

Head Start/Early Head Start

Annual Report 2024 2025



Our Mission

*Helping people develop skills to become
successful and build strong communities.*

From the Director

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

HACAP is proud to have served children, families and communities for 60 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 2024-2025 Head Start/Early Head Start program year.

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 Head Start Team Members.

I believe the strength of the HACAP Head Start lies in the collective talents of our trained and dedicated team members working with enrolled children and families. This could be a team member who has been with us for a matter of weeks or a team member who has had over 35 years of making an impact in Head Start.

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 Head Start program. Strength comes from believing and knowing we make a difference in the lives of our children, families and our communities.

HACAP depended on this strength as we worked through the uncertainty of state wraparound funding. Wraparound funding allows HACAP to offer full day and full year funding. After several months of planning for program wide wraparound funding cuts, we received another year of funding for State awarded Shared Visions and Early Childhood Iowa funding. Unfortunately, our 20+ years of DHS Wraparound Funding came to an end as the State of Iowa reallocated the funds to support other state initiatives.

Tough decisions had to be made with the loss State Wraparound funding. These decisions impacted children, families and staff as fewer days of operation were realized. The loss of funding sources and areas of low enrollment also resulted in classroom and two center closures. We reduced our Head Start and Early Head Start funded slots. 2025-2026 School Year, we will serve 581 Head Start slots and 168 Early Head Start to serve a total of 749 slots. This was a reduction from a total of 797 slots served in 2024-2025 program year.

It was a year with challenges, but a year of Success and Positive Impacts. Our Annual Report will share snapshots of our Successes and Impacts in the lives of those who Choose HACAP Head Start.

Head Start of the Gift of Bright Futures!

Christi Regan

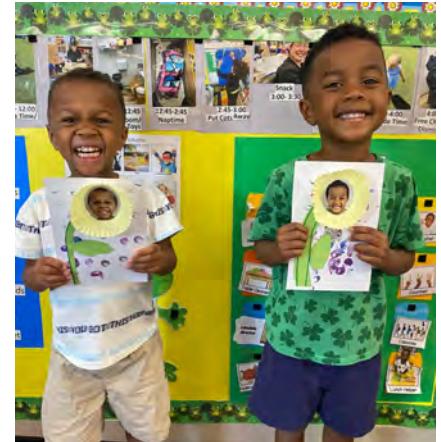


Children & Families Served

HACAP was funded to serve 797 children, including services to pregnant women, during the 2024-2025 program year.

In the 2024-2025 Head Start/Early Head Start program year we served 823 children and pregnant women:

- 609 Head Start children
- 214 Early Head Start children



Enrollment by Type of Eligibility Head Start	# children	% children
Income below 100% of federal poverty line	183	30%
Receipt of Public Assistance (TANF, SSI, SNAP)	298	49%
Status as a foster child	10	1%
Status as homeless	20	3%
Income between 100% and 130%	50	8%
Over income	48	8%

Enrollment by Type of Eligibility Early Head Start	# children	% children
Income below 100% of federal poverty line	62	29%
Receipt of Public Assistance (TANF, SSI)	117	55%
Status as a foster child	4	1%
Status as homeless	10	5%
Income between 100% and 130%	13	6%
Over income	8	4%

Families Served	HS	EHS
Total # of families	555	188
# two parent families	225	61
# one parent families	330	127

Attendance 2024-2025

Average Monthly Attendance:

Head Start

(August 22, 2024 - May 31, 2025) = 82%

Early Head Start

(August 22, 2024 - July 25, 2025) = 81%

Health & Nutrition

Disability/Mental Health

HACAP continues our long-standing partnership with our local AEA's to provide Disability and Mental Health Services to children and families. We work together to help identify children that may be eligible for Special Education Services. We work closely with our AEA's and local School District to find the most appropriate placement for children and families to meet their needs. Mental Health Consultation is provided by qualified Mental Health Consultants from our local AEA's. They work with staff and families to help build internal capacities to support appropriate Social Emotional Development for all children. In the 2024-2025 school year we served 65 Head Start children with IEP's and 39 Early Head Start children with IFSP's.

