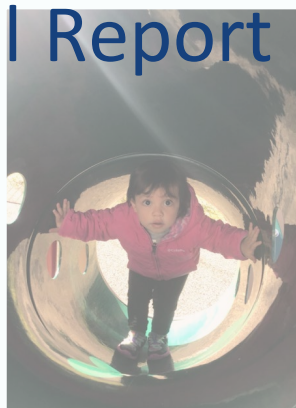




Annual Report 2023-2024



Our mission is to educate children, families and staff by promoting healthy relationships, strengthening child development and empowering the community.

Our vision is a healthy community, with a focus on early care and education, in which families, staff and partnerships are nurtured.

What's Inside

Hear from our leaders and families

Get to know the families we serve

View our health outcomes

Peruse our financials

Glimpse our highlights



Hear from our leaders



Kelly Hart
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As the Executive Director of the Center for Family Resources, I am proud to reflect on the impactful year we’ve had in 2023-24. Our Head Start programs and services continue to serve over 500 children and their families in Passaic County, offering not only early education but also wraparound services that support their growth and well-being. In partnership with Clifton Pre-K, we expanded our reach, serving an additional 165 children. Our Highlands Family Success Center in West Milford remains a vital resource, providing free programs, activities, and information referral services to local families. We are also grateful for the several grants we received through Passaic County, enabling us to offer case management services, as well as the “A Safe Place” program, which helps provide critical support.

This year, our management team has been focused on preparing children for kindergarten, closely following our school readiness goals and transition plans to ensure every child is set up for success. We’ve also adapted to changes in the Head Start program performance standards, always striving to improve and provide the best for the children and families we serve.

As a new leader, I am deeply committed to fostering an appreciative culture within our organization and continuing to work as a cohesive, dedicated team. This marks the end of our 5-year project period, and utilizing the insights from our community needs assessment and self-assessment, we are excited and ready to grow in the next year with a new project period. Looking ahead, I am eager for the opportunities and growth that lie ahead as we continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of children and families in our community.

Board Members:

President: Glenn Kamp

Vice President: Adrianna Espinosa

Treasurer: Lena Maynard

Secretary: Carlyn Walsh

Parent/P.C. Chairperson: Ketty Williams

Clifton Rep: Marissa Papamarkos

Community Representatives:
Jeanette Davidson

Donelle Bright
Edwards W. Martin
Heather Nydan
Noelia Martinez
Karellys Fuentes

Parents:

Ana Fermin- Pompton Lakes
Susan Oriwa- Ringwood
Glenda Vaquerano- Wayne

Policy Council:

Community Representatives:
Swathi Katragadda

Parents:

Angelica Castillo-Montoya- CELA Brighton
Bhavika Ramani- CELA Brighton/Home Based
Moses Mutisya- Wayne
Yessica Tapia- Pompton Lakes

Ashley Kearns- Ringwood
Ketty Williams- West Milford
Valerie DeRobertis- West Milford

Meet Our Board and Policy Members



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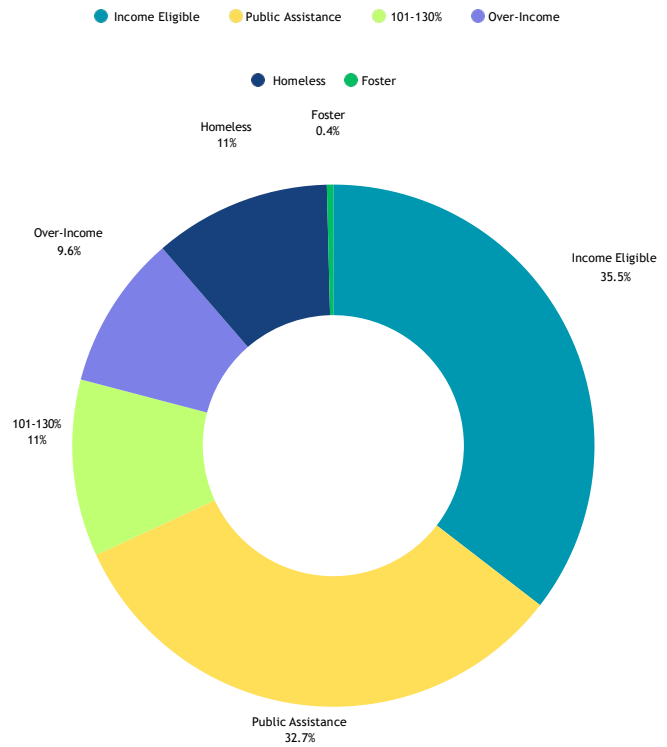
Center for Family Resources will:

