



Annual Report

2023—2024

From the Director

October 2024

“Progress is impossible without change.” – George Bernard Shaw

Since its inception in 1965, Head Start programs have provided comprehensive services to nearly 40 million children and their families. The Head Start Model, which is built on evidence-based practices and teaching techniques, is constantly adapting to meet the needs of families and communities. Because of this, PACT has a saying that, “the only thing constant in Head Start is change,” and that was certainly the theme for our 2023-2024 program year.

PACT saw the retirement of long-term managers who were instrumental in developing PACT as a quality program, including Shanna Edison, our Executive Director. Collectively, those managers had 86 years of dedicated service to area children and their families. Their commitment to the agency’s mission and staunch leadership ensured PACT’s comprehensive services can continue to impact another generation of children and their families.

Despite a number of changes in our management team, PACT’s mission and philosophy remain unchanged. Head Start enrollment has remained constant at 100%, while Early Head Start enrollment continues to climb since the pandemic. Child outcome data shows a significant percentage of our Kindergarten-bound children met or exceeded expectations in each of the learning domains, which are aligned with the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework. Two domains were even at 100%! Employment of parents as paid staff also continues to be a major goal of the program, with our rate of employees who are former or current parents rising from 44% to 55% within the past year.

Undoubtedly, our agency could not progress through changes and provide the services that the Head Start Model promotes without our dedicated staff, community partners, Policy Council members, and Board of Directors. Thank you for supporting our mission and our on-going efforts in the communities we serve; we are honored to continue the tradition of providing comprehensive services to children and families in West Central Illinois.

Sara Mixer, Executive Director

OUR MISSION

The mission of Parent and Child Together (PACT) for West Central Illinois is to provide a high quality, comprehensive program of education, health, and social services to children and their families, developing life-long learners.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

PACT believes that parents are their children’s first and most important teacher.



Head Start is a nationwide program funded by the Administration for Children and Families. It is designed to provide learning experiences for families and children with limited incomes or disabilities, from prenatal and ages birth to 5 years. PACT receives two grants (Head Start and Early Head Start) to serve families in Adams, Brown, Cass, Hancock, McDonough, Pike, Schuyler, and Scott counties in Illinois.



Head Start serves three- and four-year old children in center classes. Early Head Start serves prenatal women and children up to 3 years old in a home-based program (90 minute weekly visits) or full-day services for children 6 weeks to three years-old in center classes, with priority for parents that work or are in school/training.

PACT has a collaborative agreement with Western Illinois University and provides EHS/HS program services to eligible WIU students and staff, as well as eligible McDonough county families.



PACT's four centers are participants in the ExceleRate Illinois quality rating system and maintain the Silver Circle of Quality.

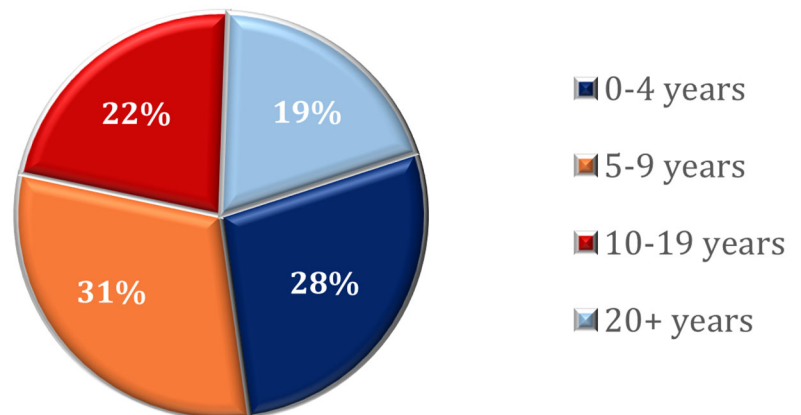
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Judi James – Chairperson
 Joleen Patton – Vice Chairperson
 Jenni Winbigler – Secretary
 Lindsay Armstrong – PC Rep.
 Pat Baker
 Sandy Bertucci
 Leigha Baker
 Kathy Hull

POLICY COUNCIL OFFICERS

Lindsay Armstrong – Chairperson
 Brittney Brokaw – Vice Chairperson
 Lindsey Vosse-Ochoa – Secretary

Employee Years of Service



Hiring program parents and former program parents continues to be a significant goal of the PACT program.

