

2022-2023

# ANNUAL REPORT

Head Start







## A SPECIAL NOTE OF THANKS



Sharon Minigan  
*VP of Early  
Childhood Services*

Action for a Better Community (ABC) Head Start works with families to ensure that children receive a fair opportunity at a quality education. Strengthening the parents' role as the first teacher, supports the research that shows the earliest years of a child's life are the most significant opportunity for brain development. Children's

early experiences serve as the foundation for eliminating and preventing early childhood health and developmental concerns and sets children and their parents on a path for healthy, social and emotional growth.

Together, we thank parents, community partners, and ABC Head Start staff for ensuring all children under our care receive an excellent opportunity to set the standard for a quality learning journey.





## THE COMMUNITY ACTION PROMISE

Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.



## MISSION

Action for a Better Community is a Community Action Agency that promotes and provides opportunities for low-income individuals and families to become self-sufficient.

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# ABOUT US

## KEY ELEMENTS OF THE HEAD START PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

*The overall philosophy of the program is to enhance the cognitive and emotional development in children of low income families*





**Comprehensive child development services.**

To develop fully and to achieve social competence, children and their families need a comprehensive, interdisciplinary approach to early childhood development and health services, as well as family and community partnerships. Home and school are linked, what happens in one affects the other. Head Start uses a two-generation approach, working with the children, school and parents to help families create a lasting change.

**Parent involvement.**

Parents are encouraged to become involved in all aspects of the Head Start program, including shared governance in policy and program decisions that respond to their interests

and needs. Additionally, Head Start programs work in close partnership with parents and other family members to develop and utilize their strengths to support their child's, growth and their personal family goals.

**Community partnerships and community-based services.**

ABC Head Start Services are designed to meet the needs specific to families in our community.







# 5050 ABC

## HEAD START (HS) AND EARLY HEAD START (EHS)

***Action for a Better Community, Inc., (ABC) Head Start (HS) & Early Head Start (EHS)*** is a federally funded program for Monroe County that promotes the school readiness of children ages birth to five from low-income families by enhancing their cognitive, social, and emotional development. HS serves preschool-age children, and EHS offers services to infants, toddlers, and pregnant women.

ABC HS & EHS, in partnership with Ibero American Action League, provides comprehensive services to enrolled children and their families. These services include health, nutrition, social, and other services determined to be necessary through a family assessment, education and cognitive development services. HS and EHS services are designed to be responsive to each child and family's ethnic, cultural, and linguistic heritage.

ABC HS & EHS emphasizes the role of parents as their child's first and most important teacher. HS and EHS programs build relationships with families that support:

- Family well-being and positive parent-child relationships.
- Families as learners and lifelong educators.
- Family engagement as children transition across developmental and educational milestones.
- Family engagement in transitions.
- Family connections to peers and community; and
- Families as advocates and leaders.

# 1,000,000

Over a million children are served by Head Start programs yearly, including children in every U.S. state and territory and American Indian/Alaska Native communities. Since 1965, nearly 30 million low-income children and their families have received these comprehensive services to increase their school readiness.



ABC HS & EHS offers a variety of service options through its direct-run programs and community-based partnerships. The service options include the following:

- Center-based options for HS & EHS offer full-day services that children attend five days a week.
- Home-based options, where a staff person visits weekly to provide services to the children and families in their homes. Children and families who receive home-based services gather periodically with other enrolled families for a group learning experience facilitated by HS & EHS staff.
- Infant and toddler services are provided for the full year.

## REVIEW OF LAST YEAR

In reviewing the 2022–2023 school year, the remnants of COVID–19 continues to pose some challenges for the program; however, the program remains committed to quality service delivery, which is evident in the following activities:

- The program implemented hiring, retention, and attendance incentives to attract and maintain quality staff.
- The program returned to pre-Covid performance levels in many areas impacted by not having adequate and timely resources to support the health and wellbeing of children and families.
- The program became more innovative by building on previous partnerships to create new ways of offering services to children, such as on-site dental exams, that ensure comprehensive services were delivered to support children and families.
- ABC's commitment and dedication to our families allowed us to continue to build a robust, quality early childhood program that serves the Rochester Community.

