



LUZERNE COUNTY HEAD START INC.

2018 - 2019 Annual Report to the Community

Serving pregnant women, children birth to age 5, and their families in Luzerne and Wyoming Counties



“Moving Families Forward”



Dear Friends,

This past year has been a busy and successful year at Luzerne County Head Start. An increase in state funding allowed us to serve an additional 36 children in the Hazleton and Pittston communities. Additionally, LCHS opened a new Pre-K Counts classroom in the Dallas School District. As we continue to work to improve the lives of children and their families, our agency is focusing on helping our community better understand the comprehensive services we provide. This past year, we launched a rebranding plan. As part of our strategy, a new logo and tagline were created to help give our agency a more personal touch. The updated logo includes the traditional Head Start building blocks along with a small, red heart. The heart is meant to signify the importance of family, trust, relationships, culture, diversity, and understanding: all of which are important values in the Head Start program. LCHS's new tagline "Moving Families Forward" is a reflection of the importance of family and upward mobility in our program. While we share this new appearance, we want to emphasize that our mission and vision remains the same.

We are excited about the future as we continue to build on our mission to enhance the quality of life for children and their families in Luzerne and Wyoming Counties. Through the ongoing efforts of our leadership team, dedicated staff, Policy Council representatives and community leaders, we have truly brought the Head Start model to life in which every child, regardless of circumstances at birth; has the ability to reach their full potential. Together with our families, staff, and community we look forward to another year of helping children establish an early foundation that builds school readiness and future success.

Sincerely,



Dr. Frances G. Langan
President, LCHS Board of Directors



Lynn Evans Biga
Executive Director, LCHS



LCHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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LCHS SENIOR STAFF

Lynn Evans Biga, *Executive Director*

Beth White, *Assistant Executive Director*

Travis Black, *Director of Finance*

Dawn Smith, *Director of Operations*

Kelly Chamberlain, *Director of Education*



PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Parent and family engagement in Head Start/Early Head Start is about building relationships with families that support family well-being, strong relationships between parents and their children, and ongoing learning and development for both parents and children. This year, LCHS explored specific ways to engage fathers or father-figures in their children's early education experience.



Fathers were invited to spend time with their children outdoors during our "Dad's Day on the Playground" event.

FAMILY SUPPORT & WELL-BEING

Family well-being occurs when all family members are safe, healthy, and have chances for educational advancement and economic mobility. This year, in collaboration with PA CareerLink Luzerne County and the Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce, LCHS launched its pilot "WORK" (Workforce Opportunities through Resources and Knowledge) program, a job readiness initiative for families. The program consisted of a series of workshops that provided resources and skills individuals might need in order to find and secure employment.

LCHS POLICY COUNCIL

Families are encouraged to be part of Head Start & Early Head Start program planning. Policy Council members are elected each year and meet monthly. Those involved participate in meetings and provide feedback on the services we provide. Members can be currently enrolled parents, as well as community members.

Chairperson

Jennifer Cebrick, Community Representative



Luzerne County Head Start launches job readiness initiative for families ready to secure employment

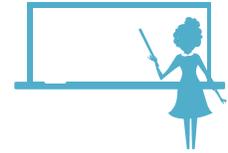


CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WE SERVE

Luzerne County Head Start, Inc. maintained 100% enrollment during the 2018-2019 program year.



- Early Head Start Infants, Toddlers and Pregnant Women
 - United Way Early Head Start Infants, Toddlers
 - Head Start Children*
 - Pre-K Counts Children*
- *includes 71 children in blended classrooms



HEAD START/PRE-K COUNTS CLASSROOMS

55



MEALS SERVED

283,806



HEAD START/PRE-K COUNTS SITES

21

EARLY HEAD START SITES

5



HEAD START CHILDREN WHO RECEIVE TRANSPORTATION

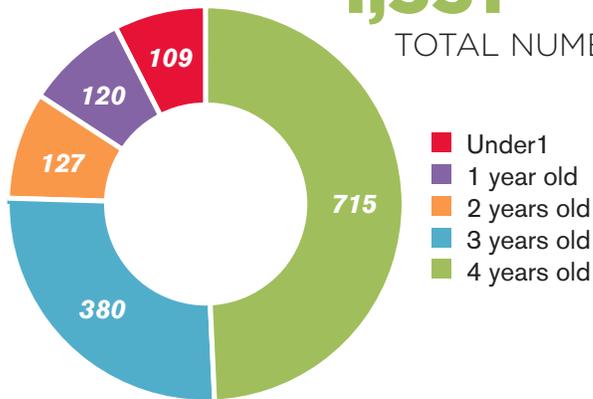
445

DEMOGRAPHICS

(numbers represent those served in the Early Head Start, Head Start and Pre-K Counts programs)

