

ANNUAL REPORT

2024



**CHILD
START**

**2023-2024
PROGRAM YEAR**

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Dear Child Start Team,

As we reflect on the past year, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for each of you. Together, we have navigated challenges, celebrated victories, and strengthened our commitment to the children and families we serve. This has been a year of growth, resilience, and teamwork, and I could not be more grateful for the dedication you bring to our shared mission every day.

One of our most significant achievements this year was successfully completing the FA2 Federal Review. This accomplishment speaks volumes about your hard work, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to excellence. The positive outcome of the review is a testament to what we can achieve when we work together, supporting one another through each step of the process. You should all be incredibly proud of this collective success.

As we look ahead to 2025, I am excited about the new opportunities and possibilities the year will bring. With change comes growth, and I know that together we will continue to innovate, strengthen our programs, and make a lasting impact on the lives of children and families.

Amid the excitement of what lies ahead, I want to emphasize the importance of taking care of ourselves and each other. The work we do is vital, but so is our well-being. Let's continue to lift each other up, celebrate our successes, and lean on one another when challenges arise.

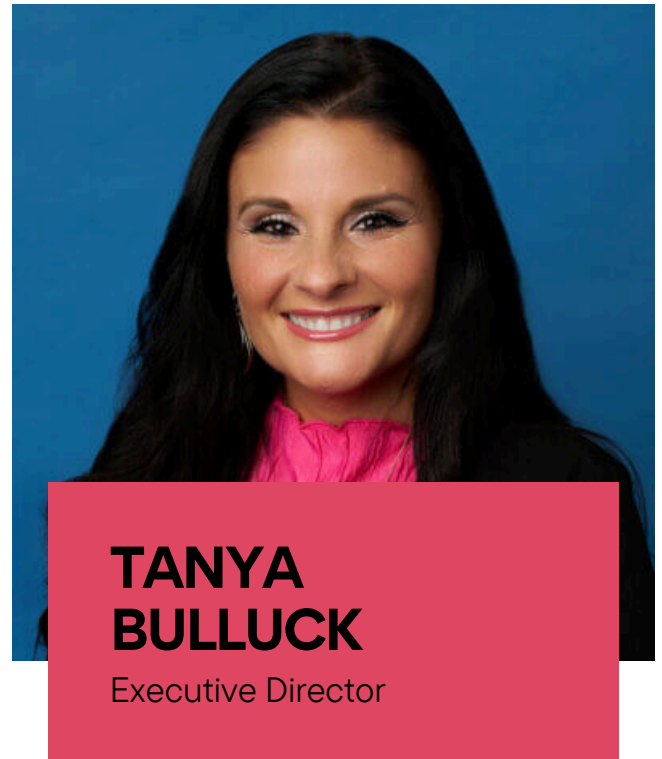
Thank you for making Child Start a place of purpose, passion, and possibility. I am honored to lead such an exceptional team and I look forward to all that we will accomplish together in the coming year.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Tanya Bulluck


Executive Director, Child Start

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**TANYA
BULLUCK**

Executive Director

A photograph of a woman with long dark hair, wearing a white top, sitting and reading a colorful book to two young children. On the left is a white toddler in a pink polka-dot shirt, looking towards the book. On the right is a Black toddler in a white shirt, looking down at the book. The background is a bright, blurred indoor setting.

CHILD START'S MISSION

Child Start is a local nonprofit organization focused on early learning for lifelong success. We work with child care providers to ensure quality care for our community's children and administer the Head Start programs.

MISSION

Child Start provides early childhood development services that prepare young children for lifelong success.

CHILD START'S IMPACT

This report provides information for Child Start's Head Start 0-5 Program from the most recently concluded year in Sedgwick, Harper, and Butler.

The Annual Report provides: (1) the total amount of public and private funds received and the amount of each source; (2) an explanation of budgetary expenditures and proposed budget for the fiscal year; (3) the total number of children and families served, the average monthly enrollment, and the percentage of eligible children served; (4) the results of the most recent review events by the Secretary and the financial audit; (5) the percentage of enrolled children that received medical and dental exams; (6) information about parent involvement activities; (7) the agency's efforts to prepare children for kindergarten; and (8) any other information required by the Secretary.