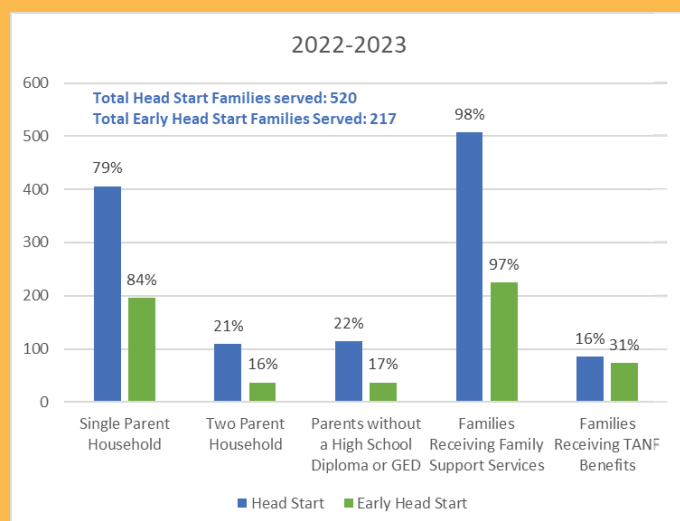
Thanks again for your support.



# PROGRAM GRAPHICS

# DEMO

Program Service Demographics	Head Start	Early Head Start
Funded Enrollment EHS includes services to 72 Home-Based children/pregnant women.	859	254
Total Children Served 100% of the HS & EHS children served were income-eligible for program services.	548	265
Families Served	516	233
Pregnant Women Served Early Head Start Only	0	17
Average Monthly Enrollment  As a percentage of funded enrollment	64%	100%





## PARENT FAMILY &



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The partnership between parents and Head Start staff is fundamental to children's current and future success and readiness for school. Parents and staff share a labor of love to promote shared practices and values about teaching, mentoring, modeling, guiding, bonding, nurturing, communicating, building relationships, coping skills, and much more.

When you create positive and trusting relationships with parents and family members, they are more likely to become engaged in their young child's development and learning. These relationships focus on goals that families develop with the support of program leadership, staff, and engaged

community partners. Goal-directed relationships are part of the two-generational approach of working with children and adult family members that distinguishes Head Start/Early Head Start from other early childhood initiatives. They are most likely to take root within programs that take intentional steps to promote parent and family engagement.

ABC Head Start & Early Head Start works to engage parents and families in their children's development and learning. When parents engage their children in supportive home learning environments, they show increased literacy skills, better peer interactions,

fewer behavior problems, and more motivation and persistence. Among the youngest children, daily parent-child reading prompts cognitive skills and early vocabulary gains that lead to more reading and vocabulary growth, a "snowballing" growth pattern.

ABC provides a wide variety of opportunities for parents to enhance their leadership role in the program and the broader community.

### Key 2022–2023 Parent, Family, & Community Engagement Activities

Reviewed Child Observation Records results to ensure children are achieving growth expectations	Participated in Self-Assessment process to identify opportunities for improvement	Approved submission of grant applications and budget amendments
Participated in the program's annual planning session to develop goals	Conducted monthly parent & Policy Council Meetings	Participated in the development of the staff retention/hiring policy
Reviewed the program Information Report to determine the program success/improvement opportunities	Participated in the Triennial Head Start & Early Head Start Federal Monitoring Review	Participated in the enhancement of the Head Start Parent Handbook & Training Guide
Worked with staff to develop the program's operating budget	Parents and caregivers volunteered in centers	Reviewed and approved Early Head Start Curriculum
Participated in the Parent & Prom night with children	Implemented a parent staff together day	Developed training to support & enhance healthy relationships

## FACES OF SCHOOL READINESS



ABC continues to utilize the High Scope Curriculum, which emphasizes the attainment of “life skills” in children. These broad skills, such as problem-solving and conflict resolution, not only prepare children for their upcoming school career but also prepare them for handling life’s frustrations and challenges in a productive manner.

School Readiness is part of the curriculum on a daily basis, with children learning the necessary skills for school through their own interests and life experiences. Parents are provided with opportunities to build on the child’s learning by extending the classroom into the home learning environment. This is an exciting experience for parents—leading their child’s development while being engaged in their learning.

High Scope measures children’s growth with the Child Observation Record (COR). This is the assessment instrument that measures and accounts for growth in the learning domains – the

assessment instrument. The Curriculum itself is driven by Key Developmental Indicators (KDI), the building blocks of thinking and reasoning at each stage of development. For example: an area in the Language and Literacy domain of COR would measure “Listening to and understanding speech”.

The KDI used by the classroom teacher is incorporated into their interchange with the child by “talking with others about personally meaningful experiences.” This conversation with a child will contribute to his/her thinking skills, organizing their mind, and learning to interact with adults. The KDI’s define the kind of knowledge young children acquire as they interact with materials, people, ideas, and events.

