



York County  
**Head Start**  
Programs of York County Community Action Corporation



# 2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT

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*“I love how Head Start combines educational goals with life skills!”*

~a parent in the annual family survey

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*Cecily Silva,  
Head Start Director*

## Dear Community Partners, Families, and Friends,

It is with great pride that I share the York County Head Start Annual Report for Program Year 2024–2025. This report highlights the resilience, growth, and collective impact of our program as we supported children and families across York County during a year marked by significant transition and progress.

During this program year, York County Head Start successfully completed two federal monitoring reviews conducted by the Office of Head Start: a Focus Area Two (FA2) Monitoring Review and a CLASS® Federal Review. These reviews offered valuable insight into our operations, service quality, and adherence to Head Start Program Performance Standards.

The CLASS® Review affirmed the strength of teacher–child interactions across our preschool classrooms. Our program met and exceeded all federal quality and competitive thresholds, placing us among the top-performing programs nationally. These results reflect the dedication of our education staff and the strength of our professional development, coaching, and curriculum implementation.

The FA2 Monitoring Review examined all major service areas, including program governance, education, health, family engagement, fiscal management, and ERSEA. The review highlighted numerous areas of compliance and strong practice, while also identifying findings that are informing our continuous improvement efforts. We are actively addressing each finding in collaboration with our

*“This report reflects the children and families we serve: their growth, perseverance, and trust in our program inspire us daily and shape the direction of our work.”*

Regional Office to further strengthen our systems and ensure timely, high-quality services for children and families.

This year also marked a significant period of rebuilding and reimagining our program following the approval of our Change in Scope application. We strengthened our organizational structure, expanded specialized supports for children and families, reduced classroom sizes, increased staff wages, and invested in practices that advance school readiness and social-emotional development. These strategic improvements are already making a meaningful difference across our classrooms and services.

Above all, this report reflects the children and families we serve. Their growth, perseverance, and trust in our program inspire us daily and shape the direction of our work.

Thank you for your continued support of York County Head Start. We are grateful for the opportunity to partner with you in building a strong foundation for children and families—today and for years to come.

*With appreciation,  
**Cecily Silva**  
Head Start Director  
York County Head Start  
York County Community Action Corporation*

# ABOUT US

York County Head Start is a part of the York County Community Action Corporation (YCCAC), a private nonprofit organization governed by a Board of Directors made up of business owners, public officials, and private citizens.

## YCCAC SERVICES

- Home Ownership & Repair
- Heat, Energy, & Fuel
- Economic Opportunity
- WIC (Women, Infants, and Children)
- Head Start
- Whole Family Coaching
- Transportation
- Nasson Health Care



For 60 years, York County Head Start has been providing high-quality early childhood care and education to children 6 weeks to 5 years across York County, ME.

We believe that families are the child’s first and most important teacher and we encourage each family to participate in all aspects of the program.

Our Mission is

We partner with families of young children, helping them achieve their self-identified family goals with a focus on their child’s health, education and well-being.

**OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

- Hire and retain highly qualified personnel in all positions
- Provide opportunities for children to grow and learn so they are school ready
- Adapt to meet the needs of families, employees, and the community at-large
- Be prudent yet forward-thinking to ensure our long-term financial stability and viability

*“The program provides a coaching and engaging environment that supports children's learning, social growth, and creativity.”*

~ a parent in the annual family survey

**2024-2025 POLICY COUNCIL**

Policy Council is a part of our governing body. It is parent-driven and oversees the direction of the program including approving grants, budgets, and policies, as well as supporting recruitment and informing program goals and activities.

**13  
Parents**

Teague (Jacqueline) Cotton (Chair)  
 Jamie Johnson (Vice Chair)  
 Andre Perreault (Treasurer)  
 Meghan Stephens (Secretary)

Aude Liselle Ebata-Taine  
 Emily Giggey  
 Nathan Goss  
 Mariah Labreck  
 George Labreck  
 Grace Moreau-Bean  
 Kayla Nason  
 Bonifacio Yong  
 Dawn Zarecki-Reidy

**3  
Community Members**  
 (including 1 past parent)

Jane McCabe (Board Liaison)  
 Hannah Page (CDS)  
 Marcia Zarecki



# COMMUNITY NEEDS

**100%** of families accessed at least one available resource to promote family outcomes.

**100%** of families received education on preventative medical and oral health.



The most recent Community Needs Assessment, completed in 2022, identified **lack of affordable housing and childcare, cost of living, access to reliable transportation, and access to healthcare** as the areas of greatest concern with regard to the continued health and safety, financial stability and overall well-being of low-income and at-risk individuals and families throughout York County.

In a 2024 Maine Shared Community Health Needs Assessment (Maine Shared CHNA)\*, confirmed that the same needs - transportation, cost of living, childcare, housing, and healthcare - remained top community needs.

## MEETING OUR FAMILIES' NEEDS

In Program Year (PY) 2024-25, our Family Liaisons worked with the families of the enrolled children to identify their needs and goals beyond their children's school readiness goals. As a result:

- **100%** of families accessed at least one available resource
- **100%** of families received education on preventative medical and oral health.
- **81%** of EHS families and **83%** of HSP families received Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
- **95%** of EHS and **75%** of HSP families accessed Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) services.

\* Maine Shared Community Health Needs Assessment (Maine Shared CHNA) is the outcome of a collaborative partnership of Maine CDC and the biggest hospital systems shared results of their most recent findings in York County. [Click to learn more](#)



- **27%** of families in the Early Head Start and **44%** of families in the Head Start Preschool programs were connected with Emergency/Crisis Intervention Services addressing immediate need for food, clothes, and shelter.
- **30%** of families were interested in research based parenting curriculum classes.

