

**HEAD START IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY** is a comprehensive program to prepare young children, ages 3-5, for success in school. Services are provided for low-income children and their families including developmentally appropriate pre-school education, health, dental, mental health, nutrition, and social services; services to children with disabilities; and parent and family engagement activities. In FY 2025, the Community Action Agency (CAA) is the recipient (grantee) agency for the County’s Head Start program. Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) is the sub-recipient (delegate) agency that provides direct services for eligible Head Start children and families.

Additional partners include DHHS’ School Health Services and Child Care Support Services. During school year 2024-2025, 686 young children were served in 34 classes at 30 schools.

**Ready for Kindergarten:**

During the 2024-2025 school year, MCPS Head Start teachers administered the Early Learning Assessment (ELA), the pre-school version of the Maryland State Department of Education’s (MSDE) Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA). ELA also aligns with the Head Start Early Learning Framework (ELOF) and supports teachers in developing individualized lesson plans for children. Both the ELA and KRA use age-appropriate performance tasks that measure specific skills and observations of children’s work and play to determine what each entering kindergartener knows and is able to do in four specific domains: Language & Literacy, Mathematics, Physical Well-Being & Motor Development, and Social Foundations. The ELA measures the skills and behaviors that children learned prior to entering kindergarten.

School Readiness data reflects child outcome assessments for the FY2025 program year.

DOMAIN	GOAL	MONTGOMERY COUNTY HEAD START CHILDREN’S READINESS
Approaches to Learning	Children will manage actions, words, and behaviors with increasing independence.	86% of four-year old’s and 60% of three-year old’s are demonstrating proficiency in Social Foundations/Approaches to learning and self-regulation. 18% decrease in social foundations for 3-year-olds. Teaching staff report increase in the number of children experiencing challenging behaviors. MCPS created a social and emotional ECE coach to support the implementation of Pyramid model strategies.
Social & Emotional Development	Children will manage emotions with increasing independence.	77% of four-year old’s and 90% of three-year old’s are demonstrating proficiency in Social Emotional Development, managing emotions, words and action with increasing independence.
Language & Literacy	Children will express self in increasingly long, detailed, and sophisticated ways.	72% of four-year old’s are proficient in language/communication development and vocabulary, and 56% of three-year old’s are proficient in language/communication development and vocabulary. 69% of four-year old’s are proficient in identifying UC letters, 80% are proficient in identifying LC letters, 70% are proficient in identifying letter sounds, and 75% are proficient in emergent writing. 64% of three-year old’s are proficient in identifying UC letters, 59% are proficient in identifying LC letters and 40% in identifying letter sounds. 35% of three-year old’s are proficient in emergent writing.
Cognition	MATH: Children will know number names and the counting sequence.  SCIENTIFIC REASONING: Children will observe, describe observable phenomena (i.e. objects, materials, organisms and events).	MATH: 82% of four-year old’s were demonstrating proficiency in counting sequence. 60% of three-year old’s demonstrate counting sequence.  SCIENCE: 57% of four-year old’s were demonstrating proficiency in scientific reasonings. 65% of three-year old’s were emerging in scientific reasoning.
Perceptual, Motor & Physical Development	Children will demonstrate personal hygiene and self-care skills.	97% of four-year old’s were demonstrating proficiency in personal care. 78% of three-year old’s were demonstrating proficiency in personal care.

**Family Engagement with Montgomery County’s Head Start**

The following data reflects the FY2025 program year (July 1, 2024- January 31, 2025) Montgomery County Head Start’s annual Program Information Report (PIR).

<b>Services Received by Head Start Families FY2025</b>	
emergency/ crisis intervention (immediate needs for food, clothing or shelter)	81
housing assistance (subsidies, utilities, repairs)	27
mental health services	53
ESL	40
Asset Building (Financial Education & Debt Counseling)	22
job training	61
substance abuse	1
Involvement in discussing their child's screening and assessment results and their child's progress	22
Parenting Classes	80
Supporting transitions between programs (i.e., EHS to HS, HS to kindergarten)	3
health education	20
assistance to families of incarcerated individuals	0
Father Engagement	79
marriage education	3

**Head Start Enrollment:** Head Start in Montgomery County is a school-based program, following the annual calendar of Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), with a federally funded enrollment of 648.