1. Ensure that there is a succession plan in place for all positions within the agency to maintain quality in every service area of the program.
2. Ensure that all tracking systems used by the agency (Child Plus, Gold, Financial Edge) are utilized to their maximum capability in order to track data for all service areas in an efficient, reliable and timely manner.
3. Enhance comprehensive services to support the development and learning skills of children & families and decrease the achievement gap upon entrance to kindergarten.
4. Establish a system that ensures that the agency maximizes recruitment efforts focusing on categorically eligible families.
5. Ensure that CFR is fiscally responsible across all service areas.
6. Encourage and support male family involvement in the program and at sites in order to develop healthy and supportive family dynamics.
7. Develop strategies and procedures to ensure technological advances in all service areas.

The Families we serve

Our agency consists of 7 Early Head Start classrooms and 22 Head Start classrooms. Our Head Start classrooms consist of 7 classrooms at our Head Start sites and 15 classrooms in Clifton Public Schools under our Clifton School District collaboration. Our home-based program serves 66 children and 9 pregnant women.

Community and Family Partnerships



A total of 364 Head Start and 138 Early Head Start children were enrolled during the school year, a combined total enrollment of 502 children and pregnant women.

Center for Family Resources Head Start/Early Head Start staff assisted and referred enrolled families to community resources regarding rental, mortgage and utility assistance, food pantry. Enrolled families are encouraged to participate in the Family Partnership Goal Setting Process which helps families in developing family goals with positive outcomes and family well-being. As an agency, we also have two vans on site to help families with transportation to appointments or any service needed.

Volunteers are an integral piece in the effectiveness and operation of the Head Start program. Volunteers include the Governing Board, classroom volunteers, parent and community volunteers, parent activities, monthly parent meetings and program planning assistance. Increased planned parent activities included movie outings, classroom activities led by parents, building bird houses, outdoor dance party, multicultural events and activities and paint nights.



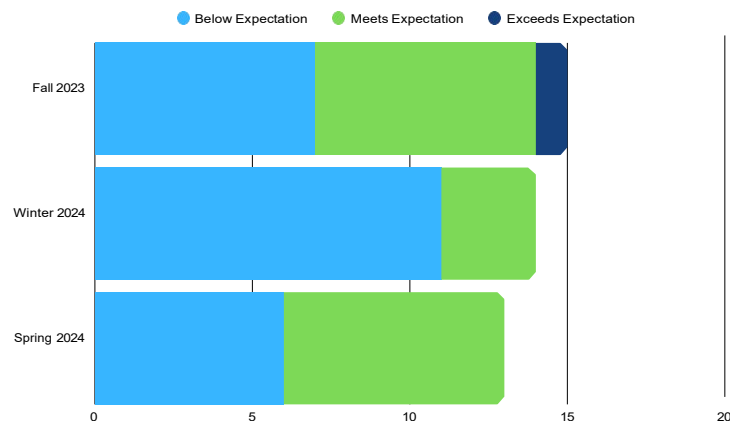
Children who transitioned from head start to kindergarten: 194

Children who aged out of ehs: 1

Children who transitioned from EHS to HS: 91



Early Head Start: The child assessment provided us with important information regarding growth in child development during the 2023-2024 school year. The children had the most growth in the areas of cognitive, literacy, and mathematics according to Teaching Strategies GOLD. They had some growth in the areas of social-emotional, physical, and language according to Teaching Strategies GOLD data collected through the year.



The children in EHS center based had growth in the area of mathematics. The teachers incorporated information that they learned during professional development into classroom activities. Math is used throughout the day in our EHS classrooms. During mealtimes the children are learning math vocabulary such as more, big, small, and numbers. The teachers are incorporating math during choice time, group time, and even personal care time.

