The Western Egyptian Economic Opportunity Council (EOC) Head Start program has provided services to the Illinois counties of Monroe, Perry and Randolph since its early days as a summer program in 1965. Over the years, the program has expanded and added programming options to meet the needs of the children and families it serves. Perhaps the heart of the program distinguishes Head Start among other options for preschool education and has served as a model for social service agencies across the United States and internationally by setting the standard for comprehensive services.

The Head Start program is able to provide supports for both the child and the extended family though engagement where one feels healthy, safe, connected, and encouraged. The program employs a team of individuals who are specialized in areas of administrative planning, fiscal management, community engagement, family support, early childhood education, individualized instruction for children of all abilities, physical, oral and mental health, and nutrition.

The Western Egyptian EOC Head Start program is funded to serve 308 preschool children ages three to five. Families are provided with two service options: part-year, part-day classes (4 hours per day, 4 days per week, mid-August through April) or full-year, full-day (up to 11.5 hours per day, 5 days per week, 12 months per year).
Parents are Welcome in the Classroom!

Community Support for Western Egyptian EOC Head Start included 740 persons providing volunteer services during the program year. 461 of the volunteers were current or former Head Start parents.

**Head Start children are healthy children!**

100% of children received Medical Screening
85% of children received Dental Care

**Program Options**

36% of families selected Full-Day, Full-year services
64% of families selected Part-Day, Part-Year services

**Income Eligibility**

76% below 100% federal poverty line
16% below 130% federal poverty line
8% above 130% federal poverty line

13% of children enrolled received services for a diagnosed disability

**Families Received Support for the Following Services**

27% emergency or crisis intervention
15% housing
8% mental health support
6% adults furthered their education
8% substance abuse treatment/prevention
2% child abuse/neglect services
4% domestic violence services
3% child support assistance
99% health education
98% parenting education
2% relationship education
2% budget and financial education

**Supporting Children’s Healthy Development**

Children learn healthy habits and practice them daily in the classroom by brushing teeth after meals, frequent handwashing, covering sneezes and coughs in the elbow, and toileting skills.

Classroom menus are created by a registered dietician and individual health plans for children with dietary needs are created. Children participate in weekly cooking and nutrition activities and families receive nutrition education during home visits with the Family Advocate.

The Health Manager consults with parents and partners with the teaching staff to provide a healthy environment for all children.

**Safe Environments**

Children play on preschool age only playgrounds. Bus monitors are present on every bus route to assist children on and off the bus and children are buckled in to the seat with an integrated five-point child-size seat belt.

All staff are trained annually for First Aid/CPR and pass thorough background checks.

Classrooms are inspected annually by Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, Fire Marshall, and Health Department.

Parents receive comprehensive services that include partnering with teachers to select education goals for their child and by partnering with a family advocate to select goals for themselves.
**School Readiness**

Western Egyptian EOC Head Start uses the Teaching Strategies Creative Curriculum as an environment-based curriculum which allows teachers to plan and enhance their classrooms in order to meet the individual needs of all children. The program utilizes Teaching Strategies GOLD as an assessment system. The Teaching Strategies GOLD objectives for Development and Learning allow teachers the opportunity to collect observations and enter them into an internet-based system. Western Egyptian EOC Head Start designed a Child Assessment Summary to complement the tools and is completed at three checkpoints throughout the program year.

The Child Assessment Summary is reviewed with each child’s parent during family/teacher conferences. The parent and teacher select at least three learning objectives that can serve to be beneficial for the child to receive individualized learning support both in the classroom and at home.

A field trip to the local Kindergarten is taken at the end of the program year. Children meet the Kindergarten teacher, tour the school and create a personalized book to take home to share with parents in order to prepare for the Kindergarten experience.

**Mental Health**

Western Egyptian EOC Head Start promotes the mental health of children by partnering with parents to assess each child’s social and emotional development and planning individualized support for both home and school. Western Egyptian EOC Head Start is a Conscious Discipline practicing school and works from a School Family perspective to support self-regulation in children.

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**Family Engagement**

Western Egyptian EOC Head Start is family-centered and is designed to support parents as the most important influence and primary teacher in their child’s life.

Teachers and Family Advocates provide a variety of activities and opportunities for families to participate in the program through classroom experiences, learning activities for home, home visits, family/teacher conferences, parent committee meetings, parent trainings and Family Fun Nights.

Families are represented through governance activities by representing center parent committees on the Policy Council and agency Board of Directors.
Program Enrollment

Ages of Enrollees
3 year olds    38%
4 year olds    49%
5 year olds    13%

Primary Language of Family Home
English        96%
Spanish        4%

Race/Ethnicity of Enrollees
Black/African-American 12%
Hispanic         7%
White            71%
Bi-racial/Multi-racial 10%

Average Monthly Enrollment
Enrollment was lower in summer months 90%

Financial Report

Funding Sources
US Dept. of Health and Human Services $2,347,103
(Fiscal Year May 1, 2015 through April 30, 2016)
US Dept. of Agriculture through IL State Board of Ed $155,421
(Child and Adult Care Food Program)

Proposed Budget for May 1, 2016 - April 30, 2017
- Salaries              $1,368,349
- Fringe Benefits       260,823
- Travel                15,222
- Supplies              78,052
- Contractual           159,423
- Other*                465,234
                      $2,347,103

*utilities, parent activities, food, insurance, classroom/building leases

Accountability

The annual agency audit was conducted by Sikich, LLP for Fiscal Year 2015. The agency was found to be in full compliance with the Government Auditing Standards and OMB Circular A-133

Federal Reviews

The program received and successfully passed three federal reviews during the 2015-2016 program year.

- Classroom Assessment Scoring System
- Environmental Health and Safety
- Comprehensive Services and School Readiness

Program Enrollment

68% of Eligible Children were Served

Western Egyptian EOC Head Start served 395 children from 346 families in the 2014-2015 Program Year