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An Annual Insight into Beaufort-Jasper EOC Head Start/Early Head Start Program

Annual Report 2022 - 2023

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Mission

The mission of the Beaufort-Jasper Economic Opportunity Commission is to plan and implement human service programs for social and economically challenged individuals. The agency will advocate on the behalf of our customers in such a manner that their quality of life will be enhanced and less dependent upon government subsidies. The ultimate goal is for them to become self-sufficient and productive citizens.

Purpose

To provide our customers with a vehicle for the achievement and maintenance of family stability and economic self-sufficiency. The funds we receive from federal, state, and local public and private sources will be to address the areas of employment, housing, health, and nutrition, education and training, social services, emergency assistance, economic development, and effective community relations; all of which can impact, in a positive manner, on the successful quality of life for our customers.



Beaufort-Jasper EOC Head Start is one of several programs sponsored by Beaufort-Jasper EOC. Head Start is a federally funded program that promotes school readiness of children ages birth to five from low-income families by supporting their development in a comprehensive way to meet their educational developmental, emotional, social, health, mental health and nutritional needs.

Parents and families are supported in achieving their own goals, such as housing stability, continued education, and financial security. Programs support and strengthen parent-child relationships and engage families around children's learning and development.

Since 1965, Beaufort-Jasper EOC Head Start Program has served thousands of children in Beaufort and Jasper Counties. Beaufort-Jasper Head Start serves children from 6 weeks thorough 4 years old. The programs funded enrollment includes 439 Head Start preschool slots and 120 Early Head Start slots serving infant, toddlers and prenatal mothers.

Our mission at Beaufort-Jasper EOC Head Start is to provide quality services to our community through the empowerment of children, families, and staff.



A Message from the Director: *Empowering Futures through Head Start Excellence*



Beaufort-Jasper EOC Families, Staff, and Community Partners:

I am delighted to reach out to you as the Director of our esteemed Head Start program, a beacon of early childhood educational excellence and community empowerment. At the heart of our mission is the unwavering commitment to providing quality and comprehensive services to the families we serve and the communities we are proud to be a part of.

Beaufort-Jasper EOC Head Start/Early Head Start, with its rich legacy and proven track record, stands as a testament to the transformative power of early childhood education. Our dedicated team of educators, content area specialists and support staff work tirelessly to create an environment that nurtures the holistic development of each child, ensuring they are not only academically prepared but also socially and emotionally equipped for the journey ahead.

Quality is the cornerstone of our program, and we take pride in the fact that every aspect of our curriculum and services is designed with the highest standards in mind. From engaging and developmentally-appropriate activities to a supportive and inclusive atmosphere, our Head Start and Early Head Start program is committed to laying a solid foundation for a lifetime of learning.

We firmly believe that education is a collaborative effort, and our program extends beyond the classroom. By fostering strong partnerships with families and community stakeholders, we create a network of support that enhances the overall well-being of our children. Together, we empower families, instill a love for learning, and foster a sense of community that resonates far beyond the walls of our classrooms.

The benefits of our program extend beyond immediate academic gains. We are invested in the long-term success of each child, and our program plays a pivotal role in ensuring they are not just school-ready but also health-ready. Through health screenings, nutritional support, and a focus on physical well-being, our program addresses the comprehensive needs of our young learners, setting the stage for a lifetime of positive habits and choices.

The positive impact of our program ripples through Beaufort and Jasper counties, contributing to a brighter, more prosperous future for all. As we embark on this journey together, I invite you to join hands with us in shaping the destinies of our children and building a community where every child thrives.

Thank you for your continued support, trust, and commitment to the Head Start vision. Together, we are creating a legacy of excellence and empowerment.

Thank you,

Olandor O. Lewis, MBA/GM, CCAP
Beaufort-Jasper EOC
Head Start/Early Head Start Director



Beaufort-Jasper EOC Board of Directors

Our Board of Directors contributes most of the agency’s success to employing dedicated and qualified staff members who implement the vision of the Board. Ensuring all activities that take place will benefit our organization in some way is our goal. Our Board consists of equal representation from local government, businesses, parents, and representatives of the low-income communities that we serve. Beaufort-Jasper EOC’s programs are designed to address the needs of our community to achieve the best outcomes.