# FINANCIALS

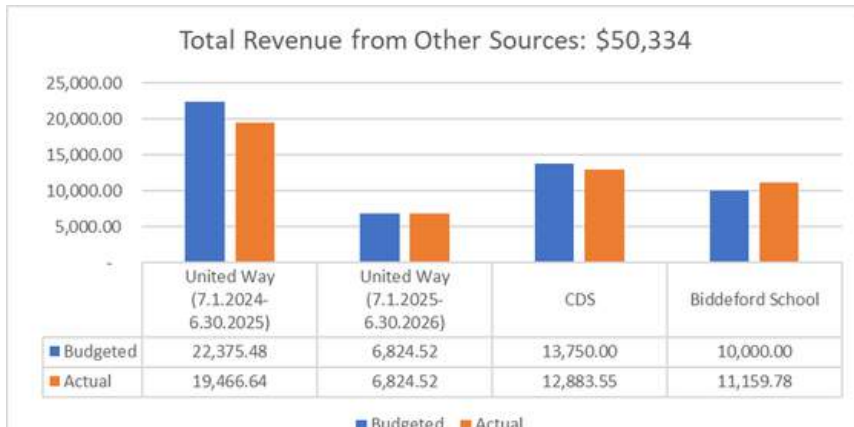
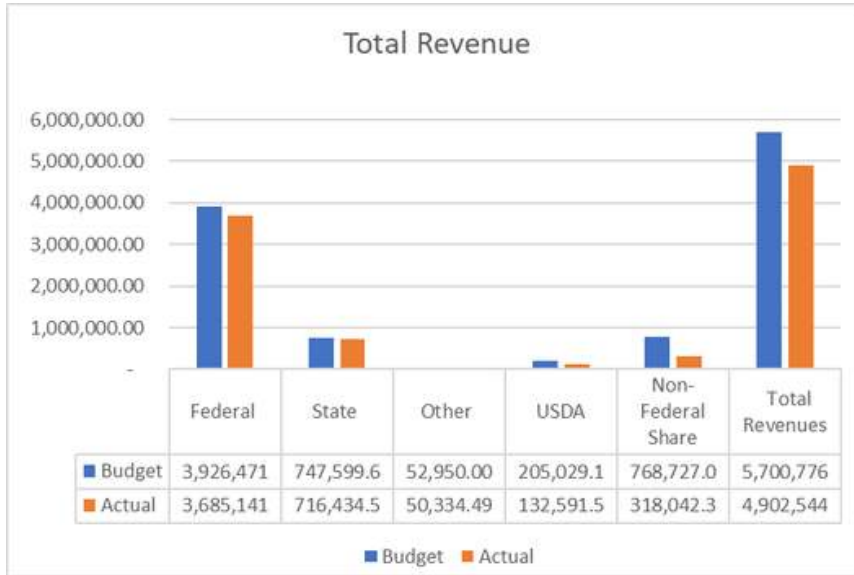
## TOTAL AMOUNT OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE FUNDS IN 2024-25

In PY 2024-25, we budgeted \$5,700,776.85 revenue. However, due to the following factors, total revenue was \$4,902,544.18:

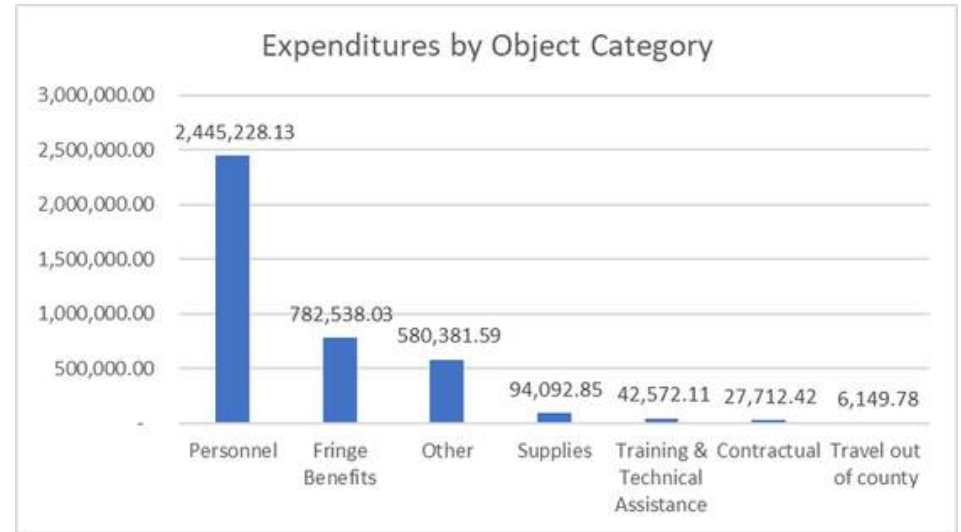
- 3 classrooms were closed throughout the whole or part of the year or due to staffing
- In-Kind waiver in place
- USDA revenue was not collected due to the closed classrooms



Overall, expenditures were below budget due to closed classrooms and staff vacancies.



**BUDGETARY EXPENDITURES AND PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025-26**



During PY 2024-25, we had no expenses related to equipment purchases or construction activities.

