

Report to the Community

Report Period April 1, 2020 – March 31, 2021

Mission

Ashtabula County Community Action Agency will help people achieve self-sufficiency and rise above issues of poverty.

Community Action Responds!

The Ashtabula County Community Action Agency has always addressed issues of importance in the local community. For over 55 years we have been providing vital support and working to develop positive solutions to address those needs and concerns. During the period of this report our community was dealing with a deadly public health crisis, the Coronavirus Pandemic. In this unprecedented time, our services have been more important than ever. We are proud of our efforts to step up and help citizens of Ashtabula County “rise above” difficult physical, mental, social, and economic situations.



community action



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Report to the Community

COVID Impacts

How COVID-19 affected individuals and families when the pandemic hit.

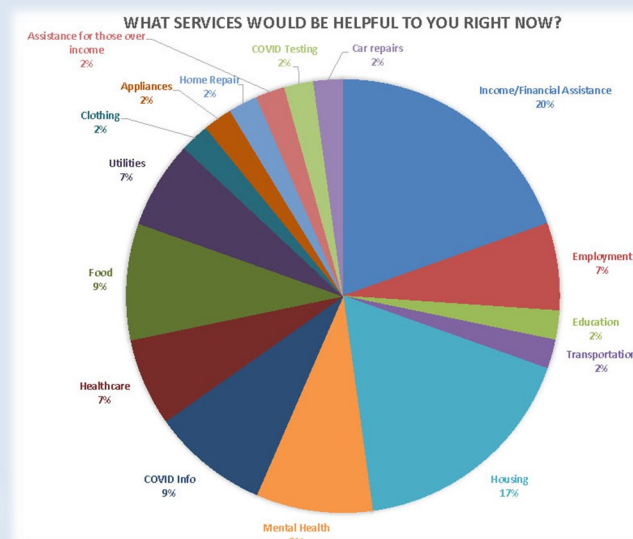
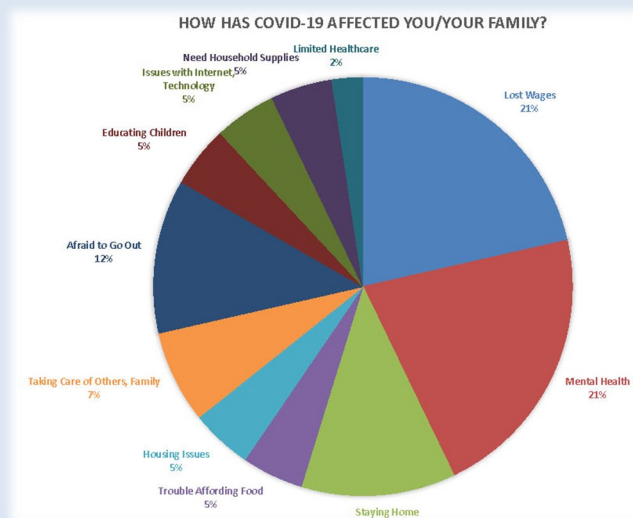
Select responses include:

- “Lost wages. Employed in the service industry, my pay has been cut in half.”
- “Staying home for everything, but work and groceries. Wearing masks.”
- “We have felt very isolated...our broadband services deteriorated...telehealth calls no longer work...lack of supplies.”
- “Financially. Future funds are gone.”

The services cited as helpful to individuals and families during the COVID-19 crisis?

Select responses include:

- “More stimulus money, transportation help.”
- “Healthcare services closed-caused many problems. COVID education and problem solving.”
- “Stable housing.”
- “Financial support.”
- “Assistance for people who don’t fit into the poverty guidelines.”
- “Housing help, help finding healthcare, help finding COVID testing, help with income.”
- “Financially. Future funds are gone.”



We're Open!

Ashtabula County Community Action Agency implemented COVID safety protocols such as daily employee temperature checks, wearing masks, frequent hand washing, and sanitizing of work areas. With these procedures in place, staff worked from the office to the extent possible to ensure our essential services were accessible to the community. Staff that could not perform their normal duties assisted with the COVID emergency activities. We dedicated as many of our resources as possible to the emergency situations that threatened the mental, physical, and economic health and stability of our community.

At the same time, we will seek programs and services to help better prepare our citizens as this pandemic continues to unfold or as new challenges develop.



Report to the Community

COVID Supports

ACCAA was quick to implement supports as quickly as possible. Below is a timeline of responses.

