



Catholic Charities
Archdiocese of New Orleans

HEAD START

— BIRTH TO FIVE —



2017-2018 ANNUAL REPORT

1000 Howard Avenue • New Orleans, Louisiana 70113 • (504) 523-3755 • www.ccano.org



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This report is prepared to comply with the Head Start Reauthorization Act of 2007, Administrative Requirements and Standards Sec. 644 [42 U.S.C. 9839 (a)(2)].

A MESSAGE FROM CATHOLIC CHARITIES PRESIDENT AND CEO



Dear Friends of Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans,

The mission of Catholic Charities impels us to protect the most vulnerable in our society. There is no one more vulnerable than a child.

As children and families are returning to the school environment, we at Catholic Charities stand ready to help the younger children of Greater New Orleans by ensuring that our Head Start programs deliver the quality of service that children need to thrive and grow in a loving and nurturing environment.

Our Head Start program is currently at five different sites – Covenant House, Incarnate Word, St. John, St. Mary, and St. Paul. For the past 40 years, Catholic Charities Head Start programs have been providing free early childhood education and health, social and nutritional services to qualifying children. We provide not only support to the children but work to make sure their home environment provides the child with a solid foundation as well by supporting the family's goals of educational, financial and emotional health. Our community is stronger when our families are strong and our future – the children – is cared for and empowered.

As recently as August 15, 2018, Archbishop Gregory Aymond reminded us that, “this is an important time for church leaders to recommit themselves to the protection of children and young people. The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People and the policy we have committed to the Archdiocese of New Orleans are very thorough and specific. We follow these policies faithfully. Sometimes, those who do not understand the process question this, but I, along with my coworkers, are intent on being faithful to what we have promised.”

Your generosity and support of this program makes you a participant in engendering a brighter future for our city. We could not do it without you. Thank you for all that you do to ensure that we fulfill our mission to the vulnerable children in New Orleans.

God bless you,

Sr. Marjorie Hebert, M.S.C.

Sr. Marjorie Hebert, M.S.C.
President & CEO



A MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Welcome to Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans (CCANO) Head Start /Early Head Start. I am delighted that you have taken a moment to read the 2017-2018 Annual Report.

As I enter my second year with CCANO Head Start Program, I reflect back on both the challenges and successes within the program over the course of the last few years. In these reflections, I find myself continuously amazed by the accomplishments we have achieved through the dedication, commitment, and partnership of Head Start families, staff, policy council, and governing body members. It is through their perseverance that we have implemented program quality focused on ensuring CCANO children have the means and opportunity to thrive.