## CLASSROOM ASSESSMENT SCORING SYSTEM

The program uses (CLASS) to assessment tool to evaluate classrooms. Although CLASS is not the only observation tool used to access classrooms, measuring Adult/Child interaction is one of the strengths of this assessment tool. Ultimately, Adult/Child interactions are what lead to higher level thinking in children. Below, are the program’s CLASS scores compared to the grantee-level median domain scores

for 2019 –2020 (19–20 score) Fewer CLASS observations were completed by the Office of Head Start in 2020 and 2021 due to the impact of COVID–19. ABC Head Start did not complete CLASS observations in our classrooms during the 2022–2023 school year. The social and emotional well-being of each child was the focus, along with the individual needs of each child being met.

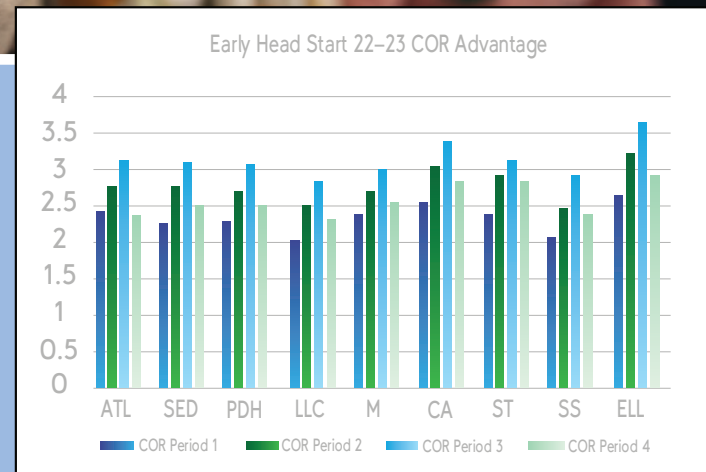
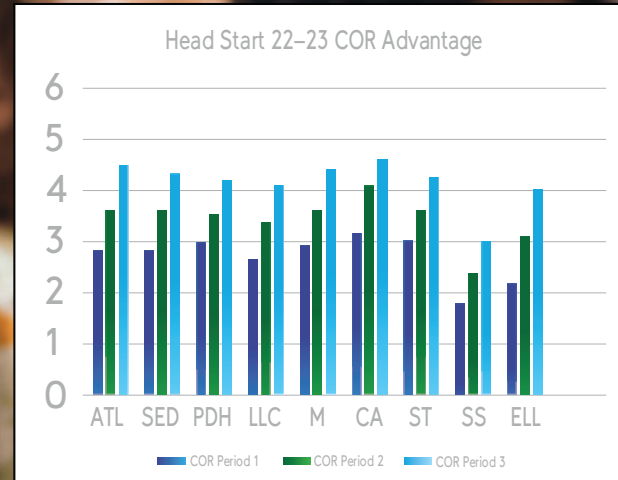
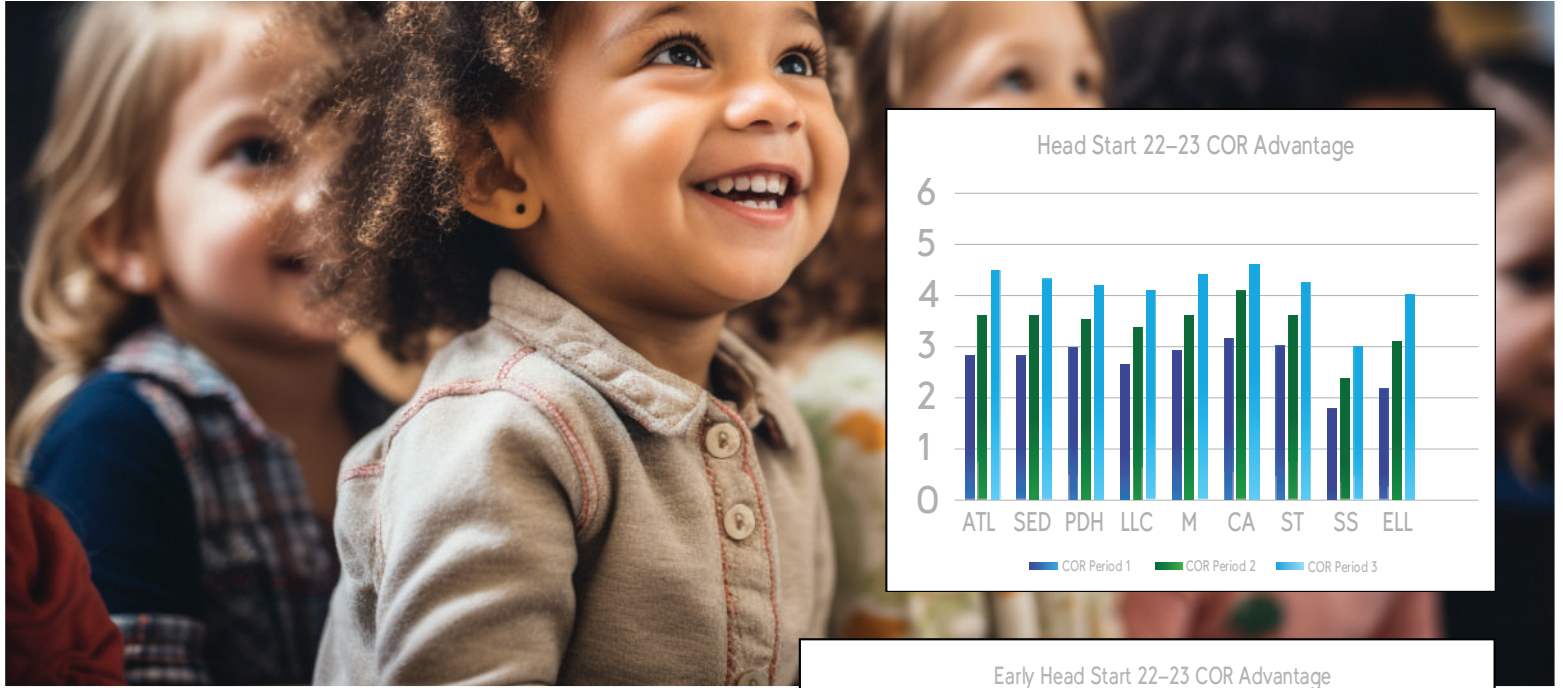
(CLASS)

