



# 2023

## HEAD START

# ANNUAL REPORT



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.

# 4

Boulder County Head Start locations:

### **Woodlands Children's Center**

2675 Mapleton Ave., Boulder – Capacity: 32 Children

### **The Sunflower School**

2850 Mapleton Ave., Boulder – Capacity: 15 Children

### **Lafayette Community School**

1135 Cimarron Drive, Lafayette – Capacity: 54 Children

### **The Dagny School at YMCA**

2800 Dagny Way, Lafayette – Pandemic Capacity: 64 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 104 children during the 2022-2023 school year.

### Enrollment Qualification

Income at or below 100% of federal poverty line	41
Incomes between 101% and 130% of the federal poverty line	11
Public assistance programs	37
Foster care	2
Other qualifying need	9
Total served during the school year	104

**87%** identify as Latino/a

**100%** of eligible children who sought enrollment were served

**64%** speak Spanish as the primary language at home

**78%** of enrollment capacity was maintained on average during the year

**36** returned for their second year

**53** 3-4-year-olds served cumulatively

**41** graduated at the end of the school year

**51** 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

**11** children's disabilities were identified during the school year

# 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 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 with their children’s preventative health.

**97%** of children had at least one well child medical exam

**88%** of children were up to date on their immunization schedule by the end of the school year

**21%** increase in the number of children who were up to date on their immunization schedule from enrollment to the end of the school year

**1** enrolled child was exempted from immunization

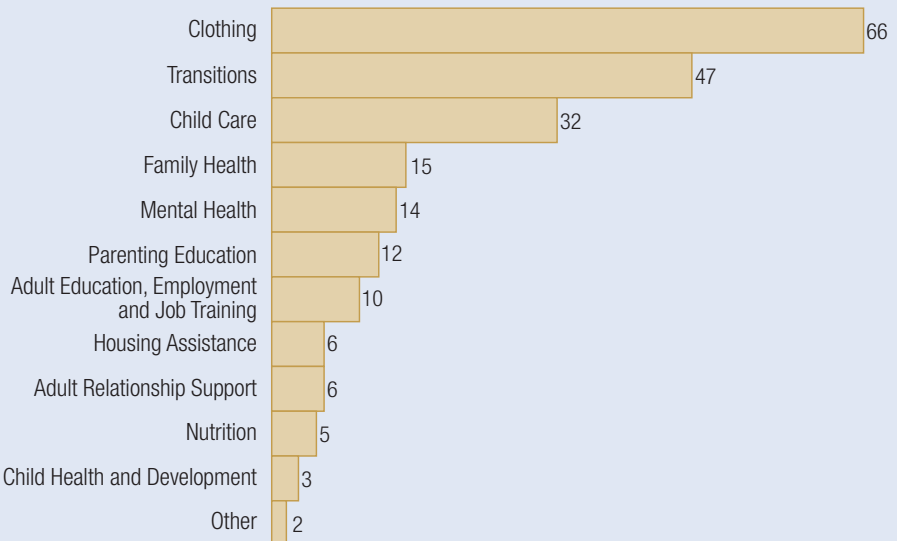


## For Our Parents

Family Advocates build relationships with families through a personalized intake and application process. The process, updated in the 2022-2023 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 chart demonstrates in-house and community partner referrals provided to families.

BCBS made 218 family-need referrals to outside agencies related to childcare, nutrition, and family health

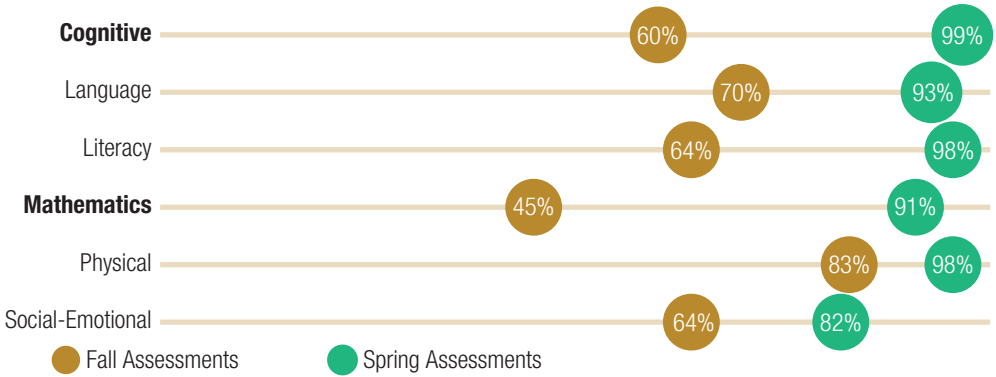


# Professional Education Standards

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 cognitive and mathematics 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



