



PROGRAM REPORT
TO THE PUBLIC
2009-2010



AstOR
SERVICES FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

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



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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 2009-2010, Astor applied for and received funds to expand their programming county-wide. This allows us to serve 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.

Our center based children are offered safe, nurturing environments in which optimum development is fostered. Our home based option consists of weekly 90 minute visits with a Parent Infant Educator (EHS) or a home based teacher (HS). Services available to all of our children and families include education, family services, health, mental health and nutrition.

Astor's Federal Report Card/External Audits

The EHS/HS program was audited in April 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 are being addressed in order to make the program in compliance with all regulations. A copy of our agency's most recent independent audit can be found at www.astorservices.org.



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

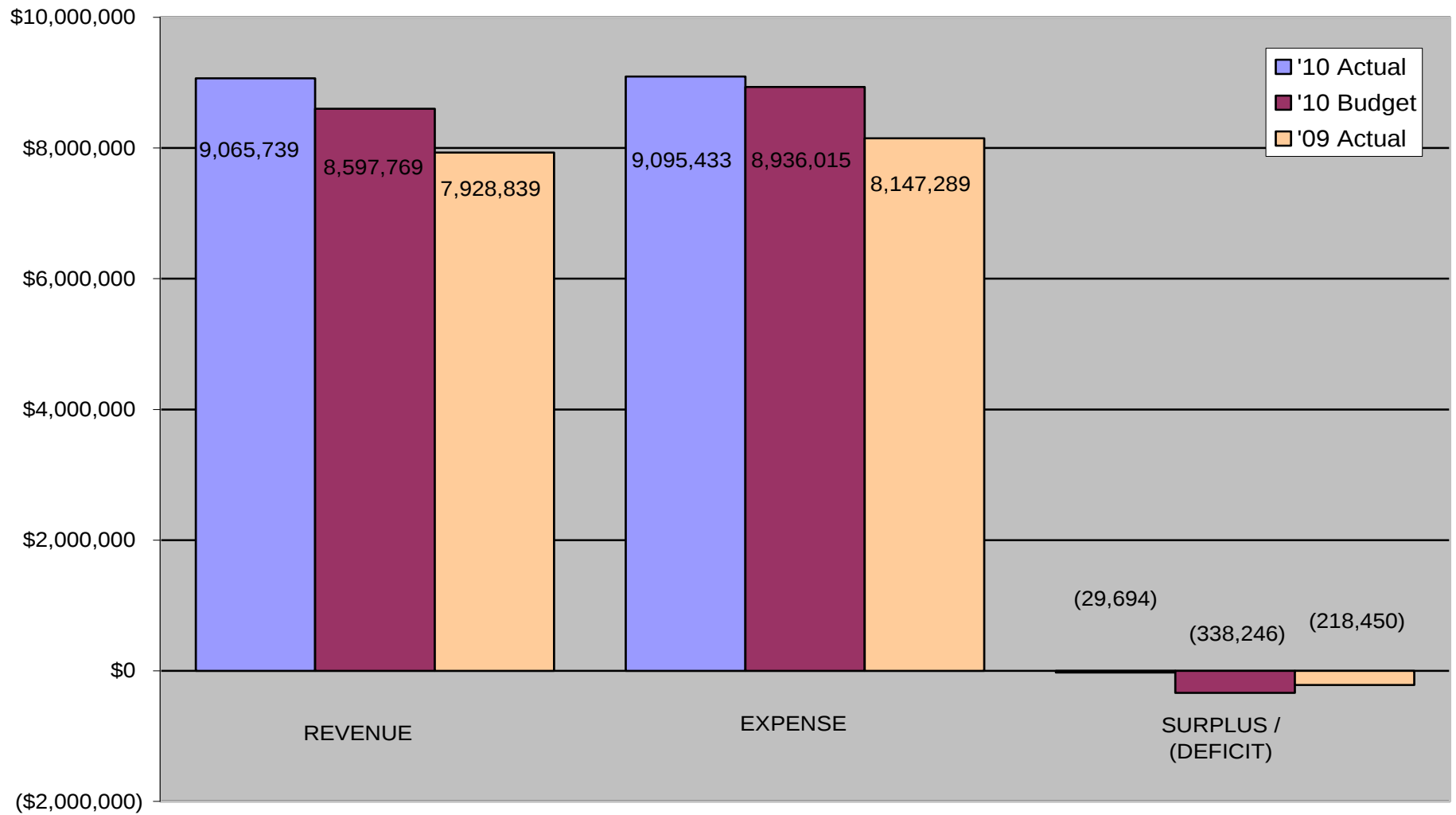


ASTOR operates Early Head Start and Head Start Programs at the following Dutchess County, NY locations: Beacon, Millerton, Mt. Aivernia, Pine Plains, Poughkeepsie, Wingdale, Red Hook and Millbrook.

