



Head Start Annual Report



2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR



At a Glance

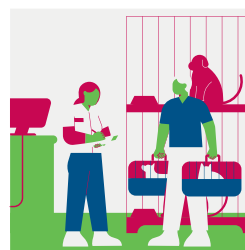
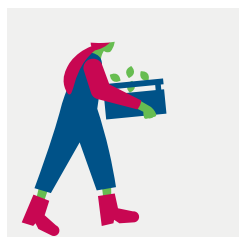
Program Highlights

Our Year in Pictures

Financial Summary

Innovation and Growth

Looking to the Future



Education Director's Message



Nick Adams, Ed. Director

"The spirit of our program is one of service and opportunity - we know that the children and families in our communities deserve the highest quality and utmost respect. We're building upon that foundation by streamlining systems so that our people are *effective* instead of *busy*."

While the foundations of our program are built upon positivity and hope - data shape how we do it. We utilize our Community Needs Assessment, Program Information Report, Staff/Parent/Provider Surveys and the results of an annual Self-Assessment. All of these data inform our Program Goals:

- *We value our staff and retain them through world-class supports, simple practices, and inspiring opportunities.*

- *We prepare children for long-term classroom success through prioritizing social, emotional, and self-management skill building.*
- *Our ERSEA (Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment, Attendance) process is structured to reduce barriers, simplify communication channels, and serve families who need it most.*

Program Spotlight

Who we are

What makes Head Start unique from other early childcare programs is that we focus on the whole family to ensure that every family has the tools needed to be successful in a school setting. Various program options are available to ensure a good fit for each child.

Our Approach

Early Head Start, Head Start, and the Teenage Parent Program provide comprehensive education, health, nutrition, and parent engagement services to income-eligible children and their families. Our focus is to ensure that children are ready to start school by addressing all aspects of a child's early learning and development.

Our Year in Pictures

Each year in Head Start presents new obstacles and new successes! We choose to see both as opportunities to celebrate and improve. Oh, and we opened a new Early Childhood Hub!



The Grand Rapids Early Childhood Hub - formerly Murphy School - new Kootasca main offices.

Serving Children and Families



Our teaching staff are some of the most caring and compassionate people you'll meet. They're also innovative, intelligent and willing to meet people where they are at.

Whether implementing our Creative Curriculum and Conscious Discipline Framework - or pulling together unique events, field trips and activities - Kootasca Head Start staff are committed to the community they serve.

A year ago, our data presented the Head Start Leadership Team with a stark reality: we needed to be perfected in our appreciation and engagement of Kootasca staff.

The Leadership Team accepted the call to action.

Now, we always start with SPIRIT - or why it matters. We're working hard to create forums and opportunity for teachers to engage in the shaping of our program. We have a long way to go - and we're getting there.

Staff Appreciation and Engagement



Community Outreach and Recruitment



Due to the ever-changing nature of funding in Early Childhood Education, the long-time Invest Early Project was sunset this year.

