



Head Start of Eastern Orange County

Community Assessment Summary

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Head Start

Head Start is a national program & it was built on a strong base of civil rights advocacy.

In January of 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson declared a war on poverty in his State of the Union speech. Shortly thereafter, Sargent Shriver took the lead in assembling a panel of experts to develop a comprehensive child development program that would help communities meet the needs of disadvantaged preschool children.

Part of the government's thinking on poverty was influenced by new research on the effects of poverty, as well as on the impacts of education. This research indicated an obligation to help disadvantaged groups, compensating for inequality in social or economic conditions. Head Start was designed to help break the cycle of poverty, providing preschool children of low-income families with a comprehensive program to meet their emotional, social, health, nutritional and psychological needs. A key tenet of the program established that it be culturally responsive to the communities served, and that the communities have an investment in its success through the contribution of volunteer hours and other donations as nonfederal share.



Head Start History

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m0pNIACUXkl>



Head Start

of Eastern Orange County

- HSEOC was founded in 2002
- We are federally funded to serve 227 children ages 3-5 in eastern Orange County, primarily from low income homes.
- We are a community program located in the city of Newburgh, NY (across from MSMC & Bishop Dunn).
- We are dedicated to & reflective of the community we serve.
- We have a Parent Committee, Policy Council & a Board of Directors.
- We are a comprehensive preschool program (focusing on the whole child- specifically the education, health, family & social service) for children ages 3-5 years old.
- Program is intentionally designed for preschoolers/early learners in our community.
- Program is fully supported on research-based practices.

HSEOC HIGHLIGHTS

- 3 highly qualified loving teachers in each classroom, which includes a bilingual teacher & low ratios
- No additional parent costs/fees
- Strong focus on developing School Readiness Skills- for success in school & life-through hands on fun learning experiences
- Literacy rich learning environments
- Qualified, professional staff that receive ongoing professional development
- Individualized Child Education
- Classroom computer learning centers
- Outdoor nature inspired playscape specifically designed for young learners
- Outdoor learning opportunities
- On-Site therapy to support young children with activity limitations/participation restrictions
- Health & Developmental Screenings
- Mental Health Consultants
- Family Style Meals cooked onsite daily.
- Bilingual Family Advocacy
- Strong family partnerships which includes parent involvement & decision making
- Fatherhood Initiative
- Foster Grandparents partnerships
- Cultural & educational events
- Guidance towards kindergarten transitions
- Partnerships with community based organizations



Children & families are the heart of everything we do.





Head Start

Community Assessment

Our 2022 Community Needs Assessment identifies strengths, challenges, and barriers to self-sufficiency of those living in poverty in eastern Orange County in the state of New York.

The Community Assessment is intended to guide future program planning, to meet community needs, to build on the current strengths and resources of local communities, and to assist in reducing identified barriers to self-sufficiency for families living in poverty, particularly in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The quantitative and qualitative data gleaned from the Community Assessment process will be used by leadership and governing bodies to make informed decisions which may include, but are not limited to:

- ◆ Determination of long- and short-range program goals, objectives, and priorities;
- ◆ Types of services most needed for families living in poverty;
- ◆ Geographic areas to be served, if additional funding is available, or if limitations in the amount of resources make it impossible to serve the entire service area;
- ◆ Locations of centers and/or services; and
- ◆ Criteria that define the special populations of children who will be given priority for recruitment and selection for early childhood services.



Quick Notes

- ❑ The Community Needs Assessment has been developed per the requirements of the Head Start Program Performance Standards (HSPPS). HSPPS Standard *1302.11*
- ❑ Methods utilized for the collection of quantitative and qualitative data information included:
 - community and parent surveys;
 - local, state, and federal data resources;
 - 2020 Census Bureau data; and American Community Survey estimates.
 - As available, data sources reflecting the 2020 Census and impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have been included. Due to the pandemic, the release of some Census 2020 data and 2016-2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates have been delayed and are unavailable for this report

- ❑ Throughout the Community Assessment process, both strengths and challenges were identified. I will review a summary of demographic information and data trends that most impact at-risk children/families and those living in poverty in Orange County, New York & be more specific where I can primarily to the City of Newburgh.



