

THE COMMUNITY GROUP EARLY HEAD START CHILD CARE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE PUBLIC
JULY 2023 - JUNE 2024



“ I am so happy that my daughter is part of the EHS program, I feel that she is in great hands, I know she is safe, happy and healthy when she attends the Early Head Start program. I feel supported as a mother, because of all the resources the staff at the Early Head Start program has provided me.

- Dinelia (EHS Parent) ”

OUR MISSION & BACKGROUND

The Community Group (TCG)'s mission is to create, manage and nurture high-quality programs focused on education and related services that support children, families and educators.

Established in 1970 as a preschool center to serve the child care needs of working families, TCG has steadily expanded its programs in response to the education, child care, training and enrichment needs of children and families in Lawrence and Methuen, MA. In 2015, TCG was awarded an Early Head Start Child Care Partnership (EHS-CCP) grant that brought EHS programming and funding into existing community-based early childhood programs. In 2024, TCG was awarded a third EHS-CCP grant in order to provide comprehensive EHS services to 72 children through enrolment in TCGs early education and care programs. These programs include Family Child Care homes, Community Day Early Learning Center and the Teen Parent Infant/Toddler program at Lawrence High School. All 72 children are integrated into infant, toddler and preschool classrooms that meet Massachusetts Early Education and Care (EEC) licensing standards, while simultaneously benefiting from specialized services provided to EHS children. These services include comprehensive, health, nutrition and wellness programming, and case management, including assistance with medical, dental, mental health, employment, housing and other identified needs. The primary goal of TCG's EHS program is to nurture the relationship between the child and his or her parent(s) and to focus on the strengths of each and every family.