Domain	National	ABC Head Start
Emotional Support	6.03	6.54 (19–20 score)
Classroom Management	5.78	5.92 (19–20 score)
Instructional Support	2.94	4.01 (19–20 score)





## PREPARING CHILDREN TO SUCCEED IN SCHOOL



The program's approach to school readiness ensures children are ready for school, families are prepared to support children's learning, schools are prepared to teach children, and the community is mobilized to support children, families, and schools in this effort.

To prepare children for school, the program takes into account each child's development and provides individualized plans designed to provide experiences that will enhance learning and further each child's development.

The program uses the High Scope Curriculum. As part of this curriculum, the Child Observation Record (COR) is the assessment tool used to measure progress toward school readiness goals in the areas of:

- Approaches to Learning (**ATL**)
- Creative Arts (**CA**)
- English Language Learning (**ELL**)
- Language, Literacy, and Communication (**LLC**)
- Mathematics (**M**)
- Physical Development and Self-Help Skills (**PDH**)
- Science and Technology (**ST**)
- Social Studies (**SS**)
- Social and Emotional Development (**SED**)

Data is collected continuously and analyzed three times during the school year to show progress and identify areas of opportunity in meeting school readiness goals. If additional information on High Scope/ COR Advantage is needed, visit <https://highscope.org>

For the 2022–2023 school year, COR data was collected from September 2022 through June 2023 for Head Start.

For Early Head Start, COR data was collected from September 2022 through August 2023.

Decrease in COR Period 4 due to lower summer attendance



## PHILOSOPHY OF HEAD START HEALTH SERVICES

# HEALTH

When Head Start first began, voluntary community health providers offered many health services on-site in Head Start programs, such as immunizations and medical and dental treatment. Head Start programs continue to place emphasis on partnerships with providers. These partnerships enable Head Start to respond to modifications in the healthcare delivery system and the needs of Head Start families

Head Start health services maintains a health service advisory committee of healthcare professionals, community members, Head Start staff, parents and others to advise the planning, operation, evaluation, and resources to the Head Start and Early Head Start. The members that encompasses the committee provides their expertise to ensure the Head Start programs are providing comprehensive health services

The focus of Head Start health services is to prevent health problems whenever possible by

carefully addressing the needs of enrolled children. Successful partnerships are the key to the success of this approach. When conditions or illnesses are found, they are addressed quickly with the help of competent healthcare partners in an effort to improve the health of the child and prevent future problems. A child can't fully participate in educational opportunities if they are sick or suffering from a chronic illness.

