



WARNING
Do not swing or fall off
and always hold on
with one hand. Stop to
rest.



Our purpose **NEVER** *mattered* **MORE**

2019-20 ANNUAL REPORT



OUR PURPOSE

We deliver exceptional early childhood education and develop compassionate partnerships with families to support them in realizing their hopes and dreams.

OUR COMMITMENT TO EQUITY

We work to lift up families and children with the goal of eliminating poverty and supporting all people to realize their potential, especially those who have been marginalized because of their race, socio-economic status or ethnicity.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Covid-19 didn't stop us	3
We are difference makers	5
Keeping children healthy and thriving	7
Exceptional early childhood education	9
We know how to pivot	10
Teaching young children from birth	11
Purpose-driven difference makers	13
Helping families realize hopes and dreams ...	15
What families are saying	16
Investing in families and children	17

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This last year has been like no other in the 56-year history of Miami Valley Child Development Centers! The COVID-19 pandemic has been devastating for our children and families, requiring us to quickly find new and creative ways to support them.

Families experiencing poverty are profoundly struggling from the economic, social, physical and psychological fallout of this health crisis. At the same time, the racial injustices that have been brought into even sharper focus have forced a long overdue reckoning that has been intensely painful for Black and brown families. While Head Start and MVCDC have been committed to racial justice and ensuring equitable opportunities since our inception, we, too, are re-examining all of our policies through an equity lens. All of us can be better!

While the heart of MVCDC's work is promoting children's school readiness, we are equally passionate about lifting up families – to help them realize their hopes and dreams. When COVID-19 struck, families' needs became more basic and urgent. As the crisis deepened and child care programs were ordered closed, we turned to meeting those needs – providing food, baby formula, diapers and necessities. We went door-to-door making deliveries and offering help, we set up food pick-up stations.

Once we were allowed to bring back children – though classes had to be significantly smaller – we created a 6-week summer program to help our Class of 2019-20 kindergarten-bound children catch up on all that they missed during the Spring. Over the summer, we also quickly developed a virtual program, providing tablets, data plans and learning activities for children to do at home. Our teachers continued to offer online instruction, and Family Support Specialists kept in touch with parents virtually.

We have always believed that families are children's best teachers. But COVID-19 challenged us to become even better at equipping parents to keep their children learning when we couldn't be together.

I cannot say enough about the amazing MVCDC staff. They were relentless in their commitment to families and children. They persevered in spite of ever-changing expectations and overwhelming stress.

While our services have been different this last year, the innovations we've made, the technology we've leveraged and the new skills we've learned have made us stronger! We're thriving, not just surviving!

Thank you to our families for sharing their children with us and for allowing us to truly be Difference Makers!

Gratefully,



Berta Velilla

President, Chief Executive Officer

THANK YOU
for what y'all are doing for the
kids to keep them learning.
Y'all ROCK!!
– MVCDC parent





In 2019-20,
MVCDC served
3,392
young children and
2,965
families

Following Ohio's Spring stay-at-home order,
MVCDC provided our families **7,580 meals**,
557 boxes of diapers, **93 containers of formula**
and **502 bags of cleaning and sanitizing supplies**
from March through May alone

We enrolled
420
children
in our virtual
program to keep
them learning
at home



"We love the Head Start program and have used it for all four of our kids. The teachers and staff are like family."

We supported
899 children
who transitioned to Kindergarten
in 17 school districts, as well as to private
and charter schools



We provided
over 400 tablets
to families so they
could stay in touch
with their child's
teachers and their
Family Support
Specialist

We equipped our staff
with **166 new cell
phones and tablets**
and re-deployed
**104 devices to
connect with
families during
the pandemic**

At MVCDC, WE ARE DIFFERENCE

For more than 50 years, Head Start has been serving families and children experiencing poverty. We provide high quality early learning to young children and assist families in becoming financially independent. Begun as part of the national War on Poverty, Head Start's work has always been rooted in equity. From the beginning, we have focused on persons lacking opportunity. However, in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has disproportionately impacted families and children of color, MVCDC has reaffirmed our commitment to eliminating inequities and promoting racial equality.

