



2022-2023

Annual Report



HEAD
START

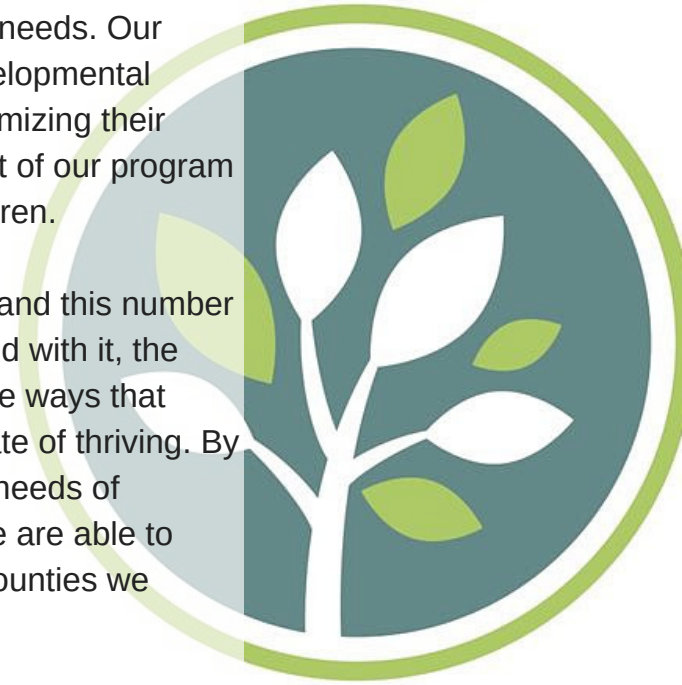
A PROGRAM OF  HRDC

Program Overview

SERVING:
Belgrade
Bozeman
Livingston

Human Resource Development Council of District IX, Inc. (HRDC) began operating the Head Start Program in April of 1991. HRDC Head Start is funded to serve 152 children in Gallatin and Park Counties of Montana. Its focus is to provide for the healthy development of children and the strengthening of families through family involvement, community engagement and parent education. Head Start serves children with a wide range of development levels including children with special needs. Our program strives to bring a greater degree of social and developmental competence to the children of participating families by maximizing their unique strengths and abilities. Parents are an important part of our program and we support them as the primary educators of their children.

HRDC serves and supports over 11,000 individuals yearly, and this number continues to grow quickly with our increasing population, and with it, the cost of living. Our goal is to impact our community in positive ways that allows anyone to move out of challenge and crisis into a state of thriving. By offering wrap-around services that address our community needs of housing, food and nutrition, childcare and transportation, we are able to support a wide range of needs and individuals in all three counties we serve.



Mission

HRDC Head Start is a High Quality Program for Children & Families, forming a foundation for school readiness & lifelong learning.

Blending multi cultural and anti-biased education in an inclusive environment.

Fostering development of the whole child: self-identity, cognitive, language, literacy, physical, arts, emotional, wellness and social development.

Partnering and honoring the lives of children, their families and their communities



Letter from Our Director

We had another wonderful year at HRDC's Early Childhood Education program, where we believe that every child deserves a head start. Our incredible teachers were busy in our inclusive classrooms which provide a supportive preschool experience that fosters children's development through natural environments and play-based learning. Once again we have seen their hard work and dedication to young children result in impressive child data, with over 90% of our graduates meeting or exceeding kindergarten readiness standards. I am so proud of our excellent staff, who continue to strive to provide the highest quality of care and education to our children through high levels of education, experience, commitment and dedication. Their passion for child development and the well being of children and their families inspires me every day. This year we were excited to bring back our in person parent engagement events, such as our Literacy Carnival, Health Care Institute and Night at the Museum . We believe that our parents and caregivers are our students' first and most important teachers. We were excited to support our parents and families with nutritional cooking class as well as our Circle of Security parenting classes. We are honored to share in the preschool journey with these amazing and adorable children and so inspired to walk alongside the parents, students, teachers and staff that make up our community.