1,331

TOTAL NUMBER OF FAMILIES



- Under 1
- 1 year old
- 2 years old
- 3 years old
- 4 years old



PREGNANT MOTHERS

22

SCHOOL DISTRICTS SERVED

- Dallas
- Greater Nanticoke Area
- Hanover Area
- Hazleton Area
- Lake-Lehman
- Pittston Area
- Tunkhannock Area
- Wilkes-Barre Area
- Wyoming Valley West
- Wyoming Area

FAMILIES EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

62

FAMILIES RECEIVING PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

333

CHILDREN WITH DIAGNOSED DISABILITIES

276

DUAL-LANGUAGE LEARNERS

344



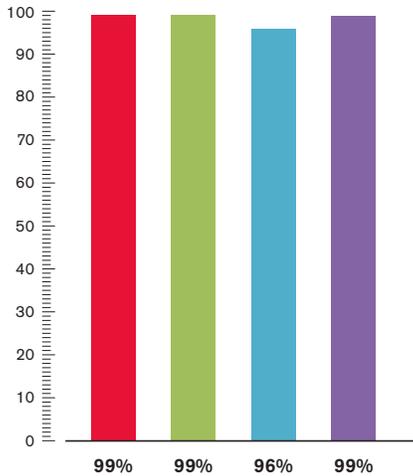
FOSTER CHILDREN

65

SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES

828

HEALTH AND DENTAL OUTCOMES



HEAD START

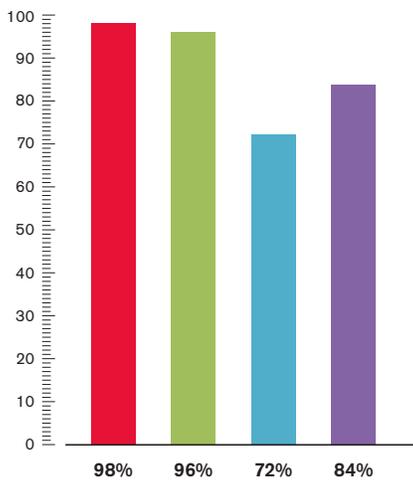
By the end of the 2018 – 2019 program year

- Children with health insurance
- Children with a medical home
- Children with a dental home
- Children up-to-date on immunizations or all possible immunizations to date, or exempt



HEAD START CHILDREN WHO RECEIVED LEAD SCREENINGS

760



EARLY HEAD START

By the end of the 2018 – 2019 program year

- Children with health insurance
- Children with a medical home
- Children with a dental home

** Children under age 1, or before the eruption of their first tooth, are not required to have a dental home*

- Children up-to-date on immunizations or all possible immunizations to date, or exempt



LCHS HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Our Health Advisory Committee meets quarterly to bring together staff, parents, health care providers and other community partners to discuss the planning, operations, and evaluation of LCHS's health services. The committee's mission is to discuss health care topics that affect our community and to support the health and wellness of every child and their family who is enrolled in our program. All LCHS families and staff are welcomed and encouraged to be part of this committee.



VOICES OF LUZERNE COUNTY HEAD START



Elizabeth Huntsinger
*LCHS Classroom Aide,
Edwardsville Center*

"LCHS means everything to me and my family. My daughter was first enrolled in the Early Head Start program and is now in a Head Start classroom, where she is becoming an amazing individual. The program has been so helpful to her and has also given me the opportunity to achieve my goals and has put me on the path to a career that I have always dreamed of. Head Start has helped me to become a better mother, wife, and hopefully, one day, teacher."



Yekaterina Chinikaylo
*LCHS Teacher,
Beekman Street Center*

"Head Start is special in the fact that we become like extended family to the children and families we service. It is our goal to work and grow together. We nurture those timeless relationships and foster the notion that parents are children's first and most important teachers and build upon that idea. I strive not only to teach my students important skills they will need in school, but also help them to develop great character, which will impact the rest of their lives."



