



HRDC EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT, 2023-2024

This Annual Report is posted on our website for the public to view. We also notify our partners and families once the new annual report is available. This program is an equal opportunity provider.



HRDC
BUILDING A BETTER COMMUNITY

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A LETTER FROM OUR DIRECTOR

We enjoyed another successful year at HRDC's Early Childhood Education program, where we believe that every child deserves a Head Start. Our dedicated teachers continue to provide a nurturing preschool experience that supports children's growth and development through natural environments and play-based learning. Our natural environments play a key role in fostering children's growth and success and we have once again seen the results of this with **over 93% of our graduates**



meeting or exceeding kindergarten readiness standards. We take great pride in our staff for delivering exceptional care to the children in their classrooms. This year we are excited to partner with our school districts through a co-enrollment opportunity so that children and families in voluntary pre-k programs may receive comprehensive services to prepare them for elementary school and to address any potential achievement gaps. We are once again looking forward to our parent engagement events such as the Literacy Carnival, Health Care Institute and Night at the Museum. **We believe that parents and caregivers are a child's first and most influential teachers, and we are thrilled to support our families with a variety of resources,** including nutritional cooking classes and Circle of Security parenting courses. These opportunities equip parents with valuable tools to support their children's development and well-being. **It's an honor to be part of your child's Head Start journey, and I am inspired daily by the children, staff, parents, and community members who make this experience so meaningful.**

Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandy Stavig".

Sandy Stavig
Early Childhood Director

OUR 2023-2024 GOVERNING BOARD

Jessica Willmarth-Chair

Meaghan Hightower

Krystal Lopez

Tyler Horigan

Liz Schults

Kami O'Neal

Skylie Kline

Billie Warford

Tammy Christofferson

HRDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Scott Malloy-Board Chair

Linda Young-Vice Chair

Steven Klein

Mitch Bradley

Kris Moos

Peter Schmidt

Billie Warford

Jessica Willmarth

Gene Townsend

Scott MacFarlane

Amy Stix

Bruce Grubbs

Penelope Pierce

Pete Macfayden

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Human Resource Development Council of District IX, Inc. (HRDC) began operating the Head Start Program in April of 1991. ***HRDC serves 128 children in Gallatin and Park County through our Head Start program.*** 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 12,000 individuals yearly, and this number continues to grow quickly with our increasing population and cost of living. HRDC is building a better community by combating poverty and offsetting the high cost of living for our hard-working neighbors across Southwest Montana. 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.



OUR MISSION

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

We blend multicultural and anti-biased education in an *inclusive environment.*

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

We partner with and honor the lives of children, their families and their communities.

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, children experiencing homelessness, and children from families receiving public assistance (SNAP, 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 2023-2024 school year our families qualified in the following income categories. ***The percentages shown are based off of actual enrollment not our funded enrollment.***

33%
income eligible

83%
average daily attendance

103
children served

24% *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.