The program's focus is to prepare children for school readiness and lifelong success. Our partners in achieving this goal are families and the communities we serve.



CHILD START'S IMPACT IN NUMBERS

287	Total number of children/pregnant women served in EHS
515	Total number of children served in HS
147	Average monthly enrollment in EHS
336	Average monthly enrollment in HS
27.5%	Percentage of income eligible children in EHS
26.7%	Percentage of income eligible children in HS
4.2%	Percentage of over income children in EHS
2.7%	Percentage of over income children in HS
86.1%	Percentage of children that receive medical Exams in EHS
98.3%	Percentage of children that receive medical Exams in HS
85.7%	Percentage of children that receive dental exams in EHS
82.7%	Percentage of children that receive dental exams in HS

OVERALL COMMUNITY IMPACT

CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Children and Expectant Mothers Served

729 Children served in a classroom setting or at home through the home-based program

23 pregnant mothers also received services

Early Intervention and Specialized Services

59 children served that qualified for special education services under IDEA

49 additional children who did not qualify for services under IDEA received individualized lesson plans to address special needs that would otherwise have gone unaddressed

The Head Start Program Performance Standards mandate that 10% of a program's total enrollment be filled by children eligible for services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

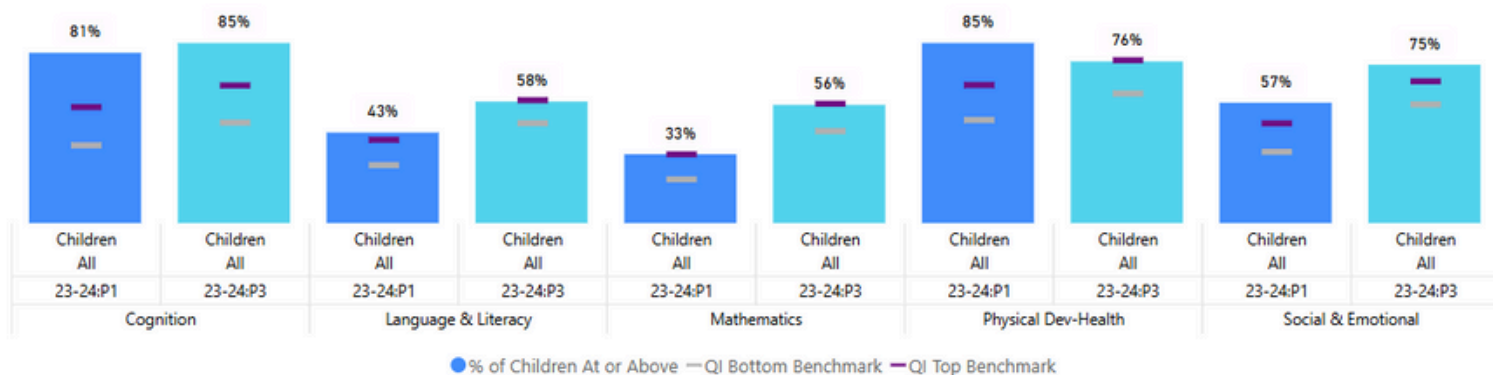
OVERALL COMMUNITY IMPACT

DEVELOPMENT GROWTH

Head Start:

