



**Head Start &
Early Head Start**



Catholic Charities

Archdiocese of New Orleans

Head Start Program



Head Start Annual Report 2025

This report is prepared to comply with Public Law 110-134, “Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007.”

This act states that:

Each Head Start agency shall make available to the public a report published at least once in each fiscal year that discloses the following information from the most recently concluded fiscal year, except that reporting such information shall not reveal personally identifiable information about an individual child or parent.



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*Provide supportive, loving care to
preschool children by trained staff.*

*Offer a well-rounded, quality program that
promotes the child's overall development.*

*Prepare our families for a school
environment so that they can successfully
navigate the public school system and
advocate for their children when necessary.*

*Empower our families to engage in their
communities as well as effectively utilize
community resources.*

*Teach the child skills such as proper
expression of feelings and emotions,
acceptance of rules and limits, and how to
socialize with other children.*

*Maintain a safe, clean and healthy
environment that ensures our children's
well-being.*

*Encourage curiosity and instill a life-long
love of learning within our children.*

*Foster children's understanding of values
and morals.*

*Assist our families in developing a positive
relationship with their child.*

*Be a resource for our families to enable
their self-sufficiency and growth.*

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A Message from the Director of Early Childhood Education

Strengthening family relationships is essential to prepare our young children for success in school and throughout life.

August 2024

I am proud to present the 2024 Annual Report for the Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans (CCANO) Early Head Start & Head Start Preschool Program.

CCANO remains steadfast in its mission to enhance the quality of life for eligible children and families in Orleans Parish by delivering high-quality, developmentally appropriate services to children from prenatal through age five—regardless of gender, race, creed, color, national origin, or disability.

Our approach is rooted in the belief that supporting the whole child is essential. Every child, in every school, and in every community deserves to be healthy, safe, engaged, supported, and challenged. We uphold the principle that children need to be well to do well.

Through our early childhood education programs, we support both academic and social success. We offer comprehensive services in health, education, nutrition, and family support, fostering strong and lasting family relationships. Equally important, we continue to prioritize the health and wellness of our dedicated staff, who are the foundation of our program’s success.

As we look ahead to the 2024–2025 school year, our goal is to fill our classrooms to capacity, ensuring more children have access to quality early education. I am deeply proud of the collaboration between our administrative team, center staff, teachers, and families, who have once again demonstrated unwavering commitment to excellence in early learning.

CCANO is deeply committed to empowering parents as their child’s first and most important teachers. We invite you to explore this Annual Report to learn more about our achievements and continued efforts.

Sincerely,

Tonya R Credit

Tonya R Credit
Director of Early Childhood Education



About Head Start!

The Head Start Approach

Head Start programs foster the growth and development of children from birth to age five by providing comprehensive services that support early learning, health, and family well-being. A core principle of Head Start is active parental engagement—families are recognized as vital partners in promoting strong outcomes for children.

These services are provided at no cost to eligible families. Head Start preschool programs serve children ages 3 to 5, while Early Head Start focuses on children from birth to age 3 and often includes support for expectant families. Many programs offer both Head Start and Early Head Start services, delivered in a variety of settings, including center-based, home-based, and family childcare environments.

All Head Start programs are committed to delivering high-quality, developmentally appropriate services in safe and nurturing spaces, preparing children not only for school, but for lifelong success.

Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans (CCANO) has proudly provided Head Start services since 1980.



General Information

Grantee

Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans

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Telephone

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Head Start Director

Tonya R Credit

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Agency Website

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Program Overview & Site Locations

Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans receives federal funds to provide services to **300** Head Start and **116** Early Head Start children in Orleans Parish, which lies within the Greater New Orleans Region. The service area comprises districts identified by demographic and community data as high-need priority areas: (1) Uptown/Carrollton, (2) Bywater, (3) New Orleans East, (4) Central City and (5) French Quarter.

Name Location of Center	Neighborhood Planning District	HS Enrollment	EHS Enrollment
St. John the Baptist HS/EHS 1920 Clio Street	Central City, Central City/Garden District	54	24
Incarnate Word HS/EHS 8326 Apricot Street	Leonidas, Uptown/ Carrollton	74	16
St. Mary of the Angel HS/EHS 2225 Congress Street	Florida Area, Upper 9 th Ward	49	16
Covenant House Early Head Start 611 N. Rampart Street <i>(Closed Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic)</i>	Treme/Lafitte (French Quarter)	0	20
St. Paul the Apostle HS/EHS 6828 Chef Menteur Highway	Plum Orchard, New Orleans East	123	40
TOTAL:		300	116

OUR MISSION

Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans Head Start Program provides quality developmentally appropriate services to children (prenatal to 5 years) without regard to gender, race, creed, color, national origin, or

OUR GOAL

To empower families and inspire a life-long love of learning in children.