Mary Noble
Former LCHS Grandmother

"LCHS's Early Head Start and Head Start programs gave my grandchildren opportunities and educational experiences they would not have received at home. They learned independence and structure. Head Start helped them make a smooth transition to kindergarten. The staff at LCHS invested their time, their energy and their whole hearts into my grandchildren."



Pedro Rodriguez
LCHS Parent

"Before beginning school at Head Start, my son Carlos could not be understood at all. Since then he has opened up to others, shares, talks, eats better and is calmer. He loves being in the classroom and looks forward to going to school. Head Start has also helped me to understand him; not only his speech, but his abilities, too. The overall Head Start experience has been great for Carlos, his mother and I."

SCREENING, ASSESSMENT AND CHILD OUTCOMES

PREPARING CHILDREN TO SUCCEED IN SCHOOL AND IN LIFE

LCHS is committed to supporting children and families with school readiness, self-sufficiency and success in life. Our program provides children with comprehensive health, nutrition, and other family support services, as well as a developmentally appropriate early childhood education.

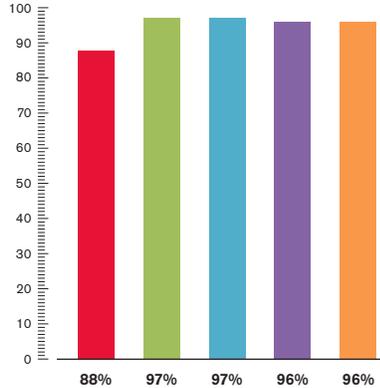
LCHS uses Teaching Strategies Gold (TSG) as the assessment tool for our Head Start program and Hawaii Early Learning Profile (HELP) as the assessment tool for our Early Head Start program. Both tools support the goals and objectives of the curriculums we use in our early learning programs.

The graphs below represent the percentage of children meeting or exceeding the age-appropriate skills from fall of 2018 to spring of 2019.

EARLY HEAD START CHILDREN 0 TO 3-YEARS-OLD

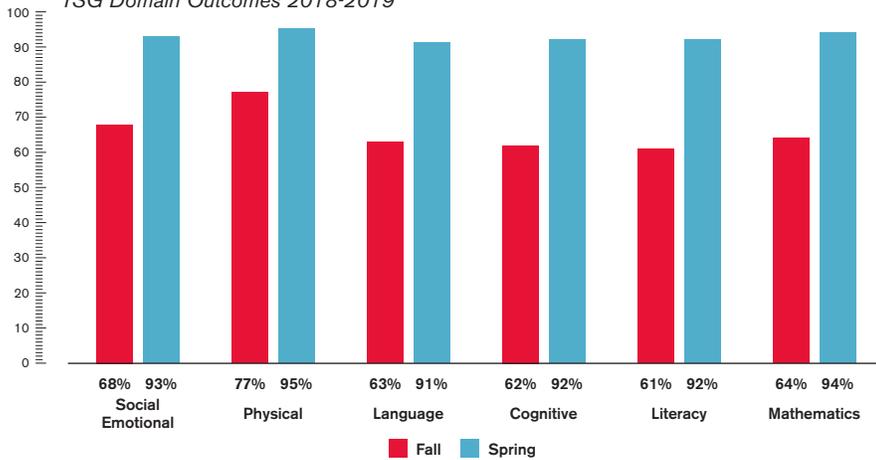
HELP Domain Outcomes by the end of the 2018-2019 program year

- Language and Literacy Skills – 88%
- Approaches to Learning – 97%
- Physical Development and Health – 97%
- Cognitive and General Knowledge – 96%
- Social and Emotional Development – 96%