Early Head Start Mathematics Teaching Strategies GOLD data

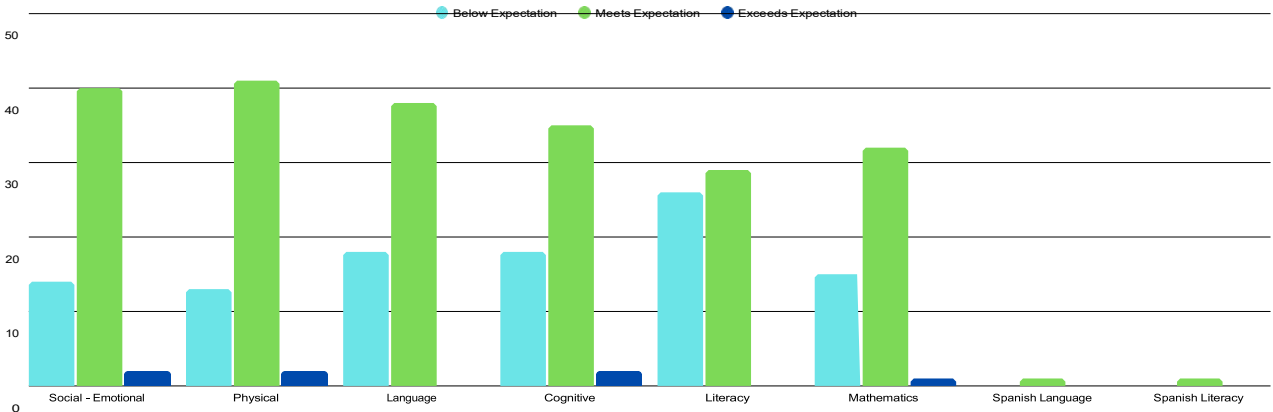
The Head Start children demonstrated gains in the Social/Emotional and Cognitive areas. As a program, emotional literacy is a cornerstone in helping children label and regulate their emotions. Books, games and Yoga give children a solid foundation in this critical area. Cognitive gains emphasized students attending and persisting at tasks, engaging in problem-solving scenarios and practicing higher-order thinking skills.

Kindergarten transition and school readiness is an integral process in the CFR program. There is a focus on preparing for Kindergarten by providing specific support strategies. Families are notified about registration and orientation dates at their respective school districts. Workshops on Going to Kindergarten have been offered at parent committee meetings. Children are given more individualized instruction and take home books about going to school. Children also experience riding on a bus! We have two buses at Center for Family Resources that transport children to and from school in Pompton Lakes and Ringwood.



