



# 2022

## HEAD START ANNUAL REPORT



**COMMUNITY  
SERVICES**

AREA AGENCY ON AGING  
COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMS  
COMMUNITY JUSTICE SERVICES  
**HEAD START**  
HEALTHY YOUTH ALLIANCE  
STRATEGIC INITIATIVES  
WORKFORCE BOULDER COUNTY

**Generating a Lifetime of Opportunities**

# Our Classes, Our Kids!

Boulder County Head Start (BCHS) is a comprehensive preschool program for children ages 3-5. Head Start prioritizes serving foster and homeless children, those living in families with low-wages, and children with disabilities. BCHS is designed to meet the individual needs of children through a partnership between program and parents. The school year runs from late August through Memorial Day.

3

Boulder County Head Start locations:

**Woodlands Children’s Center**

2675 Mapleton Ave., Boulder – Pandemic Capacity: 20 Children

**Lafayette Community School**

1135 Cimarron Drive, Lafayette – Pandemic Capacity: 30 Children

**The Dagny School at YMCA**

2800 Dagny Way, Lafayette – Pandemic Capacity: 40 Children

## Who We Serve

BCHS serves a diverse array of young children and families, including multilingual children. BCHS has a bilingual program focused on meeting the rapidly developing language skills of young children. All native Spanish-speaking children receive instruction in both their home language and in English. BCHS’s funded enrollment from the Office of Head Start was 134 children. BCHS served a total of 101 children during the 2021-2022 school year.

### Enrollment Qualification

Income at or below 100% of federal poverty line	60
Incomes between 101% and 130% of the federal poverty line	17
Public assistance programs	13
Foster care	1
Other qualifying need	10
Total served during the school year	101

85% identify as Latino/a

100% of eligible children who sought enrollment were served

79% speak Spanish as the primary language at home

67% of enrollment capacity was maintained on average during the year

25 returned for their second year

39 3-4-year-olds served cumulatively

62 graduated at the end of the school year

62 4-5-year-olds served cumulatively

## Serving Children with Disabilities

BCHS partners with Boulder Valley School District to diagnose children's learning disabilities and delays. Identified children who attend BCHS for a full day received therapeutic services in the classroom.

12 children qualified for and received speech and language disability services

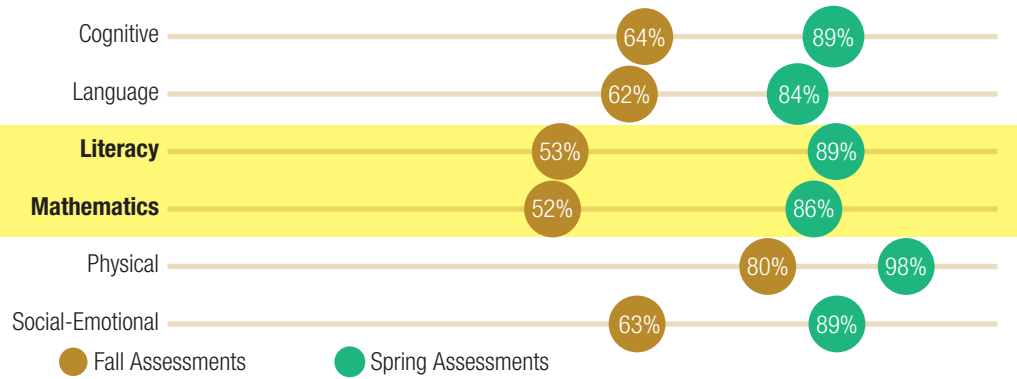
7 children's disabilities were identified through BCHS screening and staff referral

# Professional Education Standards

At Boulder County Head Start (BCHS), we are committed to educational excellence in service of our youngest residents. We monitor and track child development through ongoing assessments, family feedback, and classroom observations. To strengthen each child’s school readiness, we invest in staff professional development and partner with parents using research-based engagement practices.

## Child Assessments

BCHS uses the Teaching Strategies GOLD Assessment system to assess student growth in all areas of development. BCHS children are assessed three times per school year meeting state and federal public preschool requirements.



Students made the most improvement in mathematics and literacy between Fall and Spring assessments.

## Preparing for Kindergarten

Our bilingual and bicultural approach to child and family services sets the foundation for lifelong parent-educator partnership. We believe this is the key to ensure our schools are ready to meet each unique child and family on their lifelong journey of growth and development.

BCHS provides annual school readiness activities and actively partners with local service providers in support of Head Start families preparing for kindergarten transition. Kindergarten readiness and transition activities included but were not limited to:

- Kindergarten open enrollment informational sessions
- Technology access and staff support to complete online kindergarten registration
- May kindergarten transition units in classrooms
- Kindergarten transition home visits with collaborative parent-teacher goal setting
- Ready Rosie parent curriculum connected to the classroom curriculum and individual child development
- Summer backpacks with school supplies, including art and writing materials along with developmentally and linguistically appropriate books generously provided by Boulder Housing Partners Bringing School Home Program

**83% of students graduated Head Start ready to meet the cognitive expectations of kindergarten.** The number of prekindergarten children who meet cognitive kindergarten-readiness expectations by the end of the school year almost doubled from the start of the year. Cognitive readiness goals include demonstrating positive approaches to learning, solving problems, and making connections.