A. DRDP | Percentage of Children At or Above Age Expectations by Domain and Assessment Period

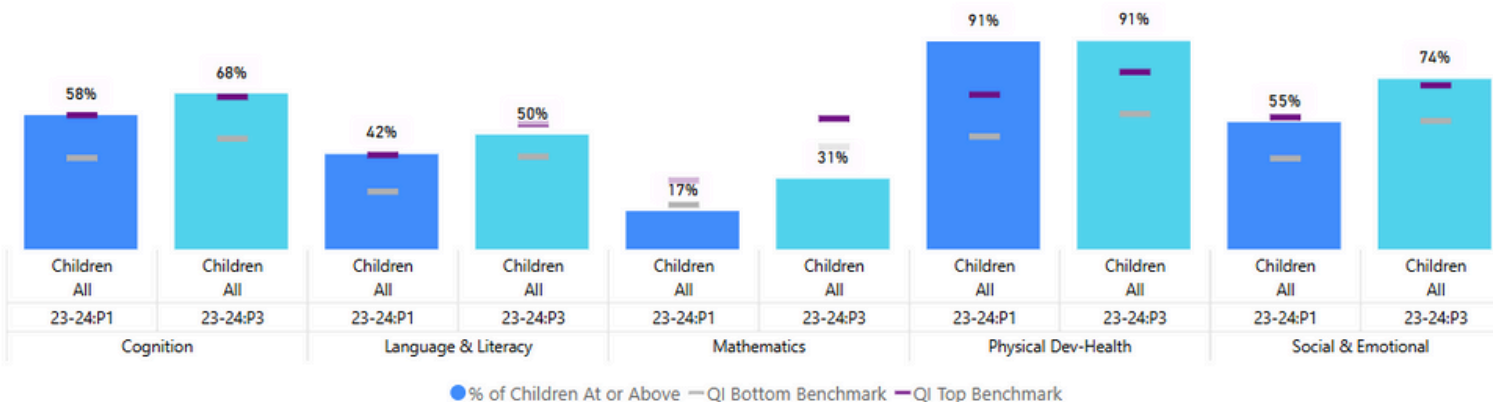
Only Children with Assessments in ALL Selected Periods | Program-Option = HS Double Session, EHS, HS, HS Single Session, HS Full-Day, HS Extended Day, HS Traditional Day, HS Community Partnership | Class = Pink All, Purple, Pink PM, Snail, Purple PM, Roly Poly, Purple AM, Yellow, Yellow PM, Yellow AM, ... [54 items selected] |



Early Head Start:

A. DRDP | Percentage of Children At or Above Age Expectations by Domain and Assessment Period

Only Children with Assessments in ALL Selected Periods | Class = A-EHS, C Green EHS, Blue EHS, D Green EHS, G Blue EHS, E- Green EHS, Purple EHS, F Pink EHS, Green EHS, Pink EHS, ... [12 items selected] |



OVERALL COMMUNITY IMPACT

FAMILY SERVICES

Father Involvement

172 fathers involved in Head Start Activities

1,561 hours of father involvement in Head Start

Out of total parent involvement.

Parent Involvement

678 parents involved in Head Start activities

19,973 hours of parent involvement in Head Start

Families Supported

678 families served

74.3% of families that were identified as needing additional resources or services, received services.

770 family goals set by families and supported by the program

Child Start's Head Start O-5 Program serves Butler, Greenwood, Harper, and Sedgwick Counties in Kansas.

The Head Start Program Performance Standards mandate that 10% of a program's total enrollment be filled by children eligible for services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

SELF-ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Strengths

- The ERSEA Department was integrated into Family Services to improve communication with families throughout the application process and beyond.
- The organization has adopted a data-driven approach to decision-making and is implementing *Monthly Data Talks* with the Data Quality Manager to foster discussions around program data with all staff, helping to cultivate a data-informed culture.
- Established a safety committee to conduct thorough investigations of past incidents and near misses, review maintenance records, and analyze data from site, classroom, and playground safety inspections. The committee also identifies gaps in procedures and processes to prevent future incidents.
- Observed improvement in child development data in classrooms that piloted the Frog Street Curriculum, leading to its full implementation across all sites.
- Since implementing the Teaching Pyramid Observation Tool (TPOT) and the Pyramid Infant-Toddler Observation Scale (TPITOS) in the fall of 2023, we've seen a 74% reduction in red flags through the spring of 2024.

Progress Made in Addressing Prior Concerns

- Successfully launched a new database system and continued to enhance its capabilities in collaboration with GoEngage.
- A recruitment coordinator position was added to the Family Services team, enabling us to identify key areas within the community for partnership development and address gaps in our current recruitment process.
- Successfully introduced new safety procedures, including hourly classroom safety checks and site, classroom, and playground safety inspections, which have helped us identify near misses and prevent safety incidents from occurring.
- Increased enrollment by 13.8% from September 2023 to July 2024 and are continuing efforts to reach full enrollment.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

·RIF (Reading is Fundamental) Story Time events were held in every classroom with guest readers from the community.

