



MASSACHUSETTS
HEAD START ASSOCIATION

2022

ANNUAL REPORT



Worcester Community Action Council
(WCAC) Head Start

A Letter From Our Leadership

Dear MHSA members, partners, and friends,

2022 presented our Head Start programs with challenges unforeseen in Head Start - entering the third year of keeping children and staff safe during the pandemic and a workforce crisis forcing programs to operate with one out of every five jobs vacant. And yet, Head Start continued to serve. The most vulnerable children and families saw the benefits of high-quality early education and comprehensive services in Head Start and Early Head Start classrooms, home visits, family child care, and partner programs. Thousands of young children were screened for health and mental health needs and received needed interventions, children were fed nutritious meals and snacks, families were supported through homelessness and job training, and more.

Head Start continues to serve the most vulnerable because of the hardworking, dedicated staff working in relationship with children and families at each of the 29 programs in Massachusetts. Head Start and Early Head Start teachers, home visitors, family advocates, cooks, bus drivers, and countless others provide lifechanging value to the families in the Commonwealth most in need. These Head Start heroes show up each day to serve.

MHSA is dedicated to serving these Head Start heroes this year and every year. We will work tirelessly for our workforce to receive the wages, benefits, and supports they deserve, and we hope you will join us.

In partnership,



Jill Fox
MHSA Board Chair



Michelle Haimowitz
MHSA Executive Director



Head Start

The foundation of Head Start is simple:

Every child, regardless of circumstances at birth, has the ability to reach their full potential.

Head Start was founded in 1965 as a tool to help break the cycle of poverty by providing low-income parents with early childhood education and comprehensive family services. Head Start has expanded to include children birth-3 and now serves approximately one million children a year in all 50 states, including over 10,000 children in Massachusetts. Head Start programs promote children's development through comprehensive and community based services. Head Start comprehensive services include:

- Health, mental health, nutritional, and educational services for children
- Leadership, volunteer, and parent education opportunities
- Referrals and family advocacy

Head Start programs prepare children for Kindergarten success and provide vital supports for their families according to the unique communities' needs. While maintaining the original vision of communities investing in their youngest, most vulnerable children, Head Start has also developed over the decades to adapt, build on evidence-based practices, and continually improve to provide the highest quality programs for children and families.

Massachusetts Head Start Association

Vision: Head Start programs in Massachusetts are fully resourced, creating opportunities for vulnerable families, children, caregivers and communities to thrive.

Mission: MHSA serves as the voice of Head Start in Massachusetts by providing collaborative learning opportunities, leveraging partnerships, and advocating for Head Start programs.

Values: Equity
Integrity

Passion
Community

Comprehensive

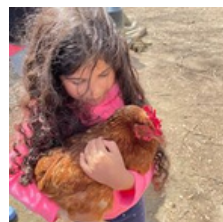
Head Start provides high-quality comprehensive services to ensure children are ready to learn and families can succeed.

Education and Child Development

Head Start programs provide the highest-quality early education and care using evidence-based curricula. Worcester Child Development Head Start is a Reggio Emilia inspired program which focuses on recognizing that every person is unique and has strong potential. Their curriculum works in collaboration with community, families, children, and each other to ensure that people feel their value as citizens in the community.

Health

Children's health is a top priority for Head Start. Programs collaborate with families to make sure children receive all appropriate medical and dental care, facilitate any necessary diagnostic testing, and receive vision and hearing screenings.



Children from Martha's Vineyard Community Services Head Start

Family Services

Comprehensive family services are at the core of Head Start's mission, and include services such as housing assistance, ESL training, and job training. Since 2018, Holyoke Chicopee Springfield Head Start has joined forces with Springfield WORKS to prepare parents, guardians, and families for entering the workforce. This Whole Family Approach to Careers initiative promotes economic and family stability.