During the 23/24 program year, the agency hired eight new employees that were current or former parents in the PACT program.

55% of the employees at PACT are current or former parents in our program.

PACT provides...

Education: Learning activities that lead to development in areas of approaches to learning, social and emotional, language and literacy, cognition, and perceptual, motor, and physical. Staff use The Creative Curriculum and Parents As Teachers (PAT) curriculums in the classrooms and home visits, respectively.

Social Services: Staff connect families with community services, and assist families to achieve personal, educational and individual family goals.

Parent Engagement: Parents receive education through home visits, family events, parent committees, parent initiated activities, and workshops. Parents are responsible for the direction of the programs through the Policy Council, an elected group of parents that works cooperatively with the Board of Directors.

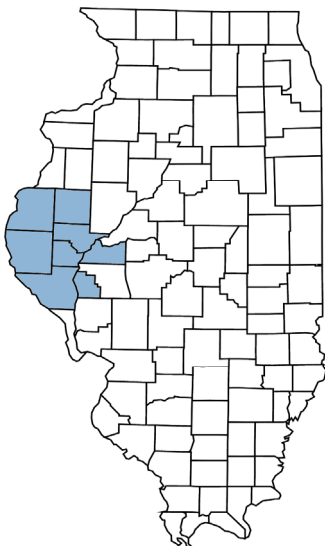
Health: PACT assists with physical examinations, other age appropriate health screenings, and oral health and nutritional assessments.

Special Services: At least 10% of all enrollment is reserved for children with diagnosed disabilities. Services can be provided based on the needs of the child and the wishes of the family. Foster children and homeless children also receive priority for enrollment.

PACT does not deny enrollment based on a disability or a chronic health condition or its severity.

Our Service Area

PACT provides services in eight counties in West Central Illinois, which covers 27 school districts.



- Adams**
- Brown**
- Cass**
- Hancock**
- McDonough**
- Pike**
- Schuyler**
- Scott**



CONTACT US

Administrative

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 Fax: (217) 773-3906

PACT Center Addresses

Pittsfield - 1310 W. Washington (217-285-2234)
 Beardstown - 909 W. 12th Street (217-323-9422)
 Camp Point - 2090 Highway 24 (217-593-6777)
 Macomb - 320 University Drive (309-298-3143)

For more information about PACT or for information about our employment opportunities, check out our website or follow us on Facebook.



Who We Serve

Head Start:

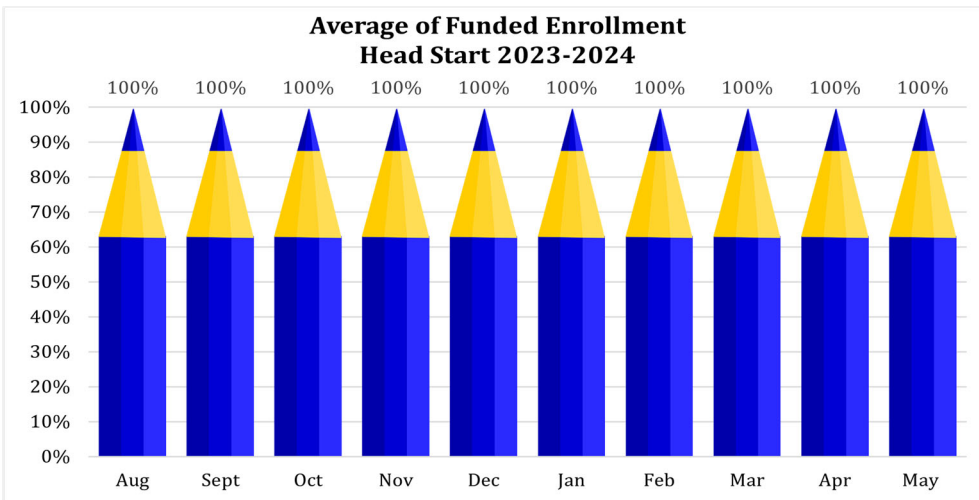
Funded Enrollment: **105**

Total # of children served during the year: **120**

Percentage of children whose families met income guidelines for Head Start: **23%**

