



**NCO Head Start**  
Child Development Program

North Coast Opportunities, Inc.  
Head Start Child Development Program

2018-2019 Annual Head Start Report

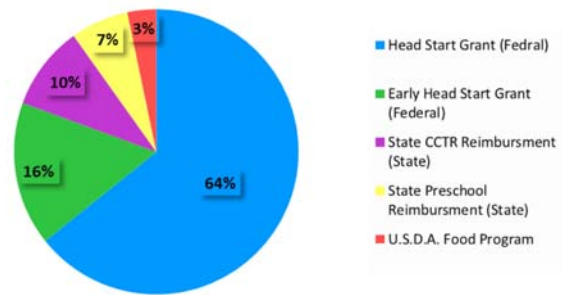
The Head Start Act requires that each Head Start agency shall make available to the public an annual report. We are pleased to present to the community the 2018-2019 NCO Head Start Child Development Program Annual Report.

About Us

The North Coast Opportunities, Inc. Head Start Child Development Program (NCO HSCDP) is a non-profit agency offering a family-focused holistic approach to child development. 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.

**2018-2019 Funding \$7,315,389**



Income and Budgetary Expenditures

Each Grant and Reimbursement Program has its own budget that is monitored and updated. The charts below

2018/2019 Projected/Actual Budgets				
Catagories	Budget	Budget %	Actual	Actual %
Total Personnel	\$ 5,410,902	74.0%	\$ 5,297,469	72.4%
Occupancy	\$ 673,291	9.2%	\$ 752,600	10.3%
Supplies	\$ 273,947	3.7%	\$ 345,654	4.7%
Client Assistance	\$ 6,020	0.1%	\$ 4,847	0.1%
Volunteers	\$ 8,761	0.1%	\$ 12,345	0.2%
Equipment and Vehicles	\$ 108,169	1.5%	\$ 157,324	2.2%
Insurance	\$ 64,209	0.9%	\$ 44,641	0.6%
Travel	\$ 27,470	0.4%	\$ 31,670	0.4%
Other Costs	\$ 176,891	2.4%	\$ 130,027	1.8%
Indirect Costs	\$ 565,729	7.7%	\$ 538,812	7.4%
	<b>\$ 7,315,389</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$ 7,315,389</b>	<b>100%</b>

## 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 341 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 one (1) Early Head Start Home Based programs located in Mendocino County. Two pregnant women were served in the Early Head Start Home Base program. The program served approximately 15% of the eligible population. The monthly average enrollment was 100%.

## Health Services

The program's health services fell within 97% 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 97% of the children received well child checks and in Head Start 100% of the children received physicals exams. In Early Head Start 97% of the children received dental exams and in Head Start 99% of the children received dental exams.



## Parent Involvement

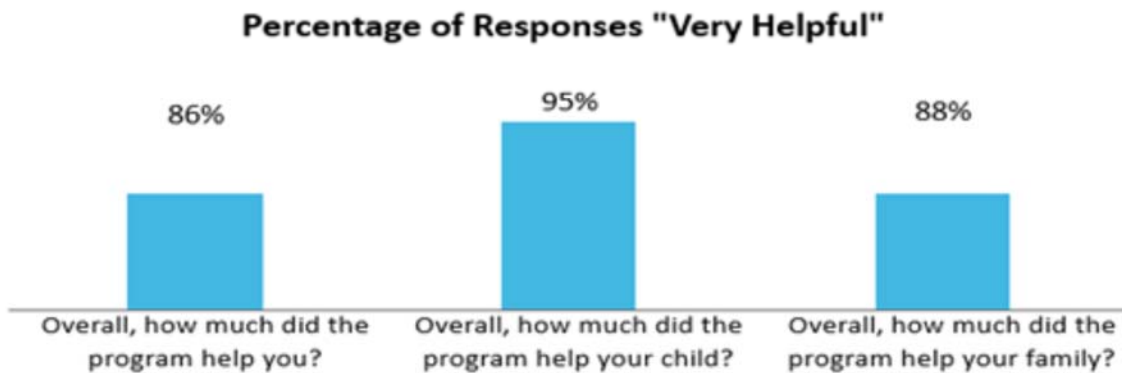
The program focuses on family engagement and school readiness in an effort to produce positive child outcomes. The program acknowledges parents to be their child's first teacher and supports their efforts with weekly educational home activities for the children. The program provides a welcoming and comfortable environment for families 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. 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: Family Well Being, Positive Parent-Child Relationships, Families as Lifelong Educators, Families as Learners, Family Engagement in Transitions, Family Connections to Peers and Community, and Families as Advocates and Leaders. 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.

