Helping People. Changing Lives.

community Action®
OF SOUTH MISSISSIPPI

Helping People. Changing Lives.

2022 Annual Report

Executive Team

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:

Lee Ann Kendrick
Adult Services Director

Tiffany Bradley
Finance Director

Vanessa Gibson
Executive Director

Tayonka Thomas
Children and Youth Services Director

Kelli Green
Human Resource Manager

Letter from the Executive Director

As I complete my first year as Executive Director, I have much for which to be thankful. First of all, thank you to the agency's dedicated Board of Directors for engaging with the management team and guiding us through it all. The name change from Jackson County Civic Action to Community Action of South Mississippi was met with enthusiasm by the community. We continued branding activities throughout the year and began work on a strategic plan to take us into the future. The agency continued to make positive gains toward recovery from the effects of the pandemic. Thanks to high vaccination rates among staff and clients, Head Start enrollment and Aging transportation increased significantly. Enrollment numbers for Early Head Start and Childcare remained high throughout the pandemic.

Although staff shortages continue to plague operations, teamwork and dedication to the greater good, buoyed staff, who wore multiple hats during this time. We hired a new Director of Children's Services and anticipate great things during her tenure. We remain optimistic that recruitment and retention efforts will yield positive results, stabilizing the agency workforce.

The agency was able to meet the needs of more clients than in previous years, due to the influx of additional federal funds during the pandemic. Those same funds allowed the agency to show appreciation to staff through retention incentives and increased pay. Other flexibilities offered by the agency's funders allowed for quality improvements to facilities, mental wellness for staff, and in-kind match waivers.

Our partners are integral to our success. We plan to rejuvenate existing partnerships while reaching out to new partners in the coming year. A huge thank you to the Jackson County Board of Supervisors and the Pascagoula Gautier School District for your continued support and partnership.

We were chosen, as an exemplary program, by the MS Dept of Economic Assistance, to host Dr. Lanikque Howard, Director, Office of Community Services (OCS), Administration for Children and Families (ACF). As the OCS director, she provides leadership and oversight of over $6 billion in mandatory and discretionary grants through seven social service and community development programs. The leadership team and I were able to spend one on one time with her to discuss our needs and concerns. She was able to visit with our seniors during their congregate meal. She encouraged us to apply for other funding opportunities through OCS. We assured her that the work we are entrusted with performing is being done well.

Vanessa Gibson
Executive Director

Mission

It is our mission to provide quality services that empower the community and foster independence.

Vision

COMMUNITY ACTION OF SOUTH MISSISSIPPI:

Our vision is to be the standard of excellence in developing and delivering quality, responsive services.

Independent Auditor's Report

OPINION ON EACH MAJOR FEDERAL PROGRAM

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to below present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Community Action of South Mississippi, Inc. as of September, 30 2021, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flow for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In addition to regular reviews and self-assessments, an independent audit is performed annually. Areas of review include internal control over financial reporting and tests of compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, grants, and other matters.

Board of Directors

FRONT ROW FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:

Paul Lee
Poor Sector

Raquel Howard
Private Sector

Cynthia Black
Public Sector - Chairman

Rosetta Williams
Poor Sector

Ricky McCorvey
Private Sector

BACK ROW FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:

Bernard Kirkland
Poor Sector

Angie Cowan
Poor Sector

Mandye Feranda
Private Sector

Carlos Moulds
Public Sector

NOT PICTURED:

Nancy Jo Maples
Public Sector

Lauren Kelley
Private Sector - Vice Chairman

Terri Tyler
Public Sector - Secretary

Policy Council

FRONT ROW FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:

Julie Fortenberry
Parent

Letha Boulton
Community Rep - Secretary &
Personnel Committee Chair

Octavia Holloway
Parent

BACK ROW FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:

Jessica Shoemake
Parent

Laura Harry
Community Rep - Planning Committee Chair

Tiffany Woods
Parent - Assistant Secretary &
Grievance Committee Chair

Shalimar Legister
Parent - Vice Chairperson

Cha-Miracle Good
Parent

NOT PICTURED:

