



ASTOR
SERVICES FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

**Early Childhood
Programs**

HEAD START
ANNUAL REPORT TO PUBLIC
2014-15



Astor Head Start and Early Head Start

Astor Early Childhood Program provides comprehensive services to pregnant mothers, infants, toddlers and preschool children and their families in Dutchess County, New York. Services were offered from sites in Poughkeepsie, Beacon, Wappingers Falls (Mt. Aivernia), Red Hook, Millerton, and Wingdale. Both EHS and HS offered home based and center based program opportunities. During the fiscal year 2014-2015, Astor offered programming county-wide, serving approximately half of the income eligible children and families in the county. Funding for the program comes from the federal Office of Head Start and the New York State Education Department.

Astor's Federal Report Card/External Audits

Based on a review conducted on 4/18/14 Astor was determined to have a deficiency in Part 74-Financial and Program Management- Standard for Financial Management Systems. Because of the deficiency, Astor has been placed in the Designated Renewal System (DRS). A copy of our agency's most recent independent audit can be found on our website (www.astorservices.org) and is an attachment to this report.





Efforts to Prepare Children for Kindergarten


Our Head Start program works in partnership with the public schools, parents and parent/teacher organizations to support the successful transition of children and families into the new educational setting. This partnership strives to maintain open communication, cooperation and coordination of efforts to streamline the process.

To prepare and facilitate the smooth process from Head Start to Kindergarten, we plan the following activities:

- Notification to parents of the dates of their school district's Kindergarten registration to make sure they understand the importance of taking their child to district activities
- Provide Kindergarten transition workshops for parents on what to expect from the public school experience
- Plan special events for Kindergarten teachers to visit the classrooms and begin to prepare for our children
- Offer our facilities to district personnel to provide opportunities for meetings with parents of all our children, including those with special needs
- Tracking of annual review appointments and arranging for special education staff to participate in the development of the child's IEP, when the child is involved with the CPSE
- Kindergarten checklist is completed by the classroom teacher for the parent and the school district
- Letter of agreement is signed annually between Head Start and each school district (LEA) in our local community to facilitate the process of successful transition

To prepare children for school readiness during the preschool years, our Head Start program utilizes the High/Scope curriculum approach to early childhood education. This curriculum is research based and was developed over 40 years ago. Our Early Head Start program uses the Creative Curriculum- also research based.

We support our families with our transition process as our children leave us and venture into public schools. Transition is a program focus and evolves along with our shared understanding of realistic expectations for our children and our relationships with families, school districts and other providers develop. We share our school readiness plans and goals with our families and partners throughout our communities.



Astor Takes Pride in Family Engagement

Astor views parents as the primary educators of their children and we welcome and encourage involvement in every aspect of the EHS and HS programs. From volunteering in the classrooms and offices to riding the bus to setting policy, Astor's early childhood programs know that the program is only as effective as the level of family engagement. Astor's parent engagement opportunities also include parenting classes and workshops which are available at every site.

Children are more successful in school and life when parents/families are engaged in their education. Astor Early Childhood Program develops a variety of activities with parents to encourage and support parents to become engaged in their child's education and success.

Opportunities include:

- Policy Council
- Parent Committee Meetings
- Classroom volunteers
- Parent trainings
- Parent curriculum suggestions
- Parent/teacher conferences
- Home visits
- Take Home activities
- Lending Library
- Education Advisory Committee
- Literacy Advisory Committee
- Center Level Committee
- Personnel Committee



Program Highlights

- The Millerton Center, families and community suffered a profound loss in the death of its long - time Director. The new center director, in collaboration with all members of the program, continue to support and guide the staff, children and families in the healing process.
- In response to the demonstrated need, a licensed, Head Start Classroom opened in the Ralph R. Smith School in the Hyde Park School District for 18 Income eligible children. The director multi-tasked as the teacher and advocate, a managerial design successfully employed in our Red Hook site. Unfortunately due to their own space requirements, the district could not renew our lease and the enrolled children were moved to the Mt. Alvernia site without loss of staff or enrollment.
- Early Childhood management attended workshops detailing the New York State Office of Children and Families Revised Regulations. In turn, all staff was trained to ensure implementation in keeping with best practice.
- The children continue to demonstrate high gains across all developmental areas. This evidences the program's commitment to nurturing school readiness and life-long learners.
- The program's on-going self-assessment process indicated ways to reduce personnel costs without diminishing efficiency or quality.
- Successful collaborations continued with NYU Dental, the Lion's SEE Program, Dover School District UPK, NYS Education Department and the United Way of Dutchess Orange Region as ways to enhance services for our Head Start children and their families.

Head Start Program

2014-2015 Service Area Statistics

Astor operated Early Head Start and Head Start Programs at the following Dutchess County locations: Beacon, Millerton, Wappingers Falls (Mt. Aivernia), Poughkeepsie, Wingdale, and Red Hook.