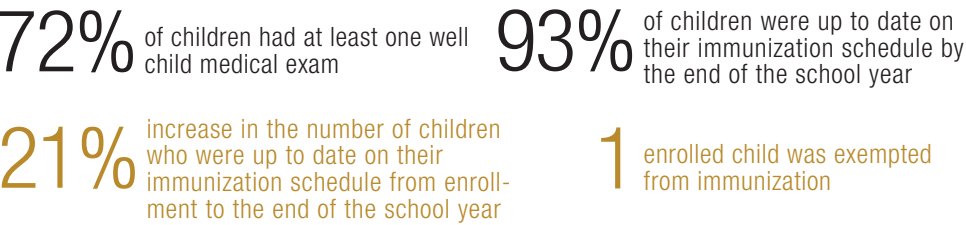


# Children and Family Supports & Services

Boulder County Head Start staff work in partnership with families to access resources in Boulder County that address identified needs and enhance resiliency.

## For Our Kids

BCHS is proud to report that children's proactive medical care visits have rebounded significantly over the previous school year. There was a 26% increase in well child visits and an 84% increase in children who were up to date on immunizations. **BCHS engages in parent medical service education and awareness, while also actively working with families and medical partners to reduce the barriers to medical services. We are proud to see that outreach, education, and support efforts have helped families get their children back on track in preventative health.**

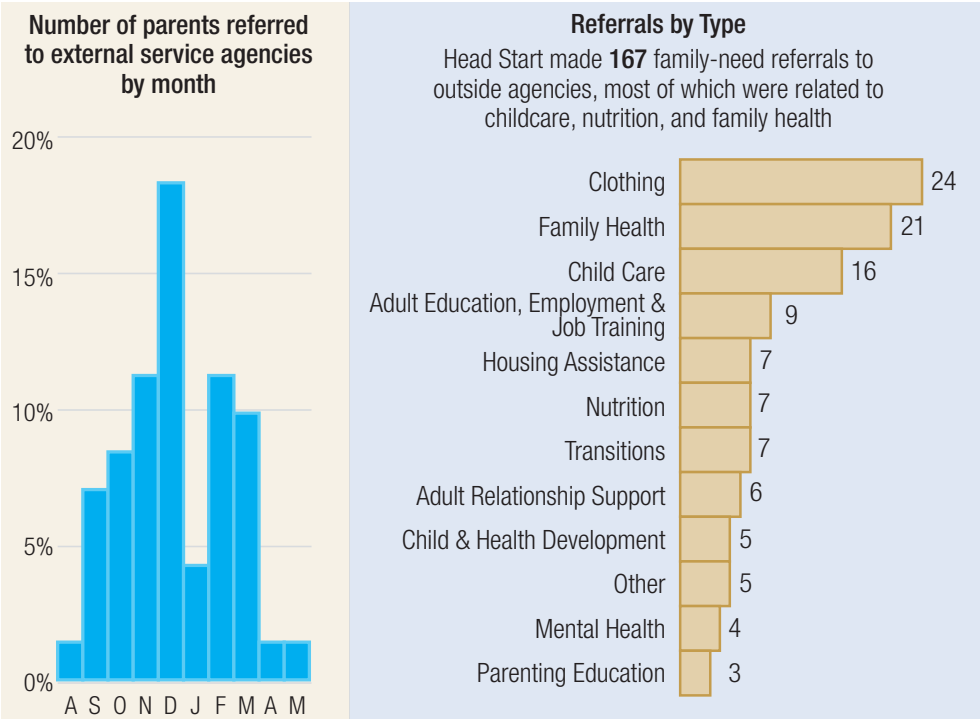


## For Our Parents

Family Advocates build relationships with families through a personalized intake and application process. The process, updated in the 2021-22 school year, begins when a family indicates interest in enrolling their preschool-aged child at BCBS. Each family participates in an intake session to determine basic eligibility. Any immediate family needs are also identified during intake. This is followed by an in-person parent and child enrollment visit to complete the application process and assess school readiness.

During the enrollment process, Family Advocates help families identify strengths and goals. These goals are revisited throughout the school year. As appropriate, staff make referrals to community resource partners for specialized services.

The following two charts demonstrate in-house and community partner referrals provided to families.



## Early Childhood Mental Health Services

Boulder County Head Start (BCHS)'s embedded Early Childhood Mental Health (ECMH) Consultation program began in the 2016-17 school year. We ground our consultation practices in proactive and relationship-based approaches using the Conscious Discipline philosophy. Conscious Discipline's vision is of "an interconnected world of conscious adults capable of responding instead of reacting to conflict, creating safe homes, safe schools and a safe planet" is embraced and practiced by BCHS staff.

