



NEW DIRECTIONS EARLY HEAD START

2021 - 2022 Annual Report



Message From the Director

We are proud to share with you some of the many accomplishments during the 2021-2022 program year. We returned to fully in-person home visits, adjusting as needed to COVID-19 and extended illnesses. We grew and learned together during another challenging year. Our center partners faced staffing concerns as individuals retired or pursued other opportunities. We were not able to maintain full enrollment through the year due to staffing limitations. We were creative and adapted as needed to meet the needs of children and families.

New Directions Early Head Start (NDEHS) staff and partners continued to go above and beyond during the past year. They worked together and demonstrated what is possible when individuals work together and support each other. Through ongoing mentoring and coaching, staff completed a series of Conscious Discipline workshops, integrating the concepts into their teaching and interpersonal practices.

As a program, we spent time focusing on and promoting ongoing well-being for children, families, and staff. Through partnerships with the Food Bank, Nemours, the Center for Child Development, the Department of Behavioral Health & Nutrition, and UD Employee Wellness, we offered a variety of opportunities for individuals and groups to engage in activities to promote their own health and wellbeing. We are grateful for these ongoing partnerships.

Finally, the Board and Policy Council members continued to share their knowledge and talents with NDEHS providing guidance and ongoing support. Their dedication has been invaluable.

As we begin our 25th year of services, NDEHS remains committed to quality services that meet the needs of children and families in our community while supporting the dedicated staff who provide those services.

"Staff from NDEHS and ELC are all very caring. They do everything they can to accommodate what a child or a family needs. Everyone is so kind and respectful. As a child, I saw all of this when I would be with family members picking up or dropping off. Everyone was so nice."

— Tiana Pointer, current NDEHS parent



New Directions By Numbers

Program Demographic and Service Information

Children and Pregnant Women Served

Program Year 2021-2022

Pregnant Women

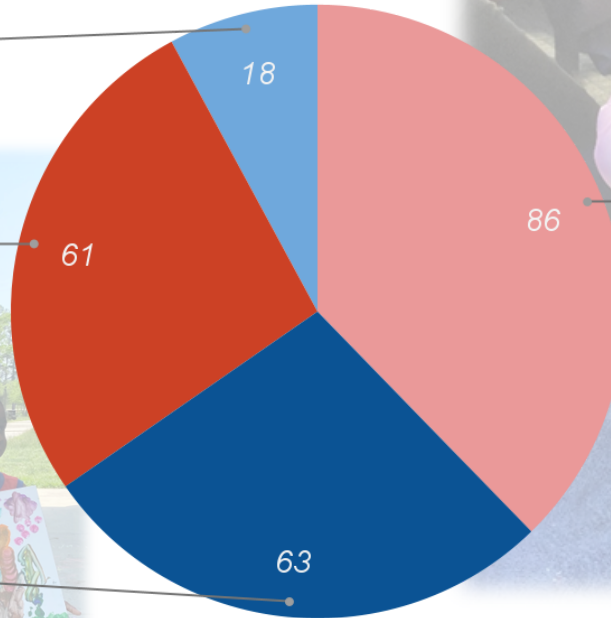
7.9%

Two year olds

26.8%

One year olds

27.6%



Under one year old

37.7%

183

Total Number of Families Enrolled

210

Total Children Enrolled

18

Pregnant Women Enrolled

- 85 Families/participants who do not speak/read English as their primary language
- 13 Families over income eligibility
- 74 Families with father participation
- 12 Homeless families served which include 15 children

- 199 Children up to date on preventative care
- 198 Children as up to date on immunization as possible
- 17 Children with identified disabilities

- 100%(18) Of pregnant women received prenatal care
- 17 received postnatal care; some women were still pregnant at the end of the program year

New Directions By Numbers (Cont.)

Family Partnerships and Services

All 183 (100%) families participated in a family goal-setting process, which resulted in an individualized family partnership agreement in 2021-2022. All families received at least two family service referrals and services as outlined on the PIR during the program year.

129 Families received emergency/crisis intervention addressing an immediate need for food, clothing and shelter

164 Families were involved in discussing screening and assessment result for their children

65 Families received financial education and asset building services

29 Families received housing assistance

38 Families received ESL support

30 Families received a mental health referral or assistance

Substance Abuse Assistance in families

- 22 received substance use prevention services
- 6 participated in substance use treatment programs



2021-2022 Program Year

This year New Direction Early Head Start (NDEHS) has extended and found new ways to strengthen community partnerships, family engagement and staff wellness. New Direction Early Head Start has been working with the Food Bank on a summer meal backpack program for children in center and home based programs. Stand By Me continues to support both our families with their financial wellness through one on one interaction or through their workshop offered programwide. In addition, NDEHS has acquired an extra vision tool and new hearing screening to support our different sites with obtaining evidence based results for the children. This year we have also partnered with Delaware Smile Check Program, this program visited one of our sites and provided a dental screening for children, families and staff. We hope to expand the program to other sites.