Terri Tyler
Community Rep - Board Liaison

Chivalry Joyce
Community Rep - Chairperson

Christian Hartley
Community Rep - Finance Committee Chair

Khrystopher Green
Parent

Jessica Thomas
Parent

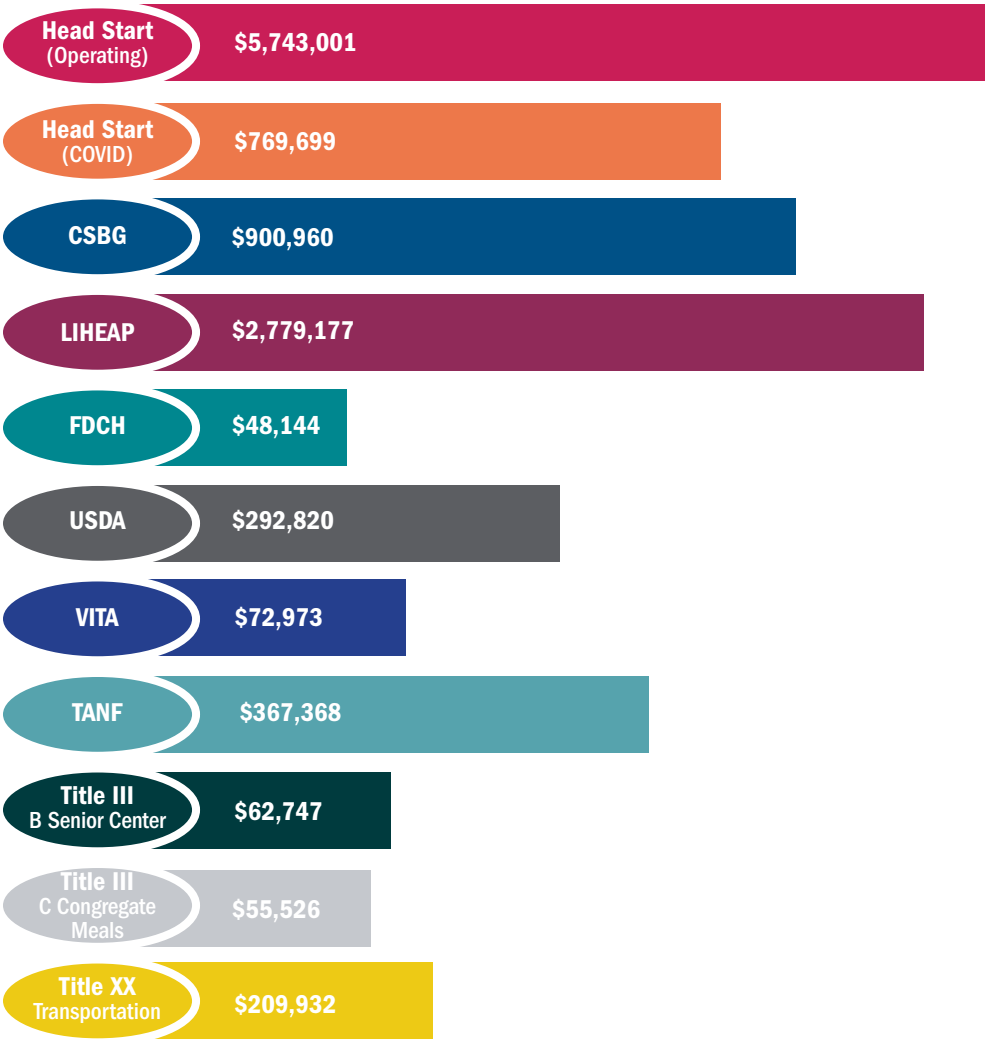
Nakilie Jefferson
Parent

Gwen Page
Parent

Antwon McNair
Parent

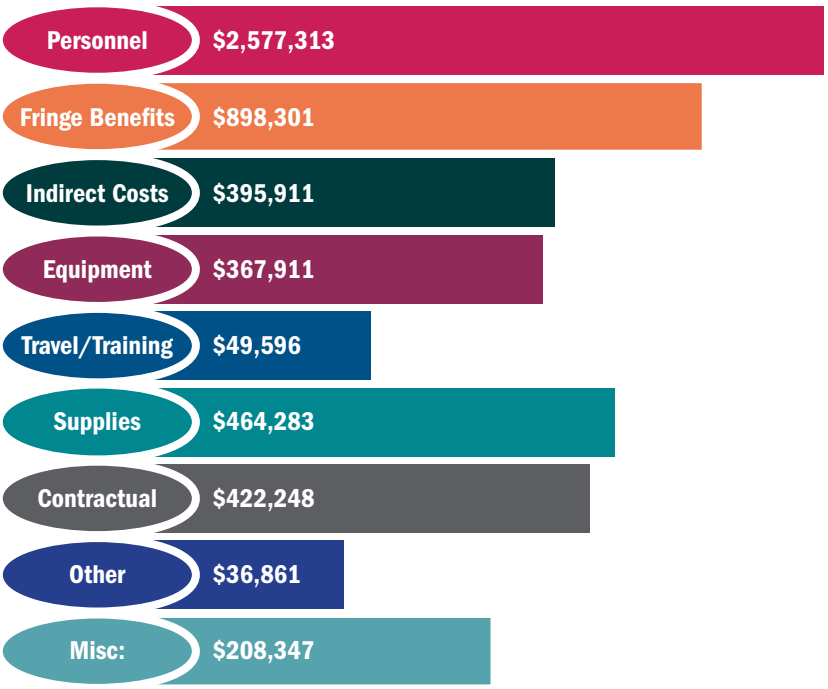
Federal Programs

REVENUE FOR FY2022

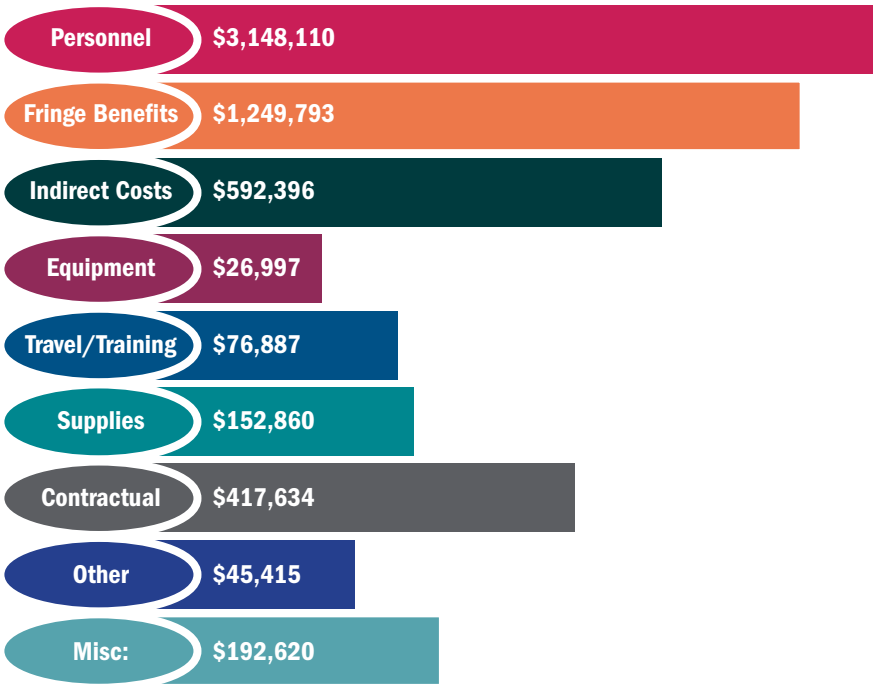


Head Start Budget

HEAD START/EHS EXPENDITURES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021 (7/1/2021 - 4/30/2022) TOTAL = $5,420,771



HEAD START/EHS PROPOSED EXPENDITURES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022 (5/1/2022 - 4/30/2023) TOTAL = $5,902,712



Expenses listed under Misc include: utilities, lease payments, repairs, maintenance, facility maintenance and telephone.

Expenses listed under Other include: food-other, medical and dental services, field trips and treats, parent activity, fuel and awards/incentives.