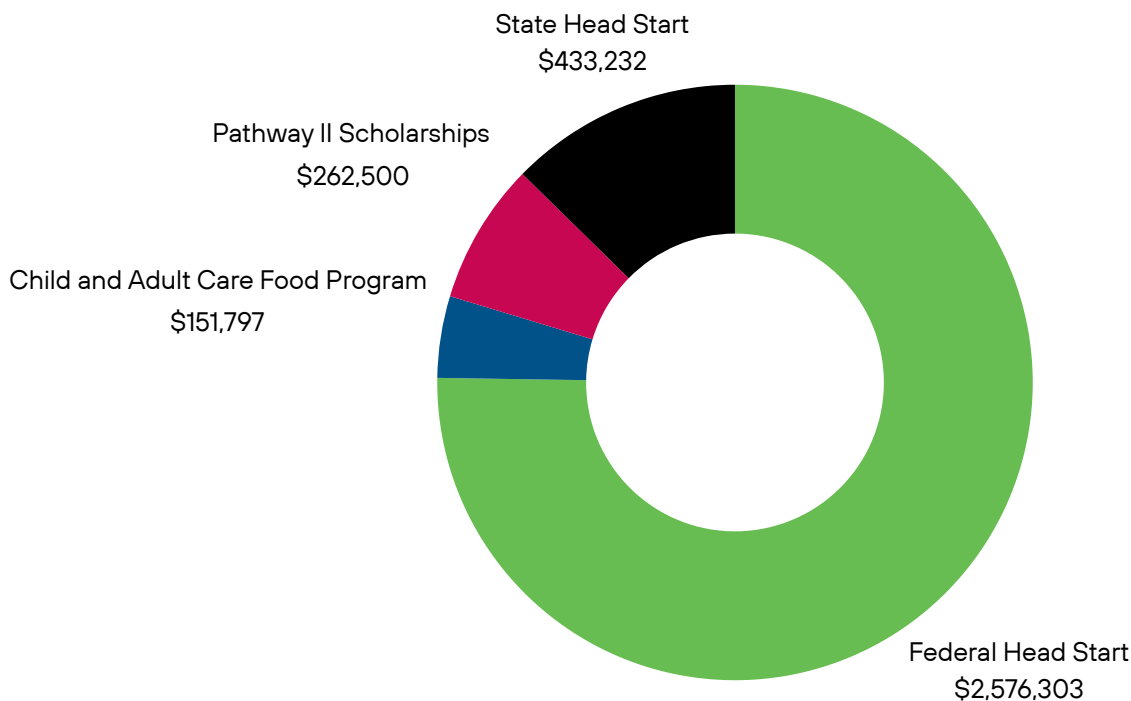
For two decades, that partnership provided immense resources, knowledge and direction to all involved.

Now, we're seizing the opportunity as a standalone Head Start program. Our outreach and recruitment efforts will be of the highest priority as we reintroduce ourselves to the communities in Itasca and Koochiching.

