

## Staff Appreciation Picnic

CMCA enjoyed bringing the entire agency together for our staff appreciation picnic. We enjoyed arts and crafts, goodie basket raffles, and great food. Our competitive spirits came out with some sand volleyball – congrats to the Spiked Punch team, our volleyball champions! We also celebrated staff employment milestones with certificates and awards. Huge thanks to our Missouri CAN agency officers for planning a great event!



**Shere Bruner**  
**HS Data Systems**  
**Administrator**  
**35 years**

**Mellissa Frevert**  
**HS Site Director**  
**35 years**



**Patricia Voshell**  
**HS Site Director**  
**30 years**

## April Employee of the Month



Congratulations to Emilee Hughes, Callaway Head Start Teacher, our April Employee of the Month! Here's why Emily was nominated:

"This team member radiates positive energy from the moment she walks through the door, the kind of energy that makes even a Tuesday ("Monday") morning feel manageable. She takes direction with ease, adapts quickly when changes are needed, and somehow manages to make it all look effortless.

She pitches in wherever needed, taking on extra responsibilities, and doing it all with a smile (and maybe a little bit of caffeine). Her "can-do" attitude and willingness to help have made a real difference in keeping things running smoothly.

In short, she's the kind of person who makes teamwork look easy and makes the whole workplace brighter just by being there."

Congrats, Emilee! Thank you for bringing such great energy and dedication to all you do!



## Charles Braithwait Award Winner

In May, several of our staff members attended the Missouri Community Action Network Annual Conference. And while it was a great time of learning, growing, and networking, the highlight of the conference came on Day 1, when Darin Preis, our Executive Director, received the 2026 Charles Braithwaite Award.

Darin has led CMCA for over 20 years and has served in community action for more than 30 years. His dedication to ongoing improvement, his willingness to innovate, and his passion for advocacy have helped make CMCA a nationally respected organization. Throughout his career, his leadership has strengthened community action work across the state. Congratulations, Darin!



## Athena Young Professional Award



Our very own Jayme Prenger, Director of the Missouri Women's Business Center, has been honored with the 2026 Athena Young Professionals Award from the Women's Network – Columbia Chamber of Commerce.

This award recognizes leaders who pursue excellence, give back to their community, and are committed to lifting others. If you've been around Jayme and her team, you know that she lives out these qualities.

We are grateful to have her as part of the CMCA team and even more grateful for the impact she has on those we serve. Congratulations, Jayme!