	HS	EHS
Total # children served	479	272
Total # families served	453	222
% of children completing medical exams	100	100
% of children completing dental exams	93	93
Avg. Monthly Enrollment	421	179
Percent of Capacity	100%	100%



**Fiscal Year July 2009 to June 2010 Results vs. Budget and Prior Year -
Early Childhood Programs - Dutchess County**





BUDGET VS. ACTUAL SPENDING OF THE HEAD START PROGRAM

		FY11 BUDGET			ACTUAL @ 6/30/10		
PROGRAM NAME	% of Rev.	Revenue \$	Expense \$	Surplus (Deficit) \$	Revenue \$	Expense \$	Surplus (Deficit) \$
HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START	77.50%	6,994,504	7,259,339	(264,835)	6,825,083	6,834,928	(9,845)
SPECIAL CLASS/INTEGRATED SETTING	7.21%	650,759	653,417	(2,658)	648,124	653,108	(4,984)
BEHAVIORAL SPECIAL CLASS	6.54%	590,495	592,826	(2,331)	577,090	588,014	(10,924)
POUGHKEEPSIE DT- PRE-SCHOOL	3.57%	321,808	322,300	(492)	290,528	295,416	(4,888)
UNIVERSAL PRE-K	1.53%	137,780	136,473	1,307	177,780	177,969	(189)
UNITED WAY- ECP	1.03%	93,340	88,880	4,460	112,385	116,028	(3,643)
OMH- PDT PRE-SCHOOL	0.93%	84,288	88,378	(4,090)	71,024	78,900	(7,876)
EVALUATIONS- UPSTATE	0.72%	65,175	45,444	19,731	61,657	48,604	13,053
TITLE I- PDT PRE-SCHOOL	0.53%	48,000	48,463	(463)	158,964	169,813	(10,849)
TITLE I- PRE-SCHOOL (99-457)	0.43%	38,500	38,163	337	37,226	39,688	(2,462)
ECCSI	0.00%	-	-	-	71,250	70,786	464
PARENT & STAFF EDUCATION	0.00%	-	-	-	35,628	22,331	13,297
EARLY CHILDHOOD TRAINING INSTITUTE	0.00%	-	-	-	(1,000)	629	(1,629)
MILLBROOK EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER	0.00%	-	-	-	-	(781)	781
TOTAL EARLY CHILDHOOD	100.00%	9,024,649	9,273,683	(249,034)	9,065,739	9,095,433	(29,694)



Astor Early Childhood Programs Sources of Revenue

	<u>Budget FY11</u>	<u>Percent of Total Budget</u>		<u>Actual @ 6/30/10</u>	<u>Percent of Total Budget</u>
HEAD START/ EARLY HEAD START GRANT	\$ 6,637,398	73.55%		\$ 6,481,500	71.49%
TUITION REVENUE	\$ 1,512,282	16.76%		\$ 1,501,045	16.56%
UPK CONTRACTS	\$ 137,780	1.53%		\$ 177,780	1.96%
NYS FOOD PROGRAM (CACFP)	\$ 323,506	3.58%		\$ 312,653	3.45%
ARTICLE 611-619 GRANT	\$ 86,500	0.96%		\$ 196,190	2.16%
MEDICAID REVENUE	\$ 84,288	0.93%		\$ 71,024	0.78%
GRANTS FROM ORGANIZATIONS	\$ 93,340	1.03%		\$ 112,385	1.24%
OTHER MISCELLANEOUS SOURCES	\$ 149,555	1.66%		\$ 213,162	2.35%
TOTALS	\$ 9,024,649			\$ 9,065,739	



“A SUCCESS STORY”

Mirabel lived in the Bronx. When she became pregnant at 17 years old, her family asked her to move out, so she moved in with her boyfriend. Mirabel and her boyfriend moved to a state in the south to live near his family. There he became abusive to her, so she and her infant son went to Good Counsel. Good Counsel sent her to Poughkeepsie where she and her son were placed in a homeless shelter. She knew no one in the area.

She applied for her son to be in Astor Early Head Start. He was accepted into the EHS home base program in September 2009. A Parent Infant Educator began making home visits; Mirabel obtained a job at Dunkin Donuts. She had to leave her son with a caregiver she was not comfortable with, and she asked to transition her son into the center base Early Head Start. She made arrangements for transportation.

The transportation for her son did not work out; she lost her job, and she was “sanctioned” - losing her food stamps, TANF, and the opportunity to move into a bigger apartment. She became very depressed and spent the days with her son alone in the small room at the homeless shelter.

Since Astor does not transport infants to the Early Head Start center base program, we were not sure how we could help Mirabel and her son. We were ready to transition her son back into the EHS home base option, but he was in the center base and doing well. She needed a job, her son needed transportation to the program, and they needed benefits restored.

A Head Start bus goes to the homeless shelter in Poughkeepsie to pick up Head Start children. Astor offered Mirabel the opportunity to ride the bus with her 2 year old son and stay for the days, volunteering in the classroom, and then ride home with him after program. Mirabel was excited to have this opportunity for her and her son! She began training in Early Childhood development, and after a few weeks, applied for a job as an Early Head Start Teacher Assistant substitute.

Mirabel is happy to report that DSS gave her back her benefits, as her volunteer time in Early Head Start was counted. Her son is thriving, and she is helping many children and the Early Head Start program.

Today Mirabel is employed as a teacher assistant in Head Start. She is moving out of the homeless shelter and into an apartment. Mirabel is working on getting her CDA credential. Her son has transitioned into a Head Start classroom and is doing well.



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

