

## Head Start Monthly Report July 2019

### Conduct of Responsibilities –

Each Head Start agency shall ensure the sharing of accurate and regular information for use by the **Governing Body and Policy Council**, about program planning, policies, and Head Start agency operations, including:

- (A) Monthly financial statements, including credit card expenditures;
- (B) Monthly program information summaries
- (C) Program enrollment reports, including attendance reports for children whose care is partially subsidized by another public agency;
- (D) Monthly reports of meals and snacks provided through programs of the Department of Agriculture;
- (E) The financial audit;
- (F) The annual self-assessment, including any findings related to such assessment;
- (G) The communitywide strategic planning and needs assessment of the Head Start agency, including any applicable updates;
- (H) Communication and guidance from the Secretary;

### In accordance with the New Head Start Performance Standards that went into effect on November 7, 2016:

1301.2 (b) Duties & Responsibilities of the Governing Body -

(1) The governing body is responsible for activities specified at section 642©(1)€ of the Head Start Act.

(2) The governing body must use ongoing monitoring results, data on school readiness goals, and other information described in 1302.102, and information described at section 642(d)(2) of the Act to conduct its responsibilities.

Please see Program Information Summary & attachments to this monthly report for monitoring reports.

#### A. Monthly Financial Statements including credit card expenditures: \$860.28

6/3/19	\$305.52	Great Wolf Lodge	A. Esser & A. Searight
6/3/19	\$277.38	Great Wolf Lodge	S. Stammen
6/3/19	\$277.38	Great Wolf Lodge	A. Stephenson

There is a charge for \$13.93 that was inadvertently charged to the Head Start account. CCS Treasurer is correcting the charge.

There is no Non-Federal Match report this month.

#### B. Program Information Summary

During the month of June, the Director attended OHSAl board meeting, ODE / ODJS PDBG subcommittee, and meeting with Dr. Bergeron, Director of the Office of Head Start. The OHSAl board meeting focused on collaborative partnerships with ODE and HMG to expand services to

children in need in the state. The PDBG subcommittee focused on professional development and resources needed for early childhood providers throughout the state to incorporate best practices. A select group of Head Start Directors, Administrators, and Board members were invited to meet privately with Dr. Bergeron. Topics of discussion included strengthening partnerships and transitions with public school districts and serving children with increased social emotional issues.

The Director, Family Engagement Services Manager, Education Manager, Health and Community Services Manager, Mental Health Consultant, and 2 Family Advocates attended the June OHSAI conference at Great Wolf Lodge. The administrative team attended workshops on team building, leadership, professional boundaries, CLASS, and Conscious Discipline. The Mental Health Consultant attended mental health workshops as well as Conscious Discipline implementation. The Family Advocates attended workshops on professional boundaries, developing relationships with parents, and parent engagement strategies.

The Director and FESM formally accepted children into the program for 19/20 PY. Acceptance letters were mailed.

The IT Secretary received notification from OCCRRRAA of changes to the background check system which will further complicate employee's ability to obtain background checks. MCHS will no longer be able to utilize the current background check system to check on volunteers. As such, administration concluded that only staff members may be alone with children at any given time, this eliminates WSU and Tri Star students from being able to assist children when going to the bathroom.

The Director met with Ashley Searight, Mental Health Consultant with Foundations to develop a plan for more intensive MHC services next program year.

The financial audit found NO issues with the Head Start program.

As a result of receiving the duration grant, MCHS was able to hire an additional family advocate. We welcome Claire Jarvis to our team. The Director and Education Manager met with Superintendent Schmiesing and OAPSE leadership to discuss duration impacts for the upcoming year. Staff will be receiving communication in the next upcoming weeks to discuss these changes.

The administrative team met for the quarterly data review in June. Operational monitoring items were met throughout the year. Programmatic issues including home visits, family partnerships, family goals, and school readiness goals (Math) were not met.

**Education** - Please see the attached School Readiness report

**Mental Health** -

**Disabilities** -

**Health** -

**ERSEA** - 80 children accepted, active recruitment

**Family Engagement** - No report

**C. Enrollment / Attendance**

**No report as the program is not in session**

**Enrollment by Program Option:**

Half Day PY Head Start	
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Full Day School Year (6 hour day)	
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**Attendance by Program Option:**

Half Day PY Head Start	
Full Day School Year	

**D. CACFP report - CACFP claimed meals**

<b>Month Served</b>	
<b>Total Days Attendance</b>	<b>Rockford - Franklin</b>
<b>Total Breakfast</b>	
<b>Total Lunches</b>	
<b>Total Snacks</b>	
<b>Total Meals</b>	

- E. Financial Audit** - No concerns noted on completed audit.
- F. Annual Self-Assessment**
  - Completed March 2019
- G. Community Assessment**
  - See attached - needs approved
- H. Communication and guidance from the Secretary -**

**Attachments to report:**  
 School Readiness report  
 Job Descriptions - IT Secretary, HS Secretary, approval needed

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Esser  
 Director

HEAD START - 2019 GRANT

REVENUE

	FEDERAL BUDGET	OTHER SOURCES	TOTAL REVENUES	REVENUE RECEIVED	REMAINING FUNDING
Federal Revenue	1,698,712.00	-	1,698,712.00	639,000.00	1,059,712.00
CACFP Revenue	-	88,230.00	88,230.00	41,137.34	47,092.66
Other Local	-	-	-	7,956.35	(7,956.35)
Refund prior year exp	-	-	-	-	-
Board advance	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,698,712.00</b>	<b>88,230.00</b>	<b>1,786,942.00</b>	<b>688,093.69</b>	<b>1,098,848.31</b>

EXPENSES

	FEDERAL BUDGET	OTHER SOURCES	TOTAL BUDGET	ACTUAL EXPENDED	EXPENDABLE BALANCE	ENCUMBERED/ REQUISITIONS	REMAINING BALANCE	ANTICIPATED ACCRUAL
Salary	805,411.00	50,400.00	855,811.00	357,486.49	498,324.51	-	498,324.51	
Fringe Benefits	562,021.00	9,100.00	571,121.00	203,442.91	367,678.09	75.00	367,603.09	
Programming	176,306.00	4,230.00	180,536.00	61,146.27	119,389.73	33,016.00	86,373.73	USAS (400's)
Supplies	89,914.00	24,500.00	114,414.00	51,496.44	62,917.56	13,738.24	49,179.32	USAS (500)
Capital Outlay	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Other Expenditures	12,125.00	-	12,125.00	1,940.00	10,185.00	345.00	9,840.00	USAS (800's)
<b>PA22 subtotal</b>	<b>1,645,777.00</b>	<b>88,230.00</b>	<b>1,734,007.00</b>	<b>675,512.11</b>	<b>1,058,494.89</b>	<b>47,174.24</b>	<b>1,011,320.65</b>	
<b>Training &amp; Technical Services</b>								
Training & technical serv (job code 400)	24,319.00	-	24,319.00	4,139.50	20,179.50	3,210.00	16,969.50	419
Staff out of town travel	24,966.00	-	24,966.00	6,943.76	18,022.24	4,202.20	13,820.04	439
<b>Subtotal Purch Service</b>	<b>49,285.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>49,285.00</b>	<b>11,083.26</b>	<b>38,201.74</b>	<b>7,412.20</b>	<b>30,789.54</b>	
Training & Tech Supplies	3,650.00	-	3,650.00	847.41	2,802.59	-	2,802.59	
<b>Subtotal Supplies</b>	<b>3,650.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,650.00</b>	<b>847.41</b>	<b>2,802.59</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,802.59</b>	
T&TA -PA20	52,935.00	-	52,935.00	11,930.67	41,004.33	7,412.20	33,592.13	
Return of Board Advance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1,698,712.00</b>	<b>88,230.00</b>	<b>1,786,942.00</b>	<b>687,442.78</b>	<b>1,099,499.22</b>	<b>54,586.44</b>	<b>1,044,912.78</b>	

TOTAL REVENUE OVER/UNDER TOTAL EXPENDITURES 650.91



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### ACCOUNT ACTIVITY

Date of Transaction	Merchant Name or Transaction Description	\$ Amount
05/21	CREDIT FOR UNUSED REWARDS	-2,544.75
06/12	Payment Thank You - Web	-12,225.08
06/20	PURCHASE INTEREST CHARGE THOMAS S SOMMER TRANSACTIONS THIS CYCLE (CARD 0928) \$14675.41- INCLUDING PAYMENTS RECEIVED	94.42
06/03	GREAT WOLF MASON MASON OH	305.52
06/03	GREAT WOLF MASON MASON OH	277.38
06/04	Amazon Prime Amzn.com/bill WA	13.93
06/06	GREAT WOLF MASON MASON OH AMY ESSER TRANSACTIONS THIS CYCLE (CARD 0977) \$874.21	277.38

14,769.93 Payments INT

874.21 Purchases

2019 Totals Year-to-Date	
Total fees charged in 2019	\$39.00
Total interest charged in 2019	\$404.02

Year-to-date totals do not reflect any fee or interest refunds you may have received.

### INTEREST CHARGES

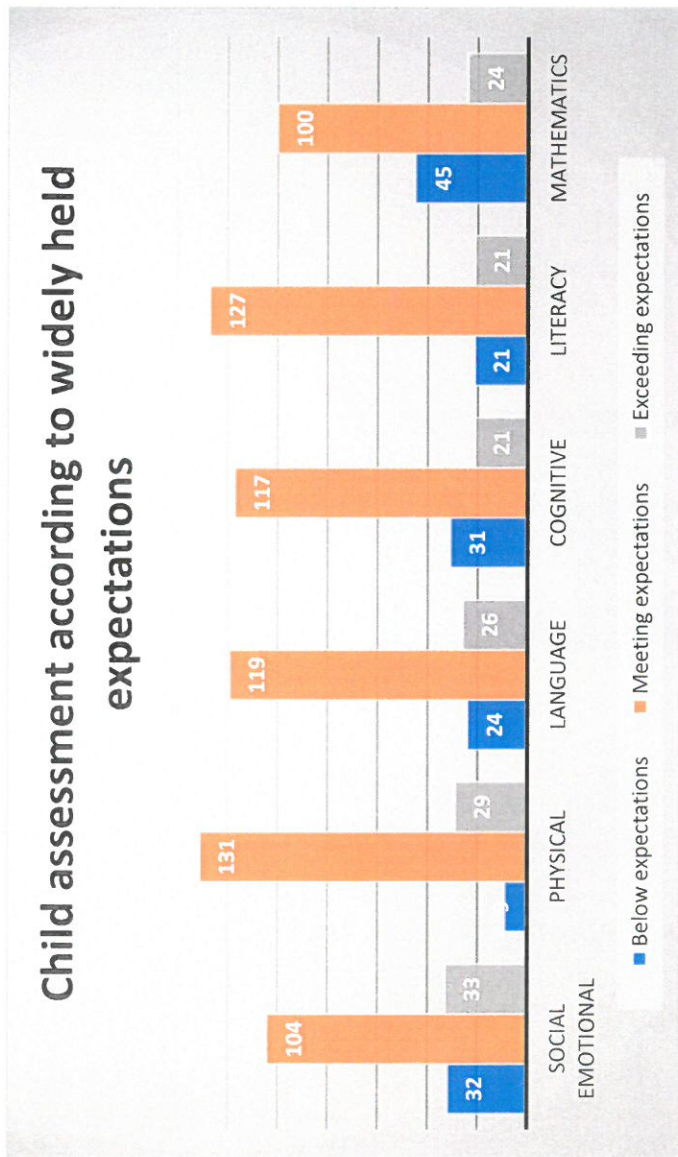
Your Annual Percentage Rate (APR) is the annual interest rate on your account.