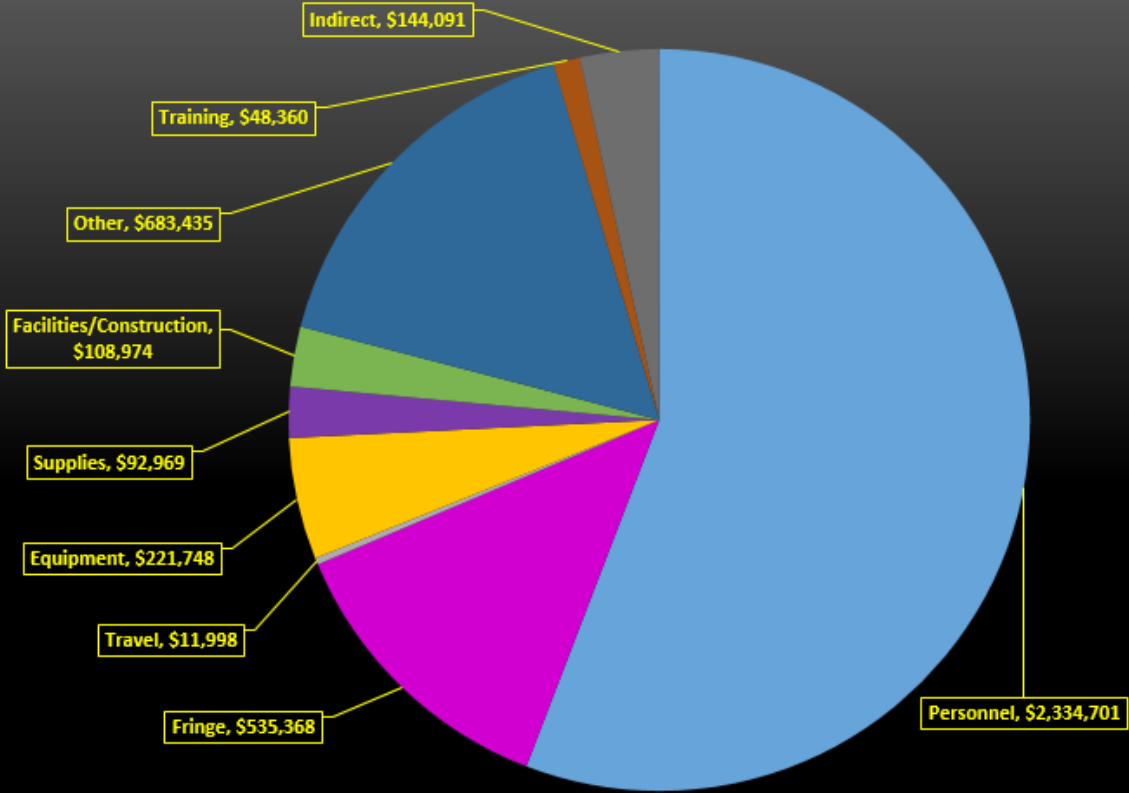
Through this annual report we hope to provide a snapshot of our quality services and their outcomes, which are aimed directly at teaching holistic wellness to a targeted audience. To achieve this, CCANO Head Start/Early Head Start delivers services to children and families in core areas of early learning, nutrition, health, mental health, and family well-being while engaging parents as partners every step of the way.

Moving into future program years, I look forward to this continued partnership with the confidence that we will embrace new challenges and obstacles as opportunities to improve upon our services to children and families. I hope you will join me as we strive towards excellence in the coming years. It takes a community working together to provide high-quality, early learning services to children, and equipping them with the foundation for lifelong learning and success.

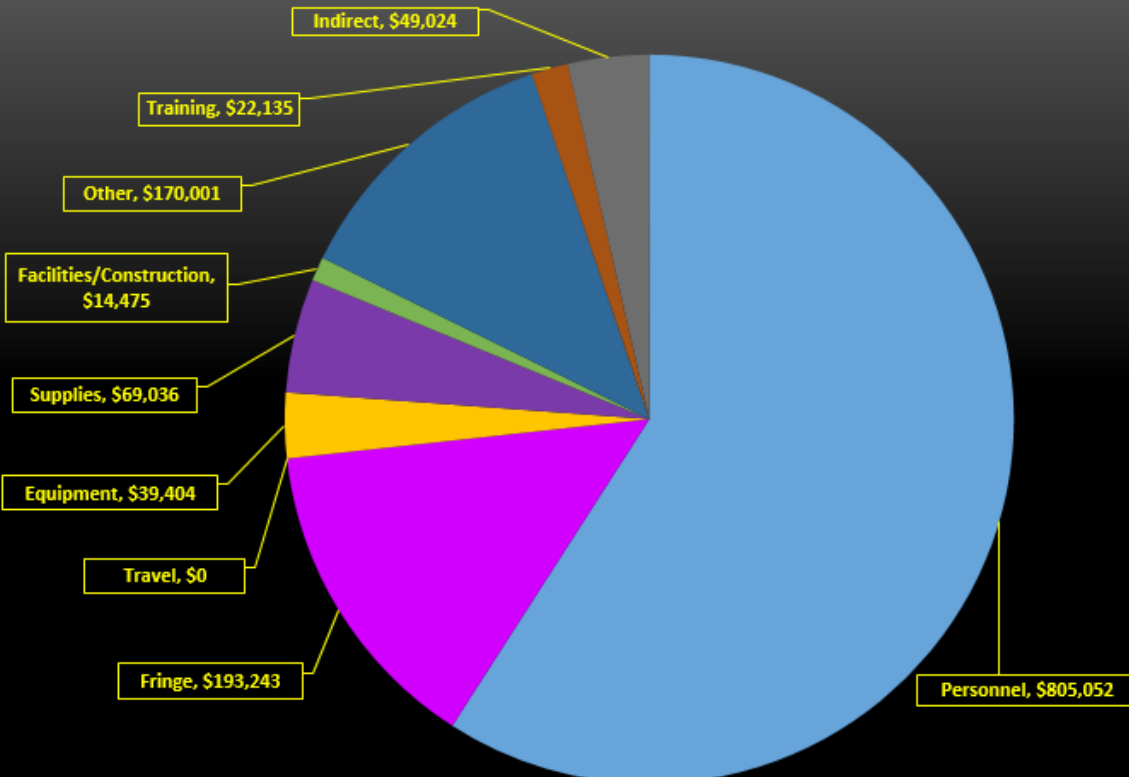
Please enjoy and thank you for taking the time to look over our **2017-2018 report!**

