

# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



**mpp**  
**inc.**

  
**macon program for progress, inc.**





## Mission

Macon Program for Progress leads and collaborates to improve quality of life for individuals, children, and families.

## Vision

Healthy, thriving, educated communities

## Guiding Principles

- We value caring. We believe in helping others find hope and success.
- We value integrity. We are committed and fully accountable to our clients, funding agencies, and community partners.
- We value knowledge and experience. We believe that learning is an ongoing process for our staff, clients, and community.
- We value professionalism. We demonstrate the highest quality of organization and accountability throughout our agency.

## Board of Directors

Alisa Ashe	Margaret Freeman
Dr. Chris Baldwin	Rocio Montalvo
Ronnie Beale	Janie Sutton
Patrick Betancourt	Bob Scott
Russell Bowling	Tony Potts
Judy Chapman	Shirley Parks
Pedro Cisneros	Gosia Tiger
Kristen Eaton	Jennifer Turner-Lynn
Jim Tate	Kathy McGaha

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# From the BOARD CHAIR

This past year has presented new and uncharted challenges at Macon Program for Progress (MPP). As the challenges presented themselves, the staff has diligently continued to serve the underserved in our community. During these times, guidance was reissued frequently requiring the staff to adapt very quickly. The hard work and dedication has not gone unnoticed.

As changes were made to our practices and processes, we learned a great deal about ourselves and our clients. Some of those changes we will adopt long term, and others we will discontinue as soon as allowed. Either way, we'll take what we learned and continue to improve.

The staff has continued to lead and collaborate to improve the quality of life for individuals and children even in the most difficult times. Without the staff, this agency would not have been able to continue to provide services through the pandemic successfully. They have been flexible in performing duties and fostered a team environment so that the underserved of our community could continue to be served.

Thank you to the staff for continuing to excellently serve the children and community.

Thank you to the community for continuing to support our mission during this uncharted time.

Sincerely,



Tony Potts, Board Chair

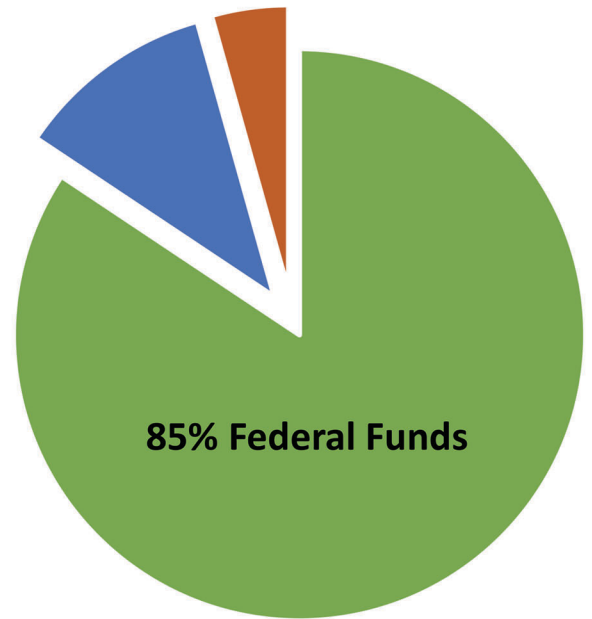


# 2020 FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial support comes from a variety of federal, state and local sources.

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

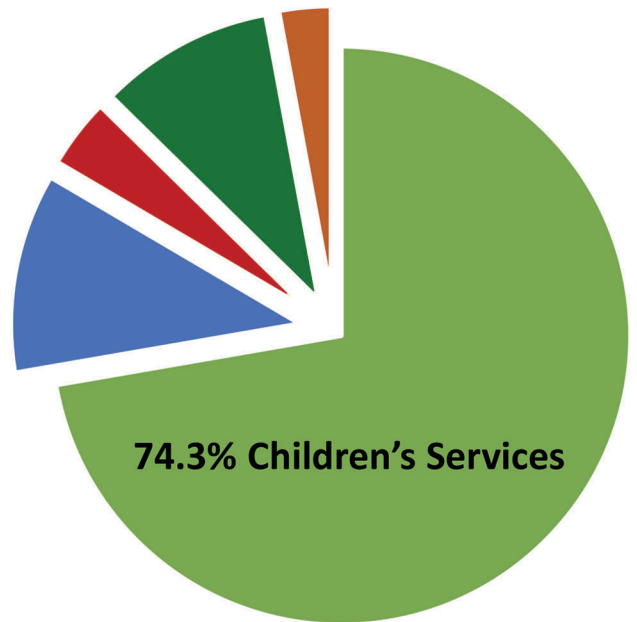
Source:	Annual Support:
Federal Funds	\$5,417,834
State Funds	\$826,327
County Funds	\$28,070
Foundation Support	\$24,900
Misc. Contributions	\$11,138
Participant Fees	\$61,055
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<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$6,369,324</b>