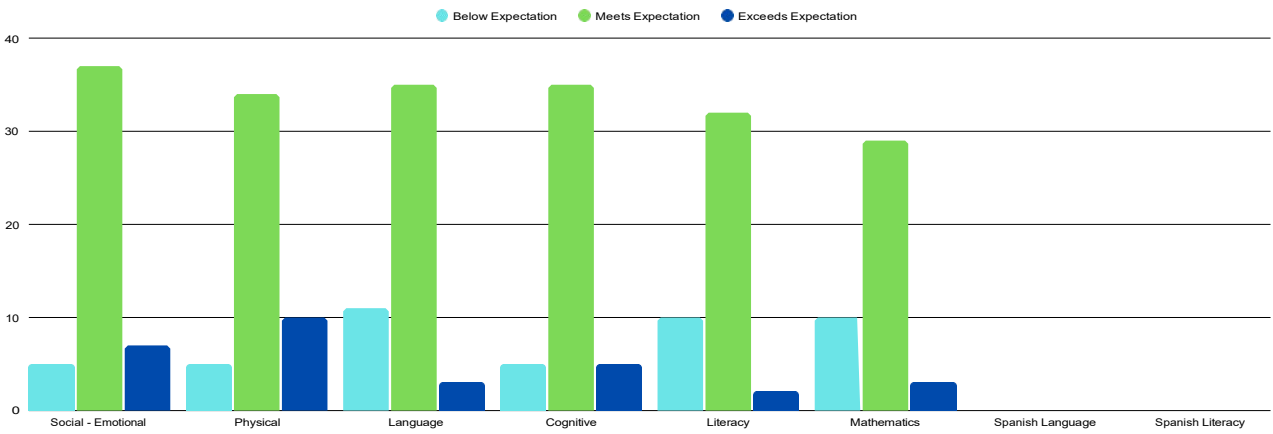
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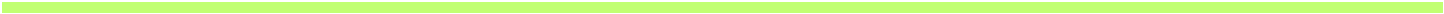
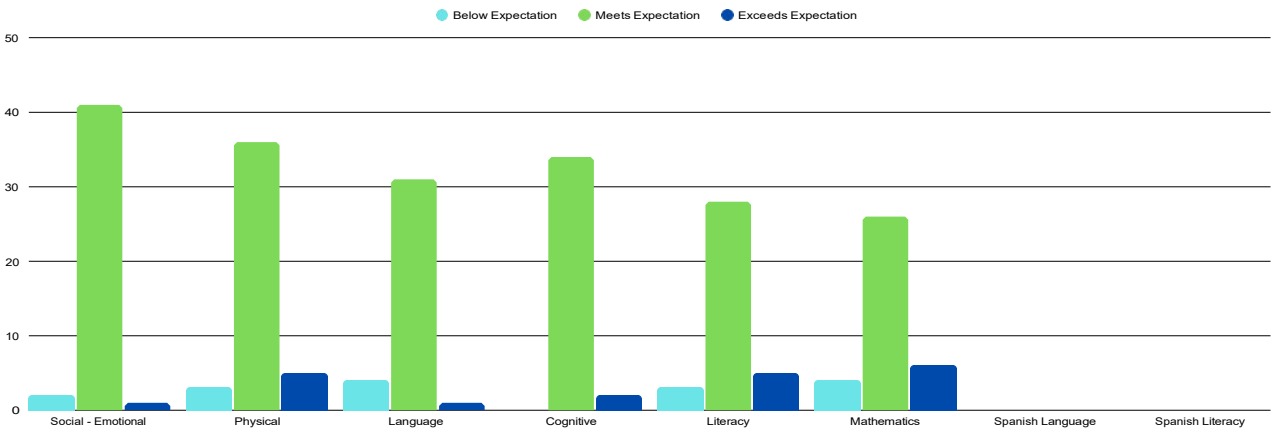
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Special Services:

18 Early Head Start children
receiving services

21 children who obtained
IEPS during the school year

8 memorandums of
understanding with
surrounding school districts

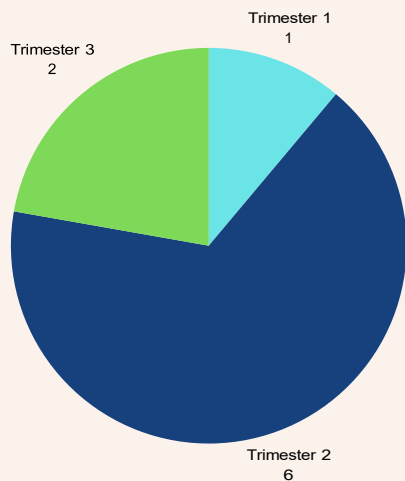
24 Head Start children
receiving services

12 children who obtained
IFSPS during the school year



During the 2023-2024 school year, Special Services helped facilitate occupational therapy, speech therapy, and physical therapy among the 42 children. 1 family of a child receiving early intervention participated in social work services.

Home Based:



Through our Home Based program, 1 woman enrolled during her first trimester, 6 enrolled during their second trimester, and 2 during their third trimester

Within two weeks after birth, 3 women attended their newborn visit, 6 women received care between two and six weeks, 1 received their newborn visit with 6 women going six weeks following the birth of their child. 3 pregnant women was identified as medically high risk.

