

Head Start/Early Head Start



Annual Report 2023 2024



From the Director

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

HACAP is proud to have served children, families and communities for 59 years! On behalf of HACAP's Board of Directors, Policy Council and Staff we are pleased to share with you the outcomes achieved in the 2023-2024 Head Start/Early Head Start program year.

Head Start Early Head Start is a leading early childhood program in the nation. Such recognition and excellence do not occur by chance. It is the result of caring and dedicated parents and guardians, it is our young children, and it involves our community partners and the committed and valued HS/EHS Team Members.

I believe the strength of the HACAP HS/EHS lies in the collective talents of our trained and dedicated team members working with our enrolled children and families. This could be a team member who has been with us for a matter of weeks or the team member who has had over 34 years of making an impact in HS/EHS.

Strength comes from the deeply embedded 26 community partners. These partners are school districts, local childcare centers, the three AEA's that serve our nine-county area, Visiting Nurse Association, Public Health, and local non-profits that support our mission and growth of the HS/EHS program. Strength comes from believing and knowing we make a difference in the lives of our children, families and our communities.

Our work is not possible without the partnership with the families we were privileged to serve this past year. Thank you, families for sharing your time, talent and your children with us. Together we are making a difference in the school readiness of the children served and continued self-sufficiency for families served.

Policy Council members, thank you for your time and expertise in continuing to provide feedback to us regarding the impact and concerns the programs provide for you and your family. And certainly, I want to thank the dedicated staff members who shared their time, talent and expertise to make HACAP a great place to work.

Sincerely,

Christi Regan



Children & Families Served

HACAP was funded to serve 867 children, including services to pregnant women, during the 2023-2024 program year.

In the 2023-2024 Head Start/Early Head Start program year we served 719 children and pregnant women:

- 687 Head Start children
- 187 Early Head Start children and 4 pregnant women



Enrollment by Type of Eligibility Head Start	# children	% children
Income below 100% of federal poverty line	273	40%
Receipt of Public Assistance (TANF, SSI, SNAP)	244	36%
Status as a foster child	25	4%
Status as homeless	29	4%
Income between 100% and 130%	69	10%
Over income	47	7%
Enrollment by Type of Eligibility Early Head Start	# children	% children
Income below 100% of federal poverty line	57	30%
Receipt of Public Assistance (TANF, SSI)	103	54%
Status as a foster child	4	2%
Status as homeless	2	1%
Income between 100% and 130%	20	11%
Over income	2	1%

Families Served	HS	EHS
Total # of families	628	174
# two parent families	271	64
# one parent families	357	110

Attendance 2023-2024

Average Monthly Attendance:

Head Start

(August 24, 2023-May 31, 2024) = 81%

Early Head Start

(August 24, 2023-August 9, 2024) = 81%

Health & Nutrition

Disability/Mental Health

HACAP continues to partner with our local AEA's to provide Disability and Mental Health Services to children and families. Our nine counties are served by three AEA's: Grant Wood, Keystone, and Mississippi Bend. Through the child find process children are referred and evaluated for special education services if needed. We work with our local school districts to coordinate the best programming option to meet the child and family needs. Mental Health Consultants from the AEA work closely with staff to observe and provide feedback related to Mental Health/Social Emotional skills. In the 2023-2024 school year, we served 76 children in Head Start with IEP's and 30 children in Early Head Start with an IFSP.

Nutrition

HACAP Head Start values the role we play in helping children develop healthy eating habits that will last them a lifetime. Our staff receive on-going training on how to be a positive role model during family-style mealtimes. Teachers regularly incorporate nutrition education activities into their lesson plans. Some of our nutrition education activities and meals are supported by Farm to Early Childhood Education grant funds, which allow us to purchase fresh food from local farmers. We provide information to parents that supports their efforts to provide nutritious meals for their family at home, including information about WIC and SNAP benefits, as well as other community food resources. Head Start continues to receive reimbursement for meals through the USDA's Child and Adult Care Food Program. We were pleased to add an additional cook position as our Jane Boyd center's food service operation changed from catered meals to on-site meal preparation due to the increase of children served at that center. The Jane Boyd center has a kitchen that is well equipped for the preparation of meals for the three classrooms.



