

ROCKY HEAD START
PO BOX 1717
HELENA, MT 59624

Rocky Mountain Development Council, Inc.



2023-2024



ANNUAL REPORT

Strong Families, Successful Children

Rocky's Head Start program is a comprehensive, early childhood development program that serves children three to five years old and their families at no cost to the family. Income requirements apply.

Annual Report to the Public— The Annual Report to the Public is completed annually and made publicly available through multiple channels, including publication on the Rocky website, distribution at community meetings, and direct mailings to community partners and individuals on our distribution list. Additionally, the report is available upon request at any time.



ROCKY MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, INC.
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phone: 406.447.1680 | toll free: 800.356.6544 | fax: 406.447.1629



ROCKY MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, INC.
improving lives, strengthening communities.

PLACE
STAMP
HERE



OUR VISION

Our vision is to be a leading child and family development center working with Head Start families and community partners in Lewis and Clark, Broadwater, and Jefferson counties, to promote healthy life choices and to develop skills necessary for academic and social success.



Head Start at Rocky Mountain Development Council, Inc. (Rocky) has a dedicated staff of 40+ working with our federally funded number of 125 children and their families in the tri-county area (Lewis and Clark County, Broadwater County and Jefferson County). In program year 2023-2024 the program celebrated its 56th year of existence in the tri-county area. The program operated a center-based option at seven sites that housed 11 classes.



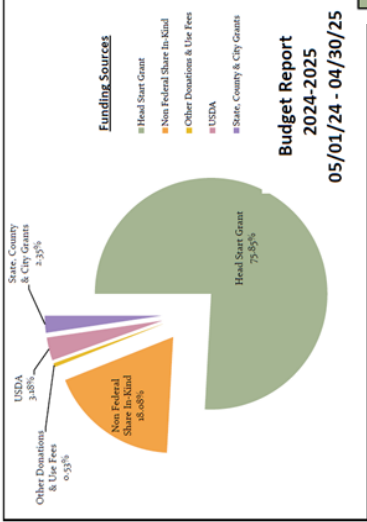
ASHLEY PEÑA-LARSEN
HEAD START DIRECTOR



FINANCIAL REPORT - EXPENSES

Expenses	Amount
Advertising	\$31,394.00
Amortization / Depreciation	\$2,977.00
Communication	\$91,636.00
Consultant/Contract	\$41,093.00
InKind	\$394,022.00
Insurance	\$22,647.00
Interest Expense	\$676.00
Materials & Supplies	\$146,350.00
Meal Costs	\$166,315.00
Occupancy	\$229,786.00
Personnel	\$2,065,064.00
Printing	\$13,736.00
Travel/Training	\$53,002.00
Vehicle Maint/Repairs	\$9,686.00
Capital Outlay	\$96,668.00
Indirect Costs	\$351,484.00
Total Support and Revenue	\$ 3,716,536.00

PROJECTED BUDGET 2024-2025



Expenses	Amount
Personnel	\$2,264,120.00
Advertising	\$5,000.00
Communication	\$85,667.00
Consultant/Contract	\$125,050.00
Equip Rent/Maint	\$3,298.00
InKind	\$776,676.00
Insurance	\$22,706.00
Materials & Supplies	\$25,070.00
Meal Costs	\$173,774.00
Occupancy	\$249,568.00
Printing	\$10,700.00
Travel/Training	\$31,655.00
Vehicle Maint/Repairs	\$5,500.00
Indirect Costs	\$365,100.00
Capital Outlay	\$150,840.00
Total Support and Revenue	\$ 4,294,724.00

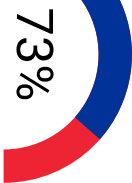
Public Support, Revenue & Donations	Amount
Head Start Grant	\$3,257,541.00
Non Federal Share In-Kind	\$776,676.00
Other Donations & Use Fees	\$22,723.00
USDA	\$136,784.00
State, County & City Grants	\$101,000.00
Total Support and Revenue	\$ 4,294,724.00

Expenses	Amount
Program Services	\$3,152,948.00
In-Kind Donated Program Services	\$776,676.00
Administration	\$365,100.00
Total Expense	\$ 4,294,724.00

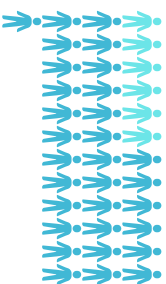


STATISTICS CONTINUED

Head Start believes parents are their child's first and most important teacher. Head Start focuses on supporting families to identify their strengths so they can reach their goals. Here are some of the words our Head Start families used to describe Rocky Head Start.



Of the families enrolled in Head Start completed one or more of the monthly School to Home Projects sent home.



