



# Community Action Head Start

2020 Annual Report





# About Us

Community Action Head Start is a comprehensive early childhood education program for children age birth to five from at-risk backgrounds. From early math and reading skills to confidence and resilience, we help children build the abilities they need to be successful in school and life. Our whole family approach empowers families to break the cycle of poverty.

\*Note: In March 2021, Community Action received additional funding to serve 72 infants and toddlers in a new Early Head Start center, opening in the fall of 2021.



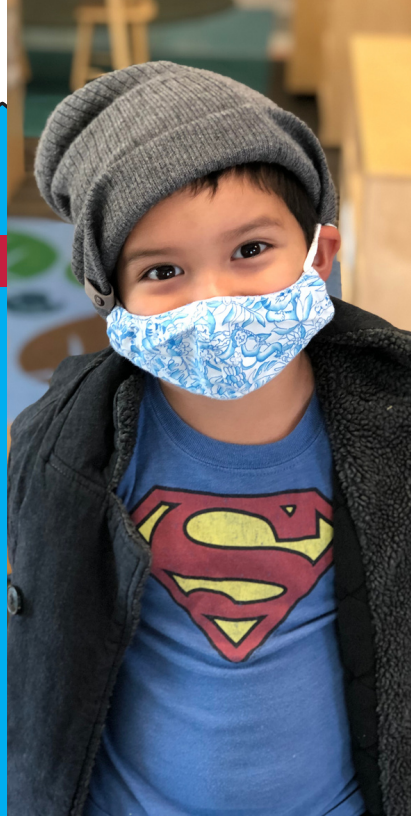
## Children & Families Served

Program Option	Funded Enrollment	Actual Served	Avg. Monthly Enrollment
Early Head Start	268	232	74%
Head Start (center-based)	119	99	72%
Head Start (school-based)	34	42	100%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>421*</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>82%</b>



## Paving the Path to Kindergarten

Preparing our most vulnerable children for kindergarten goes beyond teaching ABCs and 123s. Our **comprehensive** service model combines early learning, health/dental/nutritional support, and family engagement services tailored to the unique needs of each child and family.



# Early Learning



Our school readiness goals, developed by the Community Action Head Start School Readiness Committee, are fully aligned with the *Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework* and *Nebraska Early Learning Guidelines*.

## 1.

### Language & Literacy

- Children will use and comprehend language for conversation and communication.
- Children will demonstrate a knowledge of print.
- Children will demonstrate an appreciation of books and engage with books every day.

## 2.

### Cognition & General Knowledge

- Children will apply math knowledge and skills to everyday routines.
- Children will use scientific skills and methods.
- Children will understand the relationship between people and the world around them.

## 3.

### Physical Development & Health

- Children will develop coordination, balance, spatial awareness, and strength needed for age-appropriate fine and gross motor activities.
- Children will demonstrate and practice safe and healthy habits.

## 4.

### Social-Emotional Development

- Children will engage in positive relationships and interactions with others.
- Children will develop a sense of self and confidence in their abilities.

## 5.

### Approaches to Learning

- Children will use initiative, curiosity, and persistence to learn about their world.
- Children will demonstrate sustained attention and cooperation when working with varied materials, activities, and information.

# Children Meeting/Exceeding Widely-Held Expectations

Fall 2020 - Spring 2021

<u>Area of Development</u>	Fall 2020	Spring 2021
Social Emotional	78%	91%
Physical	82%	89%
Language	74%	82%
Cognitive	74%	84%
Literacy	77%	81%
Math	66%	78%

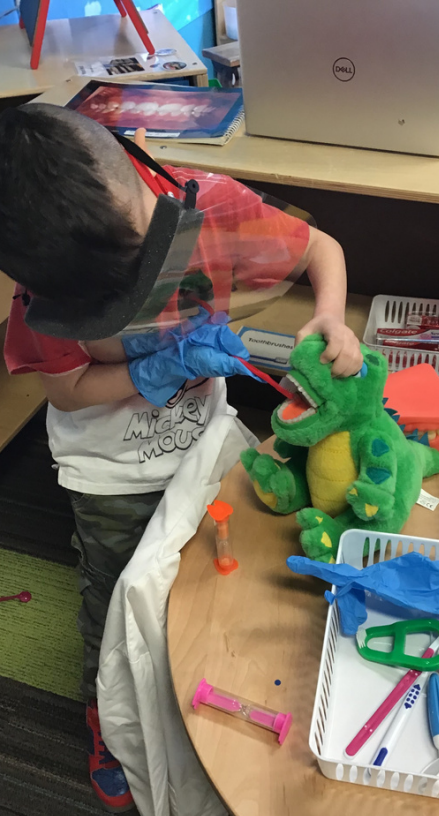
*Last year, the percentage of Community Action Head Start children meeting or exceeding developmental milestones increased across all areas of learning.*