OUR CORE VALUES

- ♥ We strive for excellence through continuous improvement and best practices.
- ♥ We create safe and nurturing high-quality environments for children and staff.
- ♥ We seek to assist families achieve their goals through the creation of partnerships between families and Head Start.
- ♥ We seek to improve the community in which our families live by becoming an active participant in community improvement initiatives and by serving as advocates for young children and their families.
- ♥ We seek to empower our families by providing them with information, knowledge and skills.
- ♥ We seek to fully involve families in Head Start by providing parents with opportunities to share, grow and prosper in the Head Start experience.

Preparing Children for Kindergarten and Beyond

School Readiness

Catholic Charities Head Start/Early Head Start defines school readiness as a shared responsibility involving children being prepared for school, families equipped to support their child’s learning, and schools prepared to welcome and support incoming students. We work to promote school readiness for children from birth to age five by supporting the five domains outlined in the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework. By creating nurturing, responsive, and secure environments, we empower every child to reach their fullest potential and believe that all children can establish a solid foundation for lifelong learning.

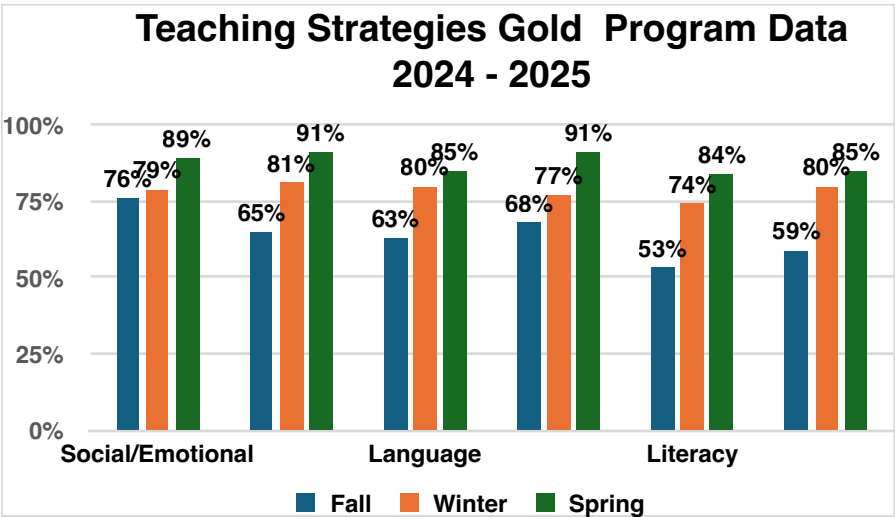
School Readiness Outcomes

CCANO Head Start/Early Head Start strives to achieve child outcomes that ensure school readiness and social/emotional competence in young children from low-income families. We use the Frog Street Curriculum for Infants, Toddlers, Threes and Pre-K which is a comprehensive, research-based curriculum that integrates instruction across developmental domains and early learning disciplines.

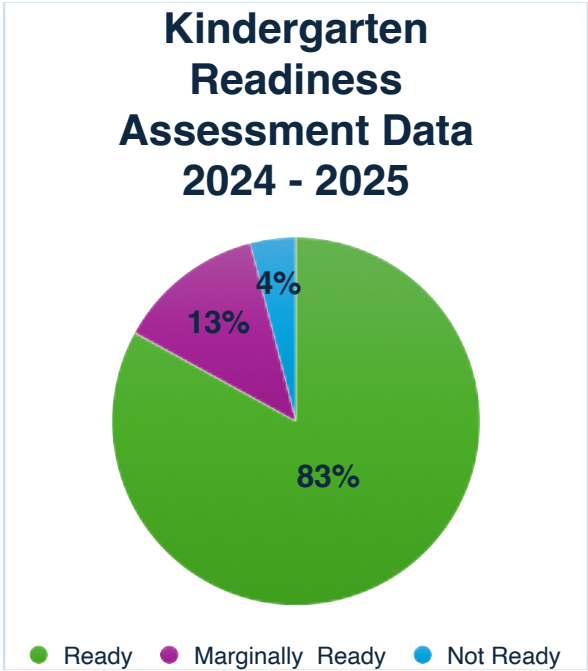
To assess children’s progress, CCANO Head Start/Early Head Start uses Teaching Strategies Gold (TGS) and the Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRPD) as our ongoing assessment tools. Students are assessed quarterly (fall, winter, and spring).