The annual independent financial audits have not identified a material weakness or internal control matter since 2007.

## EXPENSES BY PROGRAM AREA

Expenditure:	Total Costs:
Children's Services	\$4,903,969
House Rental Assistance	\$756,071
Food Services	\$260,919
Community Services	\$665,670
Fund Raising	\$7,174
<hr/>	
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$6,593,803</b>



11.5% Housing Rental Assistance  
 4% Food Services  
 10.1% Community Services  
 < 1% Fund Raising

# SUCCESS Stories

## *Jordan's Story*

As a young man working at a credit union, Jordan realized he wanted to become a law enforcement officer. With help from the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and support from Macon Program for Progress' Self Sufficiency program, Jordan enrolled in Southwestern Community College's Basic Law Enforcement Training class.

The Basic Law Enforcement Training class is six days a week, including a very rigorous training schedule that does not allow for outside employment. Jordan worked hard to complete the class and initially obtained on-call employment. Soon thereafter, he was offered and accepted a full-time position with benefits at the Macon County Sheriff's office.

We are very excited to see what else Jordan accomplishes!



## *Arielle's Story*

Arielle is a married mother of three whose husband has cancer. This has presented her family with many different hardships. Arielle enrolled as a full-time student in Southwestern Community College's Health Information Technology (HIT) Program.

Even with three young children and an ill husband who was unable to work, Arielle was determined to succeed. Her goals were to be able to support her family financially and take care of their day-to-day needs. Arielle graduated Cum Laude from SCC with a GPA of 3.5 with an AAS in Health Information Technology.

Arielle was offered, and has accepted, a full-time position with benefits working for Sourcegroup in the Health Information Technology field. Arielle works remotely from home, allowing her to be a support system for her husband and children.

We are very proud of Arielle's success!



# CHILDREN'S Programs

Head Start programs prepare America's most vulnerable young children to succeed. To achieve this, programs are designed to deliver services to children and families in fundamental areas of early learning, health, and family well-being while engaging parents as partners every step of the way. MPP Head Start serves preschool aged children, and Early Head Start serves infants, toddlers, and pregnant women.

Children's experiences and the skills and characteristics they develop during the preschool years are critically important to their success later in life. MPP 0-5 Head Start's services prepares children for kindergarten using a comprehensive educational program focused on school readiness goals that include physical development and health, social and emotional development, approaches to learning, logic and reasoning, language development, literacy knowledge and skills, mathematics, science, creative arts expression, and social studies' skills. MPP uses *The Creative Curriculum for Preschool*. Curriculum implementation is individualized in order to help each child meet his/her educational potential. *Teaching Strategies Gold* is used to record and track progress toward meeting School Readiness Goals.

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

**EARLY HEAD START (EHS)** serves children ages six weeks to three years of age and pregnant women. When a child transitions from Early Head Start to Head Start, the family must reapply for the Head Start program. Center hours are 9:00 AM-3:00 PM Monday-Friday year-round.





**EARLY HEAD START HOME BASE:** A full range of EHS services are provided through weekly home visits to each child enrolled in the Home Base Program option. The Home Base educator provides child-focused visits that promote parents' ability to support their child's development. These visits last about an hour and a half each. Approximately twice per month, the program offers opportunities for parents and children to come together as a group for learning, discussion, and social activities. EHS Home Base operates year-round.

