

ASTOR EARLY CHILDHOOD
PROGRAMS

PROGRAM REPORT
TO THE PUBLIC

2010-2011

SERVICES FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES



child
hood.



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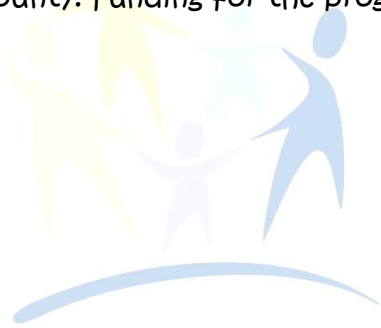
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SERVICES FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

*...Because every child
deserves a childhood.*

Astor Head Start and Early Head Start

Astor Services for Children & Families provides comprehensive services to pregnant mothers, infants, toddlers and preschool children and their families in Dutchess County, NY. Services are provided from sites located Poughkeepsie, Millbrook, Wappingers Falls, Beacon, Wingdale, Red Hook, Pine Plains and Millerton. Both EHS and HS offer home based and center based program opportunities. During the fiscal year 2010-2011, Astor offered programming county-wide, serving approximately half of the income eligible children and families in the county. Funding for the programs comes from the Federal Office of Head Start and the New York State Education Department.



ASTOR

SERVICES FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Astor's Federal Report Card/External Audits

The EHS/HS program was audited in April 2010 by a team of reviewers. This team found the program had no programmatic findings. The agency was found out of compliance with performance standards: 74.34, 74.43, 1303.52, 642, 644 and 648. These concerns have since been resolved and the program is in compliance with all federal performance standards. A copy of our agency's most recent independent audit can be found at www.astorservices.org and is an attachment to this report.

Efforts to Prepare Children for Kindergarten

To prepare children for school readiness during the preschool years, the 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. Long-term studies show the High/Scope approach promotes the healthy development of children, and provides long-lasting benefits throughout adulthood.

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 to the new educational setting. This partnership strives to maintain open communication, cooperation and coordination of efforts to streamline the process.

To prepare and facilitate this process with our partners, Head Start plans the following activities:

- Notifies the parents of the dates of their school district's kindergarten registration to make sure they understand the importance of taking their child to any other special orientation or activities provided by the school district.

- Provides kindergarten transition workshops for parents on what to expect from their public school experience...

- Plans special events for kindergarten teachers to visit the classrooms to meet the children, parents and staff or the children to visit the kindergarten where they will enter in the fall.

- Staff from the local school districts is invited to use our facilities so that they can meet with parents of children with special needs and assist them with their transition to the public school.

- When a child is involved with the CPSE, the Disabilities Coordinator tracks when the child's annual review is scheduled and plans to send special education teachers and/or therapists to participate in the development of the child's IEP.

- A kindergarten checklist is completed by the classroom teacher for the parent and school district.

- A letter of agreement is signed annually between Head Start and each LEA in our local community to facilitate the process of successful kindergarten transition.

