



BHK CHILD DEVELOPMENT

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Where learning and playing come naturally.



www.bhkfirst.org



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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 in 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.

Our core values form the foundation of how we conduct ourselves and do our daily work.

-  **EMPATHY/ACCEPTANCE** Show empathy and kindness to all; embrace diversity; be mindful and responsive to needs of children, families, and staff.
-  **INTEGRITY** Practice, model, and promote continuous learning among staff, families, and volunteers; be honest and tenacious; lead by example.
-  **COLLABORATION/TEAMWORK** Forge and nurture positive relationships with co-workers, families, and community; cultivate partnerships with shared goals.
-  **RESILIENCE** Exhibit strength in the face of adversity; build upon the inherent strengths of staff, families, and volunteers; Be flexible and adaptable.
-  **INNOVATION** Be creative, resourceful, and trailblazing.

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



Our Mission: BHK is dedicated to the highest quality learning experience where children, families, and staff grow and thrive.

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





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.

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, and tuition-based programs. Through our work, we strengthen and support positive outcomes, economic stability, and well-being for children, families, and community.

GIVE THEM A HEAD START!

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.

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



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.

Social capital of the community is a strength.

422
births



to Baraga, Houghton,
Keweenaw County
residents in 2021.

2,763
children



103
children



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

ages birth to 5 received
special education services
through CCISD (2022).

39%

of expectant women in
the Copper Country are
receiving less than
adequate prenatal care.



The ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) Report represents the growing number of households that do not earn enough to afford household necessities. In BHK's service area (2021), while 18% of households were living below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), another 29% were ALICE households earning above the FPL, but not enough to afford household necessities of housing, childcare, food, transportation, health care, and technology.

58%

of children under age 5
have all parents in the
labor force.



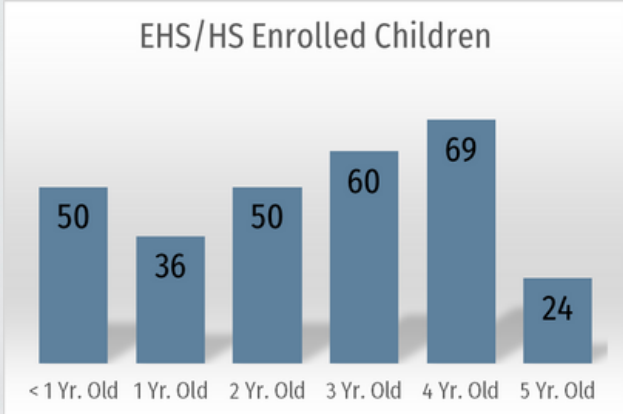
The average ALICE Household Survival Budget was \$59,016 for a family of 4 in 2021 - significantly more than the FPL of \$26,500 for a family of four (Head Start eligibility).

Data Sources: MI Kids Count, MI
Department of Education, & American
Community Survey Data (2023)

In the 49 years since BHK
began, families and society
have changed dramatically,
but our commitment to
partnering with families from
at-risk backgrounds remains
constant.

WE GIVE YOUNG CHILDREN THE HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION THEY DESERVE.

BHK provides a safe, healthy, responsive environment with rich, supportive learning experiences.



Average Enrollment: EHS-71%; HS 63%

22
classrooms
operated

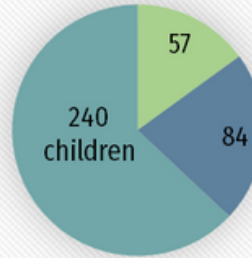
58%
of children are
enrolled multiple
years at BHK

Primary Eligibility for Enrollment



- Income < 130% FPL - 41%
- Public Assistance- 38%
- Homelessness - 9%
- Foster Care - 4%
- Other - 7%

Funded Enrollment

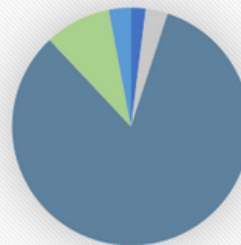


- Early Head Start (Home-Based) - 57
- Early Head Start (Center-Based) - 84
- Head Start (Preschool) - 240 children



54%
of children had concerns or delays on initial screening (developmental, behavior, hearing, and/or vision) requiring further evaluation and interventions.