Head Start is a largely federally funded initiative, serving children in families earning under 100% of the Federal Poverty Level. To be eligible, a family of 3 must earn less than \$21,720 annually.

Head Start has long commanded bipartisan political support because of its success in cost-effectively breaking the cycle of poverty. By intervening early in children's lives and working closely with their families, Head Start promotes children's success first in school and then throughout their lives.

Every Head Start family is supported by a Family Support Specialist who helps parents set goals and access opportunities that will improve their and their children's lives. Some parents' priority may be going back to school or getting a higher paying job. Others may aspire to finding a better home or more reliable transportation.

At the same time, their child may need support in reaching developmental milestones, having a healthier diet, receiving special medical services or learning social-emotional skills that will ensure they succeed in the classroom.

MVCDC families have choices

Families can choose to enroll their child at a Head Start site or at a community-based Head Start partner site, including center-based or family child care. In response to the pandemic, we continued our 6-hour and full-day programming, and we replaced our part-day options to include a 2-day or 3-day choice for families who were apprehensive about in-person learning. MVCDC also began offering families a virtual early learning option.

Current program options include:



Part-day (2-day a week and 3-day a week options)

School-day (6 hours)



Full-day (up to 10 hours)

Virtual Program
(1 hour per week)



School year



Year-round

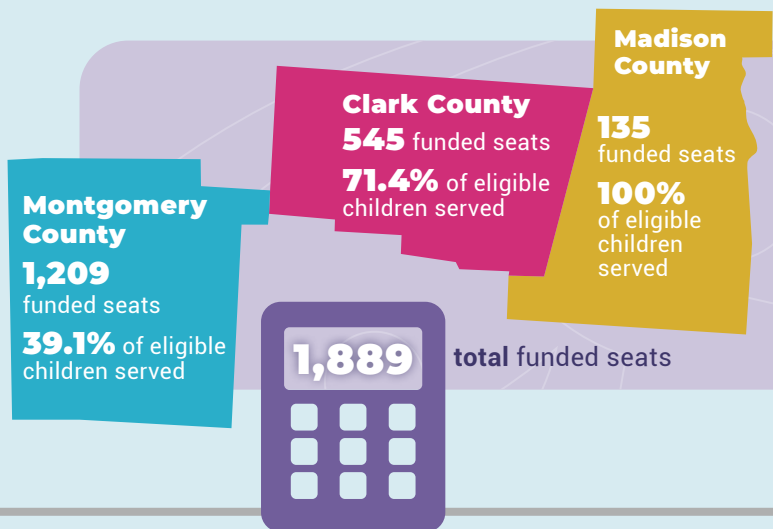
“I love the program and teachers. I recommend this program to every family I meet.”

Head Start and MVCDC have never been more needed!

We weren't funded to support all the children who are eligible for our services prior to the pandemic. But since COVID-19, even larger numbers of people are experiencing poverty, especially Black and brown families.