Percentage of children eligible through Public Assistance/ Foster/ Homelessness: **66%**

Percentage of children served with disabilities: **35%**



Early Head Start:

Funded Enrollment: **150**

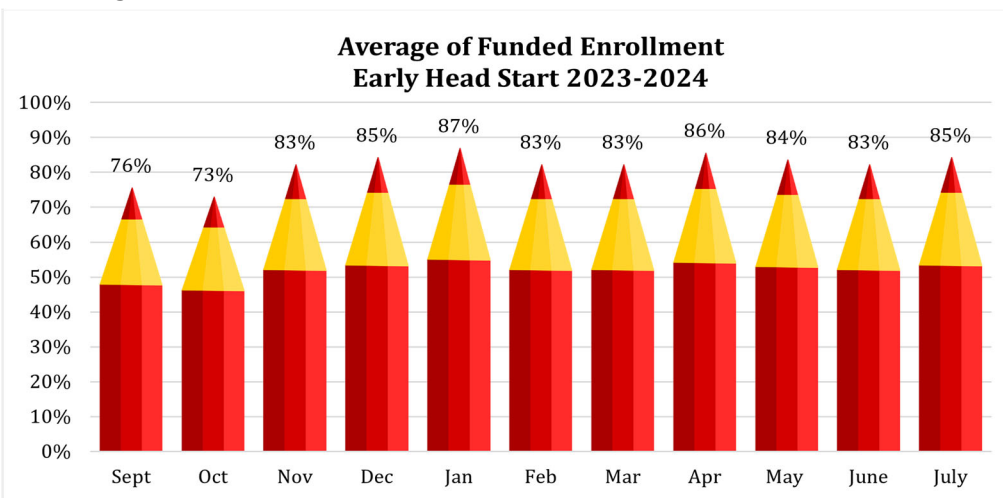
Total # of children served during the year: **186**

Total # of pregnant women served during the year: **17**

Percentage of children whose families met income guidelines for Early Head Start: **33%**

Percentage of children eligible through Public Assistance/ Foster/ Homelessness: **67%**

Percentage of children served with disabilities: **14%**



During the 23-24 program year, three EHS classrooms were closed. One was due to staff vacancies and the additional classrooms were due to a developing community partnership for additional classrooms.



Total Number of Families
217



Head Start Children Transported
79



Nutritional Meals Served
58,300



Average Classroom Attendance
84%

Family Engagement

Parent Engagement - An annual satisfaction survey is distributed to all PACT parents. For the 23-24 program year, 95% stated they were fully satisfied with the services offered and would strongly recommend the PACT program to others.

