



Head Start Child Development Program 2017-2018 Annual Report

The North Coast Opportunities, Inc. Head Start Child Development Program (NCO HSCDP) is a non-profit agency offering a comprehensive, family-focused child development program. The program focuses on positive child and family outcomes to close the achievement gap, and to build a better future for children, families and their communities. Services are offered in both English and Spanish.

The program serves low-income pregnant women and children birth to five years of age in Lake and Mendocino counties. Ten percent of the program's enrollment must be children with a certified disability. Another ten percent of our enrollment may be children whose family income exceeds the federal poverty guidelines.

Preschool Services

NCO HSCDP provides a safe and supportive place where children ages 3-5 can attend preschool and develop intellectually, socially, emotionally and physically in a positive setting. We'll help your children master the fundamentals of early learning so that they'll be better prepared for elementary school. Our staff members carefully tend to every important detail so that each child can enjoy a beneficial learning experience while honoring the parent as the child's primary teacher.

Infant & Toddler Care

NCO HSCDP provides your infants and toddlers (ages 0-3) with the activities that help them grow mentally, socially, emotionally and physically. These experiences set a secure foundation for your children's later success in school. You will help your child's teacher or home base educator in setting goals for your child's learning. We offer services in two different ways, in our center base option or our home base option.

Center Base

NCO HSCDP provides a safe and supportive place where children ages 0-3 can participate in a child development program where they can grow and learn in a positive setting. We do this by assigning one caregiver to your child or small group of children to serve as the primary source of care, this provides the time and intimacy for your child's need to learn about themselves and form meaningful relationships. Our staff members carefully tend to every important detail so that each child can enjoy a beneficial experience while honoring the parent as the child's primary teacher.

Home Base

NCO HSCDP home visits provide comprehensive services to support and strengthen the relationships between you and your infant or toddler. The strength and quality of these relationships are essential for your child's optimal developmental outcomes during this period of rapid social, emotional, physical, and cognitive development. We support your relationships and your child's development in a combination of ways:

By honoring that the parent is the child's primary teacher;

By participating in weekly home visits with one of our home base educators where together, you watch and think about your child, and help your child learn using your families' interactions, daily routines, and household materials; and

By attending socializations twice a month where you can meet and connect with other families.

Services to Pregnant Women

A healthy pregnancy has a direct influence on the health and development of a child. NCO HSCDP provides weekly services to pregnant women and expectant families in a home-base program.