Family Engagement

- **Stand By Me - Financial Literacy 4-part series, and Child Tax Credit info session**
Program-wide event provided by \$tand By Me and offered in both English and Spanish languages.
- **'Chat & Chew' Mental Wellness Series**
'Chat and Chew' sessions were offered every other month to connect families with mental health consultants to talk about topics such as transition, new year smart goals and seasonal affect syndrome (SAD).
- **Food Bank of Delaware Cooking Classes**
In partnership with the Food Bank, NDEHS provide families with a monthly cooking class and ingredients to support families who shop with a limited budget to cook healthy meals.
- **Annual Toy Drive**
NDEHS, in partnership with community members and fundraising, was able to distribute 160 toys for the 2021 holiday season.
- **Annual Coat Drive**
NDEHS distributed 280 coats to children and families along with hats and gloves during the 2021 Winter season.
- **NDEHS Monthly Book Distribution**
Each month during 2021 families were provided a complimentary book to support reading at home and introduce various concepts to children through stories. Over 1600 books were distributed to families.



"I found this program valuable because I am a new mom and didn't have the support of a village around me. I learned about nutrition, behavior and tantrums, and potty training because of program resources. I attended 2 cooking classes which were helpful and fun.

It is a comprehensive program that I wouldn't have been able to find somewhere else. It was good to be able to have a mental health consultant coming in to observe my child."

- Current NDEHS Parent

Staff Wellness

NDEHS Fun Unity and Nurturing (F.U.N) Committee continues to meet once a month to find innovative ways to support staff well-being. The FUN committee has integrated team-building activities into the staff meeting and in addition, has offered opportunities throughout the year to come together. Such as, craft night , winter warm cooking and game night. In partnership with the University of Delaware wellness department and our mental health consultants, we have provided educational resources and fun for the staff. In addition, NDEHS has initiated a staff wellness pilot program. This program provides a wellness coach for teachers and support staff from Neighborhood House Early Learning Center. The coach provides one on one physical and mental health resources as well as several wellness opportunities such as massages and walking competitions.