<b>Head Start Enrollment</b>	<b>Total # Served FY 21-22</b>	<b>Total # Served FY 22-23</b>	<b>Total # Served FY 23-24</b>	<b>Total # Served FY 24-25</b>
September	615	629	615	616
October	634	641	646	625
November	640	642	643	633
December	636	641	641	633
January	638	637	642	633
February	648	642	642	631
March	640	643	635	639
April	641	640	637	633
May	638	634	639	633
June	638	634	647	628
Attendance Rate	98%	89%	98%	96%
Avg. Enrollment	585	484	639	630

\*Based on enrollment reported to the Office of Head Start the 5<sup>th</sup> day of each month.

Enrollment figures over the past several years reflect a positive family attitude toward participating in the Head Start program. Teaching teams and family service workers collaborate with parents by providing support and problem-solving strategies to remove any barriers that may negatively affect enrollment.

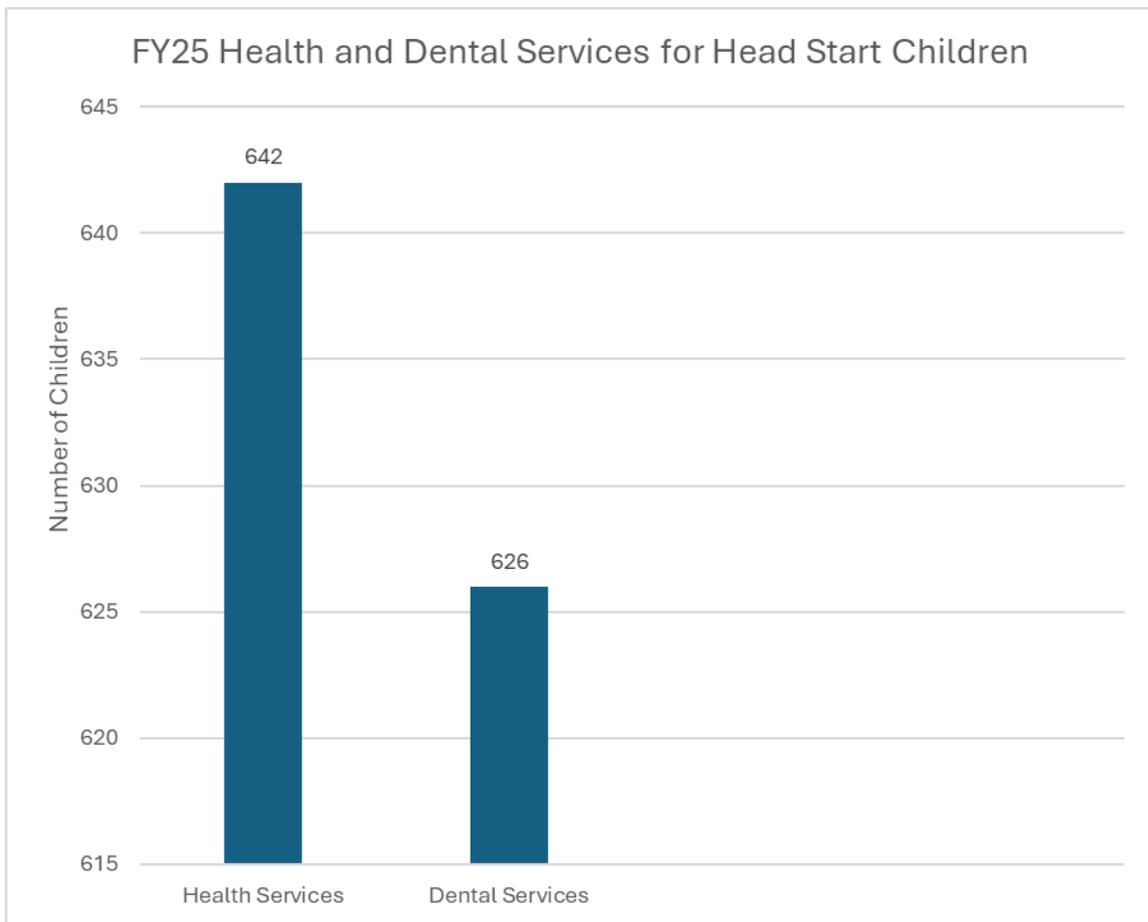
**Trends**

In FY2025, integration and implementation of the Pyramid model socio-emotional learning practices continued in all five pilot classrooms (braided HS and Pre-K Classrooms). The teaching teams were presented with the first two practices of the Big 5 Pyramid model practices during the pre-service week. All the classrooms posted visual schedules and routines to support the continued use of them to establish consistent routines.

In the broader community, Montgomery County Head Start’s Pyramid Model Practice-Based Project (PPB) continued to serve Family Child Care (FCC) educators for the second year in a row. The project supported 5 FCC programs with a total of 9 educators during the FY24 – 25.