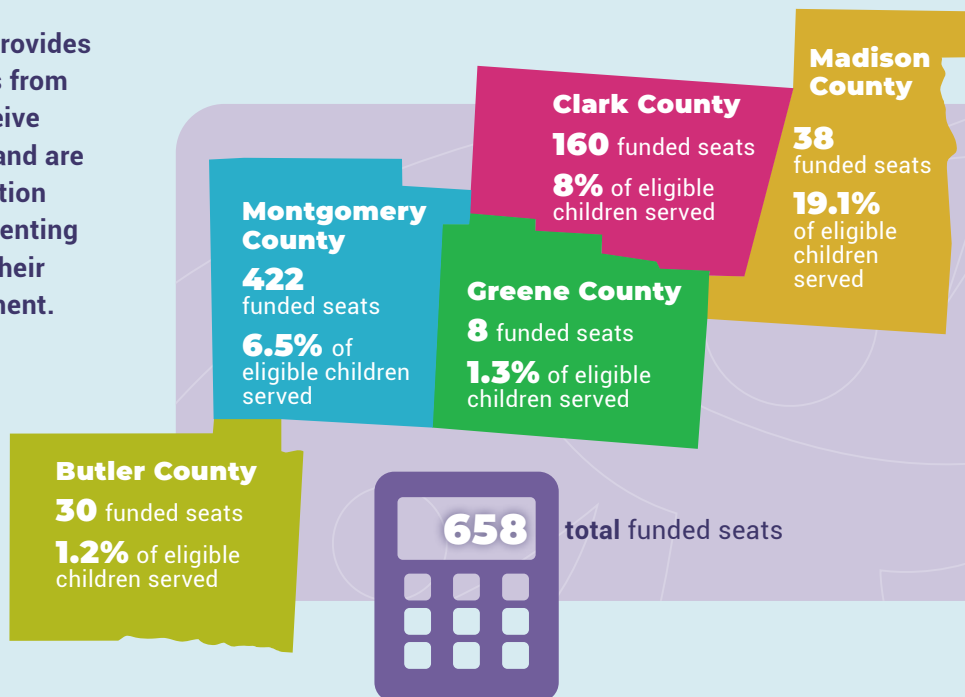
Updated numbers of eligible children aren't available yet. But we know that the percentages represented here understate the current need. Just since May 2020, 2.5 million more children nationally have fallen below the Federal Poverty Level.

Head Start provides early learning opportunities from age 3 to 5, focusing on kindergarten readiness. Families learn how to support their child's learning at home, while children get developmental screenings and are linked to medical, dental and vision care.



Early Head Start provides early learning opportunities from birth to age 3. Children receive developmental screenings and are connected to early intervention services. Families learn parenting skills and how to promote their child's early brain development.

Though high quality child care is expensive and difficult to find for young children of all ages, care for infant and toddlers is even harder to find and more costly than for preschoolers. Demand everywhere exceeds supply.



MVDCDC reaches families in need

Local Head Start agencies are required to have an average monthly enrollment of 97% of their funded seats. Meeting this mandate is difficult in a typical year but was particularly challenging during the pandemic.

Head Start has this expectation to ensure that programs work hard to reach children and to promote good stewardship of public dollars. But many eligible families may not live near a Head Start program, or they may not have transportation. If a child moves, which happens frequently, a new young learner must be identified, recruited and enrolled quickly to keep the seat filled.

MVDCDC exceeded the benchmark in our Early Head Start program as well as our option serving infants and toddlers with our child care partners, but missed the mark in Head Start where we averaged 95.9%. In light of the uncertainty and chaos created by COVID-19, these achievements are remarkable.

Offering a virtual program and new part-day options gave families important additional choices.



MVDCDC assists families who are eligible for Medicaid to get this important medical insurance for their child and themselves. We also encourage families to identify a medical “home” for their child to ensure continuity of care. Children are connected to health clinics, dentists and optometrists, as well.

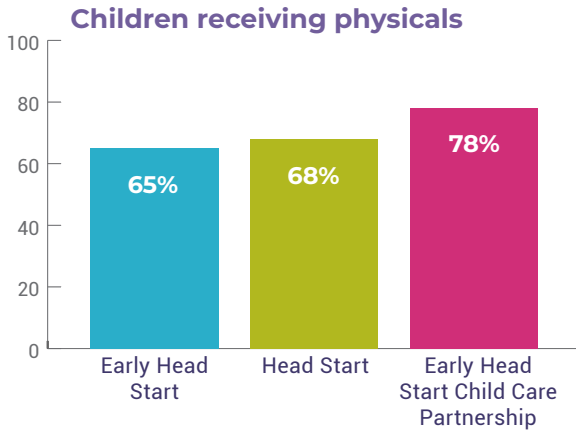
- **3,271** children have health insurance
- **2,583** children received immunizations
- **3,241** children have a medical “home”
- **2,326** children received a physical
- **212** children received medical treatment for a chronic condition
- **1,252** received a dental exam
- **2,136** children have a dental “home”
- **32** children received dental treatment

*These numbers in some cases exceed funded seats because new enrollees replace children and families who unenroll.





The Governor's stay-at-home order issued in March 2020 significantly compromised our steady progress on annual health and wellness outcomes.