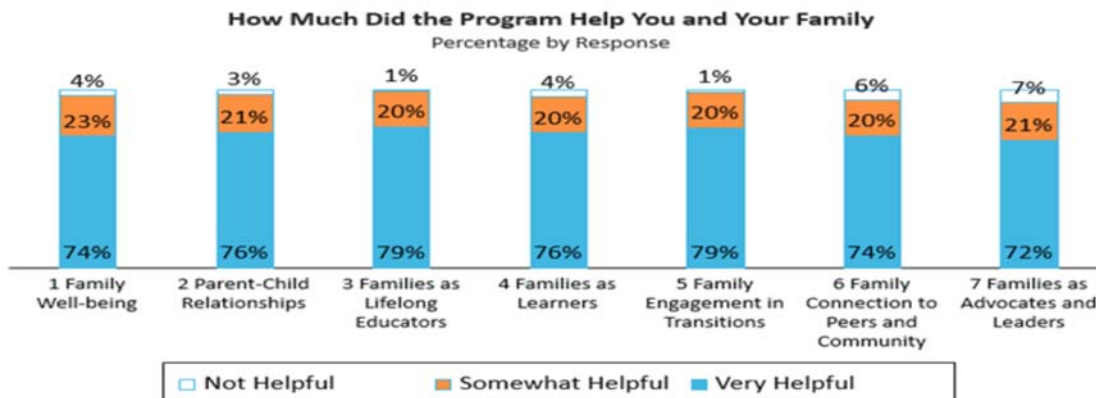


In the spring of the 2018-2019 school year, 350 parents and guardians of children enrolled in the program completed a survey about how they and their families benefited from the variety of services they received. Overwhelmingly, parents and guardians found the program's services very helpful. 95% reported that they found the program very helpful to their children, 86% reported that they found the program very helpful to themselves personally, and 88% 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.

## Overall Program Helpfulness



## Program Helpfulness by Outcome Area



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

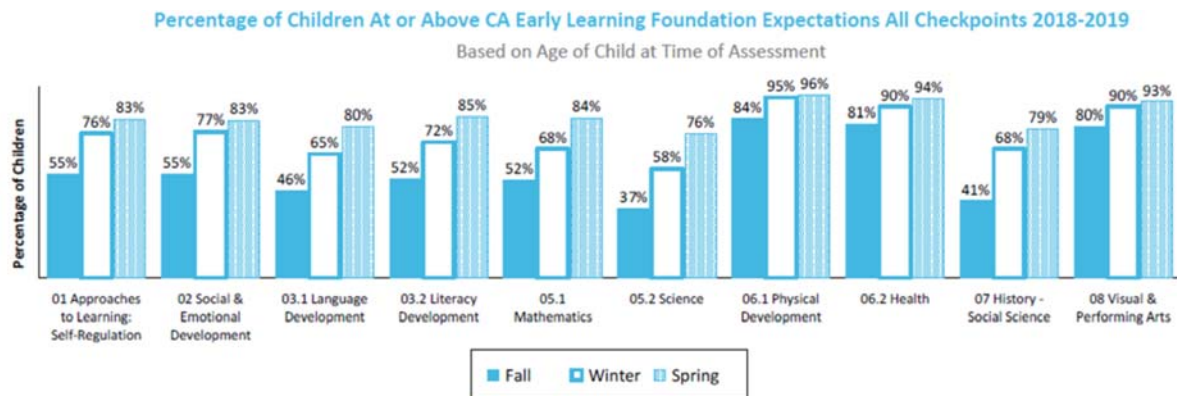
Kindergarten readiness is a high priority for all Head Starts. The Head Start approach to school readiness means that children are ready for school and families support their children’s learning.

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 Frame Work, State Early Learning Standards, Program Performance Measures and local school expectations.

