



Community Action Head Start
2021 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 skills for success 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 enter (total reflects additional 72 participants). This new center began a phased opening in January 2022. Throughout the 2021 program year, effects of the COVID-19 pandemic continued to limit enrollment across age groups.



Children & Families Served

Program Option	Funded Enrollment	Actual Served	Avg. Monthly Enrollment
Early Head Start	340	332	79%
Head Start (center-based)	119	104	76%
Head Start (school-based)	34	43	100%
TOTAL	493*	479	85%



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 2021 - Spring 2022

<u>Area of Development</u>	Fall 2021	Spring 2022
Social Emotional	84%	84%
Physical	86%	88%
Language	73%	78%
Cognitive	84%	88%
Literacy	74%	83%
Math	71%	80%

Last year, the percentage of Community Action Head Start children meeting or exceeding developmental milestones stayed the same or 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	296	69%	73%
Head Start (center-based)	101	72%	86%
Head Start (school-based)	34	97%	94%



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.

Yearly Highlights

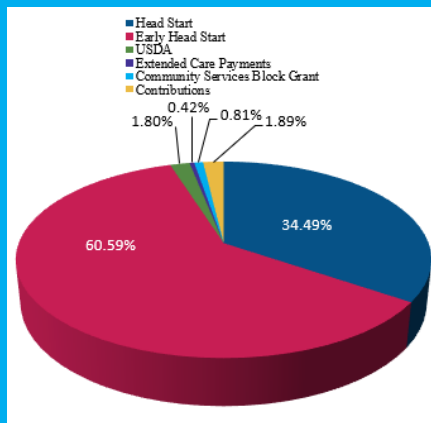
2021 was a year of tremendous growth for Community Action Head Start. In September, Community Action purchased a facility at 1843 K Street (former Kaplan University Building). This building will serve as the program's first permanent home in Lincoln, where 19 classrooms will be located. Community Action Head Start K Street serves 197 children and their families.

Following receipt of approximately \$1 million in Workforce Development grant funding from the City of Lincoln, Community Action Head Start launched an on-the-job training program. Through this program, qualifying Head Start employees may receive supports, such as stipends and paid training time, to earn additional credentials and advance their careers.

Throughout the COVID-19 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	2,806,203
Early Head Start	4,929,858
USDA	146,142
Extended Care Payments	34,254
Community Services Block Grant	65,799
Contributions	153,502
Total Revenues	\$8,135,758
Expenditures	\$
Delegate Costs	324,286
Salaries & Fringe	4,870,603
Indirect	1,363,571
Travel	20,122
Equipment	0
Supplies	357,532
Contractual	239,452
Other	960,192
Total Expenditures	\$8,135,758





Financial Audit Results

Community Action Partnership of Lancaster and Saunders Counties' consolidated financial statements were audited by independent auditors in December 2020. 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: facdissem.census.gov.



Learn more at www.communityactionnetwork.org