Pregnant women care numbers

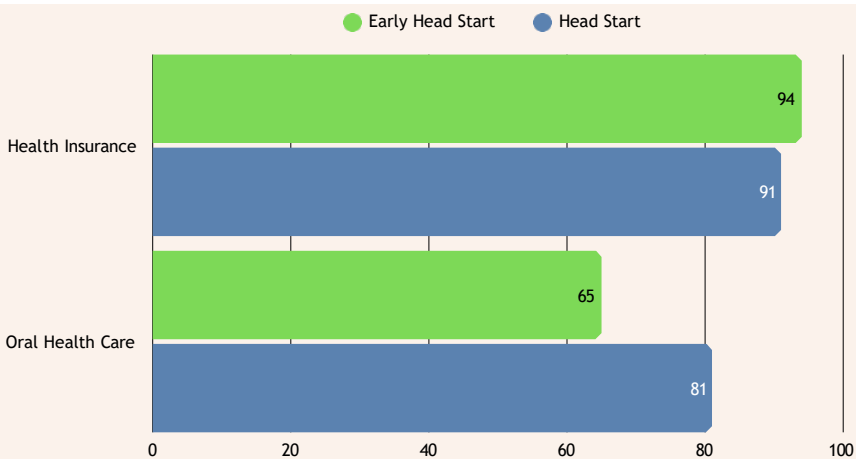


Health and mental health Outcomes

100% of Early Head Start and Head Start Children received well child exams



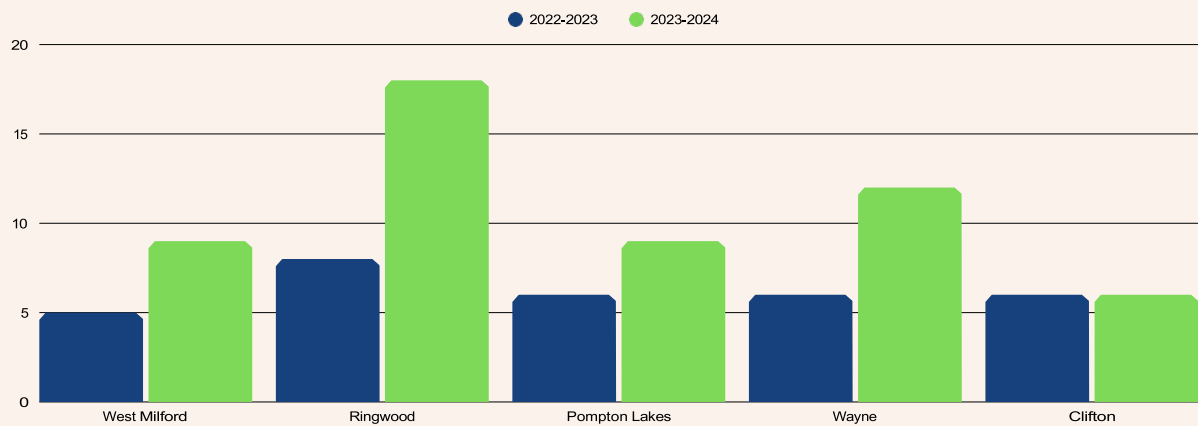
The health team at Center for Family Resources held conferences with the family service and home base workers to ensure all children stay up to date with their physical and oral health care. We work with our local health departments and clinics to help children with no health insurance gain access to free health care. We are pleased to have partnerships with Mountainside Medical Center and Smile Central who have provided dental education workshops and dental screenings. Lead Poisoning prevention workshops provided by Partnership for Maternal and Child Health of Northern New Jersey took place in our Head Start Classrooms. Vision and hearing screenings were performed by the health team, the Lions Club of West Milford and Passaic County and the Clifton District Pre- K nursing staff.