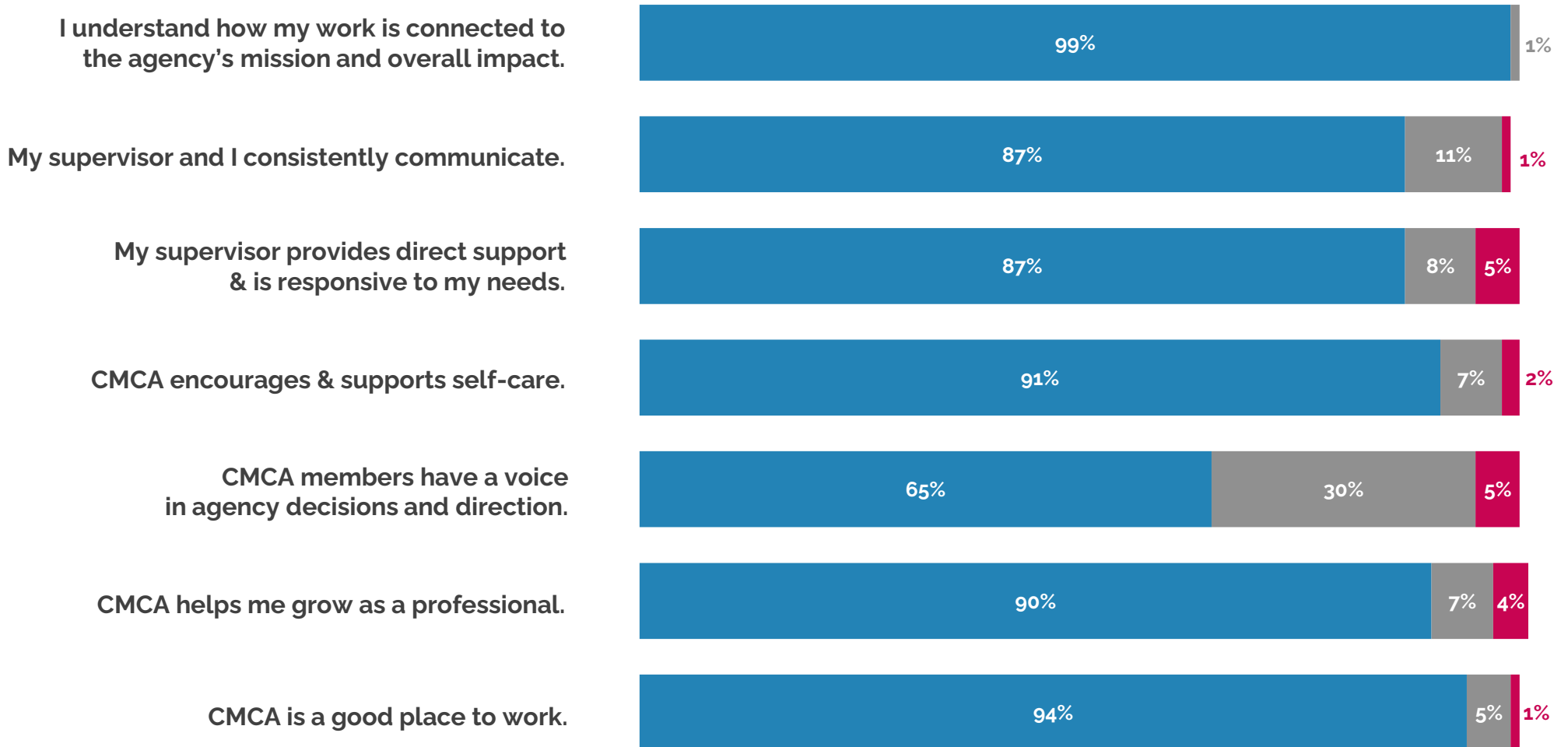
# Agency Operations

## Employee Opinion Survey: Selected Results

Spring 2026

78% response rate

Strongly Agree/Agree    Neutral or Not Sure    Disagree / Strongly disagree



## May Employee of the Month



Congratulations to Jordan Brauer, Cook and Custodian at Clubhouse Head Start, our May Employee of the Month! Here is what his peers had to say about him:

"The entire time Jordan has worked here, he has gone above and beyond what he is required to do. He is a cook

and a janitor here at Clubhouse, but he helps with the kids in every way. Every day, I can list at least 10 things he does just to help that is not in his job description, but he does it on his own, without being asked. And when we do ask, it's always a yes. And it's consistent. This is not just a one-off, like he did this one amazing thing, he's done this the entire time. I've worked here for 4 months now, and I can attest to how often he helps. And from everything everyone has told me, he has been doing this for years.



Here's a list of examples of what he does to support the kids and the teachers NOT in his job description.

1. Gets all the cots out with blankets, pillows, and sheets every day while the teachers eat.
2. Frequently steps out of the kitchen to fill in for us so one of the teachers can take a bathroom break/a 15.
3. Rocks one of our students to sleep because she won't transfer to a cot, so he holds her while we get all the other kids down.
4. Steps in to help/support when kids are having meltdowns.
5. Gets the kids on and off the bus who go to an afternoon program.
6. Reads books to the kids.
7. Has sat with disruptive kids in the office during rest time.
8. Has volunteered his own time outside of working hours/pay to help the school out.

And those are just off the top of my head. Jordan never complains, never says no when asked for help, and frequently saves me in rough situations. And no one would ever know about it because he doesn't talk about it. He's so unrecognized for all he's done for the Clubhouse over the years. I truly think he deserves this over anyone, and its far time he gets some recognition for not only superb work at his actual job but all the things he does on top of his regular work."

