



2024 ANNUAL REPORT
BHK Child Development

Where learning and playing come naturally.

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A Message from the Director

Greetings!

As the Executive/Head Start Director at BHK, I recognize that our success is possible thanks to our caring and dedicated staff and the support of our board members and community partners, but most importantly because of the parents/guardians who trust us to help educate and care for their children. Together, we share in the mission of the highest quality learning experience where children, families, and staff grow and thrive.

We are honored to share our annual report as a snapshot of our efforts throughout the past year, and we hope you find it a reflection of our commitment to cultivating positive and long-lasting experiences and outcomes for young children, their families, and our communities.

Respectfully,
Cheryl Mills



ABOUT US

Baraga-Houghton-Keweenaw Child Development Board (BHK) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) community agency, founded in 1974, and the region's largest provider of early childhood education and family support services.

Our community-based Head Start and Early Head Start programs are the gold standard of comprehensive early education and care and our teaching staff are some of the most trained and qualified early childhood professionals in the area.

BHK MARKS 50 YEARS

In June 2024, BHK celebrated five decades of dedication to empowering families and nurturing futures. BHK has evolved into a dynamic and multifaceted human service organization positively influencing the lives of children and families across the region.



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Our Vision: A healthy community where all families reach their full potential.

What We Do

At BHK we believe high-quality learning experiences are critical for success in school and life. Offering more than childcare, teachers provide personalized education activities to help each child build academic skills, confidence, and resilience.

BHK staff provide comprehensive, individualized education and family support services to expectant women and children birth to 5th grade. BHK operates Early Head Start, Head Start, Great Start Readiness Program, out-of-school time programs (K-5), and tuition-based programs. Through our work, we strengthen and support positive outcomes, economic stability, and well-being for children, families, and community.



Head Start is a federally funded program that provides free services to support preschool and early learning and development, health, and well-being for families with children birth to age 5, as well as individuals who are pregnant.

Seven BHK preschool classrooms were supported by state funding for the Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP).

- Early Care and Education
 - Center-based (classrooms)
 - Home Visiting (Prenatal - 3)
- Health & Wellness
- Parenting Engagement & Family Support
- Nutrition Services
- Pregnancy Services



Children who attend BHK's high-quality programs are better prepared for school academically, socially, and emotionally.

Our Communities

BHK serves three counties - Baraga, Houghton, and Keweenaw- in the northwest corner of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The region is rural and remote with nine people/square mile in Baraga County; 37 people/sq. mi. in Houghton County; and three people/sq. mi. in Keweenaw County. Keweenaw Bay Indian Community is a federally recognized Indian tribe located in Baraga County with members comprising 14% of the county population. (US Census, 2020).

All three counties in BHK's service area are designated as medically underserved for primary care, dental health, and mental health. This determination speaks to the shortage of physicians, dentists, and mental health professionals to serve area families.

2,779
children

ages birth to 5 live in BHK's service area. About **390** are eligible for EHS/HS based on income.

471
births

to Baraga, Houghton, Keweenaw County residents in 2022.

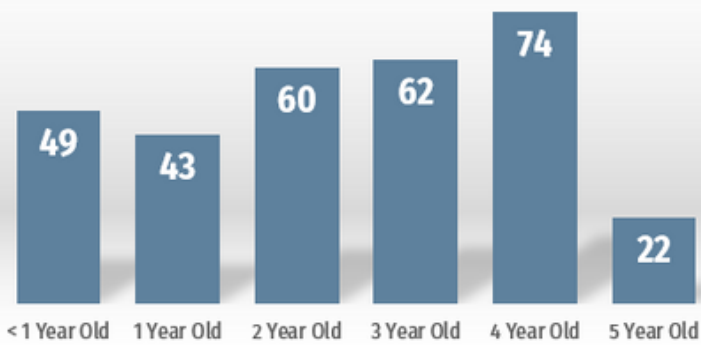
159
children

ages birth to 5 received early intervention (Early On) or special education services (2023).

