

About Early Head Start

The U.S. Administration for Children and Families oversees the Office of Head Start's Early Head Start Program.

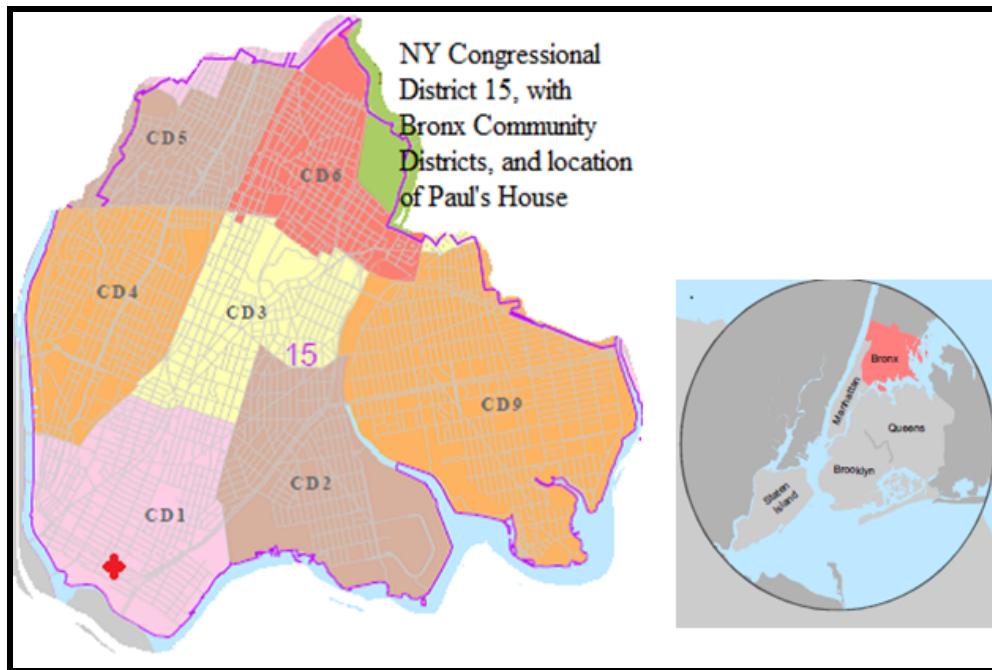
Early Head Start helps infants, toddlers, and expectant parents from low income families by promoting children's cognitive, social-emotional, language, and perceptual and physical development by providing services that support early learning, health, and family well-being.

The goal of Early Head Start – which *Sheltering Arms shares wholeheartedly* – is to prepare children for continued growth and eventual success in school and in life.

Our philosophy of Early Childhood Education is that children are active, engaged, and eager learners. Our high quality teaching practices build on these strengths by providing developmentally appropriate education, care, and opportunities for exploration and meaningful play. Our program is a responsive and respectful learning environment that welcomes children and families from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds.

About the South Bronx Community We Serve Through Our Early Head Start Program

Sheltering Arms' Early Head Start Center is located at Paul's House at 500 Bergen Avenue, Bronx, NY 10455. It is within Hunts Point/Mott Haven neighborhood, New York Congressional District 15, Bronx Community District 1. New York Congressional District 15 has the lowest median income in the United States (\$29,234). 35% of households with children under the age of 18 live below the federal poverty level; of households headed by a female that percentage grows to 48%. **100% of families** enrolled in our Early Head Start have incomes at or below the Federal Poverty Line.



Parents are the most significant influencers of their children's education; yet the families with whom we work face special challenges. Nearly 60% of the parents of children attending our Early Head Start program did not graduate high school, and almost a third's education ended with their high school diploma or GED. This is why Sheltering Arms uses a two generation approach to educational development. In our culturally relevant and welcoming environment, we provide many accessible workshops (such as "Parents as Teachers") to help young mothers, fathers, and other adults in the household reinforce the child's learning at home.

Most of the children in the South Bronx community we serve are Latin American/Hispanic (68%), followed by African-American/Black (30%). 38% of residents are foreign born, and of these, 82% were born in Latin America and 13% were born in Africa. 67% of adults speak a language other than English at home, more than double the rate in the United States. Increasing numbers of families at our Center are immigrants from rural areas of Ecuador and Mexico where education services are informal and infrequent.