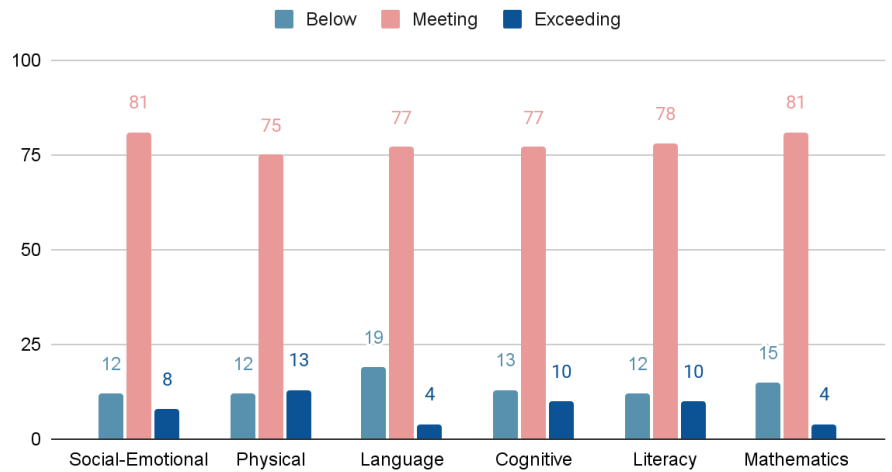
2021-2022 Child Outcomes

Key Outcomes

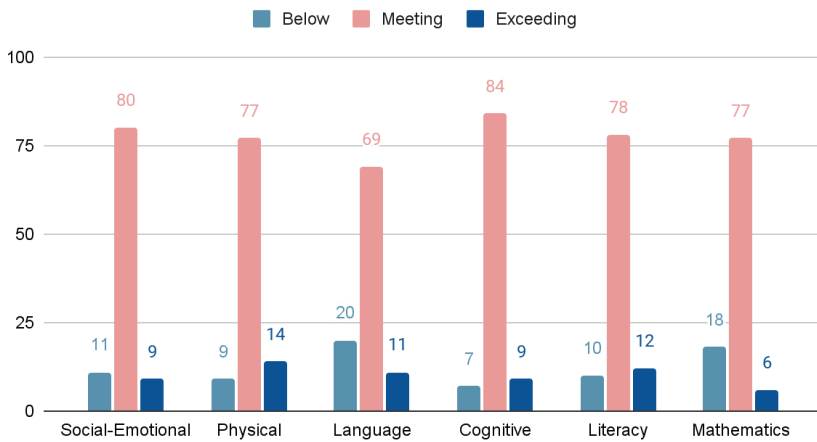
NDEHS children returned to in-person services this year, allowing teachers and home visitors to complete developmental assessments based on their own observations. At the program level, the highest percentages of children were assessed below widely held developmental expectations in the language and mathematics domains. These outcomes persisted for the entire program year. We hypothesize that mandated mask use for adults and children ages 2 and older influenced this outcome and its persistence.



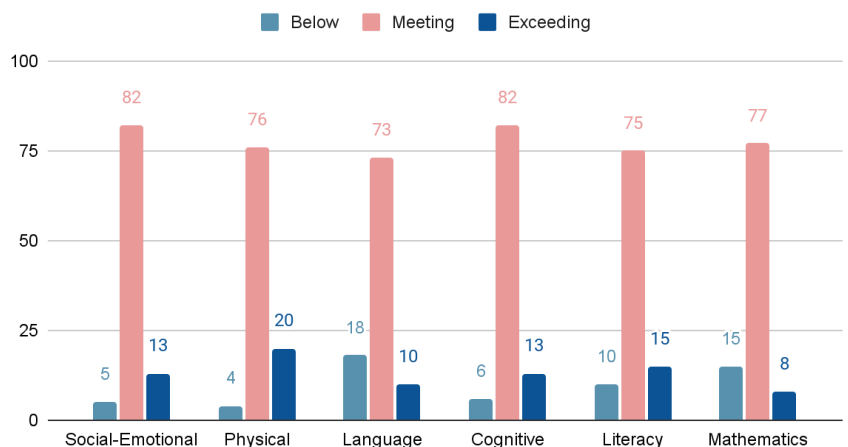
Fall 2021-2022



Winter 2021-2022



Spring 2021-2022



2021-2022 NDEHS Financials

FEDERAL

Federal Funding from HHS Available:	\$	2,777,029.00
CRRSA/ARP Funding	\$	350,696.00
Total Federal Funding	\$	3,127,725.00
EXPENSES:		
TOTAL HHS Expenditures:	\$	2,795,684.00
Breakdown:		
Personnel	\$	911,817.00
Fringe Benefits	\$	356,609.00
Travel	\$	-
Supplies	\$	55,008.00
Contractual	\$	1,173,518.00
Other	\$	79,874.00
CRRSA/ARP	\$	105,406.00
Indirect Cost	\$	113,452.00
TOTAL:	\$	2,795,684.00
Training (TTA)	\$	44,278.00
*Included in above total		

In-Kind/Non- Federal Match	\$	613,880.00
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STATE

State Contract:	\$	189,583.00
Total State Expenditures:	\$	130,663.00
Breakdown:		
Personnel	\$	71,321.00
Fringe Benefits	\$	27,621.00
Travel	\$	338.00
Program/ Operating/Supplies	\$	7,168.00
Equipment	\$	2,438.00
Other	\$	-
Indirect Cost	\$	21,777.00
TOTAL:	\$	130,663.00

TOTALS

Total Funding	\$	3,319,496.74
Total expenditures (from all funding sources)	\$	2,927,368.17

GIFT

Donations:	\$	2,188.74
Total Gift Expenditures:	\$	1,021.17

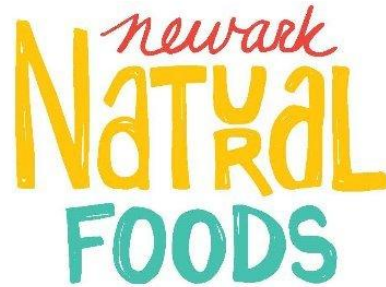


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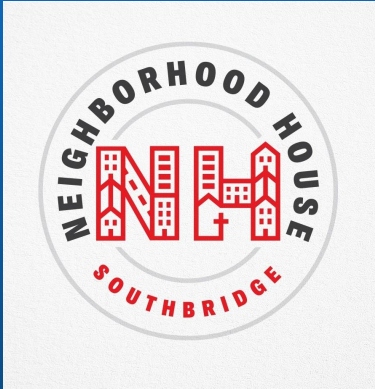
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