Head Start Eligibility

INCOME AT OR BELOW 100% OF FEDERAL POVERTY LINE

369
Children

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SUCH AS TANF AND SSI

42
Children

FOSTER CARE

15
Children

HOMELESS

39
Children

DISABILITY/SPECIAL NEEDS

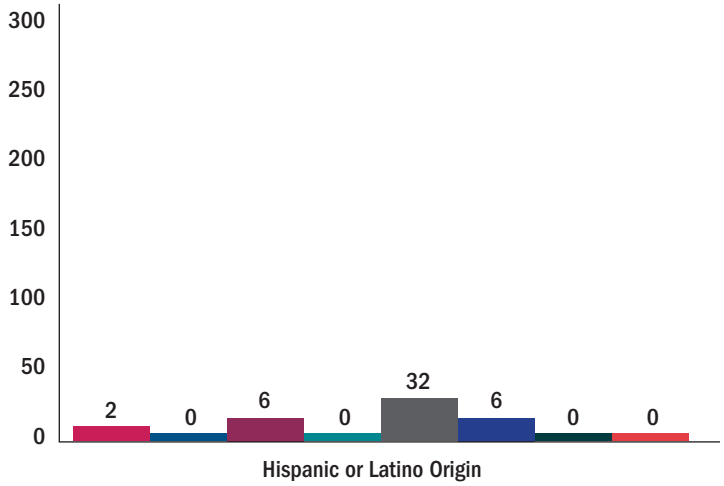
12
Children

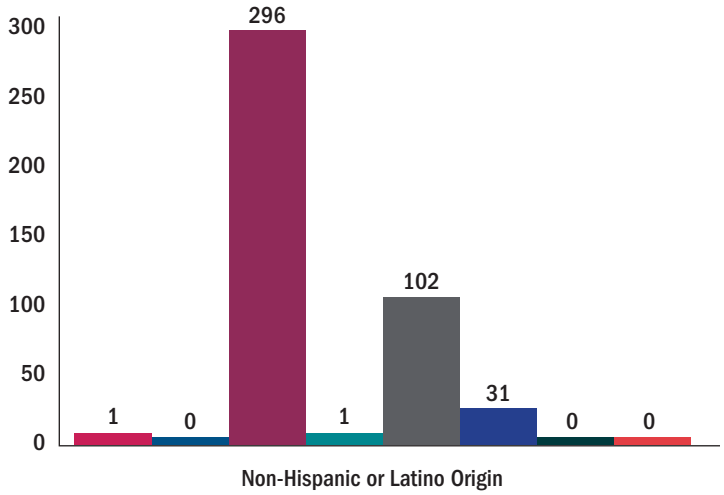
OVER INCOME

0
Children

Head Start Demographics

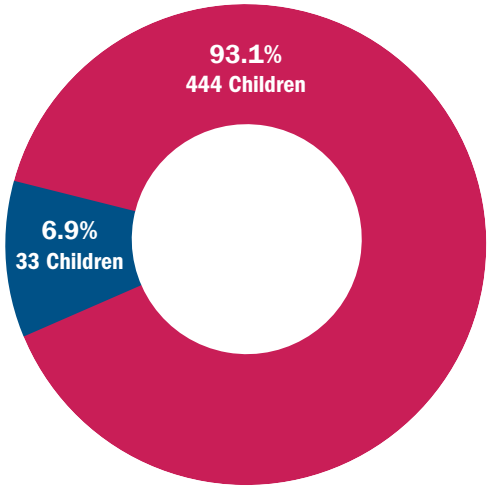
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White
- Biracial/ Multi-racial
- Other or Unspecified
- Hispanic





Head Start Primary Language

- English 444 Children
- Spanish 33 Children



Head Start Enrollment

FUNDED ENROLLMENT

436
Children

CUMULATIVE ENROLLMENT

477
Children

Early Head Start Enrollment

FUNDED ENROLLMENT

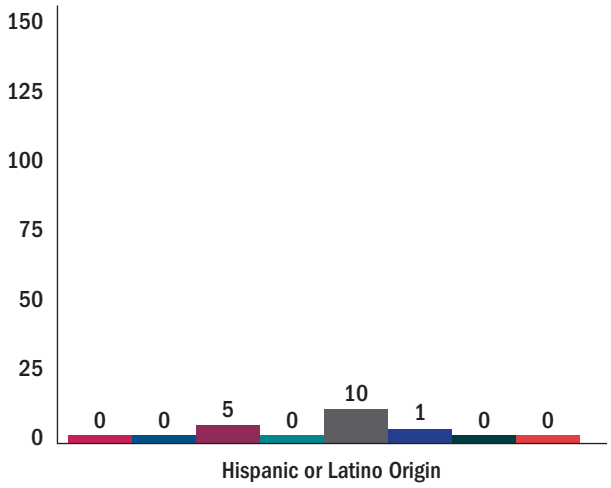
98
Children

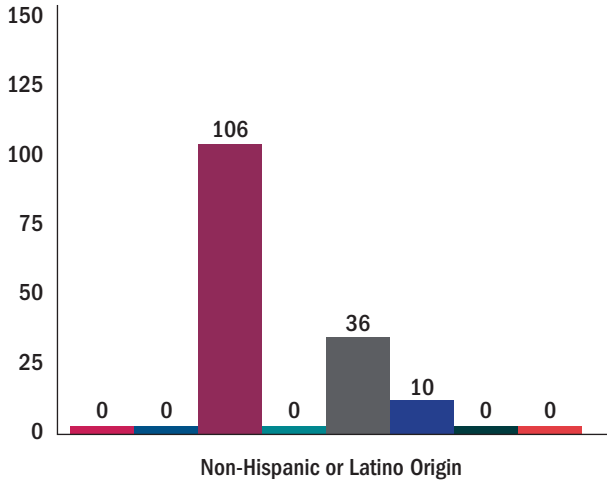
CUMULATIVE ENROLLMENT

168
Children

Early Head Start Demographics

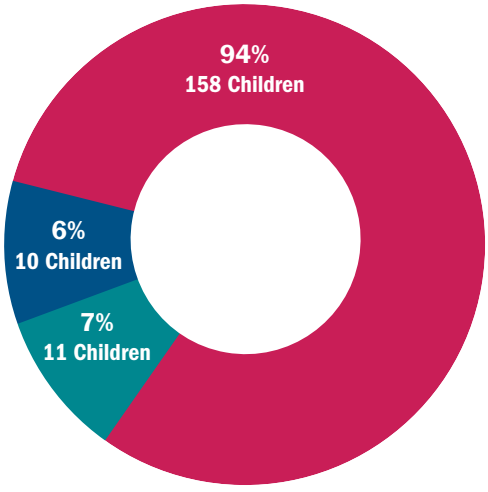
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White
- Biracial/ Multi-racial
- Other or Unspecified
- Hispanic