55%

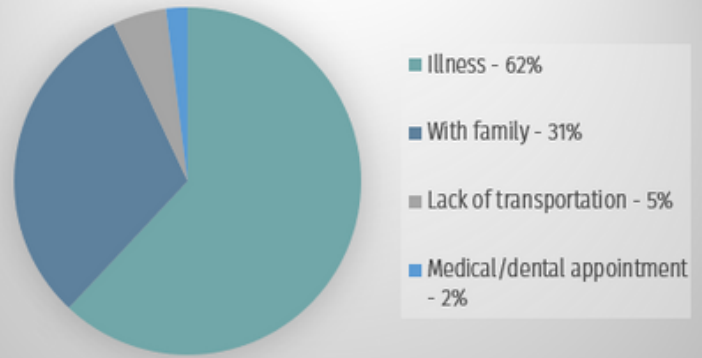
of children ages <5 years have all parents in labor force (on average)

EHS/HS Enrolled Children



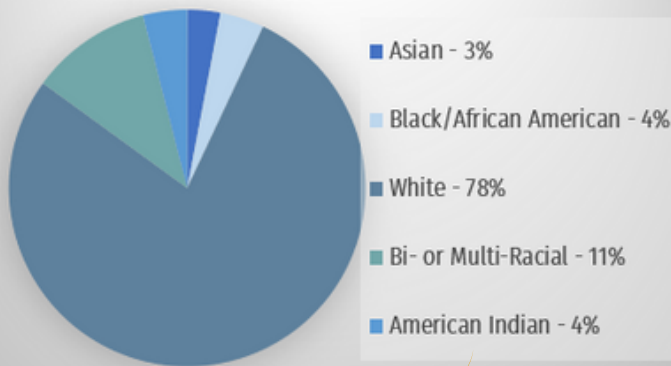
EHS/HS Average Enrollment: 96%
98% of Eligible Children served

Reasons for Absences

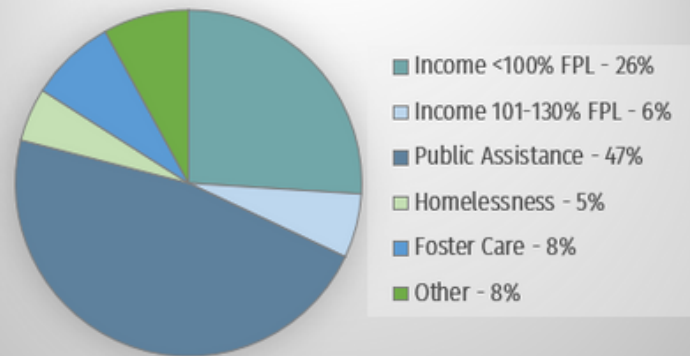


On average, 56% of enrolled EHS/HS children missed 10% or more program days (chronically absent).

Children's Racial Identity



Primary Eligibility

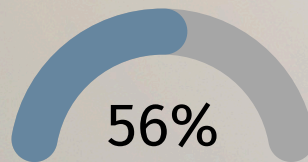


Funded enrollment: EHS-84; HS-172



We give young children the high-quality education they deserve.

Our classrooms offer a safe, nurturing, and inclusive environment for young minds to grow and learn.



of preschool children had concerns or delays on initial screening (developmental, behavior, hearing, and/or vision) requiring further evaluation and interventions.



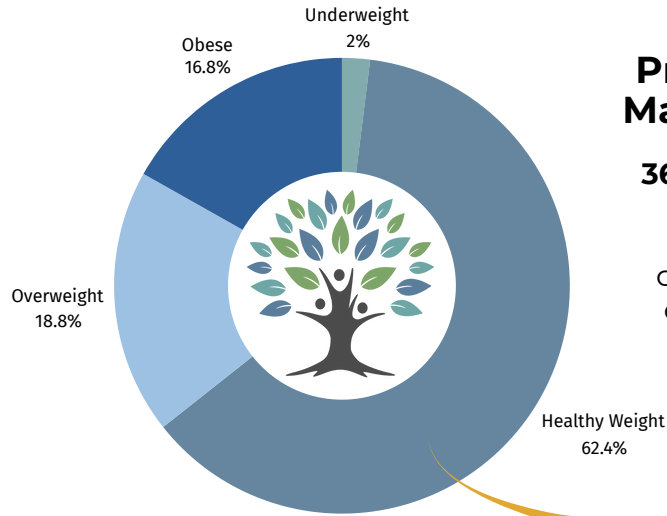
1 in every 5 children ages birth - 5 enrolled at BHK received early intervention (Early On) or Special Education Services due to diagnosed disability or developmental delay.

23
classrooms
operated
(6 weeks-5 Years)



BHK provides good quality, nutritious meals with an emphasis on maximizing whole grains, fresh fruits and vegetables. Two-thirds of children's daily nutritional needs are provided in meals and snacks served family style in BHK full-day classrooms.

76,400 meals & snacks served to children in BHK infant/toddler and preschool classrooms



Preschool Body Mass Index (BMI)

36% of preschoolers entering BHK classrooms are overweight/obese compared to 13% nationally (CDC).