Rhonda B. Taylor
Director of Early Childhood Education Services
Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans Head Start/Early Head Start

HEAD START FEDERAL TOTAL



EARLY HEAD START FEDERAL TOTAL



Services to Families

Health and Nutrition

School readiness begins with health because healthy children are ready to learn. From serving nutritious meals, and providing health and nutrition education, to coordinating health services, our Head Start and Early Head Start staff are dedicated to ensuring that our children are socially, emotionally, and physically prepared for their academic careers.

Nutrition. Our talented cooks have worked hard all year to provide nutritious meals and snacks for our children and staff on a daily basis. This year an average of **4,900** nutritious meals were served every month including a hot breakfast, lunch, and afternoon snack. Our Head Start children got to try exciting new foods and answer the question: “Where Does Our Food Come From?” through their nutrition education activities in the classroom.



Health Services. Children enrolled in our Head Start and Early Head Start programs receive comprehensive health services and screenings to identify and treat any health concerns that may hinder their ability to reach peak academic performance. We work closely with all of our families to ensure that their children have health insurance and that they are established patients at a medical or dental center where they receive continuous and ongoing health care. This is a collaborative effort between our parents, the Family Advocates, the Health and Nutrition Coordinator, and our local community providers and partners.

SUCCESS STORY:

Valshawn Williams

Valshawn Williams is the mother of two beautiful daughters, one of whom is a St. John the Baptist Head Start student. A Head Start staff member approached Ms. Williams about a Catholic Charities program that works to reduce poverty and help parents achieve their dreams.

Ms. Williams excitedly accepted and shared that her dream was to obtain her GED. She worked with Head Start staff to explore her options and decide on an online program that worked best for her schedule.

Despite the challenges she's faced, Valshawn has been focused and committed and is now close to completing the program and obtaining her GED! She then plans to pursue an Associate's Degree in Business.

Her daughter attending Head Start is excited that the two are going to school together. Ms. Williams is grateful to the St. John staff for introducing her to the program and to her daughters, who have served as her inspiration through this process.

School Readiness

CCANO Head Start/Early Head Start defines school readiness as children being ready for school, families ready to support their children's learning, and schools ready for the children who enter their doors. School readiness for children in Head Start is measured by the skills set out in the five domains of the Head Start Early Learning Outcome Framework. Head Start works to meet the overall goal of ensuring the school readiness and social competence of young children in low income families. CCANO Head Start/Early Head Start programs work from the Creative Curriculum which is aligned with Louisiana State Standards, Head Start's Early Learning Outcome Framework, CCANO Head Start's School Readiness Goals, and Teaching Strategies Gold (our ongoing assessment tool). They work to ensure that

children leaving Head Start are fully equipped for kindergarten and beyond. The focus on social competence means fostering the child's every day effectiveness in dealing with his or her present environment and later responsibilities in school and life. Social competence takes into account social, emotional, physical, cognitive, math, language and literacy development of the child. We work to see that families are engaged in their children's learning and development and ready to support their child's lifelong success. Head Start recognizes that parents are their children's primary teachers, and we offer family members opportunities and support for growth and change, believing that people can identify their strengths, needs and interests and are capable of finding solutions.