Nutrition

Again, this year at HACAP Head Start, thousands of delicious, healthy meals were shared among children and staff in a family style environment. Not only did children get satisfied tummies that allowed them to play and learn, but they also practiced social and developmental skills while developing healthy eating habits that will influence them for life. Nutrition and physical education happen throughout daily routines, also including valuable information for parents, supporting their efforts to provide good nutrition and physical activity at home. HACAP greatly values the USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) which helps fund our meals. In February 2025, the CACFP program had a successful triennial audit by the Department of Education. This year HACAP Head Start was fortunate to have two Culinary Arts degreed staff employed. Because of this, our program has excelled in menu development and training of food service staff, among other things.

Meals Served	Total
Breakfast Served	80,709
Lunch Served	87,164
Snack Served	72,861



Health & Nutrition (Continued)

PIR Indicator 2024-2025	Head Start	Early Head Start
Percentage of children up to date on a schedule of preventative and primary health care per the state's EPSDT schedule	98%	29%
Percentage of children with up-to-date immunizations or all possible immunizations to date	100%	100%
Percentage of preschool children completing professional dental exams	94%	84%
Percentage of preschool children needing professional dental treatment	1%	0%
Percentage of preschool children receiving dental treatment	90%	84%
Percentage of infants & toddlers who are up to date on schedule of age-appropriate preventative & primary oral health care	90%	84%
Percentage of children determined to have diagnosed disability	11%	18%



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 of 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 and assistant 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.



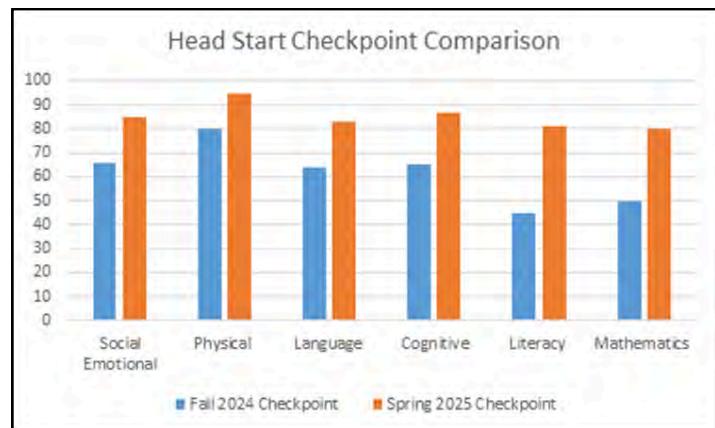
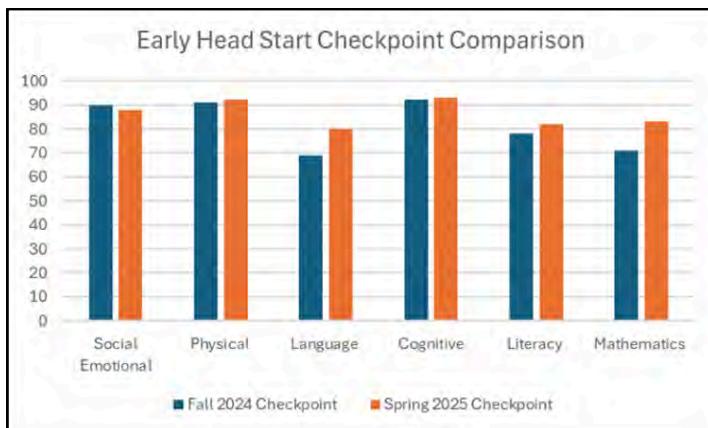
School Readiness (Continued)

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 15 points, and the highest area of growth was in literacy at 36 points.

During the 2024 – 2025 Program Year we focused on The Science of Reading Training Series from Teaching Strategies. This is a multi-part series which focuses on developmentally appropriate language and literacy skills for young children. As a result, we saw literacy scores going up the most in our program for Head Start aged children this program year.

The Early Head Start graph shows growth in every area except Social Emotional 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 Social Emotional which went down by 2 points and the highest area of growth was in mathematics at 12 points.

