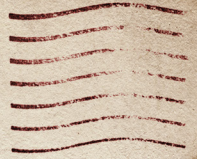


Postcard



# JOURNEY

2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT



**ORANGE COUNTY HEAD START**

Providing high-quality early childhood education and comprehensive services since 1965





**Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself. – John Dewey**

RESORTED  
FIRST CLASS

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# ORANGE COUNTY GOVERNMENT BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



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Commissioner  
District 1



**Christine Moore**  
Commissioner  
District 2



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District 5



**Victoria P. Siplin**  
Commissioner  
District 6



# MAYOR'S LETTER

## Greetings!

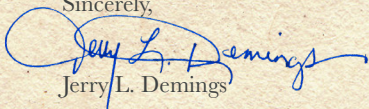
**It is my pleasure to present the 2021-2022 Orange County Head Start Annual Report in collaboration with the Head Start Policy Council.**

President Lyndon Johnson founded the Head Start program, one of the oldest operating federal programs in the United States. The program offers high-quality early childhood education and development services to low-income families at no cost. Orange County Head Start's early childhood education program is governed jointly by the Orange County Board of County Commissioners and the Head Start Policy Council. Orange County Head Start proudly serves 1,536 children ages three to five years at 22 locations throughout the county in 83 classrooms. Since its inception, Orange County Head Start has grown immensely through collaborative partnerships that align with our program goals and benefit the children and families enrolled.

The annual report will highlight a year of accomplishments, program strengths, and opportunities for change to meet program goals. Head Start is committed to serving the needs of families and collaborates with community agencies for service referrals. This year, the program has expanded Head Start Centers on Orange County Public Schools campuses and has partnered with the Orlando Science Center's Ignite Discovery program to integrate STEM into classrooms. Additionally, Head Start is working to expand access to information technology resources to enhance children's learning.

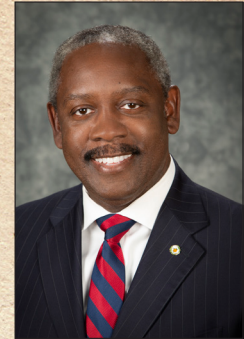
As Mayor of Orange County, I am proud of our dedicated Head Start staff and their commitment to serving the children and families in our community. It is crucial that our youngest residents have access to education and learning resources early on to ensure their growth and success. I appreciate your support to make Orange County Head Start the leading institution for early childhood education in Central Florida.

Sincerely,



Jerry L. Demings

Orange County Mayor



**Jerry L. Demings**  
Orange County Mayor



# MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

## Greetings!

As the Head Start Director, I proudly present the 2021-2022 Orange County Head Start (OCHS) Annual Report, in collaboration with Mayor Jerry Demings, the Board of County Commissioners and Orange County Head Start Policy Council. This report will provide program data and analysis regarding OCHS operational and financial performance. Historically, OCHS program data has exceeded local, regional, and national outcomes, however, coming off a year and half of COVID, some of the numbers are a testament to the challenges faced as an organization. The document will provide the reader with a tour of our classrooms, centers, and databases. The report will provide a detailed look into learning expectations, child outcomes, program goals and plans, program strengths as well as areas for improvement.

In 2021-2022, the Early Childhood community still felt the impacts of COVID. Orange County Head Start was hit hard with staff shortages, low enrollment numbers, low average daily attendance rates, classroom closures, the need for more classroom space, the need for larger meeting areas, and a decrease in supplemental funds received through the Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten program. The Parent, Family & Community Engagement community suffered as a result of not allowing parent volunteers in the classroom and a lack of parents participating in parenting programs. All these challenges effected OCHS ability to meet program requirements. In 2022, Orange County Head Start had funding from Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA), and the American Rescue Plan Appropriations Act (ARPA). This funding helped the program react, recover, prepare, and plan from the results of COVID. OCHS invested funds in recruitment of children, recruitment and retention of staff, and minor renovations to classrooms and offices. The program found innovative ways to engage parents by utilizing online platforms. The program expanded the Quality Assurance team in efforts to complete more monitoring and to ensure organizational performance met Head Start Program Performance Standards and other federal requirements. Orange County Head Start buckled down, invested funds in areas to increase compliance,

and embraced the “Head Start Forward” approach. Benchmarks that were relaxed during COVID returned to normal expectations. The program moved forward with expectations in hopes of moving toward 100% compliance.

