

# Columbia Opportunities, Inc. Head Start

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## 2013/2014 Annual Report

Head Start is a comprehensive early childhood development program funded by the federal government to serve low-income children and families throughout the United States. Eligibility is limited primarily to children living below the federal poverty level, (\$23,550 for a family of four).

During the 2013/2014 program year, Columbia Opportunities, Inc. (COI) provided Head Start services to eligible children and families in Columbia County, NY. There were 8 COI-Head Start classrooms located in the Hudson City, Chatham Central, Taconic Hills, and Ichabod Crane School Districts.

122 children attended classes 5 days each week and 12 children attended 3 classes each week supplemented by a monthly home visit. COI-Head Start worked to ensure that all of our children are ready for school and that our families are ready to support their children's learning.

We helped Head Start families identify their strengths and needs and we worked with other community organizations that could assist Head Start families in becoming self-reliant.

## Accomplishments

Total funded enrollment level	134
Total number of children served, including drops and replacements	149
Average monthly enrollment	99.03%
Percentage of eligible Head Start children served	64%
Number of children diagnosed with a disability	23
Number of children receiving disability services	22
Total number of children with health insurance at end of the year	145
Percentage newly enrolled children who completed all medical screenings	71%
Of the children screened, the number needing medical treatment	17
Number of children who received medical treatment	17
Percentage who received a professional dental examinations during the year	68%
Of the children examined, the number needing dental treatment	13
Number of children who received dental treatment	7
Number of families who accessed at least one family service	140 of 140

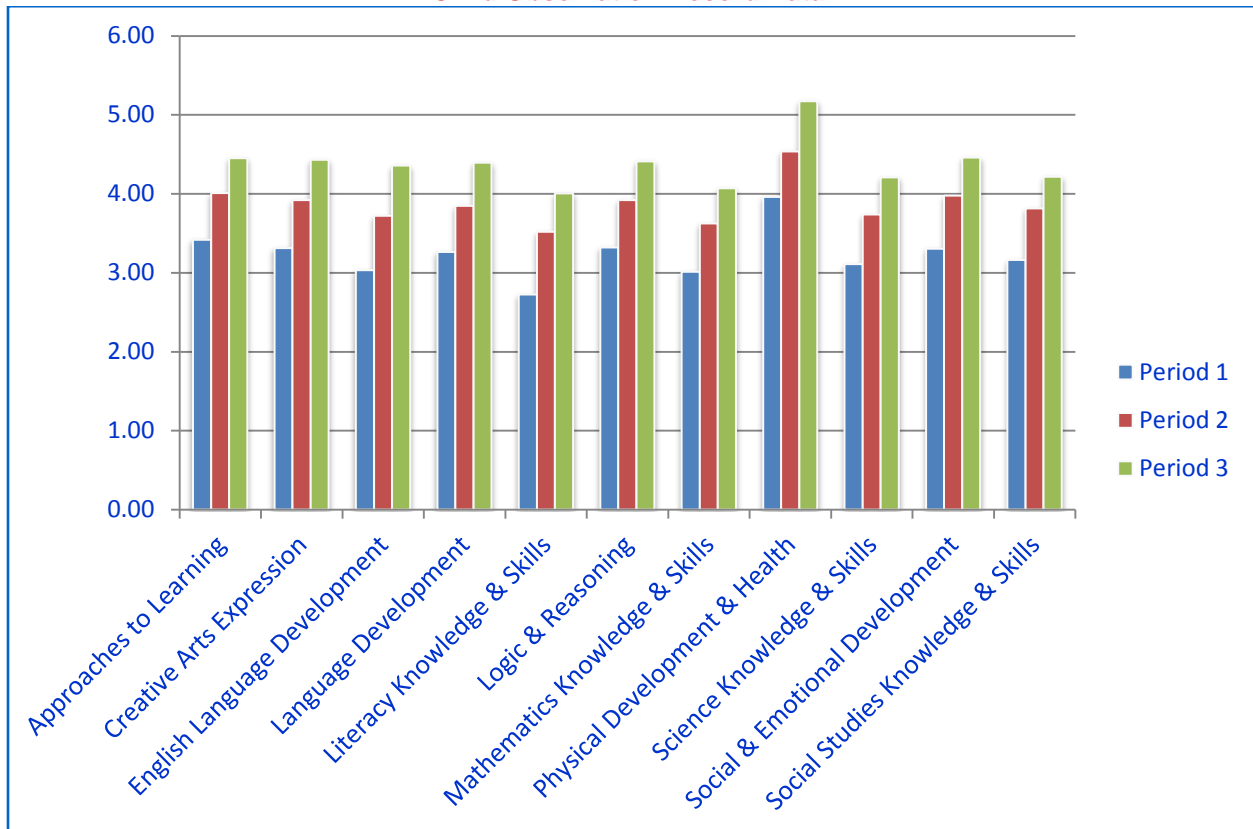
### School Readiness

Kindergarten readiness is an on-going focus from the first day of Head Start enrollment. COI-Head Start has located their classrooms throughout Columbia County so that children attended sites that are in or near the schools where they would be attending kindergarten. Parents were supported in the kindergarten registration process, and families were encouraged to visit kindergarten classes. With parental consent, we shared information with local school districts about individual children's progress in the Head Start program.