Balance Type	Annual Percentage Rate (APR)	Balance Subject To Interest Rate	Interest Charges
<b>PURCHASES</b>			
Purchases	15.49%(v)(d)	\$7,176.45	\$94.42
<b>CASH ADVANCES</b>			
Cash Advances	21.49%(v)(d)	- 0 -	- 0 -
<b>BALANCE TRANSFERS</b>			
Balance Transfer	15.49%(v)(d)	- 0 -	- 0 -

31 Days in Billing Period

(v) = Variable Rate  
(d) = Daily Balance Method (including new transactions)  
(a) = Average Daily Balance Method (including new transactions)

Please see Information About Your Account section for the Calculation of Balance Subject to Interest Rate, Annual Renewal Notice, How to Avoid Interest on Purchases, and other important information, as applicable.



169 children were assessed.

# Celina City Schools – Mercer County Head Start

## Job Description

Phone: (419)268-0301 Fax: (419)268-0017 [www.mercerheadstart.org](http://www.mercerheadstart.org)

**Job Title: Head Start Office Secretary**

**Supervisor: Head Start Director**

### Position Summary:

This position is responsible to greet children, families, staff, and other visitors into the program. This individual is responsible for answering the main telephone line into the program, assist visitors with locating staff / classrooms / programs, and routine communications throughout the program. This individual is responsible to create, organize, and maintain programmatic and administrative filing systems. Act as an assistant to the Head Start Director supporting fiscal, programmatic, & operational requirements.

### Qualifications and Requirements:

#### Education/Certifications:

- Associate's Degree in Office Management or related field (Bachelor's preferred)
- High School Diploma or GED
- Valid Driver's License

#### Knowledge/Skills:

- Sensitivity and awareness of family cultural diversity
- Demonstrate ability to plan, organize and implement tasks to be compliant with Head Start Performance Standards and Policy Council policies
- Strong interpersonal skills and demonstrated experience working with children, families, and social service programs
- Technically competent with various software programs including Word, Excel, Google Docs, Power Point, Adobe Illustrator, online data collection systems (Survey Monkey)
- Ability to lift at a minimum 40 pounds with safety precautions
- Walk, bend, kneel, reach overhead, stoop, bend at waist, feel and operate objects, tools, or controls
- Must be able to stand or sit for long periods of time
- This position has specific vision abilities including close vision and the ability to adjust focus
- Repetitive uses of fingers, hands, wrists for computer entry work
- Ability to maneuver stairs
- Head Start experience and knowledge of Head Start Program Performance Standards (preferred)
- Previous experience (minimum 1 year) with data entry and the use of various software data collection systems
- Fluent mathematical skills

#### Employment Conditional upon Results of the Following:

- Complete and pass (5) background checks prescribed by ODJFS
- Three Personal References
- Successful Physical Capacities Examination and TB screening results
- Policy Council and Board of Education Approval

#### Essential Job Responsibilities:

- Carry forth the Mission Statement of Mercer County Head Start to support the quality management principles, and work toward agency and program goals
- Demonstrate and support core values of the program
- Demonstrate and support Standards of Conduct
- Assists the Director and Management Team with the compilation of programmatic,

administrative, fiscal information

- Assists the HS Director with completion and oversight of the procurement policy & procedure
- Assists Head Start Director with the collection & illustration of data for grant writing purposes, required reports (Annual Report, Community Needs Assessment, Policy Council, & Board).
- Maintains inventory of items, goods, and services procured through Head Start funds
- Establishes and maintains office filing systems
- Assists the family engagement team with attendance calls
- Work both independently and in a team – oriented, collaborative environment
- Can conform to shifting priorities, demands and timelines through analytical and problem-solving capabilities
- Good time management by meeting deadlines, multitasking and stress management skills to be able to ensure that tasks get completed on time
- Ability to build and maintain collaborative working relationships with a diverse staff
- Ability to exercise good judgment
- Ability to make good decisions quickly and provide alternate solutions in times of problems
- Reacts to project adjustments and alterations promptly and efficiently
- Very organized and systematic in working with projects and or tasks assigned
- Ability to demonstrate initiative, follow – through, and accountability
- Ability to respond effectively to the most sensitive inquiries and / or complaints maintaining complete confidentiality where required
- Strong attention to detail and accuracy
- Strong oral and communication skills
- Regular positive attendance, including promptness to all meetings, events, appointments, etc.
- Uphold a professional appearance at all times
- Communicate precisely, objectively, positively, and appropriately
- Preserve confidentiality of all program, staff, and client information
- Adhere to all program policies
- Demonstrate on-going professionalism, work as a team, have a positive and professional attitude toward fellow staff and families by attending trainings (15 hours minimum, annually), workshops, conferences, and meetings as requested by supervisor and as necessary for successful implementation of program, and to meet requirements of Professional Development Plan
- Regular and prompt attendance to provide quality supportive services to children, families, and community partners
- Perform other duties as assigned by supervisor to ensure compliance with state and federal regulations

*The statements indicated on this job description describe the general purpose and responsibilities assigned to this job and are not an inclusive list of all responsibilities and duties that may be assigned or skills that may be required. All employees are expected to participate in ongoing professional development as indicated by changing roles and responsibilities.*

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Head Start Office Secretary

Date

Head Start Director

Signature

Date



# Celina City Schools – Mercer County Head Start

## Job Description

Phone: (419)268-0301 Fax: (419)268-0017 [www.mercerheadstart.org](http://www.mercerheadstart.org)

<b>Job Title: Information Technology Office Secretary</b>	<b>Supervisor: Head Start Director</b>
<b>Position Summary:</b>	
<p>Collect appropriate data regarding children, families, and staff that are necessary for program operations. Observe, demonstrate, train, and enforce confidentiality rules, laws, and rights with all staff and volunteers regarding data. Manage the COPA, Teaching Strategies GOLD, and state-regulated data systems (EMIS, DASL, OCCRRA) for storage and retrieval; generate and distribute reports both periodically and on an as needed basis. Adhere to strict deadlines established by program monitoring tools, state, &amp; federal guidance. Must be willing to travel between facilities to provide assistance as requested, and for on-going professional development.</p>	
<b>Qualifications and Requirements:</b>	
<b>Education/Certifications:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Associate’s Degree in Office Management or related field</li><li>• High School Diploma or GED</li><li>• Valid Driver’s License</li></ul>	
<b>Knowledge/Skills:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sensitivity and awareness of family cultural diversity</li><li>• Demonstrate ability to independently plan, organize and implement tasks to be compliant with Head Start Performance Standards and Policy Council policies</li><li>• Strong interpersonal skills and demonstrated experience working with children, families, and social service programs</li><li>• Technically competent with various software programs including Word, Excel, Google Docs, data entry software systems (COPA, TSGOLD, EMIS, DASL)</li><li>• Ability to lift at a minimum 40 pounds with safety precautions</li><li>• Walk, bend, kneel, reach overhead, stoop, bend at waist, feel and operate objects, tools, or controls</li><li>• Must be able to stand or sit for long periods of time</li><li>• This position has specific vision abilities including close vision and the ability to adjust focus</li><li>• Repetitive uses of fingers, hands, wrists for computer entry work</li><li>• Ability to maneuver stairs</li><li>• Head Start experience and knowledge of Head Start Program Performance Standards (preferred)</li><li>• Previous experience (minimum 1 year) with data entry and the use of various software data collection systems</li></ul>	
<b>Employment Conditional upon Results of the Following:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Complete and pass (5) background checks prescribed by ODJFS</li><li>• Three Personal References</li><li>• Successful Physical Capacities Examination and TB screening results</li><li>• Policy Council and Board of Education Approval</li></ul>	
<b>Essential Job Responsibilities:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Carry forth the Mission Statement of Mercer County Head Start to support the quality management principles, and work toward agency and program goals</li><li>• Demonstrate and support core values of the program</li><li>• Demonstrate and support Standards of Conduct</li><li>• Maintains / organizes personnel files and ensures compliance with licensing and OHS regulations</li><li>• Assists the Director and Management Team with the compilation of programmatic, administrative, fiscal information</li><li>• Assists Education Manager, District Special Education staff, and County ESC staff with maintaining / organizing and entering information into respective data collection systems for children with special needs.</li></ul>	