Children receiving dental exams**



** Because of their young age, children in Early Head Start do not receive dental exams.

EARLY HEAD START	% of enrollees	# of children
% with up to date immunizations	50%	321
% with health insurance	96%	619
% with a medical 'home'	94%	610
% with a dental 'home'	47%	301

HEAD START	% of enrollees	# of children
% with up to date immunizations	86%	2,047
% with health insurance	96%	2,288
% with a medical 'home'	96%	2,288
% with a dental 'home'	71%	1,695

EARLY HEAD START CHILD CARE PARTNERSHIP	% of enrollees	# of children
% with up to date immunizations	59%	215
% with health insurance	100%	364
% with a medical 'home'	94%	343
% with a dental 'home'	38%	140

We provide **EXCEPTIONAL** EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



Of MVCDC's 26 self-operated centers, 25 are rated "high quality" under Ohio's Step Up to Quality initiative, meaning they significantly exceed minimum licensing rules and have earned 3-Star to 5-Star distinctions.

60% of Head Start teachers have a bachelor's degree

100% of teachers in our program have earned a Child Development Associate credential or are working on the certification

83% of teachers at Early Head Start Child Care Partnership programs have earned a Child Development Associate credential or are working on the certification



7 MVCDC programs earned highly demanding accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. This coveted distinction is a high honor and takes immense effort on the part of teachers and staff.

MVCDC Twin Towers
MVCDC Miami View
MVCDC East Dayton
Early Learning Center

MVCDC Moraine Meadows
MVCDC Springfield Children's Center
MVCDC London

////// At MVCDC, we know **HOW TO PIVOT!** ////

When Ohio Governor Mike DeWine allowed child care programs that had been forced to close because of COVID-19 to re-open in June, we stood up a totally new initiative, SUMMER HEAD START, to help our Class of 2019-20 kindergarten-bound children catch up on the learning they had lost. These children hadn't been in in-person learning since March.

We served 139 4-year-olds in this 6-week-long program, operating in many classrooms in Montgomery, Clark and Madison counties. Families had the option of sending their child in the morning or afternoon for 3 hours of evidence-based instruction. We offered transportation to serve the largest possible number of children.

For families who were reluctant to have their child attend in-person learning, we also pushed out over 400 Hatch tablets, a learning platform that helps develop kindergarten readiness skills; data plans as needed; and Scholastic School Readiness Kits.



'Our staff loved creating this new summer program and worked hard to help children learn and have fun! To keep everyone safe, teachers had just 9 children in their classrooms, which allowed them to focus on the exact skills each child needed to practice. They raised money from DonorsChoose to purchase more instructional materials. They created private Facebook groups to keep parents connected. They embraced technology.'

— Diane Johnson,
Director of Early Childhood Education



Anita Biles made sure we navigated COVID-19 safely. As our Director of Health and Nutrition, she educated our staff and families about the virus and set up protocols to keep everyone safe. Formerly a health educator for the Clark County Combined Health District, Anita's knowledge and public health connections were invaluable.

One of our numerous "boomerang" employees, Anita worked at MVCDC in the 1990s and came back three years ago.

MVCDC staff showed remarkable dedication and flexibility during the pandemic, she says. ***"People agreed to do things that maybe aren't in their wheelhouse — delivering meals, assuming responsibilities for cleaning, taking temperatures, cooking for other programs if a kitchen had to close. When we asked, everyone said yes."***

"I am proud that we did all the right things even when it was hard — insisting staff quarantine after a COVID exposure even if they tested negative and not being reluctant to close classrooms. We do what is best for kids, teachers and families."

WE TEACH YOUNG CHILDREN

Children's brains develop fastest between birth and age 5. By age 3, the brain has grown to 80% of its adult size. These early years are when nurturing and enriching environments are critical to children's healthy development.



That's why MVCDC is proud to be Ohio's largest Early Head Start program, serving more than 658 children from birth to 3 in Montgomery, Greene, Clark, Madison and Butler counties.

This year the national Early Head Start program turned 25 and celebrated the support it has provided to more than 3 million pregnant women, infants and toddlers since its inception in 1995.



