

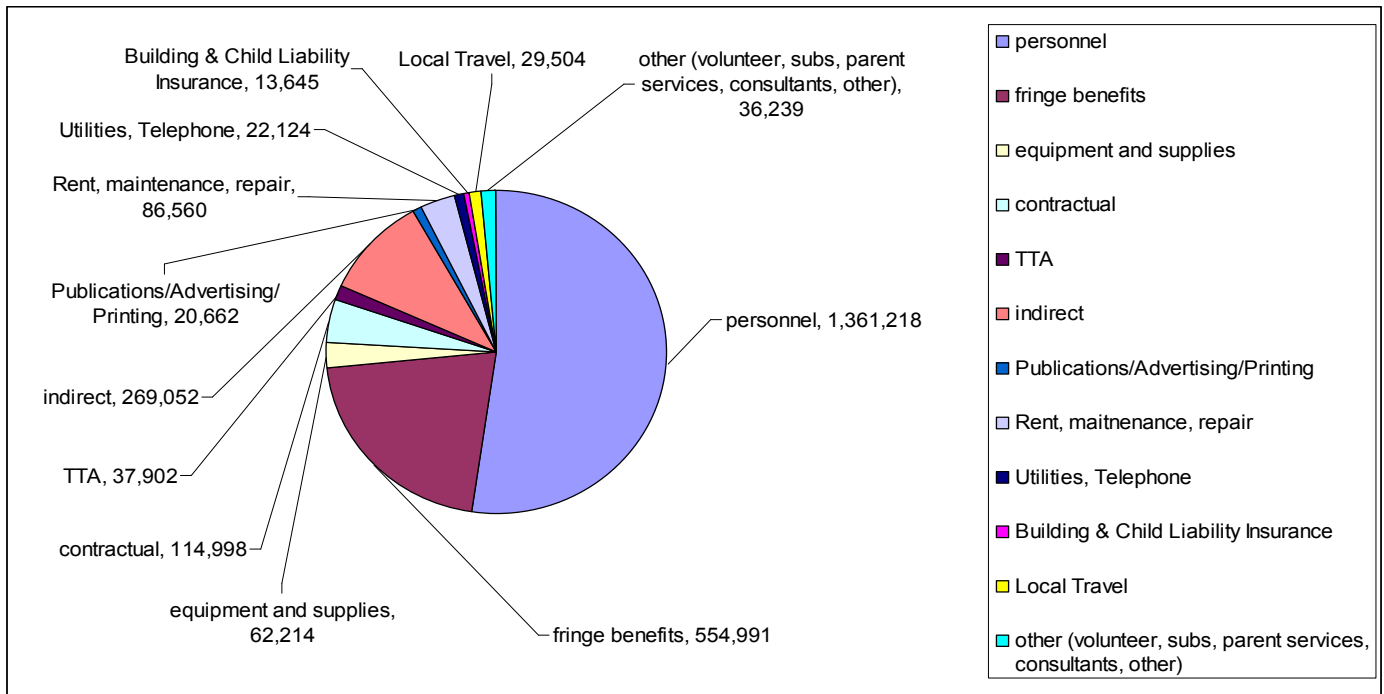
Champlain Valley Head Start – Annual Public Report

Head Start is a national preschool program which provides educational and social opportunities to nurture the healthy development of children. Head Start helps children to prepare for kindergarten, and to reach their full potential in school and later in life. Champlain Valley Head Start (CVHS) offers preschool and childcare services at various locations to over 325 children and their families throughout Franklin, Grand Isle, Chittenden and Addison Counties.

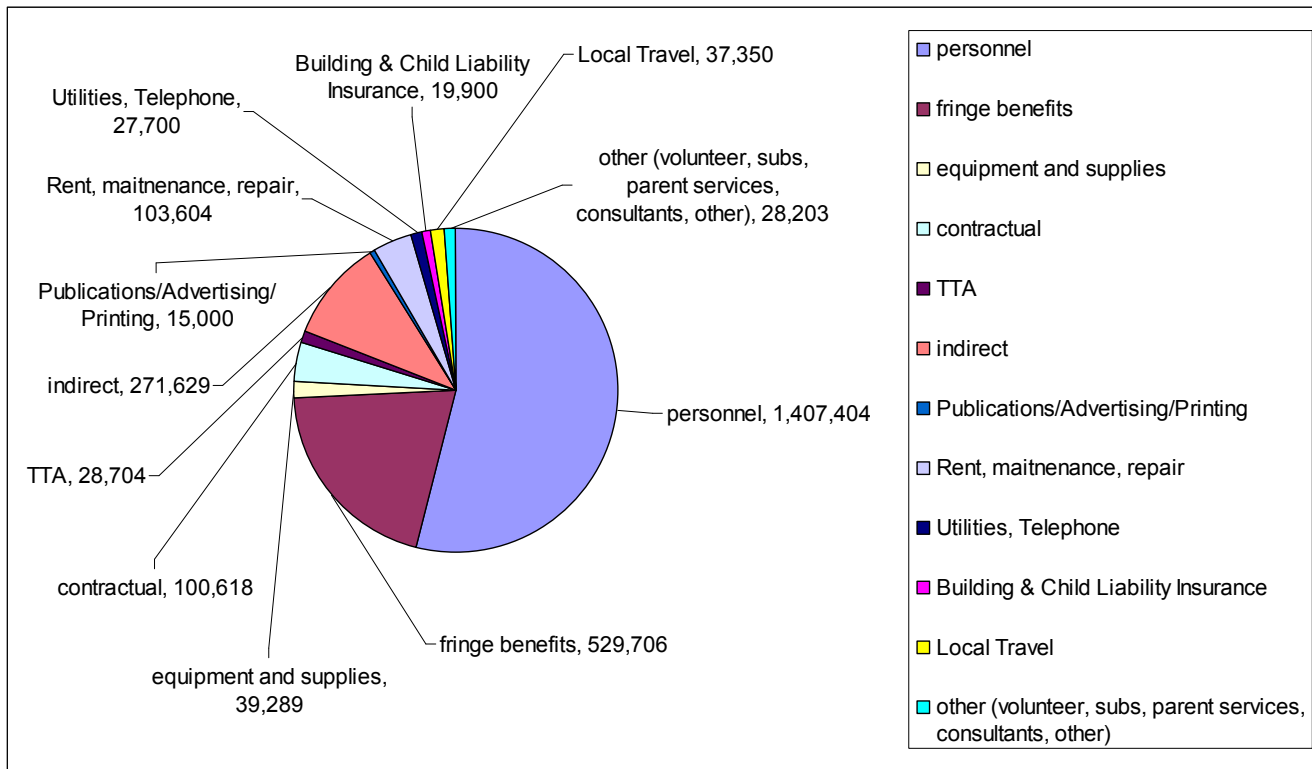
The 2007-2008 program year (FY08) was very eventful for CVHS. Under new provisions contained in the *Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007*, Head Start programs are now required to make available to the public a report published at least once in each fiscal year that sets forth information in each of the categories listed below.