The parents of our Early Head Start children are particularly eager to help their young sons and daughters grow, thrive, and learn. We respond with a language-rich Early Head Start environment and robust curriculum for these young children; and we also provide culturally relevant literacy training to their parents.

**Following is a report of Sheltering Arms' Early Head Start Program
located at Paul's House the South Bronx over the 2017-2018 Program Year.**

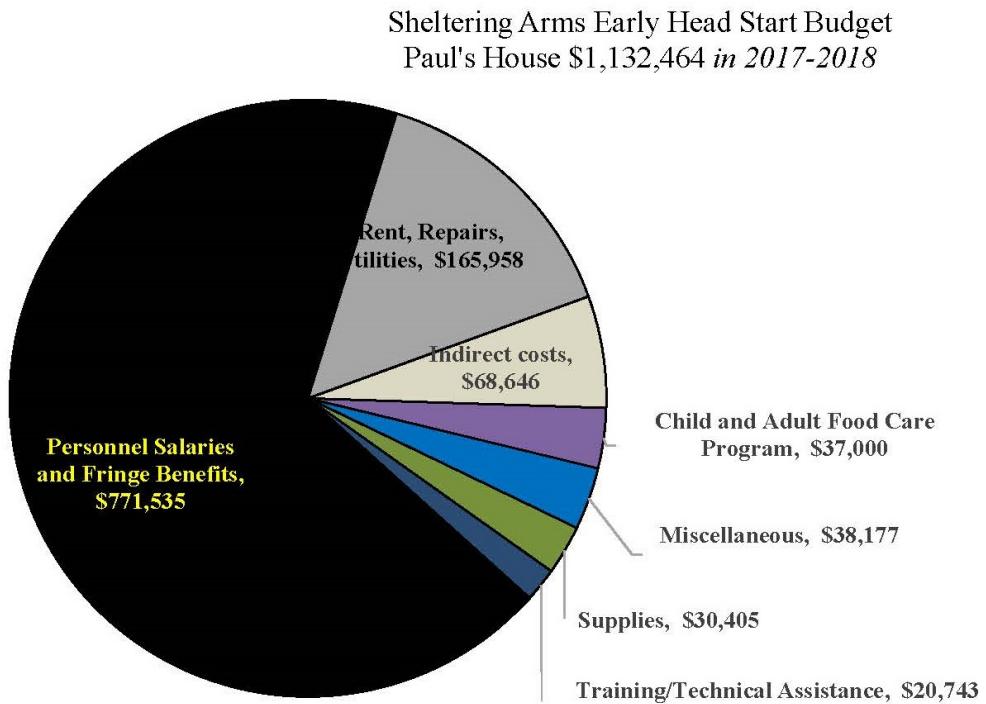
Budget

In 2018 Sheltering Arms received \$884,935 in public (federal) dollars for our Early Head Start Program. \$221,234 was raised from a generous private foundation as a 25% match.

**For Every Federal Dollar Awarded to Early Head Start,
Sheltering Arms Raises 25 Cents from Private Donors**



An explanation of budgetary expenditures and budget for the fiscal year.



The total number of children and families served, the average monthly enrollment (as a percentage of funded enrollment), and the percentage of eligible children served.

89 children and 26 pregnant mothers were enrolled in Early Head Start in the 2017-2018 program year. Children's monthly enrollment averaged was 100% and the percentage of eligible children served was 100%.

Compliance Update

Our most recent reviews from the Office of Head Start found that Sheltering Arms Paul's House Early Head Start was 100% in compliance with all applicable regulations in environmental health and safety, and in fiscal integrity.

In Sheltering Arms' 2016-2017 financial audit, the auditors stated: "In our opinion the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Sheltering Arms Children and Family Services Inc. as of June 30, 2017 and 2016, and the changes in net assets flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles as generally accepted in the United States of America."

Family Health Update

- 100% of enrolled children remained up-to-date on a schedule of preventive and primary health care, including immunizations, and preventative dental care.
- 100% of enrolled pregnant women received prenatal and postnatal health care, and dental care.

