

NCAF Legislative Conference

Executive Director Darin Preis spent a week in Washington, D.C. attending the National Community Action Foundation legislative conference. Darin met with legislative staff from Senators Hawley and Schmitt and Representatives Onder and Alford. All expressed interest and approval of our work. Several legislators, lobbyists, and pundits addressed the NCAF conference and expressed some level of angst about the current political climate.

We can feel proud of the work accomplished by CMCA and by community action agencies across the nation. We are doing everything right: accountability, financial responsibility, outcomes, impact, partnerships, and economic stability and growth. Please join us in helping spread the word.



February Employee of the Month



Congratulations to Natilee Novak, our February Employee of the Month! Here's why Natilee was nominated:

"Natilee is passionate about what is best for Head Start and for the children we serve. Natilee is not afraid to share her thoughts, ideas and suggestions to make our program better. Natilee is an amazing staff trainer and always strives to make her trainings relevant, interesting and fun. Natilee is always willing to help anyone in need. Natilee always has a warm greeting and loves her babies in EHS. Our new Worley building will be opening ready to greet children primarily because of Natilee and her hard work. Natilee has the education and experience to work anywhere in the education field and we are lucky she chooses to stay with Head Start, because it is her true calling."

"This individual has taken full initiative to complete a huge project. Natilee would not normally have been involved, but we are down a few staff and someone needed to take charge. Natilee wasn't asked, she just knew things had to get done. I appreciate Natilee, and I love that she felt empowered to just get it done and not ask permission to take the lead. I was able to assist in the project for a few hours one day and let me tell you, the staff were laughing as much as they were working. It was refreshing to see the energy!"

CMCA would like to thank Natilee. Beyond her role, Natilee has demonstrated incredible initiative, stepping up to tackle major projects when help was needed. Without hesitation, she took charge, ensuring critical work was completed efficiently—all while fostering a positive and uplifting environment for the team. Her ability to lead with confidence, while also bringing joy and camaraderie to the workplace, is truly inspiring.

CMCA is fortunate to have such a dedicated and passionate leader like Natilee. Her hard work, resilience, and heart for service make a lasting impact, and we are grateful she chooses to share her talents with us. Congratulations, Natilee!

2024 Commissioner of the Year



Congratulations to CMCA Board Member Leslie Meyer, who received the 2024 Commissioner of the Year award from the County Commissioners Association of Missouri. She has served on the Commission since 2021, when she was appointed by Governor Mike Parson, and she won election in 2022 and 2024. We are so grateful for Leslie's leadership in her community and on our board!

Economic Stability

Agency Employment & Financial Coaching Outcomes October 2024-Present



14

Unemployed People
Placed in Jobs



2

People with an
Increased Level
of Education



16

People with
Increased
Net Income



11

People with
Increased Savings



4

People with
IDA Matched
Savings



14

People with
Reduced Debt



18

People with
Improved Credit
Scores*



73

Non-energy related
Crisis Requests
Fulfilled

Economic Stability

Agency Employment & Financial Coaching Outcomes October 2024-Present



3

New Businesses
Started



15

New Full-Time &
3 Part-Time
Jobs Created
through small business



\$81.5K

Small business
Capital Infusions



1

Small business
Microloans



\$11K

Gross Sales
The Shops at Sharp End



768

Items Sold
The Shops at Sharp End



235

Total Customers
The Shops at Sharp End

Women's Business Center

The Shops at Sharp End celebrated a major milestone with our one-year anniversary celebration. The event was designed to highlight the efforts of our participants and reinforced the program's commitment to fostering retail entrepreneurship.

The Shops at Sharp End hosted the 6th Annual Black Expo, which provided a valuable opportunity to network with sixty other vendors and showcase the brands of our participants to the wider community. Continuing the Black History Month celebrations, we partnered with the Black Professional Society to host the Networking Mixer, featuring three esteemed keynote speakers – Barbra Horrell, Fran Tibbs, and Mary Ratcliff – who shared the history of the original Sharp End and the thriving Black businesses that existed there in the 1960s. Their insights provided an educational and inspirational look into the past, emphasizing the importance of preserving and continuing the legacy of Black business excellence.