MARIA GONZALEZ MOELLER
Chief Executive Officer



ANNUAL OVERVIEW

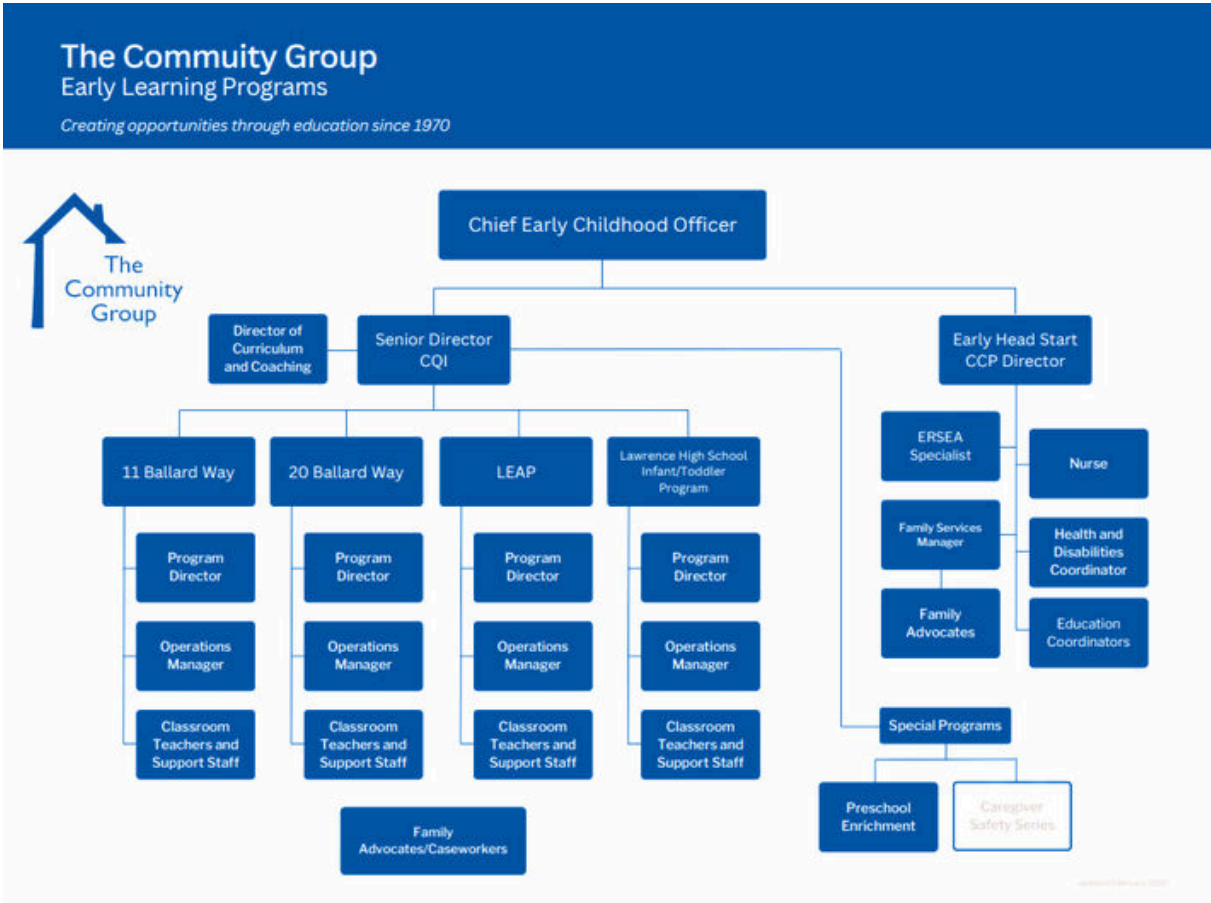
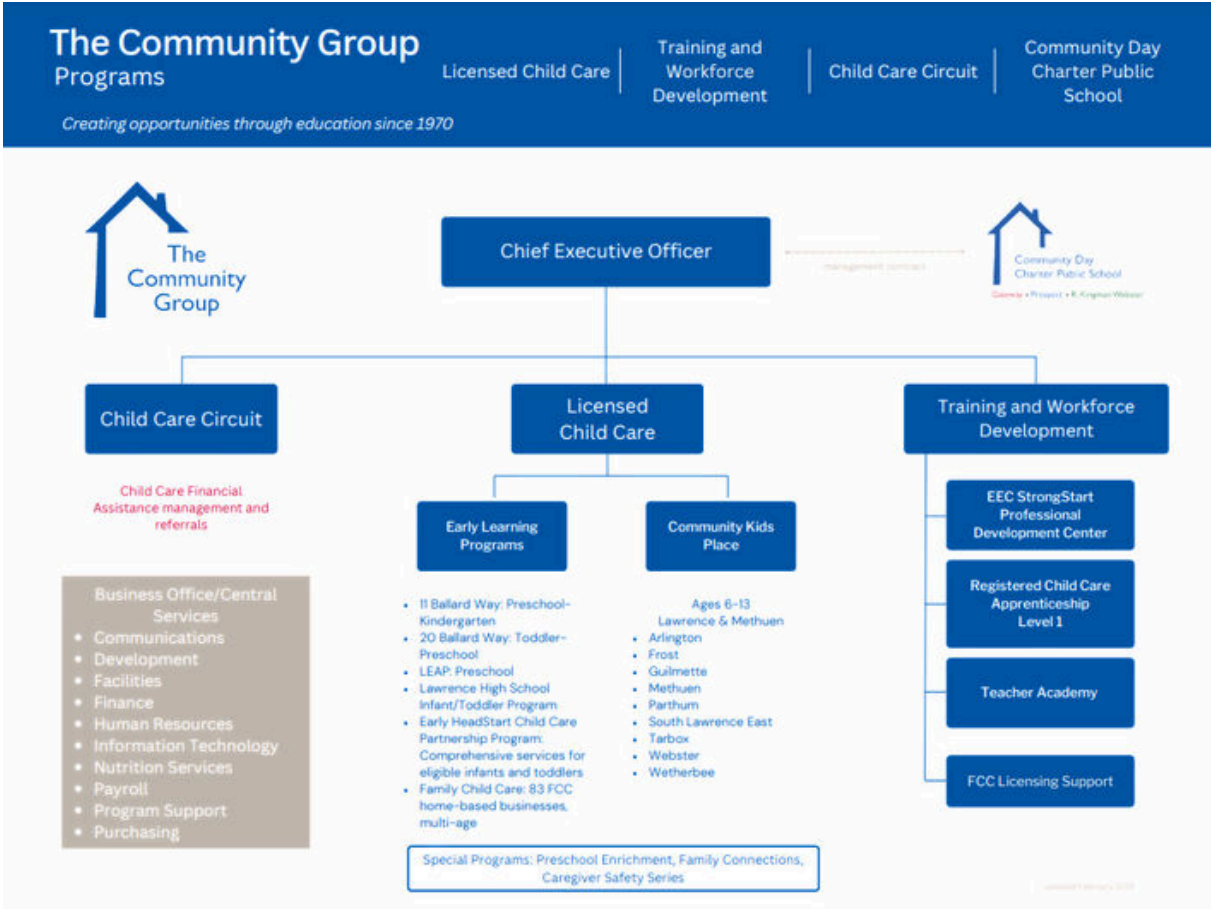
The field of early education and care continues to focus on physical, mental, and emotional wellness of children, families, and staff, strengthening and maintaining a healthy workforce, and collaborating across the state to ensure families have equitable access to high-quality care. Our community continued to focus on these themes this year, working together to continuously improve services, supports, and experiences offered to children and families to promote positive outcomes for all stakeholders.