Meals Served

Breakfast Served = 84,125

Lunch Served = 89,174

Snack Served = 70,244



Attendance 2023-2024

Average Monthly Attendance:

Head Start (August 24, 2023-May 31, 2024) = 81%

Early Head Start (August 24, 2023-August 9, 2024) = 81%

Health & Nutrition (Continued)

PIR Indicator 2023-2024	Head Start	Early Head Start
Children with Health Insurance	678 (99%)	186 (99%)
Children with On-Going Accessible Health Care	684 (100%)	187 (100%)
Percentage of children up-to-date on a schedule of preventative and primary health care per the state's EPSDT schedule	652 (95%)	32 (17%)
Children Diagnosed with Chronic Condition	106 (15%)	24 (13%)
Children with Chronic Condition Receiving Treatment	106 (100%)	24 (100%)
Percentage of children with up-to-date immunizations or all possible immunizations to date	670 (98%)	182 (87%)
Number of Children with Exemptions from Immunizations	15 (2%)	4 (2%)
Number of Children with Continuous Oral Care	632 (92%)	169 (90%)
Number of Children Who Received Oral Preventative Care	586 (85%)	125 (67%)



School Readiness

Each Head Start location works with the local school district to provide parents of children who will be entering Kindergarten with information about kindergarten registration/round-up events in the school district the child will be attending the following fall. These conversations start at the first home visit and continue throughout the school year. They talk with parents about obtaining the child's birth certificate and taking proof of residency with them to the registration/round-up. Staff also provide parents with the documents that they need for these events (current physical and immunization card, vision screening and hearing screening). Teachers also identify Kindergarten Readiness Activities in their weekly lesson plans. These activities might include teaching social skills, like getting a friend's attention or sharing or teaching self-help skills, like hand washing and zipping up coats.

All Head Start and Early Head Start children are assessed using My Teaching Strategies Assessment. We continued to use The Gold Resource Guide, a resource for teachers to help them with documentation and completing assessments in My Teaching Strategies. The resource guide allowed teachers to be better prepared for each assessment period. Head Start aged children are assessed in the Fall, Winter and Spring. Early Head Start aged children are assessed in the Fall, Winter, Spring and Summer. The assessment focuses on social/emotional, physical, language, cognitive development, literacy and mathematics. The graphs below show the percentage of children meeting and/or exceeding expectations for their age at the fall and spring checkpoints.

The Head Start graph shows growth in every area between the Fall (blue line) and Spring (orange line) assessments. The lowest area of growth was in physical development with 13 points and the highest area of growth was in mathematics at 30 points.

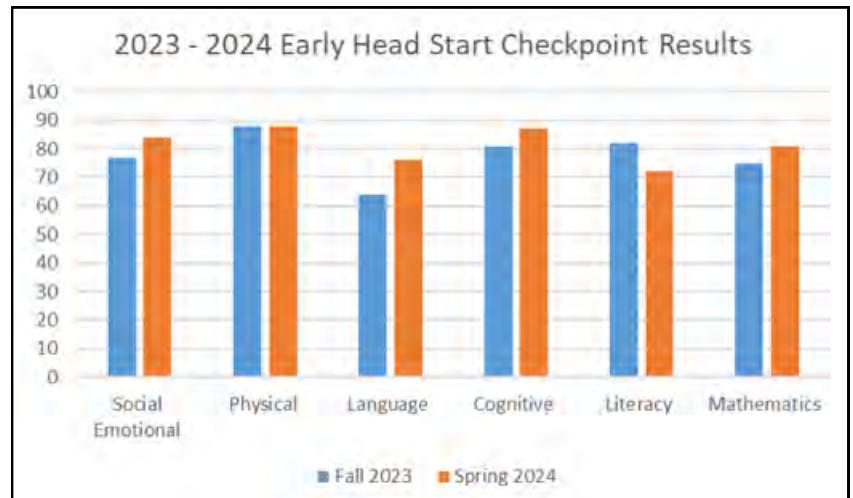


School Readiness (Continued)

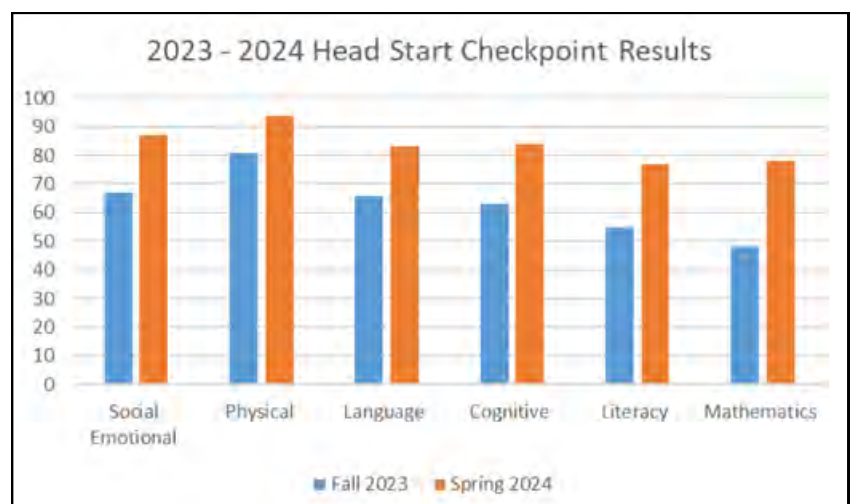
The Head Start graph shows growth in every area between the Fall (blue line) and Spring (orange line) assessments. The lowest area of growth was in physical development with 13 points and the highest area of growth was in mathematics at 30 points.