**EHS PREGNANT MOMS:** This education based program option focuses on women who are pregnant for the first time or who may be experiencing a high-risk pregnancy. Family members may enroll their babies in Early Head Start at six-weeks of age. Slots are limited.

**HEAD START (HS)** serves children ages three to five years. Bus services are available for children assigned to the NH I center upon request and availability. Classroom hours are 8:45 AM-3:15 PM Monday-Friday from late August through early June.

**NC PRE-K** is a state-sponsored school readiness program that serves 4-year-olds, based on need and NC Pre-K criteria. Hours of care are 8:45 AM to 3:15 PM, Monday-Friday for ten months.

**EXTENDED DAY:** Before/after care is for parents who are in school, training, or working at least 20 hours per week, based on state subsidized childcare guidelines. Extended morning hours are from 7:30 AM until 9:00 AM and afternoon hours are from 3:00 PM until 5:30 PM. There is a fee for services with these extended hours. We collaborate with Macon County Social Services for the families to potentially receive subsidy.



<b>TOTAL ENROLLMENT 8/1/19-7/31/20</b>	
Funded enrollment	301
Number of classrooms	28
Children under age 1	44
1 year old	49
2 years old	77
3 years old	71
4 years old	87
Total number of 0-5 families	308
<b>SUBSIDY</b>	
Total number of children receiving subsidy	118

<b>STAFF</b>	
Total number of staff	150
Current/former HS/EHS parents	76
Data tracking system	ChildPlus
EHS / HS curriculum	Creative Curriculum
EHS Home Base curriculum	Parents as Teachers
Pregnant Mom's curriculum	Partners for a Healthy Baby

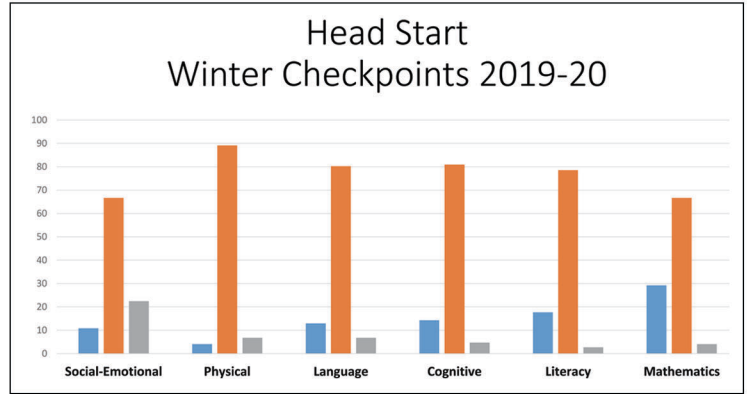
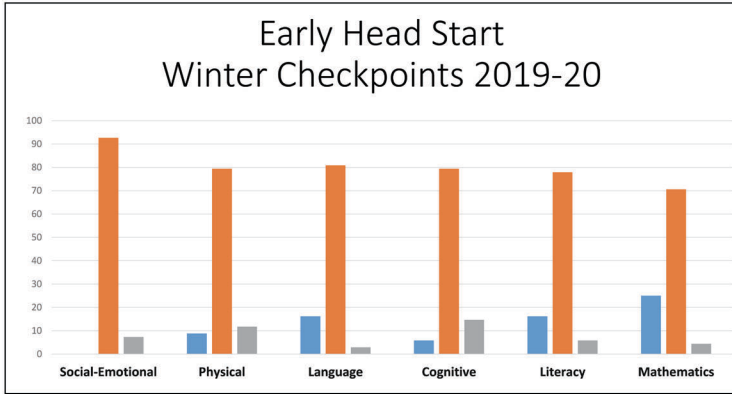


<b>EHS ENROLLMENT 8/1/19-7/31/20</b>	
Early Head Start (EHS) funded enrollment	151
EHS cumulative enrollment	178
Cumulative enrollment EHS pregnant moms	8
Pregnant women who enrolled the child	3
Home Based	13
Total number of Early Head Start classrooms	18
EHS income below 100% of federal poverty line	124
EHS income between 100% - 130% of poverty	11
EHS income above 130% of poverty	8
EHS foster children served	10
EHS Public Assistance TANF/SSI	6
EHS children who were homeless during the year	17
EHS with primary language of English	136
EHS with primary language of Spanish	42
Average daily attendance – Early Head Start	86.54%
<b>Totals</b>	
Number of two-parent families	101
Number of single-parent families	55
Number of grandparents raising children	4
Foster parents not including relatives	4
At least one parent/guardian member or veteran of US military	5
Number of children referred by a child welfare agency	7