Staff across the partnership took advantage of comprehensive professional learning opportunities, and TCG's innovative Child Care Mentoring, Practicum and Support program became a state-recognized Registered Apprenticeship Program offering continued support to the workforce. Several EHS parents have participated in this training program, and EHS center-based classrooms have greatly benefited from having apprentices in their classrooms, supporting the delivery of high quality educational experiences for EHS children.

In a new grant cycle, TCG's EHS-CCP program seeks to address systemic improvements, fortify community partnerships, and leverage expertise in the field to better support children and families.



ORGANIZATIONAL CHARTS



OUR TEAM

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

- Allison Savary, EHS CCP Director
- Jackie Blakie, ERSEA Specialist
- Zoveyda Morel, Family Services Manager
- Sonia Cora and Vicky Garcia, Family Advocates
- Herolina Jimenez, Nurse
- Flerida Tejada, Health and Disabilities Coordinator
- Deanna Carter and Glendy Rivera, Education Coordinators
- Gribel Martinez, Administrative Assistant

GOVERNANCE

TCG Board of Directors

- Ethel Cruz, TCG EHS Board Liaison

Policy Council

- Mayra Barilla, President
- Juana Medina, Vice president
- Angelica Cruz, Treasurer
- Euridisis Lara, Secretary
- Jennifer Carty Feliciano
- Jennifer Soto
- Mariel Pereyra
- Alondra Marte
- Helen Rodriguez
- Kiarra German
- Dinelia Cruz Mejia
- Mather Kamara

TCG PROGRAM PARTNERS

- Maria Gonzalez Moeller, CEO
- Grace Cruz, Chief Early Childhood Officer
- Janet Moro, Senior Director of Operations and CQI
- Yartiza Lopez, LHS Program Director
- Alina Alnon, 20 Ballard Way Toddler Director
- Roselee Audate, Chief of Program Supports
- Alba Soto, Director of Program Support
- Gisell Salcedo, Family Child Care Director



WHO WE SERVE



FAMILY NEEDS		CHILD NEEDS	
Transportation	25%	Foster Children	2%
Families Experiencing Homelessness	13%	Students with a Disability	32%
Children Receiving a Subsidy	99%	Multi-Language Learners	98%