To conclude Black History Month, The Shops at Sharp End proudly showcased the artwork of West Boulevard Elementary School 5th grade students. Their portrait exhibit was a meaningful tribute to young artists and their interpretations of Black history and culture.



Congratulations to the graduates of the fall 2024 cohort of Kauffman's FastTrac Business Academy! At the graduation ceremony, five businesses presented their ideas, shared what they had learned, and outlined their future plans.

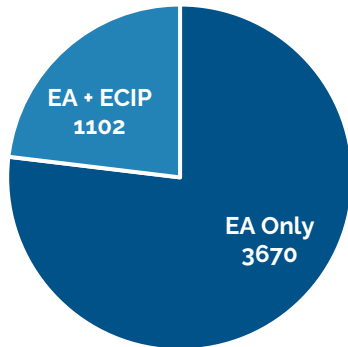
Our Nonprofit Cohort, offered in partnership with Partner for Better, kicked off in late February and will continue monthly through July. Participants worked on refining their mission, vision, and values during the first session.

Economic Stability

Total Households Receiving Energy Assistance

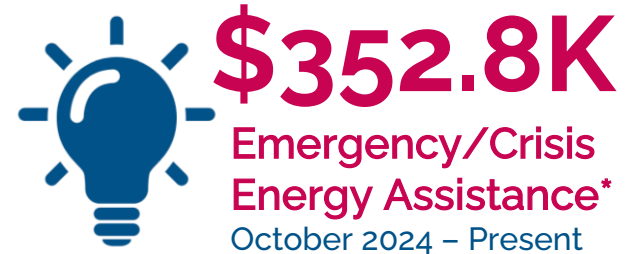
October 2024-Present

Total: 4,772



Total Energy Assistance Applications Processed

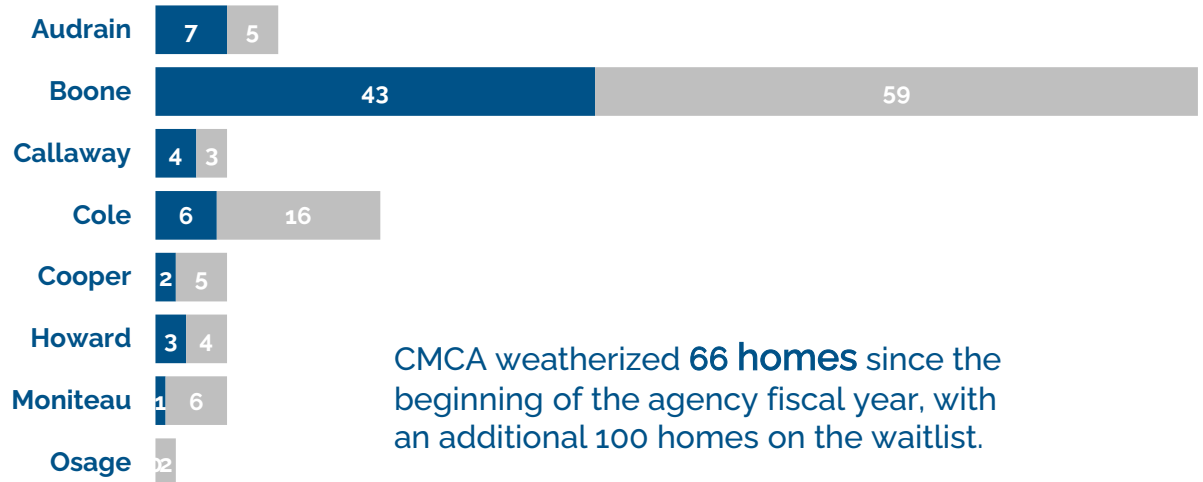
Eligible	129
Ineligible	556
Direct Pay	74
Supplier Approved	3,596
Supplier Denials	32
Reapplications	300
ECIP Applications	1,102
Total Applications	5,789



*This amount reflects ECIP payments & pledges only. Households must first receive EA to be eligible to receive ECIP.

Weatherized Homes

■ Homes Completed ■ Waitlist



CMCA weatherized **66 homes** since the beginning of the agency fiscal year, with an additional 100 homes on the waitlist.