In the 2023-2024 school year, Early Head Start completed the year with 94% of children covered by Health Insurance and 65% of children receiving preventative oral health care

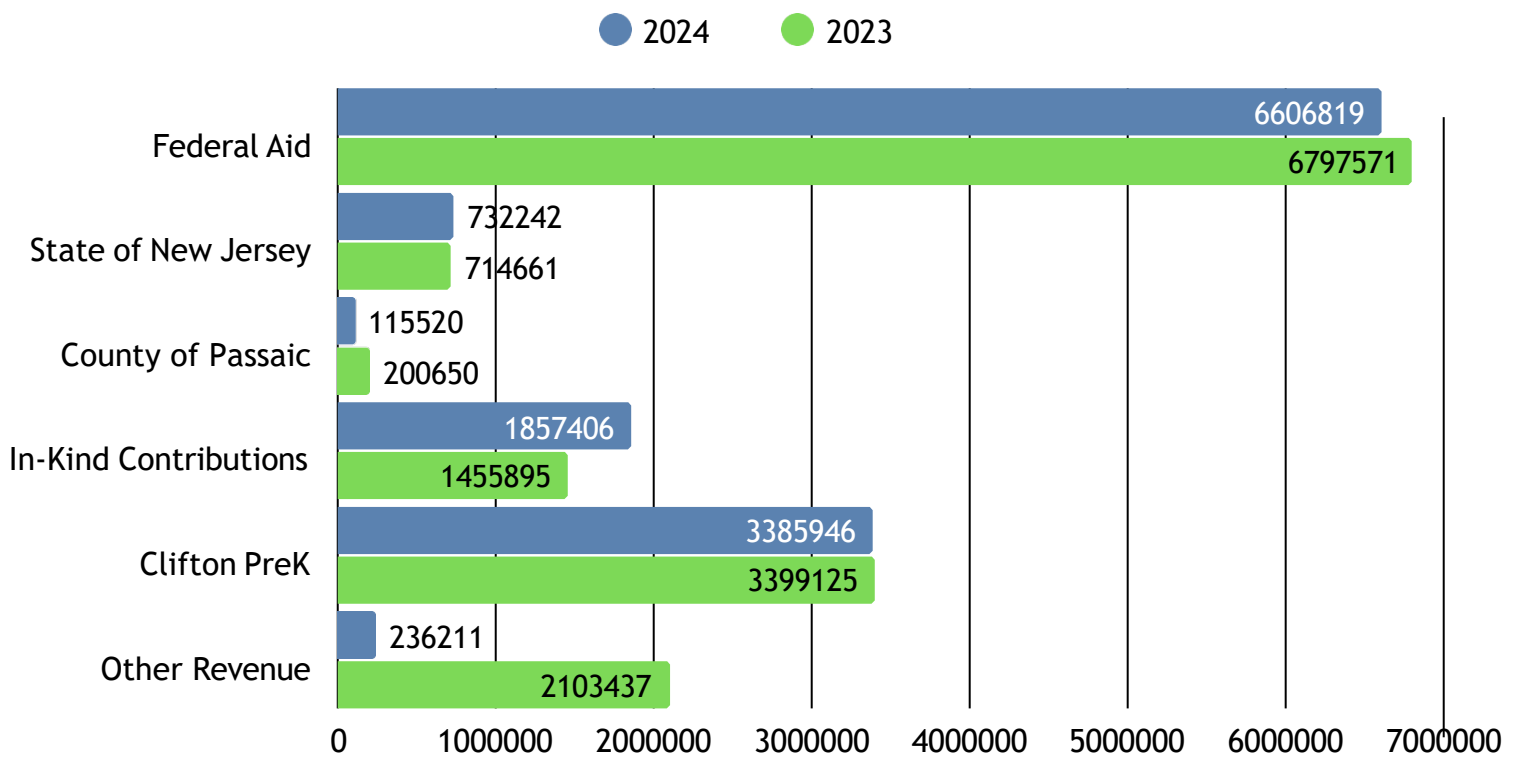
In the 2023-2024 school year, Head Start completed the year with 91% of children covered by Health Insurance and 81% of children receiving preventative oral health care