Congrats, Jordan! We are incredibly grateful for the consistency, heart, and dedication you bring to your work every single day.

## Bingo for Babies

We raised \$22,300 for the Women & Infant Relief Fund (WIRF) during our Bingo for Babies event! Families enjoyed Bingo, face painting, a silent auction, and entertainment all for a good cause. WIRF supports our children's clothing closet, our educational baby showers, postnatal and infant supplies, and our supply closet at the WERDCC nursery program.





# Economic Stability

## Agency Employment & Financial Coaching Outcomes May 2026



**24**

Unemployed People  
Placed in Jobs



**11**

People with an  
Increased Level  
of Education



**35**

People with  
Increased  
Net Income



**37**

People with  
Increased Savings



**10**

People with  
IDA Matched  
Savings



**10**

People with  
Reduced Debt



**11**

People with  
Improved Credit  
Scores\*



**212**

Non-energy related  
Crisis Requests  
Fulfilled

# Economic Stability

## Agency Employment & Financial Coaching Outcomes May 2026



## Missouri Women's Business Center

We hosted our second Small Business Power Hour in partnership with the Boonville Chamber of Commerce this month. The session focused on Business Planning and welcomed six attendees for an interactive and engaging discussion. Participants asked thoughtful questions, shared feedback, and actively contributed to conversations surrounding business strategy and planning. We are excited to continue the series and plan to return for a third Power Hour later this summer.

Our FastTrac class covered the POSITION and COMMIT modules. Participants explored business structures, completed a Business Model Canvas, and began developing pricing strategies for their products and services. The classes also introduced conversations around exit planning and the importance of considering long-term business sustainability from the very beginning. Participants continue to make excellent progress with their business ideas while regularly meeting with their business coach, and it has been exciting to watch their concepts continue to develop and grow.

We also partnered with Downtown Fayette to host a "Start a Business Workshop" at local business Ophelia's. Five attendees joined us for an evening filled with conversation, questions, and practical guidance for starting a business. The event created meaningful dialogue among aspiring entrepreneurs, and we are already working with Downtown Fayette to plan another workshop in the near future.



The Capital Access Program has five clients who are actively progressing through the lending pipeline and working toward becoming loan-ready. One client is preparing to present to the Loan Review Committee to seek financing for the purchase of an existing business.

In collaboration with Enterprise Development Corp and the SBDC, we hosted a series of Lender Presentations at Chambers in Columbia, Jefferson City, Mexico, and Fulton. These sessions brought together nearly 40 bankers and lenders, fostering stronger connections and improving awareness of available capital access tools and services.

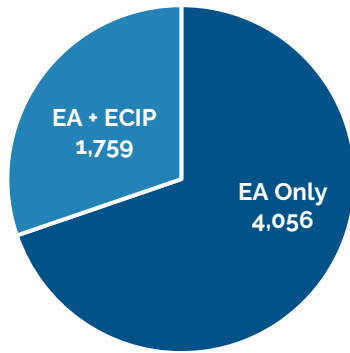
We are also proud to celebrate a significant accomplishment within our team. Nicci, our Childcare Business Coach, graduated from the Callaway Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Callaway program this month. Her dedication to professional development and community leadership reflects the commitment we strive to bring to the entrepreneurs and childcare providers we serve. We congratulate Nicci on this achievement and look forward to seeing her continued impact throughout the region.

# Economic Stability

## Total Households Receiving Energy Assistance

October 2025-Present

Total: 5,815



## Total Energy Assistance Applications Processed

|                           |              |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| Eligible                  | 31           |
| Ineligible                | 966          |
| Direct Pay                | 79           |
| Supplier Approved         | 3,977        |
| Supplier Denials          | 38           |
| Reapplications            | 429          |
| ECIP Applications         | 1,281        |
| <b>Total Applications</b> | <b>5,476</b> |