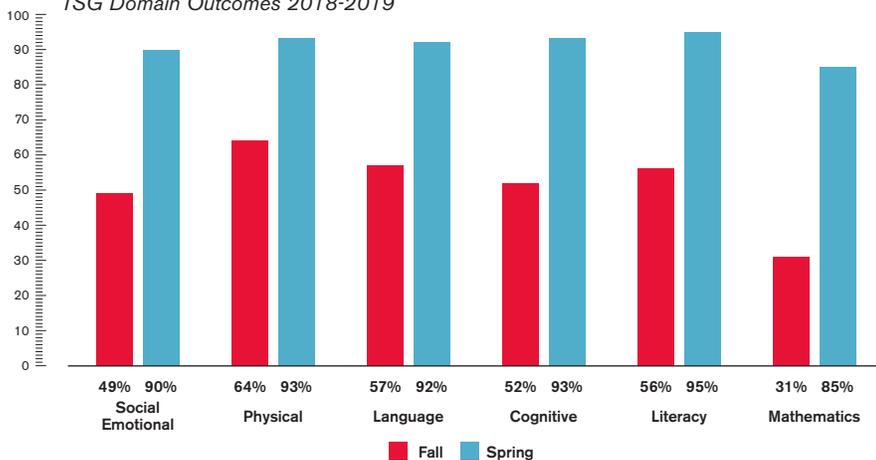
HEAD START/HSSAP CHILDREN 3-YEARS-OLD

TSG Domain Outcomes 2018-2019



HEAD START/HSSAP CHILDREN 4-YEARS-OLD

TSG Domain Outcomes 2018-2019



The 2019 Indicators Report developed by The Institute for Public Policy & Economic Development states that about 24% of eligible 3 & 4 year old children were enrolled in a high quality publicly-funded early childhood education program in Luzerne County. According to the most recent compiled by Kids Count Data Center, a project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, 34% of children under the age of 5 in Luzerne County and 9.5% of children under the age of 5 in Wyoming County are living in economically high-risk families with incomes at or below 100% of the federal poverty level.

TRANSITION: MOUs, KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION, JUMP START

Preschool children make the transition into kindergarten more successfully when their schools and families prepare together, and when their preschool and kindergarten teachers connect. Also, by coordinating transition efforts, preschool and elementary programs can help children maintain and maximize the gains they made in preschool. LCHS has a system in place to help children who transition from one program type to the next (i.e. Early Head Start to Head Start and Head Start to kindergarten).

MOUs

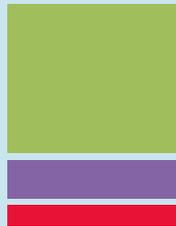
Luzerne County Head Start has 13 Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with school districts in the two counties we serve. These signed agreements recognize the importance of facilitating a process between school districts and LCHS, which allows children to successfully transfer from our program to kindergarten and beyond. These school districts include:

- Bear Creek Community Charter
- Dallas
- Greater Nanticoke Area
- Hanover Area
- Hazleton Area
- Lake-Lehman
- Northwest Area
- Crestwood
- Pittston Area
- Tunkhannock Area
- Wilkes-Barre Area
- Wyoming Valley West
- Wyoming Area



OF CHILDREN WHO AGED OUT OF EARLY HEAD START

75



60

OF CHILDREN WHO TRANSITIONED FROM EARLY HEAD START TO HEAD START

9

OF CHILDREN WHO TRANSITIONED FROM EARLY HEAD START TO ANOTHER CHILD CARE PROGRAM

6

OF CHILDREN WHO DID NOT ENTER ANOTHER EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

In conjunction with the Wilkes-Barre Area and Nanticoke Area school districts, LCHS held its first kindergarten registration on site at our Wilkes-Barre and Nanticoke Head Start centers. This was organized as a way to help LCHS families successfully register their children for kindergarten.



JUMP START

Navient and LCHS partnered to offer Jump Start, a summer learning experience to help 30 three and four-year-old children get a 'jump start' to their early childhood education. Those children who participate in Jump Start will attend Head Start the following program year.