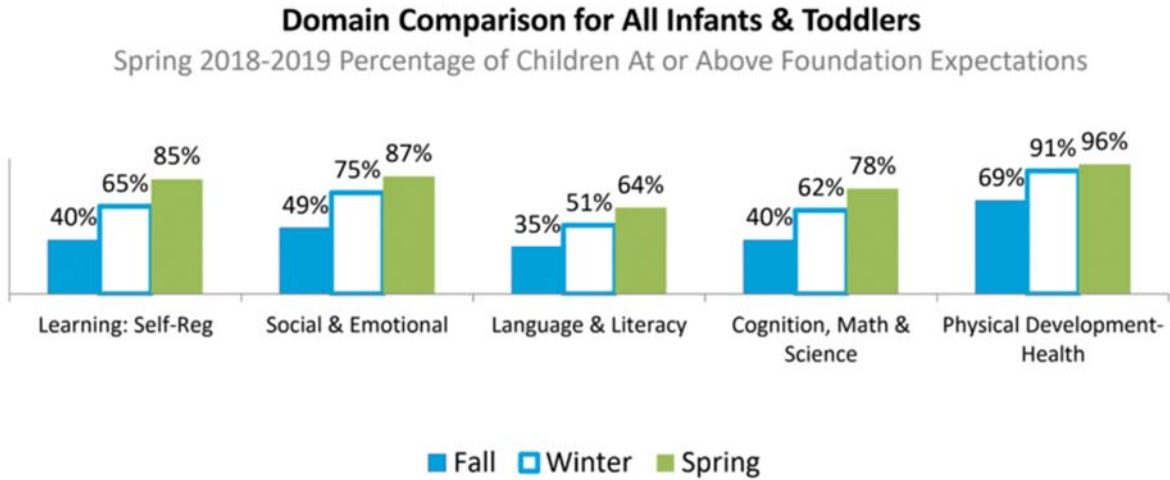
The program measures school readiness three times each year using data from the Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP 2015). Based on the results of the 2018-2019 DRDP infants, toddlers and preschoolers demonstrated gains across all learning domains.



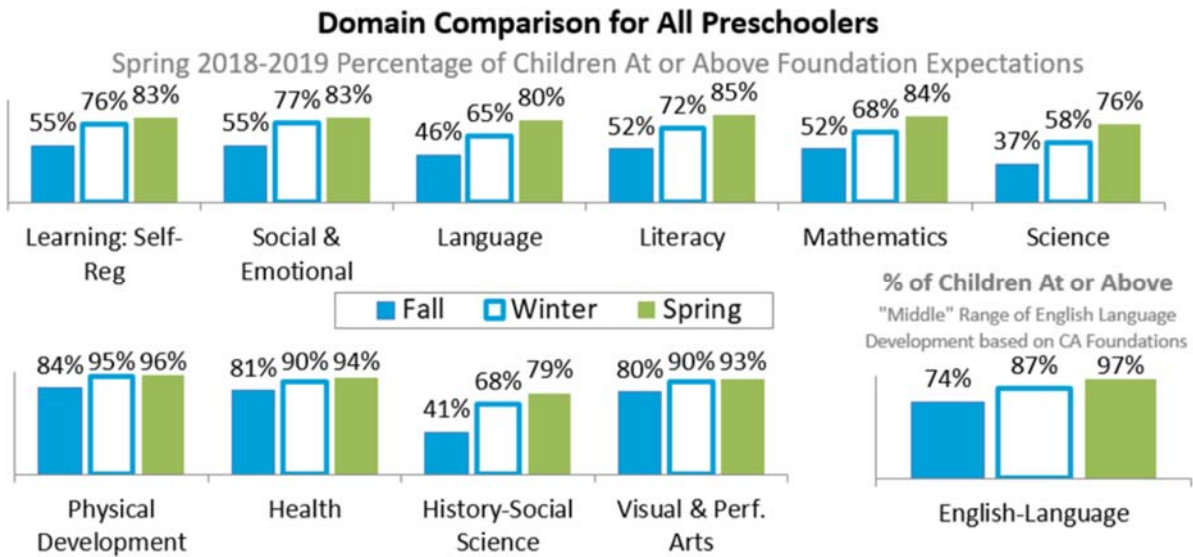
### Program wide (all children) Domain Comparison Spring 2019 Percentage of children at Age Specific Developmental Level