CMCA Impacted by Confusion about Federal Funding

Federal actions resulting in confusion about Weatherization BIL funding and paused our work. There were no additional homes weatherized during the month of February.

Economic Stability



11 Tenants Paying Full Rent

Will graduate HCV after six months of paying full rent



434

Households on HCV Waitlist
Housing Choice Voucher

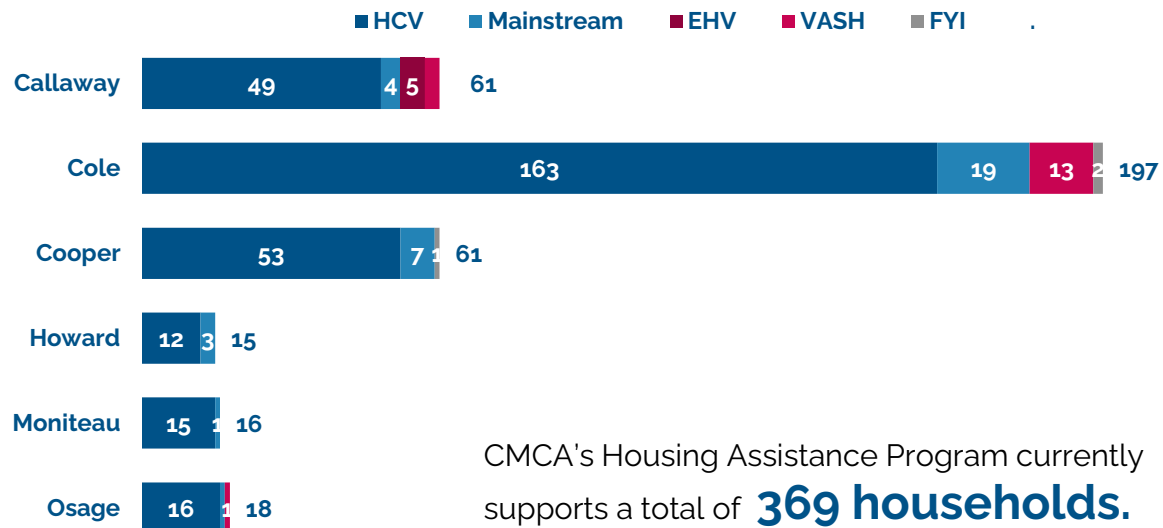


22

Outstanding Housing Vouchers

Includes 3 households who are unhoused and 19 who are presently housed

Households Receiving Housing Assistance Payments



CMCA's Housing Assistance Program currently supports a total of **369 households**.

Strengthening Communities



Audrain County

CMCA participated in a new housing taskforce that intends to address housing needs in Audrain County. The taskforce is currently working on developing an up-to-date landlord list.

We also participated in ACCORD's awareness event and handed out Narcan and educational information about drug prevention.



Callaway County

Community Organizer Kellie Pontius organized an apprenticeship opportunity for a COPIC WIOA Youth Work Experience participant. Head Start will provide the onsite training and COPIC will provide the paid training up to 320 hours for the high school student. After the training hours are complete, the participant will complete on-the-job training, and COPIC will reimburse Head Start 50% of their wages. After completion, the WIOA youth will receive a credential and possibly a career pathway into the education field.



Boone County

Congratulations to Onni Flint, our new Boone County Community Organizer! Onni has jumped into her new role by attending Upward Mobility housing planning meetings, contracting for two spring poverty simulations, and preparing tables & booths for several upcoming community events.

Our new infant/toddler building at Worley Head Start is now open! We have one more classroom to move in at the end of May, but are excited to have the new space open for children and families.



We're trying something new! To help us gauge how effectively we are engaging Board Members through the Director's Report, we will include a

hidden code somewhere in each Director's Report. [Click the link](#) to submit the code.

This month's code is: *Spring*

Strengthening Communities



Cooper & Howard Counties

The 2025 Boonslick Education & Employment Expo will be held on April 2nd at the Isle of Capri Casino Hotel. This year we are partnering with the Boonville-Area Chamber of Commerce, Boonville Technical Education Center, and the Heart of Missouri Regional Professional Development Center. Last year, the EXPO committee moved this event to the spring to allow us to focus on career readiness and employment opportunities for students looking for employment directly after high school. Students enrolled in area college programs and job seekers in the community are also encouraged to attend.