<b>HS ENROLLMENT 8/1/19-7/31/20</b>	
Head Start (HS) funded enrollment	150
HS cumulative enrollment	158
Number of HS classrooms	10
HS income below 100% of federal poverty line	105
HS income between 100% - 130% of poverty	16
HS income above 130% of poverty	6
HS foster children served	15
HS Public Assistance TANF/SSI	10
HS children who were homeless during the year	10
HS with primary language of English	118
HS with primary language of Spanish	40
Average daily attendance – Head Start	90.10%
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>	
Number of children transported to school on bus	74
Number of bus routes	7
<b>Totals</b>	
Number of two-parent families	84
Number of single-parent families	68
Number of grandparents rearing children	1
Foster parents not including relatives	4
At least one parent/guardian member or veteran of US military	5
Number of children referred by a child welfare agency	9

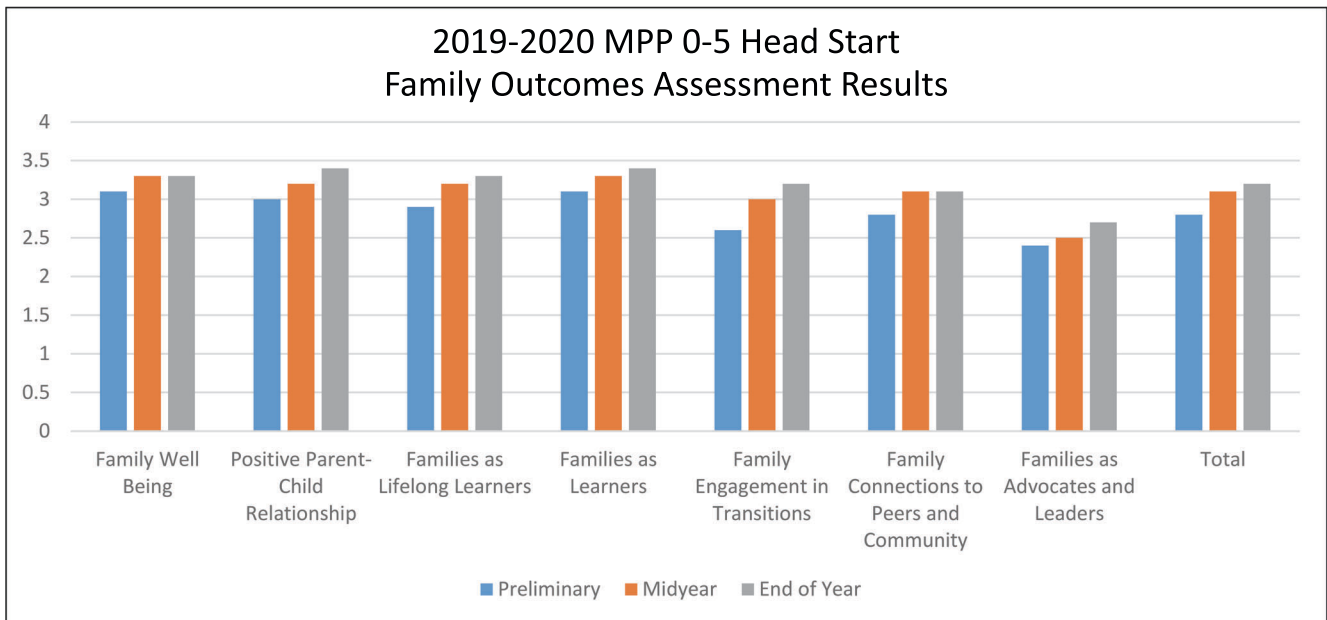


**PREPARING CHILDREN FOR KINDERGARTEN** ▪ Children’s experiences and the skills and characteristics they develop during the preschool years are critically important to their success later in life. MPP 0-5 Head Start’s services prepares children for kindergarten using strategies focused on physical development and health, social and emotional development, approaches to learning, logic and reasoning, language development, literacy knowledge and skills, mathematics, science, creative arts expression, and social studies skills. (Completed in October 2019 and February 2020)



