



NCO Head Start

Child Development Program



www.ncoheadstart.org

ANNUAL REPORT

2022–2023

2022-2023 Annual 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 2022-2023 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 build a better future for children, families, and their communities. Services are offered in both English and Spanish.

The program serves low-income pregnant people and children from 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.

During the 2022-2023 school year, HSCDP operated in-person services for the entire school year. Distance learning services were only utilized during cases of short-term classroom closures or individual child/family needs due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



2022-2023 Funding

The total funding for the 2022-2023 school year was \$9,358,547

- 58% Head Start Grant
- 13% Early Head Start Grant
- 11% State CCTR Reimbursement
- 9% State Preschool Reimbursement
- 4% U.S.D.A Food Program EHS &HS
- 5% Quality Improvement & Cost of Living Adjustment

Categories	Budget	Budget %	Actual	Actual %
Personnel (Total)	6,831,013	75.0%	6,593,406	72.5%
Occupancy	781,608	8.6%	823,270	9.0%
Supplies	330,547	3.6%	351,421	3.9%
Client Assistance	6,520	<1%	1,016	<1%
Volunteers	8,511	<1%	7,569	<1%
Equipment & Vehicles	109,365	1.2%	177,846	1.9%
Insurance	57,624	<1%	47,606	<1%
Travel	33,712	<1%	35,341	<1%
Other Costs (Total)	218,703	2.4%	340,742	3.8%
Indirect Costs (Total)	733,822	8.0%	719,278	7.9%
TOTAL	9,111,425	100%	9,097,495	100%



Special Budgets

The program received the American Recovery Plan (ARP) grant in the amount of \$408,007 spanning from April 2021- March 2023. To support our staff receiving equivalent and equal pay, this ARP budget was used to pay staff an ongoing retention increase.



Most Recent Audit & Review

The results from the most recent financial audit found that NCO finances were 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 300 participants, 297 children aged 0-5 and 3 pregnant people including their families. Participants were served at four Head Start centers located in Lake County, six Head Start / Early Head Start centers and one Early Head Start Home Based program located throughout Mendocino County. The average monthly enrollment for the 2022-2023 school year was 75% for Head Start, and 82% for Early Head Start. The program served 13.6% of the eligible population of 0-5 children and pregnant people in the community.

Health Services

In Early Head Start, 98% of children received well-child checks, and in Head Start, 81% of children received physical exams. 100% of Early Head Start and 100% of Head Start children received dental exams. Well-child check rates of completion for Head Start children are lower than the previous year due to providers not including blood pressure readings on the well-child checks. The Health Services Manager plans to provide blood pressure screenings to children whose blood pressure readings are missing on their well child checks if this reoccurs in the next program year. Dental screenings for children were up from last year due to our program providing on-site screening twice a year with a registered dental hygienist.

Parent Involvement

The program focuses on family/household engagement and school readiness in an effort to produce positive child outcomes. The program acknowledges the parent/guardian(s) to be their child's first teacher and supports their efforts with weekly educational home activities for 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. For the 2022-2023 program year 300 parent/guardian(s) participated in classroom volunteering, Program Policy Council, Home Activities for School Readiness and/or other volunteering activities.

Program staff build partnerships with the parent/guardian(s) and encourage them to develop family goals and attend parent events. For the 2022-2023 program year, 96% of all families set and completed at least one Family Goal.

From its beginning, the program has used a dual-generation approach to involve the parent/guardian(s) 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.