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

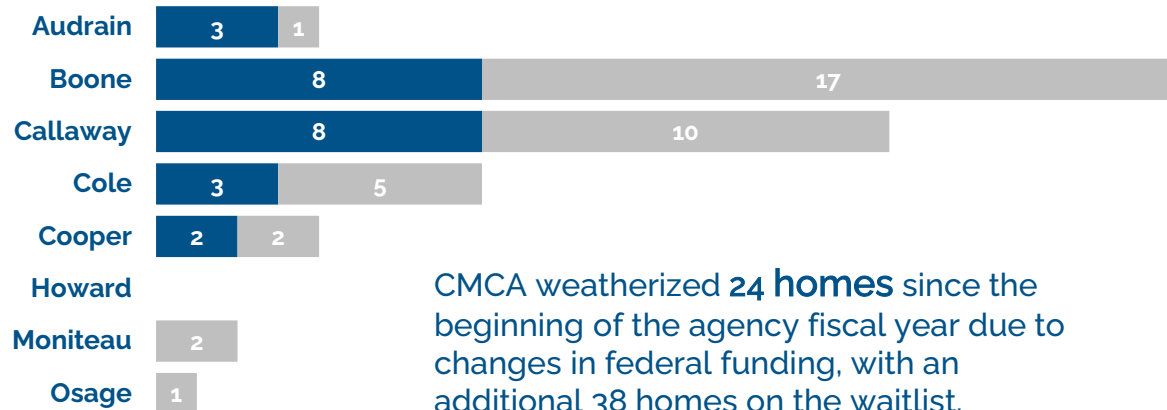


**\$11,541**

Average invested in each Weatherized Home  
October 2025 - Present

## Weatherized Homes

■ Homes Completed ■ Waitlist



CMCA weatherized **24 homes** since the beginning of the agency fiscal year due to changes in federal funding, with an additional 38 homes on the waitlist.

# Economic Stability



**13** Tenants Paying Full Rent

Will graduate HCV after six months of paying full rent



**59**

Households on HCV Waitlist  
Housing Choice Voucher



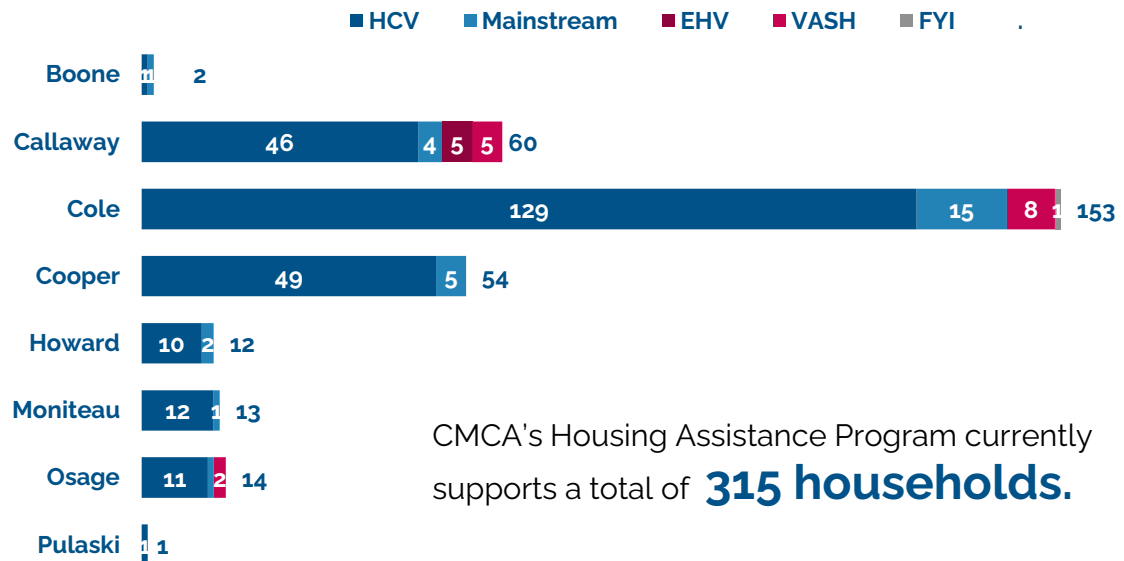
**13** Outstanding Housing Vouchers



Here is this month's hidden code!  
[Click the link](#) to submit the code.