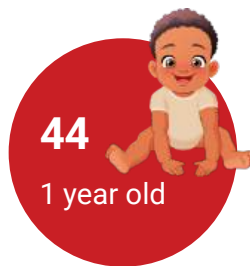
The subtotal direct cost is \$3,978,675 (represented in the graph above), supplemented by \$488,072 in indirect costs. With a non-federal share of \$318,042 and a contribution of \$117,754 from the USDA, the total expenditures amount to \$4,902,545.

**RESULTS OF THE MOST RECENT REVIEW BY THE SECRETARY AND THE FINANCIAL AUDIT**

The most recent independent consolidated auditors' report conducted by One River CPAs from Bath, ME for fiscal years ending October 31, 2022 and October 31, 2023 approved our financials.

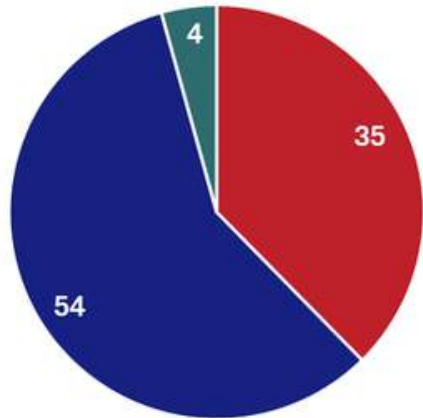
# DEMO- GRAPHICS

## AGE



## RACE AND ETHNICITY

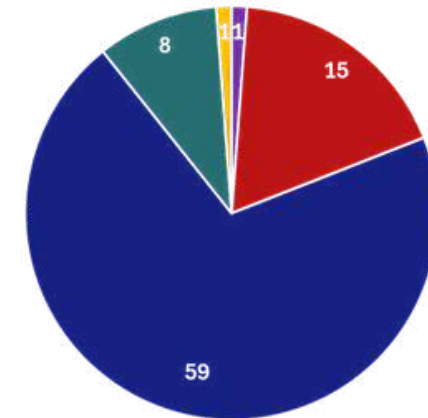
Early Head Start (EHS)



■ Black or African American ■ White ■ Biracial/Multi-racial

- 3 out of the 54 children identified as white by their parents, were also identified as Hispanic/Latino
- 2 out of the 4 children identified as of bi-/multi-racial were also identified as Hispanic/Latinos

Head Start Preschool (HSP)



■ American Indian or Alaskan Native ■ Black or African American  
 ■ White ■ Biracial/Multi-racial  
 ■ Unspecified ethnicity or race

- 3 out of the 59 children who were identified as white by their parents, were also identified as Hispanic/Latino
- 3 out of the 8 children identified as bi-/multi-racial were also identified as Hispanic/Latino

## PRIMARY LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME

(based on cumulative # of children):

English: 123  
 Portuguese: 20  
 Lingala: 11  
 French: 8  
 Haitian Creole: 6  
 Spanish: 3  
 Arabic: 3  
 Chinese: 1  
 Kinyarwandi: 1  
 Pashto: 1

13

| Total Dual-Language Learners: **54**

# ERSEA



**35** enrolled children experienced **homelessness** during the program year

**75 single-parent families** with some minimal double count of the same parent

**61 mother-only** households.

## ENROLLMENT

Total Number of Children Served: **177\***

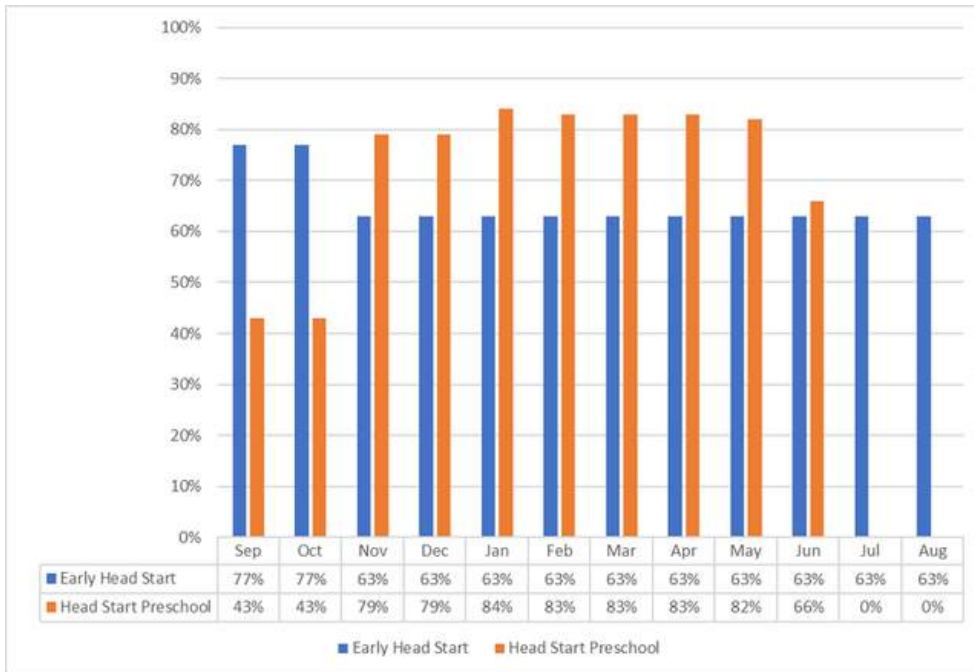
Total Number of Families Served: **154**

### CUMULATIVE ENROLLMENT:

- Early Head Start: 93 (funded 64)
- Head Start Preschool: 84 (funded 90)

