2018 - 2019 annual report

Our mission is to strengthen communities and families to eliminate poverty.
A message from our CEO, Mandy Welty Zalich

What a year 2018-2019 has been for WCA! After serving as Chief Executive Officer for nearly 30 years, and being a staple in the community and a leader for the WCA team, Tay Waltenbaugh retired in March 2019. Over his tenure, the agency saw tremendous growth, diversification, and expansion into services and communities. The agency would not be what it is today without his leadership and vision to make an impact on the lives of Westmoreland County residents and communities. The foundation laid by Tay has allowed WCA to grow and thrive; as a result, homes have literally been built and families’ lives impacted and changed forever.

Since joining the team in April of 2019, I have been able to see the impact of the work of the WCA employees, and it is amazing! I am sure that I will continue to see and hear stories of impact while I learn more and meet additional staff and consumers which we serve. From seeing some of the Head Start and Pre-K Counts classroom staff in action, to experiencing the monthly food pantry distribution out of our main office, to engaging in community development conversations, and to understanding our mental health and supported work programs better, I can see that we touch the lives of individuals, families and communities in many ways. More programs and impacts are happening through the agency than I ever knew before coming to WCA.

Just like me before I came to WCA, I am sure that there are many of you reading this who do not know all that WCA offers to families, individuals and communities. I urge you to read more in this annual report about the programs, to get involved through volunteering or donating to help expand our programs, or by sharing the mission and vision of WCA with others so that we can continue to expand our impact.

And as one year closes, and another begins, I wish for all of the WCA staff, board members, volunteers and supporters to have a year full of promise, passion of cause, and permission to enjoy whatever life throws at you.

Here’s to another great year!

Mandy Welty Zalich

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This annual report was funded through a grant from the PA Department of Community and Economic Development. The official registration and financial information of Westmoreland Community Action may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling toll free within PA, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

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WCA Grant Funders

WIB National Health Emergency Demonstration Grant, Walmart Latrobe, Walmart Delmont, Walmart Belle Vernon, Walmart Mount Pleasant, Walmart Connellsville, Walmart Greensburg, Walmart North Huntingdon, Walmart Tarentum, Community Foundation of Westmoreland County, DCED Neighborhood Partnership Program (NPP) Tax Credit Program, HUD Housing Counseling Grant, United Way of Southwestern PA - School Readiness, Home$4Good (CoC), PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), Community Foundation of Westmoreland County - Vulnerable Populations, Allegheny Foundation, PA Housing Finance Agency “PHARE funds”
2018 Community Needs Assessment

Westmoreland Community Action conducted a Community Needs Assessment by creating a survey that was relevant to the possible needs in Westmoreland County. The survey was designed online using Survey Monkey and invited people who lived and/or worked in Westmoreland County to complete the survey. The link was made available through our Facebook page, on our website, via our Constant Contact list, and was even published in the Tribune Review newspaper.

A total of 297 people responded to the survey.

The following is a summary of the results:

The majority of the respondents (58%) were a social services worker, educator, health worker, or other public services employee. The largest age range for respondents was 55 years or older (42%). Fifty-four percent of the respondents lived in Hempfield Area School District, Greensburg Salem School District, or Greater Latrobe School District, but all 17 school districts were represented in the results.

When asked to select the top three things from a predetermined list of 26 as the greatest strengths and assets of Westmoreland County, the top four were:

- Churches (38%)
- Schools and academic institutions (37%)
- Access to grocery stores and food (34%)
- Cost of living (32%)

When asked to select the top three things from the same predetermined list of 26 as the most pressing/underserved needs of Westmoreland County, the top four were:

- Transportation options (46%)
- Employment options and job security (31%)
- Mental health services (25%)
- Adequate and affordable housing options (24%)

The top four services that people know how to access in Westmoreland County are:

- Education (89%)
- Employment (87%)
- Fresh produce and nutritious food (84%)
- Legal documents (e.g., birth certificate, marriage license, etc.) (84%)

The top four services that people have trouble accessing in Westmoreland County are:

- Transportation (23%)
- Employment (16%)
- Utility assistance (15%)
- Free or low-cost legal services (14%)

Transportation struggles remains a concern for families and individuals in Westmoreland County. This barrier has been listed as a concern for many years. WCA has played an active role in the Transportation Task Force in our county by attending regular meetings and having input into their transportation survey. The system needs a lot of work, especially for the elderly and disabled. WCA hopes to continue to partner with agencies to address this pressing need.

