhood educators must be equipped to address bias and racism and have a toolkit that includes anti-bias and anti-racist practices. But how do you start a conversation and promote change within your professional setting? EHS Education Specialists, Latoya Jackson and Stacy Orbaker, teamed up with book authors Drs. Iheoma Iruka and Stephanie Curenton to create a how-to-guide for studying the book, *Don't Look Away: Embracing Anti-Bias Classrooms*. The group provided the opportunity for teachers and administrators to consider perceptions and thought process when it comes to identifying their biases and minimizing biases in the classroom, school, and community.

Jackson also spoke on promoting racial self-identification in the classroom at the March Learn to Earn Dayton 12th Annual Readiness Summit, where nearly 600 attendees helped to create a Mosaic of Hope as a lasting testament to how resilient our communities have been in the face of COVID.



## The Best Medicine

Last April, Ohio State's favorite pups visited the A. Sophie Roger's School of Early Learning. The certified therapy dogs from the Buckeye Paws program visited as a part of the Wexner Medical Center's Stress, Trauma and Resilience Program. Brienne, a Yellow Labrador Retriever visited with an EHS classroom. The children prepared for their visit by learning more about therapy dogs and other dogs who provide services.

## Of Note

- Columbus Early Learning Centers and South Side Early Learning Center were featured in December on NBC4icom advocating for early childhood education staff to be considered for the COVID-19 vaccine as part of the governor's plan.
- Kid's Care Director, Dalauna Tillman facilitated the first EHS director-focused professional development session in February. The webinar entitled, "Leadership vs Management—Where are you?" was Ohio Approved for two hours.
- Data Analytics and Compliance Manager Jessica Woodruff presented, "How a Shift in Culture Betters Your Outcomes," at the virtual Ohio AEYC Conference in April. Center and family child professionals learned practical systems and practices to support gathering quality data and walked away with an understanding of how to apply a positive psychology theory for better outcomes
- The A. Sophie Rogers School of Early Learning received nearly \$400K from the Ohio Department of Education as a model literacy site to offer new opportunities to underserved students. The grant aims to improve children's language and literacy, provide educators with high-quality professional development, and engage with families to promote literacy at home.
- The work of EHS teachers consistently improves learning outcomes for the children in their care. Teacher totes distributed over the summer were our small way of saying, "We couldn't do it without you!" Now, more than ever, we value our EHS teacher's expertise, talent, and commitment.



**308**

educators participated  
in 31 hours of EHS  
professional  
development



## *partner support*

Ensuring that infants and toddlers have equal access to early childhood education and comprehensive services, takes more than one organization. That's why the heart of our model is a strong collaboration with many partners. During 2020-2021, these partners provided vital services to EHS families:

- **Action for Children** – offers training and technical assistance to child care providers and assists Family Child Care providers pursuing Step Up To Quality rating. Assists families with finding child care.
- **Center for Healthy Families** – provides comprehensive services for pregnant and parenting teens. Refers parenting teens to EHS for child care.
- **Children's Hunger Alliance** – assists family child care providers in meeting and maintaining the nutrition requirements for Ohio Healthy Programs designation.
- **Columbus Public Health** – assists child care centers in meeting and maintaining the nutrition requirements for Ohio Healthy Programs designation.
- **Community Properties of Ohio** – provides subsidized housing and supportive services to their residents including linkage to EHS for child care.
- **Directions for Youth and Families** – provides social workers who recruit, enroll, and offer support to EHS families by connecting them to community resources including housing stability, workforce development, continued education, and financial security.
- **Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities** – assists in early intervention and support of children with developmental delays. Provides training and technical assistance to EHS providers.
- **Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services** – assists families in applying for and maintaining Publicly Funded Child Care. Provides training for EHS directors, agency partners, and staff to support families.
- **Franklin County Family and Children First/Help Me Grow** – assesses children with developmental concerns and creates plans to help families find a successful learning environment for their child.
- **Moms2B** – provides comprehensive support for pregnant and parenting mothers and fathers through their child's first year of life. Works with EHS to gain the trust of families to encourage enrollment in child care.
- **Nationwide Children's Hospital School Health and Mobile Care Units** – provides children access to well-child checks, immunizations and sick visits through twelve Primary Care Centers located in the neighborhoods where our families live. Provides mobile units at EHS child care centers to keep infants and toddlers healthy and up to date on well-child checks and immunizations.
- **Nationwide Children's Hospital Dental Clinic** – provides EHS children with complete dental exams every six months along with parent education regarding oral health.
- **Ohio State University College of Education and Human Ecology** – places undergraduate students in EHS classrooms to help them gain classroom experience and learn about the effects of poverty.
- **Ohio State University College of Nursing** – reviews children's health histories to assure they are up to date and not in need of any follow up.
- **Ohio State Department of Speech & Hearing** – provides EHS children with hearing exams and follow up.
- **Ohio State University Nisonger Center** – provides developmental screenings and mental health assessments for infants and toddler suspected of having a delay, serves as a child development resource, and supports families through the referral and evaluation process.
- **Ohio State University College of Optometry** – provides EHS children with vision exams and glasses.