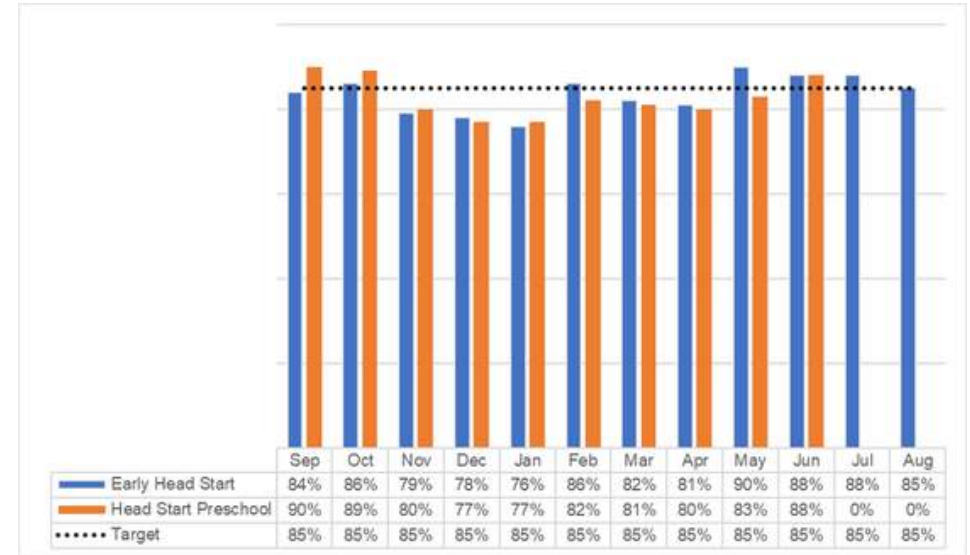
**98%** or 173 children were **income eligible**, with 1 child being between 100% and 130% of the federal poverty line and 3 children were over income.

Average Monthly Enrollment as a Percentage of Funded Enrollment



## ATTENDANCE\*\*

Average Monthly Attendance as a Percentage of Current Enrollment



\*Head Start Preschool classrooms are closed in July and August

Many of the children were chronically absent, with a total of 114 (64%) children out of the 177 cumulatively enrolled:

- **66** of the Early Head Start students (71% of the cumulative enrollment of 93), of which 43 remained enrolled until the end of the their enrollment period; Health was the reason for 49% of the absences.
- **48** of the Head Start Preschool (57% of the cumulative enrollment of 84) of which 29 remained enrolled until the end of the enrollment period. Health was the reason for 56% of the absences.

\*We served 16 more children in 24-25 than the previous program year

\*\*Based on HSPPS, a Program must maintain an 85% monthly attendance:

# HEALTH

**99%\*** of the children (92 at EHS and 83 at HSP) had an ongoing source of continuous, accessible **medical care** provided by a health care professional that maintained the child's ongoing health record and is not primarily a source of emergency or urgent care.

**43%** (40) in EHS and **78%** (66) of HSP children completed a professional **oral examination** during the program year.

*In PY 2024-25, we continued partnering with Nasson Health Care, a division of York County Community Action Corporation and a Federally Qualified Health Center, to provide dental checkups and give access to ongoing dental care for more families.*

*The % is calculated based on the total enrollment for PY 2024-25, which is: EHS - 93 and HSP - 84*



## Notable Progress in the Health and Dental Well-being of the York County Head Start Children

- 1** Number of children who were up to date on a schedule of age-appropriate preventive and primary health care:
  - EHS: from 14 at enrollment to 41 at the end of the enrollment year (193% improvement)
  - HSP: from 2 to 28 (1300% improvement).
- 2** Number of children who have been determined by a health care professional to be up to date on all immunizations appropriate for their age:
  - EHS: from 76 at enrollment to 84 at end of enrollment year (11% improvement).
  - HSP: from 77 to 82 children (7% improvement).

**“I am moving/ I am learning” (IMIL)** program, designed to increase daily moderate-to vigorous physical activity, improve the quality of movement activities, and promote healthy food choices among preschool children, was incorporated into the classrooms daily curriculum.

- 3** Number of children with continuous, accessible oral care provided by an oral health care professional which includes access to oral health preventive care and oral treatment:
  - EHS: from 3 children had access at enrollment and 42 at the end of the enrollment year (1300% increase);
  - HSP: from 37 to 75 (103% increase)



