

Annual Report

BRAD Child Development
Programs
2019-2020



2019-2020

COVID-19 has deeply impacted Head Start and Early Head Start programs, enrolled children and families, and their communities. BRAD Child Development Programs was regularly updated with guidance and resources from the Office of Head Start to help support staff, children and families during this challenging time. In March of 2020, BRAD made the decision to remain closed for center-based services during the onset of COVID-19. Planned re-opening dates were announced in July and in August only to be retracted based on community outbreaks and requirements from supporting funding sources. OHS expected programs to take actions that were feasible, reasonable, and safe in terms of continuing to provide services. Throughout the site closures, the BRAD Child Development program staff continued to provide as many services possible to the greatest extent of the standards as recommended by Dr. Deborah Bergeron, Office of Head Start. These services included preparation of hot meals daily for “grab-and-go” or delivery. Supplies not normally budgeted by families such as diapers, wipes, and additional formula needs were provided for pick up by families. Educational services continued through the state AMI/Public Television, on-line activities, utilization of on-line Teaching Strategies individualized learning, and individual group social media. OHS issued guidance and described flexibilities to help programs continue to operate successfully in the COVID-19 environment. Among those flexibilities included notice that the annual Program Information Report (PIR) would not be required. With the shift in services beginning in early spring 2020, many goals were on target at the time of closure while other goals could not be assessed while providing limited remote services.

OUR STORY

Black River Area Development Corporation (BRAD) is a community action agency and is the grantee for Head Start and Early Head Start services in Clay, Lawrence, Randolph and Cleveland Counties (Early Head Start Expansion) in Arkansas. Head Start and Early Head Start are federally funded programs providing child and family development services for low-income families with children who are birth to five years in age. Current funded enrollment includes 172 Head Start children and families and 184 Early Head Start children and families.

MISSION • VISION • CORE VALUES

The mission of BRAD Child Development Programs is to close the achievement gap by focusing on positive child and family outcomes; resulting in a better future for children, families and communities.

Vision Statement

“To be recognized as the best child development program in the nation.”

The program is based on the core values of excellence, respect, trust, partnership, life-long learning, integrity, care and compassion, teamwork, and professional growth. These values guide the approach to providing services to families that will enable them to accomplish goals and achieve many successes in life. We believe that if we strive for excellence in our work, the children and families we serve will reap

ELIGIBILITY AND ENROLLMENT

Families who apply for enrollment in Head Start/ Early Head Start provide information about household income and often current family circumstances that are considered for eligibility and enrollment. Families are prioritized for enrollment based on these factors.

During the 2019-2020 program year, families were enrolled in BRAD’s Head Start and Early Head Start in these eligibility categories:

- 360 Income Eligible
- 39 Public Assistance
- 26 Foster Children
- 8 Homeless Children
- 19 Over Income

Funded enrollment was maintained at 100% in Head Start and Early Head Start throughout the 2019-2020 program year.

EDUCATION

BRAD Head Start/Early Head Start curriculum supports developmentally appropriate practices which promote child growth and school readiness. High quality learning takes place through play and positive interactions. The BRAD Head Start program uses the Ready to Shine Curriculum and Early Head Start uses Creative Curriculum System for Infants, Toddlers, and Twos. The curriculum supports the following five fundamental principles:

Positive interactions and relationships with adults provide a critical foundation for successful learning.

- Social-emotional competence is a significant factor in school success.
- Constructive, purposeful play is essential to learning.
- The physical environment affects the type and quality of learning interactions.
- Teacher-family partnerships promote development and learning.

In addition to academic focus, Head Start focuses on the social and emotional development of children to enhance academic success.

