

**2021-22 WCCA HEAD START & EARLY HEAD START
ANNUAL REPORT TO THE PUBLIC**

Head Start and Early Head Start is a comprehensive no fee program for income-eligible families. WCCA Head Start and Early Head Start serve children from birth through five years, and pregnant women. It provides children with a developmentally appropriate early childhood education to help them gain the skills needed to succeed in school. WCCA Head Start and Early Head Start is funded through federal and state grants, and through generous donations provided by WCCA Board Members, Policy Council Members, Parent Volunteers, Community Volunteers, Staff and Local Area Churches, School Districts, Doctors, Dentists, and many community service organizations.

2021-22 FUNDING SOURCES		2021-22 FEDERAL EXPENDITURES		2021-22 STATE EXPENDITURES	
U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services – Continuation Grant	2,333,916	Salaries and Fringe	1,804,715	Salaries and Fringe	287,642
U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services – COVID Supplement	167,852	Out-of-Area Travel	604	Travel	5,000
U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services—ARPA and CRRSA Funds (two-year funding; Half is reflected here)	143,008	Supplies	61,831	Office Expenses	2,196
Minnesota Dept. of Education	323,144	Equipment	0	Contractual	16,440
Pathway II Funding	112,500	Contractual	225,906	Program Expenses	10,294
Westonka Healthy Community Collaboration Grant	5,232	Other	213,631	Other	1,572
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture	67,978	Training	27,229		
Community In-Kind/Non-Federal Match Contributions	583,479				
Total Funds and Contributions	\$3,737,109	Total Federal Expenditures	\$2,333,916	Total State Expenditures	\$323,144

An estimated 656 children age 0-4 from income-eligible families live in Wright County and western Hennepin County. Approximately 31% of eligible children were served by WCCA Head Start and Early Head Start.

During the 2021-22 program year, WCCA Head Start provided services to 168 preschool-aged children from 153 families. The average monthly enrollment for the Head Start program was 77%. Of the 168 preschool children served, 86% received medical exams and 61% received dental exams.

During the 2021-22 program year, WCCA Early Head Start provided services to 35 infants and toddlers from 33 families. Additionally, Early Head Start served five pregnant women. The average monthly enrollment for the EHS program was 93%. Of the infants, toddlers and pregnant women served by Early Head Start, 80% received medical exams and 73% received dental exams.

Agency Audit -The annual Agency Wide Audit was conducted for Funding Year 2021. There were no audit findings or questioned costs of any program conducted by WCCA, including Head Start.

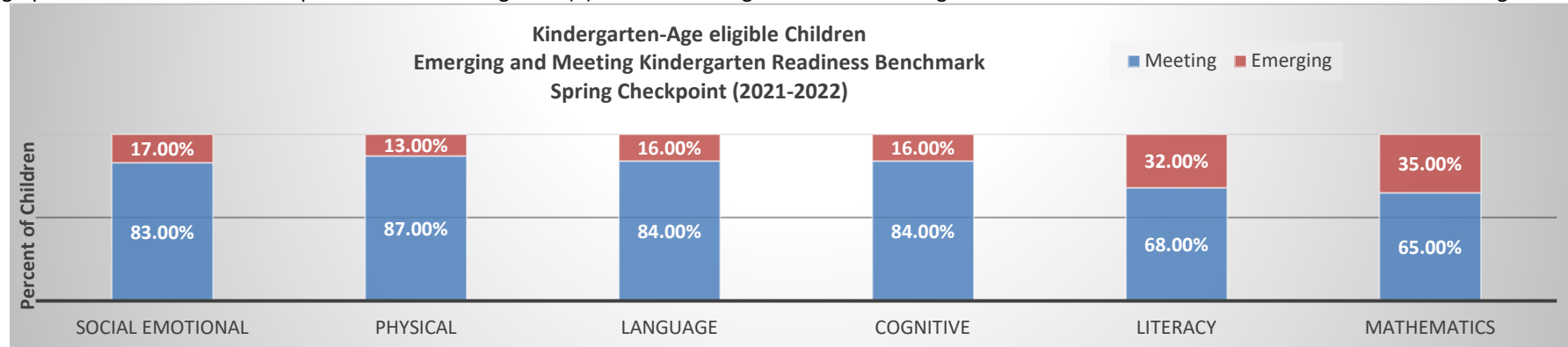
Monitoring Reviews - During the week of November 26, 2018, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) conducted a remote Focus Area-1 federal monitoring review of the Head Start and Early Head Start programs. The report followed in January of 2019 and showed no findings. The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) conducted the Focus Area-2 federal monitoring review the week of March 14, 2022. The monitoring review report followed April 22, 2022 with no areas of concern, no areas of non-compliance, and no deficiencies. The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Monitoring Review was completed during December 2019 with minor findings that were corrected.

Child Outcomes and School Readiness - To ensure school readiness, WCCA Head Start uses the Creative Curriculum in combination with the Teaching Strategies Gold Assessment System (TSG) to measure children’s progress throughout the program year. During the **2021-22** program year, children demonstrated significant progress and growth across all domains as illustrated in the tables below. The tables below demonstrate how the children are meeting and exceeding “widely held expectations” (typical developmental range for the age).

Domain	Three-Year-Old Children	
	Fall 2021 (Meeting & Exceeding)	Spring 2022 (Meeting & Exceeding)
Social Emotional	71%	94%
Physical Development	50%	100%
Language	59%	97%
Cognitive	65%	100%
Literacy	36%	93%
Mathematics	55%	97%

Four-Year-Old Children	
Fall 2021 (Meeting & Exceeding)	Spring 2022 (Meeting & Exceeding)
59%	89%
66%	91%
73%	89%
69%	92%
62%	92%
56%	86%

The graph below demonstrates the percent of children age five (5) who are are-eligible to enter kindergarten in fall and who meet the benchmark to enter kindergarten.



Family Engagement - Parent and family engagement in Head Start and Early Head Start is about building relationships with families that support family well-being; supporting strong relationships between parents and their children; and nurturing ongoing learning and development for both parent and children. This results in children who are healthy and ready for school. WCCA Head Start uses a locally-designed assessment to help parent identify strengths and needs at the beginning of the program year. Twice during the program year, WCCA uses a tool called Parent Gauge™, which allows us to take parents’ own words and concretely measure whether our efforts meet the needs of the families we serve. We offer opportunities for parents to attend our Parent Connect parenting group. We use a curriculum titled Parenting Now! which looks at the challenges of parenting and how parents can build on their strengths in order to have positive, enjoyable and healthy relationships with their children. We offer parent meetings and family engagement events at least 5 times a year for Head Start and Early Head Start families. These events give families the opportunity to connect with local resources. WCCA has a Policy Council made up of elected Head Start and Early Head Start parents. The Policy Council meets once a month to review program reports, receive updates on individual classrooms and programs, and make decisions that impact the Head Start and Early Head Start programs. This is a great chance for parents to develop leadership skills, network with other parents, advocate for children, and represent the voice of the children and parents in the program. During the 2021-22 program year, 154 Head Start and Early Head Start parents and guardians volunteered in our program in some capacity. This could include as a member of the Policy Council, attending classroom parent meetings, volunteering in the classroom, or participating in specific at-home activities with their child.