The Early Head Start graph shows growth in every area except Literacy between the Fall (blue line) and Spring (orange line) assessments. The Early Head Start and Head Start programs are fluid programs, children move from Early Head Start to Head Start and children enter Early Head Start throughout the year.

When children enter Early Head Start, they are typically younger and therefore their skills are lower than the skills of the children who they are replacing who moved to Head Start. The lowest area of growth was in literacy which went down by 10 points and the highest area of growth was in language at 12 points.



During the 2023 - 2024 Program Year we offered the new modules of PBIS for Preschool to all staff. Two of our staff were trained to be PBIS Infant Toddler Trainers and two were trained to be PBIS Preschool Trainers. We are implementing an ongoing PBIS Training Plan for both groups in the 2024 - 2025 Program Year.



Parent & Family Community Engagement

In Head Start we believe that parents are a child's first and most important teacher and Head Start serves not just children but the child's whole family. Engaging families in our services and learning about their needs and goals is a key part of what we do in our daily interactions with parents. Each year staff complete a Family Summary with each interested family to help us get to know them better. After discussing this information parents and staff members work together to set up Family Partnership Agreements related to the goals the family has for themselves and for their children. Resources and support that are available to the family within the agency and the community are shared and included in the goal to help support them in successfully meeting their goals.

Over the course of the school year 598 families worked with our staff members to complete a Family Summary. Those Family Summaries were used to help 549 families set 569 Family Well Being Goals and 711 School Readiness Goals for their children. 86% of the goals set were met fully or partially.

Parent - Child activities are held at each of our centers during the school year to encourage parents to participate in activities in their child's classroom. Popular events this past school year included families dying t-shirts, a toddler prom, various arts and crafts activities and end of the year celebrations.



Funding

REVENUE	FY 24 Annual Budget	FY 25 Proposed Budget
Government Grants	\$11,000,681	\$11,000,681
HS/EHS Carryover	\$2,497,077	\$0
DHS Wraparound	\$739,200	\$739,200
Dept. Education (Shared Visions)	\$725,886	\$725,886
Dept. Education (CACFP)	\$611,047	\$671,592
Linn County Early Childhood Iowa	\$201,984	\$208,044
Johnson County Early Childhood Iowa	\$77,352	\$79,673
Clinton/Jackson Early Childhood Iowa	\$22,817	\$24,500
Better Tomorrow's Early Childhood Iowa (Benton)	\$15,000	\$15,450
Cedar/Jones County Early Childhood Iowa	\$40,000	\$41,200
UWECI Partner Funding	\$100,000	\$100,000
UWJW Partner Funding	\$20,000	\$20,000
City of Iowa City	\$27,270	\$27,270
City of Coralville	\$2,000	\$2,000
Jones County Board Supervisors	\$31,416	\$32,357
Johnson County Board Supervisors	\$12,478	\$12,500
TOTAL REVENUE	\$16,124,208	\$13,700,353

EXPENSES	FY 24 Annual Budget	FY 25 Proposed Budget
Personnel	\$5,978,072	\$6,079,864
Fringe Benefits	\$3,720,343	\$3,949,363
Equipment	\$6,000	\$0
Travel	\$14,076	\$19,035
Supplies	\$1,038,305	\$380,183
Contractual	\$593,111	\$661,287
Other	\$3,701,574	\$1,060,637
Indirect	\$1,072,726	\$1,055,913
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$16,124,208	\$13,700,353

Financial Audit

Wipfli LLP conducted HACAP's most recent audit and provided an independent audit report that was presented to the Board of Directors at their January 2023 meeting. Wipfli LLP reported no instances of noncompliance or other matters. The audit did not identify any deficiencies in the internal control over compliance that were considered material weaknesses. HACAP was determined to be a low-risk auditee. A copy of the full audit report is available on our website at www.hacap.org



hacap.org/headstart

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