To ensure that children successfully transitioned to school age programs, COI-Head Start developed school/child readiness goals using the Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework, NYS Early Learning Standards and the High Scope Curriculum. We utilized the High Scope Pre School Curriculum which has over forty years of research showing positive outcomes for children. Child Assessments, using the High Scope Child Observation Record (COR), measured growth against 11 learning domains: Approaches to Learning, Social and Emotional Development, Physical Development and Health, Language, and Literacy and Communication, Mathematics, Creative Arts, Science and Technology and Social Studies. In addition, children who were spoke more than one language were assessed to determine their progress in listening and understanding, as well as in speaking English.

Computer assisted analysis provided reports on the progress of children and assisted teachers in planning and individualizing instruction. Records maintained on each child included descriptions of their work, notes about their development and indicators or progress toward completion of individual objectives. Parents received a child report at a conference with the teacher or Home Visitor after each period. This information was used to plan for individual and groups of children and to determine materials needed and support/training for staff.

**Child Observation Record Data**



Period 1 = September to November 2013    Period 2 = December 2013 to February 2014    Period 3 = March to June 2014

**Parent and Family Engagement Activities** - COI-Head Start believes that parents are the first and the best teachers of their own children. Because of this, we provided a variety of parent and family activities that increased family engagement with the Head Start program and the local community:

- Parents as decision makers for Head Start through Policy Council and Parent Committees
- Individualized family goals
- Supportive home visits to encourage goal completion
- Book distributions to build at home libraries
- Read-a-thons that included classroom and home reading
- Home visits & parent teacher conferences
- Wellness coaching
- Volunteer opportunities
- Opportunities to engage with community partners

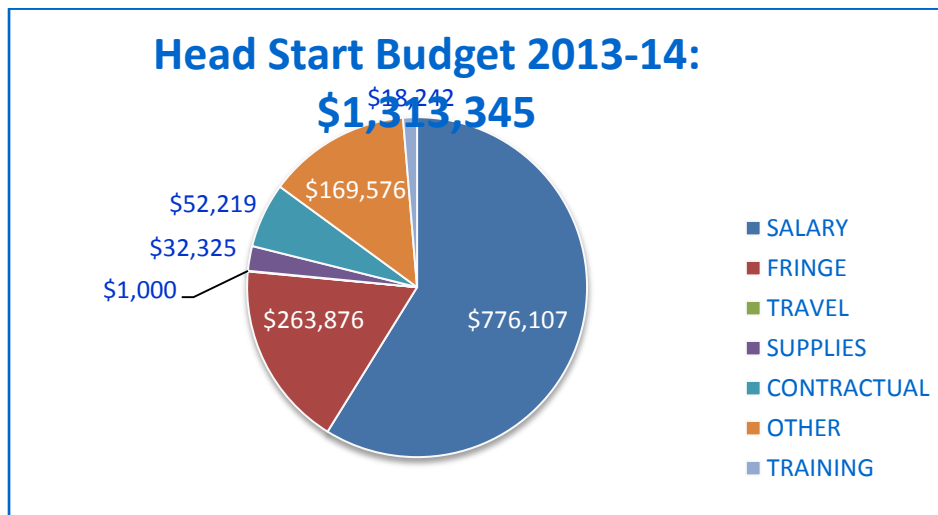
### **External Reviews**

**Federal Head Start Review** - Based on a report of the most recent federal review, dated November 12, 2014 by the National Office of Head Start, it was established that the program had a deficiency with the applicable Head Start Performance Standards, laws, regulations, and policy requirements. The program immediately implemented a correction plan to address the identified safety issue. COI will continue to work with the Regional Office of Head Start to ensure that all the needed corrections remain in place.

**Independent Financial Audit** - The most recent external audit conducted by Sickler, Torchia Allen & Churchill, Certified Public Accountants identified no findings or questioned costs and determined that Columbia Opportunities, Inc. was in compliance with all federal fiscal requirements.

### **Budget Information**

This chart indicates how the federal Head Start resources received in 2013-14 were budgeted to support Head Start services in Columbia County:



In addition to the funds received through the Office of Head Start, the following resources were used to support the program:

Child & Adult Care Feeding Program (CACFP): \$45,533

Monies from Hudson City School District & Taconic Hills School district for partnering in Universal Pre-Kindergarten Services: \$21,720

Additional donations of cash, goods and services were received from the local community in the amount of: \$306,616

**Resources for Next Year (2014-15):**

The estimated revenues for 2014-15 are as follows:

Total Annual Revenue	\$1,753,959
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This includes funds from the following sources:

Head Start Services & Training	\$1,403,167
CACFP	\$ 45,000
Universal Pre-K (THCSD & HCSD)	\$ 16,209
Other Non-Federal Matching Funds and In-kind donations	\$ 334,583

*This report is published in accordance with the Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007*



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