- Joseph Kline, Chairperson
- Margaret Mouzon, Board Co-Chairperson
- W. Van Willis, Board Secretary (Charlotte Murray; Designee)
- Barbara Clark
- Fred Hamilton
- Lakesha Boyle
- Gerald Dawson (Alvin Green; Designee)
- Scott Gibbs
- Alvin Adkins

Policy Council

The Policy Council of Beaufort-Jasper EOC Head Start Program consists of a mixture of parents and members of community agencies. Members of the Policy Council were actively involved with staff in developing, reviewing, and approving long and short-term goals for the program. Policy Council members view formal documents and give feedback on how each document could be improved and ensure that funds are set aside from the program budget to support family activities.

- Alisa Johnson, Community Representative, Vice Chair
- Shadai Smith, Community Representative
- Shantay Batiste
- Jessica Russell
- Sarah Laguerre
- Latoya Smalls
- Lacoya Smith
- Tyesha Deloach



BJEOC Head Start Program Philosophy

The program is child-focused and has the overall goal of increasing the social competence of young children in low-income families. Social competence takes into account the interrelatedness of culture, social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development.

Program services are family-centered, following the tenets that children develop in the context of their family and culture, and that parents are respected as the primary educators and nurturers of their children, Head Start offers family members opportunities and support for growth and change, believing that people can identify their own strengths, needs, interests, and are capable of finding solutions.

Program Description

Beaufort-Jasper EOC Head Start/Early Head Start program is a blended program, offering both Head Start and Early Head Start services. Our program is geographically dispersed throughout both Beaufort and Jasper counties in the Lowcountry area of South Carolina. We have (9) nine center-based schools providing comprehensive services to (439) four hundred thirty-nine Head Start Children and (112) one hundred twelve Early Head Start Children.

Families are given support as the primary care takers, decision makers, and lifelong educators of their children through the program's Parent University. Comprehensive and high quality services are provided to foster healthy development in children and families. The program is funded to serve 551 children and 8 Pre-Natal mothers. All enrolled children receive full day services.

- **Target Population:** Economically disadvantaged (at-risk) children and children with disabilities.
- **Services Provided:** The program provides full day comprehensive preschool services five days per week.
- **Total Classrooms:** 39
- **Duration (HS):** Our program typically operates at 1260 hours of planned class operations for Head Start per school term, exceeding the required 1020 hours.
- **Duration (EHS):** Our program typically operates at 1386 hours of planned class operations for Early Head Start per school term, exceeding the required 1380 hours.

Self-Assessment Goal: To identify, both areas of strength and areas of concerns, as stated in the Beaufort-Jasper EOC Head Start/Early Head Start Self-Assessment. Additionally, to develop effective and comprehensive training opportunities and/or corrective action measures to improve program outcomes.

Objectives: Review the areas needing improvement in the Self-Assessment Summary that require modification. Develop strategies that improve the program's capacity to better serve children, families and our community.

Expected Outcomes: To ensure areas of concern are properly addressed and/or progress has been made concerning issues identified prior to the next school term’s Self-Assessment process.

Beaufort-Jasper EOC Head Start/Early Head Start program is committed to making continuous improvements and providing quality services for children and their families in Beaufort and Jasper Counties. This is demonstrated through ongoing training, coaching and the ongoing review of the program’s monitoring practices. The purpose of the Self-Assessment is to identify program strengths and to determine areas that are in need of program improvement. This will enable the program to better achieve program goals; hence, leading to the program providing the best possible services to the children and families we serve.

The Self-Assessment is conducted to ensure the following: the program is providing an effective delivery of services, adherence to Head Start Program Performance Standards, that progress is made from the previous year’s Self-Assessment, and the proper implementation of the program’s improvement plan as stated in the Self-Assessment summary in being executed.

The program’s Self-Assessment for 2022-23 was an ongoing process from January 2023 through April 2023.

School District Partnerships

Beaufort County Public Schools sustains its partnership with BJEOC by providing classroom space at Davis Early Learning Center, Beaufort Elementary, Shanklin Elementary, and St. Helena Early Learning Centers. Jasper County Public Schools sustains its partnership with BJEOC by providing classroom space at Hardeeville Elementary and Ridgeland Elementary. Together, we were able to make and maintain sustainable growth in child outcomes.