·Child Start sponsored 9 Health Literacy Events in April and May 2024. At each event parents received first aid kits and were provided with training based on the book, “What To Do When Your Child Gets Sick.” Parents also learned how to incorporate routine oral care through the Brush, Book, Bed program, learned how to identify what was candy vs. medicine, learned safe sleep practices and gained dental resources from Grace Med through partnership via the health team to bring dental resources to the families who attended.

·Health Team Nurses and Butler County Family Advocates partnered with KanCare and were trained on how to complete Presumptive Eligibility applications in order to reduce barriers for Butler County families in applying for insurance.

·Education Coordinators organized Summer STEAM family field trip and activities at local family-friendly agencies and businesses including the Sedgwick County Zoo, the Kansas Aviation Museum, Exploration Place, Wichita City Arts, Botanica, PBS Kansas Cochener-Garvey Children's Education & Discovery Center, and the Great Plains Nature Center.

·Butler Community College donated all of the lanyards used for the STEAM events.

·Local photographers offset their costs to provide families with child photos.

·Augusta did a Kindergarten round-up.

·Staff participated in community parades and special events, such as: Thankful Thursdays in El Dorado, Community Baby Showers in Sedgwick County, Hope Wichita, Health Without Borders, Back to school events, and a variety of seasonal festivals and celebrations throughout the communities we serve to bring awareness of our organization and connect with families who could potentially benefit from our services.

·Several community partners participated in the Policy Council meetings monthly. Those agencies were: Parents as Teachers, DCF, and Lively Minds.

·Child Start has an established Health and Mental Advisory committee that meets quarterly to collaborate on Health & MHDB services provided in our program as well learn about community resources that would benefit our children and families. This committee is comprised of doctors, dentists, MHDB consultants, a psychologist, play therapist, dietitians, USD 259, dental hygienists and a parent.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT CONT.

·Child Start partnered with Wichita Transit Authority to pilot a bus pass system that allowed families who needed support with transportation not only get their child to school, but allowed the family to travel in the city of Wichita wherever else they may have needed to go.

·The Family Services Team has had agencies such as IRC, Kidzcope, and DCCCA attend staff meetings so that family services staff can learn more about community resources that can benefit families we serve. The goal is to have different agencies come to each quarterly meeting to build connection and add more tools to share with children and families.

·The annual “Hats and Mittens” drive was a huge success. Last year, over 500 hats and mittens were collected for children in the program, leaving enough left over for the '24-'25 school year. This was the first time in the history of this drive for the agency. There were roughly 20 community partners that had boxes at their business to help gather donations.

·Harper worked with Core Communities, the Anthony Fire Department, and the Anthony Library. They also worked with Revolution Fellowship, who provided food and diapers for many families. The HP CO Hope helped with outreach needs. Anthony thrift store is always willing to help families with clothes needed. The site participates in the Community Angel Tree through the Anthony Christian Church Andi. Melissa Hurley from Horizons Mental Health provides ways to help our children with social and emotional behaviors.

·Blooming Minds had the following community involvement opportunities at either play group or a parent meeting: Wichita Fire Department, PBS, Stewie the Dog with Sedgwick County Sheriff's Department, Wichita Advanced Learning Library, Great Plains Nature Center, and Kansas Wildlife Exhibit Ambassador.

·Fingerprints invited the police department to talk to the kids at the site and the parents at a parent meetings. A representative from the Wichita Area Sexual Assault Center came to talk to the children about personal space and swimsuit areas. They facilitated a Book Bingo, Hats & Mittens, a Watermelon Feed, The Health Literacy Fair, a Friendship Tea Party and a Reading Challenge. Someone from Whole Foods came to a parent meeting and talked about meal planning. Another representative from the public library came to a parent meeting. Representatives from Family Promise talked at a parent meeting about rental assistance, Section 8, and transitional housing.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

- Child Start has made significant strides in increasing Parent involvement. This year, we implemented a variety of family-centered activities, including our Summer STEAM program, literacy events, family fun nights, and community engagement activities where parents take an active role in event coordination and recruitment.
- Our 9-week Summer STEAM event saw an impressive average attendance of 158 children and families per event. When comparing family participation data between Summer 2023 and Summer 2024, we saw a significant 117.37% increase in participation, underscoring the growing community interest and the value of these efforts.
- Child Start has expanded our committees to include parents in the early conversations and planning stages. We believe that by working together, we can create a more enriching and supportive environment for our children. Parents are encouraged to be active participants, sharing their perspectives and ideas as we continue to grow and improve our programs.
- In 2023, Child Start continued to prioritize early literacy through a series of literacy events designed to foster a love of reading in young children. This year, we expanded our efforts through a partnership with Butler County Community College, which played a crucial role in supporting these events.