Parents are principally responsible for maintaining the health and nutrition of their children. They can establish healthy habits in the home and obtain health, nutrition, and mental health services as they are educated about and involved in these matters. ABC Head Start/Early Head Start and its partner organizations provide education programs for parents and families on medical, dental, nutritional, and mental health issues.

### Some services Head Start programs provide include:

- Locating sources of funding for health services
- Working with local Medicaid and SCHIP agencies to determine a child's eligibility for medical assistance
- Offering health promotion activities, including information about well-childcare and training and information on child health and development
- Assist with locating a dental and medical home
- Following preventative pediatric healthcare according to American Academy of Pediatrics
- Intensive monitoring
- Education and literacy
- Family centered approach
- Culturally competent care
- Tracking health services







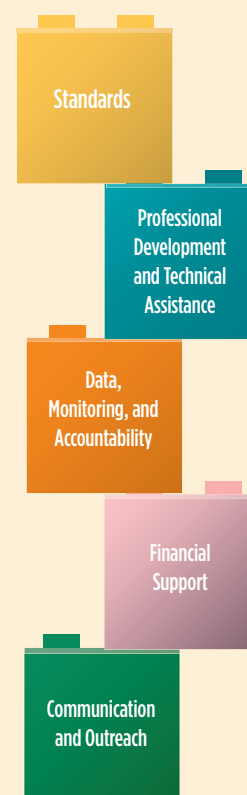
## Health and Nutrition Demographics Children's Health Data Based on the 2022–2023 PIR

- ♥ 100% of HS and 97% of EHS children had age-appropriate immunizations.
- ♥ 100% of HS and 99% of EHS children had a medical home.
- ♥ 99% of HS and 67% of EHS children had a Dental home.
- ♥ 100% of all children received nutritious meals.
- ♥ 99% of HS and EHS children had Health Insurance at the end of the school year.
- ♥ 99% of HS and 96% of EHS children needing medical treatment received services.
- ♥ 100% of pregnant women received prenatal care.
- ♥ 99% of HS and 97% of EHS children received Medical Exams.
- ♥ 99% of Head Start children received Dental Exams

\*EPSDT Standards do not require a dental exam for children less than 3 years old. Outcomes include ABC, VOA & Ibero.



QUALITYstarsNY is New York State's voluntary Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) for early childhood programs. The QRIS is used to assess, improve, and communicate the level of quality in an early learning program. A comprehensive QRIS is composed of five common elements:



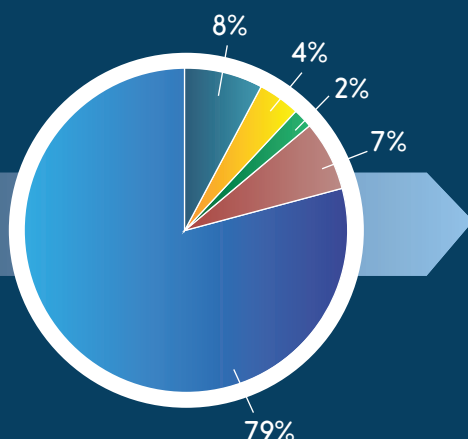
**Head Start** centers currently hold a 4 out of 5-star rating for the QRIS for each of our centers. The Head Start classrooms are on the correct path toward continuous and quality improvement.



# REPORT

# FINANCE

FINANCIAL REPORT (UNAUDITED)  
Early Childhood Services:  
FEBRUARY 1, 2022 TO JANUARY 31, 2023



## Revenue

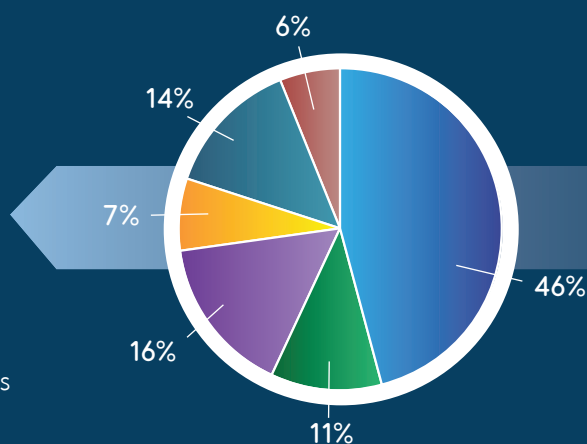
- Head Start and Early Head Start  
\$13,775,304
- Community support—volunteers, donated goods, and services  
\$1,141,114
- Child and Adult Care Food Program  
\$408,377
- COVID-19 ARPA Funds (HS/EHS)  
677,858.14
- Universal Pre-K/EPK  
\$1,456,937