Early Head Start Primary Language

- English 158 Children
- Spanish 10 Children
- Dual Language 11 Children



Early Head Start Eligibility

INCOME AT OR BELOW 100% OF FEDERAL POVERTY LINE

106
Children

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SUCH AS TANF AND SSI

39
Children

FOSTER CARE

6
Children

HOMELESS

16
Children

DISABILITY/SPECIAL NEEDS

1
Children

OVER INCOME

0
Children

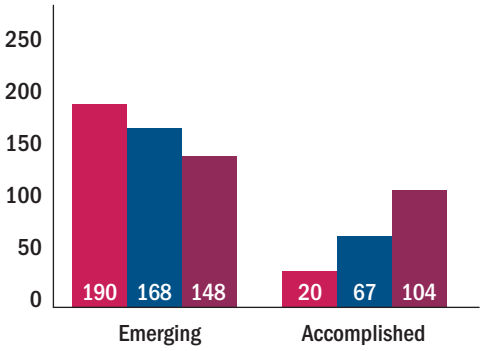
School Readiness

To collect school readiness data, the agency used The Teaching Strategies GOLD online assessment instrument. The system measures the knowledge, skills and behaviors that are most predictive of school success. The tool has 38 objectives, including 2 objectives related to English language acquisition. 36 objectives are organized into 9 areas of development and learning. The first 4 are major areas of child development; social/emotional, physical, language and cognitive. The content learning identified in early learning standards is organized into the following 5 areas; literacy, mathematics, science and technology, social studies and the arts. The objectives in English language acquisition help teachers follow a child's progress in acquiring receptive and expressive skills in English.

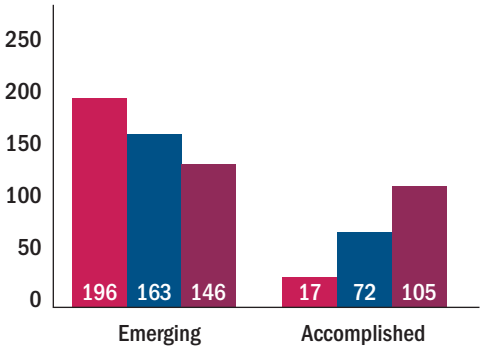
Teachers used the Teaching Strategies GOLD assessment tool quarterly to collect the data needed to plan activities for individual children. Through observations of children's work samplings and parental input, teachers leveled children in each objective area. At the end of each observation cycle, teachers finalized children's checkpoints. Teaching Strategies GOLD reports are generated to show which children are meeting, exceeding or below an area of development and learning.

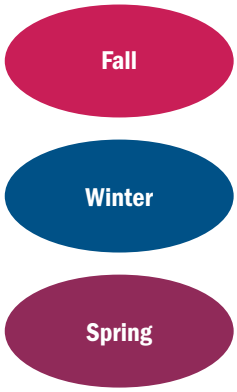
Results

SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL

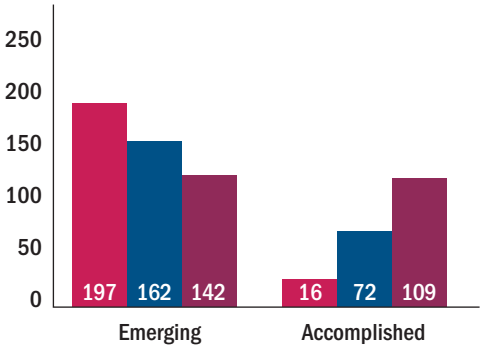


PHYSICAL

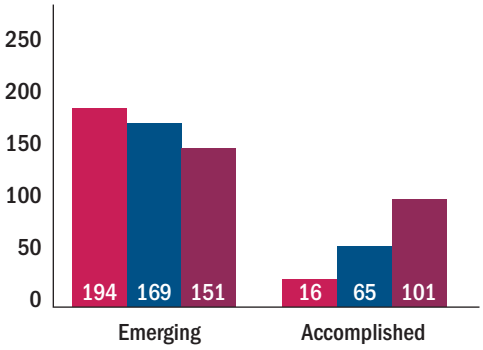




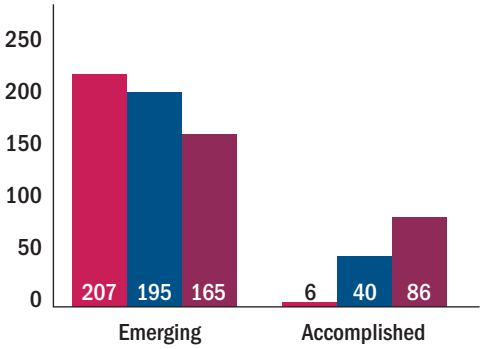
COGNITIVE



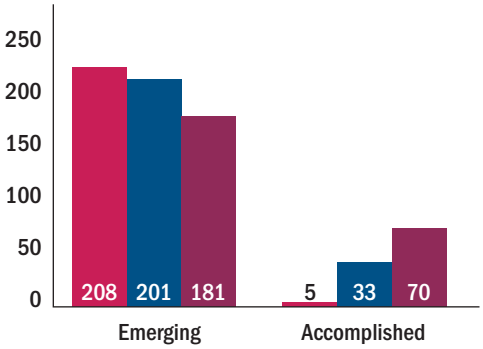
LANGUAGE



LITERACY



MATHEMATICS



Head Start Physical Health

HEAD START CHILDREN AT ENROLLMENT

465 Children with Health Insurance

438 Enrolled in Medicaid and/or CHIP

405 Children with an ongoing source of continuous, accessible health care

257** Have been determined by a health care professional to be up-to-date on all immunizations