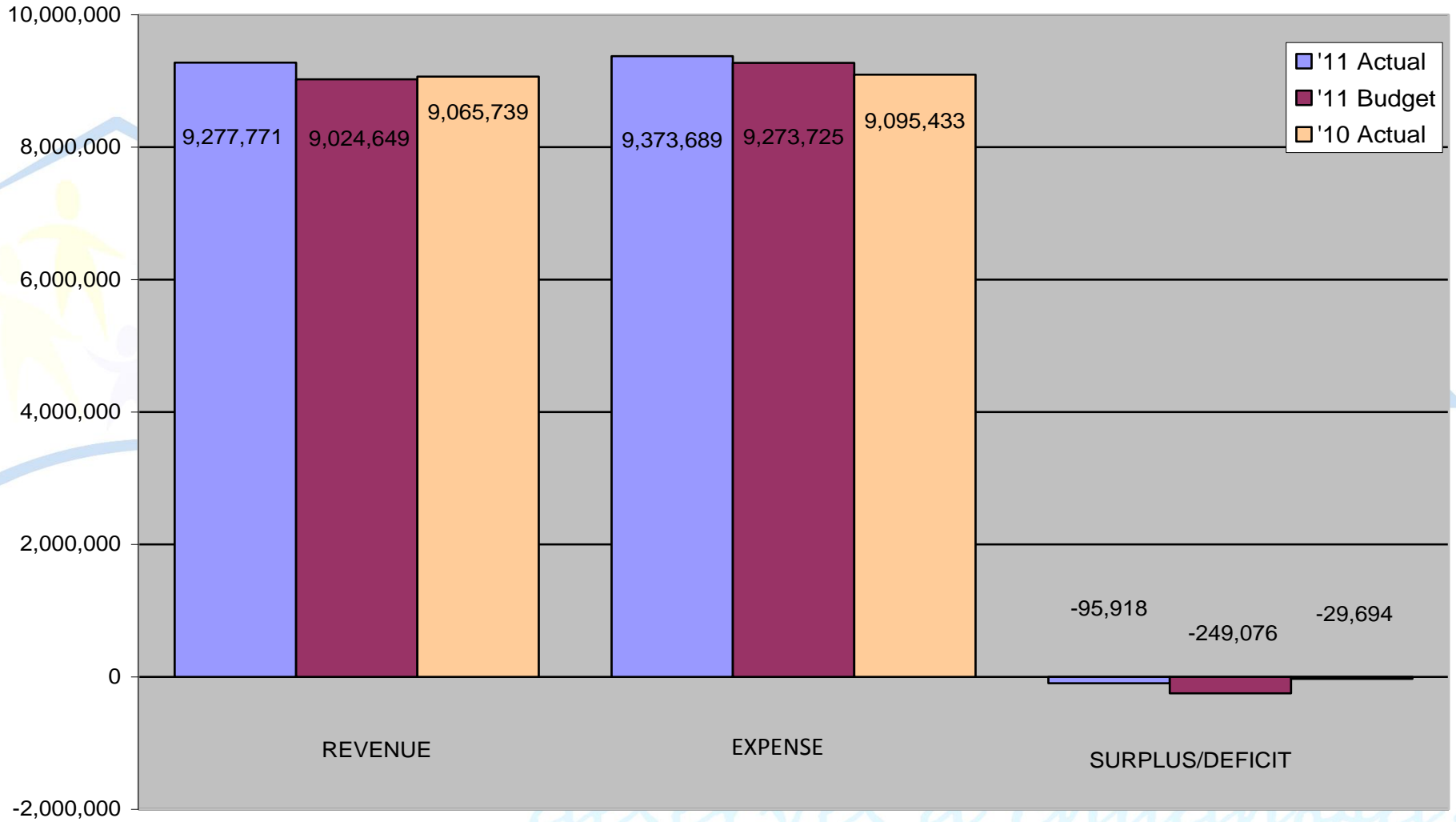
HEAD START PROGRAM

2009-2010 Service Statistics

AŞTOR operates Early Head Start and Head Start Programs at the following Dutchess County, NY locations: Beacon, Millerton, Mt. AIVernia, Pine Plains, Poughkeepsie, Wingdale, Red Hook and Millbrook.

	HS	EHS
Total # children served	485	287
Total # families served	454	235
% of children completing medical exams	100	92
% of children completing dental exams	94	77
Avg. Monthly Enrollment	452	197
Percent of Capacity	100	100