School Readiness Begins with Health

The way a child develops early in life directly affects future cognitive, social, emotional, language, and physical development, which in turn influences school readiness.

Each child receives developmental, health, including social-emotional, and sensory screenings, during enrollment to identify any possible need for services, such as skill building, behavior support, or follow up evaluation.

99%

of enrolled children had health insurance. 84% received Medicaid; 16% state-funded/private.

94%

of enrolled preschoolers had an established dentist, but only 68% had a recommended dental exam in the past year.

100%

of enrolled children had continuous, accessible health care by end of enrollment.

99%

of enrolled children were up-to-date on recommended immunizations by year-end.

93%

of enrolled preschoolers had up-to-date well child exams by year-end (81% in EHS).

A marked improvement as only 25% of preschoolers entering BHK classrooms had a well child exam in the past year.

31

children (ages birth to 5) have been diagnosed with a chronic health condition by a health care provider.



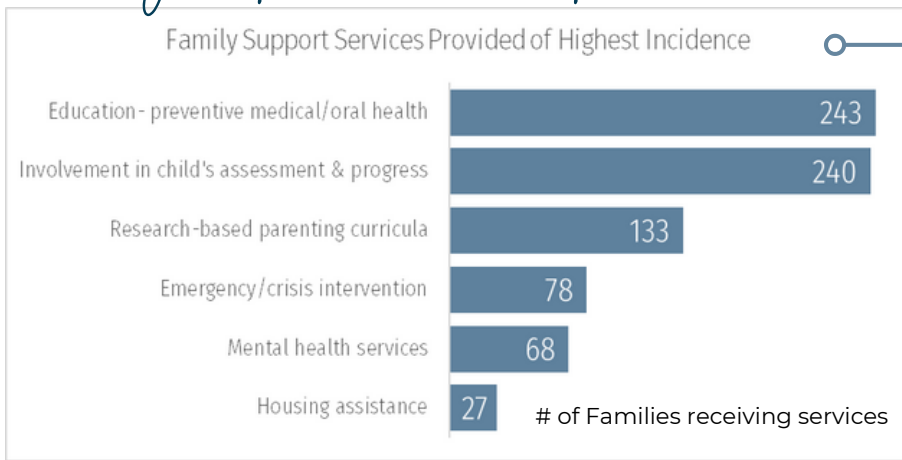


67%
are two-parent families

245
families served in Prenatal-5 programs

As a multi-generational program, we honor parents in their role as their child's first and most important teacher. We partner with parents to incorporate family interests, values, and cultures into the curriculum and to identify home routines and activities that extend learning.

We value parents and families and encourage active involvement.



99% of families received at least one family service

688 volunteers at BHK. Parents/guardians make up 59% of our volunteer roster.

96% of families reported the services their family received from BHK led to positive changes in their lives.

92% of families referred to services outside BHK felt their family's needs were met.

2023 BHK Parent Survey

85% of families have one or more parents working or attending school

18 enrolled children in foster care

20 families experienced homelessness; 6 acquired housing

30 children are Dual Language Learners **speaking 14 different languages**

PARENT INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

- Classrooms host monthly Family Engagement Events with opportunities for center/agency-wide events
- BHK hosted community engagement events such as Autumn Fest at the Nara Nature Center and BHK Art Show in celebration of Dr. Seuss's birthday in March's Reading Month
- Enrolled families participated in local parades, fairs, and community celebrations alongside BHK staff
- Regional Conscious Discipline Parent Education sessions
- At-home activities with their children



Preparing Children for Kindergarten and Beyond

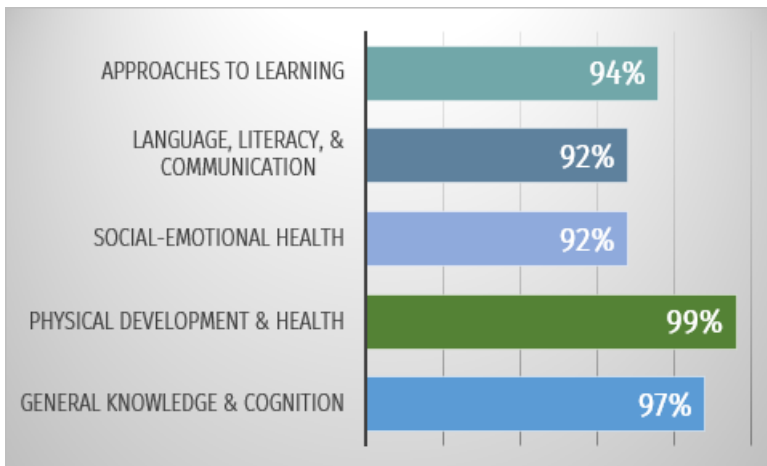
BHK is committed to give every child, regardless of circumstances at birth, an opportunity to succeed in school and in life.