Before matriculation to kindergarten, a transition plan is in place for every Head Start student served by BJEOC. Beaufort-Jasper Head Start collaborates with local school districts regarding transition activities for Head Start students, including arranging parent and teacher visits to applicable kindergarten classrooms in the spring of each school year and providing an orientation before the conclusion of each school year to ensure a smooth transition for Head Start students to kindergarten.



Community Partners



Five Year Goals

1. Beaufort-Jasper EOC will utilize technologies and IT platforms to strengthen and maintain quality record-keeping and monitoring systems to enhance the efficiency of data driven child, family, and program outcomes.
2. The program will develop a family engagement data collection system that integrates all comprehensive services areas to effectively measure family outcomes in a systematic process.
3. School and Kindergarten Readiness goals will reflect positive outcomes that demonstrate children are on-level and properly prepared to learn and thrive in both Beaufort and Jasper County School Districts.
4. Beaufort-Jasper EOC Head Start/Early Head Start to be identified as the lead Early Childhood provider in both Beaufort and Jasper counties, with aims of securing additional funding for the purposes of expanding program services, increasing the number of children served and improving educational outcomes.

SCHOOL READINESS GOALS 19-24

1. Goal 1: Approaches to Learning - Infants, toddlers and preschoolers will demonstrate focus, interest and eagerness toward learning and independence in their interactions with adults, activities and materials in the learning environment.
2. Goal 2: Cognitive and General Knowledge - Infants, toddlers and preschoolers will learn developmentally appropriate math skills through daily experiences and routines and use the skills regularly. Which include developmentally appropriate math concepts; number operations, geometry, spatial relationships; patterns; and measurement and comparison.
3. Goal 3: Language and Literacy – Infants, toddlers and preschoolers will use and comprehend oral language for phonological awareness, alphabet knowledge, conversation, communication, literacy and developmentally appropriate ways to communicate with peers and adults.
4. Goal 4: Social and Emotional Development - Infants, toddlers and preschoolers will engage in and maintain positive relationships, self-regulate and interact with peers and adults in an age appropriate manner.
5. Goal 5: Physical Development and Health - Infants, toddlers and preschoolers will demonstrate healthy and safe habits; demonstrate developmentally appropriate fine motor and coordination skills and gross motor navigation skills and balance, when exploring their environments.