Parent Involvement Update

- Every month we hold a *Parent as Teacher* workshop. Each session focuses on one aspect of infant/toddler development from the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework. Parents are children's very first, and most influential teachers, and we are eager to share strategies that help them support each of their sons' and daughters' developmental stages.
- We have incorporated the *Nurturing Parenting* curriculum into our family education workshops.
- Our Fatherhood Initiative is thriving with monthly groups, father advocacy, and well attended activities and outings.
- Parents are encouraged to attend Early Head Start Parent Council meetings, run for a position on the Council, and also to volunteer.
- Sheltering Arms provides every family with a *Cool Culture* pass. This allows families to visit more than 90 museums, zoos, and gardens free of charge.
- Our annual *Family Literacy Day* is more popular than ever. Our 2018 event celebrated two writers, Lucy Cousins and Jan Brett, authors of books such as the *Maisy Mouse* books and *The Mitten*, respectively.

Preparing children for kindergarten

Sheltering Arms Early Head Start prepares young children to be ready for school and for families to be ready to support their child's early learning. Our School Readiness Goals are centered on ensuring that children have the skills, knowledge, and attitude needed for future school success.

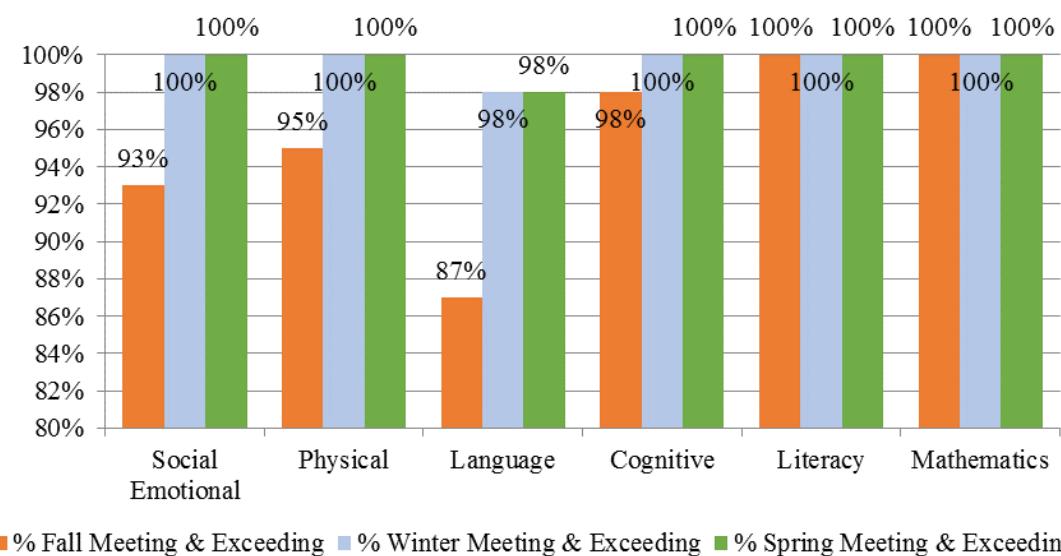
Our infant and toddler School Readiness Goals, established in partnership with our families, are in six key developmental domains – approaches to learning, social-emotional development, language and literacy, cognition, and perceptual, motor, and physical development.

Our School Readiness Goals are aligned with the Head Start Early Learn Outcomes Framework and our Creative Curriculum. Our agency Quality Improvement Department helps us analyze our program's progress towards school readiness

Education staff at Paul's House Early Head Start are experts in using the widely renowned Teaching Strategies Gold® Creative Curriculum. Three times a year we measure whether each child is below, meeting, or exceeding widely held developmental standards based on teachers' observations.

This data is from the 2017-2018 program year. *Our children are doing very, very well!*

Table 1. Sheltering Arms Early Head Start 2017-2018 School Year Creative Curriculum Results



Sheltering Arms exists to serve families who face the overwhelming and often intersectional challenges related to living in poverty. In the midst of enormous pressures, our families come to us seeking education for their very young sons and daughters. They know early childhood education is their best and surest path to a safe, successful, and self-sufficient future.

We thank the U.S. Administration for Children and Families, the Robin Hood Foundation, and many other generous donors for supporting our Early Head Start program at Paul's House.