- Collect, organize, manage, & monitor non-federal match on a weekly, monthly, quarterly, semi-annual, and annual basis.
- Establishes and maintains office filing systems
- Process children’s source documents by reviewing data for deficiencies; resolving discrepancies by using standard procedures or returning incomplete documents to the supervisor for resolution.
- Maintains data entry requirements by following data program techniques and procedures.
- Verifies entered data by reviewing, correcting, deleting, or reentering data.
- Understand the PIR, ensure data is periodically reviewed throughout the year to ensure compliance and submitted accurately prior to the due date.
- Ensure the annual “roll-over” of the COPA system.
- Develop and maintain relationships with support networks with all software systems.
- Work both independently and in a team – oriented, collaborative environment
- Can conform to shifting priorities, demands and timelines through analytical and problem – solving capabilities
- Good time management by meeting deadlines, multitasking and stress management skills to be able to ensure that tasks get completed on time
- Ability to build and maintain collaborative working relationships with a diverse staff
- Ability to exercise good judgment
- Ability to make good decisions quickly and provide alternate solutions in times of problems
- Reacts to project adjustments and alterations promptly and efficiently
- Very organized and systematic is working with projects and or asks assigned
- Ability to demonstrate initiative, follow – through, and accountability
- Ability to respond effectively to the most sensitive inquiries and / or complaints maintaining complete confidentiality where required
- Strong attention to detail and accuracy
- Strong oral and communication skills
- Regular positive attendance, including promptness to all meetings, events, appointments, etc.
- Uphold a professional appearance at all times
- Communicate precisely, objectively, positively, and appropriately
- Preserve confidentiality of all program, staff, and client information
- Adhere to all program policies
- Demonstrate on-going professionalism, work as a team, have a positive and professional attitude toward fellow staff and families by attending trainings (15 hours minimum, annually), workshops, conferences, and meetings as requested by supervisor and as necessary for successful implementation of program, and to meet requirements of Professional Development Plan
- Regular and prompt attendance to provide quality supportive services to children, families, and community partners
- Perform other duties as assigned by supervisor to ensure compliance with state and federal regulations

*The statements indicated on this job description describe the general purpose and responsibilities assigned to this job and are not an inclusive list of all responsibilities and duties that may be assigned or skills that may be required. All employees are expected to participate in ongoing professional development as indicated by changing roles and responsibilities.*

IT Office Secretary

Date

Director Signature

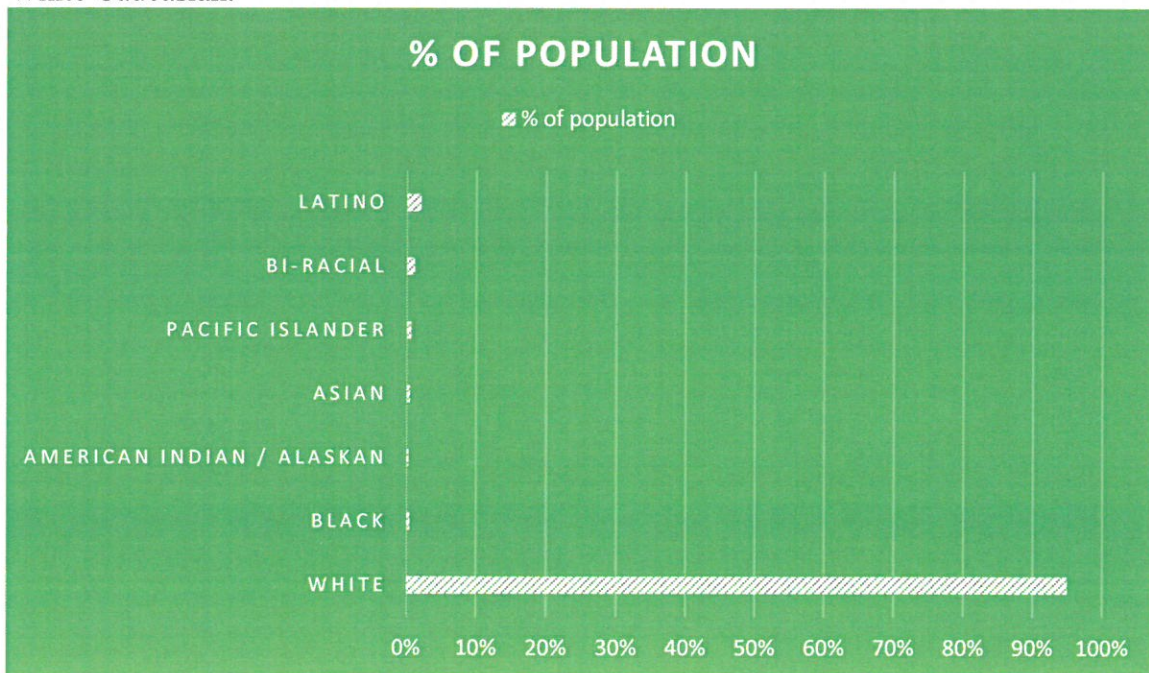
Date

Celina City Schools / Mercer Head Start  
Community Needs Assessment 2019

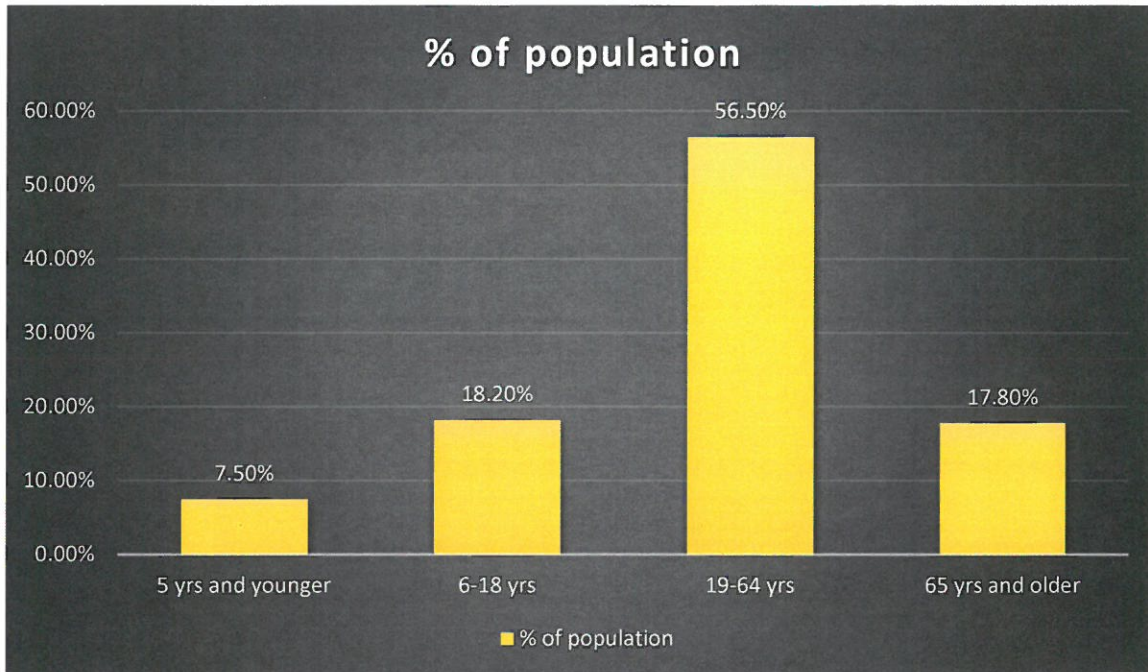
**Demographics**

Celina City Schools / Mercer Head Start provides services to children and families in Mercer County, Ohio. Celina City Schools is the largest school district in Mercer County. The school district is in Celina, which is the county-seat home to the largest population in the county. Mercer County is in the northwest quadrant of Ohio. The county lies on the state border with Indiana. There are two main thoroughfares that run through the county. U.S. Highway 33 runs east and west, and State Route 127 runs north and south. While Mercer County is classified as rural there is a very strong industrial base that drives the local economy. . Large industrial employers in the area are Crown, CAPT, Cooper Farms, and Reynolds and Reynolds. Mercer Health provides health services in the county and is one of the larger employers in the area. Along with manufacturing / industrial employers, Mercer County is the largest agricultural livestock producer in the state. Because of the strong employment foundation Mercer County has the lowest unemployment rate (2.9%) in the state of Ohio. The median income of the county is \$57,052. Wright State University Lake Campus is located within the county along Grand Lake St. Marys.

As of 2018, there were 40,959 residents in Mercer County. The population is predominantly White Caucasian.



The population is split 50% females and 50% males. Seventy percent of all households are families. Of those households, 8% are led by single mothers. The table below shows the breakdown of the population by age.



Data courtesy of Quick Facts

### Head Start Eligible Children and Families

According to 2018 census information, there are 3,072 children under the age of 5 in Mercer County. Approximately 10% of all children live in poverty. According to the Ohio Department of Health, the average number of live births each year is 608. (See chart below.) Each year approximately 60 babies are born into poverty in Mercer County.

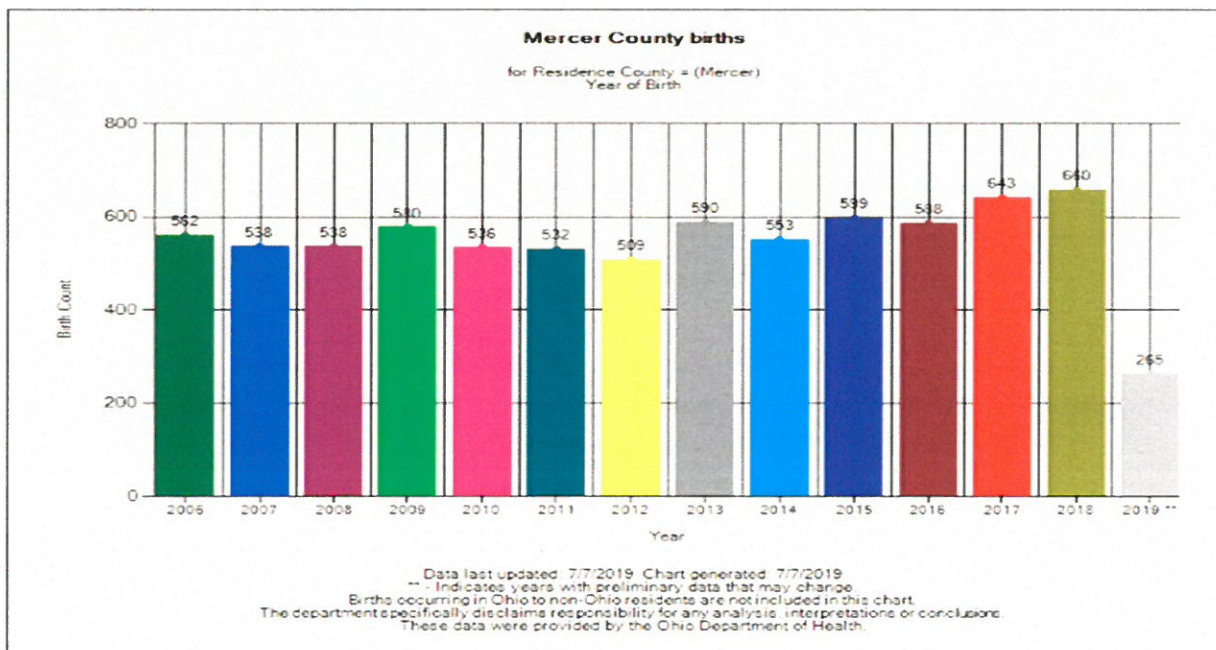


Chart provided by Ohio Department of Health, Data Warehouse

The USDA defines food insecurity as a state in which “consistent access to adequate food is limited by a lack of money and other resources at times during the year”.