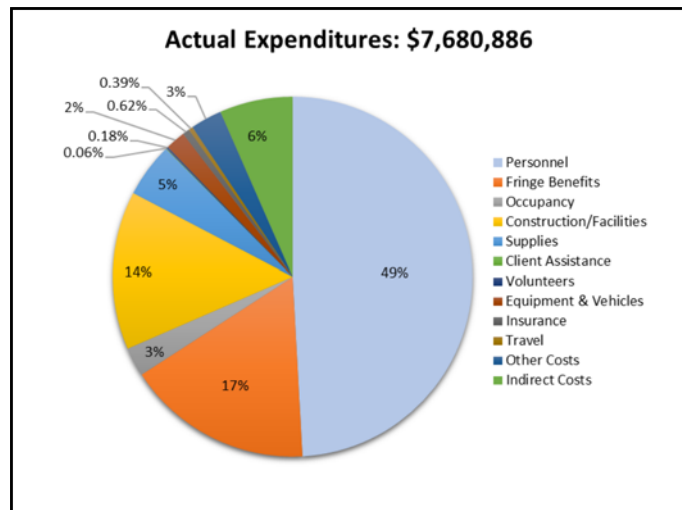
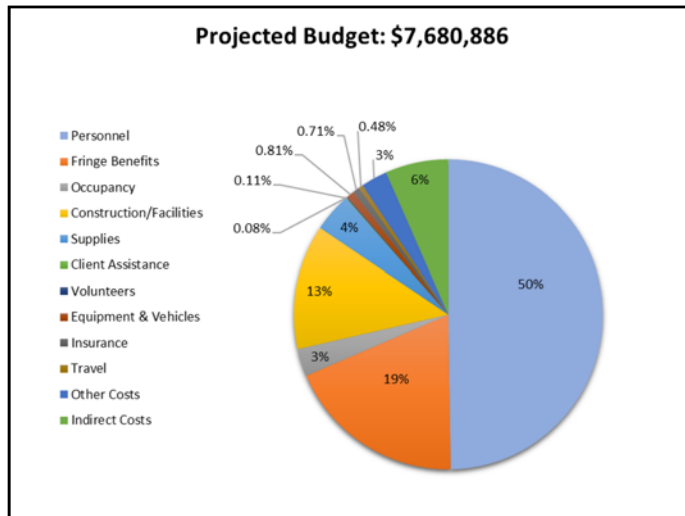
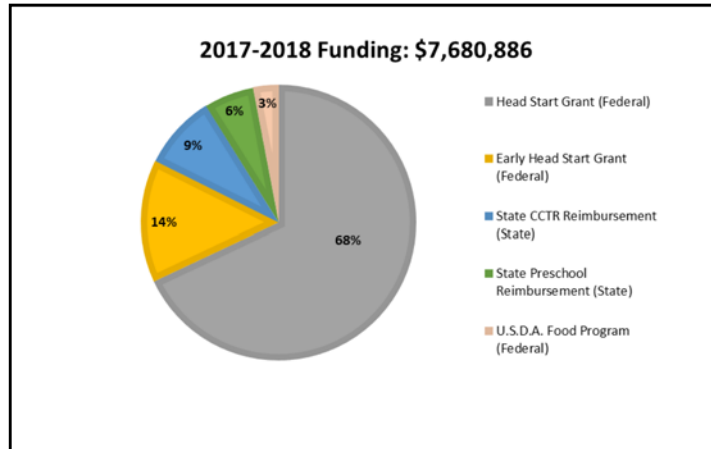
We provide early, continuous support and services to give the best opportunity for:

- healthy pregnancies and positive childbirth outcomes;
- supportive postpartum care for the parents and child;
- fathers to become fully involved in the lives of their very young children;
- supporting and enhancing parent child attachments; and
- parents to develop as nurturing and responsive caregivers during infancy.

It is the intention of NCO HSCDP to serve pregnant women and their families and to provide services for the child and family upon delivery.

Income and Budgetary Expenditures

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 found NCO finances to be in order. The outcome of the most recent Federal Monitoring Review (2018) found the program to have met the requirements of all applicable Head Start Program Performance Standards, laws, regulations, and policy requirements.

Eligibility, Enrollment and Children Receiving Services

The program served 437 children (age birth - 5) and their families at four (4) Head Start centers located in Lake County, six (6) Head Start/Early Head Start centers located throughout Mendocino County and at two (2) Early Head Start Home Based programs located in Fort Bragg and Ukiah. One pregnant woman was served in the Early Head Start Home Base program. The program served approximately 23% of the eligible population. The monthly average enrollment was 100%.



Health Services

The program's health services fell 96% within and 100% completion this year. Due to the continuing education for 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 Early Head Start 96% of the children received well child checks and in Head Start 99% of the children received physicals exams. In Early Head Start 98% of the children received dental exams and in Head Start 99% of the children received dental exams. Local dentists donated their services last September and October.

Parent Involvement

The program focuses on parent engagement in an effort to close the achievement gap and produce positive child outcomes. The program acknowledges parents to be their child's first teacher and supports their efforts with weekly educational home activities for the children. The program 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.