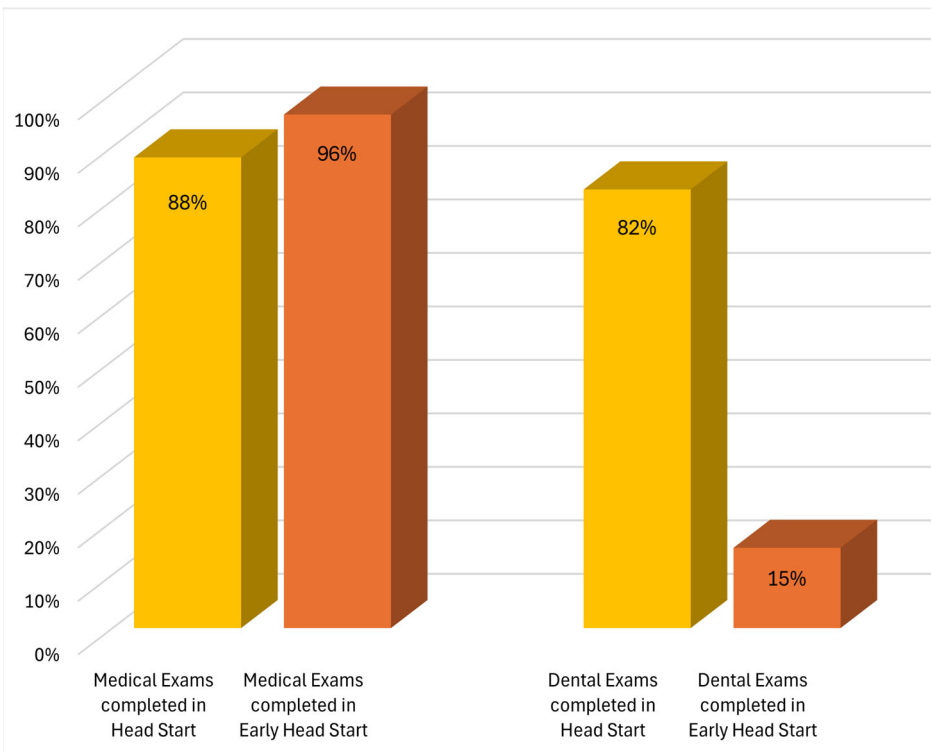
Transportation - PACT has 4 buses and transported approximately 79 children to and from classrooms in 23/24.

Volunteerism - The majority of our volunteers came from parents/guardians who complete parent and child activities in the home. There were 396 total volunteers for 2023-2024. 272 of these were parents or former parents. 20 of the 396 volunteered at more than one PACT site.

Family Participation - Parent Committees are made up of program parents and meet throughout the year to plan and coordinate program family events and activities at each site. Family events were held during the 23-24 program year, with total attendance coming to 336 across all events. Parents in the Home-Based program also had the opportunity to participate in socializations throughout the program year.

PACT utilizes the Ready Rosie curriculum to communicate with families and engage them in activities with their children ages birth to five. We had 77 Head Start families and 88 Early Head Start families access activities through the application.

Child Health Statistics 2023 - 2024



Completed Medical Exams:

Exams may not have been up to date but they had one throughout the year.

FAMILY OUTCOMES

Our family engagement goals focus on three things families can do to make a big impact on their child’s education.



67% of all children met the goal for completing at home activities with their families (home work).

48% of all children met the attendance goal for home visits or classroom attendance. 8% of home based families attended at least one socialization.



36% of all children met the goal for reading with their families 1 hour a week.

School Readiness

The Office of Head Start uses the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) during its on-site reviews of grantees. The CLASS tool has 10 dimensions of teacher-child interactions rated on a 7 point scale, from low to high. The CLASS dimensions are organized into 3 domains:

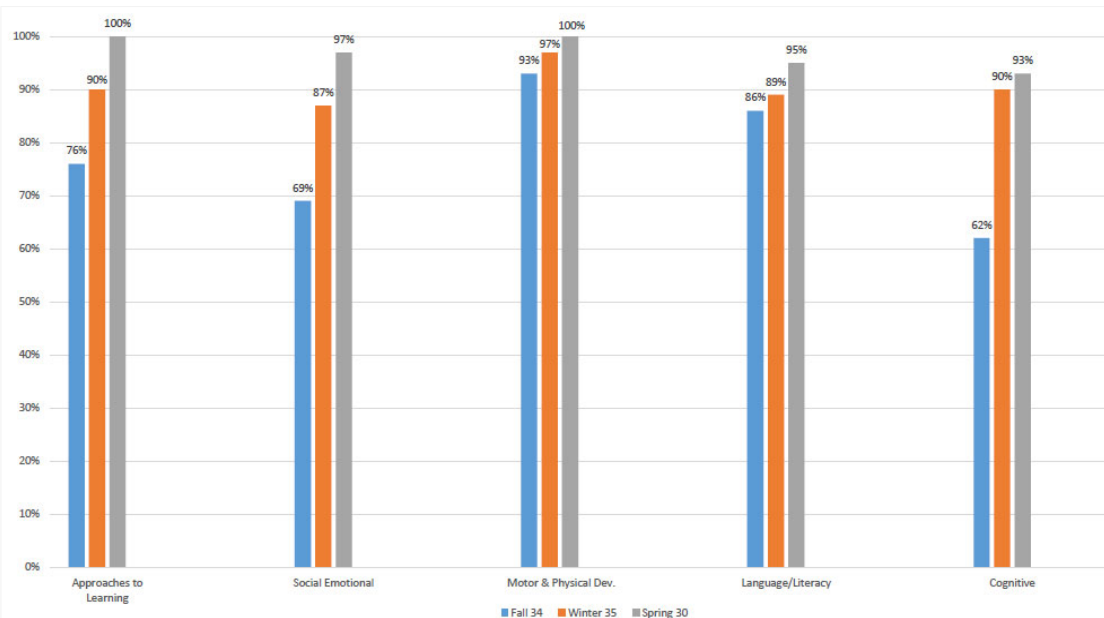
Emotional Support assesses the degree to which teachers establish and promote a positive climate in their classroom through every day interactions.

Classroom Organization assesses classroom routines and procedures related to the organization and management of children’s behavior, time and attention in the classroom.

Instructional Support assesses the ways in which teachers implement the curriculum to effectively promote cognitive and language development.



Kindergarten Bound 4 yr. olds—Head Start



In the 23/24 program year, PACT assessed about 100 children per reporting period. About 33 of these children were kindergarten bound children.

This graph shows the percentage of assessed kindergarten bound children at the end of the Fall, Winter and Spring reporting periods who met or exceeded expectations for that period in each learning domain, which are aligned with the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework.

*This data does not include children with IEP's.

2023-2024 School Readiness Goals

School Readiness Statement: Parent and Child Together (PACT) believes that relationships with families, schools and communities are the foundation for school readiness. Developing those relationships will assist us in creating safe and nurturing experiences which support young children to develop their individual interests, talents and goals to become successful lifelong learners.

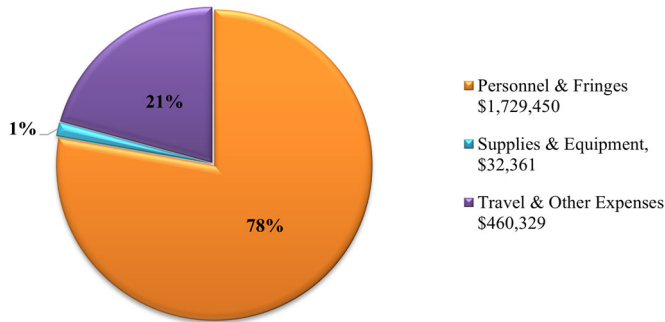
<p style="text-align: center;">Approaches to Learning</p> <p>Children will develop the ability to stay focused, interested and engaged in experiences.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Social Emotional</p> <p>Children will develop social relationships and self regulation.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Perceptual, Motor and Physical Development</p> <p>Children will understand and maintain safe and healthy practices.</p> <p>Children will achieve control of large and small muscles for movement, balance, self care and exploration.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Language and Literacy</p> <p>Children will develop the ability to use and understand English and/or their home language.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Cognitive</p> <p>Children will use logic and reasoning skills to understand math concepts, scientific exploration and their history, culture and environment.</p>
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The children will progress in meeting expectations of the objectives:

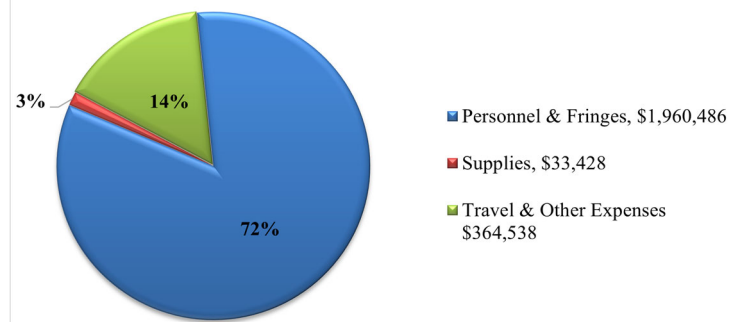
<p>Objectives</p> <p>1b. Follows limits and expectations</p> <p>11a. Attends and engages</p> <p>11d. Shows curiosity and motivation</p>	<p>Objectives</p> <p>1a. Manages feelings</p> <p>2a. Forms relationships with adults</p> <p>2c. Interacts with peers</p>	<p>Objectives</p> <p>4. Demonstrates traveling skills</p> <p>7a. Uses fingers and hands</p>	<p>Objectives</p> <p>9a. Uses an expanding expressive vocabulary</p> <p>10a. Engages in conversation</p> <p>15a. Notices and discriminates rhyme</p> <p>16a. Identifies and names letters</p> <p>18a. Interacts during reading experiences, book conversations, and text reflections</p> <p>19a. Writes name</p>	<p>Objectives</p> <p>13. Uses classification skills</p> <p>20a. Counts</p> <p>20b. Quantifies</p> <p>21b. Understanding shapes</p>
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Budget & Expenditures

23/24 Head Start Expenditures
\$2,222,140



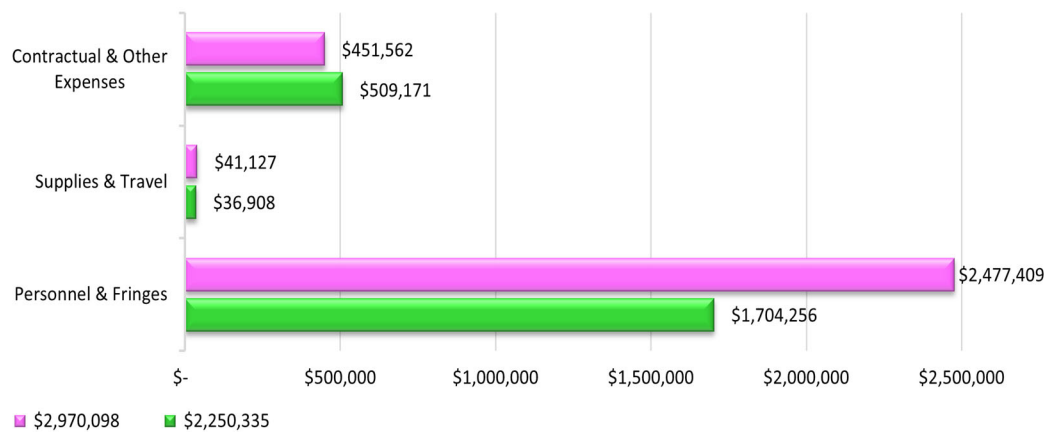
23/24 Early Head Start Expenditures
\$2,358,452



Revenue Sources 2023/24

Contributions/Revenue/Grant	Head Start	Early Head Start	Total
Health & Human Services Grant	\$ 2,246,970	\$ 2,855,253	\$ 5,102,223
US Dept. of Agriculture	\$ 97,036	\$ 70,192	\$ 167,228
IL Dept. of Human Services	\$ -	\$ 2,724	\$ 2,724
Parent Co-Pay	\$ 2	\$ 1,152	\$ 1,154
Misc. Donations	\$ 1,078	\$ -	\$ 1,078
Totals	\$ 2,345,086	\$ 2,929,321	\$ 5,273,329

24/25 Projected Budgets for
Early Head Start \$2,970,098 & Head Start \$2,250,335



PACT's Annual Audit was conducted by R.W. Hickman

The audit report stated that there were no reportable conditions in internal control disclosed by the audit of financial statements.

There were no findings or questioned costs for Federal Awards or Financial Statements for the year ending June 30, 2024, nor were there any findings or questioned costs for the prior fiscal year.