Healthy eyes and strong vision are one of the most important tools young children need to learn and grow. The EYE Can See project strategically aligns with the goals we share with EHS to provide optimal, comprehensive vision, and eye health care for all children.

*Dr. Catherine McDaniel, Associate Professor of Clinical Optometry and Chief of Ohio State's Binocular Vision and Pediatrics Optometry Service*

**Streaming Approaches**

Through an annual program self-assessment, we re-evaluated our mental health services to our providers. To streamline the process, we transferred our contract from St. Vincent Family Center to Ohio State's Nisonger Center – allowing the Nisonger team to integrate both mental health and developmental services. The results? Teachers and families benefit through behavioral, social emotional development assessments, and early intervention support that's needed in classrooms or at home.

**Eye Can See**

Only 14% of children under the age of six are likely to have a comprehensive eye exam. Yet, 80% of all learning in early childhood occurs visually, meaning young children with poor vision are less likely to develop necessary for school and beyond. The good news? Unlike some childhood conditions, poor vision can be corrected.

Last November, EHS in partnership with Ohio State's College of Optometry was awarded a 2020 Healthy Eyes Healthy Children (HEHC) Community Grant of \$5,000 from Optometry Cares, The AOA Foundation. The EYE Can See project gives pediatric optometrists the opportunity to provide comprehensive eye exams, glasses, and overall education on the importance of eye health to children and families in the program.

While nearly 20% of children in the EHS program have vision impairments, this age group is often overlooked when it comes to vision assessments. The grant alleviates barriers for families experiencing poverty by offering these health services conveniently at their childcare provider location. Plus, every child receives a copy of Dr. McDaniel's book, "Howard and the Amazing Eye Exam" to add to their home library.



**CHILDREN IN THE OSU-EHS PROGRAM:**

**195**

children received well-child checks

**0%**

infant mortality rate within the OSU-EHS program

**191**

children received dental screenings

**191**

completed hearing exams

**14%**

had developmental delays

**281**

children and families served

**192**

infants and toddlers received wellness checks

**20%**

had vision impairments

# family engagement



## Community Coming Together

Starting Point Learning Center created a community center hub called FACCES (Family, Adolescence, and Child Community Engagement Services) which serves families in a safe space to improve wellness, education, and access to healthy lifestyle resources in a holistic approach. The program specializes in family engagement with a focus on culinary and nutrition education, mental health, physical wellness, and child advocacy all under one roof. At the hub's first event, over 1,000 families received food boxes through a drive-through food pantry in partnership with the mid-Ohio Food Bank.

> Last year, EHS parents volunteered 15,023 hours to the program <



## Partnering with Families

ReadyRosie, a birth through age seven family engagement toolkit, was introduced to EHS teachers and families. The web and mobile app feature over 1,500 real-life video modeling combined to empower families and teachers to work together to close the opportunity gap. Nearly 80% of EHS families have utilized the curriculum.