HEAD START HIGHLIGHTS 2018-2019

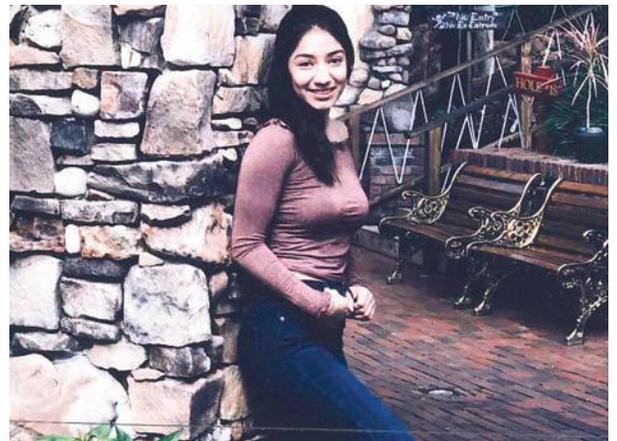


LCHS Marks 54 Years of Service

LCHS held its annual luncheon to celebrate 54 years of providing opportunities for our community's most vulnerable children and their families. Ed Williams Jr., a former Head Start child, served as the keynote speaker at this year's event. A record number of 20 former LCHS students, who plan to continue their education after high school, were awarded with scholarships totaling \$19,000 as part of the Luzerne County Head Start Alumni Scholarship Program. To date, LCHS alumni have been awarded \$256,750. The scholarships are funded through private sponsors, including local businesses, organizations and community leaders. Several organizations were also recognized for their outstanding service to LCHS including KRZ's Cares for Kids campaign, Care & Concern Ministry, North Penn Legal Services and The Wright Center for Community Health.

Former LCHS Student Receives State's Scholarship Award

The Pennsylvania Head Start Association (PHSA) awarded former LCHS student, Asucena Vergara, with the "PHSA Alumni Scholarship" at its annual conference in State College. Each year, PHSA recognizes one graduating high school senior in the state who can trace his/her academic successes back to their days as a young child in a Head Start classroom. The \$1,000 scholarship award, which is meant to go toward higher education expenses, is presented to the applicant who receives the highest score based on a number of factors. Ms. Vergara is a graduate of E.L. Meyers High School in Wilkes-Barre.



A New Look for LCHS

LCHS was chosen as the local nonprofit to receive free rebranding in the American Advertising Federation of NEPA's annual "Cropped" marketing and branding competition. Several creative design teams competed against one another to come up with a new logo, tagline and campaign for LCHS. Posture Interactive, a digital marketing agency in Scranton, was selected by the panel of judges as the winner. The team created and developed a new logo and tagline for LCHS. Following the development of the new marketing materials, LCHS hired Posture Interactive to redesign the agency's website. The new website www.lcheadstart.org was launched in the summer of 2019.

HEAD START HIGHLIGHTS 2018-2019



LCHS Expands Head Start, Pre-K Counts Services

An increase in state funding allowed LCHS to provide services for an additional 36 children in the Hazleton and Pittston communities. Additionally, LCHS expanded its reach by opening a new Pre-K Counts classroom in the Dallas Elementary Center. A ribbon cutting was held in October to celebrate the opening of the new classroom. To date, Luzerne County Head Start is the largest provider of Pre-K Counts programming in Luzerne County.

Staff Health & Wellness Project

LCHS continued to work toward the improvement of employee health and wellness during the 2018-2019 program year. Our agency was awarded a mini grant from Geisinger Health System that allowed the health and wellness committee to purchase small incentives for employees. Through the Geisinger employee wellness program flu shots, blood pressure checks and bone density tests were made available to employees. Staff also participated in the March Mayhem step competition. The team that had the most combined steps received gift cards as a reward for their hard work.



Governor's Task Force Promotes Home Visiting Programs

LCHS hosted one of six regional roundtable listening discussions at its Wilkes-Barre location for Governor Tom Wolf's "Ready to Start" task force. The task force was put together to address the health, human services and education policy for infants and toddlers from birth to age three. State and local leaders, Head Start staff and Policy Council members, health care professionals, research organizations, and foundations and community-based organizations participated in the session, which focused on the need for expanding home visitation services for families.