Through the utilization of the county’s Head Start ARPA funding, Montgomery County piloted a community-based Head Start model that provides Head Start comprehensive services for eligible three-year-old children transitioning from Early Head Start. The Head Start community-based model supports a six-hour per day, 10 month per year Head Start slot in participating childcare centers and family childcare homes. In FY25, 31 children were served in the Head Start community-based model.

**Percentage of Enrolled Children That Received Health and Dental Services in FY2025.**

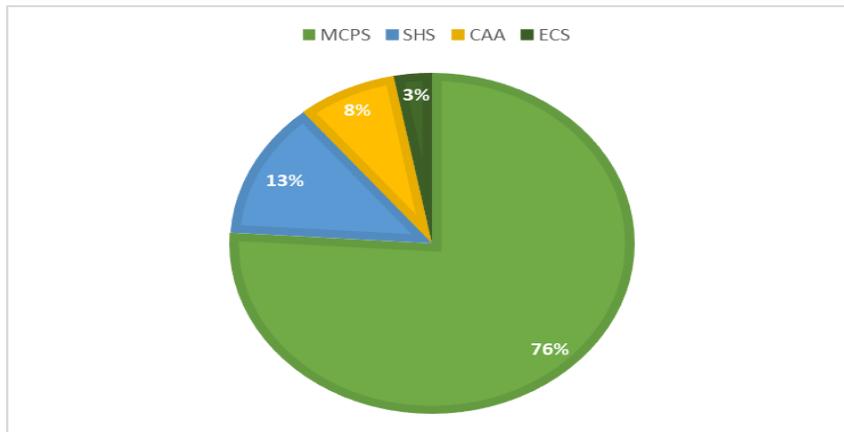


**Head Start Budget Basics:  
Program Year 2024-2025**

Montgomery County Head Start is supported by federal, state and local funding. The Community Action Agency (CAA) is the recipient (grantee) of federal and state funds. Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) is the sub-recipient (delegate) agency that provides direct services to Head Start children and families. Seventy-six percent of the federal grant and 71% of the state grant is allocated to MCPS. The County’s Health and Human Services School Health division provides health and dental services to Head Start children and families. School Health received 13% of the federal grant and 28% of the state grant. DHHS Early Childhood Support Services (ECS) provides early childhood education support and receives 3% of the federal grant. CAA maintains 8% of the federal grant for administrative purposes and 0% of the state grant.