Mental health services are usually mentioned as a pressing need in our county as well. That’s why we’re one of the few Community Action Agencies that offer mental health programs to try and address this. Not only do we offer a crisis hotline and crisis mobile unit, but we also combine it with the other top need in the county – adequate and affordable housing – and provide four permanent supportive housing programs that serve chronically homeless, single, mental health consumers to provide independent living in a safe, healthy environment.

Community Commons Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA)

The Community Commons CHNA is the second method we utilized to get a better picture of Westmoreland County. According to the latest statistics (2012-2016), there are 359,377 people living in our county. We’re an “older” county, with more than half (52%) of the people age 45 and up. In addition, we’re not a very diverse county racially and ethnically, with almost 95% of the population being white and almost 99% being non-Hispanic.

As far as social and economic factors, a little over 10% of the population of Westmoreland County is below the Federal Poverty Level. This is lower than PA (13%) and the U.S. (15%).

Fifteen percent of children aged 0-17 are living in households with income below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). This indicator is relevant because poverty creates barriers to accessing including health services, healthy food, and other necessities that contribute to poor health status. But this rate is better than the state (19%) and national (21%) rates. A third of the children (34%) are living in households with income at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. Again, this is lower than the state (39%) and the national (43%) rate.

More than a third (37%) of our children are eligible for free/reduced lunches. This is better than the state rate (18%) and the national rate (53%). Twelve percent of the population reported that they have experienced food insecurity during the past year. Again, this is better than the state (14%) and the U.S. (15%).

Less than half of the families (45%) report an annual income of $75,000 or greater; the median family income is $69,083 – but this is slightly less than Pennsylvania ($69,960) and higher than the U.S. ($67,871).

Overall, Westmoreland County has a moderate number of people who need the services of Westmoreland Community Action. Our poverty rate has not been dropping at the pace we would like it to. We create, monitor, modify, and even eliminate programs, all with the county residents’ needs in mind.
Westmoreland Community Action (WCA) has strived to make Westmoreland County a better place to live by helping struggling individuals and families improve their standard of living and become more self-sufficient. Through housing services, emergency assistance, mental health programs, employment programs, child development and more we have helped thousands of Westmoreland County’s disadvantaged residents.

Volunteers:

Volunteers dedicate many hours to our agency. Opportunities include helping at American Architectural Salvage, Food Pantry Distribution (3rd Thursday every month), helping at Head Start Centers (requires clearances), holiday toy sorting, fundraisers, events, office help and more! Call the office to become a volunteer! 724-834-1260.

Neighborhood Partnership Programs (NPP)

The Neighborhood Partnership Program (NPP) component of the broader Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP) is administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) and is rooted in a community strategic plan, collaborations with partners, and long-term business relationships. The goal is to create energy in the community by completing projects based on specific development needs in a targeted area that produce measurable outcomes. NPP is a long-term program that secures business commitments for five years, six years, or longer.

Jeannette, PA - Westmoreland County

WCA recently completed a five-year NPP project in Jeannette, PA. Each year of the project we applied to DCED for tax credits; local businesses, namely KeyBank and the Elliott Company, contributed financially to the project and were eligible to claim these secured tax credits. A few projects that were completed in Jeannette include:

- Several signs were installed throughout the city as well as at the entrances. A few buildings were painted and awnings were also installed as part of the beautification process of Jeannette’s main business section of Clay Avenue.
- Several blighted buildings have been removed throughout the city.
- Hanging flower pots and flags were installed along Clay Avenue.
- Several murals have been painted on the sides of various buildings in downtown Jeannette.
- A new wall was built in front of City Hall which replaced the old crumbling one. A flower box was also installed and a new directory in front of the main doors.
- Vinyl signs were installed in the windows of numerous vacant buildings along Clay Avenue.
- A community garden was created by Bridges of Jeannette on the corner of South 7th Street and Clay Avenue. A building was razed and 12 inches of fresh top soil was put down.
- Fencing was installed at two locations on Clay Avenue to hide unsightly empty lots.
- Several improvements were made to the Allman Road playground. Bumps on the walking path were eliminated, a horseshoe pit was created, and the tennis courts were re-surfaced.
- An amphitheater is in the process of being built on Clay Avenue by Guardian Construction Management Services, Inc. and electrical by Pellman Electric Associates, LLC. The structure was put on hold because of funding but plans to resume work are set for 2020.

New Kensington, PA - Westmoreland County

We are currently in year three of a six-year NPP project in New Kensington. Funding for this project has been provided by BNY Mellon and UPMC Health Plan, Inc. Small projects such as increasing community gardens around the city have been completed. The partners are waiting for the city plan for New Kensington to be developed before beginning and undertaking any new larger projects. Future goals include blight removal, updates on parks and playgrounds, open air farmers market, gateway beautification, assistance for new business startups and more.
Kathi Johnson first became aware of the Head Start program during the summer of 2000 when an employee of Head Start placed a flyer in her storm door. In August 2000, she completed an application and enrolled Shayna, her daughter, into Westmoreland Community Action’s home-based Head Start program. The purpose was to get Shayna into a pre-school program in order to help her become socialized with other children her age. Kathi was involved in Shayna’s education and the program by attending field trips and participating in socialization events at the Head Start center once a month. Kathi also received weekly visits at her home in West Newton from her first Home Visitor, Nancy Green. Visits went very well but Kathi decided to move to the City of Jeannette.

A new Home Visitor, Elizabeth Clark, was assigned to support Kathi and Shayna. According to Kathi, Elizabeth saved her from self-destruction. A center-based spot opened up for Shayna in the Jeannette Head Start center and she began her enrollment on September 11, 2001. Ironically, while America was attacked by terrorism, Kathi’s own world began to crumble under her feet. Her husband began an extra-marital affair and then subsequently took her children from her. Kathi, without critical coping skills at this time and distraught because she did not have her children with her, became suicidal and homicidal towards her husband. With the help of her Home Visitor, Elizabeth, she admitted herself into the Westmoreland Hospital Mental Health Unit on a 72-hour (302) commitment. Elizabeth kept in constant contact with Kathi and helped her out of this stressful situation by visiting her and maintaining verbal communication through phone contact. Needless to say, Kathi was in mental and emotional distress and was financially stressed as well. At this point Kathi took a two-week break to sort her life out with the help of Elizabeth. Her children were returned to her and a plan for the children was developed.

In November 2001, Kathi realized that she needed to leave this situation so she moved again, this time to Youngwood where she and her children stayed with a co-worker for four months. There was no spot for Shayna in the local Head Start center so Kathi enrolled her in the home-based option and welcomed weekly visits by a new Home Visitor, Lynne Golembski. An opening eventually became available and Shayna returned to the center-based option. Lynne now visited Kathi and Shayna on a monthly basis. Lynne states, “Kathi was always cooperative with home visits and never cancelled with me. She was always involved with her children, especially with their education and development.” Shayna completed the Head Start Program in May 2002.

In July 2002, Kathi moved to Belle Vernon where her youngest daughter, Jami, started in the Mon Valley Head Start home-based program. She eventually enrolled in the center-based program in the fall of 2003 where they met their new Home Visitor, Donna Deluca. At this point, Kathi was starting to get on her feet financially and found love again with her current husband, Scott. Kathi considered herself stable at this point as far as having a safe, comfortable, and stable home for her daughters. Kathi, being interested in everything Head Start, invested more and more time with the program and became a member of the Policy Council in September of 2003 where she found her voice and came out of her shell. Jami completed the Head Start program in May of 2004.