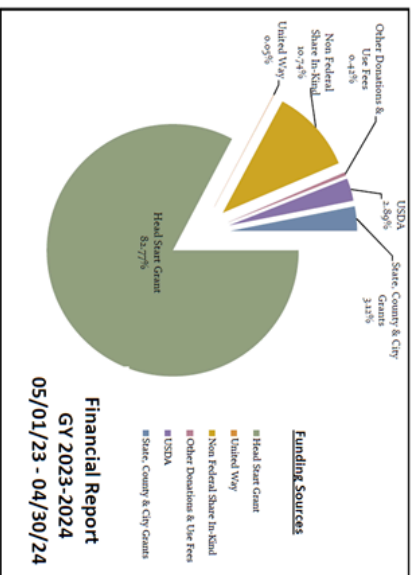
Of the families enrolled in Head Start 37 families received parenting education services.



FINANCIAL REPORT - REVENUE

Rocky Mountain Development Council, Inc.'s (Rocky) audit for FY23 was performed by KCOE ISOM, LLP. Rocky's FY23 financial statements, including single audit compliance, were issued on March 19, 2024 with an unmodified "clean" opinion and there were no findings.

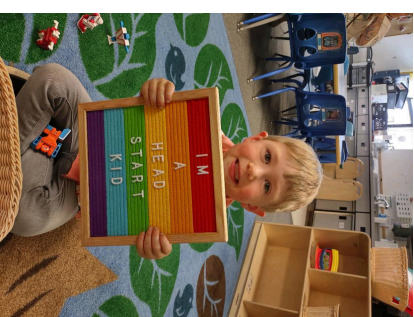
Public Support, Revenue & Donations	Amount
Head Start Grant	\$3,035,990.00
United Way	\$1,916.00
Non Federal Share In-Kind	\$394,022.00
Other Donations & Use Fees	\$15,476.00
USDA	\$105,972.00
State, County & City Grants	\$114,592.00
Total Support and Revenue	\$3,667,966.00
Expenses	Amount
Program Services	\$2,971,030.00
In-Kind Donated Program Services	\$394,022.00
Administration	\$351,484.00
Total Expense	\$3,716,536.00



OUR MISSION

To be a supportive and safe learning environment for children and families by enhancing their sense of belonging and self-worth while encouraging them to reach their highest potential.

Head Start is a comprehensive early childhood development program that serves low-income children ages three to five and their families. Head Start focuses on physical and oral health, positive social/emotional development, healthy nutrition, and access to a stable, nurturing, and encouraging environment and the roles they play in preparing children for success in school and life. Head Start also focuses on supporting families to identify their strengths, work toward their goals, and recognize and build on their efforts to be their child's first and most important teacher. Head Start uses two specific curricula: Creative Curriculum® for Preschoolers, Second Step® Social Emotional Learning Program and Second Step® Child Protection Unit. Every activity throughout the day provides an educational opportunity for a child in or out of the classroom, whether it is growth in relationship building, how a child perceives him/herself, the ability to sort and categorize, set a table, pass food and pour milk, to share, recognize their name or letters, expand their vocabulary, or listen and follow directions. Much of this is achieved through play, the "work" of children. Rocky Mountain Development Council, Inc. (Rocky) is the local Human Resource Development Council for District 8 and has been the grantee agency for the Head Start Program since 1967. Rocky Head Start currently serves 16 children and their families in Broadwater County, 13 in Jefferson County, and 96 in Lewis and Clark County. Ninety percent of all children enrolled in Head Start must meet Head Start income guidelines, 10% of Head Start's openings must be for children with disabilities.





BOARD OF DIRECTORS & POLICY COUNCIL

As required by regulation, Head Start is governed by a Board of Directors and a Policy Council. The Board of Directors holds overall legal and fiscal responsibility for the organization. The Policy Council is made up of parents/guardians of children currently enrolled in Head Start and community representatives. The Board and Policy Council work with Head Start's key management staff to ensure the program meets the needs of children, families and communities where Head Start is located.



ROCKY BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023

- Trever Kirkland, President
- Andy Hunthausen, Vice President
- Jerome Loendorf, Private Sector
- Susan Geise, Private Sector
- Daniel Pocha, Private Sector
- Eric Schindler, Private Sector
- Niki Reford, Low-Income Sector
- Bruce Day, Low-Income Sector
- Erin Lyndes, Low-Income Sector
- Jen Gursky, Low-Income Sector
- Teri Lilletvedt, Low-Income Sector
- Bob Mullen, Public Sector
- Lindsey Richtmyer, Public Sector
- Dannai Clayborn, Public Sector
- Kate Anderson, Public Sector

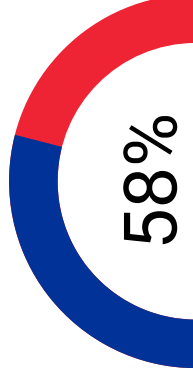
HEAD START POLICY COUNCIL OFFICERS 2023-2024

