

LEADS

Leading the way with core community services



Annual Report 2021



Message from our Chief Executive Officer

Today, Community Action Agencies, like LEADS, are an integral part of the social services network in communities throughout Ohio and across the United States. Community Action began as a grassroots effort to address poverty in America during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. In fact, LEADS seated its first Board of Trustees in 1965 in response to President Lyndon B. Johnson’s War on Poverty. In the more than 55 years since, LEADS has grown into an agency respected for its commitment to fighting the causes and conditions of poverty. This is only possible because of the incredible dedication of LEADS staff and volunteers who work tirelessly to help customers with today’s needs while helping them prepare for a brighter tomorrow.

It is a pleasure to present the 2021 LEADS Annual Report to the Community. The report highlights the impact of our programs, with each number representing local families and individuals. From preschoolers in our Head Start classrooms to seniors receiving home accessibility services and beyond, LEADS is grateful to be here to Help People and Change Lives.

Nathan J. Keirns
Chief Executive Officer

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Head Start | Early Head Start Division

Head Start (HS)

Head Start prepares our community's most vulnerable young children to succeed in school and in life beyond school. Our program takes a two-generation approach, focusing on building strong parent and child relationships with an overall child goal of increasing school readiness skills. We deliver services to children and families in core areas of early learning, health, and family well-being, while engaging parents as partners every step of the way.

In 2021, we served 333 children aged 3 to 5 years old and their families at our center-based locations and through our Home Based programs.

We have programs in Licking, Delaware, and Union Counties.

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Early Head Start (EHS)

Designed to nurture healthy attachments between parent and child, the Early Head Start program serves infants, toddlers, and pregnant women through one-on-one weekly home visits. We help support expectant families to prepare for the upcoming new family member through a comprehensive approach that focuses on development, nutrition, health, mental health and education.

In 2021, Early Head Start served 128 infants and toddlers, and 10 pregnant women.

Freshly Prepared Meals for Children

Proper nutrition is fundamental for children to grow and develop in a healthy manner.

LEADS operates two professional-level kitchens in order to provide meals for Head Start center-based children. All meals are high in nutrition and low in fats, sugars, and salts, with whole grains, fresh fruits and vegetables used as much as possible.

These meals are prepared by Serve Safe Certified cooks 5 days a week and delivered by staff to each of our Head Start center locations.

We have kitchens in our Administrative Office in Newark and at our Marysville location.

Funding for Head Start and Early Head Start is provided by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. The U.S. Department of Agriculture provides reimbursement through the Child & Adult Food Program for meals served to children throughout the year.



333 children ages 3-5, were served in 2021



128 infants and toddlers

10 pregnant women

Served in 2021





in 2021, LEADS' two kitchens served:

80,556 total meals

26,988 breakfasts

20,072 lunches

26,496 snacks

4,287.5 gallons of milk

Number of HS and EHS families that received services **470**



PROGRAM OUTCOMES

Food Service

During the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) fiscal year, October 2020 through September 2021, LEADS' two kitchens provided:

- 80,556 total meals
- 26,496 snacks
- 26,988 breakfasts
- 20,072 lunches
- 4,287.5 gallons of milk

The reimbursement through CACFP:

\$ 102,608.03 total food expenses | \$ 7,2490.98 non-food expenses

Serving Children with Disabilities

Of the 471 children and families served, 69 had an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) through their local education agency or education service center. Eighteen families had an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) through their local early intervention agency.

These numbers reflect we exceeded our mandate of having 10% of our enrollment serving children with diagnosed disabilities.

Providing Services to Incarcerated Women with Infants

Early Head Start (EHS) provided services to 6 mothers and their infants at the Ohio Reformatory for Women (ORW). The program assists the mothers by connecting them to services and programs for a successful return to society.

Serving Pregnant Women

A total of 10 pregnant women were provided EHS services during the 2020-2021 program year. 9 of these families continued enrollment after the newborn arrived. Each family is provided a newborn home visit and receives gift packages from Newborns in Need.

Family Engagement

- 470 Head Start and Early Head Start families received a wide variety of parent education and training services, including:
- Health and safety
- Nutrition
- Positive parenting
- Economic mobility
- Mental health
- Advocacy, child development and community supports during the pandemic
- Chromebooks were provided for families in need to support virtual learning and communication during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- More than 60 families planned and attended virtual family and father events during the program year.
- 26 parent/guardians volunteered as members of the Head Start/Early Head Start Policy Council and PART (Parent Activities Resource Team)

All 5 Head Start Centers earned a 5-star quality rating, Step Up to Quality (SUTQ), awarded by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.