Racial Identities



- Asian - 2%
- Black or African American - 3%
- White - 83%
- Bi- or Multi-Racial - 9%
- American Indian - 3%

Children Received Early Intervention/ Special Education & Related Services

17%
Early Head Start

18%
Head Start



SCHOOL READINESS BEGINS WITH HEALTH.

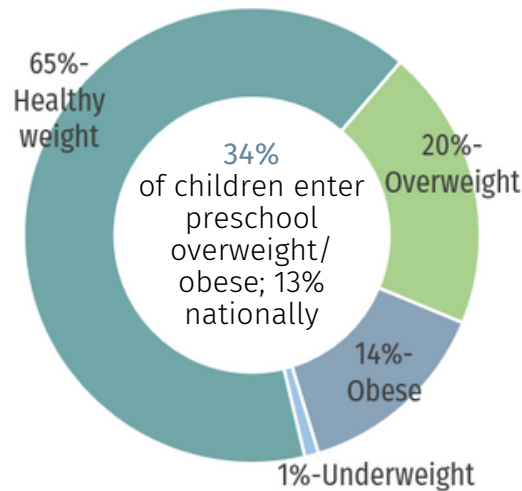
BHK provides good quality, nutritious meals with an emphasis on maximizing whole grains, fresh fruits and vegetables. Two-thirds of children's daily nutritional needs are provided in meals and snacks served family style in BHK full-day classrooms.

60,768

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

41,149 meals (breakfasts & lunches)

19,619 snacks



99%

of enrolled children had health insurance. 85% received Medicaid; 15% private.

97%

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

100%

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

94%

of enrolled preschoolers had an established dentist, but only 53% of preschoolers had a dental exam in the past year.

86%

of children had up-to-date well child exams by year-end (92% in EHS; 79% in HS). A marked improvement from 11% at program entry.

35

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

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.

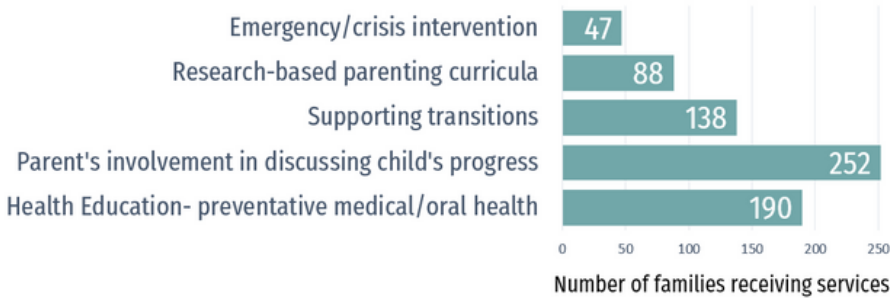


As a multi-generational program, we honor parents in their role as their child's first and most important teacher. We partner with parents to incorporate family interests, values, and cultures into the curriculum and to identify home routines and activities that extend learning.

WE VALUE PARENTS AND FAMILIES AND ENCOURAGE ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT.

Each child is unique and presents their own personality, strengths, vulnerabilities, and interests. While research in early education informs best practices or engaging young learners - no one knows their child better than their family. A strong relationship between families and BHK staff is essential to promoting healthy child development and positive learning outcomes.