Program Operational Adaptations

- Senior Nutrition Program starts delivering meals to those who were attending congregate meal sites (March 17)
- WIC starts offering appointments from their parking lot (March 19)
- New Hope homeless assistance offers intake over the phone (March 20)
- Community Action Home Visiting begins offering telehealth and virtual “home” visits (March 25)
- Head Start provides virtual online classes to complete school year, Head Start Home Visitors switch to virtual visits (March 17)
- Winter Crisis Program begins taking appointments by phone and extends to May 1st, HEAP extends to June 1st (March 26)
- 2-1-1 starts COVID-19 Information Hotline & takes re-routed calls from Ashtabula County Health Department (March 26)
- Staff begin remote-work and training
- Empowerment Workshops transitioned to virtual format

COVID Response Activities

- Head Start, WIC, and Home Visitors provide supplies, diapers, and wipes to participants (April)
- Community Action distributes soap to seniors in the Senior Nutrition Program and families in Head Start (April 2)
- Dragon Empowerment Center offers parenting support circle virtually (April 14)
- 2-1-1 starts weekly newsletters “4-1-1 on 2-1-1” with timely, upcoming resource updates (April 19)
- 2-1-1 starts “Stitch & Sew” collecting and distributing homemade masks & face coverings (April 25)
- Senior Nutrition Program starts offering grocery shopping and delivery to seniors in need (April 26)
- 2-1-1 offers texting capabilities (May 4)
- Community Action starts providing weekly food boxes to clients – such as Head Start families, seniors, Dragon Empowerment Center families, and formerly homeless households (April 30)
- Community Action begins weekly dinners for area shelter residents (May 27)
- Community Action begins Emergency Rental Assistance program to help households avoid eviction (June 1)
- Community Action provides hygiene bags to clients – such as Head Start families, seniors, and formerly homeless households (June 5)
- Youth Empowerment Workshops begin virtually (June 9)
- Summer Foods Program distributes food by drive through take-out, rather than on-site (June 15)
- Dragon Empowerment Center becomes site for ongoing Farmers to Family produce and dairy distributions (June 24)
- Summer Crisis Program begins by phone appointments only (July 1)
- \$670,000 rent, mortgage, and utility assistance program (November-December)