This year we implemented a program being done by the coaches for classrooms with new staff. Coaches conducted three meetings with the staff in these classrooms. They used pieces from Unpacking the Pyramid and COLORS training to help build relationships with the members of each classroom team. Staff seemed to like this program, and we will be continuing it in the 2025 – 2026 Program Year.



Parent & Family Community Engagement

Successes:

3DRP: The 3DRP program is a collaborative effort with IHSA to provide diapers, pull ups and diapering supplies monthly to families enrolled in EHS Home Based services. The program allows us to provide diapers and diapering supplies to all children in the household who use those supplies. For the last 2 years families enrolled in EHS Home Based services have received diapers, pull ups, wipes and diaper cream monthly. This funding saved each household about \$100.00 a month in their monthly budgets. This benefit was greatly appreciated by the recipients.

Family Summaries: 98% of HS families completed a Family Summary/Assessment this school year. This information is used to help set goals for the family and for their enrolled child/ren.

Family Partnership Agreements/Family Goal Plans: Using the information gathered from the Family Summaries 513 families set 1097 goals. 338 of those goals were fully met and 252 goals were partially met. Categories with the highest number of goals included Positive Parent Child Relationships and Family Well Being.



Parent & Family Community Engagement (Continued)

Parent Survey Results:

Communication with staff: 88% excellent – 11% satisfactory.

I am aware that staff can help my whole family: 71% strongly agree – 28% agree.

I received ideas for activities I could use with my children at home: 67% strongly agree – 30% agree.

Community Engagement:

April: Molina Shoe Give Away: We partnered with IHSA and Molina Health Care who provided all 48 kids at Jane Boyd with a new pair of sneakers.

June: Xmas in June – Cedar Rapids: 40 Head Start families received food and household items from a local church who has generously supported our families every year for approximately 20 years.

October: Coats For Kids: 306 total coats distributed

- We partnered with KCRG to provide 254 kids with new coats for the winter.
- Theisen's in Dubuque provided 22 coats needed for children in the Dubuque area.
- The Hiawatha Legion provided all 30 of the coats we needed for infants and toddlers.
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December: Rockwell Adopt A Classroom – Cedar Rapids. Each year a local Rockwell employee group adopts 2 classrooms to provide gifts for the children and the classrooms. They have been doing this for about 10 years.



Funding

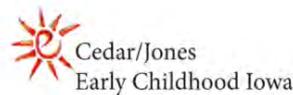
REVENUE	FY 25 Annual Budget	FY 26 Proposed Budget
Government Grants	\$11,000,681	\$11,000,681
DHS Wraparound	\$739,200	\$0
Dept. Education (Shared Visions)	\$725,886	\$725,886
Dept. Education (CACFP)	\$671,592	\$697,686
Linn County Early Childhood Iowa	\$208,044	\$100,000
Johnson County Early Childhood Iowa	\$79,673	\$82,860
Clinton/Jackson Early Childhood Iowa	\$24,500	\$69,634
Better Tomorrow's Early Childhood Iowa (Benton)	\$15,450	\$43,097
Cedar/Jones County Early Childhood Iowa	\$41,200	\$43,489
UWECI Partner Funding	\$100,000	\$100,000
UWJW Partner Funding	\$20,000	\$14,000
City of Iowa City	\$27,270	\$28,634
City of Coralville	\$2,000	\$2,000
Jones County Board Supervisors	\$32,357	\$32,357
Johnson County Board Supervisors	\$12,500	\$13,125
TOTAL REVENUE	\$13,700,353	\$12,953,449

EXPENSES	FY 25 Annual Budget	FY 26 Proposed Budget
Personnel	\$6,088,232	\$5,667,697
Fringe Benefits	\$3,933,024	\$3,760,346
Equipment	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$22,534	\$13,520
Supplies	\$413,187	\$442,669
Contractual	\$661,287	\$666,225
Other	\$1,516,092	\$1,460,165
Indirect	\$1,065,996	\$942,827
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$13,700,353	\$12,953,449

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 June 2025 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

Our Funders



hacap.org/headstart

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