Family Support Services Provided of Highest Incidence



637

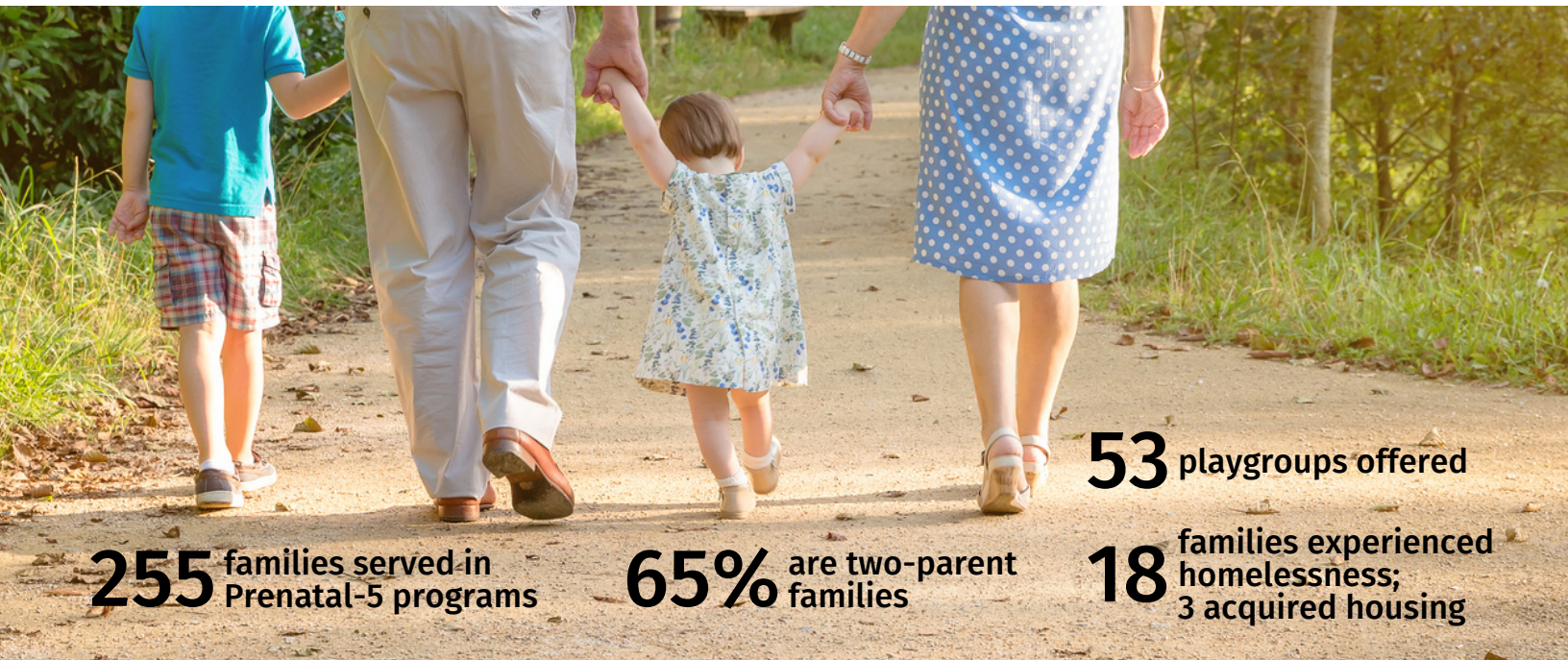
volunteers at BHK. Parents make up 63% of our volunteer roster.



99%

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

(2023 BHK Parent Survey)



255 families served in Prenatal-5 programs

65% are two-parent families

53 playgroups offered

18 families experienced homelessness; 3 acquired housing

PREPARING CHILDREN FOR KINDERGARTEN AND BEYOND.

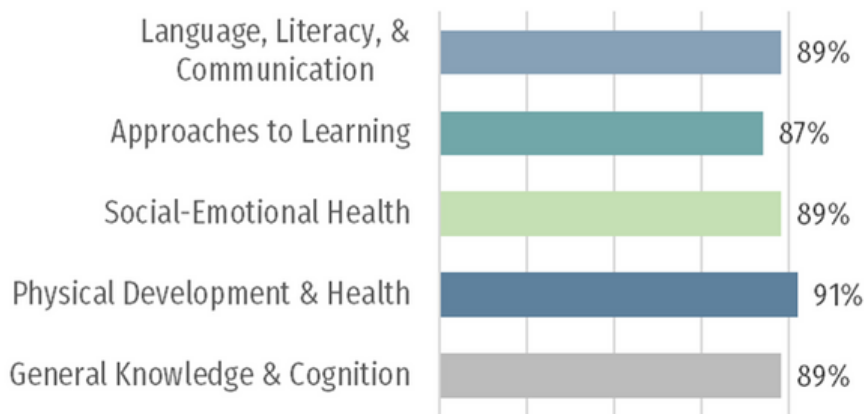
BHK is committed to give every child, regardless of circumstances at birth, an opportunity to succeed in school and in life.