Research shows that Early Head Start has a statistically significant impact on babies' and toddlers' healthy development, including their language, cognitive and social-emotional growth. Early Head Start children have higher immunization rates and are less likely to be hospitalized.

The initiative also supports new parents, sharing information about important developmental milestones and how to nurture young children. As significant, studies have found participating families are more self-sufficient and are more likely to be employed.

While Early Head Start appropriations have grown significantly since 1995, fewer than 9% of income-eligible children had access to these critical services in 2019.

STARTING AT BIRTH



Rhine Barnes knows that Early Head Start makes a difference for young children.

"I had a 1-year-old boy with a very young mom who came to my classroom. He couldn't talk or walk. Mom didn't think her child was normal, but there was nothing wrong. It took a year, but he's doing great. We just gave the family the services they needed."

Rhine, who recently earned her bachelor's degree, has worked at MVCDC for 12 years. For the last 6 years, she's worked with infants and toddlers.

Miss Rhine,
**MY CHILD
FEELS
SECURE** // // //
WITH YOU

"My job is to respect our families and help their children meet their developmental milestones. We watch them learn to hold their bottles and to crawl. We watch them take their first step. We read to them every day."



Rhine says she appreciates that MVCDC has helped her earn her college degree and that she and her colleagues get quality professional development.

Many of her families couldn't possibly afford child care without MVCDC.

"One mom who was living in a homeless shelter told me, 'Miss Rhine, my child feels secure with you.' We loved on that little girl. She knew that every day she was going to get three meals. And she knew she was going to take a nap to soft soothing music. She felt safe. I wouldn't work anywhere else."

MVCDC LOVES *making a difference* // // // // //

**40
YEARS**



Peggy Dunn began her more than 40-year career with MVCDC as a substitute teacher, ultimately becoming a Lead Teacher. She's been in that role for 35 years. Peggy, who earned her bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education at the University of Dayton, says she loves "making a difference in the lives of children." Outside of work, Peggy enjoys spending time with her husband as well as her four grandchildren.

35+ YEARS

4 Staff Members

Meet

TWO PURPOSE-DRIVEN



Michelle Ekey, a Lead Teacher at MVCDC's program at Fulton Elementary School in Springfield, was chosen to be a DonorsChoose Teacher Advocate this year. She was tapped for the honor because of her work spreading the word to colleagues about how the online platform helps teachers get funding for additional classroom resources.

"It's very cool," says Michelle, who has had 13 DonorsChoose projects funded. With her new status, she gets early notice about special funding offered by DonorsChoose supporters, including PNC *Grow Up Great*, Google, Kleenex®, The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and others. She's used the nearly \$4,000 in grants she's received to buy classroom materials and books to give families to read at home.

During the pandemic, she proposed a project to purchase simple board games, flash cards and food. "Once the pandemic hit," Michelle says, "a lot of our families suddenly were unemployed." Thanks to her passion, Michelle was able to provide her students and families staples like macaroni and cheese, peanut butter and juice boxes.

Michelle, who has an associate degree and has taught at MVCDC for 11 years, will earn her bachelor's degree in early childhood education in Spring 2021 from the University of Toledo.

"I love the connection with families. Just the smiles – that's what drives me."

303 Employees have been with MVCDC for over 5 years!



Latonya Hall



30-34 YEARS

7 Staff Members



Tyrone Bradley



25-29 YEARS

23 Staff Members



Hope Cypryla



20-24 YEARS

38 Staff Members

DIFFERENCE MAKERS

Beth Pearl jokingly says she has taught young children at MVCDC for 37 years because “I like children better than adults.” Beloved by families and colleagues, Beth teaches 3- to 5-year-olds at the 3-Star Clark County Early Childhood Education Center.

Trained in the classroom management strategy Conscious Discipline, Beth saw the impact of her teaching this year when a frustrated little girl explained to a classroom friend that she didn't like something he had done. The 4-year-old “marched off,” Beth says, and found other friends to gather in a circle, and they began doing yoga to calm down. Eventually the group invited the remorseful little boy to join them.