Kathi, having seen how much help Head Start can be, not only for their children but for herself, felt it was time to formally give back to the program. She applied for a job in Head Start and was hired as a substitute classroom aide in the Mon Valley and Jeannette Head Start Centers. When a Classroom Aide position opened in the Mon Valley center she applied and got the job. Kathi remained in that position until February 2005. With the encouragement of Patty Berkey who helped her complete an in-house application, she applied and secured the Home Visitor position for the Mon Valley Head Start Center that was open. Patty says, “I was the training coordinator at the time and I saw potential in Kathi. As a former Head Start parent she was clearly an excellent role model for other parents so I encouraged her to apply to be a Home Visitor.”

Kathi and her family moved to Ruffs Dale (her current residence) in November of 2005 and she remained the Mon Valley Home Visitor until she transferred to the Mount Pleasant Head Start center in August 2006, which was closer to home. Kathi continued with this job until June of 2009 where she became a transportation aide for the agency. In November 2009 she become a Center Support Staff. In August 2016 Kathi became a Family Service Worker, gaining even more responsibilities of juggling a home visiting schedule, assisting in the classroom, running parent meetings, planning family activities, and tracking attendance. Kathi is currently a Family Advocate with the support of her supervisor, Family and Community Partnership Coordinator, Bill Vigliotti. Kathi goes the extra mile and goes above and beyond to assist the families that she works with because she enjoys being a mentor and providing support to families. It is her dream to continue to lead the ladder and advance within the agency. Kathi says, “Throughout my involvement with Westmoreland Community Action Head Start, I have been driven to succeed and always wanted my children to have a normal, successful life where they can reach their goals. I was given power, confidence, and support. It made me a better parent and a leader.”

Kathi has participated in numerous trainings through her employment with Westmoreland Community Action (WCA) and has kept her Child Development Associate degree current, completed her Family Development Credential for Strength-Based Family Worker and kept it current, and has taken 30 college credits through Westmoreland County Community College with the help of WCA. Kathi has participated in community involvement serving as PTA Vice President for two years, color guard representative for the local high school band for four years, and Assistant Leader for Daisies/Brownies for three years.

Kathi and her husband Scott have three successful daughters. The eldest, her step-daughter, Heather, 23, whom she raised since she was four years old, currently works as a Therapeutic Support Staff and is attending graduate school at Pitt studying Psychology. Shayna, 22, is a college student studying Social Work and Human Services. And Jami, 20, works as an Emergency Vet Tech for Pittsburgh Veterinary Specialty and Emergency Center. Kathi has instilled in all of them the importance of volunteering and providing assistance, as they all frequently help at WCA’s Head Start center. They reside in a single-family home in the community of Ruffs Dale where Kathi enjoys gardening, canning, walking her dogs, and Facebooking. The family is happy and living out their dreams with the help of Westmoreland Community Action. Kathi has been involved with WCA for 19 years and has been employed with the agency for the past 15 years. She has proven that she can overcome obstacles and barriers that are standing in her way and be self-sufficient.
WCA Programs

Housing Programs

Keystone Hope Development, LLC.

Keystone Hope Development, LLC (KHD) is a limited liability company between WCA, Blueprints and Fayette County Community Action Agency, Inc.. This development company has been established to develop low-income rental opportunities for low-income populations in the Western Pennsylvania region. All three agencies have extensive backgrounds in community and economic development.

Neighborhood Revitalization

Neighborhood Revitalization targets and acquires distressed housing units or vacant lots throughout the county. These units are renovated or razed to make way for the reconstruction of single-family, energy-efficient, affordable homes to be sold to graduates of the Housing Counseling & Money Management Center.

Housing Counseling & Money Management Center

The Housing Counseling and Money Management Center (HCMMC) is certified by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA). The program provides free comprehensive housing counseling services to current and potential homeowners and tenants to assist them in improving their housing conditions and meeting the responsibilities of homeownership or tenancy through one-on-one and group counseling. Services include: Homeownership Counseling, Rental Housing Counseling, Homebuyer Education/Pre-Closing Seminars, Foreclosure Intervention and Default Counseling, and Credit Enhancement Workshops for the Housing Authority’s Family Self-Sufficiency participants. HCMMC had a busy year. The program partnered with new Mothers Making More program participants to offer budget and credit counseling. In FY 2019, 455 individuals received homeownership counseling and 17 individuals completed workshops.