ETHNICITY

13 Hispanic or Latino Origin • 457 Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino Origin

RACE OF STUDENTS

- 17 Black or African American
- 5 Native Hawaiian or Pacific islander
- 425 White
- 10 Biracial/Multi-racial

PRIMARY LANGUAGES OF CHILDREN

- 471 English Speaking
- 2 Pacific Island Language
- 1 East Asian Language

TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

- 14 Total Head Start Teachers
- 11 Teachers with a Bachelor's Degree
- 3 Teachers with an Associate's Degree
- 42 Early Head Start Teachers
- 36 Teachers with a Bachelor's Degree
- 5 Teachers with an Associates Degree
- 1 With Child Development Associate (CDA)

SUMMARY OF THE COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

Data from the 2020 update to the community assessment includes the following information about the service area:

- Total population in the service area continues to slightly decrease in all counties except Randolph County which had had increase of 3.4%.
- Poverty rates have decreased slightly from 21.5% in 2016 to 20.3% on 2018. Poverty rates have risen but no new data is available.
- The racial make-up of the service area is 95.23% white, 2.18% black, .1% Asian, .56% Native American/Alaskan Native, .55% other races and 1.39% multiple races. This data shows increasing diversity in the service area. There is also a new population of Marshal Islanders who have migrated to our area for work at PECO. The Northeast Arkansas Migrant Program has identified 61 pre-school-aged children in Randolph County.
- Numbers of children in foster services have increased from to 4331 statewide 2019. In addition, approximately 15% of all households in the service area are headed by grandparents raising grandchildren.
- Numbers of families experiencing homelessness has increased. During the 2019-2020 program year, Head Start/Early Head Start services were provided to 45 homeless families.
- In the total service area, there are approximately 3198 children ages 0-3. Of this total, 671 are eligible for EHS services. There are approximately 1,163 children who are ages 3-5. Of this total, 375 are eligible for HS services.
- Prevalent needs of children and families in the service area that have been identified and will be addressed in program planning for supports and services include:
 - High rates of overweight and obese children and adults.
 - The service area is designated as medically underserved.
 - Improvement in access to mental health services for children and families.
 - High rates of substance abuse in the service area, particularly increasing rates of opioid abuse.
 - More and better paying job opportunities. 25.6% of surveyed parents reported this as a need for their family.
 - Higher levels of education. 41.5% of surveyed parents reported this as a need for their family.
- 446 children ages 0-5 were diagnosed with disabilities. This is approximately 12% of the total population.
- There are many strengths in our communities to address the above identified needs. BRAD Child Development Programs has developed strong, effective relationships with public schools, local colleges, health providers, disabilities services providers, mental health providers, Workforce Services, social services providers, housing agencies, city and county governments and many more entities in our communities. With a common focus to address identified needs within the service area, we will work together to develop and strengthen resources to support children and families for success in school and life.

2019-2020 Budget and Funding Sources

Head Start/Early Head Start

Year End April 30, 2020

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Personnel	\$1,854,838	\$1,843,123
Fringe Benefits	355,668	366,816
Travel	8,000	7,169
Indirect	148,387	147,446
Equipment	40,022	32,101
Supplies	160,319	204,150
Contractual	12,988	7,297
Other	434,986	390,700
T&TA	54,732	71,138
TOTAL	<u>\$3,069,940</u>	<u>\$3,069,940</u>

Early Head Start Expansion

Year End August 31, 2020

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Personnel	\$ 647,172	\$ 641,881
Fringe Benefits	132,621	113,546
Travel	51,774	53,629
Indirect	5,000	6,683
Equipment	47,868	78,409
Supplies	98,300	100,625
Contractual	786,908	680,177
Other	228,154	26,595
T&TA	42,370	34,835
TOTAL	<u>\$2,040,167</u>	<u>\$1,736,380</u>

Other Funding Sources

May 1, 2019 - April 30, 2020

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services—Head Start.....	\$ 1,443,412
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services—Early Head Start.....	\$ 1,626,528
Arkansas Division of Child Care—Child Care Funds.....	\$ 905,700
U.S. Department of Agriculture	\$ 345,318

July 1, 2019—June 30, 2020

Arkansas Division of Childcare—Arkansas Better Chance.....	\$ 473,004
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September 1, 2019—August 31, 2020