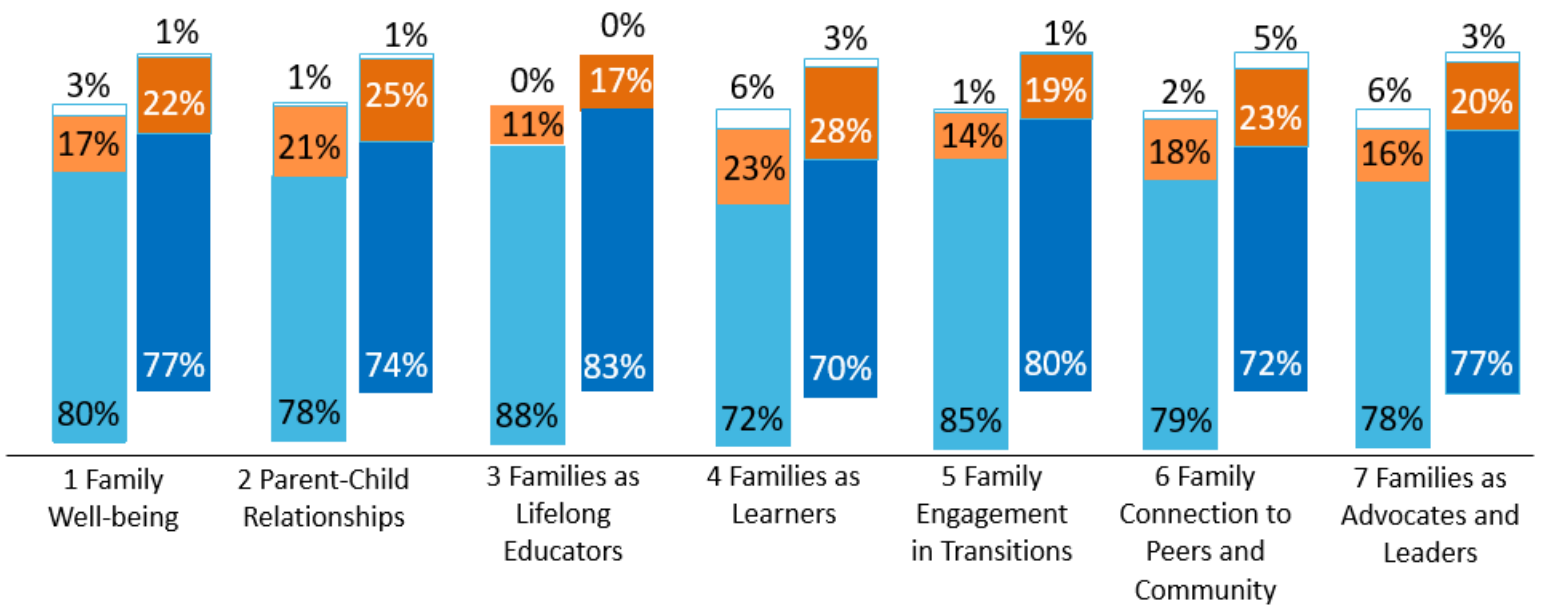
Schools Readiness is achieved through goal-directed relationships between staff and families that are mutual, culturally responsive, and that support what is best for children and families, both individually and collectively. Staff and families share responsibility for children's learning and development, the progress toward outcomes for children and families, and for parent/guardian(s) involvement in the program.

For the 2022-2023 program year, 91% of families completed the end of year parent survey.

The following chart is a comparison of the 2022-2023 and 2021-2022 program years, showing the improvements made in the support of families across the Parent and Family Engagement Outcome areas.

How Much did the Program Help You and Your Family by Outcome Area

Percentage by Response



2022-23 ■ Very Helpful ■ Somewhat Helpful Did not need help
2021-22 ■ Very Helpful ■ Somewhat Helpful Did not need help

School Readiness

School readiness is a high priority for all Head Starts. Program staff works in partnership with the parent/guardian(s), 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. We build on children's strengths and individualize experiences to meet their personal needs, including supporting the child's home language.

The program partners with parent/guardian(s) in establishing school 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
5. Physical Development and Health



These domains apply to infants, toddlers, and preschool-aged children. They 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.

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 through the school year. The 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 “100 Days of Summer”, a series of learning activities and family engagements to do during the summer break.

The following tables show the readiness of Head Start children to enter Kindergarten.

