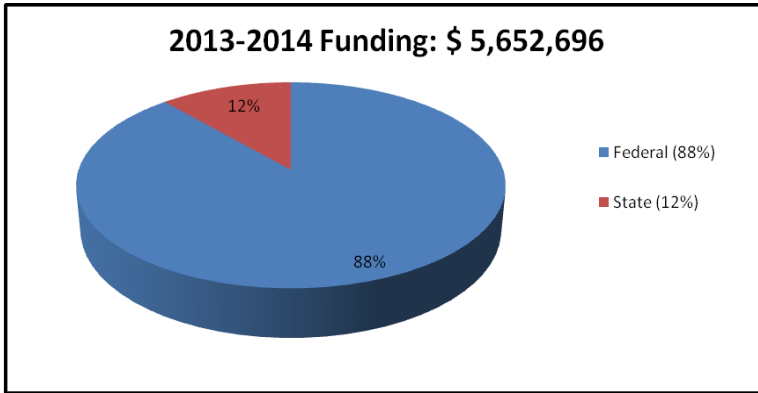




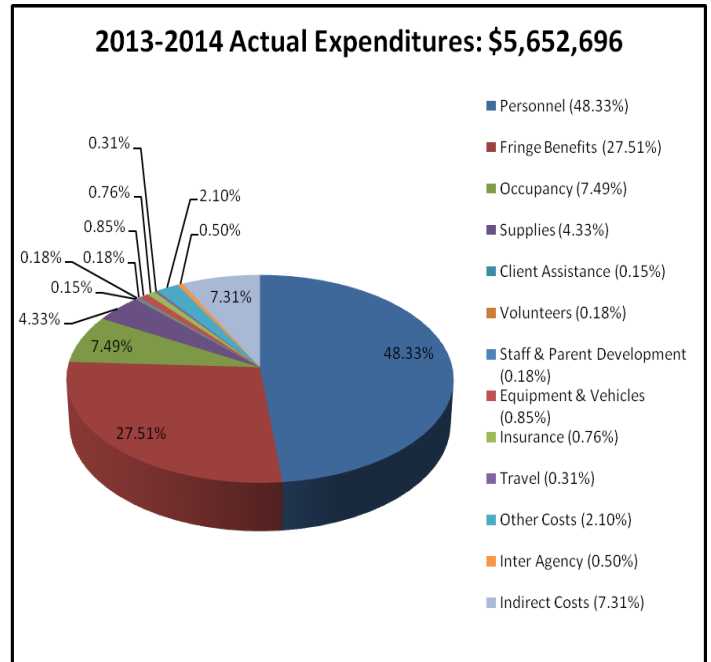
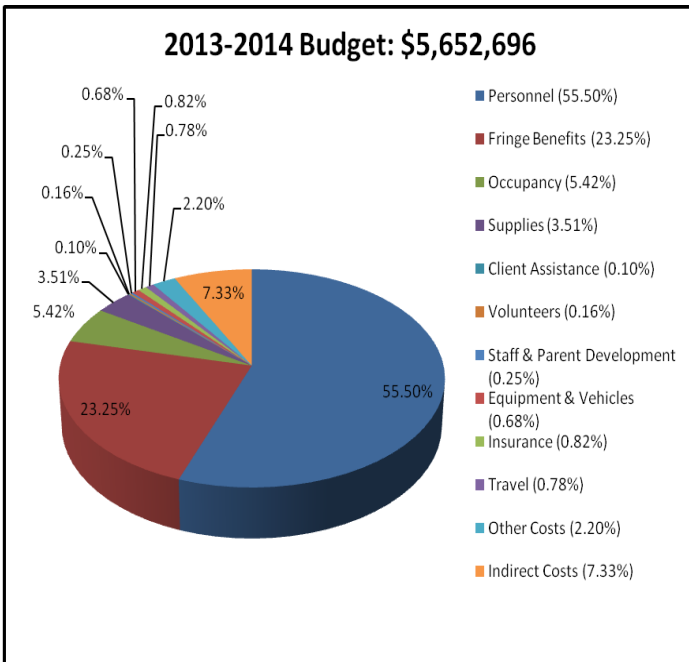
North Coast Opportunities, Inc.
 Head Start Child Development Program
Empowering children to reach their highest potential.

2013-2014 Annual Head Start Report



- Federal funding primarily comes from the Head Start Basic Grant (PA 22), Head Start Training Grant (PA 20), Early Head Start Basic Grant (PA 25), Early Head Start Training Grant (PA 26) and U.S.D.A. Food Program Reimbursements.
- State funding comes from reimbursements for CCTR and the State Preschool program, as well as from various grants.
- Funding from Private sources make up less than 1% of total funding.

Each Grant and Reimbursement Program has its own budget that is monitored and updated. The charts below include the combined budgets and expenses.



Most Recent Audit & Review

The results from the most recent financial audit were excellent. The result of the most recent Federal Monitoring Review (2013) found NCO's Head Start program to be in full compliance with all federal program regulations.