## Health and Nutrition Services

Children's health needs must be met in order for them to learn. At Community Action Head Start, we facilitate critical health services like immunizations; vision, dental, and hearing screenings; and mental health consultation. We also promote development of healthy behaviors, such as regular fruit and vegetable consumption and physical activity, through utilization of our Growing Great Beginnings curriculum and other evidence-based interventions.





# Children Receiving Medical and Dental Exams

Program Option	Enrollment (45+ days)	% That Received Medical Exams	% That Received Dental Exams
Early Head Start	215	58%	60%
Head Start (center-based)	95	80%	89%
Head Start (school-based)	40	100%	98%



## Whole Family Focus

When parents are supported, their children thrive. Through home visits and regular interactions, our **Family Engagement** team empowers parents to achieve their own education, employment, familial, wellness, and self-sufficiency goals. Parents are encouraged to serve in leadership roles within the program, including **Head Start Policy Council**, volunteer in their children's classrooms, and participate in program-sponsored family offerings, including Incredible Years® parenting classes.



# COVID-19 Impact

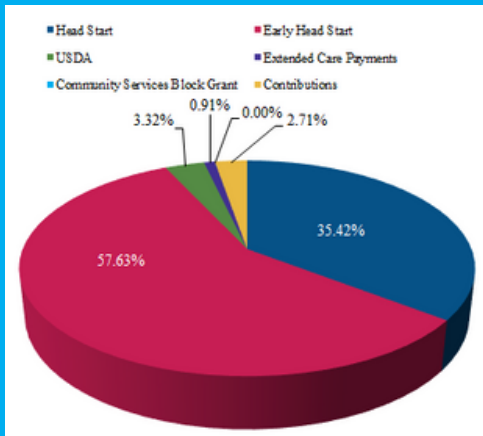
2020 resulted in unprecedented challenges for many. The impact was especially significant for those struggling with low-income, including families of our Head Start program. Participant needs were assessed throughout the pandemic via survey to inform service delivery. Notably, of participants responding to the survey:

- 87% indicated that their income had been negatively impacted by COVID
- 56% indicated that, in the last three months, they sometimes or often relied on only a few kinds of low-cost foods to feed their children because they were running out of money
- 56% reported that they somewhat or greatly struggled to meet food/formula needs

Throughout the pandemic, Community Action Head Start added capacity to meet families' needs, including delivery/distribution of additional diapers, food, and other basic needs items.

## Program Financials

Revenues	\$
Head Start	2,642,890
Early Head Start	4,299,417
USDA	247,922
Extended Care Payments	67,677
Community Services Block Grant	209
Contributions	202,497
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$7,460,612</b>
Expenditures	\$
Delegate Costs	314,627
Salaries & Fringe	4,271,288
Indirect	1,195,961
Travel	29,957
Equipment	42,969
Supplies	356,947
Contractual	220,550
Other	1,028,313
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$7,460,612</b>





## Financial Audit Results

In April 2019, the Administration for Children and Families conducted a Focus Area Two monitoring review of Community Action's Early Head Start and Head Start Programs. It was determined that the programs meet the requirements of all applicable Head Start Program Performance Standards, laws, regulations, and policy requirements. Community Action Partnership of Lancaster and Saunders Counties' consolidated financial statements were audited by independent auditors in December 2019. Due to annual expenditures of greater than \$750,000 in federal funding, the audit was conducted in compliance with the requirements of U.S. Office of Management and Budget 2 CFR 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards. The Head Start and Early Head Start Programs were tested as a major program. The audit contained no significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. A copy of the results is available at: [harvester.census.gov](http://harvester.census.gov).



Learn more at [www.communityactionnetwork.org](http://www.communityactionnetwork.org)