Teaching Strategies GOLD (TSG) and the Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP) are developmental continuums that span from early infancy through kindergarten entry. These formative assessment tools guide instructional planning and program development by enabling teachers to observe children within the context of their everyday experiences, providing valuable insight into what children know and can do.

The graph below illustrates the growth of Head Start Preschool and Early Head Start students across all developmental domains for the fall, winter, and spring quarters. The scores represent the percentage of students meeting widely held expectations for their age group.



The Kindergarten Readiness Skills Assessment is administered to Head Start Pre-K students who are preparing to transition into kindergarten. This tool helps evaluate each student’s readiness for the next stage of their educational journey. Despite challenges such as staffing shortages and lower enrollment, our dedicated teachers worked hard to ensure students were well-prepared for kindergarten. The graph below reflects the level of kindergarten readiness achieved by our students by the end of the 2024–2025 school year.



**Health &
Services**

Proper nutrition and health services are

Nutrition

comprehensive fundamental to

healthy development in early childhood, supporting both school readiness and long-term well-being. At Head Start Preschool and Early Head Start, our staff are deeply committed to promoting children's physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development, while also working to reduce the risk of chronic and infectious illnesses.

Nutrition Services

Good nutrition is a vital part of a healthy lifestyle. Eating nutritious food provides children with the essential nutrients they need to grow strong, stay healthy, and remain active.

Throughout the year, children are served well-balanced meals and snacks, including breakfast, lunch, and afternoon snacks, in accordance with the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) guidelines.

We continued our valued community partnership with the Food Policy Action Council (FPAC) **to implement** Farm to Early Care and Education (ECE) activities at our centers. These activities included school gardening, taste-testing fresh fruits and vegetables, and exploring healthy snack options—offering children engaging and firsthand nutrition experiences.

Additionally, we introduced a new nutrition curriculum, We Inspire Smart Eating (WISE), in all our Head Start Preschool classrooms serving children ages 3–5. Each month, the curriculum focuses on a featured fruit or vegetable. Every week, children participated in direct food experiences, helping prepare and taste snacks using the featured produce.



Health Services

Our centers provide comprehensive health services and screenings for all enrolled children to help identify and address any health concerns that may impact their learning and development. Head Start Family Advocates work closely with families to ensure that each child receives consistent and ongoing health care, supporting their overall well-being and school readiness.

Fruits:
Focus on fruits.

- Eat a variety of fruit.
- Choose fresh, frozen, canned or dried fruit.
- Go easy on fruit juices.

Vegetables:
Vary your veggies.

- Eat more green dark veggies.
- Eat more orange veggies.
- Eat more dry beans and peas.

Physical Activity
Find your balance between food & physical activity.

- Be physically active for 30 minutes most days of the week.
- Children and teenagers should be physically active for 60 minutes everyday or most days of the week.

ChooseMyPlate

ChooseMyPlate.gov

Milk:
Get your calcium-rich foods.

- Go low-fat or fat-free
- If you don't or can't consume milk, choose lactose-free products or other calcium sources.

Grains:
Make at least half your grains whole.

- Eat at least 3 ounces of whole grain bread, cereal, rice, or pasta everyday.
- Look for the word "whole" before the grain name on the list of ingredients.

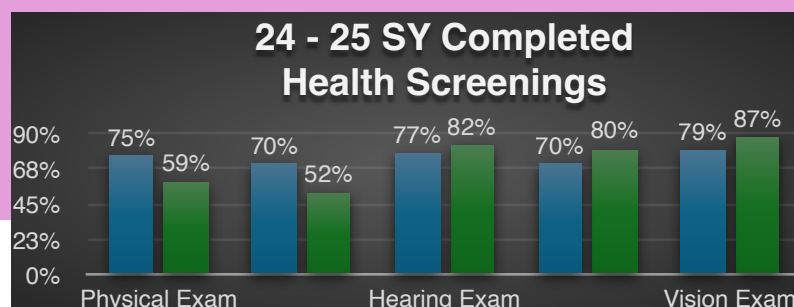
Meats & Beans
Go lean on protein.