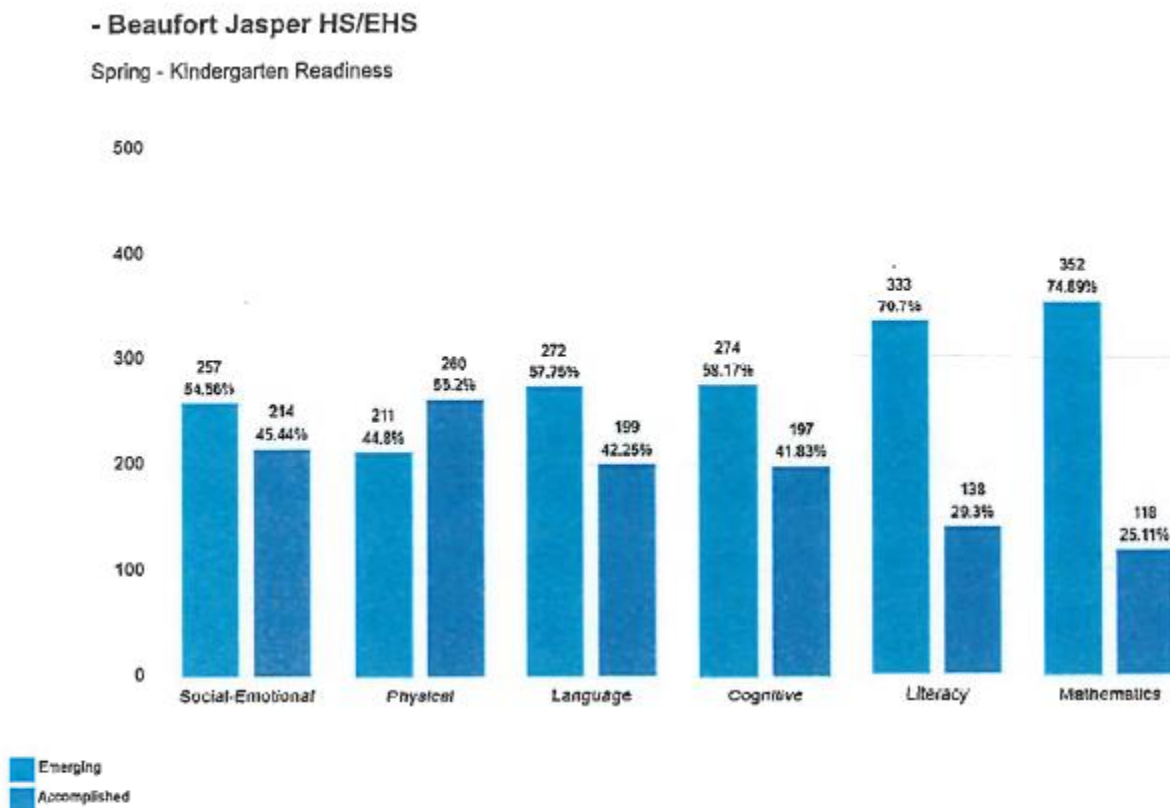


Education Services

Beaufort Jasper EOC Head Start/Early Head Start utilizes *Teaching Strategies Gold(TSG)* Assessment System to measure child progress and school readiness. TSG is a research-based assessment system that follows widely held expectations for children from birth through third grade. Child progress is assessed three times during the year; Fall, Winter, and Spring.

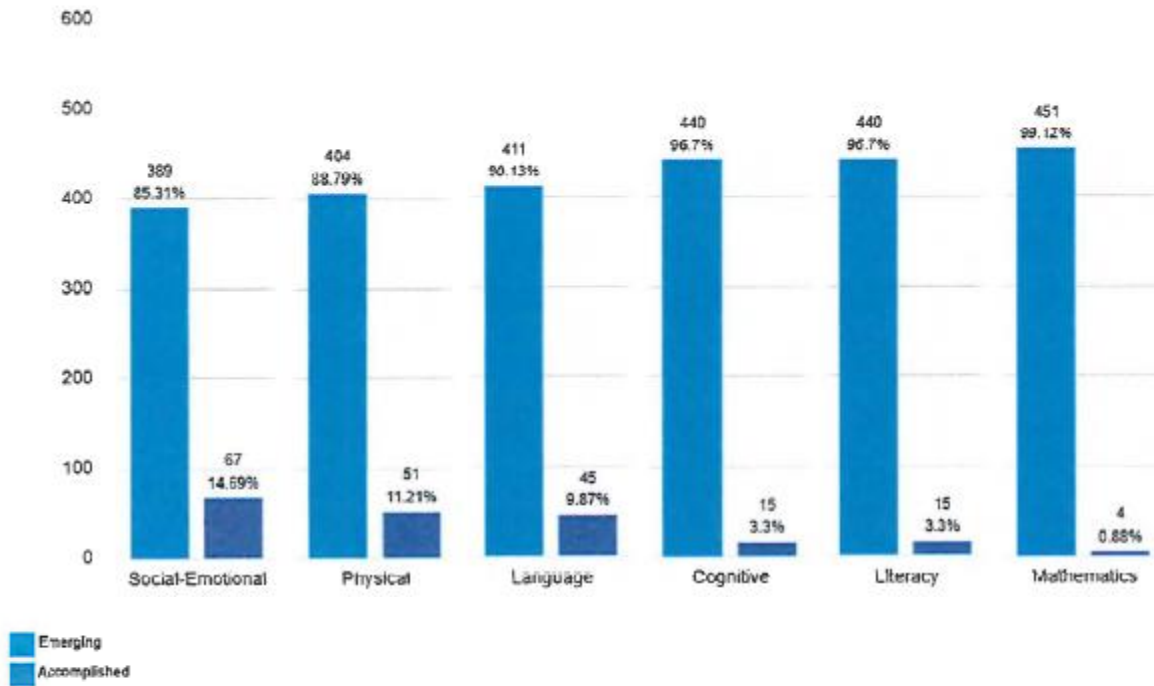
Education staff observe students and record anecdotal notes daily. At Checkpoint time, color-coded progressions guide staff with evaluating and rating the progress of each student. The TSG Family Portal provides a platform for staff to engage family members by sharing learning resources and provides a two-way communication system. Family observations, videos, and pictures sent through the family portal are combined with staff documentation and used to ensure comprehensive Checkpoint ratings.