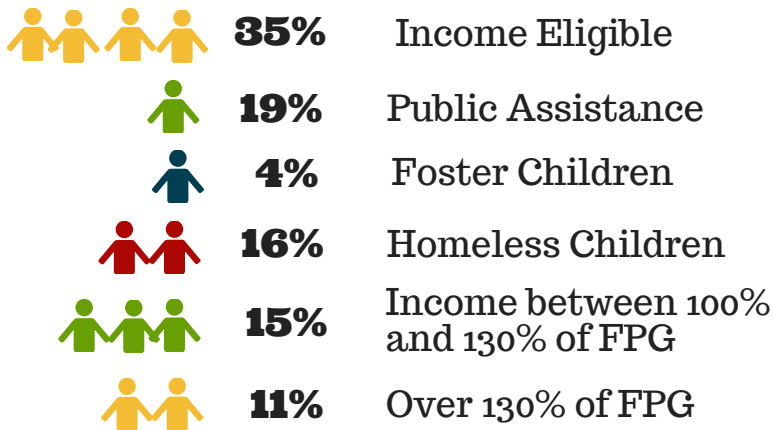
Warmest Regards,

Sara Savage
Early Childhood Director & HRDC Associate Director



Enrollment Snapshot

Families interested in the Head Start program must qualify by meeting locally designed requirements. Eligibility is based on family income at or below the Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPL). Children in foster care, homeless children, and children from families receiving public assistance (TANF or SSI) are eligible regardless of income. Our program may enroll up to 35% of our funded enrollment for families who are between 100%-130% of FPL. Up to 10% of our enrollment funded enrollment may include families that are over 130% of FPL. For the 2022-2023 school year our families qualified in the following income categories. The percentages shown are based off of actual enrollment not our funded enrollment:



109 Families

44% were single-parent families

113 Children

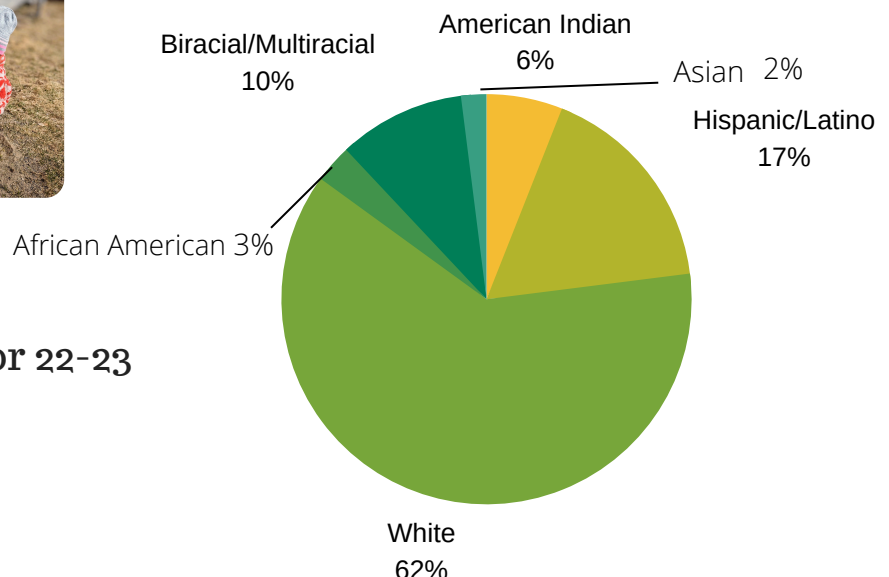
74% of total families served were income or categorical eligible

26% Percentage of eligible children served in our communities

*Number of children we served divided by the number of 0-4 year olds in poverty in Gallatin & Park Counties. Data obtained from Montana Kids Count. <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/customreports/4279/any>



Racial Makeup



95

Average monthly enrollment for 22-23

(63% of funded enrollment)

