



# ASTORIA

SERVICES FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Early Childhood  
Programs

**HEAD START  
ANNUAL REPORT TO PUBLIC  
2013-14**



## Astor Head Start and Early Head Start

Astor Early Childhood Program provides comprehensive services to pregnant mothers, infants, toddlers and preschool children, and their families in Dutchess County, New York. Services are offered from sites in Poughkeepsie, Beacon, Wappingers Falls (Mt. Alvernia), Millbrook, Pine Plains, Red Hook, Millerton, and Wingdale. Both EHS and HS offer home-based and center-based program opportunities. During the fiscal year 2013-2014, Astor offered programming county-wide, serving approximately half of the income eligible children and families in the county. Funding for the program comes from the federal Office of Head Start and the New York State Education Department.

## Astor's Federal Report Card/External Audits

The EHS/HS program was audited in April/May 2013 by a team of reviewers. The program had one area of non-compliance: PART 74- Financial and Program Management 74.21 (b) (3). Our mental health system and services are noted as an area of strength. We are awaiting results of 2 follow up reviews. A copy of our agency's most recent independent audit can be found on our website ([www.astorservices.org](http://www.astorservices.org)) and is an attachment to this report.





## Efforts to Prepare Children for Kindergarten

Our Head Start program works in partnership with the public schools, parents, and parent/teacher organizations to support the successful transition of children and families into the new educational setting. This partnership strives to maintain open communication, cooperation, and coordination of efforts to streamline the process.

- To prepare and facilitate the smooth process from Head Start to Kindergarten, we plan to:  
Notify parents of the dates of their school district's Kindergarten registration to make sure they understand the importance of taking their child to district activities;
- Provide Kindergarten transition workshops for parents on what to expect from the public school experience;
- Plan special events for Kindergarten teachers to visit the classrooms and begin to prepare for our children;
- Offer our facilities to district personnel to provide opportunities for meetings with parents of all our children, including those with special needs;
- Track annual review appointments and arrange for special education staff to participate in the development of the child's IEP, when the child is involved with the CPSE;
- Ensure that a kindergarten checklist is completed by the classroom teacher for the parent and the school district; and
- Ensure that a letter of agreement is signed annually between Head Start and each school district-(LEA) in our local community to facilitate the process of successful transition

To prepare children for school readiness during the preschool years, our Head Start program utilizes the High/Scope curriculum approach to early childhood education. This curriculum is research based and was developed over 40 years ago. Our Early Head Start program uses the Creative Curriculum, also research based.

We support our families with our transition process as our children leave us and venture into public schools. Transition is a program focus and evolves along with our shared understanding of realistic expectations for our children and our relationships with families, school districts, and other providers. We share our school readiness plans and goals with our families and partners throughout our communities.



## Astor Takes Pride in Family Engagement

Astor views parents as the primary educators of their children and we welcome and encourage involvement in every aspect of the EHS and HS programs. From volunteering in the classrooms and offices to riding the bus and setting policy, Astor's early childhood programs know that the program is only as effective as the level of family engagement. Astor's parent engagement opportunities also include parenting classes and workshops that are available at every site.

Children are more successful in school and life when parents/families are engaged in their education. Astor Early Childhood Program develops a variety of activities with parents to encourage and support parents to become engaged in their child's education and success.

Opportunities include:

- Policy Council
- Parent Committee Meetings
- Classroom volunteers
- Parent trainings
- Parent curriculum suggestions
- Parent/teacher conferences
- Home visits
- Take home activities
- Lending Library
- Education Advisory Committee
- Literacy Advisory Committee
- Center Level Committee
- Personnel Committee



## Program Highlights

- + Child Outcomes- The children continue to demonstrate high gains across all domains of development. This is what we are really all about - ensuring positive outcomes for our children and families!
- + The NYU Dental Collaboration. This project allowed us to be involved in cutting-edge research, while ensuring enhanced and approved services for our children. Our children received a dental exam and many are in the follow-up process of treatment, as indicated. Our Delafield building is now an approved dental clinic. This is a major accomplishment in which all stakeholders were involved, a perfect example of family engagement and community collaboration. This project was a tremendous amount of work and a major focus of all who were involved in this effort.
- + Our program's use of data to direct programming, quality, and service continues to evolve. A perfect example is the data collected around attendance as related to transportation services. Parents and staff together receive and analyze the collected data, and then use it to plan next programmatic steps.
- + Our program managed the imposed sequester funding cuts without losing any staff or enrolled children. This collaborative effort was successful due to buy-in and collaboration of all stakeholders (community, families, and staff). We consolidated locations and caseloads to ensure minimal impact on our program.