HEAD START AND EARLY HEAD START PROGRAMS

Child Start's Head Start and Early Head Start programs are federally funded initiatives that provide comprehensive early care and education in addition to support services to low-income children and their families. These programs promote school readiness by enhancing children's physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development. Head Start serves children ages 3 to 5, while Early Head Start serves pregnant women, infants, and toddlers up to age 3. Many Head Start and Early Head Start programs have had classroom staffing shortages due to the child care crisis that was brought on by the pandemic. Our programs have not been spared this challenge and our average percentage of monthly enrollment fell to 60% during the 2021-2022 program year due to a shortage of teaching staff. Child Start has made some great strides over the last year to combat the staffing shortage and the need to reach more children. We were only reaching 5% of the eligible population (in Butler, Harper and Sedgwick county) and we knew that we had some work to do to get more staff in the door without compromising on quality. By focusing on the following three areas Child Start is starting to make a significant difference to both enrollment and staffing:

HEAD START AND EARLY HEAD START PROGRAMS

Retention, Recruitment, and Professional Development

The program has focused on identifying the factors that may contribute to people leaving or failing to join the field in the first place. To combat these turnover numbers, Head Start has implemented new wellness initiatives, re-vamped the employee recognition and appreciation programs, and worked diligently on providing sustainable salary increases to program staff. Head Start addressed staff wellness head-on and provided quarterly trainings about wellness practices designed to reduce the effects of stress in the workplace. Mental health educators worked with employees to improve and increase energy, mental focus, creativity, productivity, a sense of connection, and purpose. The workshops provided included meditation, gratitude exercises, breath work, yoga, mindfulness practices, & team-building games.

Trauma-Informed Early Education and Child Development Services

Head Start recognizes that families have a wide variety of needs and unique situations which require diverse service options. A new center, the Shirley Mayes Early Care and Education Center, was opened in Sedgwick county to serve families in south Wichita in November 2022. During the 2022-2023 school year, the program offered both part-day and full-day services for Head Start families, allowing Child Start to meet the needs of families who do not need full-day care but seek a Head Start experience for their families.

Expand Functional Partnerships and Strategic Alliances

Head Start held its first Summer STEAM program during the summer 2022 school session. Each Friday for 10 weeks during the summer, families were invited to participate in a family field trip to a special location. Partnerships were formed with a variety of community agencies around the city that welcomed the children and families into their venues for educational activities. These partnerships included the Sedgwick County Zoo, Botanica, CityArts, Great Plains Nature Center, Wichita Public Library, Kansas Aviation Museum, Butler Community College, and Exploration Place. Parents and children alike appreciated the experience and made new friends and connections through the activities.

KINDERGARTEN READINESS

PREPARATION FOR KINDERGARTEN 2023-2024

During the '23-'24 year, the program transitioned 129 children to Kindergarten in Sedgwick, Harper, Butler and Counties.

The program uses the Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP) for measuring child outcomes including the ongoing assessment of the progress and accomplishments of children. Outcomes were measured in the areas approaches to learning, social and emotional, language and literacy, cognition (including math and science), and physical development. The program has focused on mental health and social emotional development using Conscious Discipline to meet the needs of children who were unable to attend school during the COVID-19 pandemic. Aggregated outcomes were shared with the Board of Directors, Policy Council, and staff.

Teachers met individually with parents four times during the year to discuss their child's progress towards school readiness during the two Home Visits and two Parent Teacher Conferences. At the initial Home Visit, the families and teachers work together to establish goals for their child(ren). These goals are then revisited throughout the year in order to determine that the goals have been met and a new goal needs to be developed or the that the goal is ongoing. Parents were encouraged to give input on what they would like their children to know before they entered school. Families received kindergarten transition plans and activities so they could continue activities over the summer months to sustain their child's development and preparation for school. In the spring, all files were reviewed and consolidated so school districts had our children's most current health and developmental records.