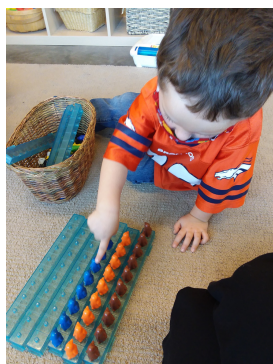
81.84%

Average daily attendance for 22-23

Using the Teaching Strategies Gold (TS Gold) assessment tool, we assess and track the growth of students at three checkpoints throughout the school year. This year we provided three checkpoints. This helps our program determine the percentage of children meeting or exceeding Kindergarten readiness expectations over five domains. At our third check point of the 2022-2023 school year we saw the following results:

SCHOOL READINESS OUTCOMES:

Social-Emotional	92%
Physical	97%
Language	86%
Cognitive	92%
Literacy	93%
Mathematics	93%

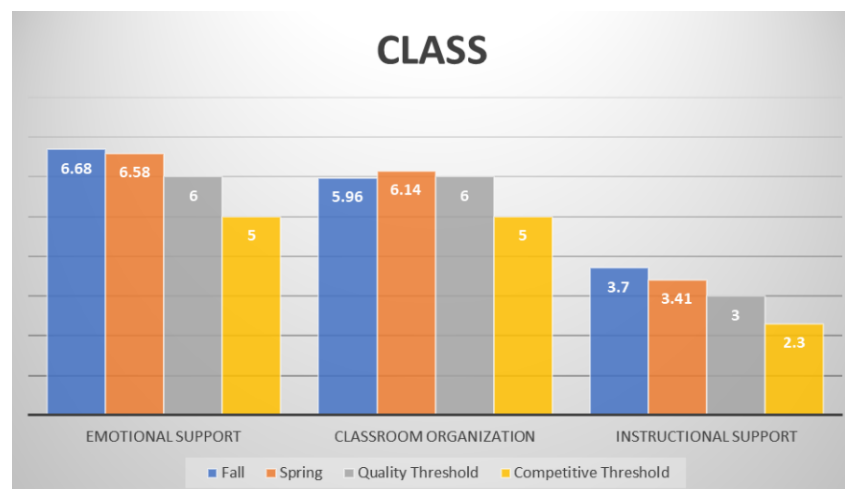


The **Early Academic screener** is used twice a year, assessing predictive indicators in Math and Literacy which include letter knowledge, number naming, 1:1 correspondence and subitizing using a tiered approach. The results of this screener are used as a tool for teaching staff to move children through the different tiers throughout the year.

Education

HRDC Head Start served children in a classroom setting four days per week, both full day and half with classes. Experience at Head Start fosters a strong love of learning, while our curriculum, **Creative Curriculum**, provides a comprehensive approach to development, by supporting children's individual development in language, literacy, cognitive, physical, science, social studies, math, and the arts. Our program encourages the theory that children learn through play and intentional, individualized teaching. This foundation supports children throughout their lives.

CLASS, or the **Classroom Assessment Scoring System**, is an observational measure that looks at interactions between teachers and students. These ratings are categorized into three areas: Emotional Support, Classroom Organization and Instructional Support. Each area is further broken down into different dimensions. Each dimension is ranked on a scale of one to seven, seven being the highest score given. Our 2021-2022 CLASS scores are shown in the graph below.