	HS	EHS
Total # Children served	498	257
Total # families served	473	214
% of children completing medical exams	100	100
% of children completing dental exams	90	66*
Avg. Monthly Enrollment	396	189
Percent of Capacity	100%	100%

* number reflects all EHS children, including those under 2 years of age

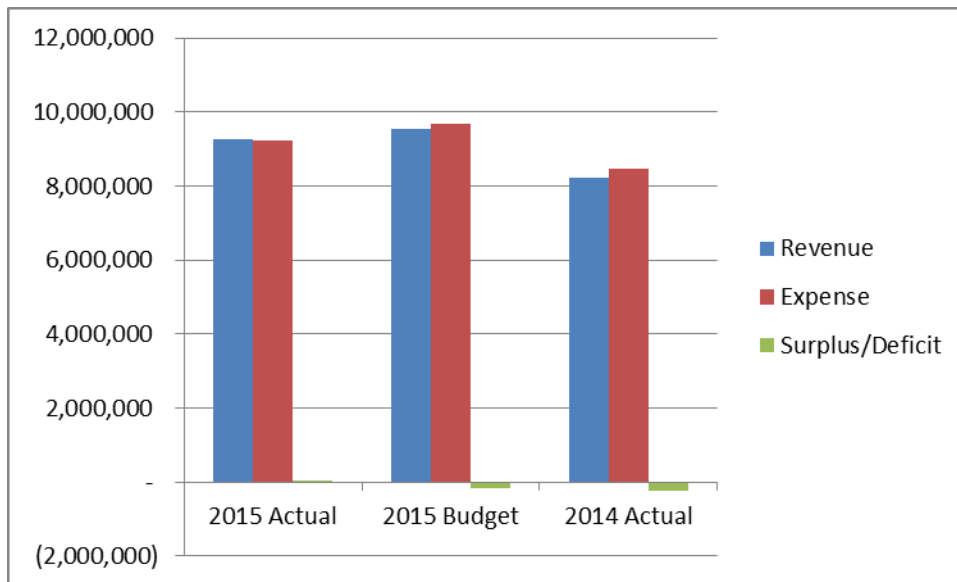
ASTOR EARLY CHILDHOOD SOURCES OF REVENUE

Program Name	Budget FY16	% of Total Budget		Actual @ 6/30/15	% of Total Budget
HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START GRANT	\$ 7,148,736	74.47%		\$ 6,891,335	74.42%
TUITION REVENUE	\$1,580,339	16.46%		\$ 1,564,894	16.90%
UPK CONTRACTS	\$ 95,760	1.00%		\$ 103,460	1.12%
NYS FOOD PROGRAM	\$ 313,695	3.27%		\$ 308,368	3.33%
ARTICLE 611-619 GRANT	\$ 135,500	1.41%		\$ 128,454	1.39%
MEDICAID REVENUE	\$ 70,900	0.74%		\$ 72,852	0.79%
BABIES STEP FORWARD	\$94,272	0.98%		\$25,157	0.27%
GRANTS FROM ORGANIZATIONS	\$ 80,000	0.83%		\$ 85,000	0.92%
EVALUATIONS	\$ 50,818	0.53%		\$ 54,514	0.59%
OTHER MISCELLANEOUS SOURCES	\$ 30,000	0.31%		\$ 25,416	0.27%
TOTAL EARLY CHILDHOOD	\$ 9,600,020	100.00%		\$ 9,259,450	100.00%

Astor Early Childhood FY16 Budget vs FY15 Spending

Program Name	BUDGET FY16			ACTUAL @ 6/30/15			
	% of Rev.	Revenue	Expense	Surplus (Deficit)	Revenue	Expense	Surplus (Deficit)
HEAD START/ EARLY HEAD START	78.2%	7,505,430	7,689,429	(183,999)	7,225,119	7,229,136	(4,017)
SPECIAL CLASS / INTEGRATED SETTING	7.8%	744,067	757,736	(13,669)	739,462	746,845	(7,383)
BEHAVIORAL SPECIAL CLASS	5.9%	563,811	569,400	(5,589)	555,208	557,952	(2,744)
POUGHKEEPSIE DT - PRESCHOOL	2.8%	272,462	283,392	(10,930)	270,224	276,327	(6,103)
UNITED WAY- ECP	0.8%	80,000	80,714	(714)	85,000	82,733	2,267
OMH - PDT PRESCHOOL	0.7%	70,900	64,019	6,881	72,852	41,971	30,881
UNIVERSAL PRE-K	1.0%	95,760	80,427	15,333	103,460	72,724	30,736
BABIES STEP FORWARD	1.0%	94,272	94,372	(100)	25,157	25,165	(8)
EVALUATIONS - UPSTATE	0.5%	50,818	56,782	(5,964)	54,514	50,383	4,131
TITLE I - PDT PRESCHOOL	0.5%	49,000	52,614	(3,614)	37,021	41,110	(4,089)
TITLE I - PRESCHOOL (99-457)	0.8%	73,500	75,799	(2,299)	91,433	105,418	(13,985)
TOTAL EARLY CHILDHOOD	100.0%	9,600,020	9,804,684	(204,664)	9,259,450	9,229,764	29,686

**Year to Date July 2014 to June 2015
Results vs. Budget and Prior Year -
Early Childhood Programs -
Dutchess County**



	2015 Actual	2015 Budget	2014 Actual
Revenue	9,259,450	9,530,683	8,213,566
Expense	9,229,764	9,691,199	8,459,324
Surplus/Deficit	29,686	(160,516)	(245,758)