KINDERGARTEN READINESS

PREPARATION FOR KINDERGARTEN 2023-2024

Timeline of Transition Activities:

Fall - Initial home visits were completed and information was distributed to parents/guardians regarding Kindergarten choices, the transition process, and educational services. Monthly activities for children to enhance school readiness skills began through goal setting and individualizations.

Winter - Parent-Teacher Conferences were held, and all families with a child age-eligible for Kindergarten worked with their Family Advocate to create a Kindergarten transition plan. Parents/Guardians were provided information on their local school districts, the location of their neighborhood school, and the Choices Fair for children transitioning to USD 259. School Districts provided information about open house and Kindergarten Round Ups at local schools for each child.

Spring - Teaching staff completed "Getting Ready for Kindergarten" creative curriculum study and those sites doing Frog Street completed Theme 9 regarding changes. Enhanced focus was placed on conducting activities that promote independence. Some sites took field trips to visit kindergarten classrooms. In May, the last Home Visit occurs and during this transition activities are distributed and reviewed with parents

Summer - Distribution of children's records to the school districts.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Early Childhood Connections program strives to improve the quality of early childhood education by providing a support network that connects caregivers to much needed resources and by providing education opportunities to caregivers on topics such as child development, safety, nutrition, and more. These trainings cover topics that are critical to early care and education including resources, hands-on activities, and group discussions.

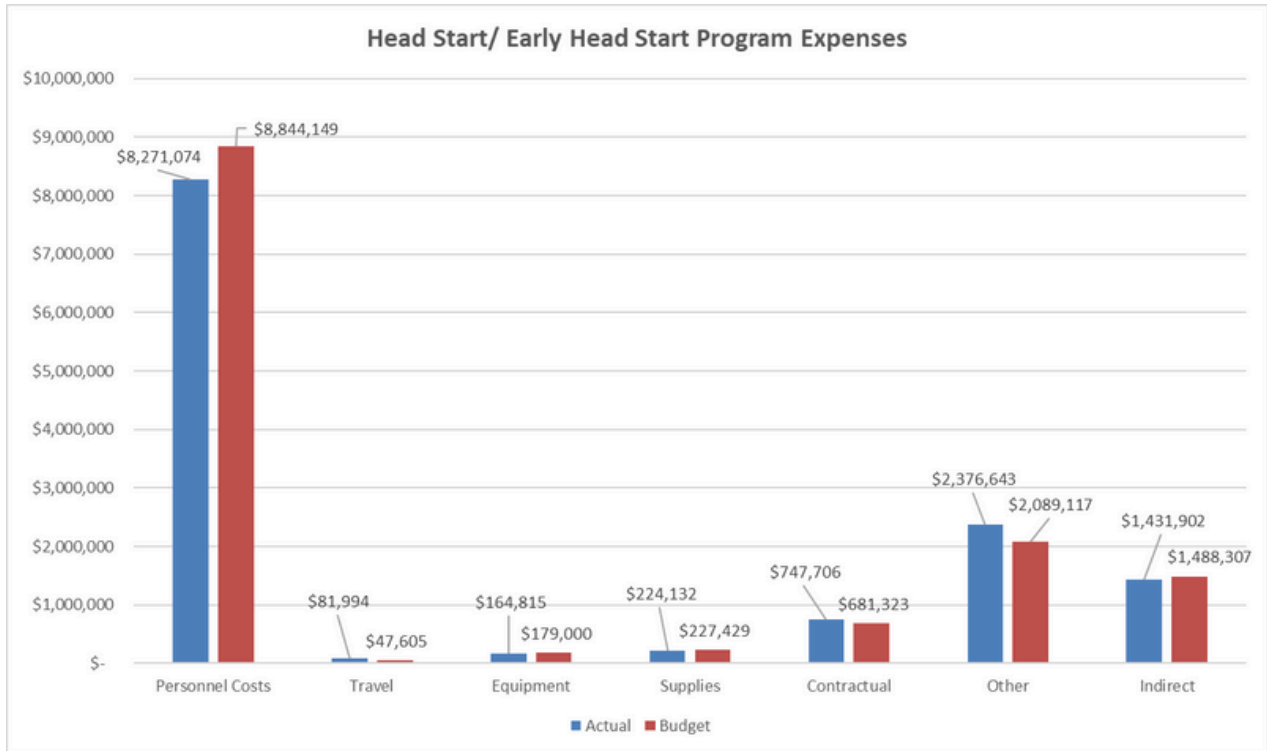
Many of the early care and education professionals we served in 2023 either own a child care business or are employed at a licensed child care facility. Early Childhood Connections frequently engages with these professionals early in their journey, beginning with child care licensing orientations. Specialists attend these orientations in all counties to introduce the comprehensive range of services Early Childhood Connections provides. Following these orientations, specialists conduct follow-up outreach to offer personalized support, including guidance on professional development opportunities and best business practices. To recruit these individuals, we meet them where their journey began- during child care licensing orientation. With the permission of child care licensing, our team gives short presentations of the services offered to help support the professionals' business and career development. In 2023, over 2,700 caregivers were provided professional development services. Over 85% of caregivers indicated an increase in their knowledge after attending our trainings.