Kindergarten Preparation

In addition to the skills included in the Early Learning Outcome Framework, CCANO Head Start/Early Head Start prepares children to transfer from Early Head Start to Head Start Pre-K and from Head Start to kindergarten through transition activities. Listed below are the activities we complete to support kindergarten readiness.

- Each center partners with local area elementary schools and invites the principal or teachers from their local school district to attend Parent Meetings. During the parent meetings they are able to share information with parents about the school, the expectations in kindergarten, and the enrollment process.
- Family Advocates support parents with enrolling their children for

kindergarten through the Enroll Nola system.

- Early Head Start and Head Start Teachers complete a transition packet that includes development information about each child.
- Classroom lesson plans include transition activities to ensure a smooth transition.
- Each spring, students transitioning to kindergarten visit an actual kindergarten classroom. Early Head Start transitioning students visit a Pre-K Head Start classroom. This provides students an opportunity to see a classroom and building, as well as interact with students and teachers.

SUCCESS STORY:

Ms. Smith

When a member of the St. John the Baptist Head Start staff first encountered Ms. Smith, mother of student "J.I.", she and her five children had been living in a women's shelter for about five months.

Two months later, Ms. Smith informed the staff member that her family was being forced to leave the shelter, but she had not received any assistance securing more long term housing.

St. John staff contacted UNITY GNO, a nonprofit organization leading a collaboration of organizations that provide housing and services to the homeless, on Ms. Smith's behalf. With this help, Ms. Smith obtained housing as well as financial assistance for three months.

Once she had a place to live, Ms. Smith also found employment, bought her own vehicle, redeveloped a support system and even got engaged!

CLASS

(Classroom Assessment Scoring System)

As a grantee serving preschool age children in the center-based option, all CCANO Head Start preschool classrooms were observed in the fall, winter, and spring quarters of the 2017-2018 school year using the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS). CLASS is an assessment tool that measures teacher/child interactions, as well as interactions between children. The observations were completed by the program Education Component Specialists and contracted Education Specialists from outside the organization.

- **Emotional Support** assesses the degree to which teachers establish and promote a positive climate in their classroom through their everyday 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

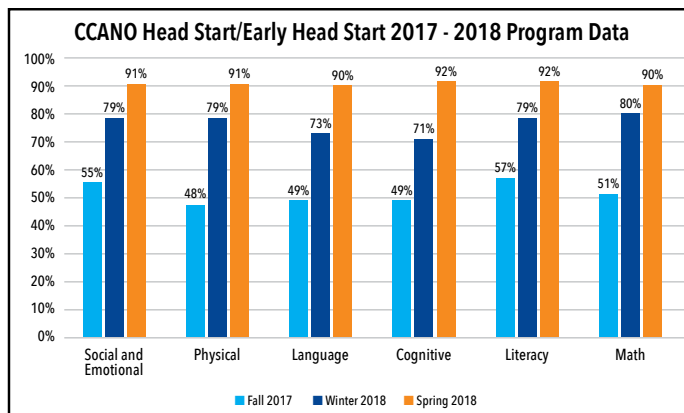
At the national level, in 2016 - 2017, Head Start grantees received CLASS® reviews. Head Start Grantees must not fall below the national lowest 10%. The table below reflects the results of the reviews. The fourth column reflects the results from the program's average scores from the fall, winter, and spring quarter internal observations. CCANO's scores were higher than the lowest 10%.

