



NWMT Head Start

**2022-2023
Annual Report**



Our 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.

Our Vision

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

Northwest Montana Head Start strives to create positive and fulfilling work environments in our Kalispell, North Valley (Columbia Falls) and Tobacco Valley (Eureka) schools, thereby encouraging continuity of qualified, competent staff.

Northwest Montana Head Start is a comprehensive early childhood program serving 3- to 5-year-old children and their families.

Our Values

The overarching focus of Head Start is providing quality early childhood development, education, and experiences to prepare children to enter kindergarten with the tools they need to learn, adapt, and thrive. Our program also provides comprehensive services for qualifying families. These include: Nutrition, Parent Education, and Social, Health and Disability Services.

School Readiness

For a child transitioning from Head Start to Kindergarten, school readiness means meeting age-appropriate skill levels in six areas:

Successful transition from preschool to kindergarten happens in **partnership** with: Kindergarten teachers, School Administrators, and Parents -- every child's first teacher.

Transition Meetings for children with special needs ensure **extra measures** are in place at their assigned elementary schools to ensure their success.

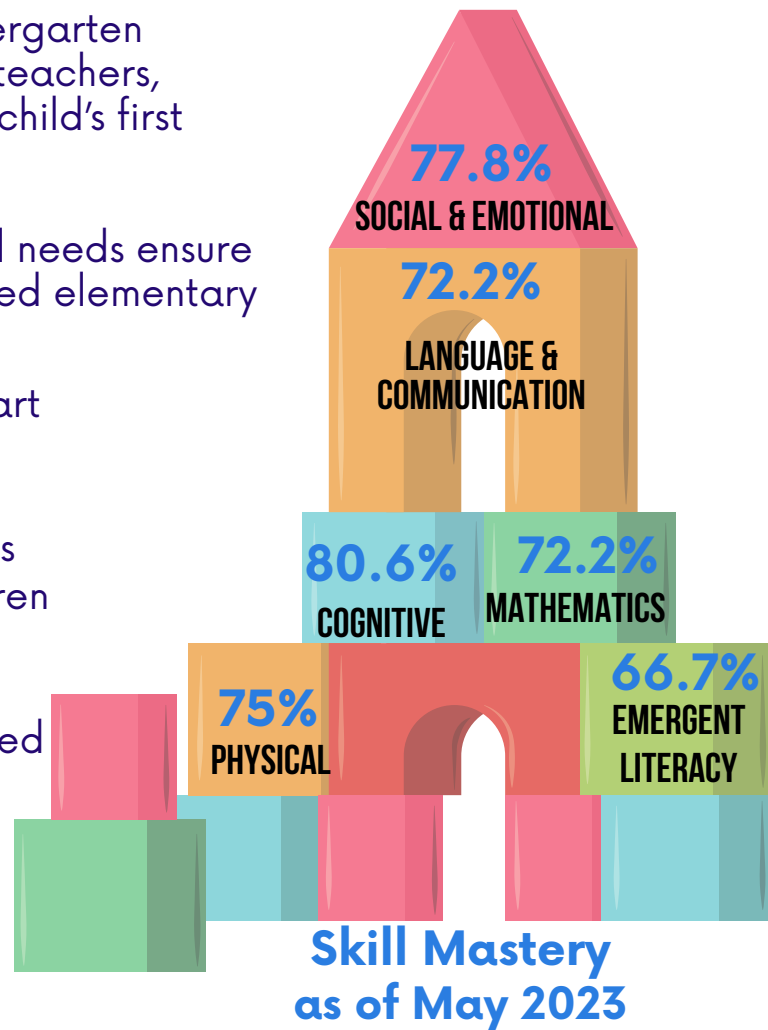
Long before these meetings occur, Head Start teaching staff meet the **individual needs** of their students using Creative Curriculum. Staff members find great success using this research-based curriculum. Children learn social/emotional, physical, cognitive and language skills through a variety of hands-on, interactive centers and teacher-led activities.

To help children learn appropriate behavior and self-regulation, staff implement techniques from Conscious Discipline and the AI's Pals curricula.

Creative Curriculum, Conscious Discipline and AI's Pals provide children valuable skills to help them successfully move **forward** into kindergarten and beyond.



Thanks to a generous donor, Head Start students at the Kalispell center can "buy" books using coins they earn for completing a certain number of take & make homework projects.