Child Development

Outcomes show that in EHS/HS, the percentages of children that met or exceeded agency benchmarks for school readiness goals were:

	EHS	HS*	HS**
Approaches to Learning	62%	45%	71%
Language & Literacy	68%	52%	68%
Cognition & General Knowledge	75%	54%	65%
Physical Development & Health	58%	41%	73%
Social & Emotional Development	74%	49%	68%
English Language Learners	69%	45%	83%

*Non-Kindergarten eligible ** Kindergarten-eligible

Health

- 82% of EHS/HS children are up-to-date on all preventative primary health care
- 57% of children diagnosed with a chronic health condition received/completed treatment
- 80% of HS have continuous and accessible professional dental care



COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION

Energy Efficiency

91 households received energy efficiency improvements such as:

- New furnaces
- Home insulation
- High efficiency lighting
- Air sealing to reduce drafts and energy loss
- Home repair and improvement

124 households received home construction projects such as:

- New roofs
- Wheelchair ramps
- Handicapped-accessible bathrooms
- Other emergency repairs

Emergency Services Division

- 7,607 households received assistance with utility payments
- 728 utility disconnects were prevented
- 6,116 energy assistance applications were processed

Home Relief

- 291 households received assistance
- \$863,440.35 in rent/deposit assistance provided
- \$51,034.47 in utility assistance provided
- \$194,179.31 in mortgage assistance provided

91 households received energy efficient improvements



124 households received home construction projects

7,607 households received assistance with utility payments

291 households received assistance with rent, utility, and mortgage payments

Food Pantries / Food Assistance

LEADS operates food pantries in Buckeye Lake, Pataskala, and Utica. Families and individuals must apply to access these pantries. We obtain food supplies from a number of different resources, including donations from businesses, churches, groups/clubs, and individuals, as well as from the Food Pantry Network of Licking County.

- 4,321 households received food from the pantries
- 5,041 hours were volunteered for the pantries
- 880 households received food assistance through the COVID-19 Crisis Assistance Program



HOUSING SERVICES

LEADS Housing Division is an experienced provider of affordable housing. To date, LEADS has participated in 40 housing developments ranging from 15 to 100 units. These developments are located in 22 counties throughout Ohio. Prospective residents must qualify under various income, credit and background guidelines for each of the programs that finance the property. Funding is provided through Low Income Housing Tax Credits, USDA Rural Development, and the US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development.

- 1,201 households were provided with affordable housing
- Occupancy rate was 95%
- 276 monthly financial statements were submitted by the management companies to LEADS' Asset Management Director
- 34 properties had audits and tax returns reviewed and approved
- 16 site visits were performed in 2021 via virtual, desktop reviews, or in-person visits



VOLUNTEERS

	Volunteers	Hours
HS/EHS	224	1,559
CSD	49	6,662
Other	18	294
TOTAL	291	8,515

LEADS Properties are located in the following Ohio counties:



- | | |
|-----------|------------|
| Adams | Knox |
| Ashland | Jefferson |
| Belmont | Licking |
| Champaign | Morgan |
| Clark | Morrow |
| Clermont | Muskingum |
| Crawford | Perry |
| Fairfield | Pickaway |
| Franklin | Richland |
| Greene | Tuscarawas |
| Huron | Washington |

INVESTORS & FUNDING SOURCES

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| American Electric Power | | Community Assistance Program |
| Ground Level Solutions | | WarmChoice Program® |
| Columbia Gas of Ohio | | |
| Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging (COAAA) | | Home Repair & PASSPORT |
| Ohio Division of Development (ODOD) | | HEAP, PIPP, WCP, & SCP
OCD Housing Assistance Program
CSBG • HWAP • Home Relief |
| United Way | | EFSP Program |
| Corporation for Ohio Appalachian Development (COAD) | | Electric Partnership Program |
| Licking County Food Pantry Network | | Food Pantries |
| Licking County | | Senior Levy Home Repair Program
Energy Audits (Planning & Development) |
| Dollar Energy Fund | | Neighbor to Neighbor Program |
| Private Donations | | |

IN MEMORY AND HONOR OF LEADS STAFF



In Memory of Edwina McIntyre

Edwina McIntyre was the Director of Head Start at LEADS for 40 years, retiring in 2009. A devoted member of Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, she served as a deaconess and sang in the choir. Edwina was passionate about education, serving as a board member and president of Par Excellence Academy in Newark and also served as a board member of Harvest Management Company. Edwina enjoyed reading and was a devoted homemaker to her family where she especially loved cooking and hosting family events. Edwina touched the lives of those around her and made an impression with every encounter. She leaves behind a legacy of faith, resilience, and the ability to make a difference.



In Memory of Samantha Cunningham

Samantha Cunningham was a kind, full-hearted individual that loved her family and friends. Samantha started with the LEADS program in May of 2019 as a Family Service Worker at the Buckeye Lake Center. She would often reach out to assist other FSWs when she felt someone may be in need. Her strength was her compassion in bringing out the very best in herself and others and assuring that all children and families had what they needed to succeed.