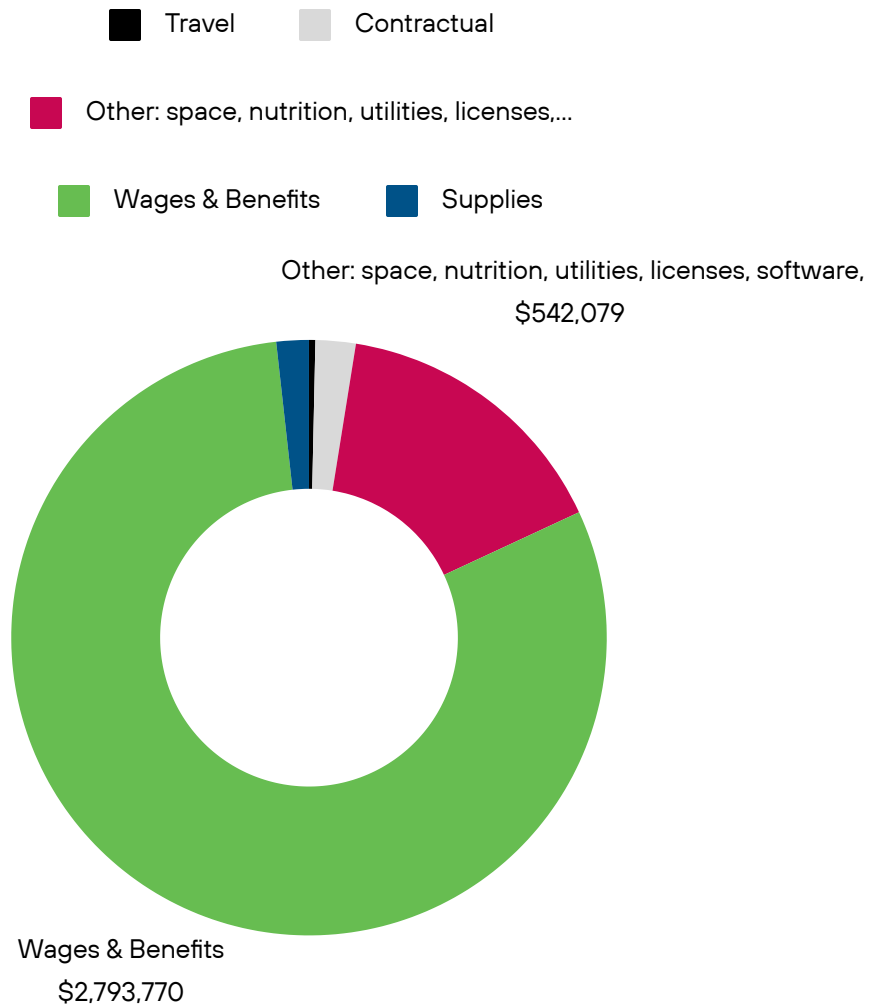
Financial Summary

Total Budget: \$3,423,832

- Federal Head Start
- Child and Adult Care Food Program
- Pathway II Scholarships
- State Head Start



Total Expenses: \$3,423,832



Innovation and Growth

Data tell a story...

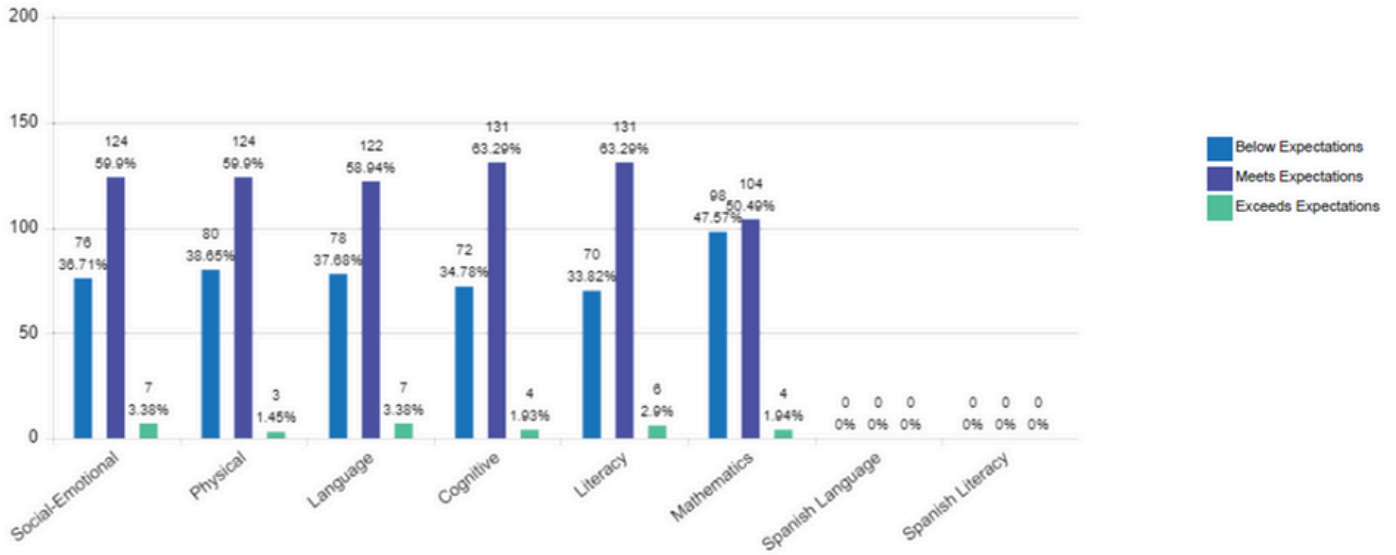
Creative Curriculum benefits preschoolers by fostering a well-rounded, developmentally appropriate learning environment that encourages exploration, creativity, and active participation. It emphasizes

hands-on, project-based learning where children can engage in activities that promote cognitive, social, emotional, and physical growth. By integrating innovative approaches, such as play-based learning and incorporating student interests into the curriculum, it nurtures critical thinking and problem-solving skills. The use of flexible learning materials, technology integration, and collaboration between educators and families allows for a more personalized approach, meeting the diverse needs of children and encouraging a lifelong love of learning.