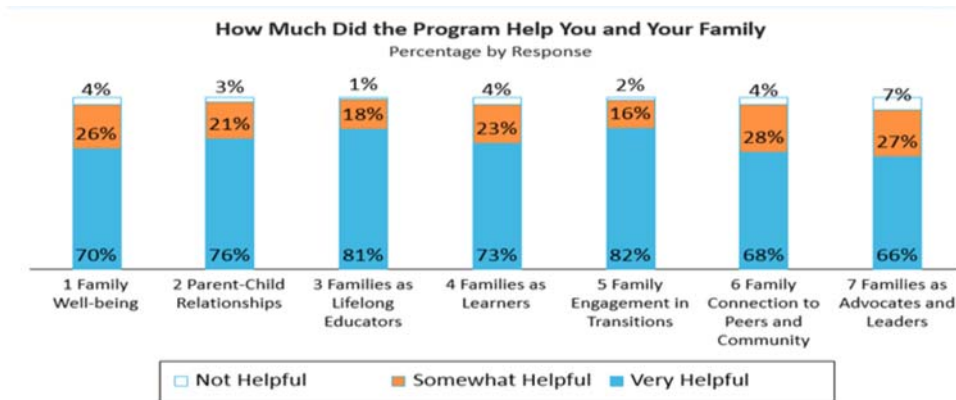
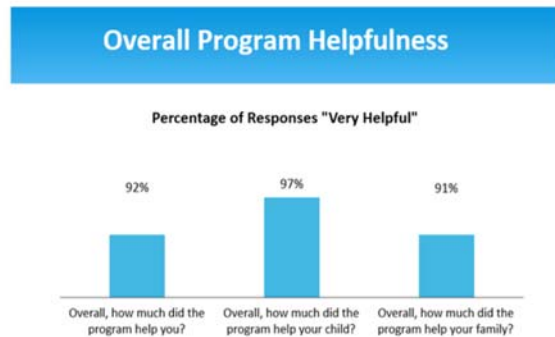
Program staff builds partnerships with parents and encourages them to develop family goals and attend parent events. These events include: parent education sessions where parents learn about pedestrian safety, fire safety, employment/job training programs, the Positive Parenting Program (Triple P), how 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 the program has 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 resulting 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.

In the spring of the 2017-2018 school year, 381 parents and guardians of children enrolled in the program completed a survey about how they and their families benefited from the variety of services they received. Overwhelmingly, parents and guardians found the program services very helpful. 97% reported that they found the program very helpful to their children, 92% reported that they found the program very helpful to themselves personally, and 91% reported that they found the program very helpful to their families. These results are a strong testament from the respondents about how much the program contributes to their families' well-being.



While there is always room for improvement, the overall message from the survey was that the program 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

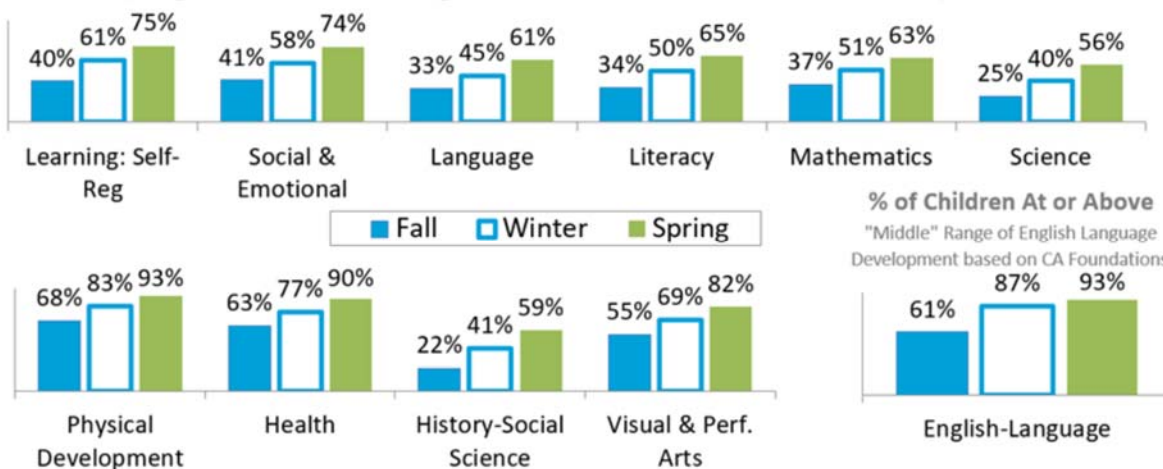


Kindergarten readiness is a high priority for all Head Starts. The Head Start approach to school readiness means that children are ready for school and families support their children's learning.