Disability Services

All Head Start programs reserve at least 10% of their slots for children with disabilities. Programs partner with families, Early Intervention providers, and school districts to ensure individualized services and full participation for all children.

Services

Read more about how our programs meet the needs of their children and families.

Mental Health

The mental health of children and the adults that care for them is essential for school readiness. Head Start programs partner with mental health consultants to identify and support children, as Head Start programs are uniquely qualified to address trauma and promote resilience in young children and families.

Nutrition

Head Start programs provide healthy meals and snacks for children, making sure their bellies are full and ready to learn. Programs maintain partnerships with local, state and regional agencies to offer resources to support healthy eating habits and nutritional assistance information to share with families.



Children from Citizens for Citizens, Inc.

Family and Community Engagement:

Families are Head Start's most important partners, and programs integrate parents and families into all aspects of their services. ABCD Head Start uses a Home School Connections approach to family engagement, bringing out-of-school learning and classroom learning together. This approach has allowed ABCD to build a support system for children and families that includes family experience, knowledge, and resources, creating a culture of excitement and empowerment.

Head Start Data Highlights:

Children and Family Data

In the 2021-2022 program year, Massachusetts Head Start and Early Head Start programs served:

10,869 children

112 pregnant women

7,587 children served in center-based classrooms

704 children served in home visiting

159 children served in family child care

1,445 children served at a child care partner

35% of enrolled children also received a child care subsidy

1,047 children from **957** families experiencing homelessness were served

470 children in foster care were served

19% families received mental health services

44% families received emergency/crisis intervention

Workforce Data

Massachusetts Head Start and Early Head Start employed **4,234** staff in the 2021-2022 program year

There are **1,644** center-based teachers in **705** classrooms

63% of preschool classroom teachers hold a bachelor's degree or higher

26% of staff are current or former Head Start parents

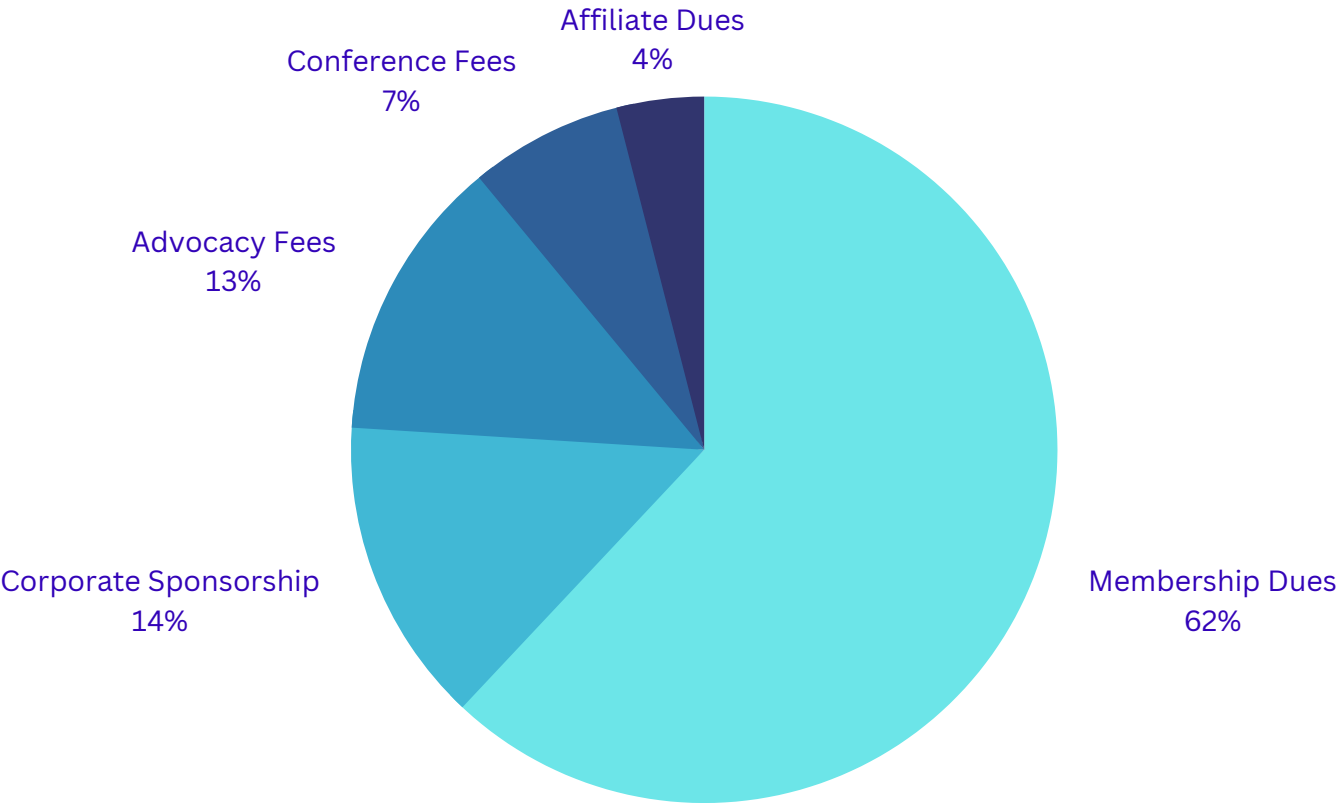
19% of staff left during the program year