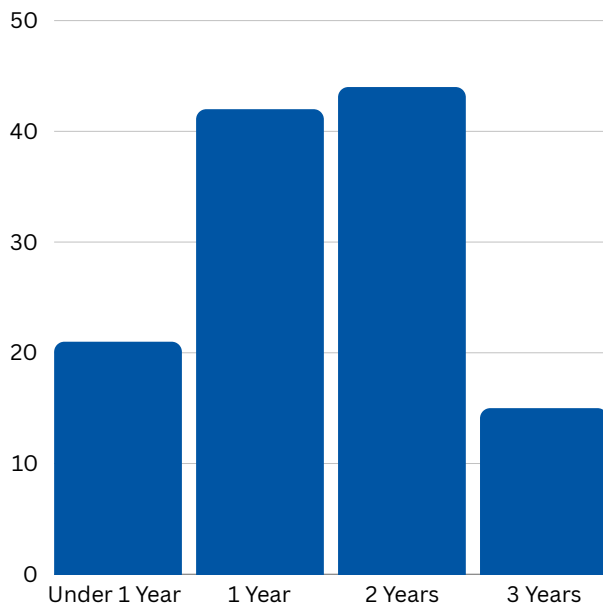
LANGUAGES SPOKEN	ENGLISH	SPANISH	BOTH
Staff	13%	37%	50%
Children	2%	84%	14%

“ I feel so blessed to be part of such a great program. The Early Head Start program has provided my son with quality early learning care, and has provided me with substantial support, I have received help with clothing, diapers, and formula. I thank the Early Head Start program so much. ”
 -Katherine (EHS Parent)

ENROLLMENT



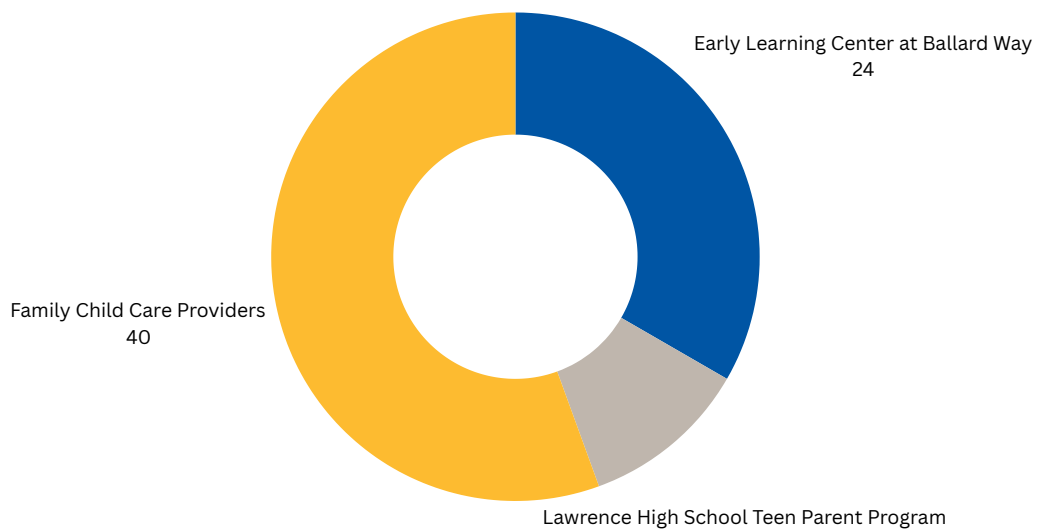
CHILDREN SERVED TOTAL: 122



AVERAGE MONTHLY ENROLLMENT

72

ANNUAL FUNDED ENROLLMENT



SCHOOL READINESS



TCG's approach to school readiness is "children are ready for school, families are ready to support their children's learning, and schools are ready for children." There were no changes to our school readiness goals through June 30, 2024.

DOMAIN	CHILDREN WILL:
Social and Emotional	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Engage in positive interactions through secure relationships with consistent known adults• Develop personal and playful relationships with other children• Manage, understand and express emotions• Begin to develop a sense of identity and sense of belonging to a family and group of peers
Approaches to Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstrate interest and curiosity in the exploration of their environment• Show creativity and imagination in play, learning and interactions with others• Manage actions and behavior with the support of familiar adults