This month's code is: *picnic*

## Households Receiving Housing Assistance Payments



CMCA's Housing Assistance Program currently supports a total of **315 households**.

## Housing Development Updates

Our accessory dwelling unit on Fourth Avenue is close to being completed. We hope to have a Housing Choice Voucher participant renting in sometime in fall. We were able to showcase this ADU as well as Providence Landing during the Housing Hop, an event that highlighted different affordable housing solutions across Columbia.

We are gearing up to apply for LIHTC funds for our development in Fulton, North Brush Landing. This application is due in September, and funding will be announced in November.

Stronghold Landing in Jefferson City is coming along as scheduled. Construction should be completed late fall or early winter of this year.



## Strengthening Communities

A white outline of the state of Missouri inside a dark blue circle.

### Audrain County

CMCA participated in the Arthur Center's Children's Mental Health Day and the Summer Kick Off event held at Hawthorn School.

LIHEAP staff visited Williams Family Support Center and were able to meet with multiple families. We were able to serve two families that were currently shut off.

A white outline of the state of Illinois inside a dark blue circle.

### Boone County

We facilitated a poverty simulation for 90 University of Missouri nursing students and a mini-poverty simulation for Stephens College.

We had six people attend Senior Bingo at Spartan Pointe, and 12 people participate in a craft night. The events are intended to help strengthen relationships within the Spartan Pointe community.

A car care clinic will be held July 7<sup>th</sup> from 6-7pm at Garden Ridge Apartments.

A white outline of the state of Missouri inside a dark blue circle.

### Callaway County

A car care clinic will also be held at Fulton Head Start on June 24<sup>th</sup> from 3:30-4:30pm.

We are working with the Early Education Registered Youth Apprenticeship worksites and counselors to begin summer placement of students. There will be nine students placed at early childhood sites this summer and fall.

## Strengthening Communities



### Cooper & Howard Counties

CMCA staff joined Parents as Teachers and other partners for a Touch-a-Truck event in Boonville. There were over a dozen vehicles, including EMS, fire, a dump truck, a tractor, a school bus, the bookmobile and even a storm chaser.

Community Organizer Cheri Cherry joined a group of partners to establish a Community Organizations Active in Disasters (COAD). We are in the beginning stages of planning disaster coordination, preparedness, and information sharing.

We welcomed a volunteer in our Cooper Family Resource Center, Kandy Jones. Kandy is knowledgeable about CMCA programs and services and is part of our Member Advisory Council. We also have a WIOA-Youth candidate who will start her work experience with us in June as a resource center intern.



### Cole County

Two new families were housed through transformational housing. We reviewed and updated the policies for the day center through HCJC as they prepare to sign an intent to purchase a building that would increase shelter beds by 10 and also include a year-round day center.

Good Dads is continuing their relationship classes with 8 men from the community. Strong schools is continuing to grow as well. We recently recruited two dads who will take over the facilitation next school year, and we hope to expand to four other elementary schools.



### Moniteau & Osage Counties

Planning is underway for Taste of Osage and Shop with a Hero in Osage County, and Leadership Moniteau County and Community Health in Moniteau.

CMCA partnered with El Puente to hold a Spanish Speaking Family Resource Fair. Multiple CMCA programs were represented and shared resources in Spanish. About 28 families attended.

## Early Childhood Updates

Head Start & BRIDGE Administrators conducted our annual self-assessment process in May, evaluating our program outcomes and identifying process improvements. Over the summer, the Admin Team will update policies, procedures, and forms and prepare staff training for the upcoming school year.