Children receiving mental health services by site



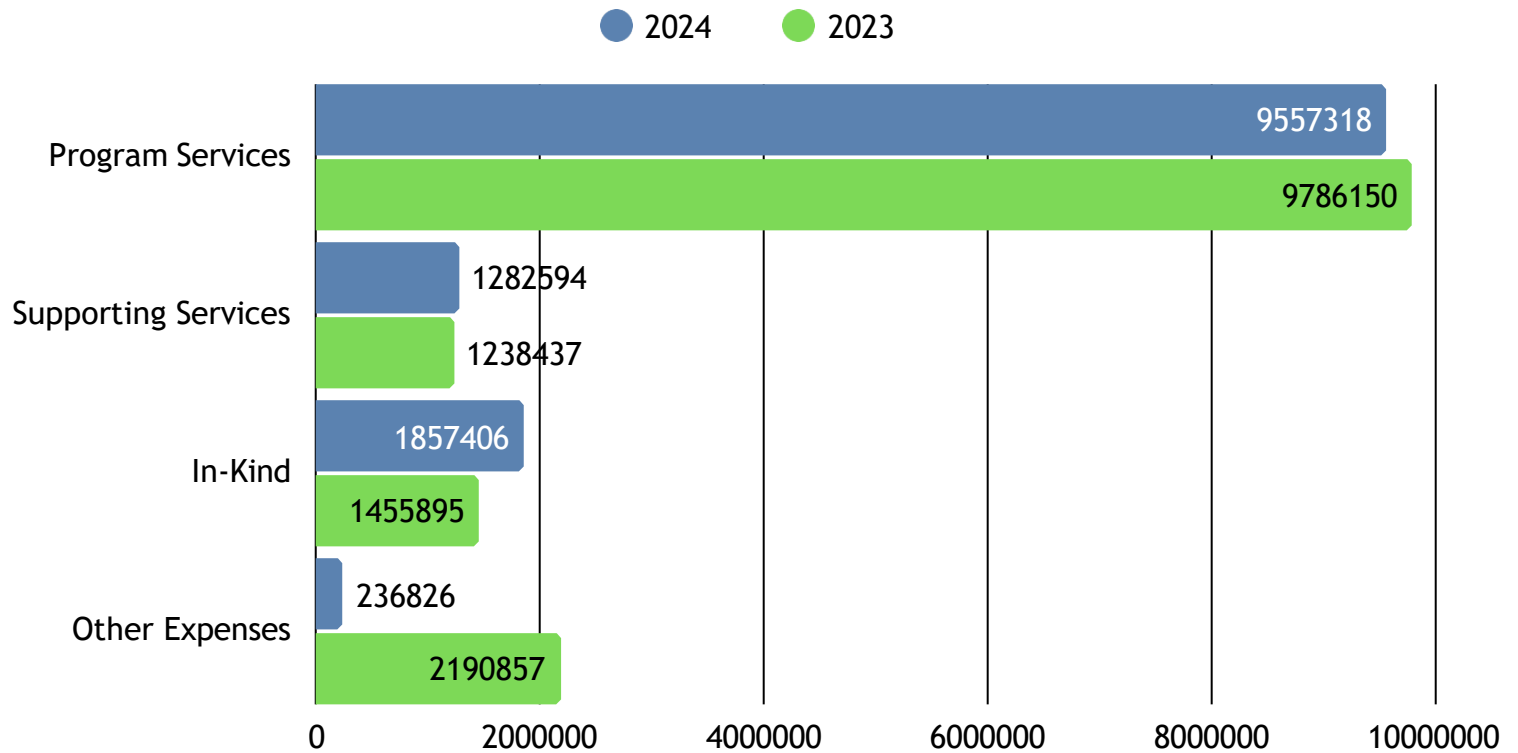
Peruse our financials

Funding Sources:



Total Funding:
2024- \$12,934,144
2023- \$14,671,339

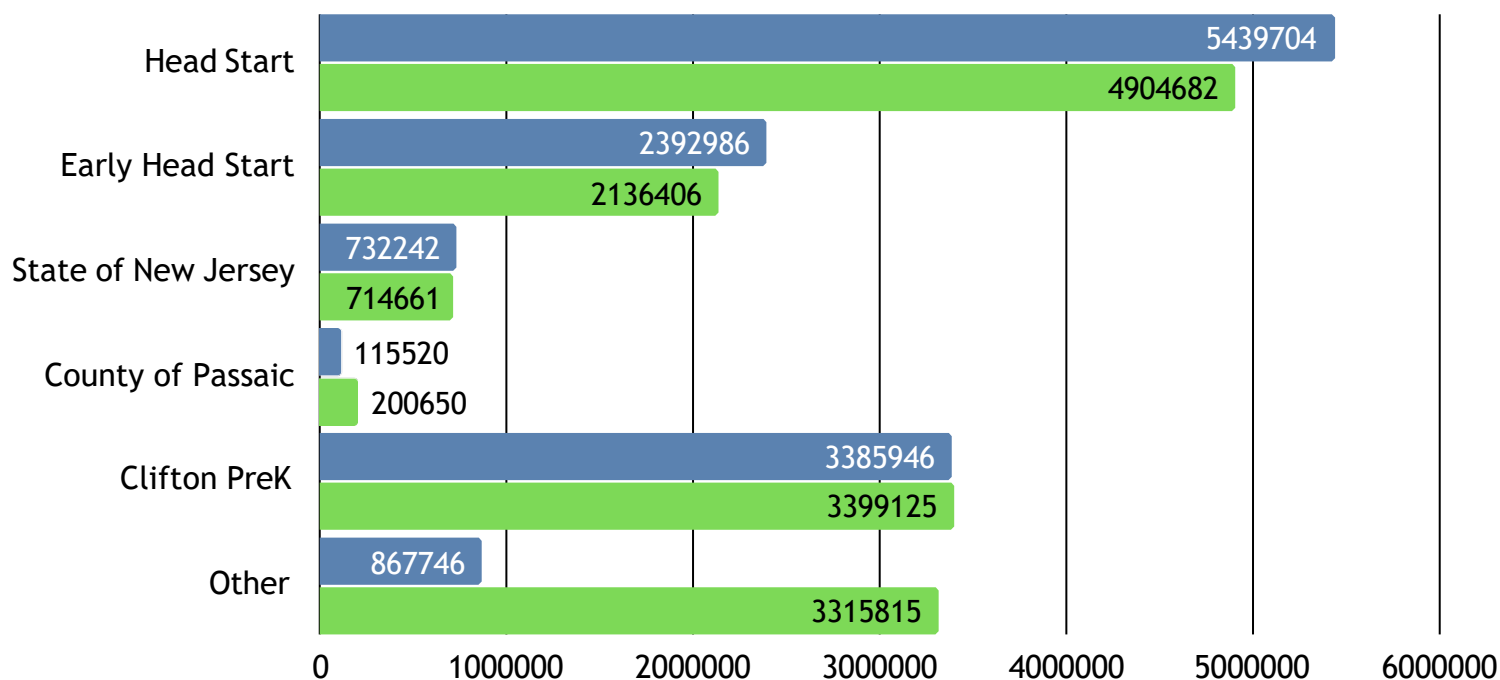
Expenses:



Total Expenses:
2024- \$12,934,144
2023- \$14,671,339

Budget by Program:

● 2024 ● 2023



Non-Federal Share is based on 20% of Federal Expenses

Glimpse our head start highlights

Our garden in Ringwood received a few enhancements such as new garden boxes from one of our Ringwood parents.

Ringwood Garden ReVamp



Thank you Julio and Sebastian Siquenza for all your hardwork! Your time and energy is truly appreciated!

Meghan Moore Literacy Award

Congratulations to this years winner of the Meghan Moore literacy award: Hala El Kaptan. The award recognizes those who incorporate literacy in creative ways throughout the year.



Additional Grants

CFR administers several vital grants that support community services. Additional funding from Passaic County enables CFR to facilitate Case Management services and **A Safe Place**, providing essential resources and support for individuals in need. State funding from New Jersey helps operate the **Highlands Family Success Center** in West Milford, fostering family well-being and community engagement. Federal support, through the **Emergency Food and Shelter Program**, has been instrumental in offering rental and utility assistance, helping families maintain stable housing. These grants collectively strengthen CFR's mission to support and empower children, families and the community.

Highlands FSC- 318 families

Case Mangement- 71 cases

A Safe Place- 9 families/23 individuals

Emergency Food and Shelter Program- Rental /Utility assistance - 28 families, Food - 116 families, which some included only diapers and wipes.

Contact

For further information, please reach out to us at info@cffr.net

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Center for Family Resources

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Website: www.centerforfamilyresources.org