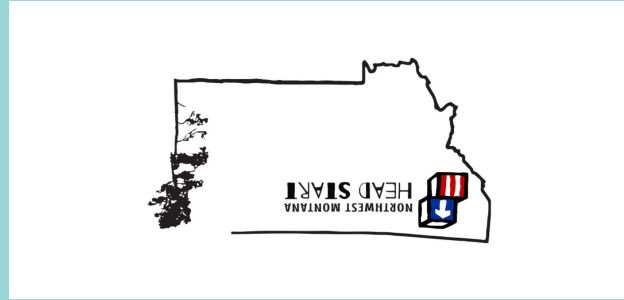


2021-2022



Please visit us at nwmtheadstart.org or call 406-752-7011.

HEAD START PROGRAM

For more information on our



Annual Report 2021-2022





Locations and Contact Information

NORTHWEST MONTANA HEAD START CENTERS

TOBACCO VALLEY

335 6TH STREET
EUREKA, MT 59917
PHONE: 406-297-5507

KALISPELL / MAIN OFFICE

79 7TH AVENUE EN
KALISPELL, MT 59901
PHONE: 406-752-7011

NORTH VALLEY

80 RAILROAD STREET
COLUMBIA FALLS, MT 59912
PHONE: 406-892-4144

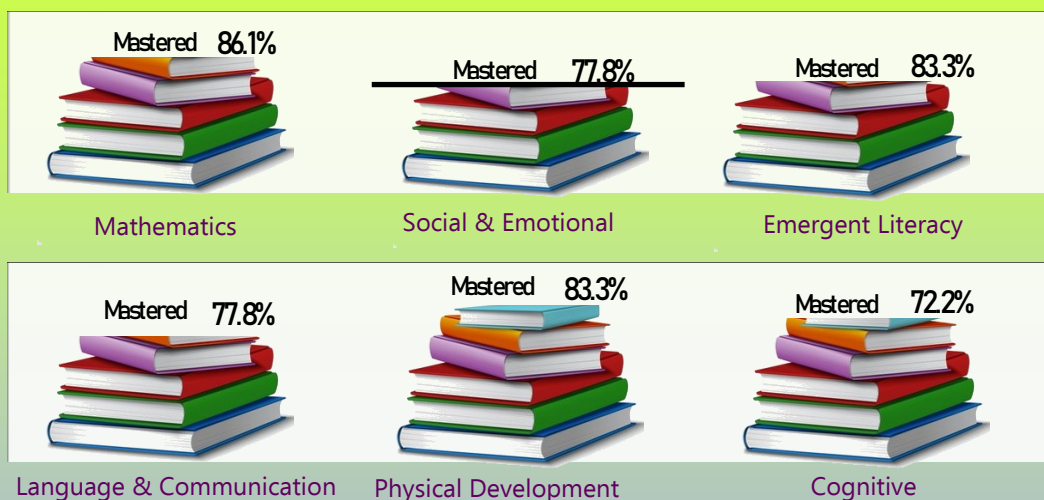
-Please visit us at-
<http://nwmtheadstart.org>

School Readiness

The successful transition from Head Start to kindergarten is a major focus of NWMTHS. Through partnerships with kindergarten teachers, elementary principals, and family we strive to make certain each child transitions successfully to kindergarten. Transition activities are carried out with surrounding school districts where the Head Start children will attend kindergarten. These activities include parent training, meetings with school staff, and a transition checklist. The checklist offers information on how the parents as well as the teacher see the child in terms of going forward to kindergarten. With parent permission, information is shared with the receiving school. Transition meetings are also held for children with disabilities.

Mental Health

Children's mental health is important at NWMTHS. Our Mental Health Specialist provides in class support to children with challenging behaviors, teaches lessons about social emotional learning, provides parent education and partners with local mental health providers. During the 21-22 SY, 28 referrals were made, 92 classroom observations were conducted, and 75 recommendation meetings were held.



Northwest Montana Head Start operates 10 classrooms. Throughout the program year, our teaching staff implements the research-based curriculum Creative Curriculum. The Creative Curriculum is used as the framework for an integrated teaching approach which includes social-emotional, physical, cognitive, and language development. Teachers use the assessment information to develop lesson plans and to have a tool to individualize each child's learning. Classroom staff also practice Conscious Discipline and AI's Pals, which helps teach children appropriate behavior and self-regulation techniques.

The Creative Curriculum checkpoints are intended to assess the six objectives and dimensions for the objectives based on the child's age and what is age appropriate. The outcome data reflects scores of all children in the program, including 3 year olds and those with developmental delays.

Mission, Vision, and Core Values

Mission

Northwest Montana Head Start Promotes the well-being and self-sufficiency of children and their whole family by providing opportunities in a nurturing environment.

Vision

Northwest Montana Head Start Board of Directors, Staff and Parents collaborate with community resources to provide quality services that empower families and advocate for children.