- Niki Redford-Chairperson
- Victoria Olson- Vice Chair
- Ashley Moniz-Treasurer

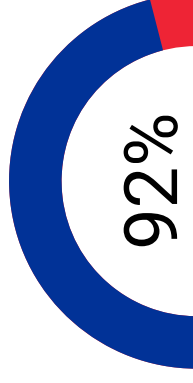


STATISTICS

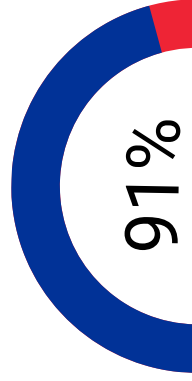
During the 2023-2024 school year, our Head Start program was funded to serve 176 children and their families in Lewis & Clark, Broadwater and Jefferson Counties. Two hundred twenty-nine applications were scheduled from January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. Of those applications scheduled one seventy-two were completed and of those applications one hundred three students were enrolled. Sixty-nine families were left on the waitlist with thirty-eight of those families on the waitlist being over-income. Of these families served 91% of children served met Head Start Eligibility guidelines (Homeless, foster, Public Assistance, 0-100% of Poverty), 3% 101%-130% of poverty, 6% over 130% of poverty and our average monthly enrollment was 58% or 103 of the 176 funded enrollment.



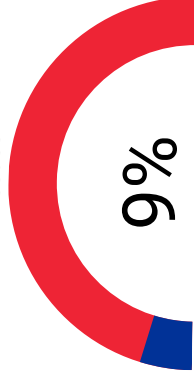
***Average monthly enrollment was 58% or 103 out of the funded enrollment number 176**



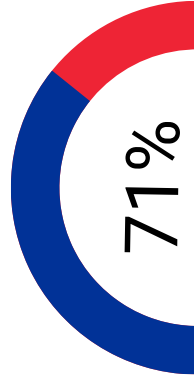
***Average monthly enrollment was 92% or 103 out of the seven classrooms (112 students) we were able to open due to staffing issues**



Of the enrolled applications met the Head Start Eligibility guidelines of categorically eligible



Of the enrolled applications were over income



Of enrolled Head Start families had at least one family member working (outside the home) or attending school



Seven Head Start families experienced homelessness at some point during the school year

*In the 2023-2024 year, Rocky Head Start was funded to open 11 classes, serving 176 children. Due to staffing issues, Rocky Head Start was only able to open 7 classes. Of funded enrollment, average monthly enrollment was 58% (103/176). Of actual possible enrollment in the 7 classes, average monthly enrollment was 92% (103/112).



HEAD START PARENTS

Parents are their child's first and most important teacher. Family Advocates partner with each child's family to build a foundation for school readiness, coordinating with education staff and community partners. Head Start Family Advocates meet with every Head Start family. Visits may occur in a family's home, in the child's classroom, or other community settings. During these visits, they work alongside families as they identify strengths and set goals related to the Seven Family Outcomes. Families typically set goals relating to housing, health, education, parenting, and financial stability. Family Advocate home visits begin at the start of the school year.



HEAD START SERVICES INCLUDE:

- SCHOOL READINESS
- FAMILY STYLE MEALS
- EXTENDED-DAY CLASSES
- FAMILY EVENTS
- HOME VISITING
- PARENTING CLASSES
- BOOKSHELF BUILD
- PARENT LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
- FINANCIAL LITERACY
- FAMILY ADVOCACY/SOCIAL SERVICE SUPPORT
- MONTHLY BOOK GIVEAWAYS
- HEALTH SCREENINGS
- NUTRITION SERVICES
- VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
- DISABILITY SCREENINGS
- SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL SCREENINGS



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

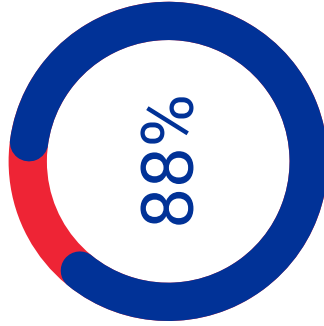
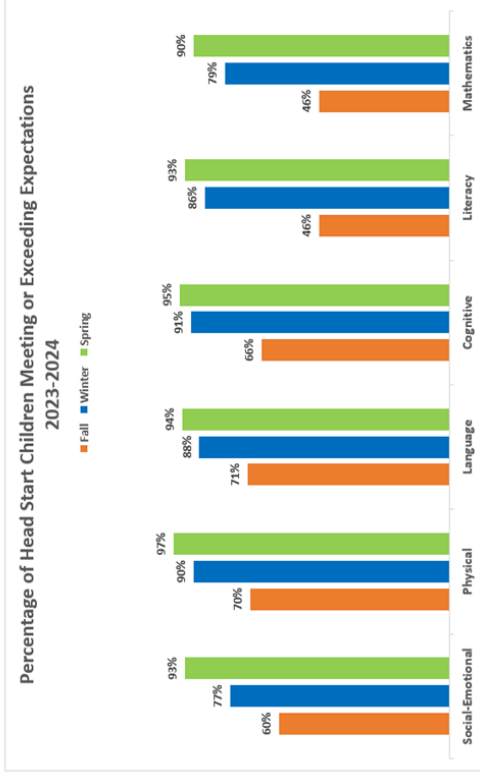
Thank you to the following Head Start Community Partners. We rely on you and your businesses throughout the year in providing monetary support, volunteer hours and donations for families in need. Without you, our Head Start program wouldn't be as successful as it is in our community.