**Montgomery County Head Start Funding Sources FY25**

Source	Amount
Federal	\$6,124,632
MSDE State Supplemental	\$ 211,144
TOTAL	\$6,335,776



<b>Montgomery Public Schools System (MCPS)</b>	76%	<b>\$4,614,152</b>
<b>DHHS - (SH)</b>	13%	<b>\$814,188</b>
<b>DHHS - (CAA)</b>	8%	<b>\$514,880</b>
<b>DHHS – (ECS)</b>	3%	<b>\$181,412</b>
<b>Total Budget for Federal Funds:</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$6,124,632</b>

**FY24 COMPARISON OF HEAD START FEDERAL BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES  
& FY25 PROPOSED HEAD START FEDERAL BUDGET**

<b>Category</b>	<b>FY25 Budget</b>	<b>FY25 Expenditures</b>	<b>FY26 Budget</b>
<b>Personnel/Fringe Benefits</b>	\$908,453.25	\$858,003	\$1,290,706
<b>Travel</b>	\$3,000.00	\$5,720	\$0
<b>Supplies and Equipment</b>	\$66,900.00	\$52,495	\$74,627
<b>Contractual</b>	\$4,871,129.00	\$5,161,105	\$4,406,936
<b>Training*/Technical Assistance/Other</b>	\$275,149.75	\$47,309	\$94,480
<b>Indirect Cost</b>	--	--	\$257,883
<b>Subtotal Federal</b>	<b>\$6,124,632.00</b>	<b>\$6,124,632</b>	<b>\$6,124,632</b>
<b>Non-Federal Share</b>	<b>\$1,531,159</b>	<b>\$1,531,159</b>	<b>\$1,215,884**</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,655,791.00</b>	<b>\$17,655,791</b>	<b>\$7,340,516</b>

\*Included in variety of categories

\*\*NFS partial waiver request for Early Head Start portion of the grant funding

*FY25 Budget:* Includes annual 2.39 percent Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) funding (\$139,289).

*Personnel* for Head Start includes: DHHS staffing: community health nurses, school health room aides, dental hygienist, nurse administrator, community services aide, Head Start program manager, Early Childhood education specialist, program specialist, and administrative specialist.

*Travel* includes costs associated with reimbursing staff for travel to Head Start sites to provide health and dental services, and for staff and parents to attend trainings and national, regional, and state conferences.

*Equipment and Supplies* include Child and Family services supplies, instructional materials for Head Start classrooms- including literacy, mathematics, science, music and art materials, office supplies such as postage, paper products, printer supplies and other registration materials.

*Contractual services* include MCPS Head Start staff (e.g., teachers, paraeducators, speech pathologists, psychologists, social workers, social services assistants); MCPS' administrative service funds for the Audit Requirements of the OMB Uniformed Guidance Subpart F. Contractual health costs include specialty dental treatment providers, not available through insurance or dental clinics, and Mobile Medical Care, Inc. to provide contractual Head Start Nurses. Under Community Action Agency (CAA) contractual services includes training for the Policy Council and Community Action Board on shared governance and methods to achieve board goals within a government structure.

Montgomery County Head Start Program, Community Action Agency

*Other* funding within MCPS covers a variety of expenses including training & staff development, child liability insurance, parent services such as training, parent/child mathematics and literacy activities, bus transportation for classes to attend field trips, reimbursement of mileage for home visits and parent meetings for teachers, paraeducators, special needs teacher, and social service assistants. *Other* funding for CAA helps with costs for family related activities and supplies necessary to conduct various meetings. These funds provide a range of administrative supports to the Montgomery County, MD, Head Start Program such as local travel costs for contract and grant monitoring. *Other* funding for School Health includes costs associated with continuing education and performance standard training for Head Start School Health Room nurses, technicians and hygienists and providing educational training experiences and materials for parents, students, and non-professional staff.

### **Results of the most recent review Financial Audit.**

**Financial Audit:** Montgomery County has an annual Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control, Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters, based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with the *OMB Uniform Administrative Requirement 2 CFR Chapter I, Chapter II, Part 200 et al.* A copy of the Audit for the year ending June 30, 2023, can be found at the County's website: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Finance/financial.html> The most current Montgomery County MD Report on Expenditures of Federal Awards for Fiscal Year 2023 was performed for the County Council and County Executive by SB & Company, LLC, Certified Public Accountants and Consultants.