## Supporting Families in Uncertain Times

Choosing to stay home during the pandemic has been difficult for families. Working with Ohio State's Alumni Association, EHS educators teamed up with colleagues from provider A. Sophie Rogers School of Early Learning to offer webinars to more than 350 families at home with their children. EHS Education and Community Program Manager Lisa Welsh and principal Anneliese Johnson presented, "Everyday Activities for Young Children While at Home, Babies to Age Six."

The EHS education team also created 18 virtual learning kits with options in English and Spanish to support families at home. Brochures for activities ages birth-1 and 2-4 highlighted how caregivers could best share the materials with their child. Themes included diversity, bugs, cooking, dramatic play, expressions, music, outdoor, planting, sensory, transportation, animals, and art among others.



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For families living in or at the edge of poverty, the effects of the pandemic have been especially devastating. Meeting basic needs such as food and shelter has become a daily challenge. Providing our families with household necessities, healthy snacks for children, along with toys and books from donors like Dollar General, have been greatly appreciated by EHS caregivers.

– Jen Phillips, Lead Family Specialist, Directions for Youth and Families





## *the team*

### *Leadership*

**Michelle Dunlap**, Grant and Fiscal Manager  
**Don Fuzer**, Principal Investigator  
**Latoya Jackson**, Education Coach  
**Stacy Orbaker**, Education Coach  
**Sherrie Sutton**, Director  
**Melanie Tracy**, Service Integration Coordinator  
**Lisa Welsh**, Education and Community Program Manager  
**Jessica Woodruff**, Data Analytics & Compliance Manager  
**Erin Woodson**, Data and Project Coordinator

### *Policy Council*

**Allyson Eads**, Chair  
**Kamiyah Mitchell**, Co-Chair  
**Mariyah Mitchell**, Secretary  
**Jennifer Johnson**, Community Representative  
**Brie Sparks**  
**Caprice Hill**

### *Board*

**Melissa Martinez Bondy, LLP**  
 Bricker & Eckler, Partner  
 Senior Attorney, Education Law  
**Yolanda Burgess, Co-Chair**  
 Former OSU EHS Parent  
 Executive Assistant, SPPlus Corporation

**Bernadette Melnyk, PhD, APRN-CNP, FAANP, FNAP, FAAN**

OSU Vice President for Health Promotion, University Chief Wellness Officer, Dean and Helene Fuld Health Trust  
 Professor of Evidence-based Practice, College of Nursing

**Pat Bebo, M.S.**

EHE Assistant Dean for Outreach and Engagement  
 OSU Assistant Director for Family and Consumer Sciences

**Susie Breitenstein, PhD, RN, FAAN**

OSU College of Nursing, Associate Professor  
 Director, Community Outreach and Engagement

**Melissa Johnson, BA**

Managing Director, Cameron Mitchell Premier Events  
 OSU EHE Adjunct Faculty, Hospitality Management

**Elena Moore, MSW**

OSU Office of Diversity and Inclusion  
 Program Coordinator, CCAMPIS/ACCESS

**Obie Stillwell, BA**

Former OSU Football Player, ABC 6 Sports Commentator,  
 Business Strategist, Landid

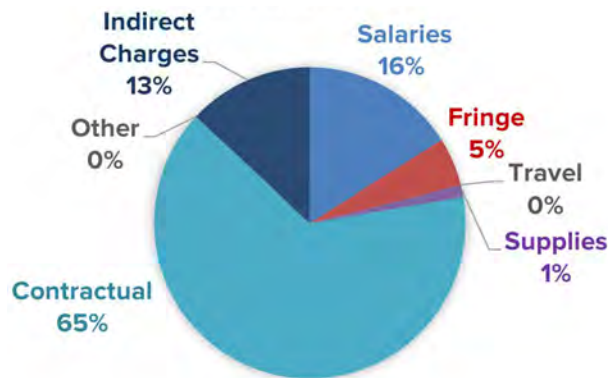
**Andrew Wapner, DO, MPH**

OSU Assistant Professor - Clinical  
 Director, Center for Public Health Practice  
 Director, Master of Public Health Program for Experienced Professionals