Demographics

Orange County has an estimated 0-4 age population of 6.6% (25,123 children), higher than NY State (5.9%) and the U.S. (6.1%). The city of Newburgh has an 0-4 age population of 8.5% (2,403 children

The racial makeup of the City of Newburgh is 22.7% White, 28.3% Black/African-American, .9% Asian, 2.3% Native American/Alaskan Native, 12% Multiple Races, and 33.7% Other Race. The Hispanic population in the City of Newburgh is 52.3% significantly higher than NY (19.5%) and the U.S. (18.7%).

Following are the racial demographics of enrolled children at Head Start of Eastern Orange County during PY 2020-2021: Black/African-American (30.9%); Bi-Racial/Multi-Racial (14.5%); White (1.8%); Asian (.9%); and Other Race (51.9%). Of enrolled children, 63% were Hispanic/Latino.



- Of the population in Orange County, 10.8% (40,957 people) are estimated to be foreign-born and 4.1% (15,613 people) are estimated to be non-citizens.
- Of the population in Orange County, 75.4% speak English only, 13.3% speak Spanish, 8.9% speak Indo-European languages, 1.5% speak Asian languages, and .9% speak Other languages.
- Of enrolled K-12 students in Orange County, 7% are English Language Learners. Of enrolled K-12 students in Newburgh City School District, 16% are English Language Learners.
- During PY 2020-2021, 60.9% of enrolled Head Start of Eastern Orange County families spoke English and 39.1% spoke Spanish.
- Of households, 18% in Orange County are estimated to be single-parent households, compared to the state of New York at 27%.
- During PY 2020-2021, 59.4% of Head Start of Eastern Orange County families were two-parent families and 40.6% were single-parent families. In comparison, 54.7% of enrolled Head Start families in New York and 41.4% of Head Start families nationwide were two-parent families.



EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

- In the Newburgh City School District:
 - There are 4 Family Day Care Programs with a capacity of 24 children.
 - There are 15 Group Family Day Care Programs with a capacity of 180 children.
 - There are 15 Child Care Centers with a capacity of 1,021 children ages 0-5 (102 infant slots, 159 toddler slots, and 760 preschool slots).

-There are 4 programs in Orange County serving Early Head Start and/or Head Start children, including migrant/seasonal families. (Refer to full narrative for funded enrollment).

\$ - The annual price of child care for center-based care is estimated at **\$15,028** for an infant and **\$27,092** for an infant and a 4 year old. The annual price of home family child care is estimated at \$10,972 for an infant and \$21,112 for an infant and a 4 year old. A single parent spends approximately 54% of income on infant child care and a single parent spends nearly 97% of income on two children.



ECONOMIC WELL BEING

- The median household income in Orange County is estimated at **\$79,944**, higher than NY (\$68,486) and the — U.S. (\$62,843). Median incomes of African-American (\$68,242) and Hispanic families (\$71,029) are significantly lower than non-Hispanic, White families (\$84,614).
- Inflation rose significantly in 2021, putting a greater cost burden on families. The annual inflation rate for the United States was **7%** for the 12 months ended December 2021 — the highest since June 1982. Inflation in December 2020 was just 1.4%.
- The New York State minimum wage increased on December 31, 2021, to **\$13.20/hour**. All employers must pay a minimum wage of \$15/hour in New York City, Long Island, and Westchester.
- The 2022 Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for a **family of two is \$18,310** per year; therefore, a single parent with one child who is working full time at minimum wage (\$13.20) is considered above the FPL.