Using HighScope (center-based) and Parents as Teachers (home-based) curricula as its instructional base, BHK's early childhood educators provide intentional, individualized education and care during the most critical and formative years of development.

Our whole-child approach is designed to promote school readiness skills through active exploration and play-based learning across key areas of development: Social-Emotional, Physical/Health, Language/Literacy, Math, Science, Technology, and the Arts.



BHK School Readiness Goal Attainment 2023-2024



BHK's School Readiness Goals measure the essential early learning domains for school and long-term success.

BHK School Readiness Goals

Children will:

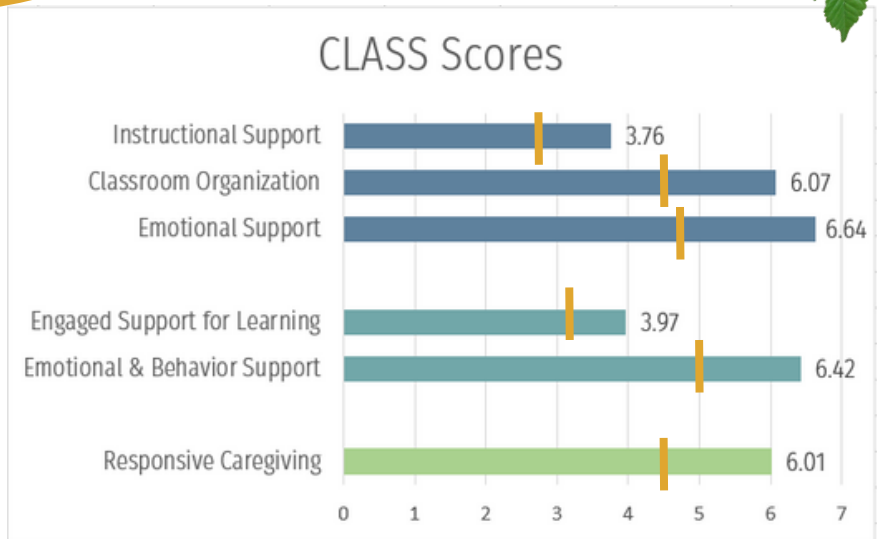
- demonstrate an eagerness to learn
- be engaged literacy learners
- develop & display positive social relationships & self-regulation
- grow in independence
- demonstrate an active role in learning



Our Performance

BHK's classrooms exceed state threshold scores in all domains of the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS), indicating high-quality learning environments and adult-child interactions.

 = state threshold (benchmark)



The child, family, and program outcome data, coupled with the community needs truly demonstrates a continued need to focus attention of quality education and comprehensive support services.

Now more than ever it is critical to have the right staff, with the right training and credentials to meet the diverse needs of the children and families we serve.

100%

of Head Start preschool teachers meet degree/credential requirements. 50% have a bachelor degree or higher.

76%

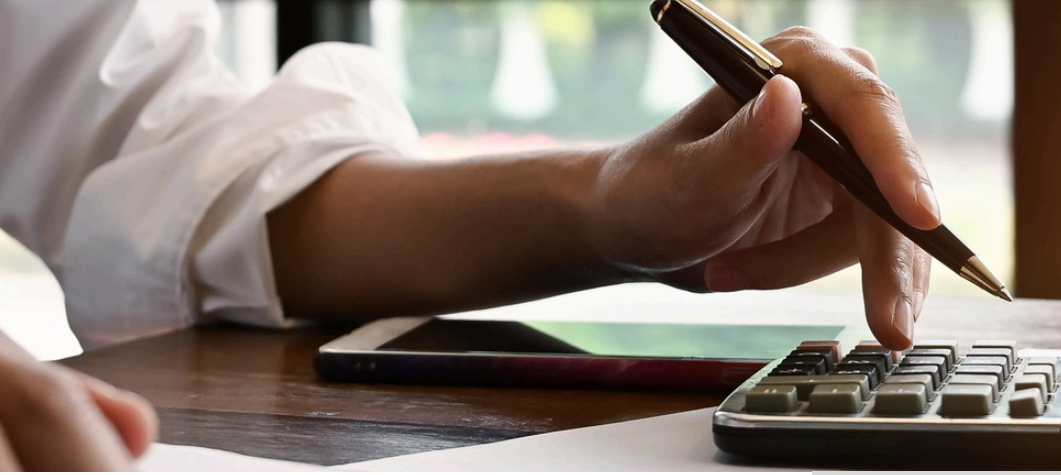
of Infant/Toddler teachers meet degree/credential requirements, with remaining enrolled in program to attain credential.