HEAD START CHILDREN AT END OF ENROLLMENT YEAR

461 Children with Health Insurance

434 Enrolled in Medicaid and/or CHIP

353 Children with an ongoing source of continuous, accessible health care

268** Have been determined by a health care professional to be up-to-date on all immunizations

398 Children who are up-to-date on a schedule of age-appropriate preventative and primary health care, according to the relevant state's EPSDT schedule for well child care

29 Received medical treatment for chronic conditions

BMI (BODY MASS INDEX)

35 Underweight

244 Healthy Weight

63 Overweight

135 Obese

Early Head Start Physical Health

EARLY HEAD START CHILDREN AT ENROLLMENT

133 Children with Health Insurance

128 Enrolled in Medicaid and/or CHIP

105 Children with an ongoing source of continuous, accessible health care

123** Have been determined by a health care professional to be up-to-date on all immunizations

EARLY HEAD START CHILDREN AT END OF ENROLLMENT YEAR

129 Children with Health Insurance

124 Enrolled in Medicaid and/or CHIP

90 Children with an ongoing source of continuous, accessible health care

83** Have been determined by a health care professional to be up-to-date on all immunizations

48

Children who are up-to-date on a schedule of age-appropriate preventative and primary health care, according to the relevant state's EPSDT schedule for well child care

5

Received medical treatment for chronic conditions

* The agency has implemented the following programs to combat childhood obesity; The Organwise Guys to empower kids to be healthy and smart from the inside out! Color Me Healthy to get children excited about eating smart and moving more. The 5210 program to educate children and families on good nutrition and exercise (Aim for 5 fruits and vegetables every day,keep recreational screen time to 2 hours or less every day, include at least 1 hour or more of active play every day, and skip sugar sweetened beverages, drink more water every day.)

** Access to immunizations limited during pandemic.

Dental Health

AT ENROLLMENT

362 Children with Ongoing Dental Care at Enrollment

AT END OF ENROLLMENT YEAR

378 Children with Ongoing Dental Care at End and Completed a Professional Dental Exam

68 Children Diagnosed as Needing Treatment since Last Year's PIR Report who are Up-to-date on a Scheduled Oral Care

50 Received Dental Treatment

Mental Health

Due to a shortage of mental health professionals in the community, the agency was unable to provide mental health consultations for all classroom staff as planned. We were able to create relaxing spaces for staff to destress. Use of the Employee Assistance Program was encouraged, and health and safety practices were in place to provide as much peace of mind as possible.

Disability Services

EHS 16 Children enrolled in the program who had an Individualized Famly Service Plan (IFSP) at any time during the program year indicating they have been determined eligible by the Part C Agency to receive early intervention services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Disabilities Services

37

Enrolled in the program who have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) indicating they have been determined eligible by the LEA to receive special education and related services

CHILDREN WITH DISABILITY RECEIVING SPECIAL SERVICES

1 Emotional Disturbance

3 Developmental Delay

1 Autism Spectrum Disorder

32 Speech or Language Impairment

Services

- EMPLOYMENT
- EDUCATION & COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT
- INCOME, INFRASTRUCTURE & ASSETS BUILDING
- HEALTH/SOCIAL BEHAVIORAL DEVELOPMENT
- CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

National Community Action Network Theory of Change Goals

GOAL 1

Individuals and families with low incomes are stable and achieve economic security.

GOAL 2

Communities where people with low incomes live are healthy and offer economic opportunity.

GOAL 3

People with low incomes are engaged and active in building opportunities in communities.

Community Action of South Mississippi Community Service Block Grant (CSBG)

Community Action of South Mississippi engages in programming to assist clients with meeting their goals in the areas of Employment, Education, Income & Asset Building, Housing, Health & Social Behavior and Civic Engagement. Based on our annual community needs assessment we target efforts in areas that are identified by the community, for the community. Employment, Education, and Housing have been serious issues this year.

Achievement Highlights of 2022

130 Families avoided eviction

667 Families found safe, affordable housing

139 Mississippians received full time jobs with higher wages and increased skills

241 Individuals received financial education and skill development to improve overall long-term financial well-being

291 Mississippians increased skills, knowledge and abilities to improve and apply leadership skills, social capacity and engagement for use in their respective communities

40 Clients were assisted with continuing education and completed a credential, certificate or degree achievement in field of choice

2,745 Clients increased healthy nutrition education, cooking, shipping and budgeting skills

1,447 Mississippians were assisted to achieve and meet basic needs

1,577 Senior citizens retained independence and remained living at home

1,736 Disabled citizens retained independence and remained living at home

Volunteer Assistance Tax Program (VITA)

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) grant program is an IRS initiative designed to support free tax preparation service for the underserved through various partner organizations. This service helps low- to moderate-income individuals, persons with disabilities, the elderly, and limited English speakers file their taxes each year. The agency has provided tax assistance for 16+ years to individuals who make under $60,000 per year.

