



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

2023-2024 Meriden YMCA Head Start Program Annual Report



Funding

Federal: \$1,492,763, State: \$166,215, School Readiness: \$255,024. The federal approved budget:

- **Personnel - \$1,028,379** which consists of salaries for program managers, content specialists, teachers, teacher's aides, and nutrition services, substitutes, clerical and fiscal staff.
- **Fringe benefits - \$222,065** which consists of taxes for social security, federal, state, workman's comp, health, dental, life insurance
- **Supplies - \$36,246** which consists of office supplies, child and family service supplies, food service, disability supplies, assessments, paper products
- **Other costs - \$206,173** which consist of training, travel, contracts services, computer financial support software to assist with budgets, monthly statements utilities, insurance, general building maintenance repairs, local travel, staff training, child services consultants, parent services, accounting, legal services, publications/advertising and other minor expenses like the audit, payroll services, employee hiring, and administrative support.

Office of Head Start

The Office of Head Start sent out program instructions and information memorandums that were sent out to support programs on New Eligibility Provisions for American Indian and Alaska Native Programs, Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Programs, Fiscal Year 2024 (FY 2024) Head Start Funding Increase, Federal Reporting of Standard Forms 425 and 428, Hurricanes Fiona and Ian Disaster Recovery Funds, FY 2023 Head Start Funding Increase,

MERIDEN YMCA HEAD START

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Supplementary Information on Establishing an Evidence-based COVID-19 Mitigation Policy, Strategies and Recommendations for Supporting Mental Health. We had an Office of Head Start CLASS® Video review conducted from 03/06/2024 to 05/27/2024. Our program scored above the minimum requirements for maintaining grant status, as well as, exceeding the scores for quality thresholds according to the Office of Head Start. Therefore, the program had no compliance issues. Our financial audit did not have any findings in it. The Community Assessment was reviewed in 2024. Our program completed its third year of a five year grant period and we did not have any federal reviews.

Enrollment

We are funded for 161 children. Due to the pandemic and classroom restrictions we serviced 150 over the course of the year. We will continue to work on enrollment as part of our under enrollment plan for the program. The average monthly funded enrollment attendance was 68.3% vs. 65.8% for the previous 22-23 year, with actual monthly enrollment attendance at 79.1% vs. 78.2% for the previous 22-23 year. The actual monthly enrollment attendance was slightly higher to the previous 2022-2023 year which is to be expected as families less hesitant to send children to school with running noses or a cough vs the previous years during the pandemic. We had 94.7% of our children fall into the income eligible category as the Connecticut minimum wage continued to increase at a rate much higher than the rate the federal poverty guidelines increased. We have also seen more people are working as the unemployment has continued to decline the past 3 years.

Health

100% of our enrolled children received medical exams to start the school year and continued to received their annual physicals on time. We had over 97% of children leave our program with health insurance. The 4 children who didn't have health insurance, was because of their immigration status. We referred out children with any hearing or vision concerns. As the year went on, more openings occurred for children. We had 5 children with diagnosed autism, 1 speech/hearing impairment and we had 21 with some sort of Developmental delay. We had children identified with dental decay who needed follow up services and were referred out. We had UCONN dental & Goodwin University Dental students do preventative service.

Parent Workshops

Parents were actively involved and received training/workshops/resources on: Pedestrian Safety; basic 1st aid; parent literacy; mental health resources; health education; dental family literacy promotion; oral hygiene; WIC, Community Health Center, Community Guidance Clinic, New Opportunities, Hartford Healthcare Cancer Institute, Neighborhood Housing of New Britain which serves Meriden also came to our school to help educate & enroll families into their programs.

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Kindergarten Registration Night was in April as in previous pre-pandemic years. Our Family & Community Partnership Manager attended the event along with our family advocates to help translate and run the event with the Meriden Board of Education. After the event the family advocates reached out to families to help make sure they had signed up and also helped families at Head Start do the online registration piece as some of our families have limited computer access or computer skills. With the Connecticut change in birthdate for Kindergarteners we worked with parents to help them apply for early entry for Kindergarten if they were eligible and passed the BOE screening. We also helped parents ensure their children were registered for Kindergarten and our Family & Community Partnership Manager worked with Central Registration to get updates on progress.

Preparing Children for Kindergarten: One of our goals is to prepare children for Kindergarten. We continue to review data and work on school readiness goals based on the Head Start Early Learning outcomes Frameworks, Head Start Performance Standards, State Standards, and end of year Pre-K Expectations, Kindergarten Readiness profiles, observations and Parent input. There were 12 specific identified school readiness goals. They focused on Approaches to Learning, Language, Communication and Literacy, Perceptual, Motor and Physical Development, Social and Emotional, and Cognitive / Mathematics Development and Scientific Reasoning. These are assessed and reviewed three times a year to ensure we are on target. Teacher's also plan kindergarten school readiness skills that are aligned to the CT early Learning and Development Standards. We continue to work with the Board of Education to see what children are expected to know when entering Kindergarten. Our Family Advocates continue to assist parents in the online registration format, when needed parents have used the computers at our program to complete the registration.



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