# Family Well-Being

## Head Start Enrollment & Attendance April 2026



**11**

**classroom  
closures**

6 full closures  
5 at reduced  
capacity

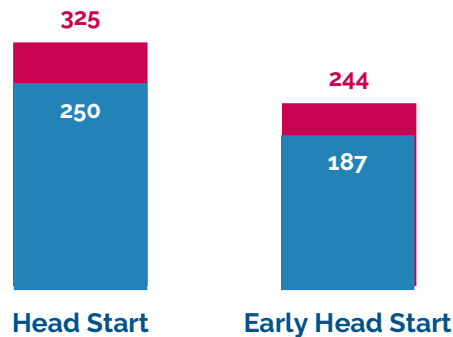
**86**



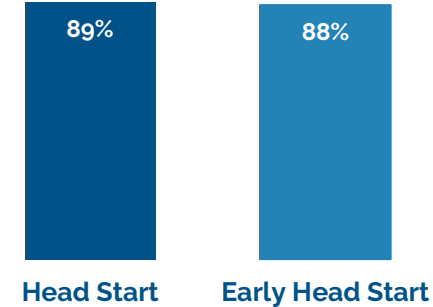
Children  
affected by  
classroom closures

### Actual Enrollment

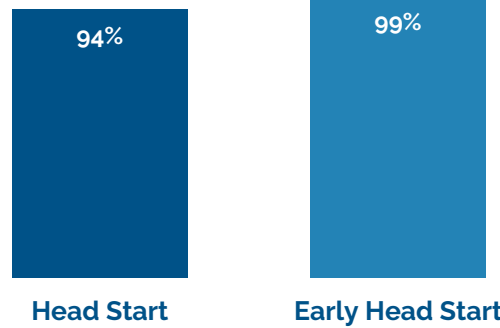
■ April ■ Target



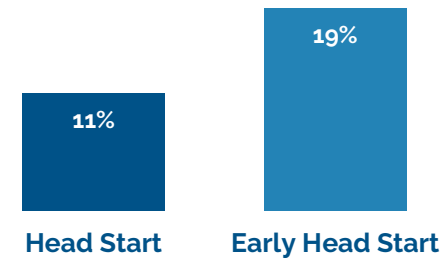
### Average Daily Attendance



### Income Eligible Enrollment



### Disabilities Enrollment





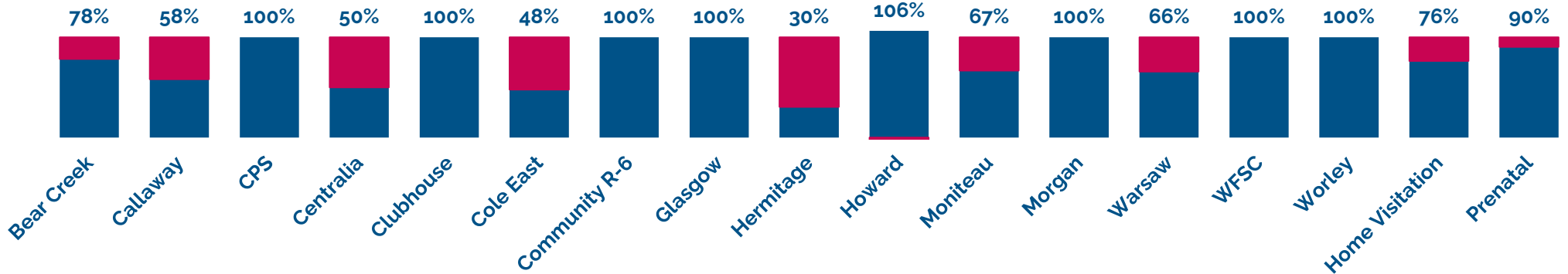
# Family Well-Being

## Head Start Enrollment & Attendance by Site April 2026

### End of Month Enrollment by Site

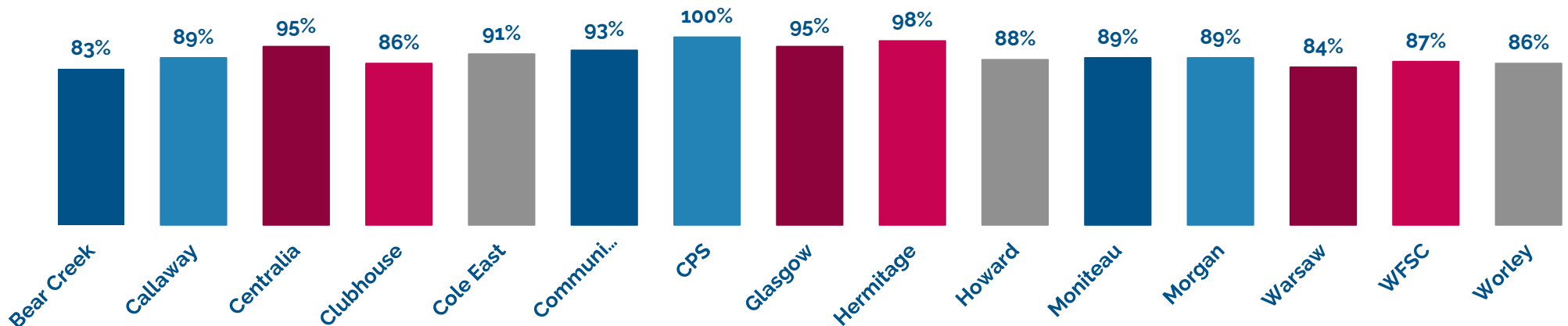
as a Percentage of Funded Enrollment

■ % of Funded enrollment ■ % Vacant



### Average Daily Attendance by Site

as a Percentage of Actual Enrollment



## Head Start Enrollment & Attendance May 2026



**9**

**classroom  
closures**

6 full closures  
3 at reduced  
capacity

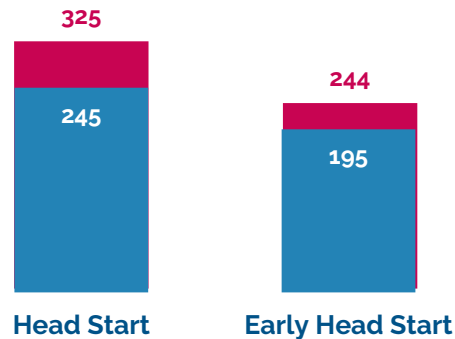
**77**

**Children  
affected by  
classroom closures**