*Mercer County Community Health Assessment, 2016*

**FOOD INSECURITY CAN  
BE FOUND EVERYWHERE.**



**RURAL AREAS ACCOUNT FOR 64 PERCENT OF THE  
COUNTIES WITH THE HIGHEST FOOD INSECURITY.**

Ohio is in the top 5 “hungriest states in the nation according to bread.org. Roughly 16% of the population goes hungry every day.

According to <https://www.consumerreports.org>, the top 13 grocery stores for low cost food include: Aldi, Costco, Crest, Fareway Stores, Grocery Outlet, Lidl, Marc's, Market Basket, Military Commissaries, Save-A-Lot, Trader Joe's, WinCo, and Woodman's. Out of these, Mercer County currently has an Aldi. Ruler Foods is also listed as a local low-cost food option providing Kroger brand items.



#### Women, Infant, and Children (WIC)

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) provides federal grants to states for supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, and to infants and children up to age five who are found to be at nutritional risk.

As of April 2019, Mercer County WIC served 481 individuals.

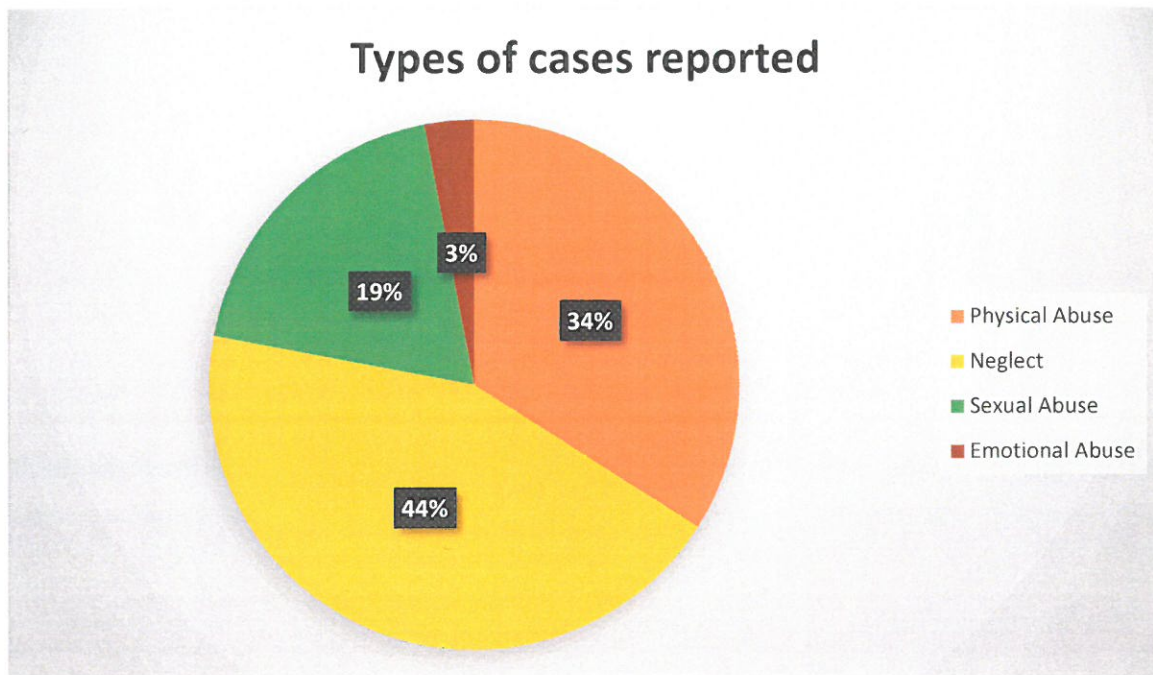
#### Ohio WIC Income Guidelines

In order to be eligible for WIC, the gross countable income of the economic unit, of which the applicant/participant is a member, must be less than or equal to the Ohio WIC program income guidelines for economic unit size provided in the following chart. WIC income guidelines are updated each year.

Economic Unit	Annually	Monthly	Twice Monthly	Biweekly	Weekly
1	\$21,978	\$1,832	\$916	\$846	\$423
2	29,637	2,470	1,235	1,140	570
3	37,296	3,108	1,554	1,435	718
4	44,955	3,747	1,874	1,730	865
5	52,614	4,385	2,193	2,024	1,012
6	60,273	5,023	2,512	2,319	1,160
7	67,951	5,663	2,832	2,614	1,307
8	75,647	6,304	3,152	2,910	1,455

## Child Abuse and Neglect

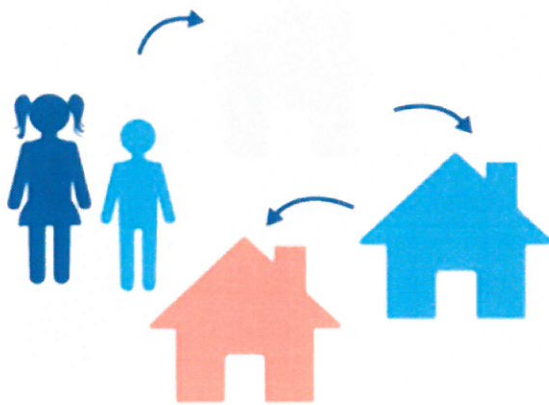
In 2018, there were 305 reports of child abuse and neglect reported in Mercer County. Of those 305 reports 100 children were placed in out-of-home care. This is an increase from 49 children placed out of the home in 2016. Below is a visual breakdown of the types of cases reported in 2018.



Of the 100 children placed in out-of-home care, 54 were children under the age of 5.

127 children are receiving *Ohio Works First* benefits (cash assistance).

### Where are children being placed?

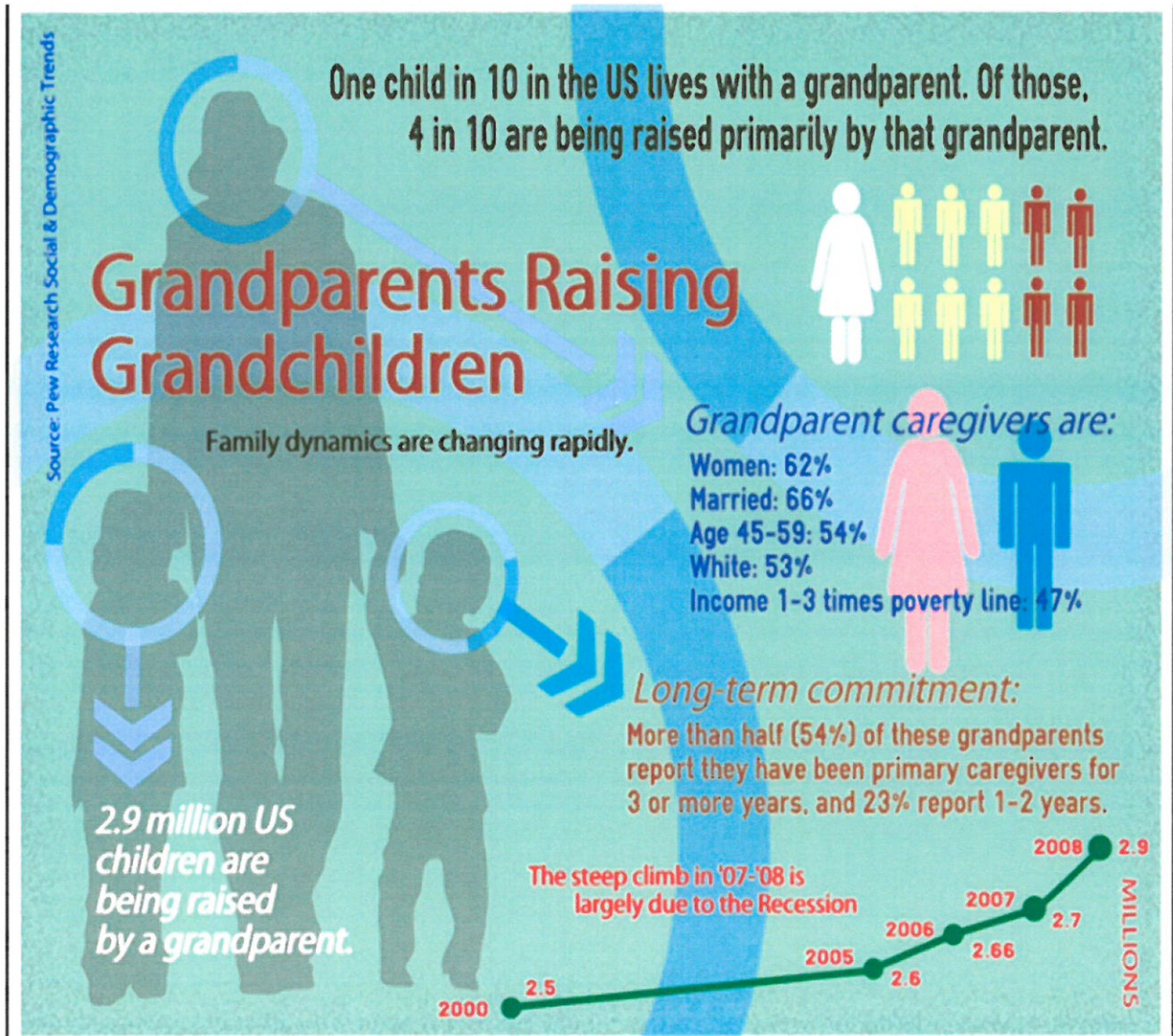


Licensed Foster Home – 52%  
Approved Relative / Kinship – 34%  
Group Home / Residential – 11%  
Adoptive Placement – 4%

\*average stay in foster care is 21.8 months.

In 2016, Congress passed the *Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Act*, to create and collaborate on resources for grandparents who were raising their children. The legislation was brought forth in response to the ever-growing opioid epidemic across the nation and the increase in number of children being placed in foster and kinship homes.