**Infants & Toddlers Domain Comparison Spring 2019**  
 Percentage of children at Age Specific Developmental Level

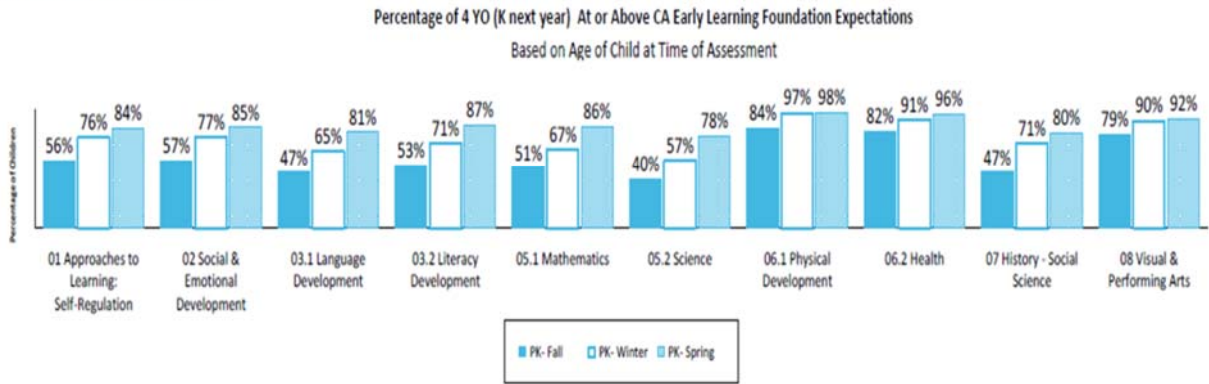


**Preschoolers Domain Comparison Spring 2019**



## 4-Year-Old children going to Kindergarten Domain Comparison Spring 2019 Percentage of children at Age Specific Developmental Level

### DOMAIN LEVEL RESULTS



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. Teachers provide parents with resources such as "Connecting Head Start Parents to the Public School Setting" and "101 Days of Summer", a learning activities booklet for use during the summer break.



## Summary of 2018 Community Needs Assessment

The number of age and income eligible children in Lake County increased by approximately 7% (3-4 year olds) and in Mendocino County (0-4 year olds), it increased by around 11%.

The unemployment rate has decreased by about 1% in both counties and the median income has slightly increased. This may be due to more people being employed and also wages increasing due to the California minimum wage requirement (increasing each year until it reaches \$15/hour).

Tk-12th grade enrollment has been steady for the last five years for the major school districts in both Mendocino and Lake counties, except for Konocti which has seen a steady increase in enrollment.

T-K enrollment has increased by 15% in Lake County, while T-K enrollment in Mendocino County remains about the same. Based on Head Start 2017-18 enrollment data, about 60% of the children enrolled in Lake County who turned 5 on or after September 2nd are transitioning to T-K. As for Mendocino County, 75% of the children enrolled turning 5 on or after September 2nd are transitioning to T-K.

Availability of licensed child care data is showing that there are low-income priority slots available in both counties and not all are at full capacity. Lake County has 25 operating child care centers of which only 467 of the 681 total slots (68%) are reserved for low-income families. As for Mendocino County, it has 38 child care centers of which 657 of the 1119 total slots (58%) are reserved for low-income families.

According to the Point-in-time Homeless Counts conducted 2017, the rate of homelessness in both counties continues to increase. Between 2016 and 2017, there has been a 20.8% increase in homelessness in Lake County and in Mendocino County, the numbers remained relatively the same.

According to CalFire incident information reports, the Redwood Valley and Sulfur fires (Mendocino Lake Complex) from October 2017, burned 38,730 acres and destroyed 708 structures and damaged 52. This year in July 2018, the Mendocino Complex Fire burned in Lake, Mendocino, Colusa and Glenn County, and it has been the largest fire in California history. This fire burned 459,183 acres and it destroyed 303 residences and 241 other structures, causing many families to lose their homes.

## Analysis

Currently, HSCDP is experiencing enrollment challenges because there are a limited number of income-eligible families. In addition to HSCDP competing with other state preschool centers to fill slots in both Lake and Mendocino counties, HSCDP is also competing with transitional kindergarten. Many children are not returning to Head Start because families are choosing to enroll their children in T-K. Another important factor that contributes to this challenge is California's minimum wage increasing annually which was implemented to begin in 2017. Due to wages increasing, many families who were eligible for Head Start services are no longer qualifying because they are not meeting the low-income federal guidelines and yet the increase in wages has not afforded them to pay for private preschool. The increase of minimum wage has also affected our staff recruitment and retention because many people are choosing to go into other fields of study/labor that pay more. Despite the issue of homelessness and the tragic outcomes of the most recent fires, there is not enough available research that demonstrates that families are moving out of the area for the reason of lack of housing. Despite the challenges, NCO Head Start Child Development Program continues to pursue new strategies to aid in the rigorous staff and family recruitment efforts.



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

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