- of those, only 40% were replaced
- 63% of vacancies remained unfilled for 3 months or longer

*All data from the 2021-2022 Office of Head Start Massachusetts Program Information Report

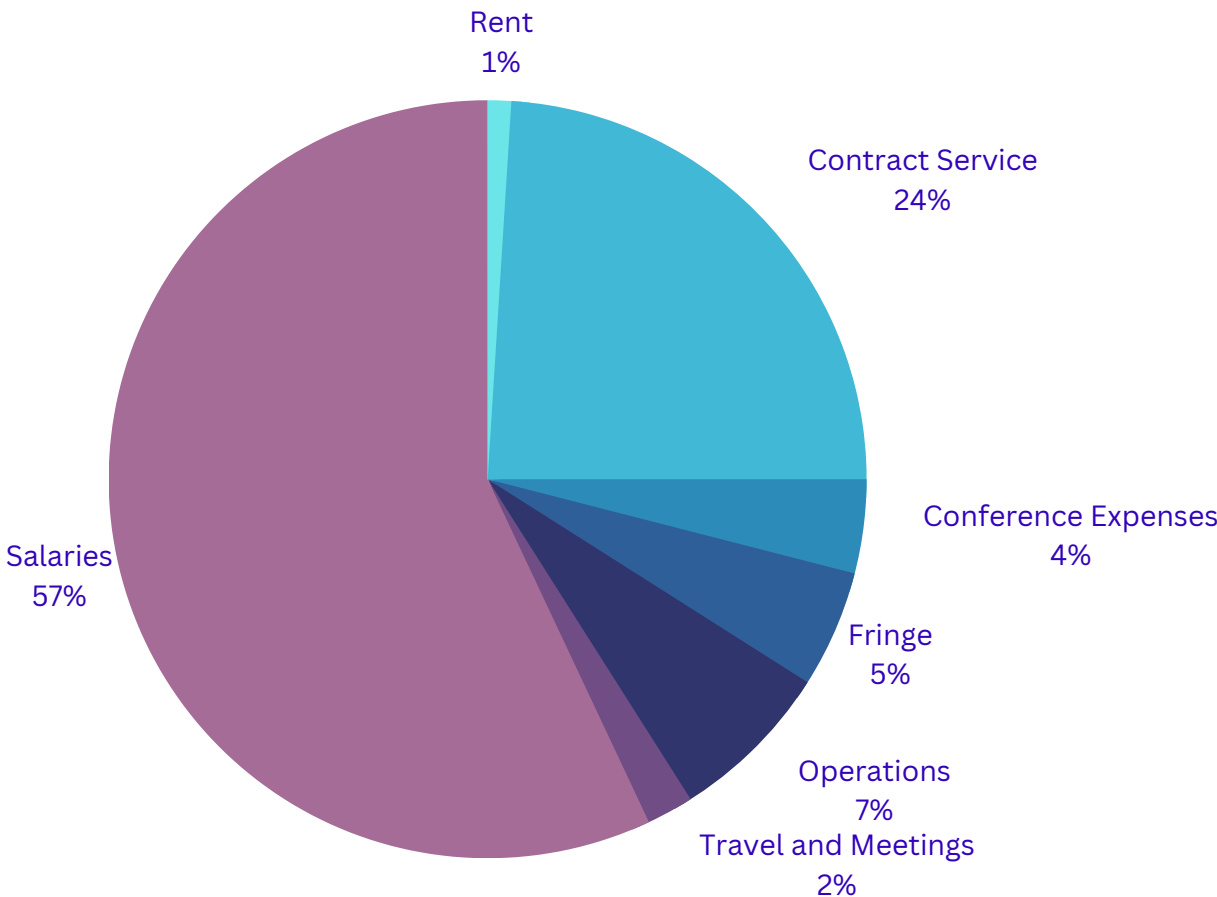
MHSA Financials

2022 Revenues



Total MHSA 2022 Revenues = \$206,601

2022 Expenses



Total MHSA 2022 Expenses = \$181,290

Board of Directors and staff

Board Position

Name

Agency

Chair	Jill Fox	PACE Head Start
Vice Chair	Kristen Hayes	Friend of MHSA
Treasurer	Nicole Blais	Holyoke Chicopee Springfield Head Start
Secretary	Nancy Mahoney	MOC Head Start
	Flossy Calderon	ABCD Head Start
	Lisa Correnti	Pathways for Children
	Carrie Mayen	Quincy Community Action Program Parent
	Meghan Siembor	Community Teamwork Inc.
	Mariel Silverio	Greater Lawrence Community Action Council Parent
	Nancy Sullivan	Self Help Inc. Head Start

Staff

Executive Director	Michelle Haimowitz
Operations Coordinator	Amber Cichowski

2022 Members

Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD) Inc. Head Start & Early Head Start
Associates for Human Services Early Head Start and Early Learning Programs
Berkshire County Head Start
Citizens for Citizens Head Start & Early Head Start
Communities United Inc.
Community Action Agency of Somerville (CAAS) Head Start