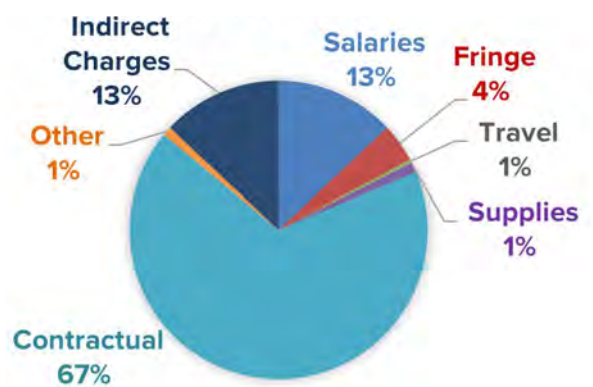
# 2020-2021 budget

Over half of the EHS annual budget was distributed last year to our providers. These locations received funding for classroom environments, education curriculum and materials, books, toys, and playground equipment to improve the quality of education they offered.

## EARLY HEAD START BUDGET FY21



## EARLY HEAD START EXPENSES FY21



\* 0% is equal to less than 1% of total usage

OBJECT CLASS CATEGORIES	FEDERAL	TTA	NON-FEDERAL SHARE	TOTAL
Salaries	\$463,207	\$33,550	\$0	\$496,757
Fringe	\$144,094	\$11,743	\$0	\$155,837
Travel	\$6,969	\$4,880	\$0	\$11,849
Supplies	\$42,317	\$0	\$0	\$42,317
Contractual	\$2,467,238	\$14,174	\$987,385	\$3,468,797
Other	\$10,775	\$7,323	\$0	\$18,098
Total Direct	\$3,134,600	\$71,670	\$987,385	\$4,193,655
Indirect Charges	\$470,190	\$10,751	\$0	\$480,941
TOTALS	\$3,604,790	\$82,421	\$987,385	\$4,674,596

### Audit Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

An Independent Auditor's Report, submitted through the Office of Sponsored Programs by PricewaterhouseCoopers concluded that The Ohio State University complied, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirements referred to in the OMB Uniform Guidance that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2021.

*The program received \$377,213 in start-up funds, \$140,609 in Pandemic Funds during FY21, and \$362,835 in American Rescue Plan Funds for FY22 & FY23.*

# every story matters

## Full Circle

What do you get when you combine the expertise of EHS teaching with the parental knowledge of the EHS program? Three moms who have experienced it all.

Kristen Dotson, Aaliyah Manzie, and Maria Alberto (l to r) have taught together in EHS classrooms at Creative Child Care (North) for the past two years. As EHS parents for eight years combined, the moms also have been able to share their stories of success and support, that education coaches, family specialists, and EHS university and community partners have helped them achieve.

According to the three teachers, it is a privilege to be an EHS parent and educator because it brings the importance of both perspectives to the classroom. The outcomes? The program has provided holistic community resources to the moms as well as career assistance to improve their teaching approaches with the infants and toddlers they serve.



## Our Commitment to Anti-bias, Anti-racism and to Advancing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

At the Schoenbaum Family Center and Crane Center for Early Childhood Research and Policy, we are committed to actively addressing and speaking out against racism and intolerance and to advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion in the workplace.

Our definition of diversity includes but is not limited to race, ethnicity, color, nationality, biological sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, class, religious affiliation, disability, neurodiversity, age, military status, visa status, economic status, geographic location, and language/linguistic ability.

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We believe that diversity is a critical component of a healthy work culture and the world at large. A diverse community cultivates diverse views, inspires new angles of inquiry and modes of analysis and research, and allows us to better serve our community and fulfill our land-grant mission at The Ohio State University. At our centers, we believe it is essential to be exposed to views and cultures other than one's own and to have one's opinions and assumptions challenged.

Such engagement expands our horizons, enables understanding across difference, prevents complacency, and promotes intellectual breadth.





# The Ohio State University Early Head Start Partnership Program

175 E 7th Ave, Columbus, OH 43201 / 614-292-7680 / [go.osu.edu/goodstart](http://go.osu.edu/goodstart)



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