AARP reported in an article, “Grandparents Report Success in Raising Grandchildren”, (November 6, 2018), that nearly 3 million older adults are raising their own grandchildren.



In 2018, 149 grandparents were raising their grandchildren in Mercer County.



## Public Assistance

The Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services provides a monthly report, Public Assistance Monthly Statistics Report that illustrates the numbers of individuals and household / groups that receive OWF (Ohio Works First), SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and PFCC (Publicly Funded Child Care).

Month	OWF		SNAP		PFCC	
	Families / Groups	Children	Families / Groups	Children	Families / Groups	Children
March 19	76	108	829	737	54	89
February 19	73	108	834	758	55	95
January 19	74	112	840	746	56	98
December 18	71	106	836	742	57	99
November 18	67	99	849	769	58	102
October 2018	71	106	832	718	60	114
Averages	72	107	837	745	57	100

## Homelessness & Housing

While no reports provided illustrated a clear number of individuals experiencing homelessness in Mercer County; the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) and Ohio Housing Finance Agency provide information for the state of Ohio.

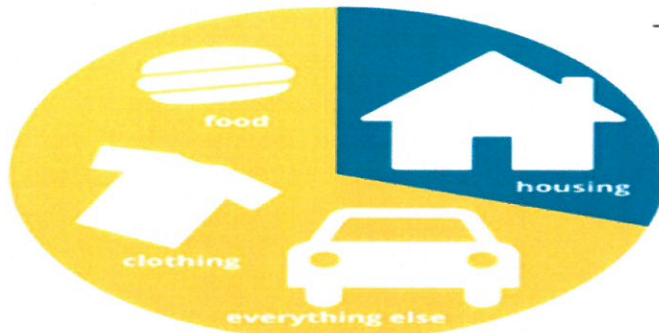
In 2018, HUD reported that 10,249 Ohioans were experiencing homelessness as collected by the point in time study completed annually in January. In stark contrast, OHFA reported 70,123 individuals experienced homelessness in 2017. Furthermore, OHFA's data has concluded that 9,747 children under the age of 5 were homeless in 2016. This is a 53% increase since 2012. OHFA collects data throughout the entire time in comparison to a 1-day point in time study completed by HUD. Regardless of the difference, both agencies agree that there is and will continue to be an increase in homelessness for individuals under 18 years of age (Dodd, 2018).



**A person in the U.S. is most likely to experience homelessness in the **first year of life.****

A person is next most likely to experience homelessness at ages 1–5.<sup>1</sup>

## What is **Affordable Housing**?



The government says housing is "affordable" if a family spends **no more than 30%** of their income to live there.



In 2017 there were a total of 18,010 Housing units in Mercer County- **Definition: A housing unit is a house, an apartment, a mobile home, a group of rooms, or a single room that is occupied (or if vacant, is intended for occupancy) as separate living quarters.** In 2018 there was a total population of 40,959 people and 16,142 family households. Each household consists of approximately 2.49 people per household.

There are 9 low income housing apartment complexes which contain 609 affordable apartments for rent in Mercer County, Ohio. Many of these rental apartments are income- based housing (HUD) with about 435 apartments available. There are 103 Project-Based Section 8 subsidized apartments in Mercer County, and an additional 174 low income apartments that don't have rental assistance but are still considered to be affordable housing for low income families.



Average Rent =  
\$646 / month

Based upon census population data, there is 2.15% of the population without suitable housing (880 people) in Mercer County.

**Drug & Alcohol**

According to *County Health Rankings and Roadmap* (<http://www.countyhealthrankings.org>), 20% of adults in Mercer County report binge drinking. In comparison the Mercer County Community Health Assessment (2016) reported that 41% of all Mercer County adults reported binge drinking. Mercer County is 3<sup>rd</sup> in the state for binge drinking behavior following Putnam and Delaware counties.

Between 2012-2014, there were 11 overdose deaths in Mercer County.

The following information is provided via the Ohio Substance Abuse Monitoring Network (OSAM) January – June 2018.

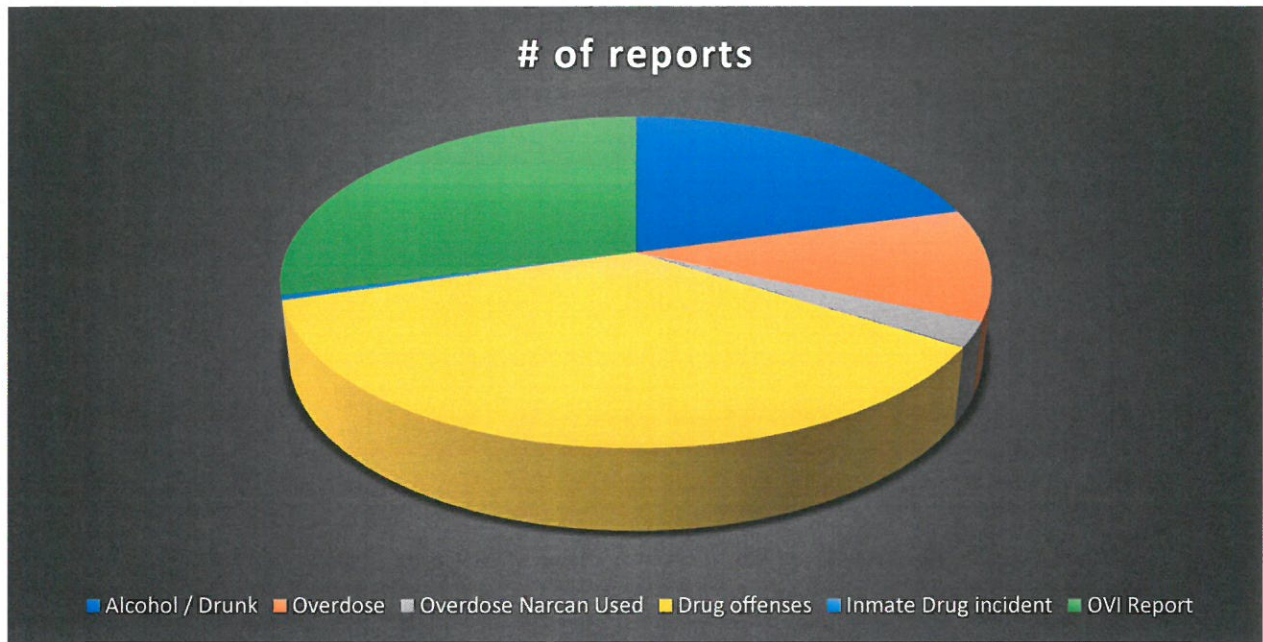
OSAM staff have divided the state into regions. Mercer County is allocated to the Toledo Region which includes 17 counties in northwest Ohio. The largest metropolitan area is Toledo. Information collected for the report was garnered through surveys and focus groups.

According to the report the top 3 drugs used in the region are: Cocaine / Crack, Heroin / Fentanyl, with powdered Cocaine and Marijuana tied for 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Respondents include drug users, law enforcement, and treatment providers. Each group was asked if the availability of certain drugs had increased, stayed the same, or increased in the last 6 months. Below is a visual depiction of the responses.

<b>Increased</b>	<b>Stayed the same</b>	<b>Decreased</b>
Fentanyl Neurontin Synthetic Marijuana	Powdered Cocaine Crack Cocaine Heroin Suboxone Sedative – Hypnotics Marijuana Methamphetamine Prescription Stimulants	Prescription Opioids Ecstasy Bath Salts

According to the 2017 Mercer County Sheriff's Office Annual Report there were 203 reports made related to drugs or alcohol.



**Education Level**



**92.7%**

High School Graduate among those 25 yrs & older

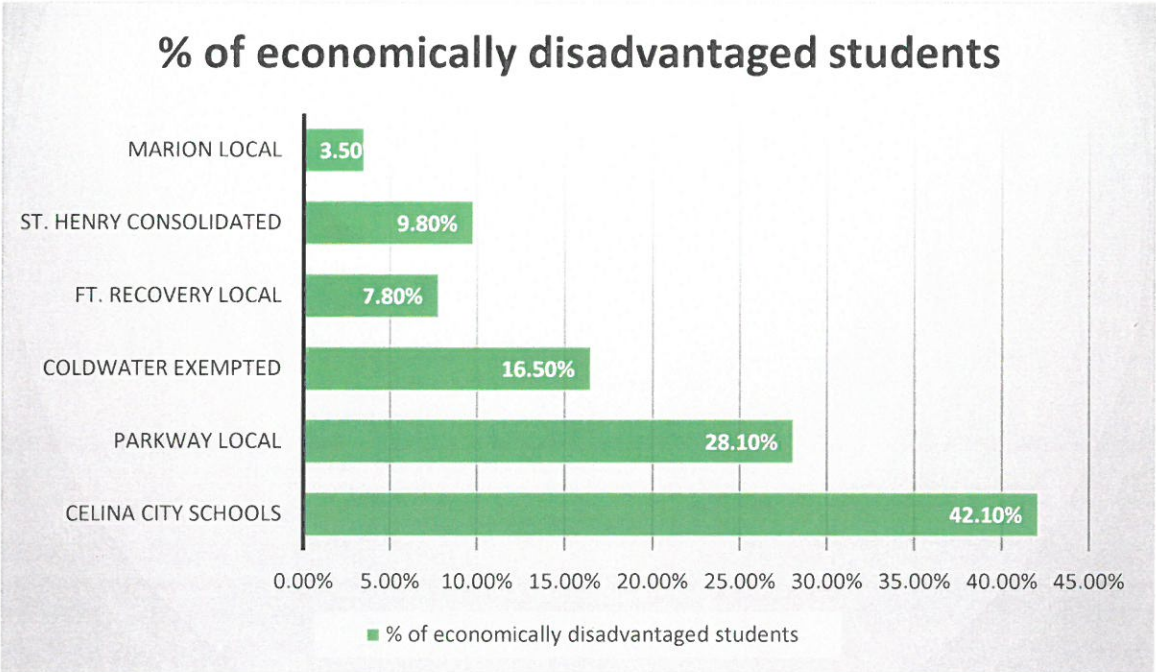
**16.6%**

Bachelor's Degree or higher among those 25 yrs & older

Celina City Schools	93.9%
Parkway Local Schools	94%
Fort Recovery Local Schools	97.3%
Coldwater Exempted	99.1%
Marion Local	97.2%
St. Henry Local Schools	98.7%

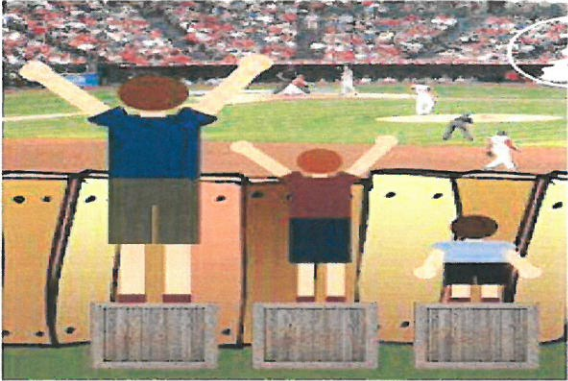
4- year graduation rates per ODE State Report Cards

The table below illustrates the number of economically disadvantaged students enrolled in each school district.