83%

of total families served were income or categorical eligible

99
families served

26%
public assistance

36%
of our families are single parent families

22% *are children experiencing homelessness*

1%
are foster children

9% *have incomes over 130% of FPG*

19%
of our families are English Language Learners

92% *average monthly enrollment for 23-24 (61% of funded enrollment)*

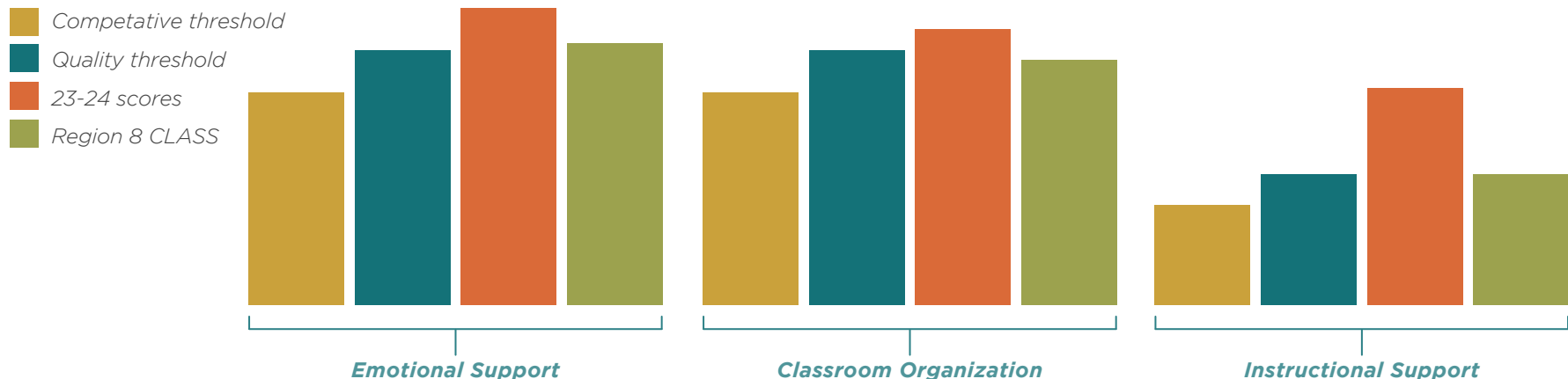
9% *have incomes between 100% and 130% of FPG*

EDUCATION

HRDC Head Start serves children in a classroom setting four days per week, with both full-day and half-day class options.

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 2023-2024 CLASS scores are shown in the graph below.



Using the Teaching Strategies Gold (TS Gold) assessment tool, we assess and track the growth of students at two checkpoints throughout the school year. This helps