- Choose low-fat or lean meats and poultry.
- Bake it, broil it or grill it.
- Vary your choices with more fish, beans, peas, nuts, and seeds.

Source: ChooseMyPlate.gov

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Mental and Disabilities



Health Services

Center Name	Open Concerns	Closed Concerns	Current IEPs/ IFSPs	Autism Diagnosis	Speech Delay	Dev. Delay/ Social Emotional/ Health Impairment
Incarnate Word	30	10	12	5	3	4
St. Mary	11	6	10	1	5	4
St. John	5	1	3	1	1	1
St. Paul	15	7	10	4	3	3
Totals	61	24	35	11	12	12



During our 2024-2025 school year our program employed two Child Specifics that helped directly support children struggling with transitions, social skills, and age-appropriate behaviors. With the help of the Head Start team including our child specifics, our students transitioning to kindergarten was successful in completing Head Start and being



At Head Start, mental wellness remains a top priority. Throughout the 2024–2025 school year, we strengthened our community by providing educational activities, resources, and training opportunities for our staff, students, and families.

CCANO Head Start and Early Head Start offers a safe, inclusive environment for low-income families in Orleans Parish, with 10% of our enrollment dedicated to serving children with special needs and disabilities. For the 2024–2025 school year, our program had a funded enrollment of 416 students, with an actual enrollment of 240 served setting our 10% target at approximately 24 children with the Office of Head Start Final Rule. (Noted below)

Despite facing significant enrollment challenges due to teacher shortages, we successfully supported 35 children with diagnosed needs through an IEP or IFSP. These included areas such as autism, speech delays, developmental delays, social-emotional support needs, and health impairments.

CCANO Head Start Preschool Program successfully met our 10% goal, our commitment to individualized support made a meaningful impact on the lives of the 35 families we served. *(See chart above for detailed*

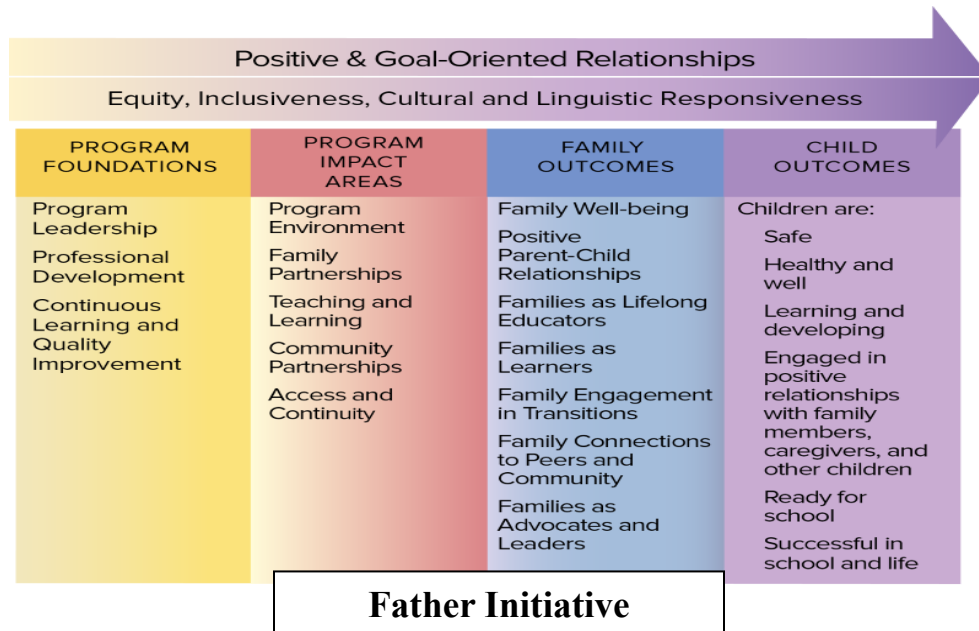
HSPPS Final Rule: August 21, 2024

1302.14 (b)(1) Children with Disabilities Enrollment

As of 10/21/24 Head Start Programs 10% of enrollment for children eligible under the IDEA is based on **actual** enrollment.