SCHOOL READINESS

DOMAIN	CHILDREN WILL:
Language and Literacy Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attend to, understand, respond to, and learn through communication and language experiences• Use nonverbal communication and oral language or a communication system (e.g., sign language) to express needs and wants and engage in conversation with others• Demonstrate basic literacy skills (e.g. recognizing pictures/symbols/words from stories)
Cognition	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use a variety of strategies to solve problems, including reasoning and planning ahead• Use beginning math concepts during daily routines and experiences, including sense of number and quantity, spatial awareness, and classification• Actively explore their environment to discover what objects and people do, how things work and how to make things happen.
Physical Well-Being and Motor Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop control of large muscles for movement, exploration and self-help• Develop control of small muscles for exploration, play and daily routines• Begin to demonstrate healthy and safe behaviors with the support of an adult• Use perceptual information to guide actions in exploring objects, experiences and interactions

CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT



CURRICULUM

- The Creative Curriculum for Infants and Toddlers
- The Creative Curriculum for Family Child Care
- Ready Rosie
 - A dual-language parent curriculum

ASSESSMENT

- Teaching Strategies GOLD
 - Social-Emotional Development
 - Physical Development
 - Language Development
 - Cognitive Development

DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING TOOLS

- Ages and Stages Social/Emotional 2
- Ages and Stages Questionnaire 3
 - Communication
 - Gross Motor
 - Fine Motor
 - Problem Solving
 - Personal-Social

AVERAGE MEETING EXPECTATIONS	FALL	WINTER	SPRING
Social-Emotional Development	83%	81%	85%
Physical Development	88%	83%	91%
Language Development	64%	55%	63%
Cognitive Development	84%	88%	88%



MEDICAL & DENTAL

	Number of Children	Percentage of Total
Children with Health Insurance	122	100%
Children with Up-to-Date Physical Exams	113	93%
Children with Up-to-Date Immunizations	119	98%
Children with a Dental Home	115	94%
Children Up-to-Date on Preventative and Primary Oral Health	113	93%

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

This program year, the EHS team worked hard to support families in a variety of ways, including through health education workshops on topics like dental hygiene, preparing health documents, common winter illnesses in children, car seat safety and fire safety.



FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IN NUMBERS

Policy Council Members	12
Average Parent Committee Attendance	11
Average Workshop Attendance	15
Teacher Mentoring Program Graduates	6
Families Completing Home Curriculum Activities	62

NUMBER OF FAMILIES

Two Parent-Families	12
Mother-Only Families	98
Father-Only Families	2
Grandparents	1
Foster Families	3

“I grew so much as a parent by being part of the Early Head Start program. My daughter was well taken care of while I went to school. I got involved in the policy council and was policy council president for 2 terms. The Early Head Start program provided my family and I with so many opportunities but the best thing that it provided me was the feeling of belonging to a family.” - Kimberlyn (Former EHS Parent)

TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

TCG’s EHS–CPP offers regular opportunities for professional learning, to all staff, to support continuous quality improvement and positive child and family outcomes. Each program year, EHS staff engage in robust professional development and training across multiple domains.



General Program		Family Outcomes
Quality of Care for Infants and Toddlers (QCIT) Renewal Training	Mandated Reporter Training	Harvard Certificate in Early Education Leadership: Leading Adults for Quality Improvement
Best Practices in Summer Food Service Program	Observation and Assessment in Teaching Strategies GOLD	Counseling Skills and Techniques
Mental Health First Aid	Data Based Decision Making and Highly Individualized Instruction and Support	Emergency Planning Preparation
Building a Sense of Belonging	Active Supervision	Children’s Trust: Parenting with Positive Discipline: Nurture the Development of Emotional Regulation Skills
CPR & First Aid	Health Literacy for Early Head Start	Harvard Certificate in Early Education Leadership: Stress, Adversity and Trauma
EEC Essentials 2.0	Home at Head Start (ERSEA Institute)	Harvard Certificate in Early Education Leadership: Strong Relationships
Flipping the Switch to Positivity	Data Literacy Credential by Acorn (National Head Start Association)	CACFP Civil Rights Training: Menus, & Meal Counts: Managing Your Food Safety Plan