our program determine the percentage of children meeting or exceeding kindergarten readiness expectations over five domains. At our last check point of the 2023-2024 school year we saw the following results:

Social-Emotional 91%
Physical 100%
Language 93%
Cognitive 93%
Literacy 91%
Mathematics 91%

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.

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

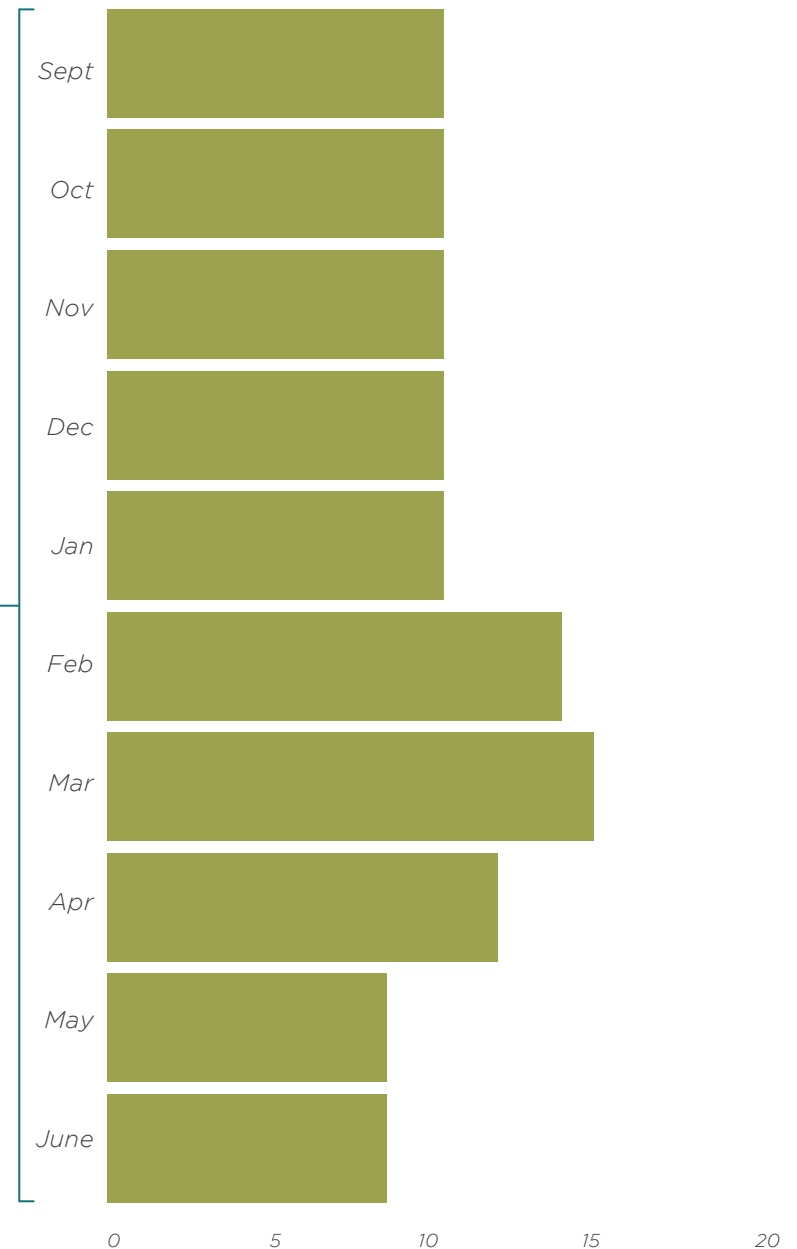
HRDC Head Start uses the Devereaux Early Childhood Assessment (DECA) and the Conscious Discipline Curriculum as a key part of the social-emotional, mental health process. ***With family and teacher data from these assessments we begin each year with a proactive approach to children's mental health and 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 to the right 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.

INCLUSIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Our program works hard to be an inclusive learning environment for young children with unique developmental needs. Ensuring children receive appropriate and timely services and helping families navigate eligibility guidelines is essential to school readiness. The Office of Head Start requires 10% of the total funded enrollment to be children with special needs. This year we served 13 children that were determined eligible to receive special education services.

NUMBER OF SOCIAL EMOTIONAL ACTION PLANS



FAMILY SERVICES

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.

***99 Families Served by Head Start
81% Needs Met (clothing, food, housing, etc.)
4 Families Housed
39 Referrals to Community Agencies***



HEALTH

Our 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.

MONTANA CACFP

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

11

children with food allergies were able to access a modified diet

78%

of enrolled children received an annual dental exam

23,832

dietitian approved meals served

6

children had a health care plan for children with chronic conditions

9,029
breakfasts

9,057
lunches

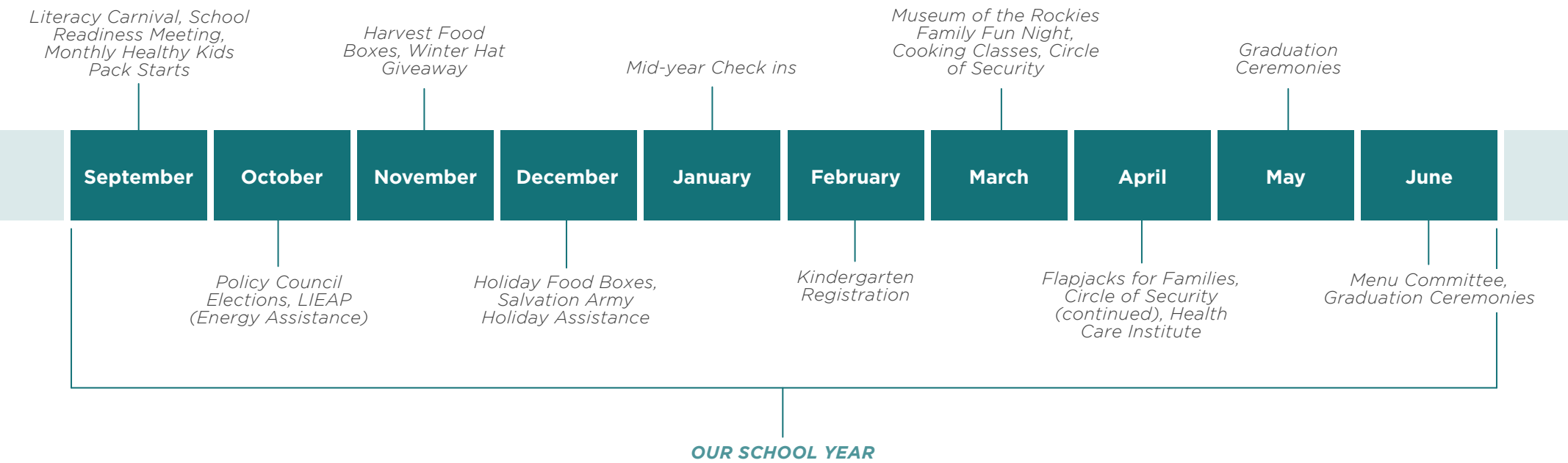
5,746
snacks

57%

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

2023-2024 EVENTS

Throughout the school year, our team creates valuable opportunities for parents to engage with community partners, learn about wellness topics, and access tools that support family well-being and growth.



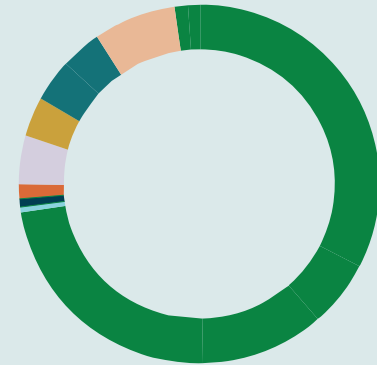
OUR 2023-2024 FINANCIALS

REVENUE

U.S. Department of HHS: Head Start Grant	\$1,733,699
USDA Child Stabilization Grant	\$138,999
Head Start Cost of Living Adjustments & Quality Improvement Funding	\$138,997
Child & Adult Care Food Program	\$73,851
Head Start Health and Safety Grant	\$71,685
Best Beginnings Scholarship	\$12,435
STARS(Quality Rating and Improvement System)	\$11,479
Sponsorships & Donations	\$3,367

Total Funding Sources
Non-Federal Share Required

\$2,184,512
\$183,425



EXPENDITURES

Education	\$1,355,001
Family Support	\$285,833
Health	\$273,212
Administrative	\$267,463
Disabilities	\$3,003

\$2,184,512



OUR PROPOSED 2024-2025 BUDGET

REVENUE

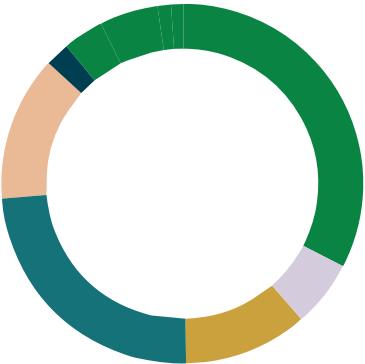
- *U.S. Department of HHS—Head Start Grant*
- *United State Department of Agriculture
Child & Adult Care Food Program*
- *Stars to Quality Reimbursements*
- *Head Start Cost of Living Adjustment
& Quality Improvement Funding*
- *Best Beginnings Scholarships*
- *Community Donations*

\$1,872,696
\$59,081

\$47,072
\$43,543

\$10,000
\$9,000

\$2,041,392



EXPENDITURES

- *Education*
- *Administrative*
- *Health*
- *Family Support*
- *Disabilities*

\$1,173,650
\$401,653
\$236,181
\$229,433
\$475

\$2,041,392



*Consolidated Statement of Activities as of June 30,
2023 Audited financial statements available at thehrdc.org*



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 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 TO OUR
COMMUNITY PARTNERS



Youth Dynamics

**Bozeman
Health**



**CHILD CARE
CONNECTIONS**



THANK YOU