Community Organizer Cheri Cherry attended Cooper County's Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) two-day workshop organized by Cooper County Administrator and CMCA board member Paula Sims. Board member/community advocate Khyeese Bethea also attended. Other participants included members from county and city government, emergency management, the health department, local law enforcement, mental health care providers, State Representative Tim Taylor, and other community stakeholders. The goal is to provide assistance and resources to those with mental health issues that would otherwise fall to law enforcement agencies.

Community Organizer Cheri Cherry with CMCA Board Members Khyeese Bethea and Paula Sims.



Early Childhood Program Updates

Winter weather caused many of our centers to close, with some road conditions affecting children's ability to attend when the centers re-opened. The weather contributed to the program falling below the expected 85% average daily attendance for the third month in a row. As required by the Head Start Performance Standards, we reviewed children's absence reasons and did not find any concerns. The top three reasons for child absence in February were: child illness (28.5%), family illness/death (19.5%), and inclement weather but center was open (18.2%). These are reasonable absences for the winter season, so we have no concerns at this time.

We were able to re-open one infant/toddler classroom in Boone County to half capacity in February. We expect to open Callaway EHS, which is currently at half capacity, to full capacity in March.

Sites took advantage of the warm-ish weather and sunny days to spend some time outside. Children enjoyed the chance to stretch their muscles, let some energy out, and get some fresh air. Sites also hosted several family events, including a Chili Cook Off at Centralia and an Arts & Crafts Day at Linn.