Who We Serve



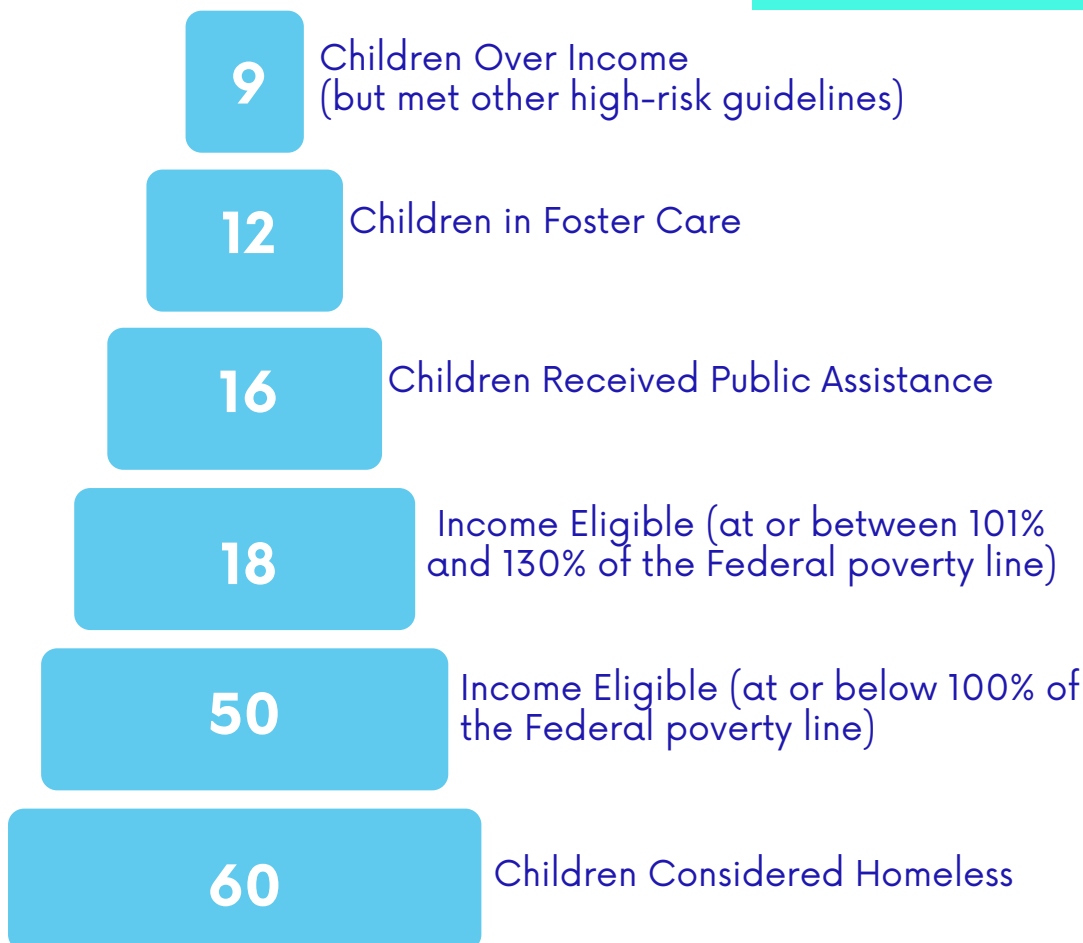
During the 22-23 School Year, we served 165 children and their families in Flathead and Lincoln counties.

Northwest Montana Head Start is a single purpose, not-for-profit agency.

To attend this no-cost-to-families preschool, children and their families must meet certain criteria. These include income, disability, or certain high-risk guidelines.

"It's our job to find out why you qualify, not to look for reasons you don't."

**-Emily Traina
NWMT Head Start
Family Services Manager**



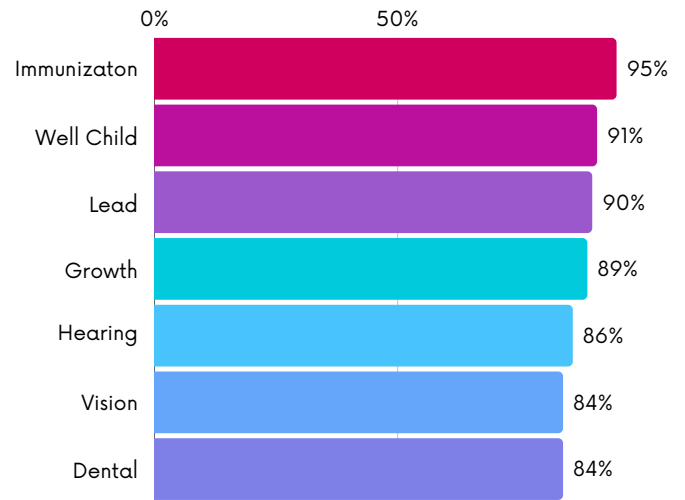
Comprehensive

Services

Wrap around services for Head Start students and their families support the pillars of healthy growth inside the classroom as well as in everyday life.



Health & Nutrition Assessments for 2022-2023 School Year



Meals prepared on-site at our Kalispell and North Valley kitchens:
34,180

Meals provided at our Tobacco Valley school in partnership with Eureka School District:
6,631