There are numerous research articles and reports that identify the impact of poverty and socioeconomics on academics. Children in poverty are more likely to have a disability, be held back in school, and drop out of high school. In Ohio, Groundwork, a public advocacy group, has published numerous resource materials outlining the inequity among children and the detrimental impact on education and our economy. To view Groundwork resources, visit their website at [www.groundworkohio.org](http://www.groundworkohio.org).

**Equality**

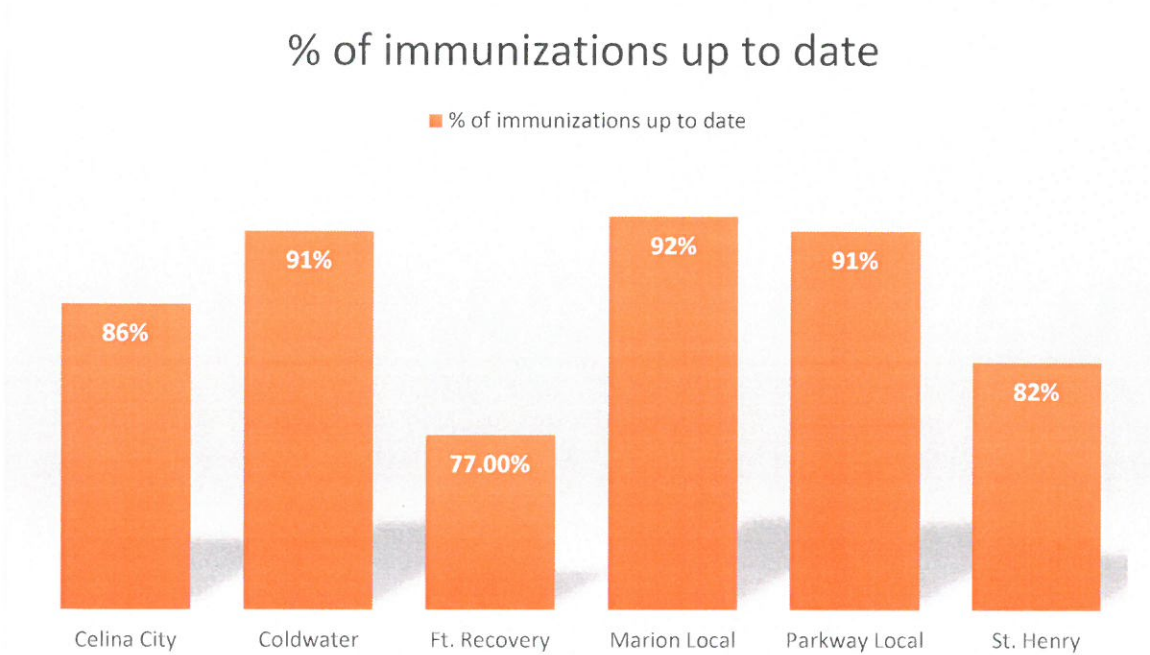


**Equity**



**Health and Wellness**

In the past few years, Ohio has experienced several outbreaks of communicable illnesses. These include influenza, pertussis, and scabies. Most recently, our neighboring states have experienced an influx of measles cases. To safeguard everyone against the spread of infectious communicable diseases the CDC along with the Ohio Department of Health is implementing an educational campaign on the importance of immunizations. The chart below illustrates the completion of immunizations for children entering kindergarten by school district.



Mercer County is in the top 4 of the state for philosophical exemptions and top 5 for incomplete with no exemption on file in the state.

*Data provided by the Ohio Department of Health.*

*The top 3 communicable diseases in 2018 are: Chlamydia, Salmonella, and Pertussis.*

Per the Mercer County Community Health Assessment Report the top 3 focal points include:



Mental Health



Obesity



Substance Abuse

## Prenatal and Infants

Statistics provided in this section are courtesy of the Ohio Department of Health – Network of Care

- Mercer County received an excellent rating regarding low birth rate babies. 5% of babies are born with low-birth weight.
- In 2010, the teen pregnancy rate was 35.8 per 1,000 females between the ages of 15 and 19. Teen pregnancy is currently trending downward in Mercer County.
- 91.4% of pregnant mothers receive prenatal care in their first trimester. Evidence indicates that the younger the mother is the later the mother will begin receiving prenatal care.
- The infant mortality rate is 5 per 1,000 live births.

**PREVENTION**

Progesterone therapy lowers risk of delivering a preterm baby by as much as **45%**

Smoking is estimated to account for:  
**14%** of **preterm deliveries**  
**10%** of all infant **deaths**

 Women increase their chances of delivering a premature baby if they become pregnant **within 18 months** of their last pregnancy

 Akron Children's Hospital

## Child Care Availability

There are numerous preschools and childcare options available throughout Mercer County. Three facilities provide preschool services via ECE or state funded PreK. Those centers include Ft. Recovery Preschool, Parkway Preschool, and Mercer County Head Start. Mercer County Education Services Center provide preschool special education services to children throughout the county. Service delivery takes on the form of center-based classrooms and itinerant in-home services or itinerant center-based services.

Childcare center in the Mercer County area include  
Little Flower\* - 4 Star Rated Program

Kids Kastle  
Stepping Ahead  
Bright Future



\*Little Flower childcare center will be the sole provider of childcare funds via Publicly Funded Childcare subsidy by end of 2019. Other JFS licensed childcare facilities are vacating their contracts due to Step Up to Quality requirements.

Other Preschool Providers:

- Mercer County Head Start - 5 Star Rated programs
- Creative Discovery
- Immaculate Conception
- Graceland Preschool

[Step Up To Quality](#) is a five-star quality rating and improvement system administered by the Ohio Department of Education and the [Ohio Department of Job and Family Services](#). SUTQ recognizes and promotes learning and development programs that meet quality program standards that exceed [preschool licensing](#) and [school age child care licensing](#) health and safety regulations. Step Up to Quality program standards are based on national research identifying standards which lead to improved outcomes for children.

All [Early Childhood Education](#) (ECE) and [Preschool Special Education](#) (PSE) programs funded by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) are mandated to participate in Step Up To Quality (SUTQ) and are required to achieve a rating of 3, 4, or 5 to maintain state funding, as well as administer and report on the [Early Learning Assessment](#) for all ECE and PSE funded children. The invitation to participate in SUTQ has now been made to all eligible publicly funded programs in Ohio.

In addition to ECE and PSE programs, ODE licensed programs that receive Publicly Funded Child Care (PFCC) funds from the [Ohio Department of Job and Family Services \(ODJFS\)](#) will be required to participate in [SUTQ](#) by July 1, 2020.

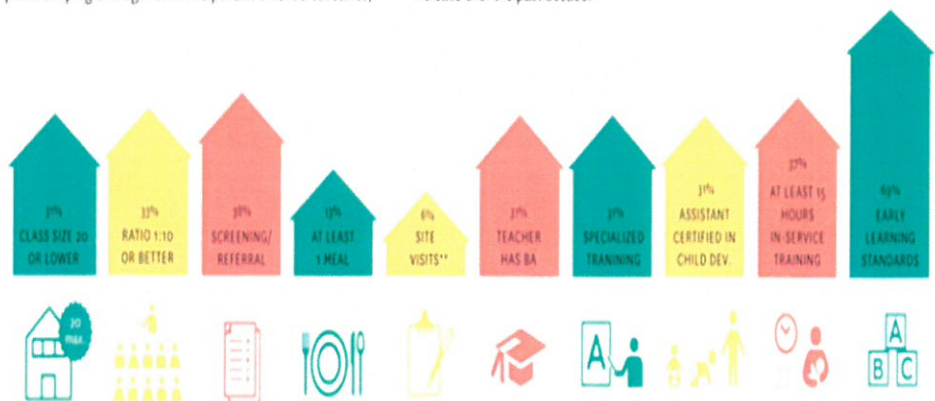
**A quality pre-k program is found to have:**

- Teachers with a bachelor's degree and prior experience in early childhood education.
- Manageable class sizes with no more than twenty children.

**Quality Improvement**

There are 10 research-based quality standard benchmarks that the National Institute for Early Education Research checks state preschool programs against. While policies differ across states,

research has shown that the number of programs meeting these benchmarks has improved year over year. Take a look at the percent increase over the past decade.



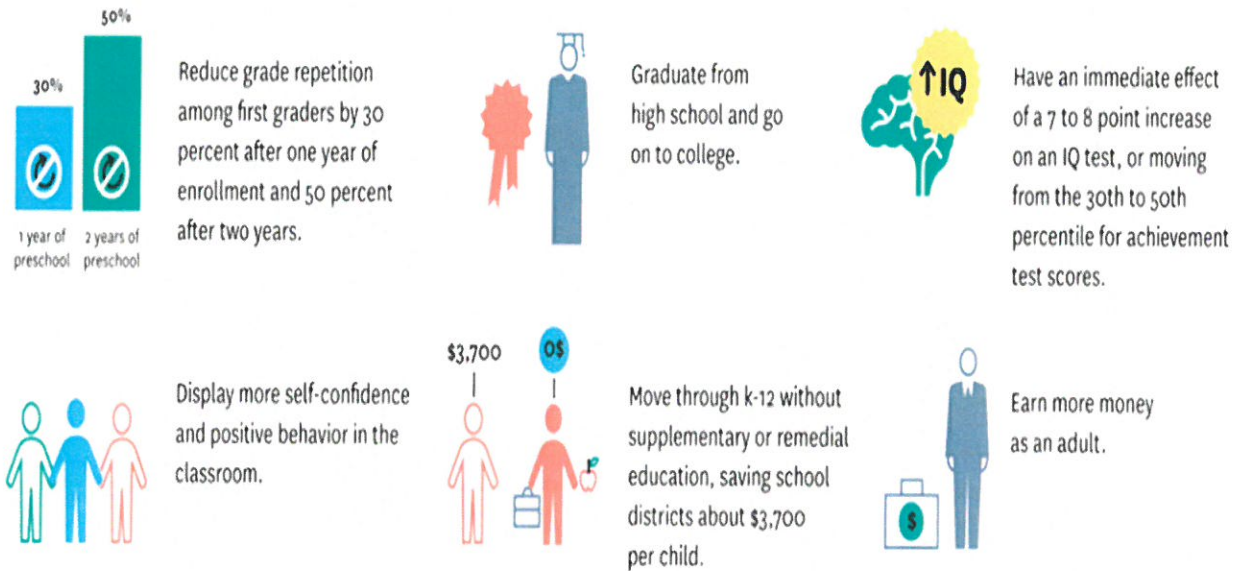


## Benefits of early education

The quality of a pre-k program, or lack of, sets the stage for a student's future.