- Living wage is the hourly rate that a full-time working individual must earn to adequately support the family and cover day-to-day expenses. The living wage needed to support one adult and one child is **\$34.78** in Orange County. A full-time working adult with one child who is making minimum wage earns just 38% of the living wage in Orange County.
- The estimated poverty rates of the general population are 11.7% in Orange County and **25.4% in Newburgh City**, compared to NY (14.1%) and the U.S. (13.4%). Of Orange County's population, 11% of non-Hispanic Whites, 11.4% of African-Americans, and 15.2% of Hispanic/Latinos are in poverty.
- Of K-12 students, 46% in Orange County and **63% in Newburgh City School District were economically disadvantaged during SY 2020-2021**. Of K-12 students in Newburgh City School District, 40% of Hispanic/Latino students, 15% of Black/African-American students, 4% of White students, 1% of Asian students, and 3% of Multi-Racial students were economically disadvantaged.



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Economic Well Being

Children under Age Five in Poverty in Orange County (Estimates)

	Children Under 5	Population Under 5 in Poverty	Infants and Toddlers*	Infants and Toddlers in Poverty	3 and 4 Year Olds*	3 and 4 Year Olds in Poverty
Newburgh City	2,303	935 (40.6%)	1,382	561	921	374
Orange County	24,668	5,292 (21.5%)	14,800	3,175	9,868	2,117

*Based on estimated breakdown by age: infants/toddlers (60%); 3- and 4-Year-olds (40%) of total children under 5

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community, 2015-2019 5-Year Estimates



HOUSING

- Cost burdened households have costs exceeding 30% of total household income. Of all households in Orange County, **38.9%** are cost burdened, higher than New York State (37.6%). The percentage of cost-burdened rental households is even higher (**52.6%**).
- The 2022 monthly Fair Market Rent (FMR) for a modest two-bedroom rental is **\$1,412** in Orange County. The housing wage for a 2-bedroom rental is **\$27.15/hour** in Orange County. **For rent to be affordable for an adult earning minimum wage (\$13.20), monthly rent must be \$686 or less.** An adult earning minimum wage must work 82 hours per week to afford a 2-bedroom rental at FMR.



HOMELESSNESS

- The Newburgh, Middletown/Orange County CoC (Cares of NY) conducted a Point-In-Time Homeless Count in January 2020 in Middletown, Port Jervis, and Newburgh. The count does not include those doubled up with other families due to financial constraints. In 2020, 471 individuals were experiencing homelessness. Of the homeless population: 28.5% was under age 18; 48% of individuals were White and 45.6% were Black; 15.5% of individuals were Hispanic; 84.4% of individuals were sheltered and 17.6% were unsheltered; and 1.7% were veterans.
- Public school data shows a reported 1,845 students in Orange County experienced homelessness during SY 2019-2020; this was a decline of 7% (139 students) from SY 2018-2019. In Newburgh City School District, there were 856 reported homeless students during SY 2019-2020. Of students in Orange County reported as homeless during SY 2019-2020, 77.2% were doubled up with other families due to financial constraints, 12.1% were in hotels/motels, 10.1% were in shelters, and the remaining .5% were sheltered in another manner or unsheltered.
- During PY 2020-2021, 2.8% of Head Start of Eastern Orange County families were identified as homeless per the McKinney-Vento Act, compared to 4.3% of Head Start families in New York and 5.3% of Head Start families nationwide.



DISABILITIES

- In 2019, 1.4% of children from birth to 1 year old and 6.5% of children birth-three years of age in Orange County received Early Intervention services.
- During SY 2020-2021, 203 preschoolers in Orange County received disabilities services including 83 preschoolers in Newburgh City School District. Of Orange County K-12 students, 16% had diagnosed disabilities. Of K-12 students in Newburgh City School District, 16% had diagnosed disabilities.
- During PY 2020-2021, Head Start of Eastern Orange County served 20% of children with disabilities, higher than Head Start children statewide (16.7%) and nationwide (13.3%). Of Head Start of Eastern Orange County children, 13.6% were diagnosed with speech/language impairments, 5.5% were diagnosed with developmental delays, and 1% were diagnosed with multiple disabilities.