- **Funding:** For FY08, CVHS received \$2,570,973 in federal funding from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and \$13,971 in state funding from VT Department of Education.

- **Budgetary expenditures FY08:**



- **Proposed budget FY09:**



- **Total number of children and families served:** For the 2007-2008 program year, CVHS served 368 children and families throughout northwest Vermont.
- **Enrollment:** CVHS maintained an average monthly enrollment of 339, consistently meeting or in some cases exceeding 100% of ACF funded enrollment. Approximately 91.4% of children served were from income-eligible families.
- **Results of most recent Federal review:** All Head Start programs undergo an extensive Federal Review once every three years. The review focuses primarily on the program's compliance with all applicable federal, state and local regulations. During the end of March 2006, CVHS went through our most recent triennial Federal review. Thanks to the efforts of all CVHS stakeholders, CVHS emerged from the process with flying colors. In almost all areas of CVHS systems and services, reviewers acknowledged CVHS as an exemplary program. We anticipate our next triennial Federal review to occur in 2009.
- **Results of most recent financial audit:** The most recent financial audit for CVOEO contained no findings or non-compliances. The audit noted that, in the most recent audit period, CVOEO had worked with U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services to have reimbursement rates for indirect and fringe benefit costs brought to appropriate levels to adequately reimburse the agency for proper amounts.

- **Percentage of enrolled children that received medical and dental exams:** During the 2007-2008 program year, over 98% of enrolled children received physical exams, and over 91% of children received dental exams.
- **Information about parent involvement activities:** CVHS provides a variety of opportunities for parents to become involved with our program throughout the program year. Parent involvement occurs most commonly through home visits or as parents spend time in Head Start classrooms. Parents also have the opportunity to be involved in activities such as: Group socializations (2 times per month for families in home-based options); Local Parent Committee Meetings; Parent-Teacher conferences; Open House or classroom orientation sessions; Program committees such as the Health Services Advisory Committee; Policy Council meetings; volunteering in various program activities; CVHS interview teams to hire new staff; the CVHS Self-Assessment process; attending advocacy events such as VT Early Childhood Legislative Day and meetings of the VT Head Start Association; and attending conferences such as the New England Head Start Association Conference.
- **CVHS efforts to prepare children for kindergarten:** The CVHS Curriculum outlines goals in the eight domains of learning including social emotional development, approaches to learning, literacy, language development, math, science, creative arts, and physical health and development, and guides staff in the provision of materials and activities to support these goals in preparing children for kindergarten. Experiences are provided in classrooms and homes to meet the child's individual needs and stimulate learning in all developmental areas, with strong emphasis on language/cognitive skills, early literacy skills, and the development of positive social and learning skills. Health educational activities included in the curriculum include daily tooth brushing, monthly nutrition activities, and other activities designed to encourage development of healthy habits and reduce fear and anxiety related to preventive care exams.

CVHS staff utilize an individualized observation and planning process for each child/family. Staff assess, with the parent, the child's developmental strengths and needs across the eight domains of learning. Information is obtained through informal interviews with the parent, observations of the child, a Head Start administered developmental screening, the CVHS Child Outcomes Assessment and, if applicable, information from a child's Individual Family Services Plan or Individualized Education Plan. Information from these sources is then used to individualize experiences and services for children and families, and to create ongoing plans to address the child's developmental objectives and goals. CVHS also provides information to parents of children with special needs, such as parent-friendly articles describing the special education process, individualized education plans, 504 plans, parents' rights in special education, and community resources.

CVHS staff, parents and collaborating agencies (when applicable), plan activities to support children's transition to kindergarten. Such opportunities may include use of the playground and rest rooms, accessing school meal programs, attending school functions or libraries, going on classroom visits, meeting with kindergarten teachers, principals and special educators, and attending school-sponsored "transition fairs".