Child and Adult Care Food Programs (CACFP)

CASOMS contracts with the MS Department of Education to provide breakfast, lunch and snacks to children enrolled in Head Start, Early Head Start and First Step Childcare. The CACFP serves nutritious meals and snacks to eligible children who are enrolled for care at participating childcare centers. CACFP also provides meals and snacks to children and youth who participate in afterschool care programs or reside in emergency shelters.

Family Day Care Homes (FDCH)

CASOMS operates the Family Day Care Homes (FDCH) program in George, Harrison, Jackson, Perry and Stone Counties. FDCH provides reimbursements for meals and snacks that meet the requirements set forth by USDA. These are private homes where children under 13 receive care. The homes are licensed, registered/inspected or approved for the program. The reimbursements make the cost of day care more affordable for many lower income families. Health and safety standards, training and monitoring are also very important components in the FDCH program.

There are two types of FDCH:

- Licensed homes that care for 6-15 children
- Alternate approved homes that care for 5 children or less

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

Due to severe staff shortages, CASOMS was unable to operate the SFSP program during the summer of 2022.

2022 VITA Highlights

$260

Average family savings on a simple 1040 or more if tax preparation involves itemizing

3,359

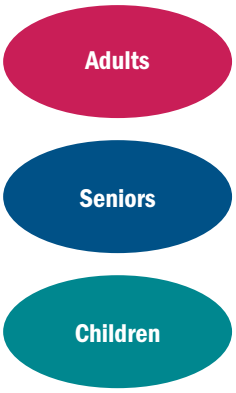
Federal returns completed in 2022

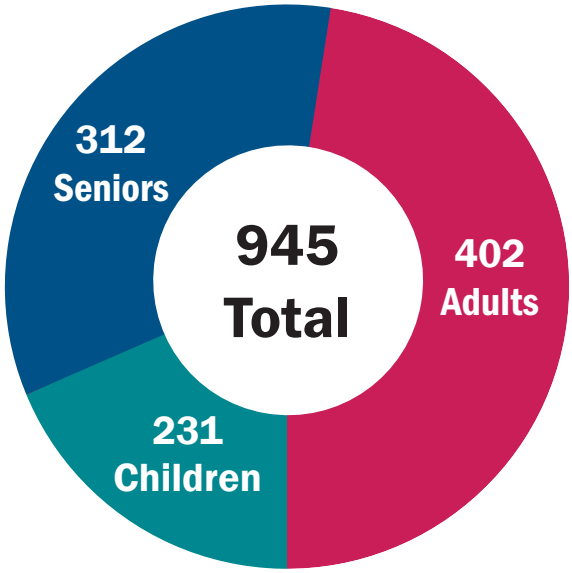
$6,842,175

Total tax refund amount (funds brought back into our community)

Food Pantry

Food insecurity is a problem throughout our service area. Community Action of South Mississippi operates a food pantry for the local community. Food baskets are distributed on Fridays or on an emergency basis as needed. This year, CASOMS partnered with Aetna/CVS and Wayne Lees to provide Thanksgiving Baskets for seniors and those in need in the community; this partnership allowed us to provide 65 baskets in Jackson County. We also provided food vouchers for families in Harrison and George counties.





Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP)

The Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) received $13 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to help income-eligible residents maintain access to drinking water and wastewater services through the end of September 2023. This important resource provides financial assistance to eligible households in managing costs associated with:

- Water bills
- Wastewater/sewer bills
- Stormwater fees
- Groundwater fees
- Reconnection fees
- Late fees

LIHWAP is available for individuals and families who need assistance paying a current bill, have past-due water bills, had their service terminated, or received a notice indicating that their service will be terminated in the next 60 days. Households can receive the LIHWAP grants for both drinking water and wastewater services. The funding is issued directly to the utility providers to support families who meet income requirements.

904

Households in George, Harrison and Jackson counties served in 2022

$213,5867

Total LIHWAP benefits

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

Due to passage of the American Rescue Plan, Mississippi received a record $66.9 million for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) October 2021 to September 2022. As part of a state-by-state breakdown of funding, the Administration reported that in addition to an annual appropriation of $33.2 million for Mississippi, the state received an additional $33.8 million in funds from the American Rescue Plan—more than double the state's typical annual funding. The total of $66.9 million is the highest amount Mississippi has ever received in LIHEAP to help families struggling with the costs of home heating.

73.41% of LIHEAP recipients in MS have at least one vulnerable household member

41.85% Elderly over 60

52.68% Disabled

12.68% Child under 6

Parenting Initiative

With grant funding from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) CASOMS has provided parenting classes for parents in Harrison and Jackson counties. Classes began in February 2022. We use two curricula for the classes—Active Parenting and Within My Reach. Active Parenting offers workshops for families with children 0-5 and 6 & up. These free classes are offered for parents during the day, weekends, and evenings as requested. The Within My Reach curriculum is designed to strengthen the adult partnership in order to allow parents to provide a health family environment for their children.

CASOMS provided Active Parenting classes for 339 parents February – October 2022.

CASOMS began Within my Reach workshops in September 2022. We provided workshops for 19 parents during that time.