CHILD WELFARE

- A decrease in the child population and school closures during 2020 likely had significant impacts on the child abuse and neglect statistics in Orange County. The 2020 rate of child abuse and neglect reports in Orange County was 27.7 per 1,000 children (2,712 reports); this was the lowest reporting rate in five years and a decrease of 11.6% from 2019.
- The 2020 annual rate of indicated (confirmed) child abuse and neglect reports in Orange County was 32.8 per 1,000 children (491 children). While the number of indicated abuse and neglect cases (491) was the lowest in 5 years, the 2020 rate per 1,000 children (32.8 per 1,000) was 6% higher than 2019 (30.9 per 1,000); this is due to a decrease in the number of children in Orange County.
- As of December 31, 2020, there were 265 children in foster care in Orange County; of these, 31 children (11.7%) were less than 2 years old and 63 children (23.8%) were ages 2-5. Of all children in foster care, 34% were Hispanic, 31.3% were White, and 18.1% were Black/African-American.
- During PY 2020-2021, just .9% of children at Head Start of Eastern Orange County were in foster care, compared to 1.5% of Head Start children in NY and 3.4% of Head Start children nationally.



HEALTH & WELLNESS

- In Orange County, there have been 921 deaths among patients with confirmed cases of COVID-19, as reported through HERDS. Following is the breakdown of fatalities in Orange County by race/ethnicity: White (63%); Hispanic (19%); Black (14%); Asian (2%); and Other (2%).

The NY State Department of Health reports that 66.5% of Orange County residents have at least one vaccine dose, 79.9% of those aged 18+ have at least one dose, and 59.8% have completed the vaccine series. Of those who have been vaccinated, 63% are White, 19% are Hispanic, 14% are Black/African-American, 2% are Asian, and 2% identify as Other Race.



PREGNANT WOMEN & BIRTH OUTCOMES

- Following is the most recent birth outcome data in Orange County from the New York State Department of Health. Of births in the City of Newburgh:
 - 13.1% were premature, compared to 9.4% in Orange County and 10.4% in NY State;
 - 8.4% were low-birth weights, compared to 6.7% in Orange County and 7.7% in NY State;
 - There was a mortality rate of 8.6 per 1,000 live births, compared to 3.8 in Orange County; and
 - 19.6 per 1,000 births were to teens, compared to 12.9 per 1,000 in Orange County.



TRANSPORTATION

- Of households, 21.3% in the City of Newburgh and 9.8% in Orange County are estimated to not have a vehicle, compared to 29.1% in New York State and 8.6% in the United States.



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SURVEYS



FOOD & NUTRITION

• Food insecurity refers to the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) measure of lack of access to a sufficient amount of food for an active, healthy life, and limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate foods.

Child Food Insecurity

	Child Food Insecurity			Very Low Child Food Insecurity*		
	2019	Projected 2020	Projected 2021	2019	Projected 2020	Projected 2021
Orange County	14.5%	20.2%	16.5%	4.8%	6.7%	5.5%
New York State	15.8%	22.6%	20.0%	4.7%	7.0%	6.1%

*Very low food insecurity is a severe range of food insecurity involving reduced food intake and disrupted eating patterns.