86%

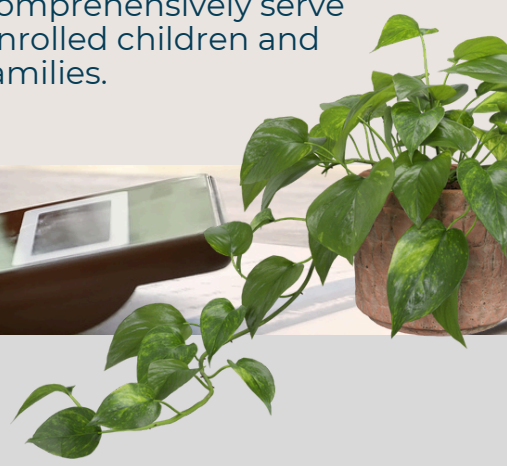
of early childhood educators demonstrated positive progression of professional practice. (Annual Evaluation Scores)

The Aligned Monitoring System of Head Start measures the quality and accountability of programs across the country. In March 2022, the Administration for Children and Families conducted a monitoring review of BHK's Early Head Start and Head Start programs. BHK was found to be in full compliance with program requirements and standards of quality.





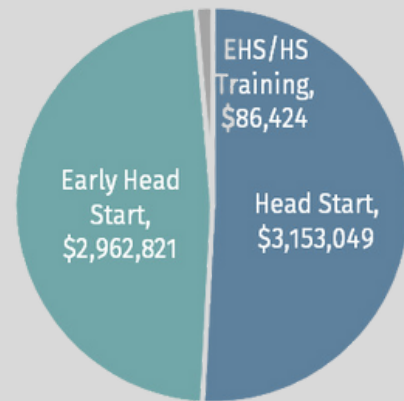
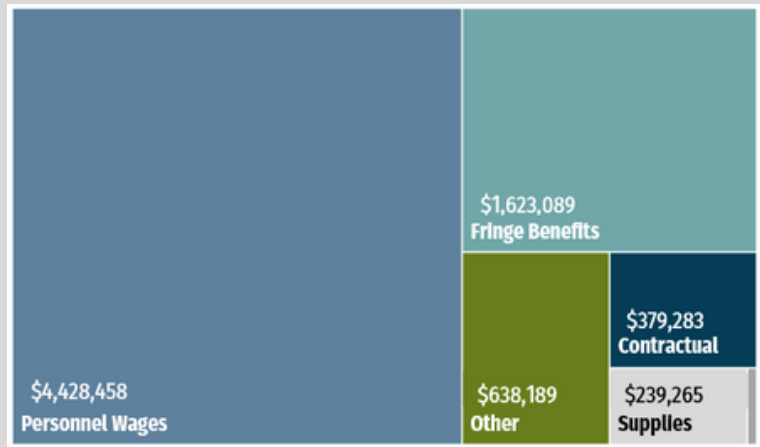
BHK braids multiple funding streams (federal, state, and local) to comprehensively serve enrolled children and families.



FY 2023 TOTAL REVENUES: \$ 9,294,903

FEDERAL - \$6,707,769	Dept. of Health & Human Services \$6,218,814
	Department of Agriculture \$251,683
	Dept. of Education \$237,272
STATE - \$668,163	Dept. of Health & Human Services \$10,046
	Dept. of Education \$557,747
	Partnership Contracts \$100,370
OTHER	Miscellaneous (childcare receipts, space use fees, etc.) \$147,034
	In-kind Income \$1,771,937

FY2023 BREAKDOWN OF EXPENDITURES



HEAD START FUNDING NOTICES FY2024 BUDGET \$6,202,294

An independent audit, completed for the year ending October 31, 2023 by Rukkila, Negro, and Associates resulted in a clear audit with no deficiencies or instances of noncompliance found. The audit provides assurance that the financial statements are free of material misstatement and reviews the internal control over financial reporting for compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements.



BHK CHILD
DEVELOPMENT

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BHK Child Development programs are funded in part by the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services, Education, and Agriculture; Michigan's Departments of Education, Health and Human Services, and Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential; and local private and public sources.