Programs can improve cognitive development, and reading and math scores.

A quality pre-k program can help students:



Mercer County has a very low unemployment rate. Many families are working. Many Head Start eligible families work more than one job to meet their needs. Childcare options are available but limited and will continue to decrease as more providers vacate their contracts with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.

There are no center or licensed providers available for second or third shift employees. Likewise, there are no licensed home providers in the county currently.

Mercer County Head Start is the only free preschool provider for eligible families. Mercer County ESC provides free special education preschool services for children identified with an Individualized Education Plan. All other providers require a fee for services.

Help Me Grow provides home visiting services for children birth to age 3 if they are identified with an Individualized Family Service Plan or meet the eligibility requirements of "at-risk" home visiting.

According to the 2016 Mercer County Board of Developmental Disabilities Annual Report, there were 334 referrals received for Help Me Grow. Home visiting services were provided to 39 individuals and 160 children were served in service coordination.

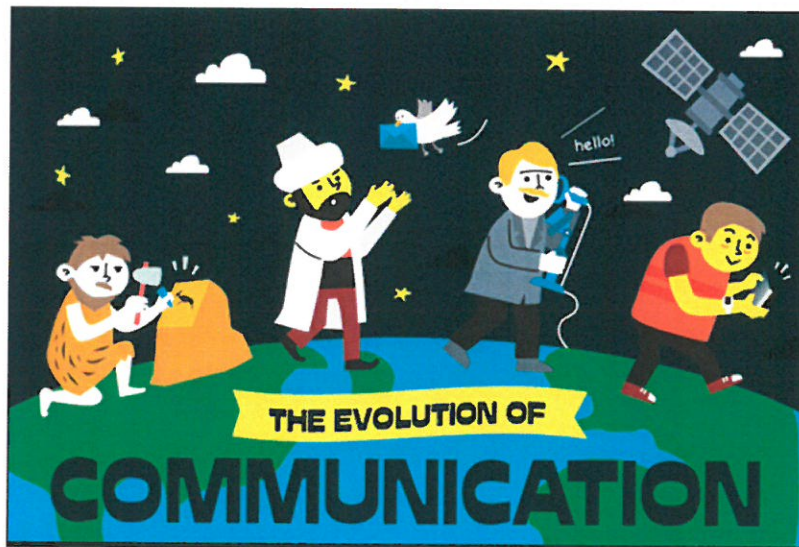
## Transportation

*“Smart businesses do not look at labor costs alone anymore. They do look at market access, transportation, telecommunications infrastructure and the education and skill level of the workforce, the development of capital and the regulatory market.” ~ Janet Napolitano*

Information garnered from Data USA website (<https://datausa.io/profile>) indicates that there are approximately 2 cars owned per household in Mercer County. This information may be misleading as lower income and aging households may not own 2 vehicles if any at all.

The Ohio Statewide Transit Needs Study, reports that the population of Mercer County continues to grow in the aging population and lower income individuals and families. These populations rely heavier on public transit service more so than families and individuals in employed middle to high income groups. The study indicated that while a need was suggested for public transit to support the working populations in the southern part of the county it would be “difficult to operate cost-effective services”. Another suggestion made by the study was the possibility of connecting Celina to St. Marys with public transit services. Currently there are no public transit services available. The Council on Aging does operate transportation services for those over 65 years of age. Medicaid eligible clientele can utilize Medicaid benefits for transportation; however, there are no contracted providers in the area at this time.

## Communication



**86.7% of households have a computer**

*Quick Facts, 2013-2017*

**79.6% are connected to the internet**

In a survey completed by Head Start parents (2018), a computer was defined as a “smart phone” and not a desk top computer.

## **Resources Available to Address Needs of Eligible Children and Families**

For this section, the author will refer the reader to the *Mercer County Resource Handbook*. Below is a generalized list of service available to children and families.

Mercer County Department of Jobs & Family Services  
Mercer County Education Services Center  
Mercer County Head Start  
Mercer County Library  
Mercer Health  
Mercer County Health District  
C.A.L.L. Food Pantry  
OUR Home Family Resource Center  
WIC  
Choosing Life Pregnancy Center  
Foundations Behavioral Health Systems  
Help Me Grow

### **Medical and Dental**

Information provided by County Health Rankings and Roadmaps ([www.countyhealthrankings.org](http://www.countyhealthrankings.org))



**1 Primary Care Physician to 2,270 Patients**



**1 Dentist to 3,410 Patients**

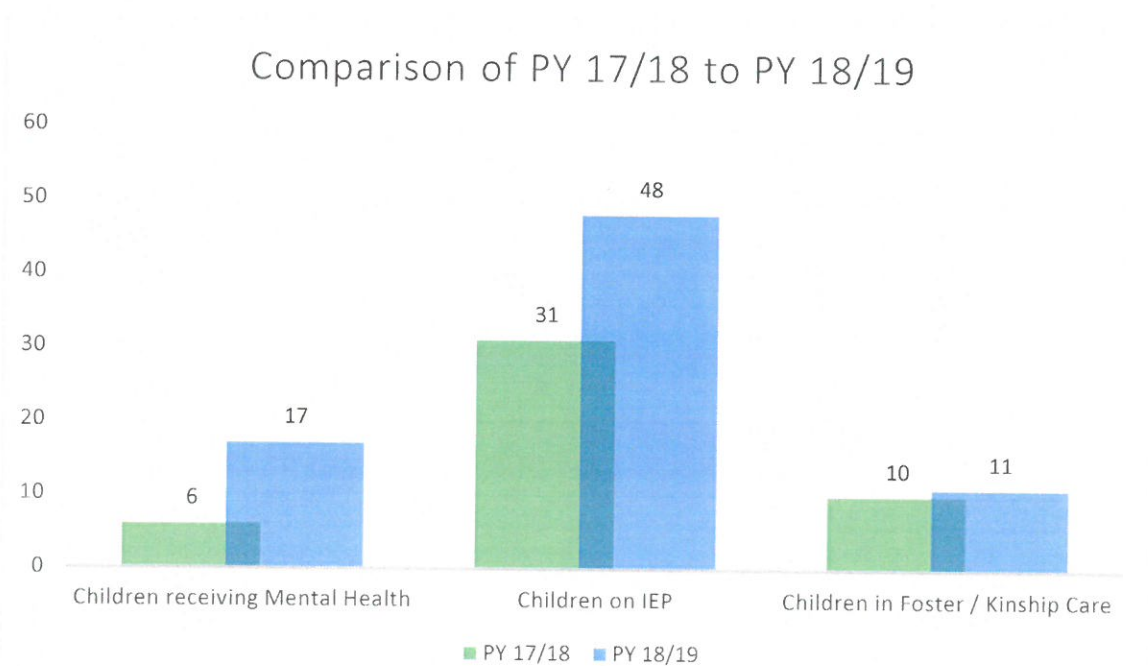


There is a scarcity of pediatric dental providers in the immediate area who accept Medicaid and perform pediatric oral surgery. Families travel to Lima, Ohio, Dayton, Ohio, or Ft. Wayne, Indiana to receive needed oral surgery.

## Mercer County Head Start Program Information Report Comparison 17/18 and 18/19

Each year, Head Start programs must submit a Program Information Report(PIR) to the Office of Head Start. The PIR provides data that reflects the Head Start grantee's community and the services provided by the Head Start program. Below is a summary / comparison of a few of the objectives listed in the PIR as reported by Mercer County Head Start. (This summary is not reflective of all services & reporting of the PIR submitted for PY 17/18 or 18/19.)

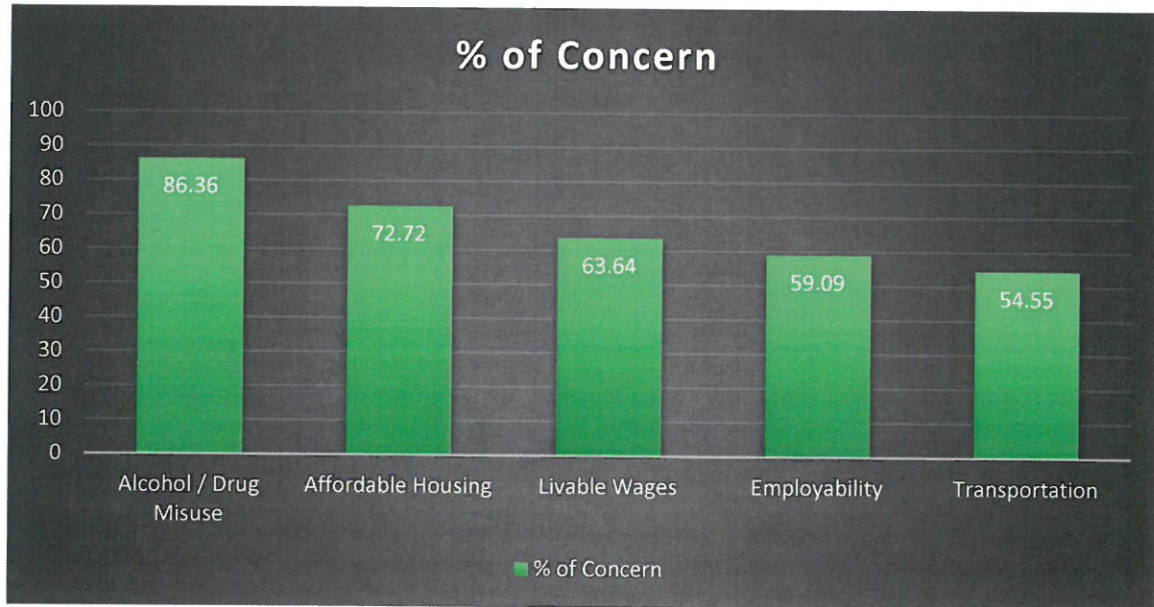
- Annually, MCHS is serving approximately 30 families experiencing some form of homelessness (true homeless, transient, "couch surfing").
- Annually, MCHS serves 20 unemployed single parents.
- Annually, MCHS serves 12 parents with less than a High School diploma