Eligibility, Enrollment and Children Receiving Services

NCO Head Start served 527 children (age birth - 4) and their families at 4 Head Start centers located in Lake County, 6 Head Start/Early Head Start centers located throughout Mendocino County and at 3 Early Head Start Home Based programs located in Fort Bragg, Ukiah and Willits. Six pregnant women were served in the Early Head Start home base program. NCO Head Start Child Development Program served approximately 19% of the eligible population. The monthly average enrollment was 100%.

Health Services

Provision of Head Start health services fell within 90 and 100% completion this year. Due to the continuing education of parents, the persistence of staff and the assistance of the Policy Council and Health Services Advisory Council, the program continued to increase percentages of lead tests completed. In the Early Head Start Program ninety-six percent (96%) of the children received well child checks and in the Head Start Program ninety-eight percent (98%) of the children received physicals exams. In the Early Head Start program ninety-eight percent (98%) of the children received dental exams and in Head Start Program ninety-eight percent (98%) of the children received dental exams. Local dentists donated their services last October and November.

Parent Involvement

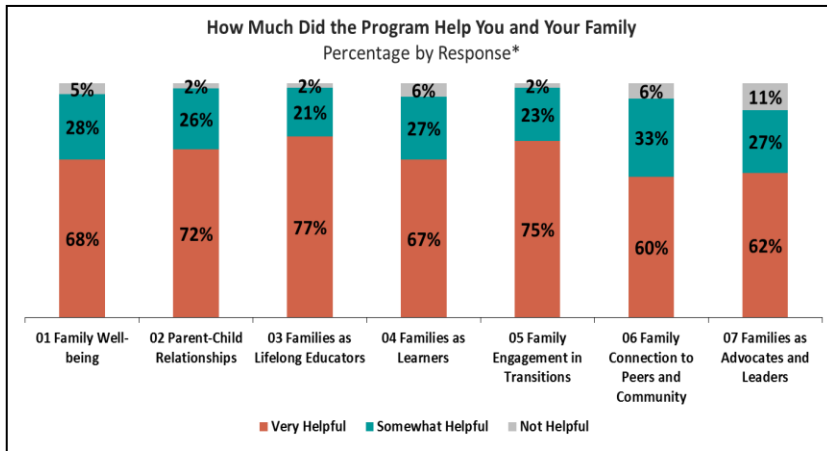
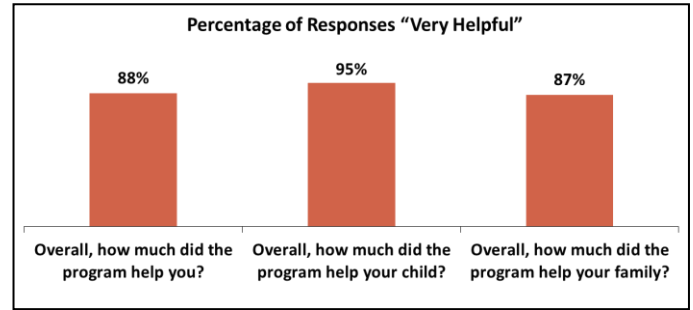
Head Start focuses on parent engagement in an effort to close the achievement gap and produce positive child outcomes. NCO Head Start acknowledges parents to be their child's first teacher and supports their efforts with weekly educational home activities for the children. Head Start provides a welcoming and comfortable environment for mothers and fathers with various opportunities for involvement including: Health Services Advisory Committee, Parent Committee, Program Policy Council, Parent Meetings, Socializations (Early Head Start) and volunteering in classrooms and gardens.

NCO Head Start staff builds partnerships with parents and encourages them to develop family goals and attend parent events. These events include: parent education sessions where parents learn about pedestrian safety, fire safety, employment/job training programs, the Positive Parenting Program (Triple P), how children learn, mental health/child behavior issues, family literacy, child abuse prevention, preparing healthy meals, good nutrition, community advocacy and planning for transition to kindergarten.

From its beginning Head Start used a dual-generation approach to involve the parents of enrolled children. Parent involvement is a part of a larger construct of family engagement framework, made of research-based strategies to progress in seven Parent and Family Engagement Outcomes. School Readiness is achieved **through** goal-directed relationships between staff and families that are mutual, culturally responsive, and that support what is best for children and families, both individually and collectively. Staff and families share responsibility for children's learning and development, the progress toward outcomes for children and families, and for parent involvement in the program.

Head Start Parent and Family Engagement Outcomes	
1. FAMILY WELL-BEING	Parents and families are safe, healthy, and have increased financial security.
2. POSITIVE PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIPS	Beginning with transitions to parenthood, parents and families develop warm relationships that nurture their child's learning and development.
3. FAMILIES AS LIFELONG EDUCATORS	Parents and families observe, guide, promote, and participate in the everyday learning of their children at home, school, and in their communities.
4. FAMILIES AS LEARNERS	Parents and families advance their own learning interests through education, training and other experiences that support their parenting, careers, and life goals.
5. FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IN TRANSITIONS	Parents and families support and advocate for their child's learning and development as they transition to new learning environments, including EHS to HS, EHS/HS to other early learning environments, and HS to kindergarten through elementary school.
6. FAMILY CONNECTIONS TO PEERS AND COMMUNITY	Parents and families form connections with peers and mentors in formal or informal social networks that are supportive and/or educational and that enhance social well-being and community life.
7. FAMILIES AS ADVOCATES AND LEADERS	Parents and families participate in leadership development, decision-making, program policy development, or in community and state organizing activities to improve children's development and learning experiences.