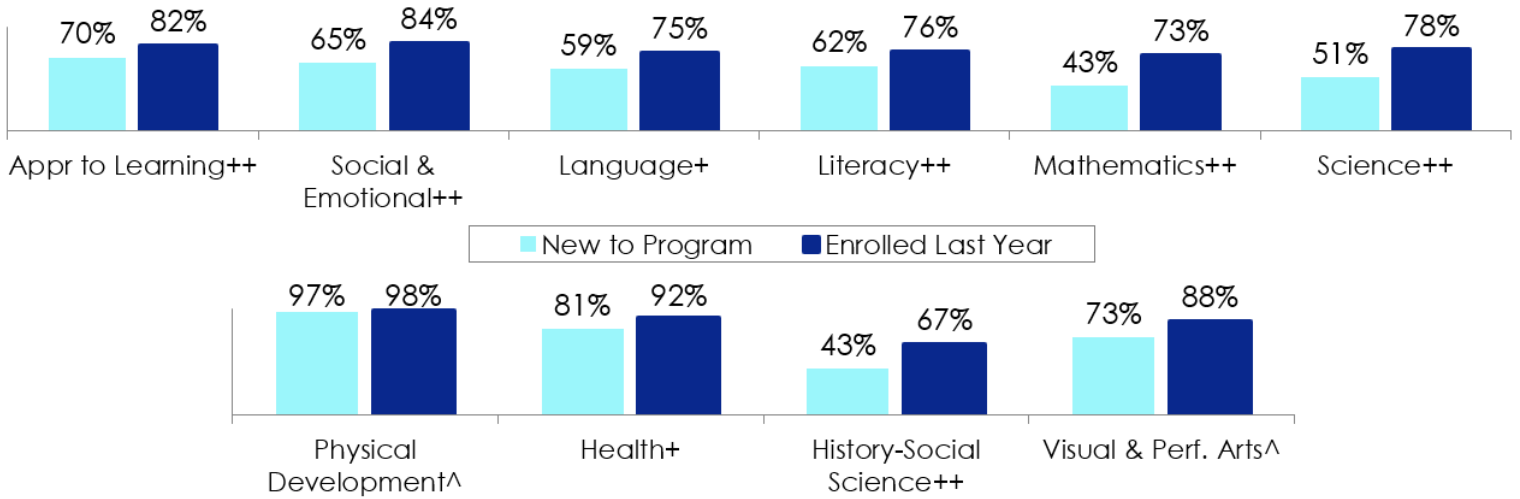
Head Start

Percentage of children at Age Specific Developmental Level

Comparison of Children Enrolled in the Program Last Year to Children Newly Enrolled This Year Spring 2022-2023

4 Yr Old (K in 2023) - Program Impact

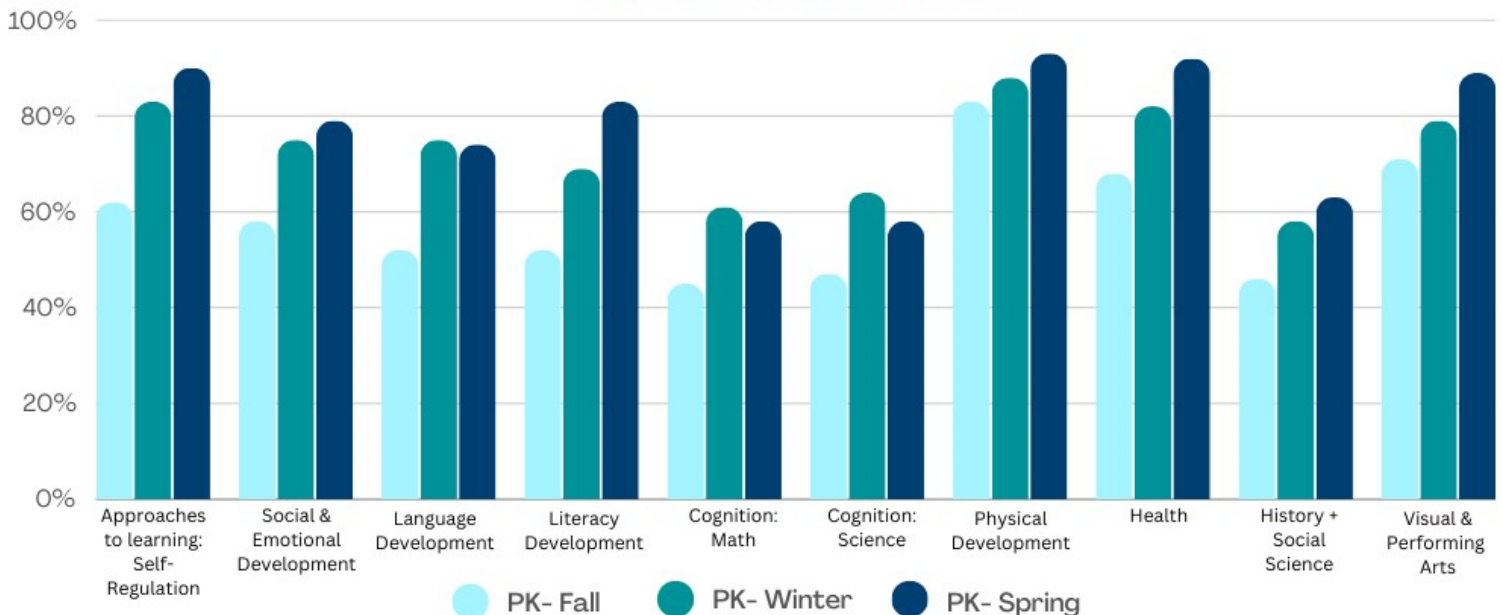
Percentage of Children At or Above Foundation Expectations