The TANF Parenting Initiative will continue for FY23.

Gross LIHEAP Allocations to Mississippi in 2021

$66,900,905

Utility payment assistance and home weatherization programs[2]

336,967

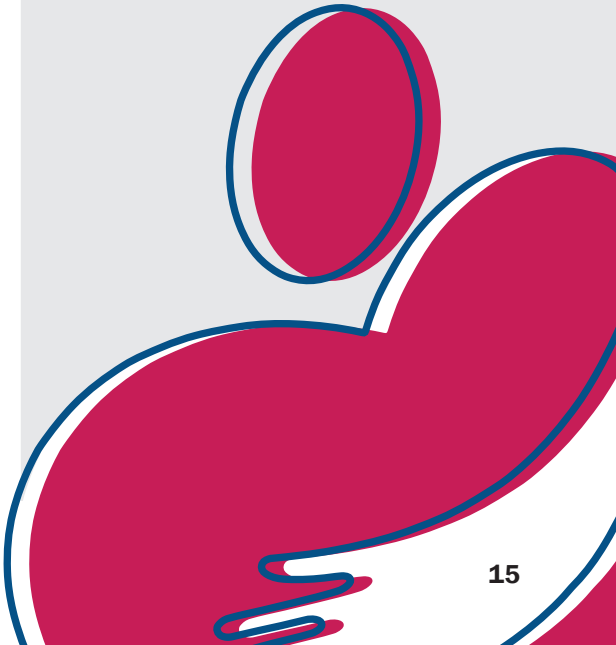
Households eligible for LIHEAP in MS[3]

12.34%

of eligible population in MS received LIHEAP in 2021

41,596

Low-income households that received LIHEAP in MS in 2021



60+ Programs

Healthy bodies, alert minds, energized spirits—that is what Community Action of South Mississippi Seniors Program for adults age 60+ is all about. CASOMS Seniors Program is year-round and offers diverse activities to support independence and enhance quality of life. We remain flexible and determined to rebuild our aging program. As the pandemic continued, we saw significant drops in attendance at our senior centers. We have also experienced staffing issues that have impacted our transportation department. We are hopeful that 2023 will bring us closer to our pre-COVID numbers in attendance, transportation and meals.

The senior centers are focal points in the community where persons, individually or as a group, come together for a broad spectrum of services, educational and recreational programs and activities. These facilities enable individuals 60 years of age and older to socialize, develop skills, engage in activities, learn new roles that enhance their dignity, support their independence and encourage their involvement within the community.

Services offered include transportation, congregate meals, and a variety of activities geared toward adults 60+.

13,671 **Number of visits to the center**

14,689 **Rides given**

11,970 **Meals served**

Community Engagement

Health Advisory Committee
United Way Sponsored Literacy Week
Chevron Refinery Little Libraries
Pascagoula Audubon Center
Scranton Nature Center
Lynn Meadows Children's Museum
Policy Council
Board of Directors
Partnerships with Public Schools
Excel by 5
Pre-K Launchpad
Pascagoula-Gautier School District
Books Come Alive Jackson
& George County Library
Transition to Kindergarten Field Trip
American Cancer Society Relay for Life
American Heart Association Heart Walk
Breast Cancer Awareness Month
HIV/AIDS Awareness Workshops
Coastal Family Health Center
(Mobile Unit)
South MS Smiles
Vision Center
Vancleave Library
Turkey Boxes = Food Pantry Donations
Vancleave Volunteer Fire Department

Helping People, Changing Lives

Community Action®
OF SOUTH MISSISSIPPI

CASOMS.ORG

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

Jackson County
5343 Jefferson Avenue
Moss Point, MS 39563

SENIOR CENTER LOCATIONS

Ocean Springs Senior Center
514 Washington Ave
Ocean Springs, MS 39564

Moss Point Senior Center
5343 Jefferson Avenue
Moss Point, MS 39563

FIRST STEP LOCATION

First Step Childcare Center
5343 Jefferson Avenue
Moss Point, MS 39563

HEAD START CENTER LOCATIONS

Gautier HS
(Gautier Elementary)
505 Magnolia Tree Drive
Gautier, MS 39553

Gautier Head Start Center
1017 Highway 90
Gautier MS 39553

Jefferson Head Start Center
5343 Jefferson Avenue
Moss Point, MS 39563

Kreole HS
(Kreole Primary School)
6312 Martin Luther King Blvd
Moss Point, MS 39563

Martin Bluff HS
(Martin Bluff Elementary)
1306 Roys Rd
Gautier, MS 39553

Pascagoula HS
3301 Spruce Street
Pascagoula, MS 39581

Taconi Head Start
711 Magnolia Street
Ocean Springs, MS 39564

CSBG LIHEAP LOCATIONS

George County
11 Holmes Street
Lucedale, MS 39453

Harrison County
500 24th Street
Gulfport, MS 39507

Jackson County
5343 Jefferson Avenue
Moss Point, MS 39563