Source: Feeding America



FAMILY SURVEY

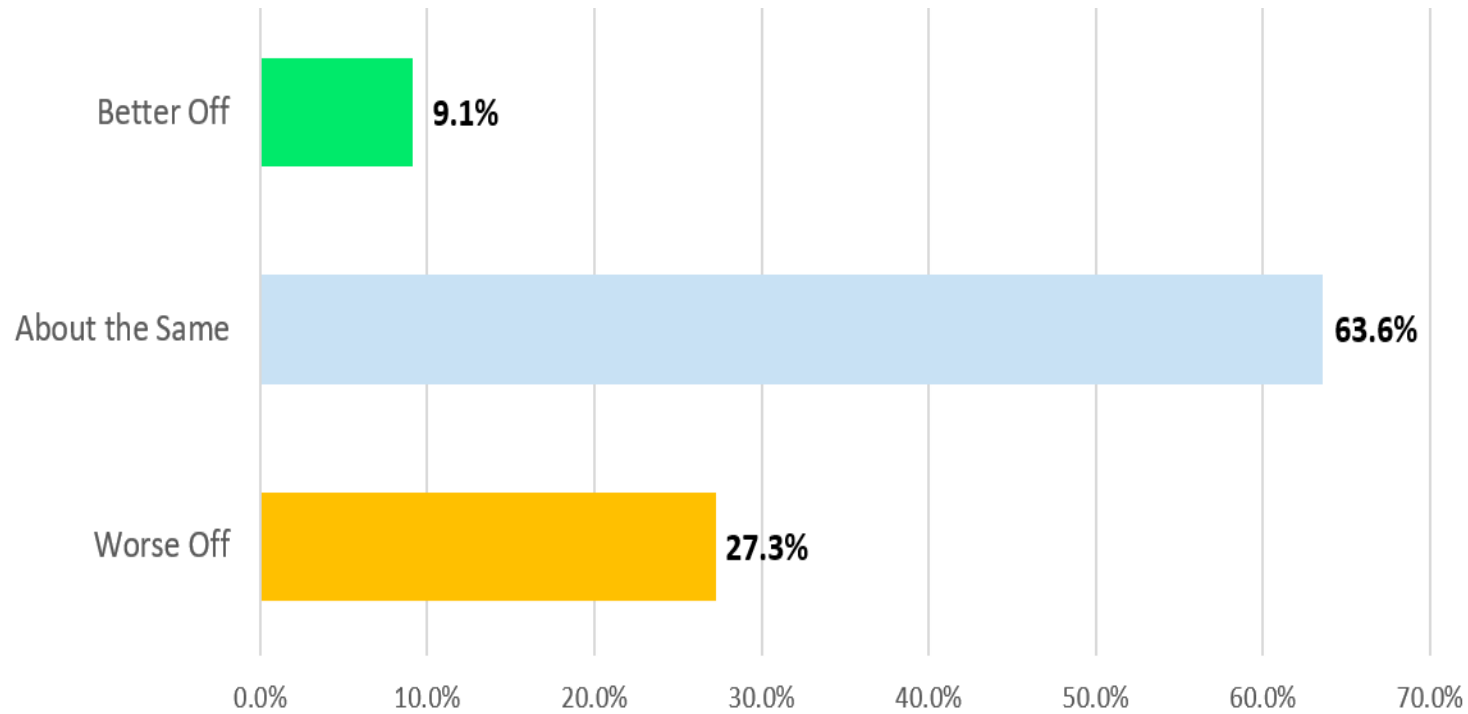
To what extent the COVID-19 pandemic impacted employment:	Percent of Respondents
Still employed the same number of hours and with the same pay.	20.0%
Hours and/or pay were cut.	40.0%
Temporarily laid off.	4.0%
Lost job permanently.	12.0%
Unemployed prior to COVID-19 and still unemployed.	12.0%
Retired or on disability.	4.0%
Other	8.0%

To what extent the COVID-19 pandemic impacted housing:	Percent of Respondents
I still have housing. My housing status has not changed.	76.0%
I have been unable to pay my rent or mortgage, but still have housing.	8.0%
I have been evicted or am facing eviction.	4.0%
I am living with family or friends because I am unable to afford housing at this time.	8.0%
I am homeless.	0.0%
Other	4.0%