Community Action Inc. Head Start/Early Head Start
Community Action Pioneer Valley, Head Start and Early Learning Program
Community Action Programs Inter-City (CAPIC) Head Start
Community Teamwork Inc.
The Dimock Center Early Head Start & Head Start Programs
Greater Lawrence Community Action Council Inc. Head Start
Holyoke Chicopee Springfield Head Start, Inc.
Lawrence Community Day Care Early Head Start
LEO Inc. Head Start
Making Opportunity Count (MOC) Child Care & Head Start
Martha's Vineyard Community Services Head Start
Pathways for Children
People Acting in Community Endeavors (PACE) Head Start & Early Head Start
Quincy Community Action Programs (QCAP) Head Start & Early Head Start
Riverside Community Care Early Head Start
Self-Help, Inc. Head Start
South Middlesex Opportunity Council (SMOC) Child Care & Head Start
South Shore Community Action Council (SSCAC)
South Shore Stars Early Head Start
Triumph Inc. Head Start, Early Head Start & Early Childhood Programs
Worcester Child Development Head Start
Worcester Community Action Council Head Start
YMCA Cape Cod Head Start & Early Head Start



Children from Martha's
Vineyard Community Services
Head Start



CONTACT :

Phone : 413 270 0809

Social media : @massheadstart

Website : www.massheadstart.org

Stay connected