### Early Childhood Mental Health (ECMH) Consultation Program Strengths and Accomplishments

- Immediate and timely response to all requests for classroom and parent support
- Teachers and parents report ECMH consultation services are fundamental to BCHS' high quality services
- High quality staff development training and support opportunities such as Conscious Discipline, Pyramid Plus, individualized ECMH consultation with all classrooms weekly, and peer-to-peer training, coaching, and mentoring
- Intimate Partner Violence and trauma-informed training for staff
- Design and development of Gross Motor Sensory Spaces for children in all BCHS locations

**89%** of children received specialized ECMH Consultation support

**73%** of children received support through individualized teacher consultations

**100%** of teaching staff and classrooms received weekly observations, support, and consultation

**100%** of classrooms were staffed with at least one teacher trained in the Conscious Discipline model

**7** families were referred to an outside mental health service

### A Note from Division Manager, Olivia Coyne, MA

Head Start programs rely on many indicators of success, many of which are highlighted in this report. One is the Classroom Assessment Scoring System® aptly nicknamed CLASS. The CLASS tool assesses and provides feedback to teachers in three domains, one of which is Emotional Support. The Emotional Support domain is thought of as the most foundational domain, as only when people of all ages feel safe, can they truly open themselves up to the risky endeavor of learning.

At our BCHS locations, one can easily witness Emotional Support practices that are at the core of our Education and Family Services. BCHS staff intentionally engage all parents and children to create a positive climate that is essential for human growth. As highly trained professionals, teaching staff and family advocates are keen observers of both big and little people. We believe our strengths and human-centered approach builds family and child resiliency.

This decade has tested educators and parents in unprecedented ways. I would like to honor Head Start parents and teachers, the caregivers who are raising a generation whose future will be forever shaped by the pandemic.



# About Boulder County Head Start

The Head Start program began in 1965 during the Johnson administration as a federal summer program for children in poverty entering kindergarten. Services began in Boulder County in that inaugural year.

Over the years, the program has evolved to meet the needs of three-to-five-year-old children and their families living in poverty. The program has seen many changes over time, including shifting services from half-day (2.75 hours per day) to full working day (9.5 hours per day); adapting to changing population demographics from serving the Hmong community, to the Latino/a community we largely serve today; serving increased rates of children with disabilities; and adopting new programming locations to best serve the community with the highest quality environments and facilities.

## Boulder County Head Start Policy Council

Boulder County Head Start’s Policy Council is a parent oversight board comprised of both current and former parents and community members. Consistent with all other aspects of the program, BCHS’ Policy Council was significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Policy Council saw a 78% attrition rate during the 2021-2022 school year.

BCHS wishes to deeply thank the Policy Council members for their dedication to our communities’ children.

Mari Camacho

Jennifer Barbera

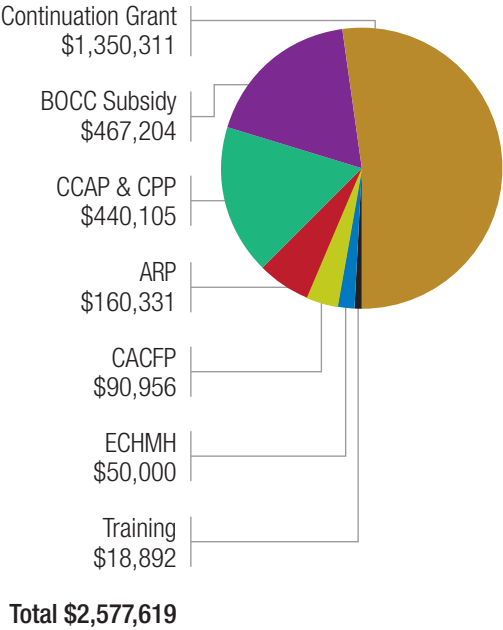
Ramey Duran

Jessica Aguirre

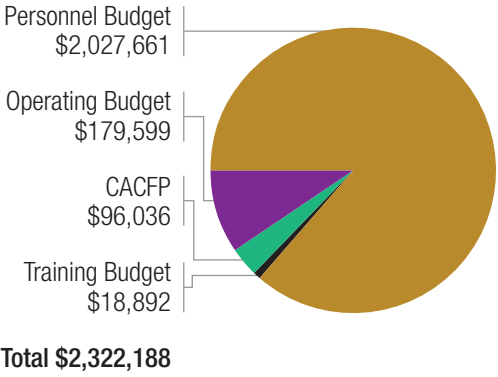
Dennis Berry

## BCHS Revenue and Expenditures

Revenue



Expenses



During Head Start's 2021-2022 school year, BCHS' revenue exceeded expenses with additional state and federal pandemic-related funding made available to the program. Also during this school year, BCHS' expenses were lower due to reduced attendance/enrollment and the challenges of recruiting full-time staff members.

Federal, state, and local government dollars along with private foundation grants allow BCHS to continue providing the highest quality holistic educational services. BCHS received funding from the Office of Head Start, Boulder County Commissioners, USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program, Boulder County Housing and Human Services Child Care Assistance Program, Boulder Valley School District administered Colorado Preschool Program, the Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation, and Mile High United Way.