**Fiscal Year July 2010 to June 2011 Results vs. Budget and Prior Year -
Early Childhood Programs - Dutchess County**



BUDGET VS. ACTUAL SPENDING OF THE HEAD START PROGRAM

Program Name	% of Rev.	BUDGET FY12			ACTUAL @ 6/30/11		
		Revenue	Expense	Surplus (Deficit)	Revenue	Expense	Surplus (Deficit)
HEAD START/ EARLY HEAD START	77.0%	6,857,057	7,153,142	(296,085)	7,184,464	7,333,714	(149,250)
SPECIAL CLASS / INTEGRATED SETTING	7.1%	633,389	636,835	(3,446)	632,451	632,155	296
BEHAVIORAL SPECIAL CLASS	6.1%	545,710	556,510	(10,800)	530,323	535,816	(5,493)
POUGHKEEPSIE DT - PRESCHOOL	3.5%	311,640	310,965	675	304,180	307,149	(2,969)
UNITED WAY- ECP	2.2%	197,328	197,057	271	145,480	122,731	22,749
UNIVERSAL PRE-K	1.5%	137,780	144,155	(6,375)	209,363	164,890	44,473
OMH - PDT PRESCHOOL	1.0%	86,900	88,828	(1,928)	84,676	79,712	4,964
EVALUATIONS - UPSTATE	0.6%	50,175	42,509	7,666	37,015	36,850	165
TITLE I - PDT PRESCHOOL	0.5%	48,000	48,460	(460)	35,317	37,588	(2,271)
TITLE I - PRESCHOOL (99-457)	0.4%	38,500	38,161	339	114,858	123,044	(8,186)
ECCSI	0.0%	-	-	-	-	10	(10)
PARENT AND STAFF EDUCATION	0.0%	-	-	-	(356)	30	(386)
TOTAL EARLY CHILDHOOD	100.0%	8,906,479	9,216,622	(310,143)	9,277,771	9,373,689	(95,918)

deserves a childhood.

Astor's Early Childhood Programs Expand into Red Hook

Astor received \$1 million to expand our Head Start and Early Head Start Program in Dutchess County from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (AARA), better known as the "Stimulus Package."

These expansion funds enabled us to respond to the needs of children and families in the Red Hook area by opening up an Early Head Start Program, located in the Northern Dutchess Bible Church and a Head Start classroom in Mill Road Elementary School.

In our EHS expansion, one Parent Infant Educator (PIE) was placed in the church to provide comprehensive services to 17 infants and toddlers from 15 families (this includes two pregnant teenagers). These services include bi-weekly socializations, where, on average, 20 family members are in attendance, including three fathers who participate on a regular basis. In response to a growing wait list and our community assessment, the program decided to place additional resources and staff based in the Church, allowing us to double our capacity for service.

Astor Early Childhood programs, following Head Start's philosophy, encourages and celebrates community partners and collaborations. We have been fortunate to have a strong and productive relationship with the Northern Dutchess Bible Church. The church has generously volunteered time and donated resources and materials to enhance opportunities for our families. In addition, our families have been "adopted" by the church community and are able to participate in the many programs the church operates to assist families. Several of our families have volunteered for "work nights," where they have come out to paint the church – their way of giving back to all the wonderful programs they and their children have benefited from.

Our HS expansion allows us the opportunity to collaborate with the Red Hook School District. The Mill Road Program has also met with tremendous success. A classroom has been in operation there serving 18 preschool children and their families. The program has been fully enrolled since its opening. Results and outcomes of both programs include:

- Seven of our families are in their English as a Second Language Program
- A teen program operated by the church secretary where three of our teen parents are involved
- Seven of our fathers attended the church's "Father's Breakfast"
- The Church opening a "Thriftique," where our families can donate and/or pick out gently used clothing
- The pastor and the secretary becoming official volunteers for our program. They attend every socialization, read books to the children, help with serving snacks, and interacting with the children and parents as community resources
- Over four parents volunteered in the classroom on a regular basis
- One mother received her General Equivalency Degree (High School Diploma)
- One child received needed counseling for depression
- Two foster children were adopted
- Over three parents were able to locate new jobs or acquire more hours
- Three Spanish families took English as a Second Language classes
- One child began to "use his words" rather than acting out
- One child was identified to be in need of more services
- One child received a new pair of glasses
- One family received help with a financial problem

ASTOR TAKES PRIDE IN PARENT INVOLVEMENT!!!

Astor views parents as primary educators of their children and we encourage involvement in every aspect of the EHS and HS programs. From volunteering in classrooms and offices to riding the bus to setting policy, Astor's Early Childhood Programs know that the program is only as effective as the parent involvement. Astor's parent involvement opportunities also include parenting classes which are offered at each of our sites.

Children are often more successful in school when parents are involved in the child's education. Astor Services for Children & Families provides a variety of activities to encourage and support parents to become involved in their children's education.

Policy Council

Parent Committee Meetings

Opportunities to volunteer in the Classroom

Parent Trainings and Workshops

Parent Curriculum Suggestions

Parent/ Teacher Conferences

Home visits by teachers and support staff

Take Home Activities

Lending Library