Head Start Enrollment & Attendance February 2025

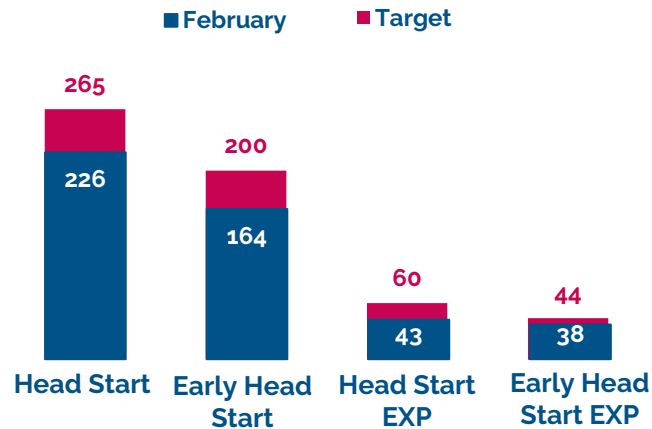


7 classroom closures

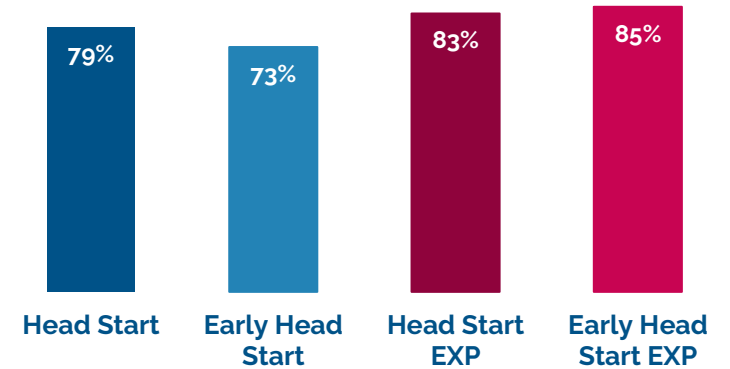
Children Affected by Site Closures



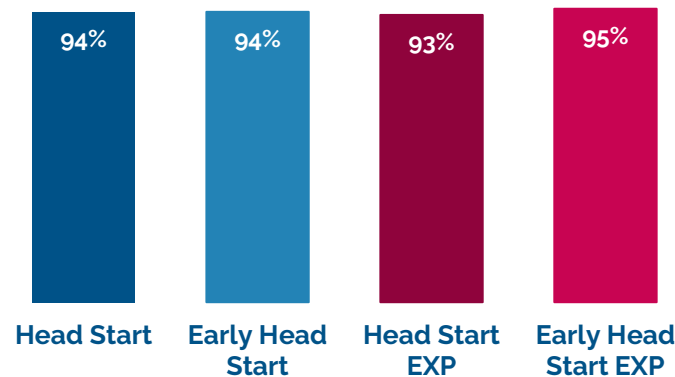
Actual Enrollment



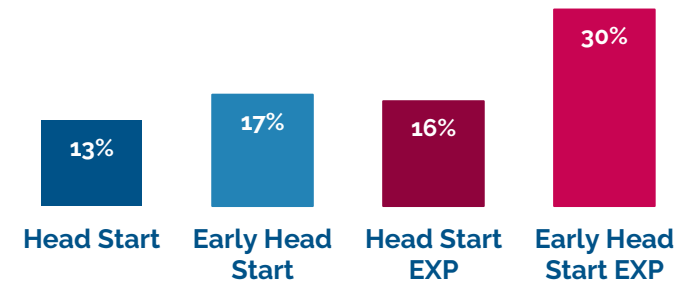
Average Daily Attendance



Income Eligible Enrollment



Disabilities Enrollment





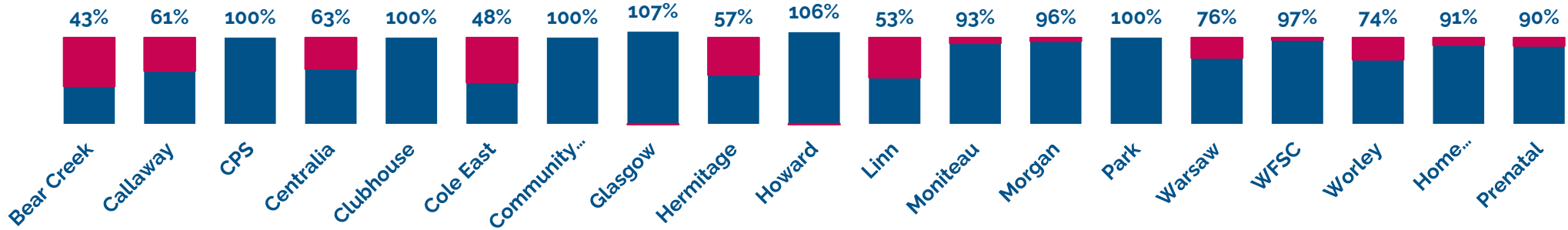
Family Well-Being

Head Start Enrollment & Attendance by Site February 2025

End of Month Enrollment by Site

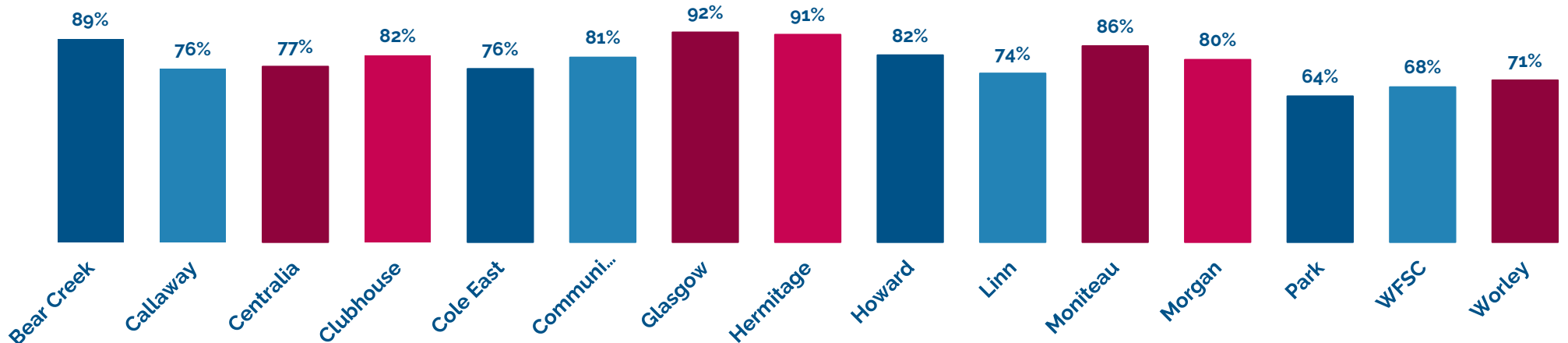