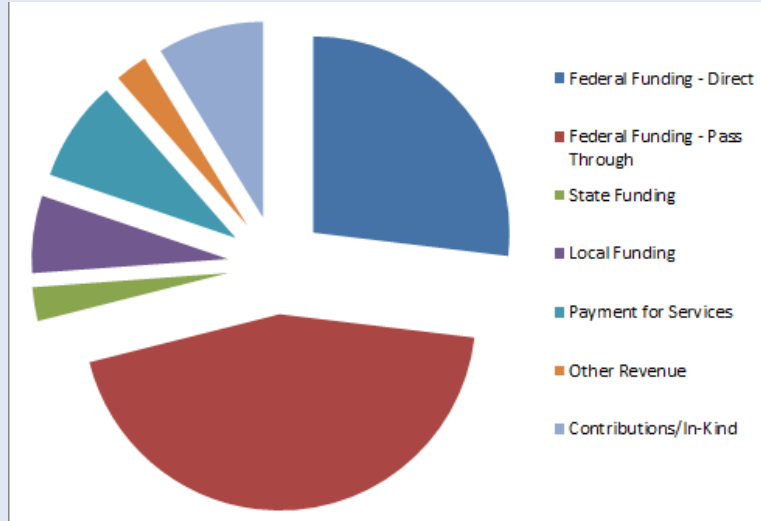


Financial Summary

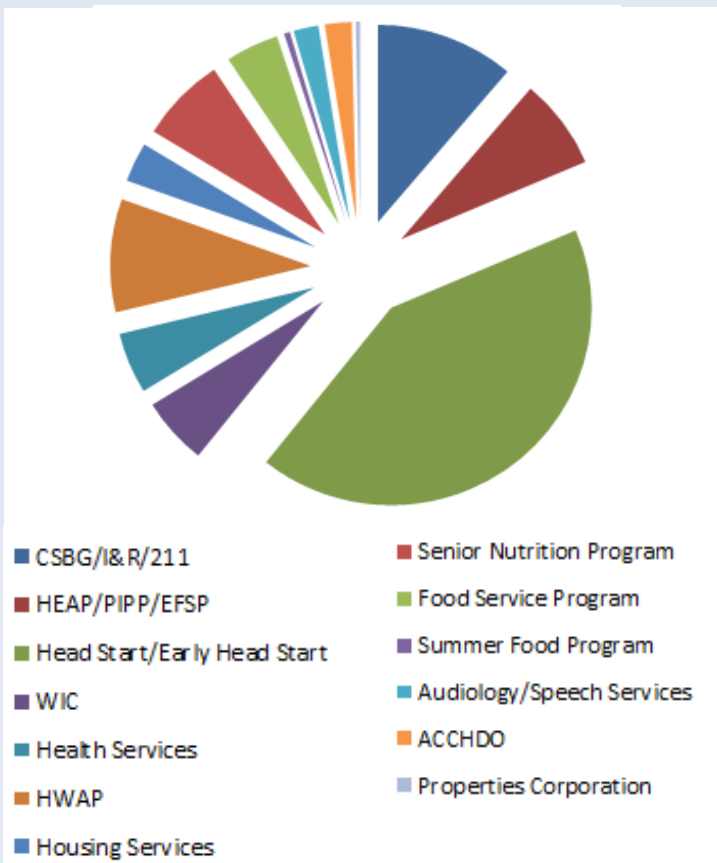
Ashtabula County Community Action is funded by federal, state, local and private grants and awards that have multiple program and fiscal years, as well as varied requirements.

ACCAA 2021 Sources of Funds

Federal Funding - Direct	\$	3,308,855
Federal Funding - Pass Through	\$	5,431,405
State Funding	\$	342,159
Local Funding	\$	784,299
Payment for Services	\$	1,023,961
Other Revenue	\$	330,786
Contributions/In-Kind	\$	1,077,945
Total	\$	12,299,410



ACCAA FY 2021 Expenditures By Major Programs



CSBG/I&R/211	\$	1,315,160
HEAP/PIPP/EFSP	\$	870,986
Head Start/Early Head Start	\$	4,955,980
WIC	\$	648,702
Health Services	\$	588,205
HWAP	\$	1,090,316
Housing Services	\$	380,564
Senior Nutrition Program	\$	821,510
Food Service Program	\$	505,290
Summer Food Program	\$	56,332
Audiology/Speech Services	\$	235,617
ACCHDO	\$	254,229
Properties Corporation	\$	41,765

Total \$ 11,764,658

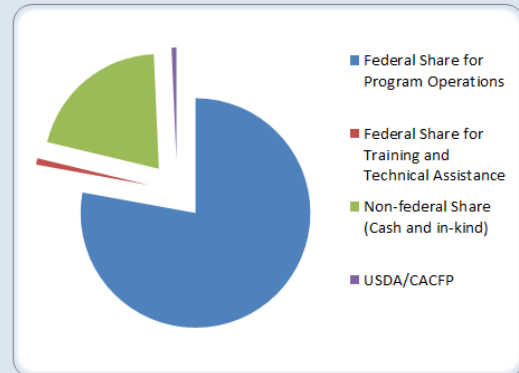
ACCAA

Head Start/Early Head Start Annual Report FY2021

Fiscal Year is April, 2020 through March, 2021

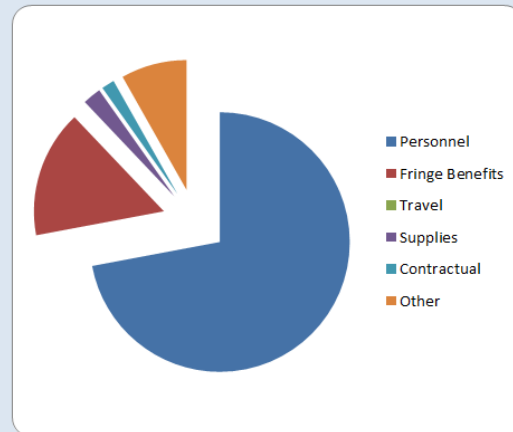
SOURCES OF FUNDS

Federal Share for Program Operations	\$	3,661,357
Federal Share for Training and Technical Assistance	\$	41,736
Non-federal Share (Cash and in-kind)	\$	966,976
USDA/CACFP	\$	32,414
Total	\$	4,702,483



EXPENSES BY CATEGORY

Personnel	\$	3,334,288
Fringe Benefits	\$	734,778
Travel	\$	82
Supplies	\$	105,753
Contractual	\$	74,397
Other	\$	379,036
Total	\$	4,628,335



Personnel - includes wages paid to employees for their services in the Early Head Start and Head Start Programs. It also includes In-Kind wages for donated services.

Fringe Benefits - include the costs for FICA/Medicare, Workers Compensation, Unemployment Compensation, Health/Dental/Life Insurance and Retirement Benefits.