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 Achievement 2022-2023



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



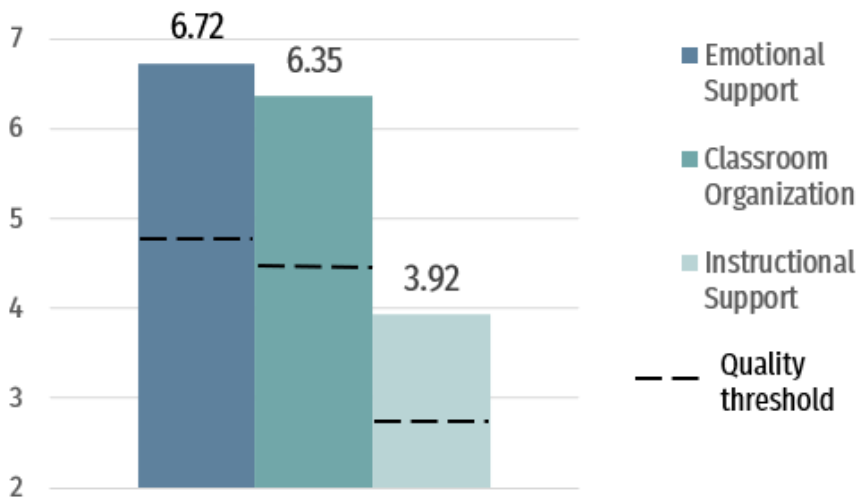
99%

of families reported their children's individual needs were met by the planned activities in the classrooms and/or home visits.

(BHK 2023 Parent Survey)



CLASS Average Score Spring 2023



According to Michigan's Quality Rating Improvement System, a program is considered to "Demonstrate Quality" when scores reach quality thresholds.

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



OUR PERFORMANCE

100%

of Head Start preschool teachers meet degree/credential requirements. 62% have a bachelor degree or higher.

84%

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

93%

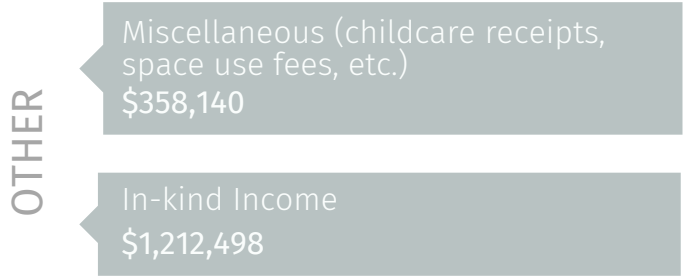
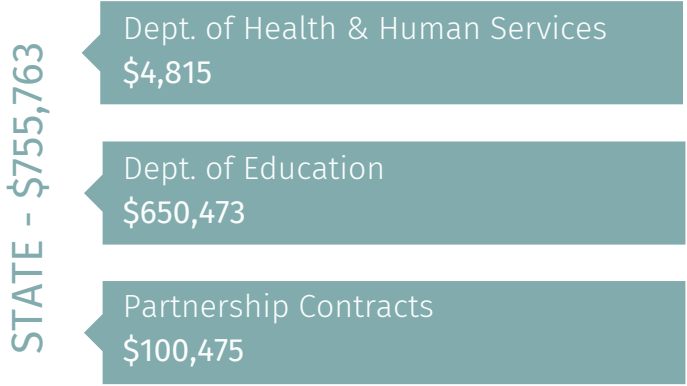
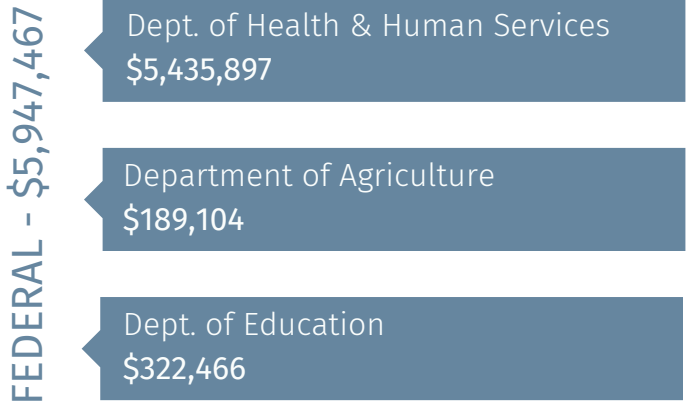
of early childhood educators advanced performance from previous year.
(Annual Evaluation Scores)