OHS CLASS® Descriptive Statistics, 2017 National Distribution of Grantee Level Domain Scores				
Domain	Lowest 10%	Median (50%)	Highest (10%)	CCANO CLASS Scores
Emotional Support	5.7024	6.09	6.48	5.98
Classroom Organization	5.3264	5.85	6.33	4.34
Instructional Support	2.3095	2.97	3.65	3.63



Ongoing Assessment

Teaching Strategies Gold is the research-based tool our program uses to assess the growth of our students. We assess our students at the end of the fall, winter, and spring checkpoints. Data generated from TSG is used to guide instruction, individualize, plan professional development, and drive decisions made for the program. The graph below shows CCANO Head Start/Early Head start student's growth as a program across all domains.



Mental Health: Family Services

The Mental Health Coordinator offers emergency counseling services to Head Start families in the event of a crisis, death, or violence. Usually after two or three counseling sessions, the family is referred to a preferred community mental health provider so that ongoing counseling and support can be continued. The Head Start Mental Health Coordinator

also speaks about mental health topics of interest at monthly center parent meetings upon request. CCANO continues to utilize a Child Assistance Team (C.A.T.) at each center to refer students that may need help either behaviorally or academically to the Mental Health / Disabilities Coordinator using a team approach.

Disabilities: Family Services

If a child is in need of behavioral or academic support, CCANO will engage a Child Assistance Team (C.A.T.) to refer students to the Mental Health / Disabilities Coordinator utilizing a team approach. This team consists of: Teacher, Family Advocate, Center Director, Teacher Mentor, and Mental Health and Disabilities Coordinator. Families can also refer their children whom they suspect may have a developmental delay. Once a referral(s) are made by parents, the Disabilities Coordinator will conduct a classroom observation of the child.

Results and recommendations are discussed confidentially at a C.A.T. meeting with parents and the Disabilities Coordinator will initiate the evaluation process with the Orleans Parish Schools Exceptional Children Services or Easter Seals Early Steps Program. After a full evaluation has been performed, and diagnosis has been given for a child, either an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) or Individual Educational Plan (IEP) will be formed for the child. To date in 2018, CCANO has initiated or monitored the implementation of 25 IEPs and/or IFSPs.

SUCCESS STORY:

Mary Ellis

Mary Ellis, parent of St. Mary of the Angels Head Start student "R.", has experienced more hard times than most this year. "R.'s" father suffered a stroke and was hospitalized for a month and a half. During this time, Mary's mother passed away and she had to travel out of town to help with funeral arrangements.

Despite all of these hardships, Mary found the time to participate in Habitat for Humanity and is now preparing to build her own home – all while "R." receives the education and care he needs at St. Mary!



Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans Head Start/Early Head Start DISABILITIES AND MENTAL HEALTH

Head Start Center	Children with an IEP or IFSP	Disability and Mental Health Concerns Identified
St. John the Baptist Head Start	4	11
Covenant House Early Head Start	1	2
St. Mary of the Angels Head Start & Early Head Start	4	16
Incarnate Word Head Start & Early Head Start	10	16
St. Paul Head Start & Early Head Start	6	8
Total Number of Children Served	561	
Total Funded Enrollment Seats	494	

Services To Families

CCANO is funded to provide Head Start Services to 402 preschool age children and Early Head Start services to 92 infants and toddlers. The total number of children served was 561.

The average monthly enrollment in the Head Start program was 93% and of that number 79% were

income eligible, 11% were experiencing homelessness, and 7% were in receipt of public assistance.

The average monthly enrollment in the Early Head Start program was 90% and of that number 75% were income eligible, 18% were experiencing homelessness, and 6% were in receipt of public assistance.

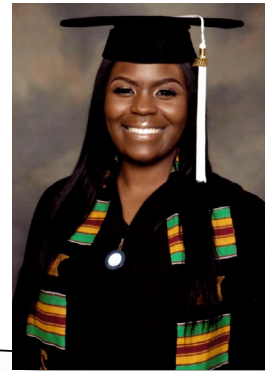
Funded Head Start Seats	402
Funded Early Head Start Seats	92
Total Number Served Head Start	437
Total Number Served Early Head Start	124
Total Number Served HS and EHS	561
Average Monthly Enrollment Head Start	93%
Income Eligible	79%
Public Assistance	7%
Homeless	11%

Parent Engagement Activities

Parents and families are supported in achieving their own goals; such as housing stability, continued education, and financial security. Our family well-being programs support and strengthen parent-child relationships and engage families around children's learning and development.

