

Where learning and playing come raturally.

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.

A Message from the Director

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 BHK Executive/Head Start Director



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 programs (K-5), and tuition-based programs.

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



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Our Vision:

A healthy community where all families reach their full potential.

Our Communities

Children who attend BHK's high-quality programs are better prepared for school academically, socially, and emotionally.

BHK serves Baraga, Houghton, and Keweenaw counties 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 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.

471 births annually (2021-2023

\$55,072

area's ave. median household income

161 children

ages birth to 5 received early intervention (Early On) or special education services. (2024)

Approx.

365
children
eligible for
EHS/HS based on

income

2,815 children

ages B-5 live in service area.

55%

of children ages <5 years have all parents in labor force (on average) 55%

of area toddlers age 19-35 months are fully immunized.
MI average is **69.5**%

Data Sources: MI League for Public Policy (2024)



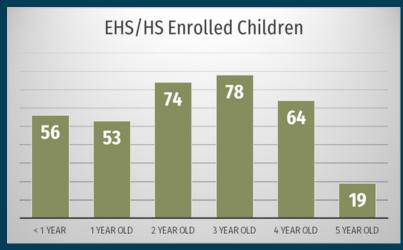
Head Start is a launchpad for future leaders and strong communities. The federally funded program prepares children and their families to succeed in school and in life. Head Start provides prenatal support as well as early learning and care so that parents can focus on their education and careers, and catalyze growth in our communities.

Comprehensive services include:

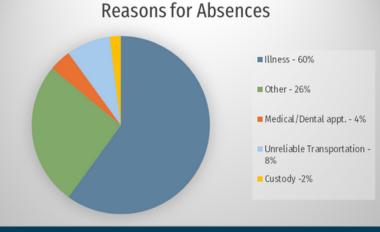
- Early Care and Education
 - Center-based (classrooms): 6 weeks 5 years
 - Home Visiting (Prenatal 3 years)
- Health & Wellness
- Parenting Engagement & Family Support
- Nutrition Services
- Pregnancy Services

Five BHK preschool classrooms were supported by state funding for the Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP).

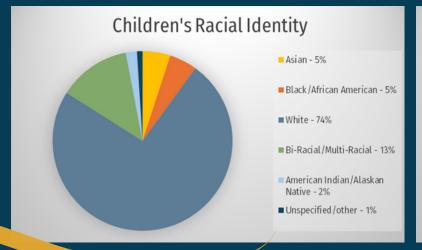


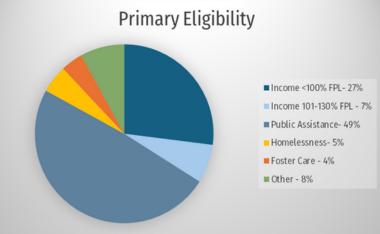


EHS/HS Average Enrollment: 99.7% 88% of Eligible Children served



47% of enrolled EHS/HS children missed 10% or > program days (chronically absent).





Funded enrollment: EHS-84; HS-172

We give young children the high-quality education they deserve.

24 classrooms operated (6 weeks-5 Yrs.) 72
preschool children
projected to enter
kindergarten in
fall 2025

203 children returned for 2nd+ year Our classrooms offer safe and nurturing environments for young minds to grow and learn.



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



Nearly 1 in 4 children

ages birth - 5 enrolled at BHK received early intervention (Early On) or Special Education Services due to diagnosed disability or developmental delay (average 23%).





School Readiness Begins with Health

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.



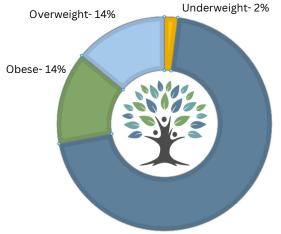
Data sources for health and family engagement:

- BHK PIR Report 2025
- Kids Count 2024
- BHK Parent Survey 2025

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.

83,927

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



Healthy Weight- 70%

99%

of enrolled children had health insurance. 84% received Medicaid; 16% state-funded/private.

100%

of enrolled expectant women had health insurance. 57% received Medicaid; 43% state-funded/private.

99%

of enrolled children had continuous, accessible health care by end of enrollment. **100%** of enrolled pregnant women had continuous health care.

93%

of enrolled preschoolers had up-to-date well child exams by year-end (78% in EHS).

A marked improvement as only 21% of preschoolers entering BHK classrooms had a well child exam in the past year.

Preschool Body Mass Index (BMI)

28% of preschoolers entering BHK classrooms are overweight/obese compared to 14% nationally (CDC).

97%

of enrolled preschoolers had an established dentist, but only 63% received preventive care & 53% received a professional dental exam.