In addition to our professional development programs, we offer coaching and technical assistance to support caregivers and professionals in addressing a wide range of needs. These services include guidance on child development, early childhood education, the childcare licensing process, creating enriching learning environments, implementing social-emotional supports, managing licensed childcare businesses, and conducting childcare searches. Our goal is to serve as a comprehensive resource for anyone seeking support in fostering high-quality early care and education experiences.

With an increase of families needing care and a shortage of child care facilities within our community, it is vital that child care facilities with vacancies are able to reach those families in need. We found that providers needed guidance and support to market their business and fill their current vacancies. One of the services that we offer is helping families find child care. Since we contact providers each quarter, we are able to give caregivers searching for child care the most up to date information to assist in their search.

FINANCIALS

The Child Start Full Annual Audit Report for 2023-2024 is available on our website. Fiscal Year End 4/30/24.



- * **Personal Costs:** Include all 0-5 Program salaries, wages and fringe benefits
- * **Travel/Training:** Includes only out-of-town travel costs and training costs
- * **Equipment:** Includes equipment purchases > \$5,000
- * **Supplies:** Includes all office, classroom, toiletry, and program supplies
- * **Contractual:** Includes program operations that are contracted with outside agencies (i.e. child care providers, etc.)
- * **Occupancy:** Includes all costs associated with building costs (i.e. rent, utilities, etc.)
Other: Includes all other costs
- * **Indirect:** Includes costs associated with the charging of our federal indirect rate

FINANCIALS

The Child Start Full Annual Audit Report for 2023-2024 is available on our website.
Fiscal Year End 4/30/24.



Head Start/Early Head Start Sources of Income	Budget	Actual
Grant revenue	13,556,930	13,298,266
Other Income	-	318
Gain/Loss	-	16,500
Interest Income	-	2
CACFP/KSDE Grant	-	300,763
Donations	-	270
Inkind Contributions	2,993,661	3,070,581
	16,550,591	16,686,700

Child Start, Inc
Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs
 Year Ended April 30, 2024

Section I - Summary of Auditor's Results

Financial Statements

Type of auditor's report issued on whether the financial statements were prepared in accordance with GAAP:

Unmodified

Internal control over financial reporting:

- Material weakness(es) identified? _____ Yes X No
- Significant deficiency(ies) identified? _____ Yes X None Reported

Noncompliance material to financial statements noted?

_____ Yes X No

Federal Awards

Internal control over major federal program:

- Material weakness(es) identified? _____ Yes X No
- Significant deficiency(ies) identified? _____ Yes X None Reported

Type of auditor's report issued on compliance for major program:

Unmodified

Any audit findings disclosed that are required to be reported in accordance with 2 CFR 200.516(a)?

_____ Yes X No

Identification of major federal programs

<u>AL Number(s)</u>	<u>Name of Federal Program or Cluster</u>
93.600	Head Start Cluster

Dollar threshold used to distinguish between Type A and Type B programs: \$750,000

Auditee qualified as low-risk auditee?

 X Yes _____ No

Child Start, Inc
Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs (Continued)
Year Ended April 30, 2024

Section II - Financial Statement Findings

None

Section III - Federal Award Findings and Questioned Costs

None

Section IV - Summary Schedule of Prior Year Findings

None