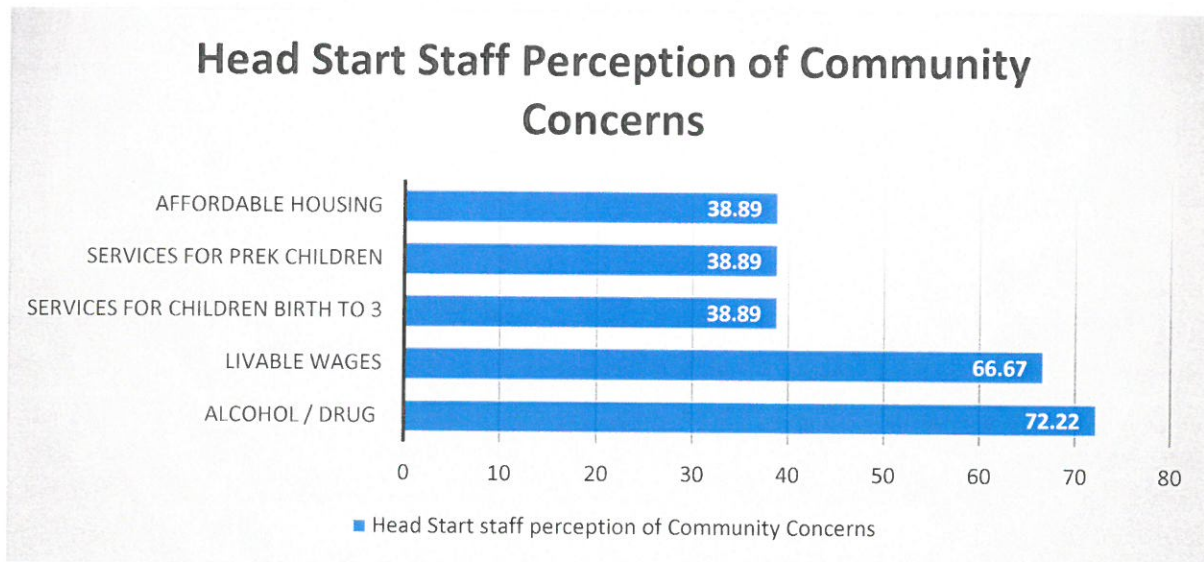
## Community Needs Survey

In the spring of 2019, Mercer County Head Start conducted a survey of the Mercer County community. The survey was sent to education providers, private sector business, social service agencies, private citizens, community leadership, civic organizations, and civil service agencies. Responses received illustrated the diversity of the population participating in the survey. According to respondents below is a compilation of concerns facing the community.

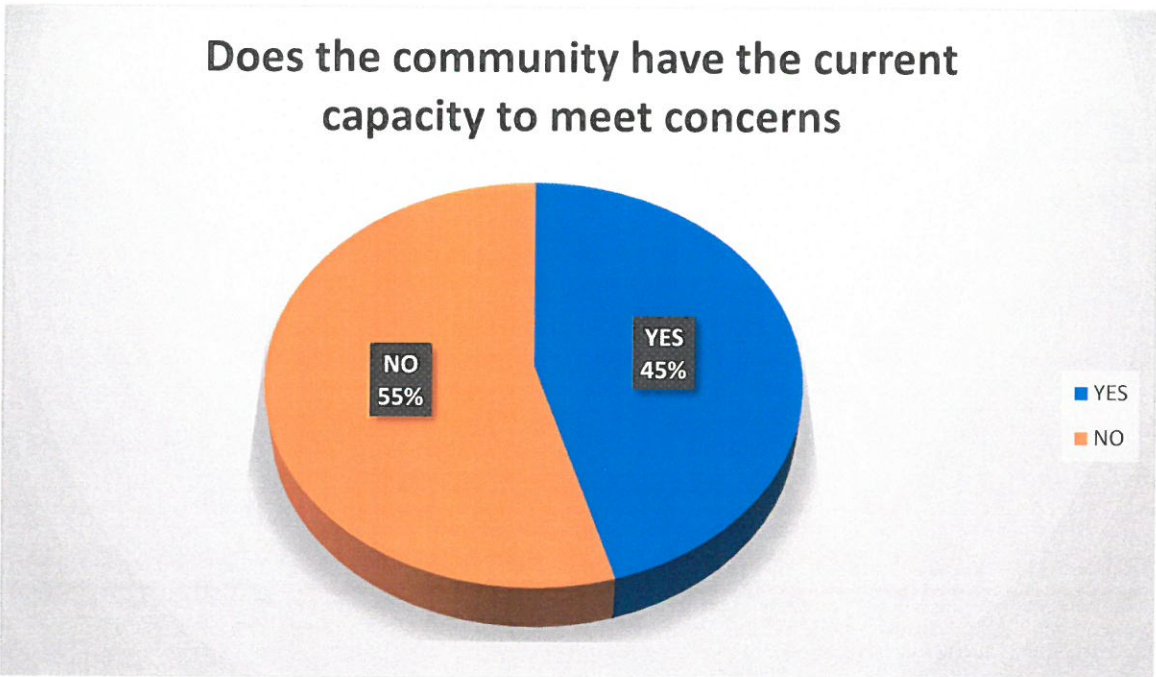
### Community Perception of Concerns



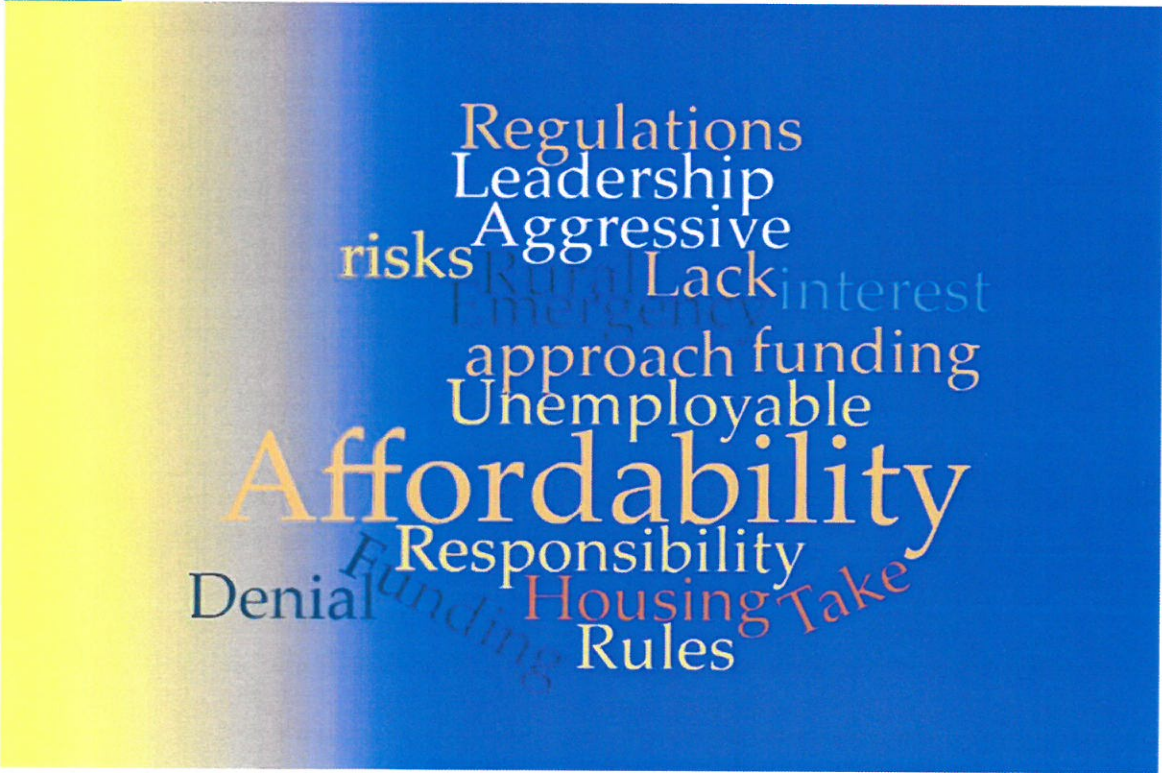
The same survey was submitted to Mercer County Head Start staff for inquiry. Below is an illustration of answers provided.



The survey asked respondents if they felt that community currently had the capacity to address the needs identified as a high concern the response was:



When asked to identify barriers to mitigating concerns the following themes appeared:



When asked about the positive attributes of the community respondents replied:

“People of Mercer County are welcoming and always ready to help when needed.”

“The schools and companies do a great job once they are made aware of circumstances.”

“Services work together as a team.”

### **Conclusions**

Mercer County has many strengths. There are several employment opportunities throughout the county which support the economic base of the community. The agricultural systems found throughout the county have been here since the inception of the community. With deep-rooted beliefs of hard work, faith, family, and friends, Mercer County is a community that displays comradery and self-sufficiency as witnessed through the tornado recovery of 2019. There are many resources available to families. These are complimented by the on-going mission to continue to grow and empower existing resources and those in need.

These strengths will be utilized to combat issues that are prevalent in the community. The drug / alcohol misuse impacts all aspects of the community (children, families, education, and private sector jobs). As a result, several agencies have created specific services to help those in recovery, those who are providing care, and prevention. The number of children under the age of 5 who have been removed from their home has increased. The number of grandparents raising their grandchildren has increased. Children receiving specialized services (IEP) for speech has increased. The number of pediatric dentists accepting Medicaid has decreased. Affordable housing is a significant issue. Lack of public transportation for lower income families is a barrier to service delivery. The probable childcare availability crisis looming in the future may impact employability for families. Immunization rates may have a detrimental impact on the health and safety of individuals and the community.

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Mercer County PIR report