



ASTORIA

SERVICES FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Early Childhood
Programs

**HEAD START
ANNUAL REPORT TO PUBLIC
2017-2018**



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 were offered from sites in Poughkeepsie, Beacon, Wappingers Falls (Mt. Alvernia), Red Hook, Millerton, and Wingdale. Both EHS and HS offered home based and center based program opportunities. During the fiscal year 2017-18, 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

Astor begins year three of the grant cycle November 1, 2018. The Office of Head Start has developed a new monitoring system to align with the new Head Start Performance Standards, AMS 2.0. Astor received notification from the Office of Head Start that the program will be reviewed during this program year, in the areas of CLASS and Focus Area 2.





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 the following activities:

- Notification to 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
- Tracking of annual review appointments and arranging for special education staff to participate in the development of the child's IEP, when the child is involved with the CPSE
- Kindergarten checklist is completed by the classroom teacher for the parent and the school district
- 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 now utilizes the Creative Curriculum approach to early childhood education. This curriculum is research based and will now provide outcomes for the same children from birth to age 5.

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 develop. 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 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 which 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
- Center Level Committee
- Personnel Committee

Program Highlights

- In light of our community's needs assessment and new studies showing children's loss of knowledge over the summer Astor is now a full year program for all Head Start and Early Head Start children. Astor successfully completed their first full year in August 2017.



- The children continue to demonstrate high gains across all developmental areas. This evidences the program's commitment to nurturing school readiness and life-long learners. In order to ensure curriculum fidelity and utilize the most up-to-date, appropriate curriculum is in place, a select group of Head Start classroom has piloted and selected the Creative Curriculum. In June 2018 all education staff was trained on the Creative Curriculum.
- The leadership team spent quality time reviewing the program's self-assessment, community assessment and child outcomes. Structured focus groups with staff and families took place to brainstorm and action planning for ongoing work towards Astor's long-term program goals. A review of short-term objectives, baseline data needed and action plans revealed that the program is on track based on the first year of the grant cycle.
- The Office of Head Start rolled out the new Program Performance Standards in November 2016. Leadership team reviewed the standards at length and began the implementation process through staff trainings, revision of program policies and procedures as well as planning and preparing for the extension of services delivered to families.
- In July 2018, EHS Nurturing Rooms have extended their hours from 8:30am- 1:30pm to 8am- 2:30pm to comply with new minimum of 1,380 (annual) hours needed. The added time will provide children with more planned learning activities.
- As part of our program's 5 year goals, Leadership has met and developed formalized training plans for all new Parent Infant Educators, teachers and teacher assistants.
- In response to the new Head Start Program Performance Standards Astor has created the position of ERSEA Manager. The ERSEA Manager recruits, selects and monitors enrollment and attendance for the entire county. This position helps to uniform the selection and enrollment process across the centers.
- Successful collaborations continued with the Lion's SEE Program, Dover School District UPK, NYS Education Department, Astor Services for Children and Families Hudson Valley Counseling Services and NYU Dental as ways to enhance services to our Head Start children and their families.



- NYU Dental visited the agency in October 2017. Over the course of 3 days NYU dentist, students and hygienists conducted 131 dental examinations and fluoride treatments to children across 4 of our 6 centers. NYU noted that only 18% of our children 0-5 had dental caries and no children had infections or abscesses.

Head Start Program
2017-2018 Service Area Statistics

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

	HS	EHS
Total # children served	448	290
Total # families served	426	241
% of children completing medical exams	100	100
% of children completing dental exams	67	58*
Avg. Monthly Enrollment	359	195
Percent of Capacity	100%	100%

* percentage reflects all EHS children, including those under 2 years of age

ASTOR EARLY CHILDHOOD SOURCES OF REVENUE				
Program Name	Budget FY18	% of Total Budget	Actual @ 6/30/17	% of Total Budget

HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START GRANT	\$6,814,439	73.43%	\$6,379,799	70.31%
TUITION REVENUE	\$1,635,468	17.62%	\$1,683,378	18.55%
UPK CONTRACTS	\$86,184	0.93%	\$103,460	1.14%
NYS FOOD PROGRAM	\$325,575	3.51%	\$362,200	3.99%
ARTICLE 611-619 GRANT	\$110,695	1.19%	\$98,036	1.08%
MEDICAID REVENUE	\$80,344	0.87%	\$113,607	1.25%
BABIES STEP FORWARD	\$112,167	1.21%	\$116,099	1.28%
GRANTS FROM ORGANIZATIONS	\$20,000	0.22%	\$105,003	1.16%
EVALUATIONS	\$40,000	0.43%	\$45,366	0.50%
OTHER MISCELLANEOUS SOURCES	\$55,797	0.60%	\$66,293	0.73%
TOTAL EARLY CHILDHOOD	\$9,280,669	100.00%	\$9,073,241	100.00%

Astor Early Childhood FY18 Budget vs FY17 Spending

Program Name	BUDGET FY18			ACTUAL @ 6/30/17			
	% of Rev.	Revenue	Expense	Surplus (Deficit)	Revenue	Expense	Surplus (Deficit)
HEAD START/ EARLY HEAD START	77.22%	7,166,311	7,266,402	-100,091	6,816,110	6,921,837	-105,727
SPECIAL CLASS / INTEGRATED SETTING	8.78%	814,923	780,507	34,416	830,613	856,029	-25,416
BEHAVIORAL SPECIAL CLASS	6.07%	563,569	514,443	49,126	559,558	566,500	-6,942
POUGHKEEPSIE DT - PRESCHOOL	3.09%	286,476	288,923	-2,447	293,208	299,511	-6,303
UNITED WAY- ECP	0.22%	20,000	45,470	-25,470	65,003	66,552	-1,549
OMH - PDT PRESCHOOL	0.87%	80,344	69,980	10,364	113,830	61,305	52,525
UNIVERSAL PRE-K	0.93%	86,184	105,878	-19,694	103,460	85,990	17,470
BABIES STEP FORWARD	1.21%	112,167	95,768	16,399	116,099	68,573	47,526
EVALUATIONS - UPSTATE	0.43%	40,000	89,375	-49,375	45,366	39,317	6,049
TITLE I - PRESCHOOL	1.19%	110,695	66,542	44,153	98,036	96,093	1,943
1:1 AIDE - SPECIAL EDUCATION	0.00%	0	0	0	31,958	43,857	-11,899
TOTAL EARLY CHILDHOOD	100.00%	9,280,669	9,323,288	-42,619	9,073,241	9,105,564	-32,323

**Year to Date July 2016 to June 2017
Results vs. Budget and Prior Year -
Early Childhood Programs - Dutchess
County**

	2018 Budget	2017 Actual	2016 Actual
Revenue	9,280,669	9,073,241	9,355,741
Expense	9,323,289	9,105,474	9,228,770
Surplus/Deficit	-42,620	-32,232	126,971