Financial Services

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

In partnership with the Internal Revenue Service, WCA sponsors a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site that provides free income tax return preparation for taxpayers with limited to moderate incomes, senior citizens and persons with disabilities. Staffed almost entirely by volunteers, this is the only VITA program in Westmoreland County. 892 individuals took advantage of the VITA program for their year 2018 taxes.

Mental Health Programs

A total refund amount of $1,264,640 was returned to our clients.

Mental Health Programs

Permanent Supportive Housing

The Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) programs serve chronically homeless individuals and families with disabling conditions in Westmoreland County. PSH promotes independent living in a safe, healthy environment. WCA has three permanent supportive housing programs. PSH programs served a total of 87 individuals over the past year and 3 families/7 individuals successfully moved into their own homes.

Shared Housing

Shared Housing provides mental health consumers with a safe, healthy home environment in Westmoreland County. The Program consists of 2 homes with up to 3 tenants living in each house. Tenants have their own bedroom and share the other areas of the home. Shared Housing served 3 tenants during the past year. Of the 3 individuals served, 1 was successfully discharged as a result of moving into their own home.

New Foundations

New Foundations is a housing options program that provides a safe and healthy living environment for Westmoreland County individuals who are struggling to maintain their housing. The goal of the program is to assist participants in securing appropriate housing for their specific needs and circumstances. The program had 64 admissions, 30 of which were successful placements and 14 moved to permanent housing.

Community Solutions

This program provides consumers with a mental health diagnosis with a safe, healthy home environment in Westmoreland County. The program consists of 1 home in which 3 individuals share the common living areas and have their own bedroom. Community Solutions served 5 individuals this year.

Crisis Hotline

The Crisis Hotline provides 24/7 support and assistance for individuals in crisis or for individuals seeking assistance for another in crisis. The Hotline received a total of 9,007 calls over the past year. 4,902 were crisis calls and 4,105 consisted of information & referral, on-going support, and on-call calls. Call 1-800-836-6010 for immediate assistance.

Mobile Crisis Unit

Mobile Crisis services are available 24/7 to adults, children, and adolescents in Westmoreland County who require face-to-face intervention in the community. Over the past year, 536 mobiles were conducted. Call the Crisis Hotline (1-800-836-6010) for assistance. The map below shows how many mobile crisis calls were made in specific areas in Westmoreland county.

Emergency Services

Emergency Food Pantry

WCA operates an Emergency Food Pantry that provides food and hygiene items to a family or individual in a time of crisis. WCA also supplies vouchers for items such as clothing and household items. WCA is also a food pantry for the Westmoreland County Food Bank. WCA serves an average of about 61 families and provides 70 food boxes a month. For FY 2019, WCA distributed:

- 83 Emergency Food Boxes
- 733 Food Pantry Boxes
- 68 Senior Food Boxes
- 30 Clothing Vouchers
- 29 Furniture Vouchers
- 7 Household Item Vouchers
- 11 Hygiene Item Vouchers

Energy Assistance

WCA provides Energy Assistance to individuals/families finding it difficult to pay their energy bills. WCA completes applications and connects applicants to the appropriate utility company for energy assistance and/or the Dollar Energy Fund. Eligibility for the program is based on family income. This year, 55 families received energy assistance.
**Children & Family Services**

**Head Start**

Our Children and Family Services programs support the mental, social, and emotional development of children from birth to age 5. In addition to education services, programs provide children and their families with health, nutrition, social, and other services.

Head Start serves children 3-5 years old. This program promotes school readiness and encourages the role of parents as their child's first and most important teacher. Head Start builds relationships with families that support positive parent-child relationships, family well-being, and connections to peers and community. Centers are located in the following School Districts: Kiski, New Kensington, Hempfield, Greensburg Salem, Derry, Greater Latrobe, Mt. Pleasant, Jeannette, Norwin, Penn Trafford, Southmoreland, Monessen and Belle Vernon.