Minnesota Head Start Association - KOOTASCA Community Action, Inc

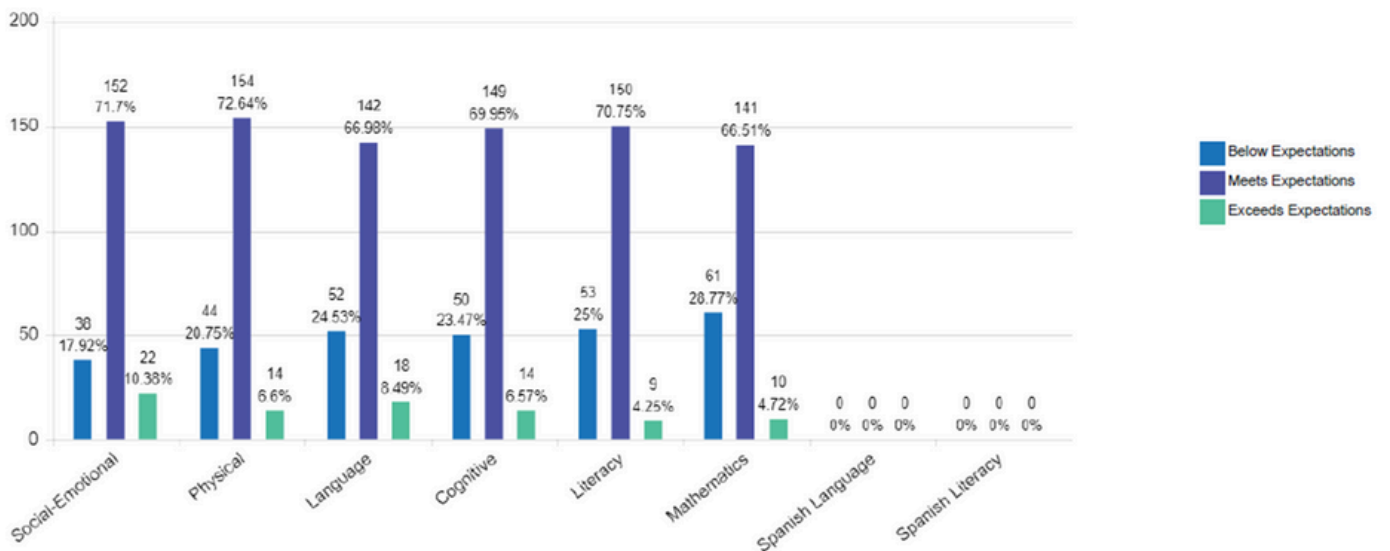
Fall 2023/2024 - Widely Held Expectations

0-5 Years Old



Minnesota Head Start Association - KOOTASCA Community Action, Inc

Winter 2023/2024 - Widely Held Expectations



Facing the Future

Every child in our program gets **every** service they need. That's why folks at Kootasca Head Start are so passionate about the positive ripples we're creating every day: we get to serve families in need with:

- Dental Exams
- Hearing and Vision Screenings
- Innovative Curriculum and Approaches
- Academic Tracking and Assessment
- 3 Meals a Day
- Navigation to other Kootasca Resources
- Family Services
- Kindergarten Readiness
- Health Services
- Mental Health Services
- Unique Community Engagement
- 100% Free Childcare

Contact

For further information, please reach out to us at HeadStartAdmin@kootasca.org

KOOTASCA COMMUNITY ACTION

"Building Community to End Poverty"

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