Beth, who has a bachelor's degree in educational leadership from the University of Dayton, says her students are learning how to resolve conflicts on their own – a critical test of kindergarten readiness and a necessary life-long skill.

When the pandemic forced MVCDC to close its programs, Beth wanted to make sure that children could keep learning at home. She turned to the popular teacher fundraising platform DonorsChoose to buy supplies for families. Thanks to her effort, students got books, sand, a dry erase pen and other fun supplies to use at home.

“I have students right now whose parents were in my classroom. I'm not sure if they remember me, but I remember them. I love what I do.”



Vickie Waters



15-19 YEARS

29 Staff Members



Nery Milan



10-14 YEARS

72 Staff Members



Diona Taylor



5-9 YEARS

130 Staff Members



Jeannette Wagner says her MVCDC home visitor, Debbie Hilliard, really listens to her about what she wants for her son. Four-year-old **Gene** has Down's syndrome and persistent pulmonary hypertension and is non-verbal.

"Debbie is very respectful and doesn't blow me off," says Jeannette. She recalls that a speech therapist she met with wanted Gene to learn to speak rather than eat. "She thought learning to say 'Mama' was more important than getting Gene off a feeding tube," says Jeannette. "To have someone who hasn't lived what you've lived and still be supportive of where you're at, that's important."

Today Gene is learning to communicate using symbols and sign language. "We want him to be able to point at a picture of an apple and tell us that's what he wants," Jeannette says.

Even before the pandemic, Jeannette needed a home visitor because Gene's health is too fragile for him to attend an in-person Head Start program.

Jeannette credits Debbie, who has worked with the family for two years, with helping Gene learn to crawl.

"She and I would roll a ball past each other, and when he reached out, we encouraged him to get it," says Jeannette. "We went from a child who couldn't get around to a child who could crawl." Now Gene is walking.

Throughout the pandemic, Debbie has found ways to ensure Gene keeps progressing. She's sent Jeannette laminated pictures of things with VELCRO® on the back so Gene can match items and make connections.

Debbie also invited Jeannette and Gene to participate in Zoom calls with other families and even a firefighter to explain fire safety. ***"Debbie gives us access to opportunities."***

WHAT MVCDC FAMILIES SAY

**97%
of families**

'strongly agree' or 'agree' MVCDC encourages them to read to their child.

**99%
of families**

'strongly agree' or 'agree' they have felt connected to and supported by their child's teachers during the pandemic.

**95%
of families**

'strongly agree' or 'agree' MVCDC provides information on parenting and motivates them to try new strategies.

**99%
of families**

'strongly agree' or 'agree' they are satisfied with their family's experience and have trusting relationships with MVCDC staff.

**97%
of families**

would recommend MVCDC to other families.

**98%
of families**

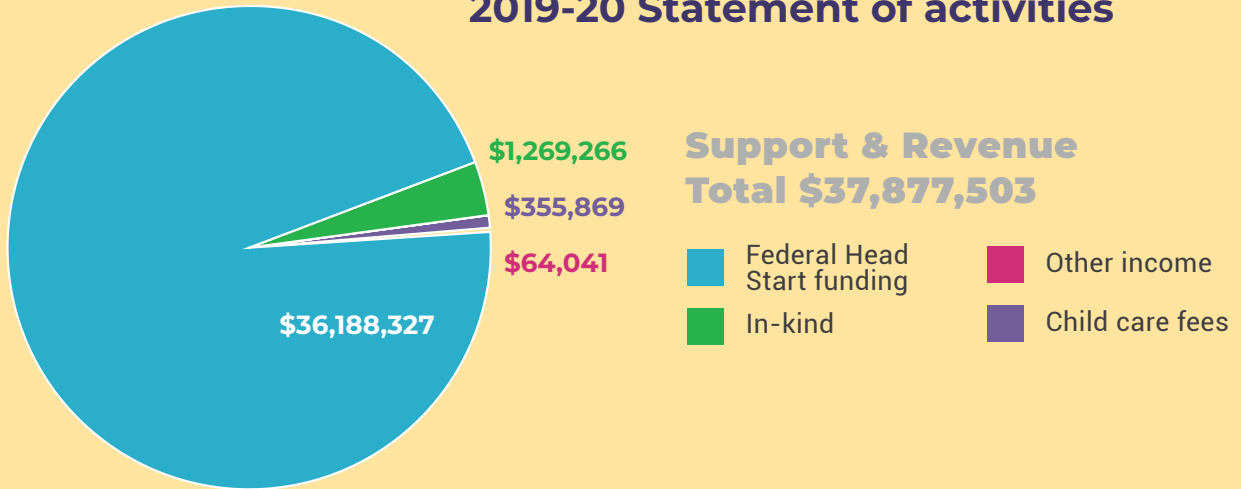
'strongly agree' or 'agree' that MVCDC's at-home activities, food boxes, infant/toddler supplies and other resources provided during the pandemic were helpful.