**Early Head Start**

Early Head Start provides expectant mothers and families with children under the age of 3 services to meet the needs of their child. These services include parenting education and support, child development assessments, weekly home visits, parent groups, and socialization experiences. Early Head Start in-home services are available across Westmoreland County.

**Pre-K Counts**

Pre-K Counts serves children 3-5 years old. This program provides high quality pre-Kindergarten learning experiences for young children to help prepare them for a smooth transition into Kindergarten. Centers are located in the following School Districts: Yough, Mt. Pleasant, Penn Trafford, Greensburg Salem and Jeannette.

**Employment Services**

**Work Ready**

The Work Ready program is designed to assist individuals and families living in Westmoreland County who receive TANF and/or SNAP benefits. Participants are referred to the program by the Westmoreland County Assistance Office. The program’s ultimate goal is to help eliminate or lessen the existing barriers that are hindering the path to self-sufficiency and provide support through increased knowledge of necessary life skills or continued education.

Examples of these barriers can include: the lack of transportation or driver’s license, lack of education, and lack of available child care. While enrolled in the program, individuals are eligible for funds through Work Ready or the County Assistance Office that can assist with car repairs, driver’s education, public transportation, school supplies, school or work clothing, GED study materials, mileage reimbursement and child care. After successful completion, the participants transition into the EARN program to work on obtaining employment. Total enrolled in FY 2019 was 42 and total served were 61. Of those, 9 obtained employment greater than 20 hours per week: 12 completed the program requirements and moved on to EARN. 3 were enrolled and continue to remain enrolled in post-secondary education; and 11 completed the program requirements and moved on in his/her own direction.

**Community Services**

**Drug Overdose Task Force (DOTF)**

The Drug Overdose Task Force (DOTF) is a marriage between Westmoreland County Government and Westmoreland Community Action. DOTF provides technical assistance and education to help communities take action to address the overdose epidemic and save lives. The overdose death rate in 2017 in Westmoreland County was 93. The death rate for the end of 2018 decreased 36% to 122. 2019 is expected to be approximately 100. We feel that the DOTF was a big player in this reduction.

**Mothers Making More (M3)**

M3 is a program that gives comprehensive support to single mothers held back by financial and other barriers in their attempts to further their education, build a career and improve their quality of life. The resources available to participants in the M3 program are used for educational purposes but also to provide assistance for emergencies when participants cannot meet essential living expenses. M3 is not a crisis intervention program, individuals have already committed to changing their life when they enroll in M3. The program supports them in their efforts and is there to “catch them” if they begin to falter. M3 operates in partnership with The United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania, the primary funding source: Westmoreland County Community College, Seton Hill University, Excela Health, the Blackburn Center and the YMCA Westmoreland; the YMCA of Greensburg and the Valley Points Family YMCA.

In FY 2019, 9 participants graduated with a higher education degree. 1 participant earned a Bachelor’s Degree and 3 participants earned an Associate Degree and are transitioning to an advanced degree program. The other 5 participants graduated earning diplomas or an Associate Degree and entered the workforce in their field earning a family sustainable wage.

**Social Enterprise**

**American Architectural Salvage**

American Architectural Salvage (AAS) is a retail store in Mt. Pleasant. PA created to resell donated, reclaimed and recycled items. The social enterprise converts items into charitable dollars to help support WCA’s programs. AAS has a wide variety of offerings ranging from doors, windows, paint, furniture, plumbing, lumber and more. Any item sold in the store can also be donated for a tax deduction during store hours. Hours may vary but are currently Wednesday through Saturday, 8am - 6pm. Visit their website at www.americanarchitecturalsalvage.com.

**AAS Demolition Company**

The American Architectural Salvage (AAS) Demolition Company was formed and started operations in early 2018. The company has completed 7 demolition projects since its inception. AAS Demolition has hired a total of 14 people to date with the expectation to hire 4-5 more employees in the Spring of 2020.

In September 2019, an anonymous foundation contributed funding to purchase equipment for the company. This will make the bidding process more competitive by eliminating unnecessary rental fees. To date we have purchased a compact truck loader with 5 attachments, a telehandler, a dump truck, a pick-up truck and 2 equipment trailers.

