

Maryland Rural Development Corporation (MRDC) Head Start offers comprehensive services to low income families including early childhood education, nutrition, health and social services, and encourages strong parental involvement. MRDC Head Start operates centers throughout Caroline, Cecil and Harford Counties.

Total children served by Head Start, per county:

- Harford County: 223
- Cecil County: 128
- Caroline County: 108

5,230 hours of volunteer service was completed at a value of \$73,881

Total Cumulative enrollment: 459

MRDC Head Start Value Parent Engagement:

Engagement in the early years prepares families to be engaged throughout their child's school years. Most importantly, family engagement efforts support the parent-child relationships that are key to a child's healthy development, school readiness, and well-being now, and in the future.

MRDC Head Start views parents as the primary educators of their children and we welcome and encourage involvement in every aspect of the HS programs. From volunteering in the classrooms and offices to being part of the decision making process. MRDC Head Start's parent engagement opportunities also include parent training which are offered at the center. Variety of opportunities are made available to families to be engaged in their child's education and success.

Opportunities include:

- Policy Council
- Classroom volunteers
- Parent/teacher conferences
- Take Home activities
- Parent Committee Meetings
- Parent trainings
- Home visits
- Education Advisory and School Readiness committee (curriculum and assessment decisions) & Health Advisory and PFCE committees

Marisol Rodriguez, MRDC Head Start Director

Joycetine Brown, Policy Council Chair

Christopher Benzing, MRDC Executive Director

Michael Lawrence, MRDC Board President

School Readiness “School Readiness” is a comprehensive term describing those capabilities of children, their families, schools and communities that best promote student success in kindergarten and the later grades. Each domain is essential to the role in the development of school readiness. The five essential developmental domains include:

1. Social and Emotional Development
2. Language and literacy
3. Approaches to Learning
4. Cognition and General Knowledge
5. Physical Development and Health

MRDC Head Start school readiness goals are aligned to the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework. They provide the foundational information (grounded in research) for what children should be able to know and do to be ready for school.

In order to track developmental progress, children are assessed three times a year fall, winter and spring, to determine whether they are “not meeting,” “meeting” or “exceeding” the expectations for development in these areas. Assessment data is aggregated and analyzed to provide strategies for improvement, which will be added to our detailed school readiness plans.



MRDC Head Start School Readiness Goals!

1. Children will be able to express a wide range of emotions through positive relationships and interaction with adults and peers.
2. Children will demonstrate an interest in English language through the enhancement of writing skills, expansion of language comprehension and expression, including exploration of printed materials in English or in the native language of the children.
3. Children will aspire to the highest level of cognition and general knowledge to successfully shape their physical and social world.
4. Children will be able to consistently express themselves while engaging in creative role play within multiple environmental settings.
5. Children will develop behavior and habits to encourage overall healthy living and enhance their well-being. Children will develop motor skills through manipulation, navigation and balance of various objects.

Health Outcomes: A major hallmark of Head Start’s comprehensive services is the attention to the health and well-being of children enrolled in the program. MRDC Head Start programs link families with their community health resources to ensure that the children enrolled in the program are able to access affordable health care.

Access to Health Care: By the end of the 2017-2018 enrollment year, 99% enrolled in MRDC Head Start had obtained medical insurance and 82% received certified medical exams



Dental Health Care: Over 98% of children had identified a dental home for continuous oral health care and 80% completed dental exam.



Disabilities: MRDC Head Start served 12% of children with documented disabilities, exceeding the requirement of 10%.

Medical Conditions: 12% of children enrolled in the program has been diagnosed with Asthma. The Health Advisory Committee and the Health Department will work cooperatively to address this issue.

Mental Health: MRDC Head Start referred 4 children for mental health services and 100% of the children received services/evaluations 2017-2018 SY.

MRDC would like to acknowledge the following partners for their support of MRDC Head Start: Maryland State Department of Education, PNC Bank, Public Library, Harford, Cecil and Caroline County Public Schools, Judy Hoyer, EHS programs and Choptank Health Services

Head Start funds are received from the following sources:

Federal: **U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children & Families**

U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Child and Adult Care Food Program

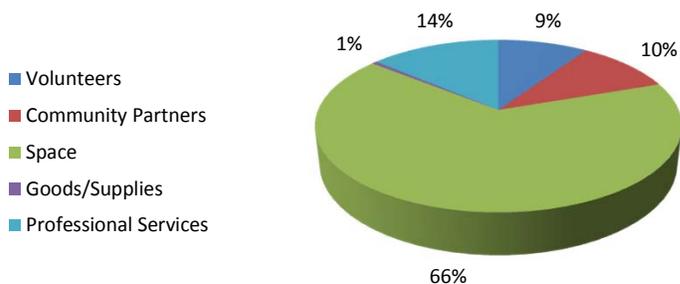
State: **Maryland State Department of Education**

Other: **Lifetouch**

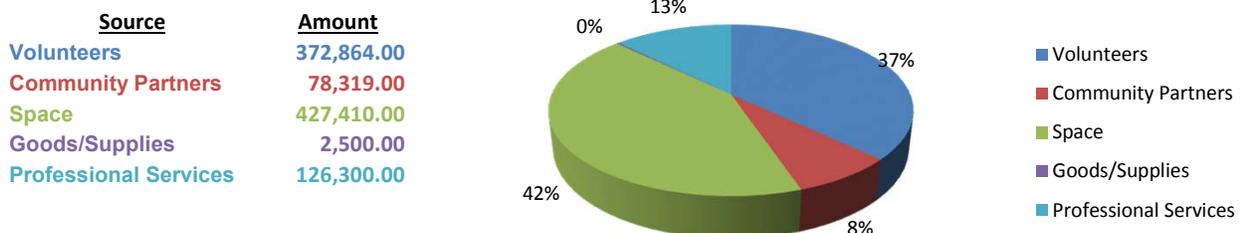
Category	FY17 Budget	FY17 Actual Expenditures				FY17 Total	Percent of Total	FY18 Proposed
		ACF	CACFP	MSDE	Other			
Personnel	2,326,270	1,937,746	-	63,659	-	2,001,405	48.81%	2,575,341
Fringe Benefits	538,715	522,322	-	13,675	-	535,997	13.07%	583,813
Equipment	32,420	65,854	-	-	-	65,854	1.61%	8,295
Supplies	252,589	180,860	174,482	985	596	356,923	8.71%	238,326
Contractual	264,700	220,777	1,382	-	-	222,159	5.42%	238,555
Other	685,418	916,713	1,061	-	-	917,774	22.38%	754,715
Total	4,100,112	3,844,272	176,925	78,319	596	4,100,112		4,399,045

Non-Federal Share:

2017 Actual



2018 Budget



MRDC Head Start was supported by 5,230 volunteer hours in FY17.

Over the past ten years, MRDC has received audit reports with no findings to the financial statements nor the internal control of the organization. The most recent fiscal review (2013) of the MRDC Head Start Program identified no deficiencies.

The Head Start fiscal self-assessment process for FY17 identified no weaknesses nor issues of non-compliance.

MRDC's Finance Policies and Procedures manual was updated in 2015 to reflect the new Uniform Guidance regulations, which govern Head Start.

Fiscal training sessions and reports are provided on a continual basis to the Board, Policy Council and Program Directors to ensure effective communication, understanding, and internal controls.

MANY THANKS TO ALL INVOLVED!