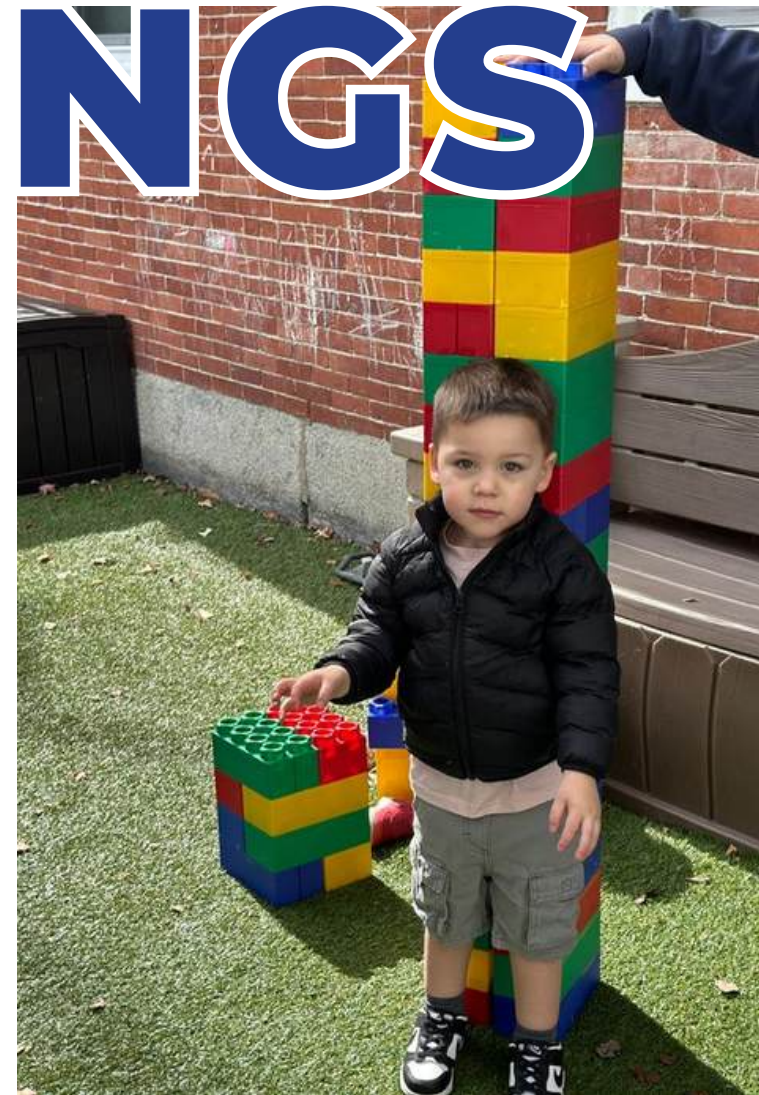
# CHILD SCREENINGS

Newly enrolled students who completed required screenings within 45 days for developmental, sensory (vision and hearing), health, and behavioral concerns:

EHS: **51%** (47 out of 93)\*

HSP: **57%** (48 out of 84)\*

\*This percentage is calculated based on the total cumulative number of enrolled children

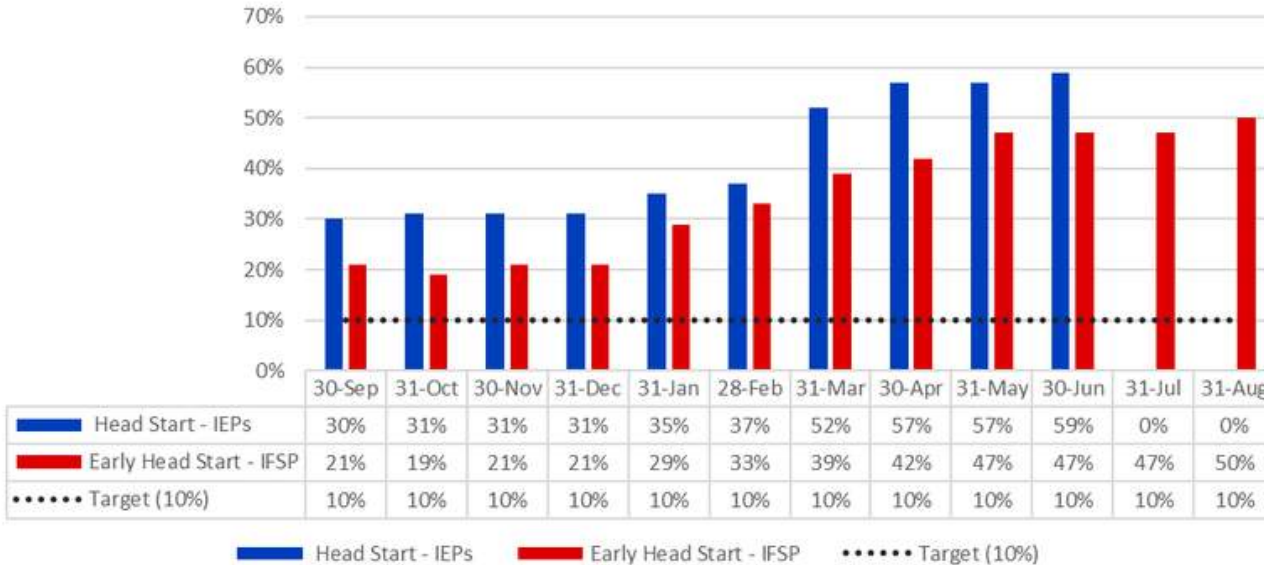


# IDEA Eligibility and Disability Services

## IDEA EVALUATIONS

- EHS:** 28 children were referred for evaluation. Out of the 28, 17 received evaluation and 16 were diagnosed with disability. 11 did not receive an evaluation, with the primary reason being that the evaluation was pending and not yet completed by the responsible agency.
- HSP:** 17 children were referred for evaluation. Out of the 17, 7 were diagnosed. 9 did not receive an evaluation, with the primary reason being that the evaluation was pending and not yet completed by the responsible agency.

Disabilities\*



**IEP - 34 (40%)** of the cumulative HSP enrollment vs the current enrollment

**IFSP - 32 (34%)** of the cumulative EHS enrollment

\*The graph represents the cumulative number of children with disability based on the enrollment of students for the month

# NUTRITION

**Total Meals  
Served: 46,121\***



\*This number does not include the number of meals served in the Head Start  
Preschool classroom within the public school Pre-K. The meals there are  
delivered through our contract with the Biddeford School Department.

We use a variety of strategies to help children in our program grow healthy and develop lifelong habits around nutritious eating. Our Family Liaisons connected all eligible families with WIC, SNAP, and community partners to support their food security needs. In addition, the Sanford Backpack Program delivered fresh, seasonal produce to our Sanford and Springvale centers each week.