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services—Early Head Start.....	\$ 1,736,380
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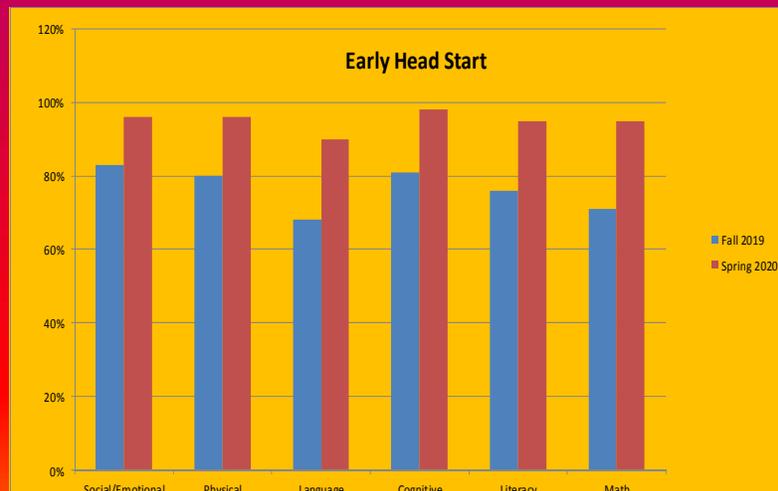
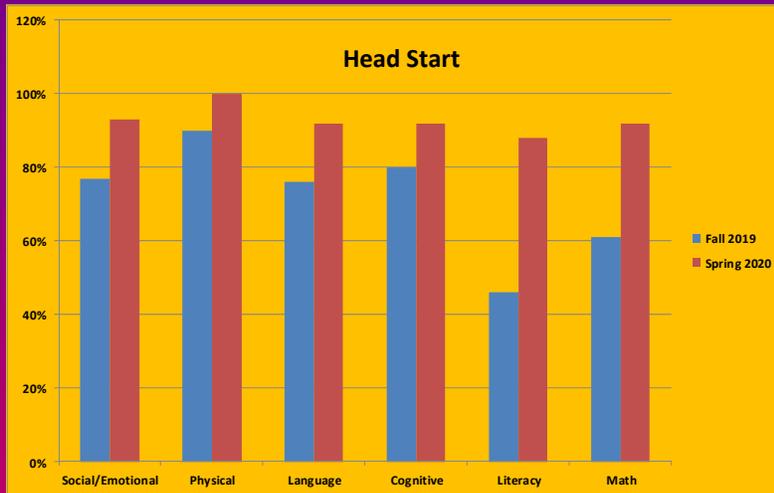
BRAD Child Development carried over \$303,787 in funds from Early Head Start Expansion August 31, 2020 program year to the succeeding year.

SCHOOL READINESS

WIDELY HELD EXPECTATIONS

The Widely Held Expectations Report compares information about the knowledge, skills, and behaviors of an individual child, class, or other group with widely held development expectations for children of the same age or same class/grade. Children in BRAD Child Development Programs were compared to a nationally normed sample. The accompanying charts reflect how many children met or exceeded child development expectations for their age group. However, due to COVID-19, children were not observed in a center setting the last three months of data collection but data reported was observations parents made during a very short time frame at the end of the program. Teaching Strategies GOLD is the source of this data.

Percentage of Children Meeting or Exceeding Expectations



Parent Engagement

Successful parent engagement is part of the foundation of child development services. Because BRAD Child Development Programs recognizes parents as the first and most important educator of their child, the program seeks to develop partnerships with parents that will lead to the accomplishments of goals for both the child and family.

Volunteers

- 625 persons volunteered services to Head Start/ Early Head Start
- 467 of those were current or former Head Start Parents

Children Served in 2019-2020

- 207 Total Children Served in Head Start
- 265 Total Children Served in Early Head Start
- 31 < One Year Old
- 81 One Year Olds
- 143 Two Year Olds
- 85 Three Year Olds
- 100 Four Year Olds
- 5 Head Start children were in the program less than 45 days
- 6 Early Head Start children were in the program less than 45 days

Parent Education

- 26 had an advanced degree
- 175 had an associate degree, vocational school, or some college
- 187 had a high school diploma or GED

Families

- In 2019-2020 BRAD Child Development Programs served 419 families.
- 176 were two-parent families
- In 73 of those families, both parents were employed
- 89 families had one parent employed
- 14 families did not have either parent working
- 243 were single parent families
- In 169 of those families, the parent was employed
- In 74 of those families, the parent was not working
- In 15 families, 30 children experienced homelessness during the year
- 15 of those families acquired housing during the year

DISABILITIES SERVICES 2019-2020

- 19 children were determined eligible to receive early intervention services (IFSP) prior to enrollment into the program
- 19 child were determined eligible to receive eerly intervention services (IFSP) during the program year
- 32 children were determined eligible for an IEP under the IDEA prior to enrollment into the program.
- 44 children were determined eligible for an IEP during the program year.