■ Below Expectations ■ Meets Expectations ■ Exceeds Expectations

**PREPARING FAMILIES TO THRIVE** ▪ Three times per year, a Family Service Advocate (FSA) and family members collaborate with one another to complete a Family Outcomes Assessment, which targets seven specific Family Outcomes (see chart for outcome titles). Each outcome has multiple criteria that are rated individually from one to five with one being “in-crisis” and five being “thriving.” Questions progressively increase in depth with the beginning of the assessment focusing on basic life skills to the end of the assessment focusing on advocacy and leadership.



The results of the assessment along with the family members’ expertise on their children and family are then used to create family goals. Parents, FSAs, teachers, and community members work together throughout the year to increase family functioning in each outcome area and to achieve the family’s goals. Increases in family outcomes may naturally lead to positive child outcomes and growth in parenting skills, in parental self-esteem, and in parental trust in program and community based family service providers.

# COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

The Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) Self-Sufficiency Program helps Macon County low-income individuals and families achieve self-sufficiency by assisting individuals find jobs, obtain job training, locate housing, obtain shelter, have food, obtain access to health care and take care of children.

The Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) serves Macon, Jackson, Swain, Clay, Cherokee, and Graham County citizens. WIOA brings together federal investments in skill development including adult, dislocated worker, and veteran services to assist job seekers in accessing employment, education, training, and support services to succeed in the labor market and to match employers with the skilled workers they need to compete in the global economy.

## Number of participants served:

- **CSBG: 48 participants**
- **WIOA: 48 active participants**  
**47 exited but in follow-up**  
**40 Finish Line Grant recipients**

## Client Services Expenditures

Education	50,391.00
Transportation	34,785.00
Housing	10,226.00
Childcare	1,440.00
Technology	142.00
Job Prep / Certification	12,990.00
Medical	537.00
On-the-Job Training	2,740.00
Emergency Services	7,625.00

## HUD Section 8 Department

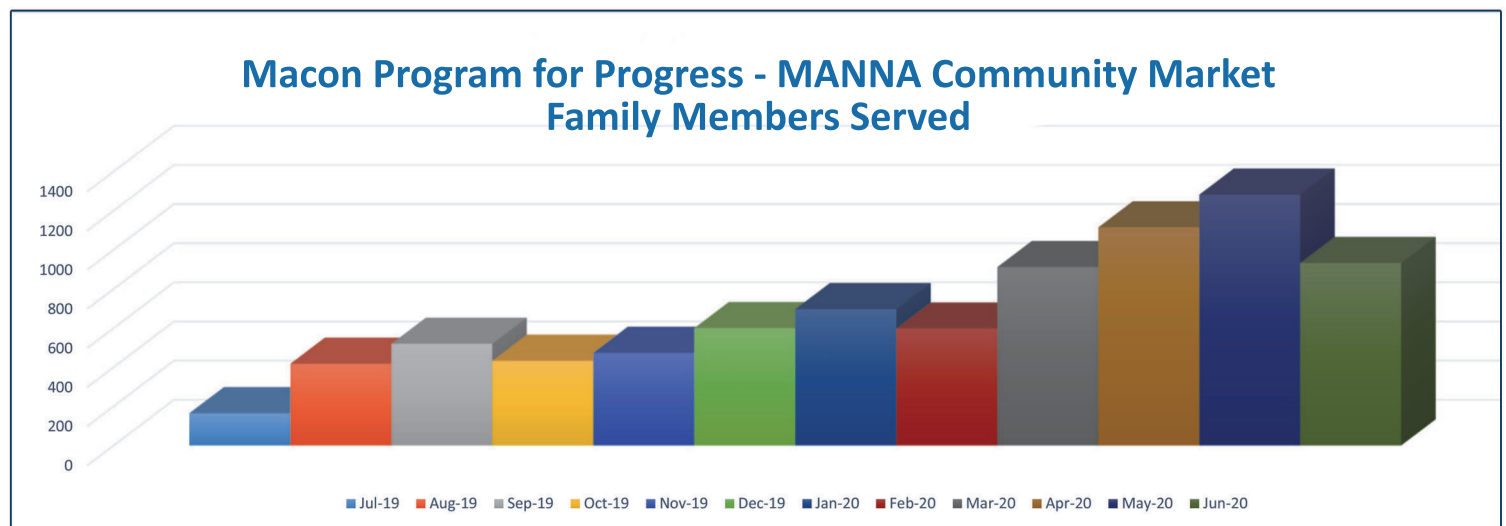
The HUD (Housing and Urban Development) Section 8 Program provides rental assistance to income qualified individuals and families. Payments go directly to landlords whose units are inspected for quality and safety and who agree to the affordability standards of the program. Tenants receive a program voucher and choose a qualifying housing unit.