With enrollment fluctuating throughout the program year, below is the average number\* of children with a total of 177 cumulatively enrolled children who received WIC:

- **75 (81%)** of the 93 EHS children
- **56 (67%)** of the 84 HSP children

We remained compliant with the CACFP program requirements for age-appropriate portion sizes and dietary-quality of the served meals.

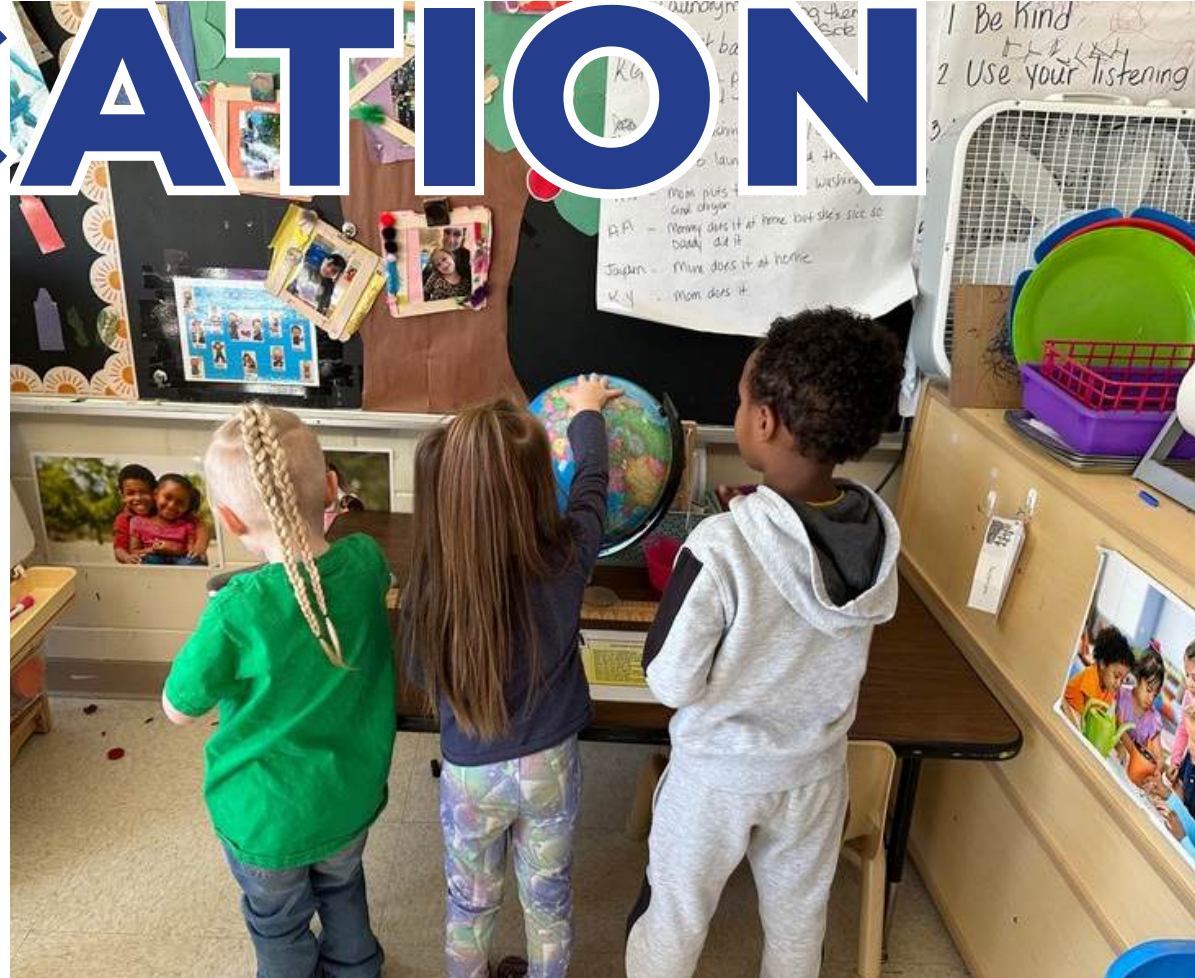
Teachers and students adopt Family-style Meals where they eat together during breakfast and lunch and have age-appropriate conversations with the goal of highlighting the importance of mealtimes as a social experience and time for family bonding.



\*The average number is calculated based on the number of families at the end of enrollment year

# EDUCATION

*We ranked in  
the top 10%  
nationally for  
C.L.A.S.S. scores*



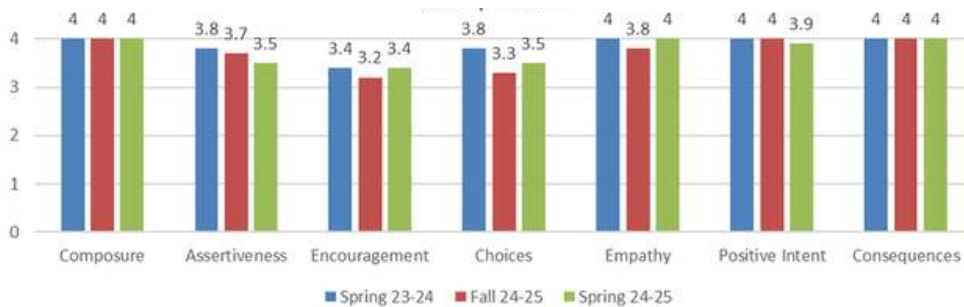
## EARLY HEAD START

### EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES

- 78%\* of the children are meeting or exceeding expectations, with Language being our lowest domain.
- 43% of children are Dual Language Learners,
- 35% children have active IFSPs, 3 children fall in both categories.