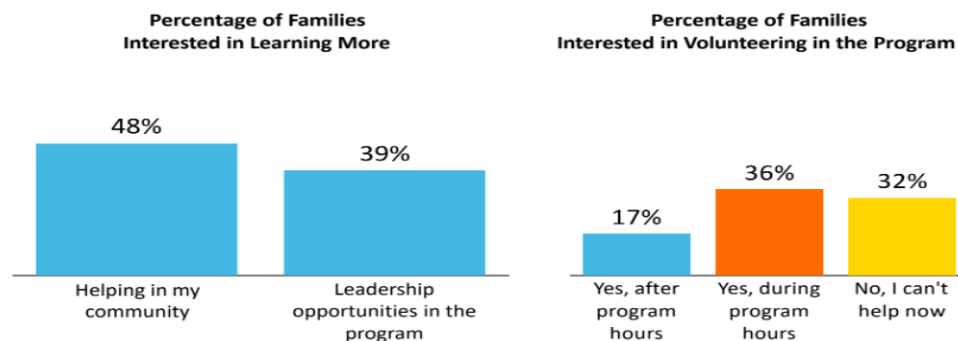
Parent Family and Community Engagement

The Head Start Parent, Family, and Community Engagement (PFCE) Framework is a road map for progress. It can be used in strategic planning, program design and management, continuous learning and improvement activities, as well as with governing bodies and parent groups.



2024-2025 PFCE Family Outcomes

Program and Community Engagement





Head Start Preschool Families Served
181



Early Head Start Families Served
67



Head Start Preschool Children Served
192

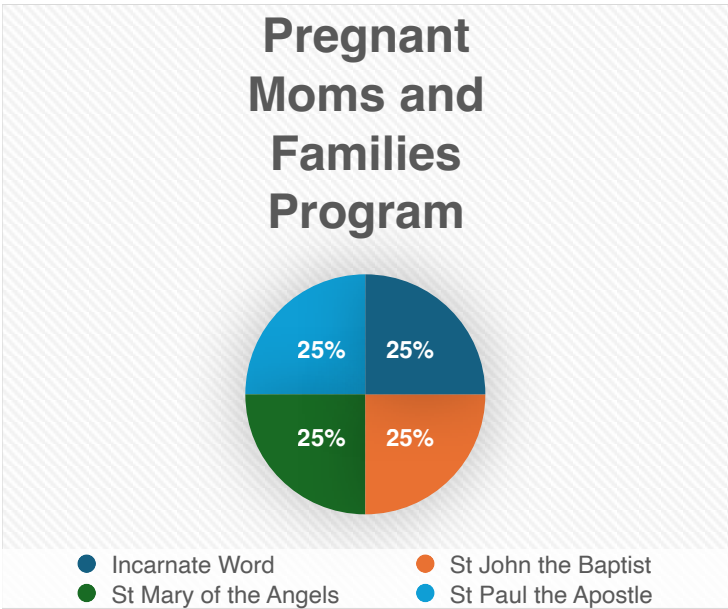


Early Head Start Children Served

% Of Children With Continuous Accessible Health Care
Head Start Preschool
100%
Early Head Start
99%

Pregnant Moms and Families Program

EHS programs providing services to pregnant women must identify their unmet needs and connect the family with resources in the community to promote positive health outcomes for both parents and babies. Programs should have a system to record interactions with expectant families that document contact and identified needs. Programs should also have a way to track the type and content of services delivered to pregnant enrollees.



Incarnate Word	St John the Baptist	St Mary of the Angels	St Paul the Apostle
1	1	1	1



Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment, and Attendance (ERSEA)

Eligibility, recruitment, selection, enrollment, and attendance (ERSEA) tasks are some of the most important works performed by Head Start programs. ERSEA governs how programs determine eligibility, enroll children, and track attendance.