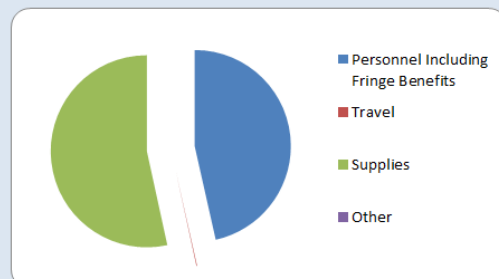
Travel - includes transportation and Hotel/Per Diem charges for out of service area travel.

Contractual - includes the costs for Training Consultants, Health/Disabilities/Mental Health Consultants, Employment related Consultants, Legal and Auditing services and for Computer/Copier/HVAC contracts.

Other - includes costs for all related costs for Buildings/Space, Telephones, Insurance, Vehicles, Staff Development, Postage, Advertising and Recruitment, Local Travel, and Membership Dues.

CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM BUDGET

Personnel Including Fringe Benefits	\$	35,236
Travel	\$	83
Supplies	\$	40,492
Other	\$	-
Total	\$	75,811



The USDA Nutrition Assistance Programs provide children and low-income individuals access to food, a healthful diet, and nutrition education. Through the provisions in the Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-134), any child enrolled in Head Start is now automatically eligible for free meals provided by the USDA Programs. We provide a Breakfast, lunch or afternoon snack while the child attends our Head Start program.



Welcome to our family of services...

2-1-1 Ashtabula County
Information & Referral

Head Start

Audiology & Speech Services

CARES Home Relief Program

Home Weatherization
Assistance Program

Home Energy Assistance
Program & PIPP

Home Repair Services

WIC

Community Action Home
Visiting Program

Homemaker Services

Senior Nutrition Program

Summer Food Service
Program

Self-Sufficiency Programs

New Hope Homeless
Assistance Program

Local Foods Initiatives

Community Learning &
Resource Center (AACS)

ACCHDO, Inc.

Properties Corporation

Administration & Fiscal

For office location and directions for specific programs...please dial 2-1-1.



www.accaa.org

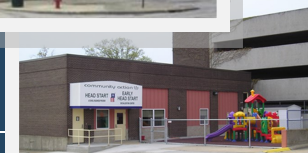
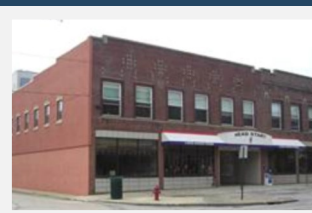


Locations

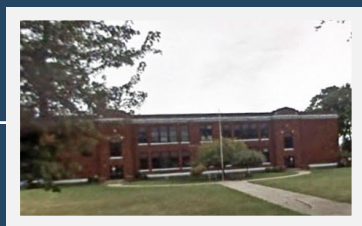
Administration,
Housing & Energy Services
6920 Austinburg Road



Head Start & Early Head Start
4510 Main Avenue



Audiology & Speech Services,
Health & Nutrition Services,
Community Development, &
Head Start Satellite Classrooms
4200 State Road



Board of Directors

PRIVATE SECTOR

Paul Bolino– ACCHDO*

Lori Lee

Lori Pawlowski

Preston Watkins

Georgia Klemencic

PUBLIC SECTOR

Mary Kay Gersin

Anette Griffin

Renee S. Howell– Secretary

Sarah Bogardus

Dr. Debra Barrickman

LOW-INCOME SECTOR

Tania Burnett

Raechel Towner

Janis Dorsten– Treasurer

Ron Loos– Vice Chair

David Speelman– Chair

Our Board of Directors is
composed of fifteen members.

-One third of the members are
representing public officials,

-One third represent the private
sector, and

-One third represent the
low-income sector.

*The Board also has a seat for the
appointee from ACCHDO, Inc.

It also includes an advisory position
for legal expertise with Head Start
regulations.

Michael Meaney– Advisor

More Info

For phone numbers, hours,
and program details just dial...

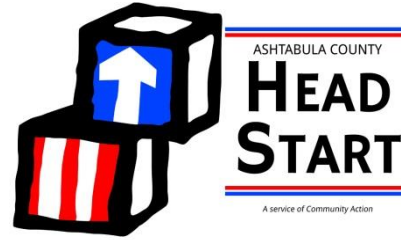


Or visit our website...

www.accaa.org

Head Start

**Annual Report Supplement
2020-2021
(Compiled September 2021)**



Ashtabula County Head Start will empower children, families, and our community by providing support, education, and advocacy.