During the spring of 2014, 304 parents and guardians of children enrolled in the NCO HSCDP program completed a survey about how they and their families benefited from the variety of services they received. Overwhelmingly, parents and guardians found NCO services very helpful. 88% reported that they found the program very helpful to them personally. 87% reported that they found the program very helpful for their families. These results are a strong testament from the respondents about how much the NCO contributes to their families' well-being.



While there is always room for improvement, the overall message from the survey was that the NCOHSCDP is doing an excellent job serving the needs of the families whose children are enrolled in the program. The program has done a good job aligning its services to the needs of the families served. Further improvement will likely come from the fine tuning of services – perhaps targeting the small pockets of unmet needs or investigating why some groups are not benefiting as much from the program as others.

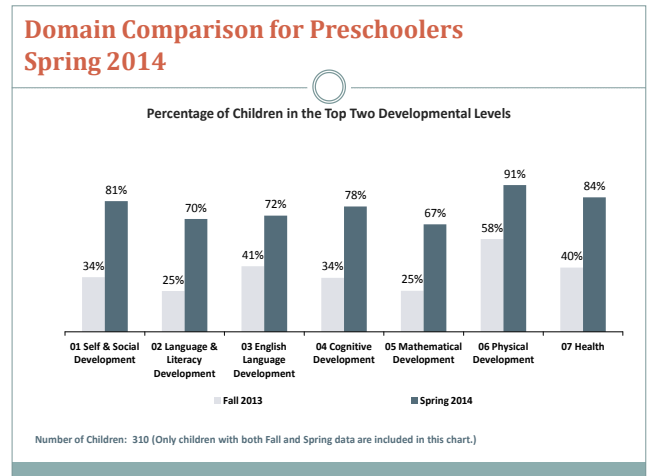
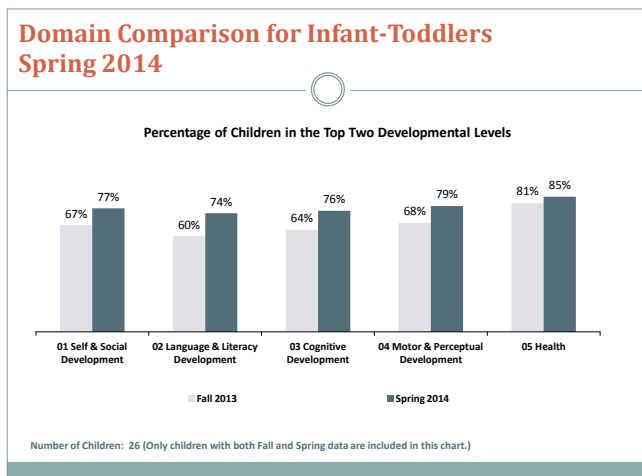
Kindergarten Transition/School Readiness

Kindergarten readiness is a high priority for Head Start programs. Head Start's approach to school readiness means that children are ready for school and families support their children's learning.



The Head Start program partners with parents in establishing kindergarten readiness goals that support children's progress across five early childhood learning domains. These domains include (1) language & literacy (2) thinking skills and general knowledge, (3) approaches towards learning, (4) physical well-being & motor development, and (5) social and emotional development. These domains apply to infants, toddlers and preschool-aged children and represent a critical area of learning and development for young children. All goals are aligned with the Head Start Frame Work, State Early Learning Standards, Program Performance Measures and local school expectations.

NCO Head Start measures school readiness three times each year using data from the Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP). Based on the results of the 2013-14 DRDP infants, toddlers and preschoolers demonstrated gains across all learning domains.



NCO Head Start staff work in partnership with parents, school districts, and the community, to ensure all children are equipped with the necessary life-long skills to be successful in the public school setting and in life. Kindergarten transition activities are developed and implemented by the center staff (Site Supervisor, Teachers, and Family Support Specialist) and parents to support kindergarten transition planning and preparation throughout the school year. The main focus of kindergarten transition is to facilitate a smooth transition to the public school setting.

Transition activities and events include:

- Quarterly meetings with school principals and kindergarten teachers.
- Math and literacy nights at school sites.
- School principals and kindergarten teachers attending Head Start parent meetings with the opportunity for parents to ask questions.

During parent/teacher conferences, Head Start teachers complete a “Transition Summary” form with parents that includes information about the child’s growth and development. Teachers provide parents with resources such as "Connecting Head Start Parents to the Public School Setting" (tips for the parents on how to help their child prepare for kindergarten during the summer as well as for themselves) and “101 Days of Summer”, a learning activities booklet for use during the summer break.

The chart below reveals the impact on children’s learning that can be attributed to the NCO Head Start Child Development Program during the 2013-2014 school year.