Northwest Montana Head Start program focus is on strengthening the social, nutritional, emotional, physical and educational well-being of the whole family.

Northwest Montana Head Start strives to create positive and fulfilling work environments thereby encouraging continuity of qualified competent staff.

Northwest Montana Head Start is a comprehensive early childhood program that serves three to five-year-old children and their families. Children must be three years of age at enrollment and may not turn five after the September public school cutoff date each year. Families must meet federal poverty guidelines for their children to attend Head Start. The program provides comprehensive services for its qualifying families including: nutritional, educational, social, health, disability, and parent involvement opportunities. Children with disabilities are also included and receive a variety of additional services such as one-on-one assistance in the classroom, as well as speech, occupational, and physical therapy.

The over-arching focus of the Head Start program is that of quality early childhood development and experiences in order to prepare children when entering kindergarten with the tools they need to be ready to learn and adapt.

Northwest Montana Head Start submits its annual grant application to the Regional Office in Denver. The grant is due 90 days prior to the beginning of the new grant year. The grant year for NWMTHS runs June 1st to May 31st each year. NWMTHS's grant must be submitted yearly to the Regional Office by March 1st. The grant is written in compliance and with instruction from the Administration for Children and Families (ACF).

Northwest Montana Head Start (NWMTHS) is a single purpose, not-for-profit agency which serves 192 children and their families in the Flathead and northern Lincoln counties of Montana. The funded enrollment of 192 children must be maintained throughout the program year in accordance with federal regulations.



3 | Centers

Columbia Falls

Kalispell

Eureka



1 | Half-Day Class
2 | Full-day Classes



4 | Half-Day Classes
2 | Full-day Classes



1 | Full-Day Class



56 | Funded Enrollment



118 | Funded Enrollment



18 | Funded Enrollment

122

Kalispell Families
Served

48

Columbia Falls
Families Served

13

Whitefish/Canyon
Families Served

16

Eureka Families
Served

Parent, Family, & Community Partnerships

Families are offered the opportunity and encouraged to participate in shared governance as well as various parent activities throughout the year. Active family involvement is crucial to the program's continued success. Involvement in shared governance includes membership of NWMTHS's Policy Council (PC), where parents elect representatives from each classroom to serve. Families are also very involved in NWMTHS through volunteering in the classroom, participation in health and developmental screenings for their children, and attending program orientation prior to the beginning of classes.

Highlights of NWMTHS's Parent Involvement Activities Parents & Guardians Participated in:

- Virtual Family Fun Events
- Family Training Workshops
- Parent Teacher Conferences
- Home-to-school Activities
- Parent Meetings
- Home Visits
- Substituting for staff
- Component Committees
- Food, craft, & project preparation at the center

As a mitigation strategy for the pandemic, families were unable to participate in the following activities, however, we are looking forward to next year!

- Class meal time
- Classroom Volunteering

We have many formal and informal partnerships throughout the community, including:

- Flathead City-County Health Department
- Lincoln County Health Department
- Child & Family Services
- Healthy Montana Families
- Nurturing Center
- Child & Family Services
- Abbie Shelter
- Best Beginnings Council
- Local School Districts
- United Way
- Child Development Center
- Flathead Food Bank
- Community Action Partnership

Enrollment & Attendance

Total Children Served: **236**

Due to turnover, the program serves more than funded each year. Approximately 23% of the income eligible children aged 0-5 in our community was served.



Average Daily Attendance

Eligibility of Enrolled Students

236 Children

- ◇ 95 Children Income Eligible (at or below the 100% of the poverty line)
- ◇ 32 Children Income between 101-130 % of poverty line
- ◇ 5 children Receive Public Assistance
- ◇ 19 children in Foster Care
- ◇ 77 Children considered homeless
- ◇ 8 children Over Income (filled by children meeting high risk guidelines)

Comprehensive Services



89%

Percent of children were up to date on their Developmental screening

90%

Percent of children were up to date with well child and dental visits

77%

Percent of children have completed lead tests

96%

Percent of children up to date on Immunizations

83%

Percent of children received hearing, & vision assessments



4,369

Meals prepared in our Kalispell and NV Kitchens

3,208

Meals prepared by the Eureka School District

Disabilities

11%

Children were Identified as children with disabilities and had an IEP through the school district

12

Had an IEP under the disability category of Speech and Language

16

Had an IEP under the disability category of Developmental Delay

5

School district referrals made
1 referral not yet completed by end of school year

67

Children received either Occupational Therapy or Speech & Language Therapy Services at NWMT Head Start.