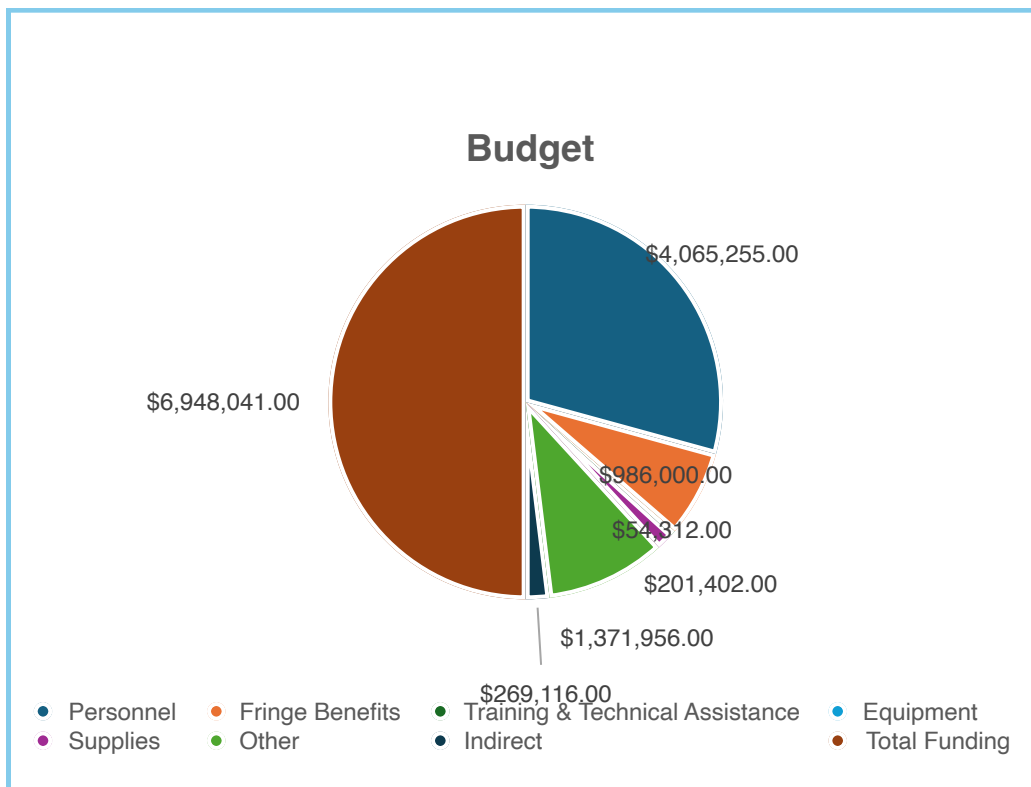
Children from birth to age five who are from families with incomes below the poverty guidelines are eligible for Head Start and Early Head Start services. Children from homeless families, and families receiving public assistance such as TANF, SSI, and SNAP are also eligible. Foster children are eligible regardless of their foster family’s income.

267 Participants	Eligibility					
Student Eligibility Criteria	Foster Child	Homeless	Income below 100%	Income 100 < 130%	Over Income	Public Assistance
2024-2025 CCANO Early Head Start	0/75	6/75	29/75	0/75	0/75	40/75
2024-2025 CCANO Head Start	0/192	19/192	65/192	10/192	1/192	97/192
Grand Total	0/267	25/267	94/267	10/267	1/267	137/267



2025 Head Start Budget Position

Category		Budget
Personnel	\$	4,207,567.00
Fringe Benefits	\$	1,033,902.00
Training & Technical Assistance	\$	59,189.00
Equipment	\$	
Supplies	\$	203,565.00
Other	\$	1,132,146.00
Indirect	\$	311,672.00
Total Funding	\$	6,948,041.00





Catholic Charities
Archdiocese of New Orleans

Head Start Program

Head Start Policy Council Members 2024 – 2025

Incarnate Word

Vice President
Antanika McDaniel

Secretary
Mia Terrance

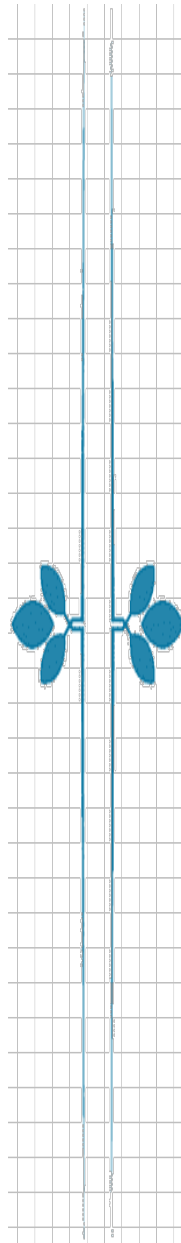
St. John the Baptist
Kaila Kelly

St. Mary of the Angels
Renee Davenport
Jamila Evans

St. Paul the Apostle
President
Alexys Alexander

Ashleigh Griffin
Dominique Paul

Community Representative
George Jacobs
Arthur Hunter



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