Many parents who enroll their children in Head Start and Early Head Start also receive educational services themselves. We have assisted many of our parents in obtaining their GEDs and enrolling in college classes. Some parents also take our English as a Second Language (ESL) classes and receive guidance on the path to citizenship.

Parents also receive education about child rearing, as well as job training. Each family is different, so depending on individual needs, parents and other family members may also be referred to medical, social welfare or employment specialists for services.



Thank you Catholic Charities
for opening your Doors
and arms to me & Jounie.
We are so blessed and
thankful.
Love Always
Sydnie & Jounie

SUCCESS STORY:

Jamari Monnie

In the spring of 2018, Jamari Monnie, mother of St. Paul the Apostle Early Head Start student "J.M.", graduated from Lake Area New Tech Early College High School.

Through the struggles of teen parenthood, she managed to complete her coursework and graduate with a 3.0 GPA. She has now enlisted in the Army and will attend basic training camp in the fall of 2018.

Jamari credits her success to the encouragement and support of her parents and the staff at St. Paul the Apostle.



2017-2018 PARENT SURVEY RESULTS

147 Survey Responses

Incarnate Word, St. Mary of the Angels, & St. Paul the Apostle

Parent feelings about the program	% Agree	% Disagree/ Not applicable
I was satisfied with this year's Head Start program.	97%	3%
The classroom staff related to my child's needs.	100%	0%
The classroom staff was interested in my family.	91%	9%
I have learned about teaching my child from the classroom staff.	91%	9%
The classroom teacher spent time talking with me.	94%	6%
My child learned from attending classes.	97%	3%
Head Start helped my family in other areas, such as education (GED, College), linkage to agencies, employment opportunities, and self-esteem.	74%	28%
I found the open house/parent orientation to be helpful.	88%	18%
I found the parent meetings to be helpful.	80%	20%
I was able to volunteer in the classroom.	82%	18%
Did you or your child change as a result of participating in Head Start?	% Agree	% Disagree/ Not applicable
The amount of time I spend playing with my child.	82%	18%
The amount of time I spend making things with my child.	82%	18%
How I feel about my ability to teach my child.	85%	15%
How well my child gets along with other children.	88%	12%
How interested my child is in learning.	91%	9%
The amount of time my child spends looking and listening to stories.	88%	12%

Troy University Volunteers Visit St. John the Baptist

In December of 2017, the Troy University Trojan football team traveled to the Big Easy to play in the New Orleans Bowl. During their stay, they spent a morning at our St. John the Baptist Head Start center playing basketball, riding bikes, laughing and just enjoying the students' company.

When it was time to go, our students thanked the Trojans for coming and wished them luck in the big game – and they won!





Catholic Charities
Archdiocese of New Orleans

Head Start Centers

2017-2018 Policy Council Representatives

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Keshanica Andrews (*Alternate*)

INCARNATE WORD

Karcel E. Hall – Vice Chairperson
Denise Roberson – Chairperson
OlaKunle “Francis” Ojo (*Alternate*)

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Kaleshe Garrison – Secretary
Mikita Webb
Natasha Jones
Farrah Darby (*Alternate*)

ST. MARY OF THE ANGELS

Krystal Christmas
Oriana Mabens
Rodnik Hughes (*Alternate*)

ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE

Brittany Thompson
Denita Cotton
Briea Stamps
Isaac Brooks (*Alternate*)

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Caroline Martin (*Former PC Member*)

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HEAD START

8326 Apricot Street • New Orleans, LA 70118

contact: Rhonda Taylor

(504) 861-6359



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Archdiocese of New Orleans

1000 Howard Avenue, Suite 200 • New Orleans, Louisiana 70113

(504) 523-3755



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