mvcdc

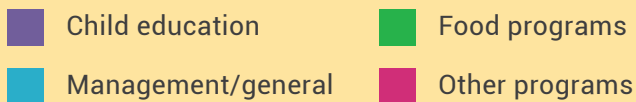


*Based on nearly 200 responses.

2019-20 Statement of activities



Expenses Total \$38,190,140



Unrestricted net assets as of 12/31/19 \$6,116,136

When the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services declared a public health emergency for COVID-19 in January 2020, the national Head Start office gave wide-ranging latitude and financial flexibility to programs across the country, ensuring that our work with children and families would continue. We are immensely grateful for that confidence and commitment.

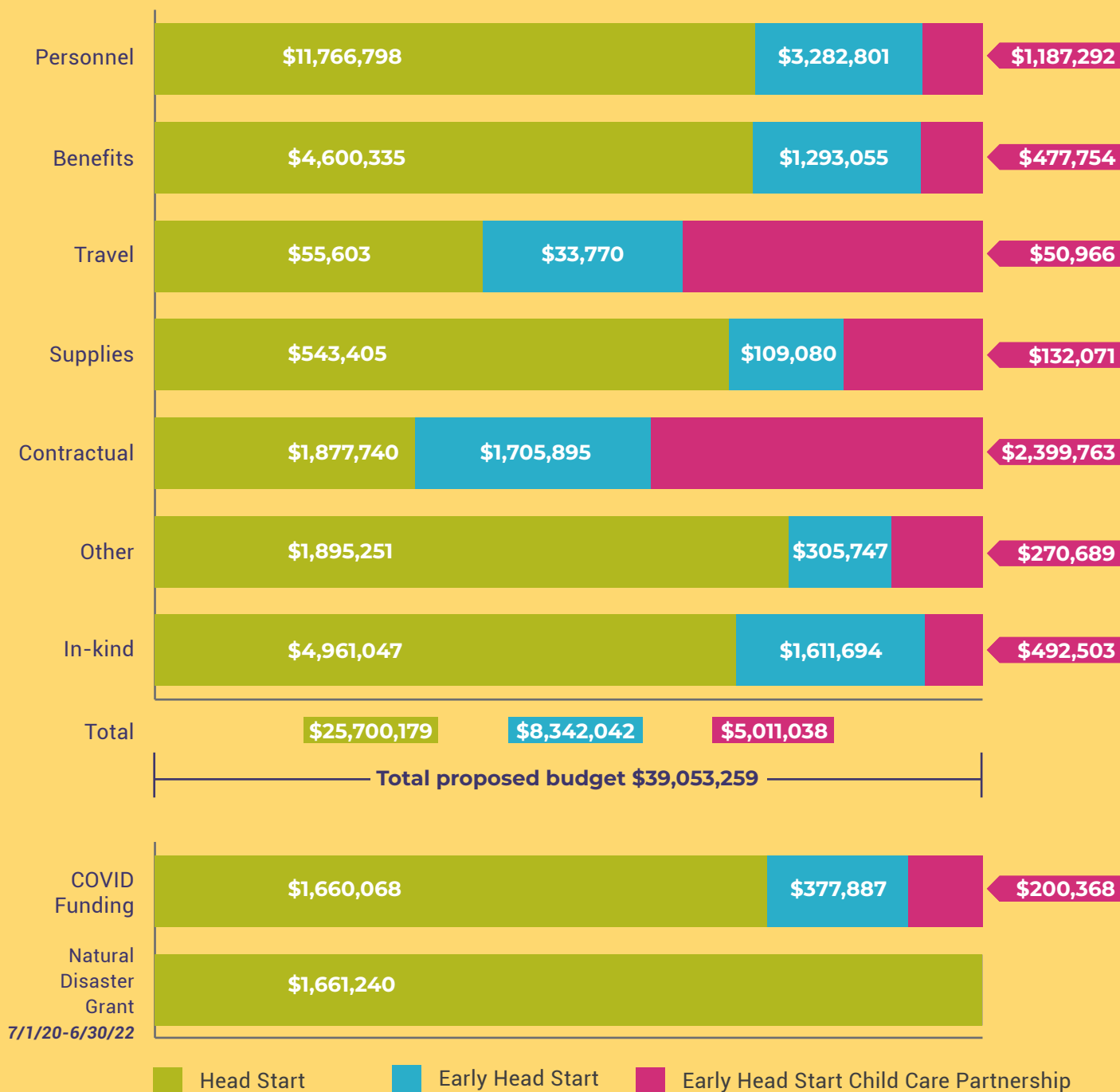
We also received \$2.23 million for COVID-19-related expenses from the federal CARES Act, money we're using to support families and children and keep children and our staff safe.