### CONSCIOUS DISCIPLINE IMPLEMENTATION TOOL

Our scores showed moderate to strong implementation in all 7 skills (Composure, Assertiveness, Encouragement, Choice, Empathy, Positive Intent, and Consequences).



EHS classrooms use the **The Quality of Care for Infants and Toddlers (QCIT)** tool to measure the quality of interactions between infants and toddlers (from birth to 36 months) and their caregivers. Scoring baseline is on a 7 point scale. The three areas that QCIT measures are the highest include:

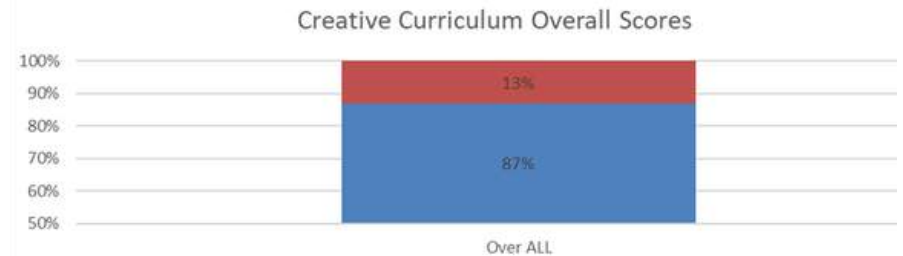
- Social-Emotional Development (5.4)
- Cognitive Development (5.1)
- Language Development (5.3).

### SCHOOL READINESS GOALS

Our School Readiness approach ensures children, families, and schools are prepared for kindergarten. We support each child's unique development.

Our curriculum, guided by **Teaching Strategies: The Creative Curriculum**, aligns with Maine's Early Learning Development Standards and Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework.

**79%** of Early Head Start children are meeting or exceeding expectations in all areas of School Readiness Goals.



87% of our classrooms showed high fidelity implementation of the Creative Curriculum

\*The percentage here is calculated on the number of enrolled children and not on the cumulative enrollment number

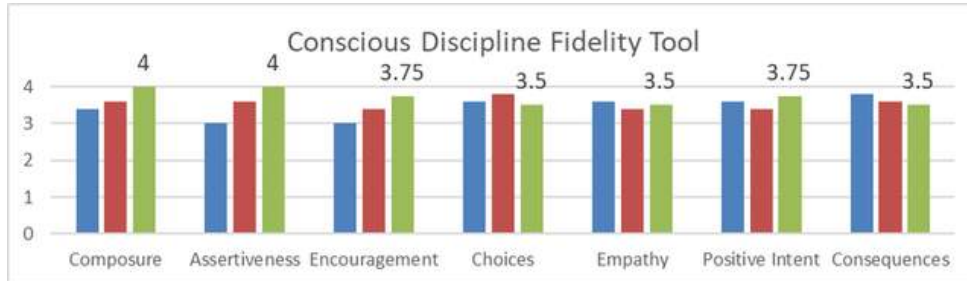
## HEAD START PRESCHOOL

### EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES

- There has been growth across all outcomes with the largest amount of growth (49%) in Literacy since Q1 of the 2024-25 school year.
- 98%\* of the children are meeting or exceeding expectations of 85% or higher in Physical growth.
- Socia-emotional growth scored the lowest at 91%.

### CONSCIOUS DISCIPLINE IMPLEMENTATION TOOL

The scores in 5 skills (Composure, Assertiveness, Encouragement, Empathy and Positive Intent) have increased. The skill of Choices has decreased from 3.8 in Fall 24-25 to 3.5 in Spring 24-25 and Consequences have decreased from 3.6 in Fall 24-25 to 3.5 in Spring 24-25. Connection, safety, and teaching missing skills must come first.



### Creative Curriculum Fidelity Tool

Scores have consistently risen since Spring 23-24. Overall, teachers are implementing the curriculum with high fidelity. Teacher/Child interactions showed moderate implementation.

### SCHOOL READINESS GOALS

We have seen increase in all areas throughout the year and met the programs' objective of seeing growth between Fall 2024 and Spring 2025. The most noticeable growth was seen in "Establish meaningful relationships and attachments to others" (from 74% in Fall 24-25 to 93% in Spring 24-25), followed by "Exhibit increasing control of large muscle and body movements" from 81% to 96%).

**89%** of Head Start Preschool children are meeting or exceeding expectations in all areas of School Readiness Goals.

In 2024, our Head Start Preschool program underwent a Federal **Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS®)** review and we placed in the top 10 percentile nationally.