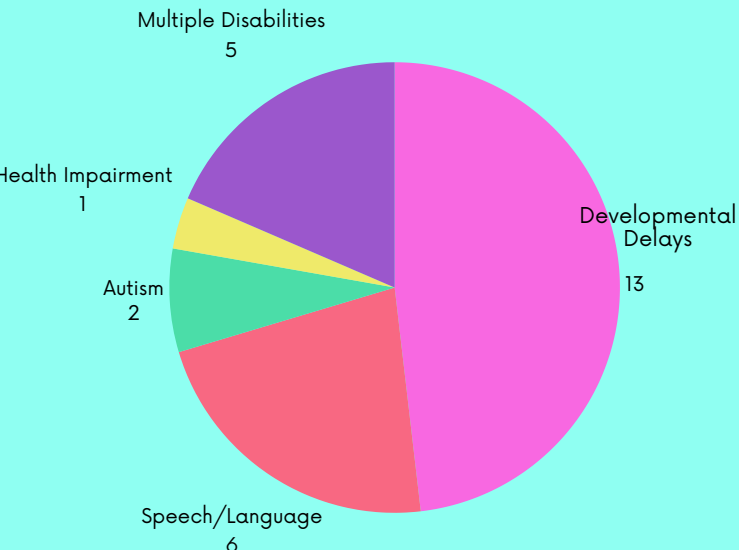


Disability Services

Developmental screening provided to all students at NW Montana Head Start help identify those in need of additional services.

17% of children had identified disabilities during the SY22-23.

50 Children received Speech or Occupational services on site. Students also had IEPs for the following:



Mental Health

Children's mental health is important to us at Head Start. Our Mental Health Specialist provides in-class support to children with behavioral challenges. Additionally, she teaches lessons about social-emotional learning, provides parent education, and partners with local mental health providers.

47 Classroom Observations

46 Referrals

20 Recommendation Meetings

Success in Partnership

Partnering with Families

Parent and family involvement is foundational to Head Start's success.

Whether through reinforcing their child's learning efforts at home through "take & make" projects, volunteering in classrooms, or serving on Parent Committees or the Policy Council, we invite and welcome family involvement. Other activities include:

- Family Fun Events
- Family Training
- Parent Teacher Conferences
- Component Committees
- Class Meal Time
- Craft & Project Preparation



“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”

-Helen Keller

Partners in the Community

Community partners enhance our students' educational experience and help support their families in a variety of ways. These partners include:

- United Way
- Abbie Shelter
- Nurturing Center
- Flathead Food Bank
- Child Development Center
- Community Action Partnership
- Early Childhood Coalition of Flathead Valley
- Flathead City-County Health Department
- Lincoln County Health Department
- Child & Family Services
- Healthy Montana Families
- Local School Districts

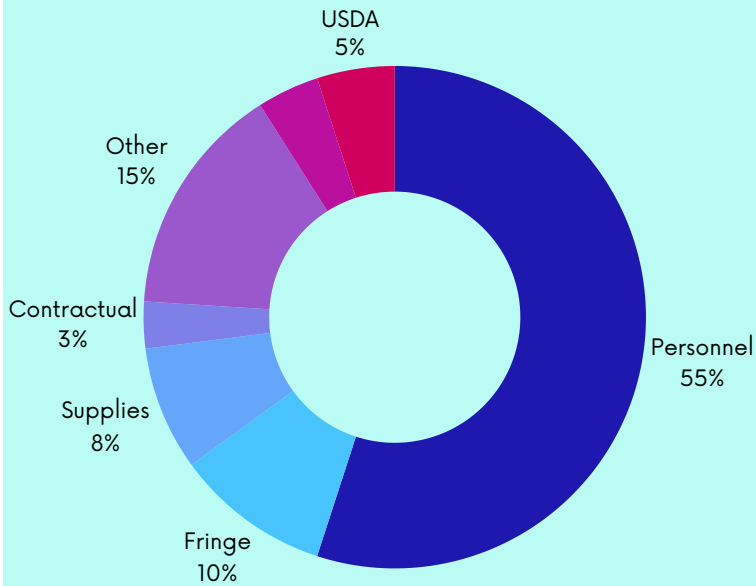


Financials

2022-2023 EXPENDITURES (FY53)

Northwest Montana Head Start's federal program expenditures for the 2022-2023 operating year were \$2,061,774. 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 52 the auditor's found no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards.

FY53 ACTUAL EXPENDITURES



2022-2023 (FY53) NON-FEDERAL SHARE

Non-Federal Share (In-Kind): For every dollar Head Start spends, we must have a donated match of 25 cents. This non-federal share is comes from donations of cash, volunteer time, supplies, mileage, etc.

FY53 Budgeted In-Kind Donations:
\$530,323



FY53 Actual In-Kind Donations:
\$383,429

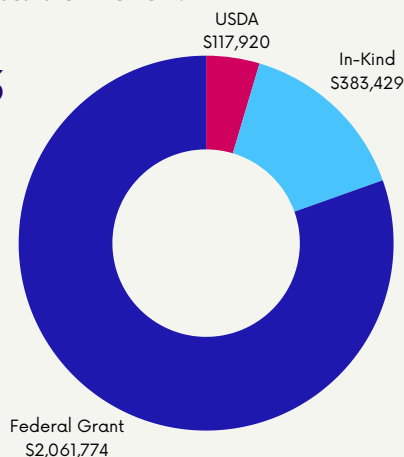
Due to reduced resources in our community, a NFS waiver was requested and granted.

2022-2023 FUNDING

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

USDA funds through the state's 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.

\$2,563,123



2023-2024 (FY54) FEDERAL BUDGET

\$2,293,129