AAS Demolition uses a nationally accepted estimating system for their bidding process. There is no charge for an estimate. AAS Demolition is fully insured and bonded. If you are considering a renovation, demolition or deconstruction project and would like an estimate, call Demolition Manager Rick Mills - 724-610-0258 or email RMills@westmorelandca.org - PA Contractor: 806902.
# Children & Family Services Financials 2018 – 2019

## Revenue

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## Expenses

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## Program Stats FY 2019

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<th>Head Start</th>
<th>Early Head Start</th>
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<td>Total Served</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of children that met eligibility</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of children current on physicals</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of children current on immunizations</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>84.5%</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of children receiving dental screenings</td>
<td>90.2%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of children that receive Special Needs Services</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Pre-K Counts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget Category</th>
<th>Revenue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal Grant</td>
<td>$850,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCFP</td>
<td>$37,748</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Grants</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Revenue</td>
<td>$447</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-kind Revenue</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$888,195</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Did you know?**

- WCA's Children & Family Services has:
  - 14 Head Start sites with 19 classroom
  - 25 classrooms total serving 491 HS and Pre-K families
  - 6 Pre-K sites including 1 partner location
  - 20 Head Start home based slots
  - 147 Early Head Start home based slots.
  - 100 total Pre-K slots

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**Children & Family Services Leadership Team**

- **Tammy Patterson**
  Vice President, Children & Family Services

- **Patti Prior**
  Director of Operations, Head Start

- **Lori Brooks**
  Director of Operations, Early Head Start

- **Cheryl Werner**
  Director of Operations, Pre-K Counts

- **Kelli Shafron**
  Area Manager, Head Start

- **Tammy Dietrich**
  Area Manager, Head Start

- **Roxanne Cava**
  Area Manager, Head Start

- **Lynn Lawrence**
  Home Visiting Supervisor, Early Head Start

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WCA ANNUAL REPORT 2018 - 2019
Head Start and Kindergarten Readiness

The School Readiness and Curriculum committee looks at child outcome data and curriculum and sets “School Readiness Goals” for the program. An “Overview of Head Start (HS) approach to School Readiness” was reviewed to help the committee understand the HSs requirements. Since the HS Performance Standards also require programs to align school readiness goals to the Early Learning Outcomes Framework, training on the framework was done with the committee members. The Training Coordinator gave the committee an overview of the Creative Curriculum and Teaching Strategies GoldPlus Online program used by the classroom teachers. The committee looked at Teaching Strategies Gold data reports for the fall to determine which of the domains and Early Learning Outcomes Framework goals should be the focus on the upcoming year’s School Readiness Goals.

The committee consists of:
- Current Head Start parents
- WCA Policy Council members
- WCA Board Member and former Elementary Principal at Derry
- Education Program Manager at the United Way
- Penn State Cooperative Extension Educator, Better Kid Care, Strengthening Families
- WCA Head Start Vice President of Children & Family Services
- WCA HS Family and Community Partnership Coordinator
- WCA HS Director of Operations
- WCA EHS Director of Operations
- Children & Family Services Special Needs Coordinator
- Children & Family Services Training Coordinator

School Readiness Goals:
School Readiness goals are shared with the classroom staff during pre-service training. Teachers keep the SRG in their classroom quality improvement binders to reference the goals during planning time with other classroom staff. The Policy Council and Board Members receive copies of the updated goals at their respective meetings. Teachers and Home Visitors share the goals with the parents of the children at their conferences or on home visits.

Approaches to Learning:
- Children will manage emotions with increasing independence
- Children will follow classroom rules and routines with increasing independence
- Child manages feelings and emotions with support of familiar adults. (EHS)
- Child maintains focus and sustains attention with support. (EHS)

Social and Emotional Development:
- Children will engage in pro-social and cooperative behavior with adults.
- Children will engage in cooperative play with other children.
- Child develops expectations of consistent, positive interactions through secure relationship with familiar adults. (EHS)
- Child shows interest in, interacts with, and develops personal relationships with other children. (EHS)