as a Percentage of Funded Enrollment

■ % of Funded enrollment ■ % Vacant



Average Daily Attendance by Site

as a Percentage of Actual Enrollment



Family Well-Being

Head Start Classroom Snapshot

February 2025



16

Behavior Reports
for Classroom Behaviors



10

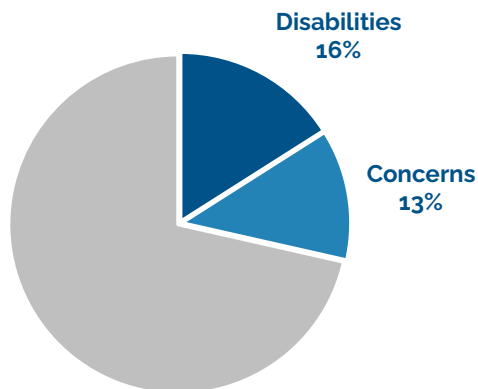
**Active Head Start
Staff Vacancies**
All HS Positions



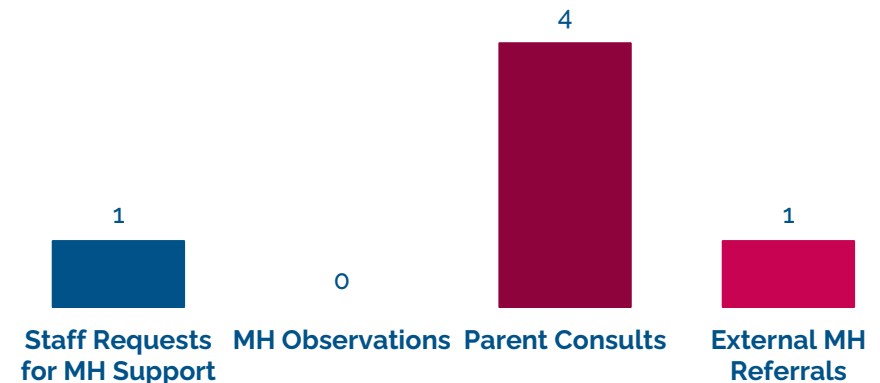
24

**Staff Receiving
Intensive Coaching**
on Education &
Mental Health Topics

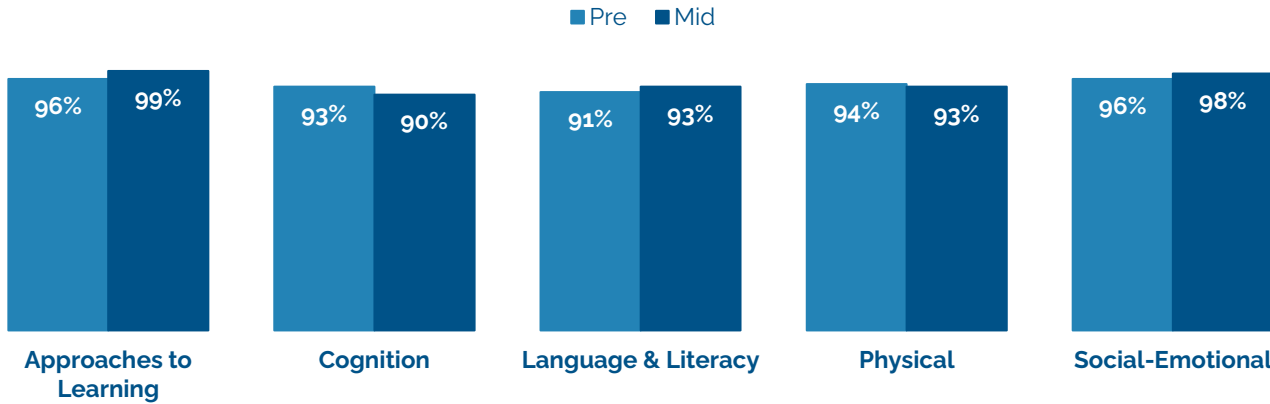
Classroom Children with Disabilities & Disabilities Concerns