Non-categorical/developmental delay was the most frequently identified special education need.

DENTAL SERVICES 2019-2020

- 217 Children established a dental home and received an initial dental exam.
- 13 Children were diagnosed as needing additional dental treatment.

HEALTH SERVICES 2019-2020

Healthy children are children who are ready to learn. Head Start /Early Head Start families are connected with a medical home and a dental home in order to provide families a continuous, accessible source of care to support the child's healthy development and well-being. BRAD Head Start/Early Head Start support families to ensure that children are up-to-date on immunizations, have a current physical, and have a current dental exam.

Family Services and Opportunities

During the 2019-2020 program year, 100% of enrolled families participated in one or more of the following:

- Parent/Teacher conferences and home visits that provide opportunities for parent engagement in their child's education.
- Parent Committee and Policy Council meetings that provide the opportunity for involvement for engagement in decision-making.
- Opportunities to participate in curriculum assessment, menu planning, and health services advisory for input into health policies.
- Parent educational opportunities that included father engagement meetings, family learning parties, Marriage Garden Workshops, Adventures in Parenting, CPR training, Conscious Discipline training, Reading is Fundamental and other family literacy activities, family financial well-being, child and family health and safety, nutrition, family mental wellness and other topics of interest to families with young children.
- Parent and child at-home learning activities that are linked to the child's educational goals and provide learning opportunities for the child at home. During the 2019-2020 program year, parents volunteered 20,000 hours teaching their children at home using these activities.

Financial Audit

Welch, Couch & Company, PA audited Black River Area Development Corporation for the year ending April 30, 2020. It was reported that the BRAD Agency complied in all material respects with the types of requirements that could have a direct and material effect on each of the major federal programs. There were no audit findings.

Federal Review

From March 5-March 9, 2018, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) conducted a review for the Black River Area Development Corporation Head Start and Early Head Start programs. Based on the information gathered, no area of non-

Policy Council 2018-2019

Center Representatives, Alternates, and Community Representatives

Kelly Parks, Chairperson (James W. Graves CDC)

Amber Dawkins (James W. Graves CDC)

Amber Gargas, (Piggott Early CDC)

Kiley Mode (Piggott Early CDC)

Leslie Woodard (Walnut Ridge CDC)

Tisha Huckabee (Walnut Ridge CDC)

Sequoia Irvin (Walnut Ridge Early CDC)

Ashley Henn (Walnut Ridge Early CDC)

Ashley Groves (Piggott CDC)

Lindsey Baggett (Piggott CDC)

Haley Leach (Virginia Atkison Early CDC)

Shary Ricker (Virginia Atkison Early CDC)

Dustin Johnson (Corning CDC)

Nicole Hampton (Corning CDC)

April Riley (Oak Street Early CDC)

Emily Lindsey (Oak Street Early CDC)

Amanda Simmons (Black River CDC)

Chasity Folkerts (Black River CDC)

Katherine Pennington (Woodlawn)

Kristin Blackwell (Woodlawn/Rison)

Candace Eveland (Lawrence Co. Community Representative)

Mary Wiedeman (Clay County Community Representative)

Tammie Lemmons (Randolph County Representative)

Vickie Mitchell (Non-voting member, Policy Council/BRAD Board Liaison)

BRAD Board of Directors
2019-2020

Clay County

Alan Vaughn
Paige Catt
Jerry Chilcutt
Doni Martin
Joey Radcliff

Lawrence County

Chris Jones
Vickie Mitchell, *Chairperson*
Mandy Durham
Leslie Woodard
Debi Hart

Randolph County

Jack McCord
Pat Johnson
Diana Dalton, *Vice Chairperson*
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