Orange County Head Start has served the early childhood community for over 50 years. Our Vision, “School Ready Children and Self-Reliant Families” is embraced by the staff, partners, and stakeholders. The Head Start team shows up daily and works hard to ensure the vision is a reality. Orange County Head Start is the largest Early Learning program in Orange County serving 1536 students at twenty-two locations. Our Mission to provide high-quality comprehensive services to low-income children and their diverse families through collaborative partnerships is realized daily in and through the work being completed. Orange County Head Start is successful in our endeavors because of the support from Orange County’s government, the mayor, and district commissioners. Mayor Demings stated in a press conference, “These children are the future of Orange County and have a special place in my heart.” Staff, partners, and stakeholders all embrace and support the “Heart Work” completed by Orange County Head Start. This level of support is how Orange County Head Start continues to excel even when faced with challenges. In the words of the 44th President Barack Obama, “For Millions of Families Head Start has been a lifeline, and for million of kids, it’s been the start of a better life”. As a past Head Start student, I am proof that Head Start Works and it is my desire as the Head Start Director to continue to lead a team that will work to ensure Head Start is here for years to come and continues to be a lifeline for the families of Orange County.

*Sonya Hill*

Head Start Director



**“ Let us remember : One book, one pen, one child and one teacher can change the world.” – Malala Yousafzai**

## Vision Statement

Orange County Head Start: School-Ready Children and Self-Reliant Families

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## Mission Statement

Orange County Head Start provides high-quality comprehensive services to low-income children and their diverse families through collaborative partnerships.

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## Philosophy

Orange County Head Start believes in providing high-quality, comprehensive services for children and families by providing developmentally appropriate, supportive learning environments for children. We embrace diversity and support families as they become self-reliant. We believe in providing opportunities for staff professional development and supporting employee wellness. We believe in collaborative partnerships and teamwork.

# “Ready Minds, Healthy Bodies”

---

## Values

- High-Quality Comprehensive Services
- School Ready Children and Self-Reliant Families
- Employee Personal and Professional Development and Well-Being
- Diversity and Teamwork
- Family Involvement and Participation
- Collaborative Partnerships and Community Support



# PROGRAM GOALS

## Goal #1

Orange County Head Start will be a learning organization in which staff engages in continuous improvement to reach their potential and improve children and family outcomes.

## Goal #2

Orange County Head Start will create an environment that supports staff retention and reduces turnover.

## Goal #3

Orange County Head Start will enhance the physical health and mental wellness of staff, children and families by developing a comprehensive wellness approach.

## Goal #4

Orange County Head Start will design and build a technology infrastructure that will provide students, families and staff with access to resources and education to increase children's achievement of the skills needed to thrive in a globally connected world.



# BUDGET INFORMATION Federal Grant Period: Oct., 2021 - Sept. 30, 2022

## TOTAL AMOUNT OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE FUNDS RECEIVED AND THE AMOUNT FROM EACH SOURCE

**\$14,704,441**

Office of Head Start

**\$2,300,000**

County GFIFT Funds

**\$1,480,293**

USDA

**\$1,252,800**

VPK

## EXPLANATION OF BUDGETARY EXPENDITURES AND PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FY 2019-2020

The proposed budget for FY 2021-2022 was \$19,737,534. Funds received were used to provide full-year, full-day comprehensive early childhood development services for 1,536 children and support to their families. Total expenditures of federal and non-federal funds for FY 2021-2022 were \$19,770,141. All federal funds were used to cover salaries, cost of living increases, operation of services and training. The non-federal match (in-kind) was used to assist with salaries and operational expenses.

**\$12,545,506**

Services

**\$1,221,984**

USDA

**\$224,461**

\*Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation (One Time Funds)

**\$1,336,615**

Administration

**\$404,764**

VPK

**\$397,314**

Disability

**\$268,136**

Health and Dental

**\$1,069,958**

\*American Recovery Act (One Time Funds)

**\$156,870**

Training

**\$1,928,313**

Family, Parent and Community Engagement

**\$216,220**

\*Disaster Assistance (One Time)

**FINANCIAL AUDIT RESULTS** There were no findings for the FY 2021-2022 Fiscal Audit.

**FEDERAL REVIEW RESULTS** No Federal Reviews took place for FY 2021-2022

# PROGRAM CHARACTERISTICS

The Orange County Head Start Division promotes school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through the provision of educational, health, nutritional, social and other relevant services.