Samantha enjoyed many things in life and was always expressing herself through her colorful hairstyles and tattoos. And she was a “partner in crime” when playing practical jokes on many Buckeye Lake staff members. A very cheerful person, she would always put you in a better mood as soon as she walked in the room. She loved to talk about her kids and her dog, bragging and telling many funny stories about her family. Samantha will be truly missed by LEADS Head Start families and staff.

LEADS SUCCESS STORY

Turning Hardship, Determination, and Empathy into a New Career

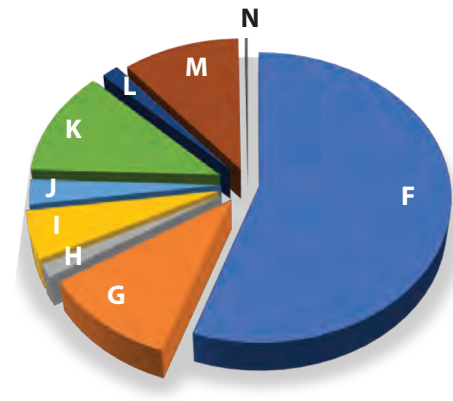
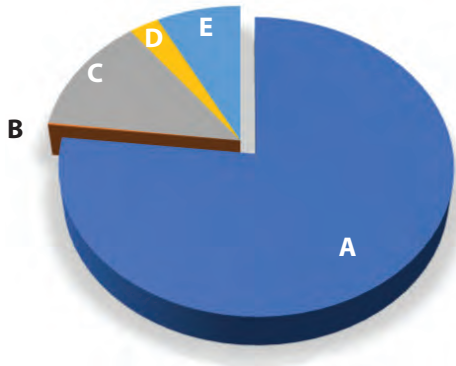
Her determination, spirit and willingness to help others impressed them.

One afternoon, Elizabeth, a young, single mother, arrived at the Pataskala LEADS office and food pantry looking for help with utility bills and food. The staff explained programs available to help her with utilities, and she shared details of the hardships she was experiencing. Elizabeth explained that she didn't really want to accept assistance, that she preferred a job to support herself and her daughter, but had no luck getting interviews despite applying for jobs. She had been volunteering at a food pantry in the meantime, and even offered to volunteer at a LEADS pantry. The staff asked her about her past employment, education, and what type of job she was looking for.

The staff said “there was something about Elizabeth” – her determination, spirit, and willingness to help others that impressed them. She was looking for a job, and LEADS had the perfect job for her. Elizabeth submitted her resume with a very impressive cover letter, completed a successful interview, and is now an employee of LEADS! As a Customer Service Representative, she is using her past hardships to understand and empathize with others who call for help. The greatest success is that Elizabeth no longer needs the food pantry or assistance with utilities, and is proudly supporting herself and her daughter. Like LEADS, our customers are delighted with her attitude and her understanding of their hardships and needs.

2021 REVENUE \$ 8,957,520

2021 EXPENSES \$ 8,517,750



- A** Grant Revenue 76%
- B** Donations 1%
- C** Interest Income 13%
- D** Other Revenue 3%
- E** In-kind Contributions 7%

- F** Child Education 55%
- G** Energy Assistance 11%
- H** Food Programs 1%
- I** Community Service 5%
- J** Older Adult Programs 3%
- K** Housing 12%
- L** Corporate Activities 1%
- M** Management & General 11%
- N** Fundraising 1%



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

159 Wilson Street • Newark, Ohio 43055
740.349.8606

SERVICE CENTERS

- | | |
|--|--|
| NEWARK
160 Wilson Street
Newark, Ohio 43055
740.349.8606 | BUCKEYE LAKE
41 First Street
Buckeye Lake, Ohio 43008
740.928.4481 |
| PATASKALA
12534 Adams Lane SW
Pataskala, Ohio 43062
740.927.9861 | UTICA
308 North Main Street
Utica, Ohio 43080
740.892.4196 |

HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START PROGRAMS

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| DELAWARE
607 Sunbury Road
Delaware, Ohio 43015
740.363.8810 | MARYSVILLE
111 Morey Drive
Marysville, Ohio 4340
937.642.1230 | PATASKALA
12536 Adams Lane SW
Pataskala, Ohio 43062
740.209.5023 |
| LICKING COUNTY
<i>Home-Based Programs</i>
161 Wilson Street
Newark, Ohio 43-55
740.258.6119 | NEWARK
986 East Main Street
Newark, Ohio 43055
740.345.1745 | UTICA
308 North Main Street
Utica, Ohio 43080
740.892.4196 |

MISSION STATEMENT

LEADS Community Action Agency is a private, non-profit corporation which seeks to identify and remove the causes of poverty and provide direct assistance to alleviate the effects of poverty to result in greater self-sufficiency among low-income citizens of our area.