**Total Revenue \$17,459,937**

## Expenses

- Personnel \$8,110,391
- Delegate Agencies \$1,973,059
- Classroom Expenses \$2,758,848
- In-kind – Expense \$1,141,114
- Occupancy Costs \$2,389,534
- Other Supporting Services 1,086,645

**Total Expenses \$17,459,590**



Head Start and Early Head Start are funded by HHS. The annual audit for fiscal year ending 9/30/20 is on file at ABC and is available upon request. The fiscal report is based on unaudited figures.



# COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Advocacy Center
- American Red Cross
- Anthony Jordan Health Center
- Better Days Ahead
- Bivona Child Advocacy Center
- Catholic Family Center
- Child Care Council
- Child Outcomes, Planning & Assessment
- Children's Institute
- City of Rochester
- Common Ground Health
- Consumer Credit Counseling
- Democrat & Chronicle
- Department of Health & Human Services
- Department of Public Health
- Early Intervention
- Eastman Dental
- Elliott Landsman Corporation
- Every Parent Influences Children
- Excellus
- Fidelis Care
- First Books
- Food Bank
- Golisano Children's Hospital
- Greater Rochester Health Foundation
- Head Start & Early Head Start Parents
- Heading Home Housing Council
- Homeless Services Network
- Hyatt Regency Hotel
- IBERO
- Jacobstein
- M&T Bank
- Mental Health Association of Rochester
- Monroe Community College
- Nancy Coughlin
- Nazareth College
- New York State Office of Children & Family Services
- Parent University (RCSD)
- Pediatric Links
- Perinatal Network
- Policy Council Community Representatives
- Roberts Wesleyan College
- Rochester City School District
- Rochester Early Childhood Assessment Partnership
- Rochester Education Opportunity Center
- Rochester Hearing & Speech
- Rochester Museum & Science Center
- Rochester Primary Care Network
- Rochester Public Library
- Seneca Park Zoo
- Small Smiles
- Smile Mobile
- Society for the Protection and Care of Children
- St. John Fisher College
- State of New York Car Seat Safety Program
- Stepping Stones Learning Center
- Strong Behavior Health
- Strong National Museum of Play
- Sysco
- United Way of Rochester
- University of Rochester
- Volunteers of America
- Wade Norwood (FLHSA)
- WDKX
- Westside Health Service
- YMCA

Any omission is inadvertent and a failure of memory, not of gratitude!



# LOCATIONS

## **Clifford Avenue Center**

Head Start  
1772 Clifford Avenue  
Rochester, N.Y. 14609  
(585) 482-8914  
9:00am – 3:30pm

## **Hudson Avenue Center**

Head Start  
1150 Hudson Avenue  
Rochester, N.Y. 14621  
(585) 467-1472  
8:00am – 2:30pm

## **Hart Street Center**

Head Start & Early Head Start  
30 Hart Street  
Rochester, N.Y. 14605  
(585) 254-0093  
9:00am – 3:30pm

## **Joseph Avenue Center**

Head Start & Early Head Start  
251 Joseph Avenue  
Rochester, N.Y. 14605  
(585) 417-3720  
8:00am – 2:30pm

## **Jefferson Avenue Center**

Head Start  
640 Jefferson Avenue  
Rochester, N.Y. 14611  
(585) 436-0362  
8:00am – 2:30pm

## **Home-Based**

Early Head Start  
400 West Avenue  
Rochester, N.Y. 14611  
(585) 325-5116  
8:00am – 4:30pm

## **North Street Center**

Head Start & Early Head Start  
700 North Street  
Rochester, N.Y. 14605  
(585) 454-2332  
8:00am – 2:30pm

## **Administrative Offices**

400 West Avenue  
Rochester, N.Y. 14611  
(585) 325-5116  
8:00am – 4:30pm

# PARTNERS

## **IBERO American Action League, INC.**

Head Start & Early Head Start  
777 Clifford Avenue  
Rochester, N.Y. 14605  
(585) 454-1200  
9:00am – 3:30pm



**ABC Head Start**

**HIRING TEACHERS**  
**Visit: [abcinfo.org](http://abcinfo.org)**

**ACTION** for a  
**BETTER**  
**COMMUNITY**  
*Building new beginnings*