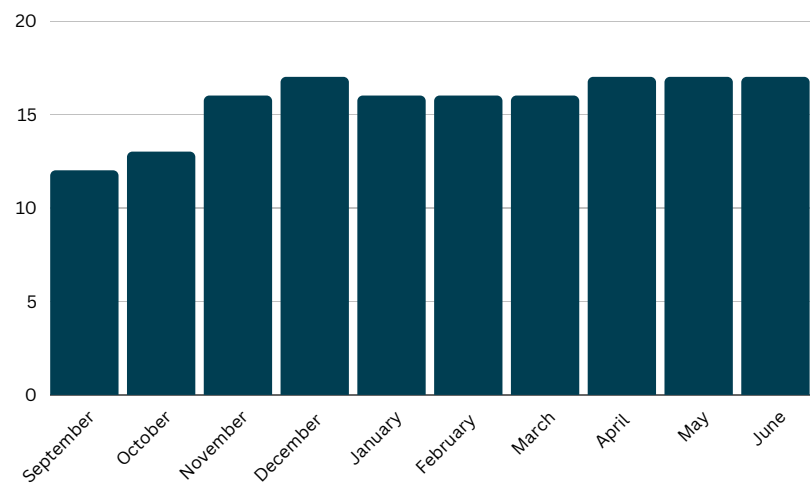


Social-Emotional Development

HRDC Head Start uses the Devereaux Early Childhood Assessment (DECA) and the Conscious Discipline Curriculum as a key part of the social-emotional, mental health process. With family and teacher data from these assessments we begin each year with a proactive approach to children's mental health and social emotional needs. Using a universal and individualized focus of support, children begin to recognize feelings, build trust, problem-solve, resolve conflicts, build resiliency, and develop independence and healthy attachments. If needed this data gives us the ability to reach out to community mental health resources for intensive care.



The graph below shows the number of Social Emotional action plans from the DECA assessment and individualized action plans for children's social, emotional, and mental health needs.



2022-2023 GOVERNING BOARD

Policy Council

Jessica Willmarth
Chair

Meaghan Hightower
Vice Chair

Lauren Vasquez
Rebeca Samwel
Liz Schults
Dominique Misa
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Bruce Grubbs
Penelope Pierce
Pete Macfayden



HRDC Head Start's goal is to promote family wellness through education, healthy choices and healthy lifestyles for our children and their families. Staff assist families with immunization requirements, health insurance questions, finding a medical home and encourage well child care. Dental and Physical exams are required for all children within 90 days of starting school. Our program has been fortunate to offer free oral health exams to all Head Start children. All enrolled children receive health screenings which include; Vision, Hearing, BMI, Height & Weight and Blood Lead.

8
children

children had a health care plan for children with chronic conditions

17
children

had a modified diet due to food allergies

66%

of children were up-to-date at the end of enrollment on a schedule of age appropriate preventive and primary care

93%

of enrolled children received an annual dental exam



Nutrition

24,185 dietitian approved meals served

8,509

Breakfast

8,793

Lunch

6,883

Snack



Our program receives federal cash assistance to serve these healthy meals. Meals served at HRDC Early Childhood Education must meet nutrition requirements established by the USDA's Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).

Family Services

At HRDC Head Start we believe that we are in a unique position to support and promote not only the child's early learning, but also the child's well-being and the well-being of parents and families. Parent, Family and Community Engagement is built upon developing trusting relationships with families that support family well-being, strong parent-child relationships and ongoing learning and development of parents and children alike.

Building these relationships begins with involving parents in their child's development and learning through positive parent-child interactions. We accomplish this through home visits and conferences and educational goal planning. Parent engagement promotes children's attainment of their academic goals through take home activities, parent involvement in their child's classroom, special day activities in the classroom such as Pancakes for Pals, interactions with our Family Support staff during parent orientation, goal planning and Family Partnership Agreements. The various family events we plan with the help of engaged community partners, help our families feel a part of the communities they live in.

90

Families served by Head Start

Needs met (clothing, food, housing, etc...) **86%**

Families housed **6**

Referrals to community agencies **62**

2022-2023 EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

- Literacy Carnival
- School Readiness Meeting
- Monthly Healthy Kids Pack Starts

OCTOBER

- Policy Council Elections
- LIEAP (Energy Assistance)

NOVEMBER

- Harvest Food Boxes
- Winter Hat Giveaway

DECEMBER

- Holiday Food Boxes
- Salvation Army Holiday Assistance

JANUARY

- Midyear check-ins
- Health Care Institute

FEBRUARY

- Kindergarten Registration

MARCH

- Museum of the Rockies Family Fun Night
- Cooking Classes
- Circle of Security

APRIL

- Flapjacks for Families
- Circle of Security (continued)