- 175 Families in Macon County received HUD Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Rental Assistance.
- In these families there were 67 children and 147 participants who were elderly, handicapped or disabled.
- MPP provided \$657,900.00 in rental payments to landlords in Macon County on participants' behalf.
- MPP housed an average of 86 participant families in tax credit properties in Macon County.
- MPP housed an average of 89 participant families in scattered single family rentals across Macon County.



# COMMUNITY Outreach

**MANNA POP-UP FOOD BANK** ▪ Macon Program for Progress partners with MANNA Food Bank to sponsor a Pop-up market once per month in the Franklin area. The purpose of the project is to address the issues of food insecurity in our area. The project began in June, 2019 and has grown and matured greatly. In addition to serving increasing numbers of people, the market now serves as a location to connect people with many resources and community partners as well as a place to inform and educate. The project has been modified from a grocery style delivery to drive-thru delivery since the onset of COVID-19. Because of the increased need in these tough times, MPP has received resources from Dogwood Health Trust, Nantahala Health Foundation, Franklin First United Methodist Church and many other generous donors who have supplemented the items provided by MANNA. We have been blessed to have so many wonderful volunteers along with the National Guard to help us serve our community.



July 2019 - 165  
August 2019 - 418  
September 2019 - 520

October 2019 - 433  
November 2019 - 474  
December 2019 - 600

January 2020 - 697  
February 2020 - 598  
March 2020 - 912

April 2020 - 1,115  
May 2020 - 1,282  
June 2020 - 933

**HOLIDAY ANGELS** ▪ MPP has coordinated the Holiday Angels project for over 30 years with the committed support of local groups, clubs, churches, businesses, schools and individuals. The program is self-supporting and any monetary donations are earmarked in the Holiday Angels budget. The donations are utilized for program operations on behalf of families who are not matched with a sponsor to purchase gifts, toys, clothing, shoes, food, gift cards, and/or firewood, as well as, to address family crisis situations. In 2020, 171 families took part in the Holiday Angels program to include 248 children and 66 elderly and special needs adults. \$4,345.66 was donated from 16 donors. 43 sponsors were directly linked with families and adults to shop for the holidays. Consequently, the Holiday Angels committee only needed to shop for 11 children and 2 special needs adults after applicants and sponsors were matched.

**BACK TO SCHOOL ANGELS** ▪ MPP has operated Back to School Angels for many years. In 2020, we served 54 Head Start children transitioning to kindergarten and 26 additional siblings ages 6 to 17 years of age. In addition to backpacks, 52 family supply bags, that included disinfectant wipes, hand soap, dish soap, trash bags, toilet paper, paper towels, and tissues were also given out to these families to promote health and safety during COVID-19.

With the help of community volunteers, the MPP Back to School Angels project provided eighty backpacks to Head Start children entering kindergarten and their siblings.