The graphs below provide a visual of enrolled students from birth-4 years old kindergarten readiness progress from Fall 2022 to Spring 2023.

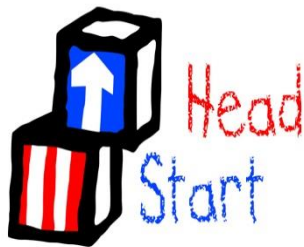


- Beaufort Jasper HS/EHS

Fall - Kindergarten Readiness



Significant gains occurred across all domains as student's skills progressed from emerging to accomplished during the year. Approximately (130) 4 years old students transitioned to Kindergarten. Education staff continue to provide developmentally appropriate experiences and educational studies in the classroom guided by the *Creative Curriculum Cloud* system.



Disabilities and Mental Health Services

Disabilities

BJEOC Head Start ensures at least 10 percent of its total funded enrollment is filled by children eligible for services under IDEA, unless the responsible HHS official grants a waiver. Using children’s Individualized Education Program (IEP) goals is part of effective teaching, individualizing and creating an inclusive environment to support children’s positive outcomes. BJEOC Head Start and Beaufort County School District have developed strategies to work more collaboratively during the Child Find Screening process to identify children with potential delays enrolling in Head Start, in order to refer and provide services in a timely manner, if necessary.

2022-2023 Children with an IEP or IFSP *(% of Funded Enrollment, Excluding Prenatal Mothers)*

Status	# of children with IEP/IFSP	% of children with IEP/IFSP
Open IFSP’s	9	1.6%
Open IEP’s	47	8.5%
Total	56	10.2%

Mental Health

BJEOC Head Start creates a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), with a Licensed Mental Health Consultant, annually. The MOU is created to support the coordination between Head Start and a Licensed Mental Health Consultant, to ensure children, families and staff have access to Mental Health Services and support. For the 2022 – 2023 school year, Beaufort Jasper EOC Early/Head Start partnered with Wright Directions Family Services LLC. and Jamison Consultants, to provide Head Start and Early Head Start with Mental Health Services. Some of the services Wright Directions and Jamison Consultants offered Head Start are listed below:

- Provided services to children in specific school locations, to include but not limited to:
 - Grief Counseling
 - Behavior Modification
 - Trauma Care
- Created an avenue to increase accessibility of mental health services in a non-stigmatizing environment
- Provided early intervention and prevention services
- Consulted with teachers and school staff to advocate for the child
- Educate families and staff, regarding the social, emotional, and psychiatric needs of the child

Beaufort Jasper EOC Head Start Monthly Newsletter



BJEOC Head Start’s “Monthly Newsletter”, was designed to communicate with parents/guardians, families, staff and community partners, of all updates, upcoming events, important dates to remember and new information pertaining to Head Start. The “Monthly Newsletter”, is accessible via the program’s website (<http://thebjeoc.org>) and Facebook page. Parents/guardians, families, staff and community partners are allowed to submit information and photo’s they want featured in the Newsletter.



Health Services

Health and School Readiness are closely linked. Children need to be healthy and safe to learn. The importance of prevention and early identification of health concerns is a primary goal of the BJEOC Head Start Program. We work with health care providers to assist families with connecting to available resources in the community. Healthy living and eating habits are incorporated into the classroom daily. Personal hygiene is part of our children’s daily routine, such as hand washing and brushing teeth.

Preschool Head Start 2022-2023

	At Enrollment		End of Enrollment	
Children with health insurance	383	95%	369	92%
Children with medical homes	381	95%	381	95%
Child with up –to-date immunizations or all possible immunizations to date, or exempt	388	96%	402	100%
Children with dental homes	365	91%	380	94%

Early Head Start 2022-2023

	At Enrollment		End of Enrollment	
Children with health insurance	96	69%	138	100%
Children with medical homes	96	69%	138	100%
Child with up –to-date immunizations or all possible immunizations to date, or exempt	138	100%	138	100%
Children with dental homes	128	93%	136	98%

Health Requirements:

Up-to-date Shot Record – completed within 15 days of entry into Program

Current Physical

Lead Screening, HGB/HCT Check

Current Dental Exam

Source of Ongoing Health Care – Program will assist families with accessing a medical/dental home

Health Services Offered by BJEOC HS/EHS:

Health, wellness, and safety education for families and children

Vision and Hearing Screening

HGB/Lead Screening

Blood Pressure

Physical and Dental Reminders; Fluoride Varnish



Enrollment

BJEOC Head Start and Early Head Start program receives funding to provide Center-based services to 439 preschool children and 120 infants, toddlers, and prenatal women.

