




ASTORIA
SERVICES FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

**Early Childhood
Programs**

**HEAD START
ANNUAL REPORT TO PUBLIC
2019-2020**





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 2019-2020, 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 fifth of the grant cycle November 1, 2020. The Office of Head Start has developed a new monitoring system to align with the new Head Start Performance Standards, AMS 2.0. Astor was reviewed in the areas of CLASS and Focus Area 2 in March 2019. Focus Area 2 is a comprehensive review of all services to children and families and resulted in compliance on all but 2 federal performance standards. Both have since been corrected. CLASS scores consistently met or exceeded the national average in all areas of assessment.





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 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.

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- 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 all education staff utilize 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 continued to take place to brainstorm and action plan 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 fourth 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.
 - 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 2018. Over the course of 2 days a NYU dentist, students and hygienists conducted 89 dental examinations and fluoride treatments to children across 3 of our 6 centers. NYU noted that only 16% of our children 0-5 had dental caries and no children had infections or abscesses. To continue offering the children a dental exam at the center, our program has created a partnership with Dr. Barry Jacobsen of Pediatric Dentistry of Kingston PLLC- GP. Dr. Jacobsen conducted a dental clinic at the Poughkeepsie location. On October 30, 2019, 48 children were served by Dr. Jacobsen.
 - While reviewing the annual updated Community Assessment it was noted that there have been significant changes to the Millerton area. The program has seen a reduction in eligible children and has moved the 2 Early Head Start home visitors to other centers with larger waitlists. The Millerton location continues to serve 5 Early Head Start children and 16 Head Start children.
 - During the 2018-2019 year, the program implemented use of a family outcomes tool, Parent Gauge. Parents reported a better understanding of the emotional and mental well-being of their child, trust the program to help



their child grow and learn, understand the importance of attendance and stated that our program's activities have helped them get ready for Head Start and school.

- At the beginning of 2020, our buildings were closed with the sudden closure of schools and home visiting due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. All families were offered food distribution at all of our centers across the county in addition to support from Family Advocates. Children participated in virtual education sessions with their home visitors and center based teachers. During the summer of 2020, administrative and support staff began a phased reopening of the centers. Prior to reopening, appropriate signage and social distancing markers were laid out, cleaning protocols were updated and health screenings were solidified. All of the centers have been working diligently on safe and healthy reopening plans.

Head Start Program
2019-2020 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	379	232
Total # families served	361	191
% of children completing medical exams	100	100
% of children completing dental exams	89	53*
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

<i>Program Name</i>	<i>Budget FY20</i>	<i>% of Total Budget</i>	<i>Actual @ 6/30/20</i>	<i>% of Total Budget</i>
HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START GRANT	\$7,704,708	75.23%	\$6,928,003	74.15%
TUTORING REVENUE	\$1,837,395	17.94%	\$1,870,955	20.03%
MPX CONTRACTS	\$95,760	0.94%	\$103,460	1.11%
WYSONOOD PROGRAM	\$350,000	3.42%	\$261,348	2.80%
ARTICLE 611-619 GRANT	\$84,521	0.83%	\$20,902	0.22%
BABIES STEP FORWARD	\$88,241	0.86%	\$85,425	0.91%
EVALUATIONS	\$80,500	0.79%	\$72,683	0.78%
TOTAL EARLY CHILDHOOD	\$10,241,124	100.00%	\$9,342,776	100.00%

Astor Early Childhood FY20 Budget vs FY20 Spending

	BUDGET FY20			ACTUAL @ 6/30/20			
Program Name	% of Rev.	Revenue	Expense	Surplus (Deficit)	Revenue	Expense	Surplus (Deficit)
HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START	78.65%	8,054,708	8,186,114	(131,406)	7,189,351	7,449,960	-260,609
SPECIAL CLASS/INTEGRATED SETTING	8.25%	844,802	843,975	827	906,774	908,722	-1,948
BEHAVIORAL SPECIAL CLASS	5.67%	580,931	574,459	6,472	589,789	595,504	-5,715
POUGHKEEPSIED 7 - PRESCHOOL	3.16%	323,941	324,443	(502)	298,168	301,665	-3,498
UNIVERSAL PRE-K	0.94%	95,760	116,940	(21,180)	103,460	102,373	1,088
BABIES STEP FORWARD	0.86%	88,241	90,399	(2,158)	85,425	90,577	-512.36
EVALUATIONS - UPSTATE	0.79%	80,500	119,828	(39,328)	72,683	132,705	-60,022
TITLE I - PRESCHOOL	0.83%	84,521	71,162	13,359	20,902	24,638	-3,736
1:1 AIDE - SPECIAL EDUCATION	0.86%	87,720	72,025	23,995	76,224	88,614	-12,390
TOTAL EARLY CHILDHOOD	100.00%	10,241,124	10,399,345	(149,921)	9,342,776	9,694,758	(351,982)

**Year to Date July 2019 to June 2020
Results vs. Budget and Prior Year -
Early Childhood Programs - Dutchess
County**

	<i>2020 Actual</i>	<i>2020 Budget</i>	<i>2019 Actual</i>
<i>Revenue</i>	<i>9,342,776</i>	<i>10,241,124</i>	<i>9,879,204</i>
<i>Expense</i>	<i>9,694,758</i>	<i>10,399,345</i>	<i>10,047,397</i>
<i>Surplus/Deficit</i>	<i>-351,982</i>	<i>-158,221</i>	<i>-168,193</i>