Who We Serve

Head Start is funded to serve 400 children (ages 0-5), expectant mothers, and their families in Ashtabula County.

We service families that have children with disabilities, are low-income or homeless, or any family who meets the income qualifications.

A family with an age eligible child becomes automatically eligible if they are receiving Ohio Works First, Supplemental Security Income, or if a child is in foster care.

Program Summary

Over the past twelve months, Head Start has served 375 children from 323 families. Of those served, 278 were preschool age and 97 infants, toddlers and pregnant women.

The percentage of enrolled preschool children that acquired medical exams is 86% and 45% received dental exams. 80% of infant and toddlers also had medical and dental screenings.

Program Options

The list below identifies the Head Start sites throughout Ashtabula County. The Program also provides services to children and families through a home visiting option.



Ashtabula

Main Avenue
4510 Main Avenue

Collins
104 W. 45th Street

Edgewood High School
2428 Blake Road

Ontario Elementary School
2304 Wade Avenue

State Road
4200 State Road

Andover

Pymatuning Valley Primary School
5571 State Route 6 West

Conneaut

Lake Shore Primary School
755 Chestnut Street

Geneva

Cork Elementary School
341 State Route 534 South

Jefferson

ATech – Building B
1565 State Route 167

Orwell

Grand Valley Elementary School
111 Grand Valley Ave. West

Audit Report for FY2019 – ACCAA received an Independent Auditor's report via Snodgrass of Northeast Ohio, Inc. for the period ending March 31, 2020 and was issued a "clean" opinion. This means that after review of financial and program records, it was determined financial reports are presented accurately and fairly in all material respects and are in compliance with the rules and regulations governing financial and program reporting.



ABOUT OUR STAFF

Head Start has 75 total staff members.

Qualifications of Staff include...

13 Preschool Teachers

- 1 with a Master degree
- 5 with a Bachelor degree
- 1 working towards a Bachelor degree
- 6 with an Associate degree

6 Infant/Toddler Teachers

- 1 with a Bachelor degree
- 1 with an Associate degree
- 1 with a CDA
- 3 working towards a CDA

13 Assistant Teachers

- 1 working toward an Associate degree
- 12 with a CDA

6 Home Visitors

- 2 with an Associate degree
- 4 with a CDA

2 Family Advocates

- 2 with an Associate degree

7 Site Supervisors

- 1 with a Master degree
- 2 with a Bachelor degree
- 2 with an Associate degree
- 2 with a CDA

5 Program Managers

- 4 with a Bachelor degree
- 1 with a Specialized Certification

3 Coordinators

- All with a Bachelor degree

1 Director

- With a Bachelor degree

How We Prepare Children for Kindergarten

- School readiness goals are established and aligned with Creative Curriculum, DRDP (Desired Results Developmental Profile) Assessments, the Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework, as well as, Ohio Learning and Development Standards.
- Home visits and parent conferences are conducted with families to assist children with school readiness skills by discussing children's developmental strengths, as well as areas to strengthen for kindergarten entry.
- Monthly Parent Meetings are offered at each site presenting a host of parent chosen topics, such as "Preparing Your Child for Kindergarten" and "Developmental Milestones".
- Head Start classrooms are designed to provide developmentally appropriate activities and instruction that will enhance each child's developmental needs.
- Classroom staff continually observe each child, document observations and provide activities to assist each child with specific skills needed to further their development.
- Head Start assists children and families with the transition from Head Start to Kindergarten.
- All children receive developmental, speech, vision and hearing screenings within forty-five (45) days of enrollment. These screenings allow timely referrals to the Local Education Agency (LEA) if necessary.

Family Engagement Within Our Program

Engaging families in their child's learning process is a critical piece of Head Start. From being a part of everyday successes in the classroom to having a say in how the Program is run, families play a huge role in the Program.

Informal and planned communication happens every day! Staff and families discuss children's progress, classroom happenings, changes in a family's life including setting and reaching goals, and various resources available. This is done via home visits, conferences, parenting workshops, informal conversations and group socializations.

Behavioral Specialists can be available to help facilitate conversations. PEP (Parent Event Planning Meetings) and Policy Council provide families an opportunity to voice concerns regarding policies and programming as well as helping to plan family events.

Activities to promote male engagement are offered throughout the year. Getting men involved in a child's education as early as possible has many positive effects. Events like the *Cardboard Challenge*, *Men of the Year Awards*, and *Father Engagement Swim Classes* allow children and the men in their lives time to enjoy special activities together and to welcome men into early education.