22-23

ERSEA

	PHS	EHS	Pregnant Women	Total
Children Served	402	138	10	550
Eligibility	97%	99%		98%
Homeless Families	21	26		47
Foster Child	2	4		6

Ages:

	Under 1	1	2	3	4
EHS	54	17	67		
PHS				251	151

Race:

	Blk	White	Bi-Race	Other	Total
PHS	342 (85%)	17 (4%)	18 (4%)	25 (6%)	402
EHS	131 (89%)	8 (5%)	7 (5%)	2 (1%)	148

Ethnicity:

	Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	Total
PHS	378 (94%)	24 (6%)	402
EHS	146 (99%)	2 (1%)	148

Language:

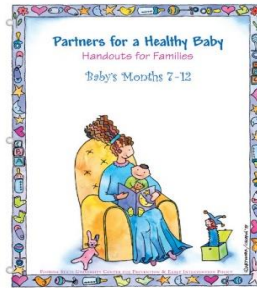
	English	Spanish	Other	Total
PHS	377 (93%)	24 (7%)	1	402
EHS	146 (99%)	2 (1%)	0	148

Early Head Start children that transitioned into preschool Head Start during the start of the school year: 45

Head Start children enter Kindergarten in 2023: 127

Services to Expectant Mothers

BJEOC Early Head Start provided services to 10 Expectant Mothers, for the 2022-2023 School Year. BJEOC Early Head Start assists pregnant women in accessing comprehensive prenatal and postpartum care, through referrals, immediately after entering into the program. If the program has an available slot, after the post-partum visit and the baby is at least 6 weeks old, the infant can be transitioned into the slot. BJEOC Early Head Start will provide prenatal education relating to all aspects of pregnancy to expecting mothers through current curriculum (*Partners for a Healthy Baby*), home visits (or designated meeting location), brochures, booklets, DVD's, and community resources.



Community Baby Showers

BJEOC Early Head Start, alongside Absolute Total Care (Medicaid MCO), hosted 3, “Community Baby Showers”, for the 2022-2023 School Year. Each baby shower provided information, resources in the community, food, gifts, games and prizes, to enrolled Expectant Mothers, and Expectant Mothers with Beaufort and Jasper Counties. Several vendors from the Community (Both Counties) participated and set information tables.



Family Engagement Services

Beaufort Jasper EOC Head Start Program recognizes parents as the first and most important teachers for their children. The program makes intentional efforts to support the families through our family engagement approach, which supports families to become active partners in the success of the educational development of their children. Parents are encouraged and supported to become directly involved in the decision-making of the program by becoming active members of the Policy Council, Health-Family Services Advisory Committee, and Parent Committee. We provide the opportunity for families to volunteer at the centers, and at home, through the program’s parent curriculum, Ready Rosie and Teaching Strategies Family, to support the home-school connection. Various parent education and interaction activities are offered in each center to promote positive parent-child relationships, family well-being, and connections to peers and the community. Some activities offered throughout the year, designed to promote family engagement and involvement, are listed below.

- Policy Council/Parent Committees
- Parent Center Planning Meetings
- Family Goal Planning
- Parent Orientation/ Open House
- Parent and Teacher Home Visits/ Conferences
- Parent Curriculum: Ready Rosie
- Community Resource Presentations
- Access to Teaching Strategies Family
- Parent and Child Classroom Activities
- Parent Connections
- Family and Child Transition Support
- Male Involvement Activities

Families Served

	Single Parent	Two-Parent	Total
PHS	303 (83%)	63 (17%)	366
EHS	116 (88%)	13 (12%)	129
	419 (84%)	76 (15%)	495

Volunteers:

	Parents	Community
PHS	218	28
EHS	39	9
Total	257	37



Financial Report (No Findings)

Head Start leaders are charged with an enormous task. They help to prepare children for kindergarten and beyond while operating and sustaining a business. Fiscal management is a large part of that task. Strong fiscal systems are key to a healthy program. The federal government is committed to covering 80% of the actual costs of Head Start program services. The requirement for a non-federal match to a Head Start grant reflects the partnership and commitment between the federal government and local community to support children and families served by the program. It is expected that local communities raise the other 20%.