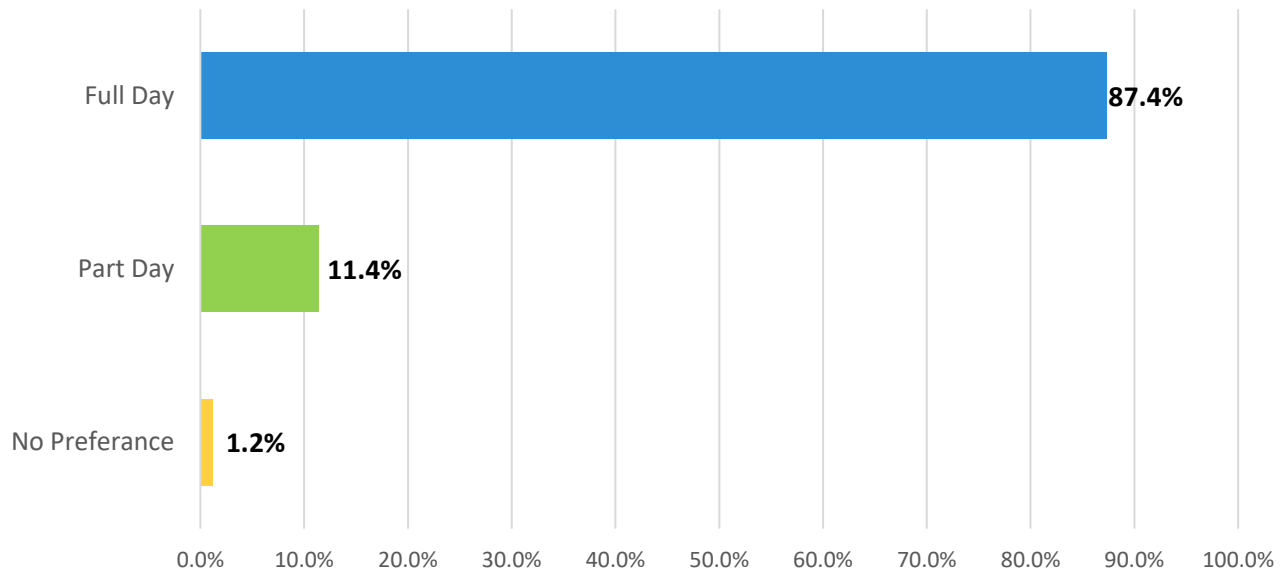
FAMILY SURVEY

Compared with one year ago (pre-pandemic), families are financially:



FAMILY SURVEY

What Head Start program option best meets your family's needs?





TOP CHALLENGES FOR FAMILIES IDENTIFIED BY PARENTS

	Ranking	“Always or Often” a Major Challenge for Respondents
Access to Quality, Affordable Child Care for my Infant/Toddler	1	13.6%
Access to Quality, Affordable Child Care for my Preschooler	1	13.6%
Having or Finding a Job with a Wage to Support my Family	1	13.6%
Paying for Utilities (electricity, water, heat)	1	13.6%
Managing and Budgeting Money	2	10.5%
Access to Affordable Dental Care	2	10.5%
Having Enough Food to Feed My Family	2	10.5%
Access to Affordable Food/Produce	2	10.5%
Access to Phone Service	2	10.5%
Immigration Concerns	3	9.1%
Having or Finding Affordable and Safe Housing	3	9.1%



COMMUNITY SURVEY

- Top Challenges of Families in Poverty, Identified by Community Stakeholders

	“Often or Consistently” A Challenge for Families
Access to Affordable Housing	79.4%
Access to Affordable Child Care (Infants & Toddlers)	73.5%
Availability of Jobs which Pay a Living Wage	67.7%
Immigration Concerns/Needs	58.8%
Access to Public Transportation	55.9%
Illegal or Prescription Drug Abuse	55.9%
Access to Affordable Preschool/Child Care (Ages 3-5)	55.9%
Depression/Anxiety	55.9%
Access to Healthy Foods	52.9%
Housing Eviction Concerns	52.9%
Access to Mental Health Services	52.9%
Unemployment Resulting from COVID Shutdowns	50.0%



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COMMUNITY SURVEY

- Community Conditions Creating Barriers to Self-Sufficiency, Identified by Community Stakeholders

Community Condition	Percentage of Respondents
Increased Costs of Housing	63.6%
Lack of Jobs that Pay a Living Wage	57.6%
High Costs of Child Care (Birth-5)	45.5%
Lack of Transportation	30.3%
Undiagnosed/Untreated Mental Health Issues	18.2%
Low Educational Attainment	15.2%
Poor Credit History	15.2%
Illegal Immigration/Undocumented Status	15.2%
Lack of Job Skills	15.2%
Substance Abuse	12.1%
Burden of High Debt	12.1%
High Costs of Health Care/Insurance	6.1%
Lack of Available Jobs	3.0%



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