Classroom Mental Health Supports



Infants & Toddlers Developing At or Above Age Expectations (Middle of Year, Children with Two Data Points)

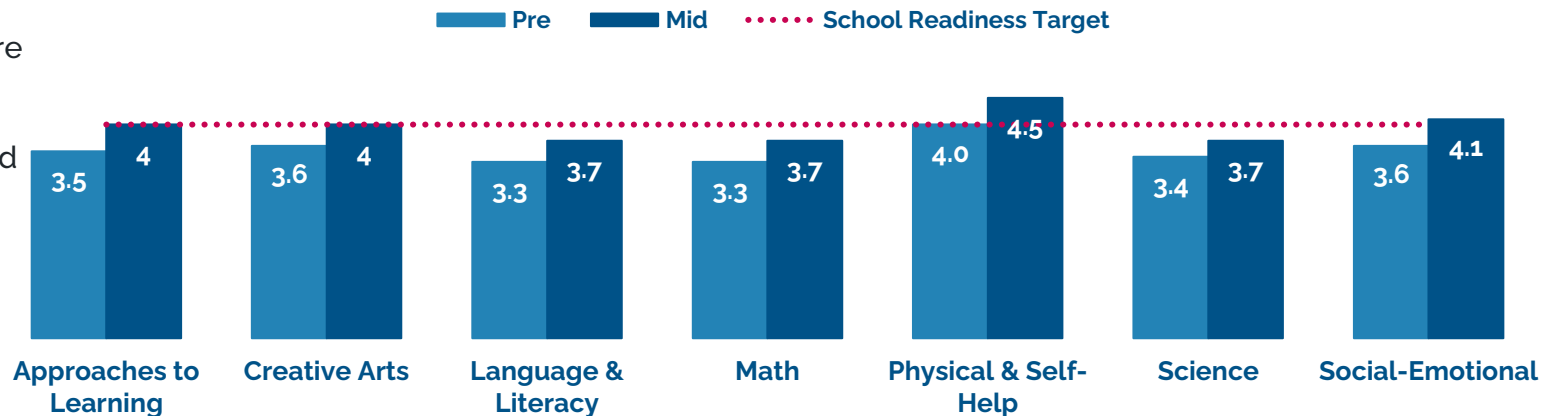


Data indicates that the majority of infants and toddlers continue to meet or exceed developmental expectations. A slight decrease in children meeting age expectations for cognitive skills appeared for children enrolled in two particular classrooms and one home based caseload. Additional analysis indicated that the decline in cognitive skills was reported for a total of three children. These children will receive individualized supports through their child goals.

Preschool outcomes reflect the average scores on the HighScope COR for each developmental domain. This tool measures achievement of curriculum indicators, as indicated by a score of 4 of higher.

Children from one classroom had lower average scores and also reported a decrease in scores since the beginning of the year. This classroom has a very experienced teacher and extensive mental health, behavior, and education supports already in place.

Preschool Child Outcomes (Middle of Year, Children with Two Data Points)