Head Start Program  
2013-2014 Service Area Statistics

Astor operated Early Head Start and Head Start Programs at the following Dutchess County locations: Beacon, Millerton, Wappingers Falls (Mt. Alvernia), Pine Plains, Poughkeepsie, Wingdale, Red Hook and Millbrook.

|   | <b>HS</b> | <b>EHS</b> |
|---|-----------|------------|
| <b>Total # children served</b>                | 435       | 208        |
| <b>Total # families served</b>                | 415       | 181        |
| <b>% of children completing medical exams</b> | 100       | 100        |
| <b>% of children completing dental exams</b>  | 98        | 75*        |
| <b>Avg. Monthly Enrollment</b>                | 392       | 154        |
| <b>Percent of Capacity</b>                    | 100%      | 100%       |

\* Number reflects all EHS children, including those under 2 years of age.

**ASTOR EARLY CHILDHOOD SOURCES OF REVENUE**

| <b>Program Name</b>               | <b>Budget FY15</b>  | <b>% of Total Budget</b> |  | <b>Actual @ 6/30/14</b> | <b>% of Total Budget</b> |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|--|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START GRANT | \$ 6,877,735        | 73.64%                   |  | \$ 5,772,400            | 70.28%                   |
| TUITION REVENUE                   | \$1,585,440         | 16.97%                   |  | \$ 1,582,467            | 19.27%                   |
| UPK CONTRACTS                     | \$ 95,760           | 1.03%                    |  | \$ 103,460              | 1.26%                    |
| NYS FOOD PROGRAM                  | \$ 357,195          | 3.82%                    |  | \$ 332,151              | 4.04%                    |
| ARTICLE 611-619 GRANT             | \$ 135,500          | 1.45%                    |  | \$ 136,292              | 1.66%                    |
| MEDICAID REVENUE                  | \$ 114,400          | 1.22%                    |  | \$ 112,454              | 1.37%                    |
| GRANTS FROM ORGANIZATIONS         | \$ 90,000           | .96%                     |  | \$ 90,000               | 1.10%                    |
| EVALUATIONS                       | \$ 48,000           | 0.51%                    |  | \$ 46,692               | 0.57%                    |
| OTHER MISCELLANEOUS SOURCES       | \$ 36,000           | 0.39%                    |  | \$ 37,650               | 0.46%                    |
| <b>TOTAL EARLY CHILDHOOD</b>      | <b>\$ 9,340,030</b> | <b>100.00%</b>           |  | <b>\$ 8,213,566</b>     | <b>100.00%</b>           |

**Astor Early Childhood FY15 Budget vs FY14 Spending**

| Program Name                       | BUDGET FY15   |                  |                  | ACTUAL @ 6/30/14  |                  |                  |                   |
|------------------------------------|---------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
|                                    | % of Rev.     | Revenue          | Expense          | Surplus (Deficit) | Revenue          | Expense          | Surplus (Deficit) |
| HEAD START/ EARLY HEAD START       | 77.8%         | 7,270,930        | 7,418,906        | (147,976)         | 6,745,517        | 6,990,726        | (245,209)         |
| SPECIAL CLASS / INTEGRATED SETTING | 8.2%          | 769,203          | 769,261          | (58)              | 747,826          | 756,513          | (8,687)           |
| BEHAVIORAL SPECIAL CLASS           | 5.8%          | 542,782          | 549,745          | (6,963)           | 558,660          | 573,280          | (14,620)          |
| POUGHKEEPSIE DT - PRESCHOOL        | 2.9%          | 273,455          | 276,826          | (3,371)           | 267,830          | 270,216          | (2,386)           |
| UNITED WAY- ECP                    | 1.0%          | 90,000           | 82,486           | 7,514             | 90,000           | 90,477           | (477)             |
| OMH - PDT PRESCHOOL                | 1.2%          | 114,400          | 109,874          | 4,526             | 112,454          | 104,925          | 7,529             |
| UNIVERSAL PRE-K                    | 1.0%          | 95,760           | 75,134           | (20,626)          | 103,460          | 74,151           | 29,309            |
| EVALUATIONS - UPSTATE              | 0.5%          | 48,000           | 45,628           | 2,372             | 46,692           | 44,966           | 1,726             |
| TITLE I - PDT PRESCHOOL            | 0.5%          | 49,000           | 51,267           | (2,267)           | 76,386           | 83,316           | (6,930)           |
| TITLE I - PRESCHOOL (99-457)       | 0.9%          | 86,500           | 89,870           | (3,370)           | 59,906           | 65,108           | (5,205)           |
| <b>TOTAL EARLY CHILDHOOD</b>       | <b>100.0%</b> | <b>9,340,030</b> | <b>9,468,997</b> | <b>(128,967)</b>  | <b>8,213,566</b> | <b>8,459,324</b> | <b>(245,758)</b>  |

Do you think you need to define DT and OMH-PDT?



**Year-to-Date July 2013 to June 2014  
Results vs. Budget and Prior Year  
Early Childhood Programs - Dutchess County**