Adopt-A-Classroom Program Welcomes New Sponsors

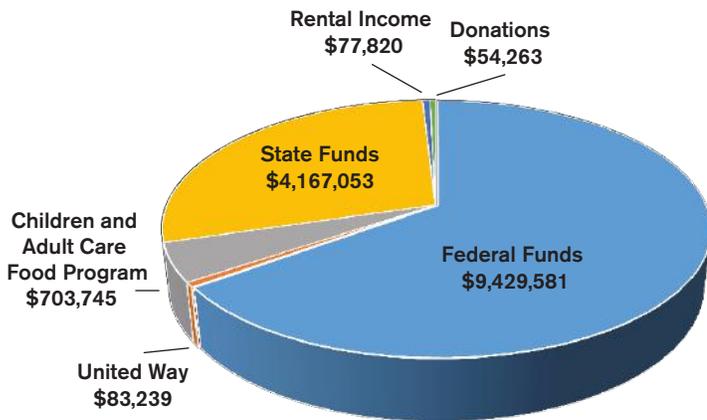
LCHS's Adopt-A-Classroom program, which is designed to promote community engagement within our agency, continued to expand this year. Three new organizations and one community leader including the Luzerne County Transportation Authority, King's College ROTC, Rep. Gerald Mullery and the Drums Lions/Lioness Club adopted classrooms at our Pittston New Street, Plains, Nanticoke and Vine West Head Start locations.



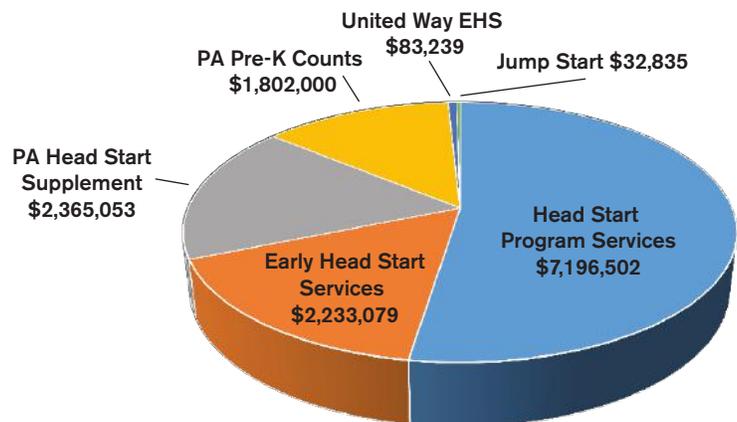
LUZERNE COUNTY HEAD START BUDGET & FINANCIALS

Results of the 2018 financial audit of Luzerne County Head Start, Inc. reported no findings or material weaknesses.

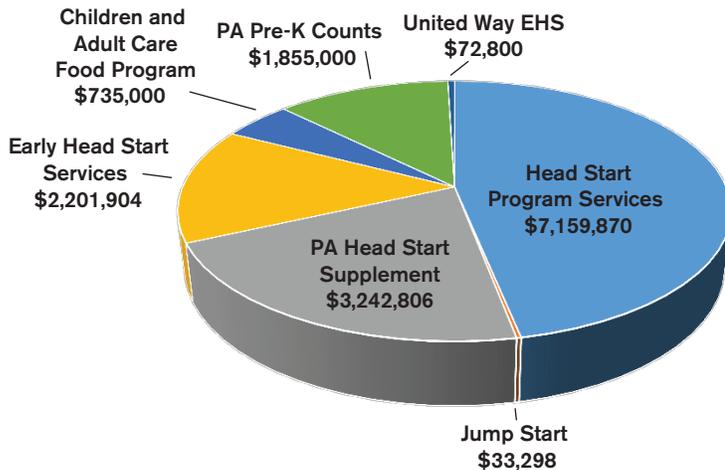
2018 FUNDING SOURCES



2018 EXPENSES BY PROGRAM



2019 PROJECTED BUDGET BY PROGRAM



ACCOUNTABILITY

Our most recent monitoring report dated February 29, 2017 finds our program in full compliance with all federal regulations.

ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL INFORMATION

2018 administrative costs were \$1,827,164 or 12.5% of total expenses

2018 transportation costs were \$837,105 for transporting 500+ children

LCHS has a minimum cost sharing of 20% of our federal funds awarded; in 2018 that share was \$2,357,396



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US POSTAGE
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Permit No. 123
Wilkes-Barre, PA

2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT

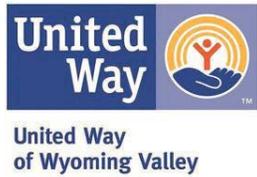
www.lcheadstart.org

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 www.instagram.com/luzernecountyheadstart

Luzerne County Head Start, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer.

#HeadStartAdvantage



570-829-6231 • 800-551-5829

Visit www.lcheadstart.org to learn more about the comprehensive services we provide to children and their families.