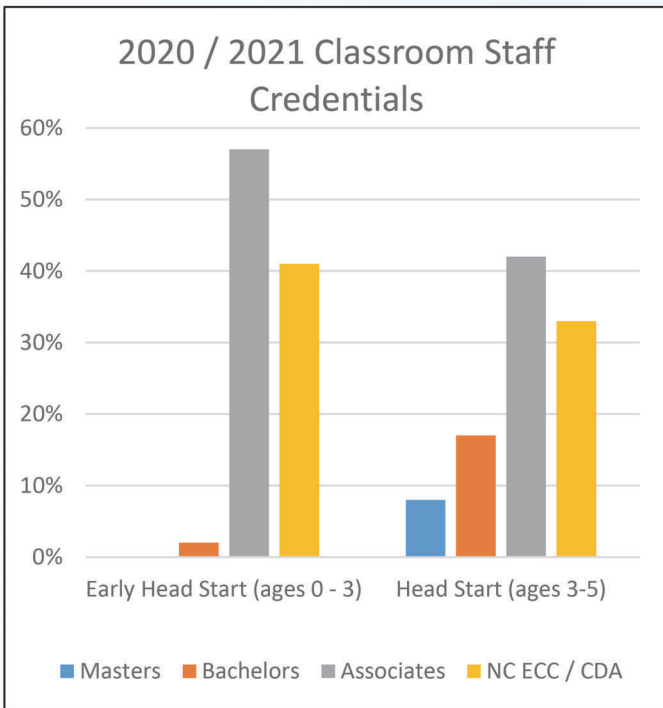
**PARENTS AS TEACHERS PROGRAM (PAT)** ▪ PAT educators use the national curriculum to increase family well-being, to support enhanced developmental parenting, and to promote parent child interaction while encouraging early literacy. PAT educators respond to parents' concerns about child rearing and link families to community resources.

All families with children –prenatal to age 5– in Cherokee, Clay, Haywood, Jackson, Macon, and Swain Counties and the Qualla Boundary are eligible for this FREE in-home visitation program. The program is completely voluntary, and partners families with certified PAT educators and includes monthly group connections. Currently, Macon County is serving 24 families and 32 children in the 2020 program year.

**CHILD CARE HEALTH CONSULTANT** ▪ Macon Program for Progress and Macon County are proud to provide a Child Care Health Consultant (CCHC) who is trained to offer a wide variety of services to child care centers and family child care homes. Housed at MPP, the CCHC assists the child care providers in connecting caregivers and families with community experts and health care resources. The CCHC can also offer expert technical assistance and expert guidance to child care providers on a wide range of health and safety topics, as well as, the development of a goal-based program development plan tailored to the specific needs of each facility or family child care home.



# mpp inc. Employees



## EDUCATION EXPECTATIONS

The agency offers an opportunity for educational growth to the staff. This affords them the ability to earn an in-field degree while gaining hands-on experience.

Education staff is required to obtain a North Carolina Early Childhood Credential (NCECC) and a Child Development Associate (CDA) within 1 year of hire.

Education staff members who have an out of field degree at hire are required to obtain a NCECC and 12 credit hours of Early Childhood Credentials with 2 years of hire.