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.

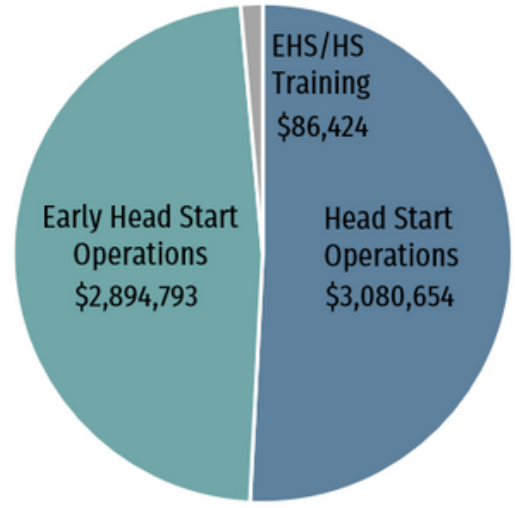
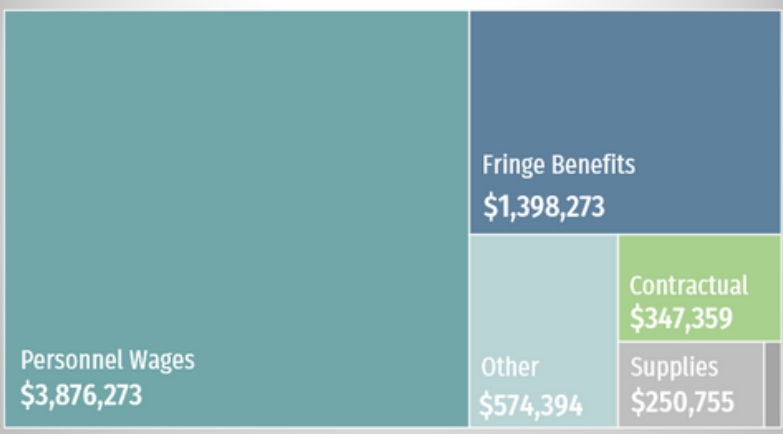


BHK braids multiple funding streams (federal, state, and local) to comprehensively serve enrolled children and families.

**FY 2022 TOTAL REVENUES:
\$8,273,868**



FY2022 BREAKDOWN OF EXPENDITURES



**FUNDING NOTICE
EXPECTED FY2024 BUDGET:
\$6,061,871**

An independent audit, completed for the year ending October 31, 2022 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.



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.

GET INVOLVED

- Volunteer your time and talents to support children's learning
- Donate at www.bhkfirst.org
- Join our team

“

I am more than satisfied, and so is my whole family. Very thankful for BHK and their staff.

Parent Testimonials | Parent Survey 2023

Great overall progress.

My child is more outgoing, confident, and more talkative.

BHK is great at feeding her endlessly hungry mind, and she comes home with eagerness to learn and engage.

Better communication and speech. Learning how to interact with others better.

He is ready for kindergarten next year!

Increased social skills. Increased academic skills. She enjoys going to school at BHK

”



BHK CHILD
DEVELOPMENT

700 Park Ave., Houghton, MI 49931
bhkfirst.org

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 and Health and Human Services; and local private and public sources.