The program partners with parents in establishing kindergarten readiness goals that support children's progress across five early childhood learning domains. These domains include (1) Approaches to Learning (2) Social and Emotional Development, (3) Language and Literacy, (4) Cognition, including math and science and (5) Physical Development, Health. 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 Early Learning Outcomes Framework, State Early Learning Standards, Program Performance Measures and local school expectations.

The program measures school readiness three times each year using data from the Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP 2015). Based on the results of the 2017-2018 DRDP infants, toddlers and preschoolers demonstrated gains across all learning domains.

Preschoolers Domain Comparison Spring 2018
Percentage of children at Age Specific Developmental Level



Program staff works in partnership with parents, school districts, and the community, to ensure all children are equipped with the necessary 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:

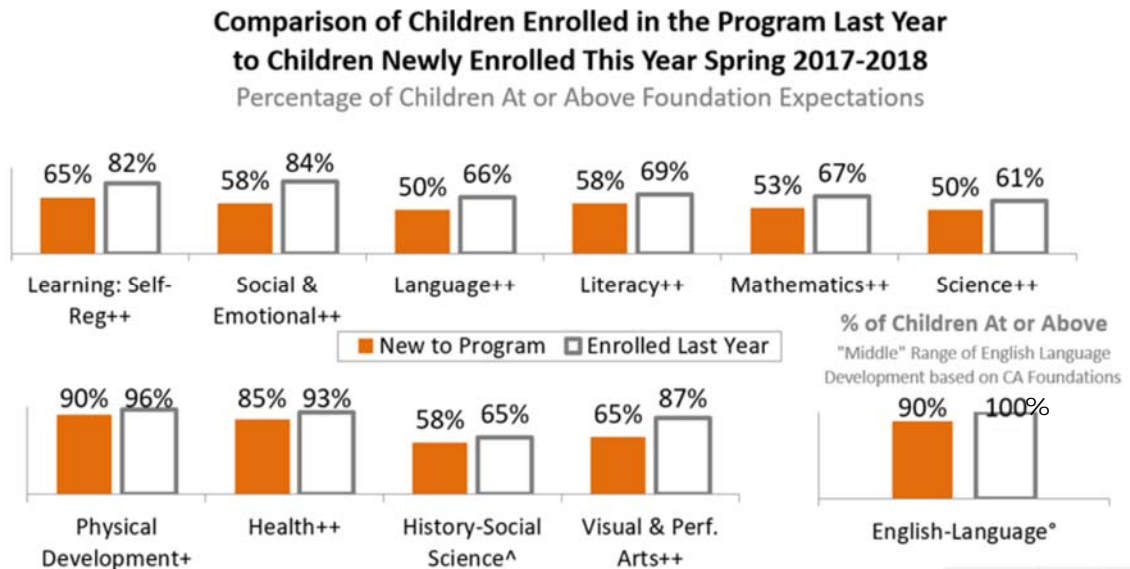
- ◇ Quarterly meetings with school principals and kindergarten teachers.
- ◇ Math and literacy nights at school sites.
- ◇ School principals and kindergarten teachers attending Head Start parent meetings with the opportunity for parents to ask questions.

During parent/teacher conferences, teachers and parents complete a "Transition Summary" form that includes information about their 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 program during the 2017-2018 school year.

The Increased Probability of Being School Ready because of NCO Head Start Child Development Program





*Empowering children to reach
their highest potential since 1968.*

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