88%

of enrolled children were up-to-date on recommended immunizations by yearend. **33** children had waivers.

34

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

100%

of classroom teachers & home visitors received assistance from mental health consultant to meet children's mental health and social/emotional needs.

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.

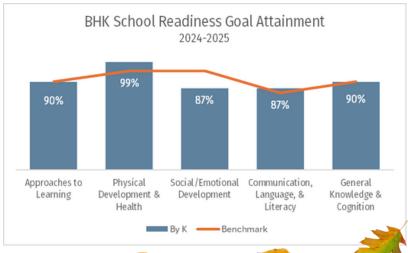


BHK's School Readiness Goals measure the essential early learning domains for school and long-term success.

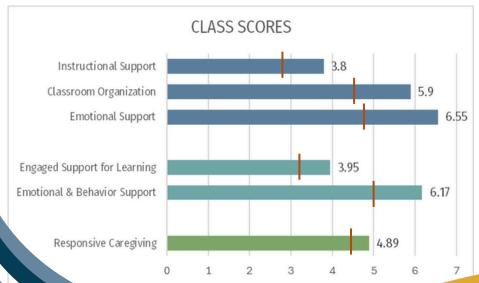
BHK School Readiness Goals

Children will:

- demonstrate an eagerness to learn,
- be engaged literacy learners,
- develop & display positive social relationships & self-regulation,
- · grow in independence, and
- demonstrate an active role in learning









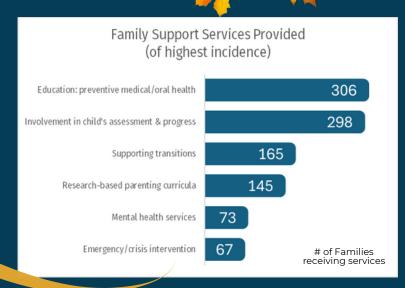
BHK's classrooms exceed state threshold scores in all domains of the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS), indicating highquality learning environments and adult-child interactions.

= state threshold (benchmark)



We value parents and families and encourage active engagement.

families served in 310 757 Prenatal-5 programs Volunteers Parents/ are two-parent guardians make **70%** up 60% of our volunteer roster. children are dual language learners speaking **14** different languages BHK offers: Monthly Family Engagement Events enrolled children Participation in community events, reside in foster care parades, & fairs alongside BHK staff Conscious Discipline Parent Education sessions children experienced At-home activities to extend learning



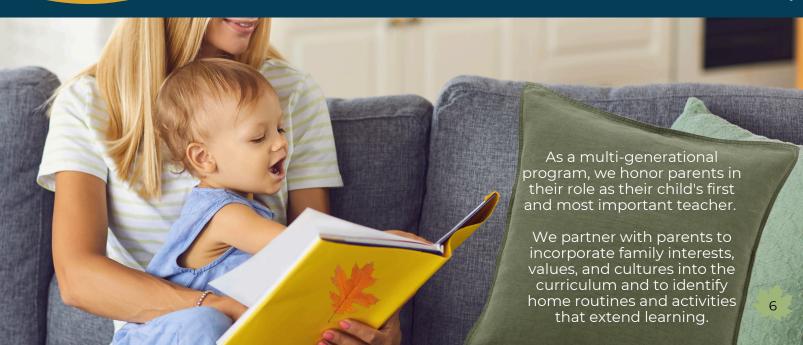
97% increased their knowledge and/or parenting skills of families reported the services their 100% family received from BHK led to positive changes in their lives. of respondents felt family goal setting 98% & support was beneficial to their family. of families reported satisfaction in the 99%

of respondents felt at-home activities

services their family received from BHK.

and BHK sponsored events have

2025 BHK Parent Survey







FY 2024 TOTAL REVENUES:

\$ 9,490,880

FDERAL - \$6,771,189

STATE - \$502,371

Dept. of Health & Human Services \$6,202,294

Department of Agriculture \$266,514

Dept. of Education \$302,381

Dept. of Health & Human Services \$22.579

Dept. of Education \$479,792

Partnership Contracts \$90,336

Miscellaneous (childcare receipts, space use fees, etc.) \$143.944

In-kind Income **\$1,983,040**

FY2024 BREAKDOWN OF EXPENDITURES

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

Fringe Benefits: \$1,355,152

Contractual: \$386,832

Other; \$579,688 \$215,176

Personnel Wages: \$4,971,292



HEAD START FUNDING NOTICE FY2025 BUDGET \$6,202,294

An independent audit, completed for the year ending October 31, 2024 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.

BHK Child Development Board, Inc

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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, Health and Human Services, and Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential; and local private and public sources.