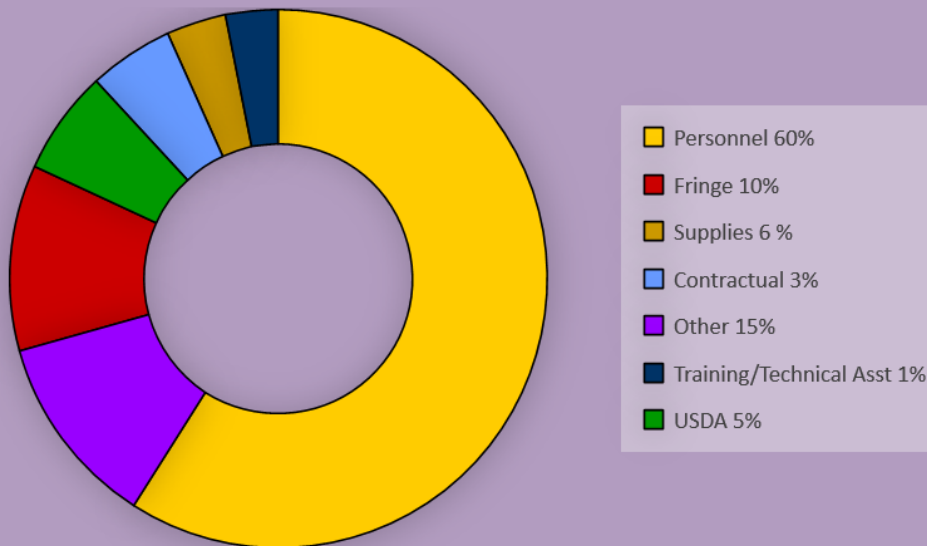
Financials

2021-2022 Expenditures (FY52)

Northwest Montana Head Start's federal program expenditures for the 2021-2022 operating year were \$2,064,746. The largest portion of these funds were allocated to personnel costs.

Each year, Northwest Montana Head Start is audited on its' financial reporting. In fiscal-year 51 the auditor's found no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards.

FY 52 Actual Expenditures



2021-2022 (FY52) Non-Federal Share

Non-Federal Share (In-Kind): For every dollar Head Start spends we must have a match of 25 cents, which is represented by In-Kind contributions. Our non-federal share is garnished from donations of cash, time, supplies, mileage, etc.

FY52 Budgeted In-Kind Donations:
\$510,034



FY 52 Actual In-Kind Donations:
\$356,310

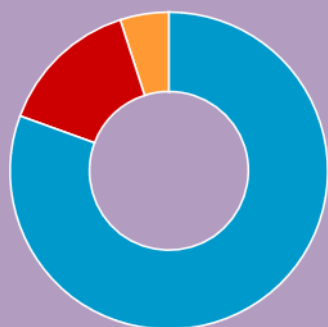
Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, a NFS waiver was requested and granted.

2021-2022 Funding

The program received funds from a Federal HS Grant, Non-Federal (In-Kind) Funds, and the USDA.

The Funds from the USDA through the states child & adult care food program are based on a reimbursement program. The amount received depends on the number of meals served to Head Start children.

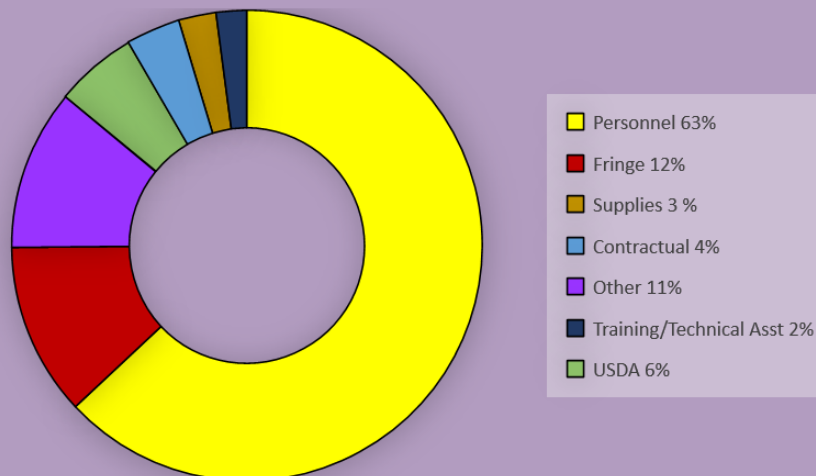
\$2,560,356



USDA \$127,222
In-Kind \$368,388
Federal Grant \$2,064,746

2022-2023 Federal Budget (FY53) \$2,121,294

FY 53 Budgeted Expenditures



NWMTHS had a Focus Area 2 Monitoring Review in March 2022. Review results were favorable in all areas, except current equipment inventory. The concern was corrected and follow up review was favorable.



HEALTH & NUTRITION ANNUAL REPORT DATA FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2021-2022

18% of Children Completed Lead Testing (Due to Lead Test Kits shortages)

94% of Children up to date on Immunizations

81% of children received Hearing and Vision Assessments

83% of children received Dental & Physical Screenings

**39,365 MEALS PREPARED IN OUR KALISPELL AND
NORTH VALLEY KITCHENS**

**5,989 MEALS PREPARED IN EUREKA BY EUREKA SCHOOL
DISTRICT AND NWMTHS STAFF**