Last, we were grateful to receive a nearly \$1.7 million Natural Disaster Grant in response to the tornadoes that devastated a significant portion of our service areas in Spring 2019. That funding is being used to assess our centers in the storm's path and to extend mental health services in communities where families are still struggling to re-build and recover.

MVCDC's independent audit resulted in an unmodified opinion with no findings.

families and children

Proposed budget 2020



“My family and I love MVCDC. They are very caring and committed to their students and families.”

All MVDCDC centers and partners participate in Ohio's *Step Up to Quality* initiative. Programs go above and beyond minimum licensing standards and earn 1-Star to 5-Stars ratings.

MVDCDC MONTGOMERY COUNTY



- Aullwood
- Blairwood
- Brookville
- Dayton View
- Dixie
- East Dayton ELC
- Kings Highway
- Marilyn E Thomas Center (MET)
- Miamisburg
- Miami View
- Moraine Meadows
- Rosa Parks
- Stuart Patterson
- Twin Towers
- Valley View
- ★
Findlay EHS

Child Care Partnership Programs (HS & EHS)



- Creative World/Huber Heights
- Creative World/Kettering
- Creative World/Union
- Dayton Christian
- Stepping Stones
- United Rehabilitation Services
- ★★★★★
Wenzler Learning Center
- ★★★★
Smart Start Academy West
- YMCA Grace

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Family Child Care Providers



- Cynthia Douglas
- Angela Reeves
- Debra Clark
- Jameka Parker
- Jayne Bey
- Kisha Tyree
- Lisa Fletcher
- Nekeesha Foreman
- Patricia Bechstein
- ★★★★
Peggy Miller
- Donna Patterson
- MeKeea Hanson Pierce
- ★★★
Andrea Wilkerson
- Aron Cole
- ★
Rosalind Barnes
- Peggy Miller

BUTLER COUNTY

Family Child Care Providers



- Christi Reddix
- Sherri Miller
- Teyaunna Calhoun
- ★★★★★
Michelle Parish
- Rebecca Taylor
- ★★★★
Amanda Gushurst
- ★
Alesia Brown
- Joanne Roundtree
- Deeyah Hill
- Latasha Jones
- Rita Beaudoin

MVDCDC CLARK COUNTY



- Clark
- Medway
- St Joseph
- Town and Country
- ★★★★
CLARK ECEC
- Springfield Children's Center

Child Care Partnership Programs (HS & EHS)



- Creative World/Springfield
- ★★★★
Smart Start East
- ★
Precious Gifts

MVDCDC MADISON COUNTY



- London
- Madison Plains
- Monroe
- Plain City

GREENE COUNTY

Child Care Partnership Programs (HS & EHS)



- Creative World/Fairborn

