



WCMCA Head Start Annual Report

West Central Head Start operates a publicly funded program that serves children birth to 5 and pregnant women in Douglas, Grant, Otter Tail, Pope, Stevens, Traverse and Wadena counties.

WCMCA Head Start operated 10 full-day classrooms and 8 half-day classrooms providing services from September – May.

Home based services are offered year-round with 11 Home Visitors providing weekly home visits to each enrolled family as well as 2 parent socialization events a month.

We operated in-person with virtual flexibility to serve our families and communities.



Mission Statement
Head Start provides a supportive environment that encourages children, families, staff, and communities to thrive by identifying strengths and opportunities, and developing strong partnerships to meet needs.

Funding Sources

FEDERAL GRANT 05CH010702	\$4,151,795
NON FEDERAL MATCH 05CH010702	\$1,037,949
TRAINING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE	\$51,306
USDA REIMBURSEMENT	\$30,000
STATE GRANT	\$514,417
EARLY LEARNING SCHOLARSHIPS	\$37,500

FUNDED ENROLLMENT:

298 Head Start

109 Early Head Start

308 Head Start children were served due to turnover

137 Early Head Start participants were served due to turnover

359 Families were served

Budget

Personnel	\$ 2,843,656
Fringe	996,564
Travel	35,157
Equipment	-
Supplies-Office/Program	173,200
Contractual	75,500
Other/Staff Development	579,635
Total	\$ 4,703,712



Meals Served at

Head Start Centers:

Total Operating Days – 2,321

Breakfast: 17,689

AM Snack: 801

Lunch: 16,434

PM Snack: 10,935

Locate us:

411 Industrial Park Blvd.,
Elbow Lake, MN 56531

218-685-4486

www.wcmca.org

WCMCA's most recent financial audit revealed no deficiencies or material weaknesses. Information about the agency's audit is available by contacting our office.

Average Daily Attendance for Head Start Classrooms		Average Monthly Enrollment 407 Funded	Home Visits Completed
July	N/A	96/109 (EHS only)	208
August	N/A	88/109 (EHS only)	356
September	87%	377	272
October	85%	355	274
November	86%	358	444
December	84%	361	223
January	82%	364	265
February	87%	371	447
March	87%	374	364
April	87%	376	256
May	88%	375	478
June	N/A	103/109 (EHS only)	221

Health Services at End of Enrollment

- 🏠 98% of HS children and 99% EHS participants have health insurance.
- 🏠 99% of HS children and 100% of EHS children have a medical home.
- 🏠 89% of HS children and 78% of EHS children are up-to-date on well child care.
- 🏠 97% of HS children and 82% of EHS children are current on immunizations.
- 🏠 86% of HS children have completed a dental exam and 83% of EHS children have a dental home.

- 393 parents volunteered for a total of 12,638 hours.
- 94% of families received services such as housing assistance, ESL, emergency intervention, asset building, health or parent education, etc.
- 48 mental health referrals were made, and 25 children received services as a result.



At year end 23% of children were on an IEP/IFSP and receiving services

Parent Survey responses from question – How did Early Head Start/Head Start make a difference in your life?

- ♥ It has been a great support system for our whole family & gave the twins the extra early education that they needed.
- ♥ Head Start has enabled me to give my daughter more support, social skills, and access to learning.
- ♥ Relationships! Community! And of course, the teachers have helped my child tremendously with furthering her education.
- ♥ Has taught me how to be the best parent I can be and encourage me and my children to be productive and learn more every day.
- ♥ The relationship with my Home Visitor has helped me with parenting and activities with my children!



School Readiness: WCMCA Head Start helps children succeed by linking Curriculum and Assessment, using observation-based assessment information to individualize children's learning. According to the American Community Survey (a demographics survey conducted by the US Census Bureau) our program served 40% of the eligible children in our service area. The most underserved in our area is children 2 years of age and younger.

4-Year-Olds, 3 Year Comparison

■ 2019-2020 ■ 2020-2021 ■ 2021-2022



Overall Program Averages:

- 4-Year-Old Children in Head Start 2021/2022 – 85.2% Meeting/Exceeding TSG Widely Held Expectations.
- 4-Year-Old Children in Head Start 2020/2021 – 88.6% Meeting/Exceeding TSG Widely Held Expectations.
- 4-Year-Old Children in Head Start 2019/2020 – 92.5% Meeting/Exceeding TSG Widely Held Expectations.

WCMCA Head Start's main objective is to align with parents and families to prepare their child for Kindergarten.

School Readiness: *"Children possessing the skills, knowledge and attitudes necessary for success in school and for later learning in life."* (Office of Head Start)

WCMCA Head Start School Readiness Goals follow a birth to age five approach and align with the Minnesota Early Childhood Indicators of Progress, the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework (HSELOF) and the Parent, Family and Community Engagement (PFCE) Outcomes Framework.

Evidence-based curriculum and assessment are used to measure child outcomes and to plan for individualized instruction that supports the development of each child.

WCMCA Head Start's school readiness goals are organized into five Development Domains. Teaching Strategies GOLD Report Cards are shared with families three times per year (Fall, Winter and Spring.)

Domains of School Readiness:

- Approaches to Learning
- Social Emotional Development
- Language and Literacy
- Cognition
- Perceptual Motor and Physical Development

Research-Based Teaching Curriculums:

- Partners for a Healthy Baby (Prenatal to age 5): Focuses on strengthening the family by addressing the overall well-being of both the child and the family.
- Creative Curriculum (Birth to age 5): Supports teachers to create meaningful daily routines, environments and learning experiences for children.

Assessment and Screening Tools:

- Teaching Strategies GOLD
- Brigance Inventory of Early Childhood Development III
- Minneapolis Preschool Screening Instrument (MPSI)
- The Ages & Stages Developmental Questionnaire (ASQ-3)
- The Ages & Stages Questionnaires-Social Emotional (ASQ-SE)



Strategies to Support School Readiness

- 1. Head Start Classrooms:** Classes meet four days per week for either half-day or full day sessions. Families in these classrooms also receive four home visits during the program year. Families are given a calendar each month with scheduled center days and a newsletter which includes information about classroom activities and upcoming events.
- 2. Early Head Start Home-Based Programming:** Early Head Start serves children birth to three years of age and expectant families in full year programming. Families enrolled in this option receive weekly home visits. Parents are supported as their child's most influential and valuable teacher in promoting their child's development.
- 3. Early Head Start Socializations:** Opportunities are held 22 times per year. Participation in these events with other parents and children is an essential piece of the programming. Parents will interact with their child in a variety of activities, promoting their interests and supporting the development of new skills.
- 4. Parent Teacher Conferences:** Each family participates in 2 parent teacher conferences each year. Child's progress and accomplishments are discussed, and parents and teachers set goals for the child.
- 5. Family Partnership Staff** create partnerships with families to meet identified needs and goals.