- ^ There is no statistically significant difference between the 2 groups.
- + There is a 90% or greater confidence level that the difference is statistically significant.
- ++ There is a 95% or greater confidence level that the difference is statistically significant.

PERCENTAGE OF 4 YO (K NEXT YEAR) AT OR ABOVE CA EARLY LEARNING FOUNDATION EXPECTATIONS

Based on Age of Child at Time of Assessment



Summary of 2023 Community Needs Assessment

- Population explosion: average 1,000 increase in the last five years and from the most recent Census Report there has been a 3,000-4,000 increase.
- Income and minimum wage increased for both counties, reducing the percentage of individuals in poverty in our communities as per state poverty guidelines.
- Unemployment rates for both Mendocino and Lake County have increased by 2%.
- The hourly wage needed to cover basic household expenses plus all relevant taxes for a household of one adult and two children are \$47.49 for Mendocino and \$45.26 for Lake County.
- o There are 3.5% less income eligible children in Mendocino County compared to last year's numbers (8.9% decrease in 2023 and 5.4% decrease in 2022).
- For a family of three, the WIC income qualified cap is at \$42,606 as of April 2022. Both counties for median household and family income now start at an average \$53,000 (refer to table #3).
- Childcare Cost Burden for both counties for a household with two children as a percent of median household income is 35%.
- Three-bedroom rental for Mendocino County increased by 16% and 41% for Lake County.
- Student K-12 Homeless Population increased 58% in Mendocino County and 124% for Lake County.
- Transitional Kindergarten (TK) enrollment has increased 15.4% in Lake County and 8% in Mendocino County.
- There are less bachelor's degree recipients in Mendocino than Lake County, and a decrease in preparedness for college or career-ready students for both counties.

Analysis of 2023 Community Needs Assessment

With the implementation of Universal TK for California since 2021, the number of children enrolled in the school district's rather than Head Start's Programs has steadily increased due to preference, hours of operation, and eligibility. The expanded availability of Public TK programs and accessible occupations has also decreased the qualified hiring pool in both counties and involvement with home-based services for our programs.



The after-effects of the COVID-19 pandemic are still impacting our communities. Parent and family participation in certain areas have been low due to continued COVID-19 concerns. The end of certain COVID-19 pandemic assistance programs has made adjusting to the current economy a struggle for our families. With the increased cost of living and food, it is more typical for a household to now have all able-bodied working. Our targeted population of income eligibility has decreased for the first time within five years (not including the year 2020 when the pandemic influenced lock-down). This could be due to this year having the highest increase in Median Household and Family Income. Our previous report indicated only an average increase of \$1,500-\$2,200. This year displays an increase of \$3,463 for Mendocino County, and a \$4,145 increase for Lake County. This year also was the first time recorded to have Lake County surpass in Median Household and Family Income in comparison to Mendocino County. Unemployment also has increased for both counties, yet due to wages, there is a more narrowed pool of serviceable applicants to our programs.