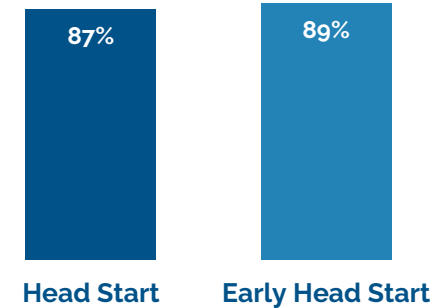


### Actual Enrollment

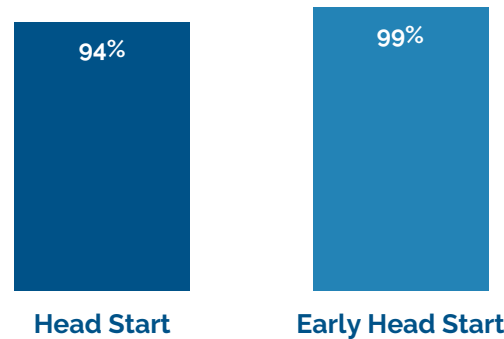
■ May ■ Target



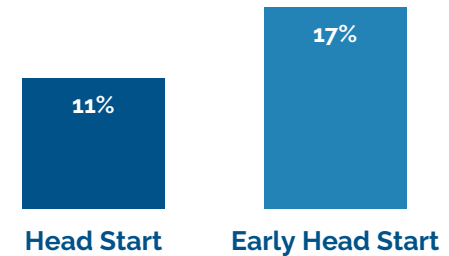
### Average Daily Attendance



### Income Eligible Enrollment



### Disabilities Enrollment





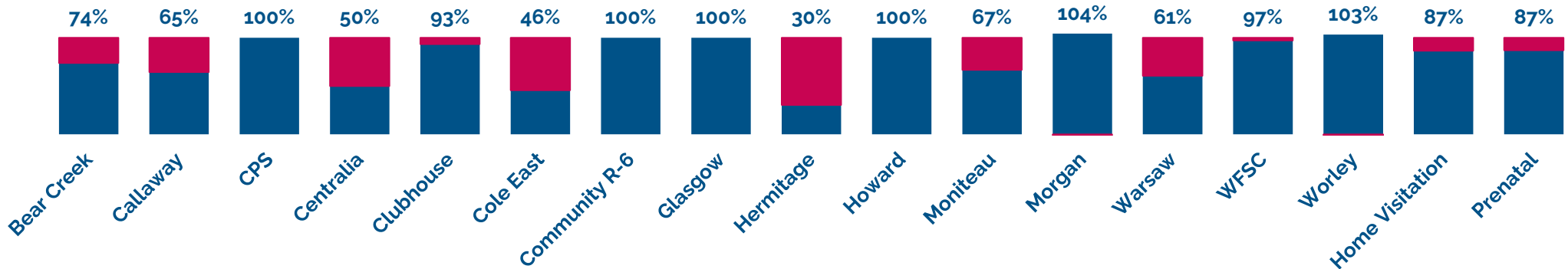
# Family Well-Being

## Head Start Enrollment & Attendance by Site May 2026

### 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

May 2026



**25**

**Behavior Reports**  
for Classroom Behaviors



**6**

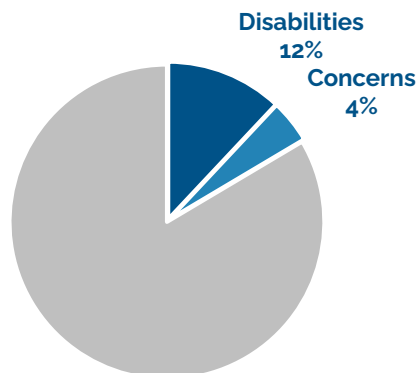
**Active Head Start  
Staff Vacancies**  
All HS Positions



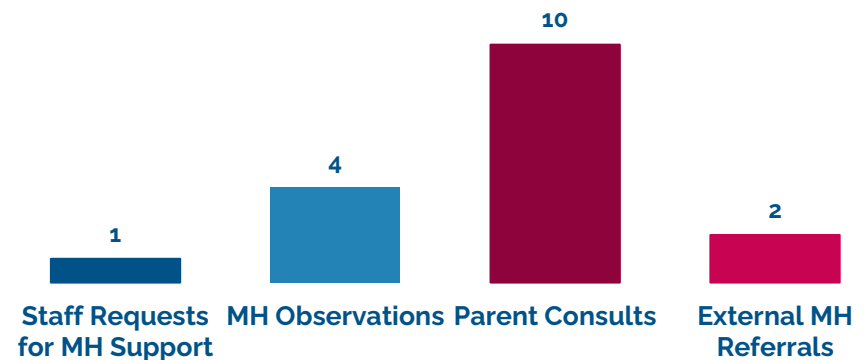
**23**

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

### Classroom Children with Disabilities & Disabilities Concerns



### Classroom Mental Health Supports



# Family Well-Being

## Health & Wellness



**551**

Children received  
**Health Screenings**



**47**

Children received  
**Follow-Up  
Medical or  
Dental Care**



**516**

Children up-to-date  
**Immunizations**



**416**

Children up-to-date on  
**Physical Exams**



**19**

People obtained  
**Health Insurance**  
October 2025-Present

**29**

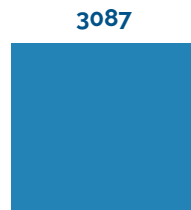
People with  
**Improved  
Physical Health**  
October 2025-Present



### **Head Start Meals Served** (Determines CACFP Reimbursement)



Head Start



Early Head Start



**19**

People with  
**Improved  
Mental Health**  
October 2025-Present

## Centralia Head Start's Kindness Celebration



## 100 Man Lunches

Head Start sites hosted 100 Man Lunch events over the past several weeks. Parents, police officers, firefighters, community members, and other special people joined children for breakfast or lunch and then playtime. We had great turnouts at our sites and appreciate all of our cooks and special helpers for making it happen!



## ShowMe Healthy Relationships

Our ShowMe Healthy Relationships program is back up and running with a new grant! We kicked off our first online community day class in May, and new classes will begin about every four weeks.

The SMHR team was thrilled to receive some handmade gifts from a past participant!