Family Well-Being

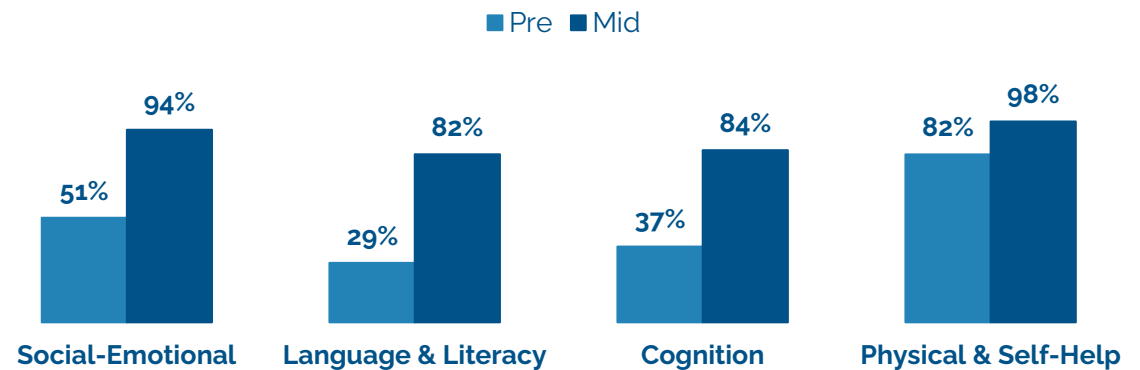
School Readiness

School readiness is assessed for all children who will be age-eligible to enter kindergarten in the fall. The graph indicates the percentage of kindergarten-eligible children who are meeting each school readiness goal.

Kindergarten-eligible children made significant growth in all areas of development, but particularly in language & literacy and cognitive skills. There were no notable differences amongst demographic groups or classrooms.

Kindergarten-Eligible Children who are Ready for School

Middle of Year, 2024-2025



CMCA School Readiness Goals

1. Each program year, **95% of children will demonstrate age-appropriate social skills and behavior** or will make progress on established individual support plans based on referrals/special services.
2. Each program year, **95% of children will demonstrate age-appropriate language & literacy skills** or will make progress on established individual support plans based on referrals/special services.
3. Each program year, **95% of children will demonstrate age-appropriate cognitive skills** or will make progress on established individual support plans based on referrals/special services.
4. Each program year, **95% of children will demonstrate age-appropriate physical and self-help skills** or will make progress on established individual support plans based on referrals/special services.

Family Well-Being

Health & Wellness



15

People obtained
Health Insurance
October 2024 - Present



490

Children received
Health Screenings
October 2024 - Present



19

Children received
**Follow-Up Medical
or Dental Care**
September 2024 - Present



472

Children up-to-date
Immunizations
September 2024 - Present



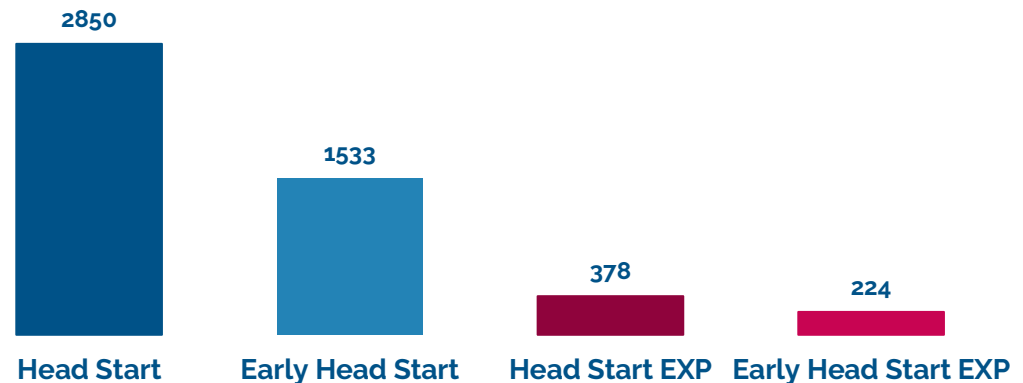
416

Children up-to-date on
Physical Exams
September 2024 - Present

People with Improved Health



Head Start Meals Served (Determines CACFP Reimbursement)





One Hundred Man Lunches

Each year, our Head Start sites host 100 Man Lunches – or Breakfasts! – to encourage male engagement and to provide children with positive male role models. We hope you can join us for some good food and good fun with the kids!

Callaway Head Start

April 10th, 11:00

Linn Head Start

April 25th, 8:00

Centralia Head Start

April 11th, 11:00 and 12:30

Moniteau Head Start

April 11th, 8:00

Cole East Head Start

April 25th, 11:00

Morgan Head Start

April 18th, 11:00

Glasgow Head Start

March 13th, 8:00

Park Head Start

April 11th, time TBD

Hermitage Head Start

April 23rd, 7:00

Williams Family

Support Center

April 17th, 8:30

Howard Head Start

March 21st, 12:00

Worley Head Start

April 11th, 11:30