Language and Literacy:
- Children will demonstrate awareness that spoken language is composed of smaller segments of sound.
- Children will identify letters of the alphabet and produce correct sounds associated with the letters.
- Child uses an increasing number of words in communication and conversation with others. (EHS)
- Child recognizes pictures and symbols, signs or words. (EHS)

Cognition:
- Children will understand simple patterns.
- Children will measure objects by their various attributes using standard and non-standard measurement. Children will use differences to make comparisons.
- Child recognizes differences between familiar and unfamiliar people, objects, actions or events. (EHS)
- Child uses objects or symbols to represent something else. (EHS)

Perceptual, Motor and Physical Development:
- Children will demonstrate control, strength and coordination of large muscles.
- Children will demonstrate increasing control, strength and coordination of small muscles.
- Families will complete physical and dental requirements and follow up on specific referrals from screening results.
- Child uses sensory information and body awareness to understand how their body relates to the environment. (EHS)
- Families will complete physical and dental requirements and follow up on specific referrals from screening results. (EHS)

Annual Review:
Our Federal program is in its 3rd year of the grant cycle and we received a Focus Area Two Review along with a CLASS review. Focus Area Two is an opportunity for grantees to demonstrate their effectiveness in implementing a high-quality program to promote positive outcomes and school readiness for children and their families. This review was done onsite and lasted 4 days.

The Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS®) is an observation instrument that assesses the quality of teacher-child interactions in center-based preschool classrooms. CLASS® includes three domains or categories of teacher-child interactions that support children’s learning and development: Emotional Support, Classroom Organization, and Instructional Support. Within each domain are dimensions which capture more specific details about teachers’ interactions with children.

Results of both reviews were in compliance with Head Start Performance Standards and regulations.

Parent Involvement:
WCA Children & Family Services parents are encouraged to participate in and possess leadership positions in shared governance by participating in Policy Council and parent committees. Parents are also encouraged to volunteer in the classrooms and participate in their child’s learning through individualized parent/child activities. Opportunities are available for parents to work on nutrition education, education and career development, parenting and financial stability.

WCA Early Head Start/Head Start partnered with local agencies to provide a Day-of-Play in May 2019. Day-of-Play was a twist to the yearly Social Service Expos that had been provided in years past while mixed with on-site full-filled activities for children and families. Held at several locations and on multiple dates the Day-of-Play was open to families in the program and community members. The service providers also provided information on their various programs and resources.

Community Assessment Summary:
The lowering welfare rolls in Westmoreland County are not unique; this has been the pattern nationwide since the implementation of welfare reform. However, the results of these assessments indicate that welfare reform has failed to address the needs of low-income families with children in Westmoreland County. In fact, the majority of low-income families with young children have already fulfilled the objectives of TANF yet they still have incomes below the poverty level.

The work that families find and are qualified for are low paying positions. They most often work part time with no benefits. They work schedules that vary from week to week making child care difficult. Their situations remain the same as they are unable to increase their incomes to an amount that would bring them out of poverty. Every time their income increases, either their rent goes up or their food stamps go down, or worse, they lose medical coverage.

Families still worry about having enough food to eat; about paying for the doctor when a family member is ill; about heating their homes in the winter. They hope their car does not break down because they cannot pay for repairs; that their children do not get ill because they are not able to use sick days for a sick child; that they are able to pay all of their bills.
Thank you for choosing to support Westmoreland Community Action. By doing so, you are giving someone hope for a better future.

___ Yes, I would like to pledge my support of individuals and families in Westmoreland County. I am making a donation in the amount of: (circle one) $250 $100 $50 $25 Other: $______

___ Please contact me at the email/phone below to set up an automatic monthly gift.

Name: __________________________________________ Phone: ______________________

Address: ________________________________________

Email: __________________________________________

Donor listing: ____________________________

**You may also choose to make your donation anonymous or in memory of or in honor of an individual or couple**

Please return your contribution to:
Westmoreland Community Action, ATTN: Fiscal Department, 226 S. Maple Avenue, Greensburg, PA 15601

No goods or services will be exchanged for this contribution. Westmoreland Community Action is a tax exempt organization as described in Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. EIN# 25-1383079