Child Outcomes

Harvard Certificate in Early Education Leadership: The Science of Learning	Supporting Preschool Learning with ASL	Autism Spectrum Disorder: Signs, Screening, Diagnosis and Strategies
Harvard Certificate in Early Education Leadership: Universal Design for Learning	Working with Dual Language Learners	Bone Health for Child Care
Identifying Developmental Delays	Lead Training	Implementing the Pyramid Model: Promoting Social–Emotional Skills

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

“ I am grateful for the program because my daughters receive excellent care. I have seen how much they have learned. This opportunity has also allowed my wife and me to work.
-Jose (EHS Parent) ”



EHS Annual Funding Report		
Funding Source Department of Health and Human Services		
	Actual FY24 (Jul 23–Jun 24)	Projected FY25 (Jul 24–Jun 25)
	Amount	Amount
Early Head Start Partnership Funds	\$1,403,742	\$1,436,730
Training & Technical Assistance	\$27,660	\$27,660
Total Federal EHS-CCP Grant Funding	\$1,431,402	\$1,464,390
EHS State Supplemental Grant (Non-federal Share)	\$134,474	\$140,812
TOTAL:	\$1,565,876	\$1,605,202

Early Head Start Partnership Expenses			
	FY24 Actual (Jun 23–Jul 24)	FY25 Projected (Jul 24–Jun 25)	Rationale
Personnel	\$705,513	\$684,036	Salaries for EHS and TCG staff at 11.71 FTE
Fringe Benefits	\$191,337	\$197,613	Payroll taxes, workers comp, health & life insurance, benepass, pension
Supplies	\$80,546	\$101,144	Formula, diapers, supplies and materials
Contractual - FCC	\$216,898	\$268,103	Daily rate offset for EHS FCC providers
Contractual - Other	\$53,799	\$35,160	Mental health services
Other	\$137,906	\$142,753	Family engagement, T&TA, facilities, transportation
Indirect	\$179,877	\$176,393	
TOTAL:	\$1,565,876	\$1,605,202	
Non Federal Share Obtained	\$162,994	TBD	
Non Federal Share Required	-	\$366,098	

A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As the Director of the Early Head Start Child Care Partnership program, I take great pride in sharing our 2023–2024 Annual Report with our families and stakeholders. The Early Head Start team provides our children, families, and educators with opportunities to learn and build strong relationships, laying the foundation for child and family success for years to come. This annual report is a snapshot of the efforts of the EHS team to engage caregivers, children, and the community in-home and classroom experiences that support school readiness, family development and overall program goals.

The Early Head Start Child Care Partnership Program would not achieve success without the dedicated, passionate individuals that make up our team, and the valuable community partners that support our work. The EHS Child Care Partnership Family Services team focuses efforts on family development, including work force development, child development support, and financial literacy. Through the work of the Education Coordinators, teachers receive valuable one-to-one support through coaching and curriculum planning. The Health Manager and Nurse provide parents and caregivers with screening results and continuous assistance regarding each child's dental, medical, and mental health needs. The team also coordinates support for families with Early Intervention agencies from our local communities to ensure identified services are in place to support child development.

As The Community Group Mission states, our program will continue to strive to create, manage, and nurture high-quality programs focused on education and related services that support families. Our team looks forward to continuing the important work done to provide children and families with opportunities that strengthen our community.

ALLISON SAVARY
DIRECTOR OF EARLY HEAD START
CHILD CARE PARTNERSHIP





COMMUNITIES SERVED

Lawrence, MA

Methuen, MA

PARTNERS

- Community Giving Tree
- Debbie's Treasure Chest
- Family Services of the Merrimack Valley
- Greater Lawrence Community Action Council
- Lawrence Public Schools
- Lawrence Housing Authority
- Mass Hires
- Mission of Deeds
- Mentor Early Intervention
- Merrimack Valley Immigration Center
- Methuen Public Schools
- Neighbors in Need
- Norther Essex Community College
- Partners in Child Development
- Project Home Again
- Ruth's House
- Salvation Army
- Toys for Tots
- WIC