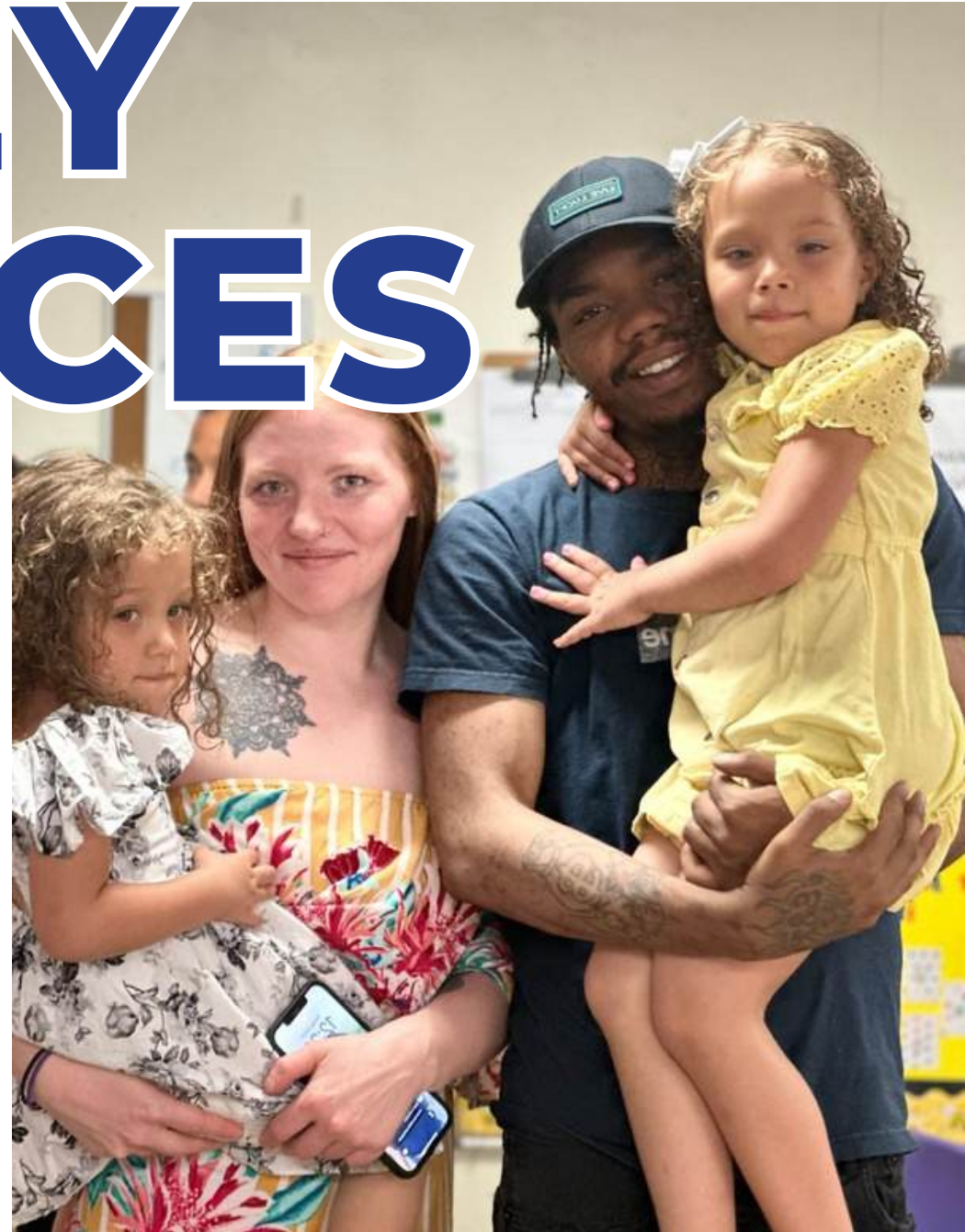
- **Emotional Support: 6.47**  
(national score: 6.32)
- **Classroom Organization: 6.2**  
(national score: 6.17)
- **Instructional Support: 4.1**  
(national score: 3.52)

**22** children were projected to enter Kindergarten in the fall of 2025.

\*The percentage here is calculated on the number of enrolled children and not on the cumulative enrollment number

# FAMILY SERVICES

Family engagement is at the heart of our work. Children thrive when families feel welcomed and valued, and our caring partnerships support learning at home and in the classroom.



During Program Year (PY) 2024–25, we continued using the Learning Genie mobile app to strengthen communication with families. The app provided daily classroom updates, event reminders, and timely weather-related closure notices.

Teachers shared real-time updates about children’s routines and classroom experiences, giving families insight into their child’s day and ways to extend learning at home. Learning Genie also supported at-home In-Kind activity tracking, encouraging family engagement and strengthening family–school partnerships.



Our Family Liaisons support children’s transitions from Early Head Start to Preschool and Kindergarten by connecting families to mental health services, ESL programs, asset-building resources, and job training, while remaining responsive to each family’s unique needs.



*“I appreciate how the program involves families through activities, communication, and resources, it feels like a true partnership.”*  
~ a parent in the annual family survey

## **FAMILY LINKZ (PARENT MEETING)**

Parent survey results showed that families understand the different ways they can engage with the program and contribute to curriculum planning.

Family Linkz meetings provided learning opportunities aligned with family goals, covering topics from budgeting to state bicycle safety regulations for children.

In 2024–25, Family Linkz was held every other month, with all six planned meetings taking place. Participation data was not reported.

## **CLASSROOM FAMILY ENGAGEMENT EVENTS**

Family engagement events bring staff, families, and children together to support children’s educational goals. Activities included making sensory bottles, painting birdhouses, and completing an indoor obstacle course as a team.

**102 (66%)** out of total 154 families attended family engagement meetings.

## **VOLUNTEERS AND IN-KIND**

### **In-Kind**

- EHS goals: \$1,630/month; \$485,707/annual goal
- HSP goals: \$4,257/month; \$469,390/annual goal

The total amount of In-Kind was \$119,813.

- EHS: \$79,749
- HS Pre-K: \$40,065

### **Volunteers**

**176** people who provided any volunteer services during the program year. Of these, 79 are current or former parents.



*I am grateful for the dedication and  
commitment of every staff member  
who works directly or indirectly for  
the well-being of our children.*

*~ Head Start Parent*



## **2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT**

**Follow us on Facebook and Instagram:  
@yorkcountyheadstartme**

**Learn how to get involved:  
<https://headstart.yccac.org/support-us/>**