Year End 2022

Program Revenues

Proposed Budget	\$11,977,080	
Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)	\$601,882	5%
Low Income Housing Emergency Assistance Program/LIHEAP	\$1,828,962	15%
Head Start	\$7,276,552	53%
Head Start Disaster	\$579,741	5%
DSS Child Care Food Program	\$227,259	2%
Rural Development	\$12,556	11%
Management and General	\$831,839	7%
Other Programs	\$205,514	2%
Total Revenue	\$11,977,080	
Total Expenses	\$11,564,305	

Human Resources

The Beaufort-Jasper E.O.C. Human Resources Department supports the mission and goals of the Head Start and Early Head Start Programs. Throughout the year our departments focus has been on recruitment efforts and employee retention through engagement. One of the goals that the HR Department was able to achieve was to obtain additional funding for our Health, Wellness and Diversity endeavors. All of us have significant roles within the agency and we all care about our community. I think of a quote by Simon Sinek “Working hard for something we don’t care about is called stress, working hard for something we love is called passion”.

We have a staff full of passionate Community Action Employees! When you have a passion for what you do it is easy to put your personal health and wellness on the back burner. The agency’s Health/Wellness and Diversity committee was able to develop a program that directly supports our staff expectations. Fitness classes, Motivational Monday, Wellness Wednesday, Community Action Week activities, Diversity Calendars, Newsletters and an annual Employee Appreciation Banquet are examples of our dedication to the health and wellness of our staff. Additional professional development trainings have been added to address topics such as Diversity and Inclusion, and safety topics on a platform that ensures that all staff members have received the proper training. The Human Resources Department will continue in its efforts to provide employees with a robust benefits package including access to the Employee Assistance Program which offers support and resources for personal and work-related challenges and concerns. We will continue to support a work life balance within our organization.

Healthandwellnesssignup@thebjeoc.org



DIVERSITY



of people and perspectives

EQUITY



in policy and practice

INCLUSION



of all voices and visions

Beaufort-Jasper E.O.C. encourages and enforces:

- Respectful communication and cooperation between all employees.
- Teamwork and employee participation, permitting the representation of all groups and employee perspectives.
- Work/life balance through flexible work scheduled to accommodate employees' varying needs.
 - Employer and employee contributions to the communities we serve to promote a greater understanding and respect for the diversity.

All employees at Beaufort-Jasper E.O.C. have a responsibility to treat others with dignity and respect at all times. All employees are expected to exhibit conduct that reflects inclusion during work, at work functions on or off the work site, and at all other company-sponsored and participative events.



**Beaufort-Jasper
Economic Opportunity
Commission Inc.**

Our Business is Helping People

WWW.THEBJEOC.ORG

WE ARE HIRING

COME JOIN OUR TEAM

We are a Non-Profit Community Action Agency looking for the right candidates to fill the following positions within our Head Start Department:

- **Preschool Head Start Teacher**
- **Teachers Assistant**
- **Early Head Start Teacher**
- **Bus Monitors**
- **Substitutes**
- **Bus Drivers**

Beaufort-Jasper E.O.C. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Applicants Must Pass a Criminal Background Check and
Drug Screening

final thoughts...

Elevating health, education, and economic standards of low-income residents in our services delivery area is our primary focus.

Reducing the effects of poverty in Beaufort and Jasper counties by promoting self-sufficiency and economic independence.

Beaufort-Jasper EOC Services

HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START

COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG) PROGRAM

LOW-INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP)LOW-INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM/AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN (LIHEAP-ARP)

GENERAL EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE (GEAP) PROGRAM

HOUSING PRESERVATION GRANT (HPG) PROGRAM

YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

SENIOR FARMERS' MARKET



Contact us at **843-255-7220**

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coming soon >>>

In The Next Issue

Beaufort-Jasper EOC Head

Start/Early Head Start

Program Year 2023-2024 Updates