**1,536**  
Funded Enrollment

- 780** Enrollment spaces available as full working day/full calendar year
- 5** Days Per Week
- 22** Head Start Centers  
**Program Option:** Center-based setting
- 83** Classrooms

## Children and Family Services

**1,482**  
Total Number of Children Served

**3**

2 Year Old

**652**

3 Year Old

**827**

3 Year Old

## Enrollment by Type of Eligibility

**1,043**  
Income below 100%

**218**

Public Assistance

**12**

Foster Child

**184**

Homeless

**25**

Over Income



**13%**  
of children (189) had a Diagnosed Disability

## Families by Type

**457**

Two-Parent Family

**932**

Single-Parent Family

## Health Services

**1,318**

Medical exams

**851**

Dental exams

**28**

Dental treatments

**1,433**

up to date on Immunizations



## **EFFORTS TO PREPARE CHILDREN FOR KINDERGARTEN**

Orange County Head Start utilizes the High-Scope Curriculum which promotes research-based teaching practices to support children's development and learning in all Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework (ELOF) domains. The program uses the Galileo Pre-K assessment tool, G3 Assessment Scales, to evaluate children's developmental progress. Teachers complete baseline assessments for each child and regular, ongoing observation and documentation of progress using the structured assessments provided.

At the end of the 2021-2022 school year, 687 children transitioned to kindergarten. The child assessment data that follows reflects their developmental level for each domain area and school readiness goal. As the graph demonstrates, significant progress was made in relation to their starting point and all children were above the predicted developmental learning levels by the end of the school year. The outcomes prove that Orange County Head Start children are extremely well prepared academically, socially and emotionally for the next stage of their education.

## 4 Year Old Outcome Analysis - Norm-Reference

■ Baseline ■ 2021-2022 ■ Predicted DL Score

### Approaches to Learning



### Creative Arts



### Early Math



### Language



### Literacy



### Logic & Reasoning



### Nature & Science



### Physical Development & Health



### Social Emotional



### Social Studies



### School Readiness



### Technology



### English Language Acquisition





**“ Intelligence plus character- that is the goal of true education.” – Martin Luther King Jr.**

# PARENT ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

**For Me, For You, For Later** is a 4-week financial literacy program designed by PNC Bank and Sesame Street for 3 to 5-year olds, as well as their families. Our parents benefit from the program by becoming more aware of their finances and learning how to talk to their children about how to manage money and make good choices. This is the third year the program has been offered to families and there have been significant gains in the number of families that participated. During the 2021-2022 school year, we had 112 participants.

**CFPB's Financial Program** is designed to enhance financial capability by educating and empowering our parents to address their financial decision regarding, opportunity and challenges that arise throughout their financial life cycle. OCHS utilizes this program to offer information and tools to address money management and other money topics through their family needs assessment. It also assists with preparing the next generation for financial success by developing money management habits and skills for the youth. During the 2021-2022 school year, 0 families participated.

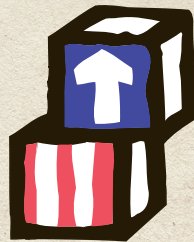
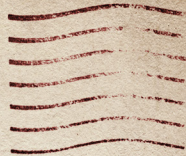
**24/7 Dad** is a unique program designed to equip fathers with the self-awareness, compassion and a sense of responsibility that every good parent need. It focuses on building the man first; father second, better skills in caring for children and building relationships with the mother of their children. OCHS philosophy behind the 24/7 Dads program is to support the growth and development of fathers and children as caring and compassionate people who treat themselves, others, and the environment with respect and dignity. During the 2021-2022 school year 0 dad's participated.

**Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors** it is the Nation's first evidence-based comprehensive training program developed by and for Latino parents with children ages 0-5. The program supports parents as leaders of their families and as the child's first teacher. It is also 12 wk. / 1.5 hours, with a pre-post surveys and a graduation at the conclusion. During the 2021- 2022 school year, we had 18 participants.

**Incredible Years** comprehensive, developmental based curricula for parents, teachers, and children designed to promote emotional and social competence and to prevent, reduce and treat aggression and emotional problems in young children 0 to 12 years old. The goal, is to promote children's social and emotional development and school readiness. The curricula run for 15 weeks, one day a week and 1.5 hours sessions are confidential. Graduation after completion. During the 2021-2022 school year, we had 26 participants.

**Jobs Partnership** this program is a boot camp for life and work, with trained volunteer coaches and practical teaching that transforms the head and heart. This program connects the participants to the right people, resources and employers, with the goal of a fulltime, family-sustaining careers. During the 2021-2022 school year, we had 4 participants.

Postcard



**Head Start**

**Orange County Head Start**  
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Orlando, FL 32806  
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