MAY

- Half Day Graduation Ceremonies

JUNE

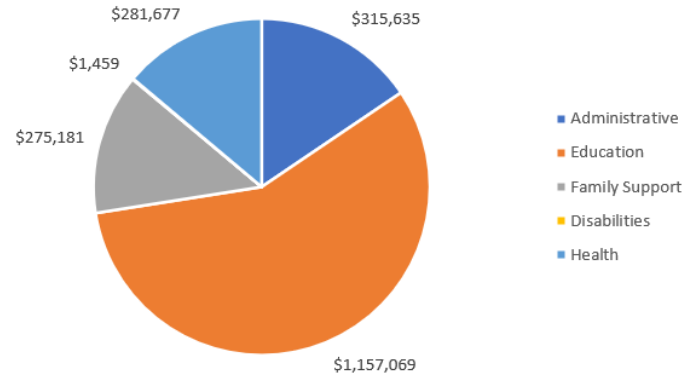
- Graduation Ceremonies
- Menu Committee

Financial Information

2022-2023

U.S. Department of HHS--Head Start Grant	\$	1,685,716
ARPA	\$	166,872
Cost of Living Adjustments	\$	47,983
Total Federal Head Start Grant	\$	1,900,571
United State Department of Agriculture Child & Adult Care Food Program	\$	73,586
STARS (Quality Rating and Improvement System)	\$	39,500
Best Beginnings Scholarship	\$	13,365
Sponsorships	\$	4,000
Total Funding Sources	\$	2,031,022
Non-Federal Share Required	\$	161,429

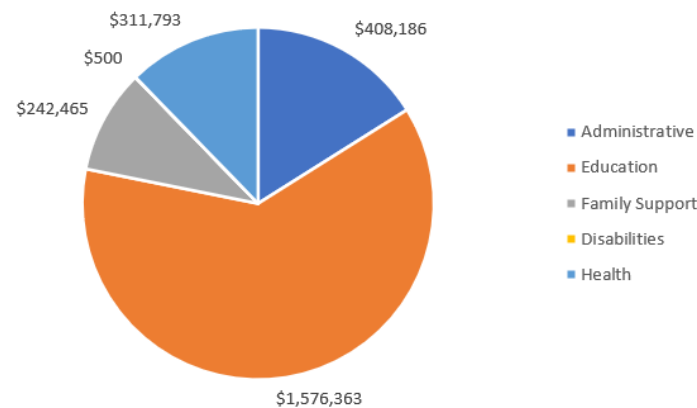
Expenditures



Proposed 2023-2024 Budget

U.S. Department of HHS—Head Start Grant	\$	1,733,699
Cost of Living Adjustment & Quality Improvement Funding	\$	138,997
Total Federal Head Start Grant	\$	1,872,696
United State Department of Agriculture Child & Adult Care Food Program	\$	119,223
CDBG Stabilization	\$	220,000
STARS (Quality Rating and Improvement System)	\$	39,000
Best Beginnings	\$	15,000
Donations	\$	10,000
Total Funding Sources	\$	2,275,919
Non-Federal Share Required	\$	433,425

Expenditures



Audit/Review Results

The most recent auditor's report showed no deficiencies, no matters of noncompliance, and no audit findings related to the financial statements of the HRDC. HRDC qualified as a low-risk auditee.

Head Start has passed all of its monitoring visits for the five year grant period and is in a non-competitive grant status.

Thank You

Community Partners

**Bozeman
Health**

**MUSEUM
OF
THE ROCKIES**

PARK COUNTY
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION



**CHILD CARE
CONNECTIONS**



BELGRADE
COMMUNITY
LIBRARY



Belgrade

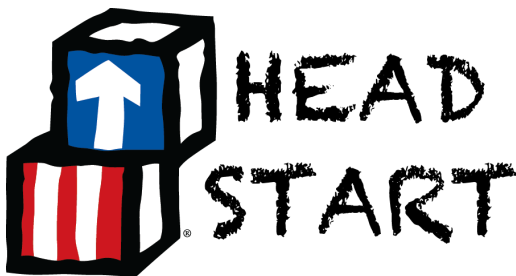
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Bozeman

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Livingston

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*This Program is an Equal Opportunity Provider