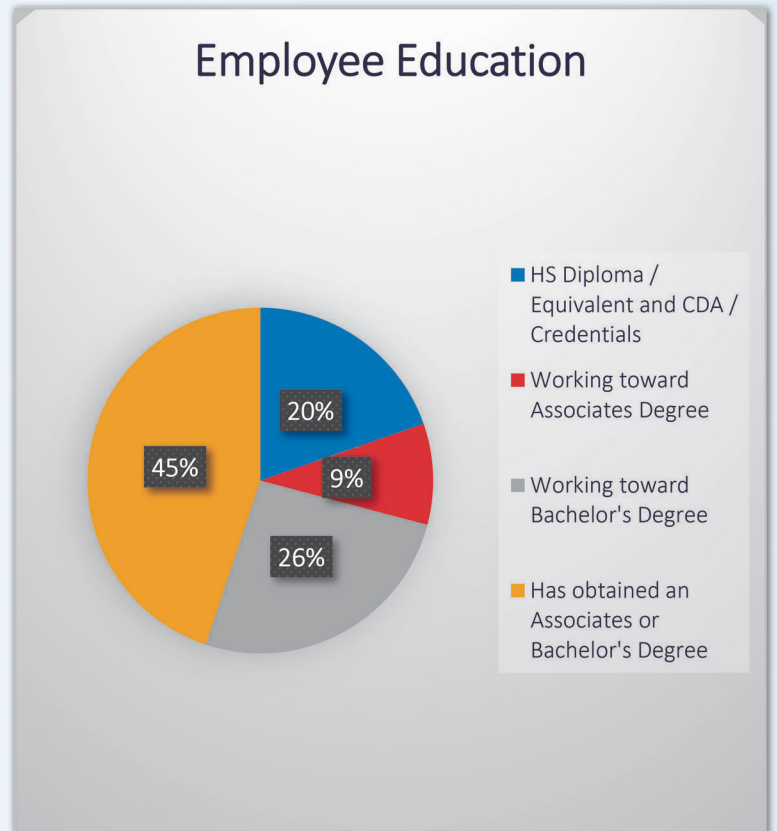
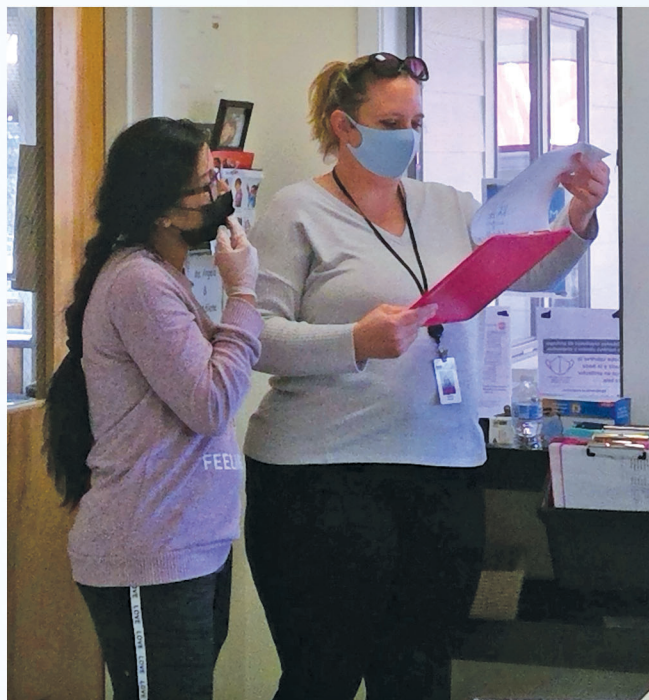




## EMPLOYEE EDUCATION

Macon Program for Progress recognizes the value of education and encourages all employees to pursue additional education.

All full-time regular employees may receive educational assistance from the agency if funds are available.



# COMMUNITY Partnerships

Formal and informal community partnerships are formed to enhance all MPP programs. We collaborate with our community partners by providing or receiving trainings, referrals, advice, and updates on community events to positively impact our common clients and the community at large. MPP is always seeking other partners and resources in our community to help support the healthy development of children and families of all cultures in our programs.

MPP has formal written partnerships with the following entities:

Burrell Family and OB Care	Carolina West Dental Clinic
Census 2020	Children's Developmental Services Agency
Crawford Senior Center	Franklin Town Police
Full Circle Recovery Center, LLC	Habitat for Humanity
Haywood Community College	Jackson County Family Resource Center
KIDS Place	Long Center for Psychology
Macon County Public Health	Macon County DSS
Macon County Housing	Macon County Public Schools
Macon County Recreation	Macon County Transit
Macon New Beginnings	MANNA
North Carolina Cooperative Extension Services	REACH of Macon County
Region A Partnership for Children	Smoky Mountain Pregnancy Care Center
Southwestern Child Development Commission	Westbridge Vocational
Union Academy	Pisgah Legal Services
WCU Center for Community Engagement and Learning	

## *Volunteers*

- Help supervise in classrooms, on playgrounds, and on field trips.
- Help organize and implement activities and projects.
- Serve on Policy Council and advisory committees.
- Work with children on activities to support school readiness experiences and support the classroom curriculum.
- Provide donations for classrooms and projects.

**To find out how you can get involved, call the Family and Community Outreach Specialist at 828-524-4471, Extension 406.**

# The Promise of Community Action

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.



[mppnhc.org](http://mppnhc.org)