- | | |
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| AWARE, Inc. | L&C City County Health Department |
| Carroll College | L&C County Detention Center |
| Carroll College Work Study Program | Montana Association for the Education of |
| Child Care and Adult Food Program, USDA | Young Children – Helena Chapter |
| Child and Family Services Division, DPHHS | Montana Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence |
| City of Helena | Montana Community Foundation |
| Early Childhood Coalition of the Greater Helena Area | Montana Head Start Association |
| Exploration Works | Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) |
| Early Childhood Services Bureau, DPHHS | No Child Hungry Coalition |
| Family Outreach (Part C) | Office of Head Start, Administration for Children & Families |
| Family Promise | Optimist Club of Helena |
| First Interstate Bank | Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church |
| Foster Grandparent Program | Partners in Pediatrics |
| Friendship Center | Pediatric Dentistry – Dr. Kevin Rencher |
| Friends of Head Start | Prickly Pear Cooperative |
| God's Love | RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) |
| Good Samaritan Ministries | School District #1 – Helena Public Schools |
| Helena College, University of Montana | School District #9 – East Helena Public Schools |
| Helena Food Share | SS Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church |
| Helena Housing Authority | Townsend Elementary School |
| Helena Kiwanis Club | United Way of the Lewis and Clark Area |
| Helena Pediatric Clinic | Vans Thriftway |
| Helena Police Department | Whitehall Elementary School |
| HRA – Helena Resource Advocates | |
| Intermountain | |

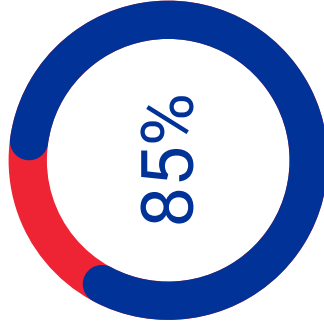


CHILD OUTCOMES

Head Start uses The Creative Curriculum® System for Preschool as its primary curricula. Teaching Strategies GOLD™ is the on-line assessment Head Start uses to monitor children's skills and progress in the areas below. Data is used to drive program decisions on professional development, purchasing of materials and equipment, and family education/events.



of children enrolled in Head Start received their Well Child Check



of children enrolled in Head Start received their Dental Exam

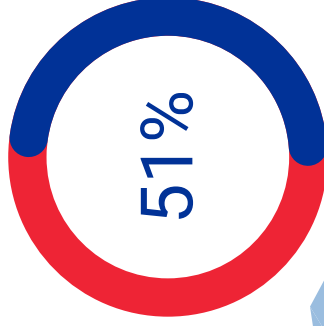


TRANSITION TO KINDERGARTEN

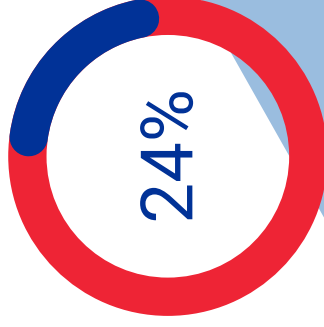
Head Start works to ensure a smooth transition for children “moving on” to kindergarten. Teachers partner with families to set realistic goals for children that will help them be successful. Program staff assists families in filling out their child's kindergarten registration form. Immunization information is given to families to share with their receiving schools.



Each year Head Start staff work with families to prepare a transition profile for each child that provides information about social emotional, cognitive, language and mathematic skills. The profile also includes information regarding screening results and any special health care needs (i.e. medications, asthma, allergies). With parent permission this profile is shared with kindergarten teacher each spring. Head Start collaborates with each of the 15 elementary schools that a majority of children will attend for kindergarten. Kindergarten teachers, administration and support staff meet with Head Start to discuss the individual needs for children as they start in their new school. Our goal is to ensure schools are as prepared as possible to make their first day a positive educational adventure.



of children enrolled in Head Start transitioned on to Kindergarten



of children enrolled in Head Start had an IEP