**97% 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.

Fall Assessment 55%

Spring Assessment 97%



## 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
- Availability and use of Gross Motor Sensory Spaces for children in all BCHS locations

**15%** of children received specialized ECMH Consultation support

**60%** 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

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

### Ramey's Story about Attending the 2022-2023 National Head Start Conference in Dallas, Texas

"It was the first time my husband and I had left our three children with anyone other than ourselves since they were born. It was also the first time my husband, Carl, had ever been on an airplane. It was two very big steps for our family at once, and a memory we will not soon forget.

Our trip to Dallas was a packed itinerary, full of valuable information. From this experience, we were overflowing with ideas and skills to bring home not only to the Head Start program, but to our everyday lives. We got to see some great presenters and chat and learn from many other parents and educators from all over the country. Our favorite part was learning ways to get fathers more involved with the program. And we got to eat some amazing Texan BBQ!



This experience allowed us to see the bigger picture of the Head Start program and how important the role for parents and community members are in deciding what is important for our children and families. Being a part of the Policy Council has been nothing but great opportunities and information that impact not only my family, but many of the families in my community. I am happy to have a direct impact and voice in the needs of my children.

Attending the Head Start conference helped me grow not only as a decision maker but as a leader. The information learned during my trip has assisted my governing of the program and what is important for the ongoing journey moving forward. Even though it was only three days, the experience will be cherished for years to come."

# 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.

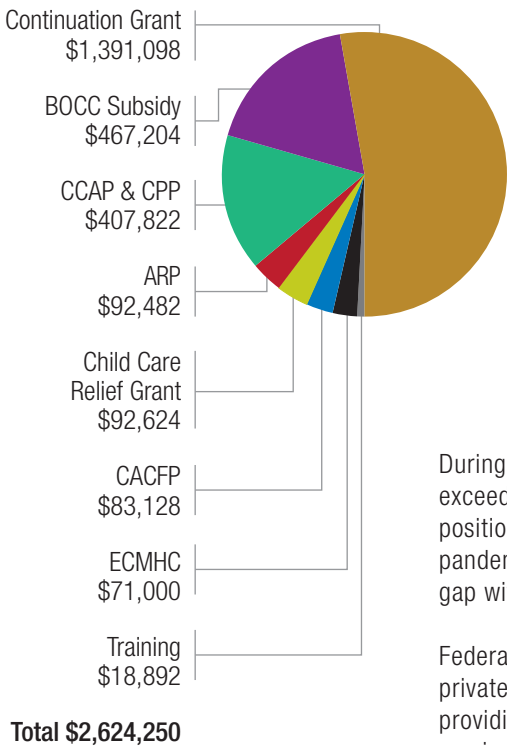
Over the years, the program has evolved to meet the needs of three to-five-year-old children and their families living in poverty. The program has seen many changes over time, including shifting services from half-day (2.75 hours per day) to full working day (9.5 hours per day); adapting to changing 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

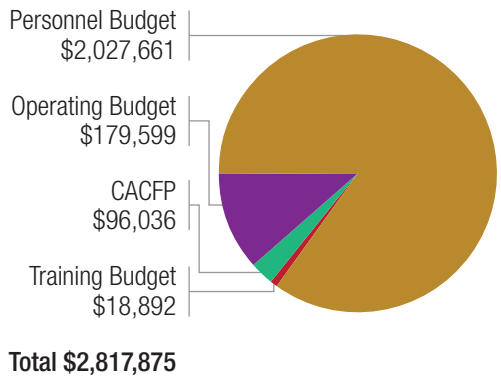
Boulder County Head Start’s Policy Council is a parent oversight board comprised of both current and former parents and community members. Parents are essential partners in educating young children and leading the Head Start program. BCHS wishes to thank Policy Council members Ramey Duran and Dinesh Phuyal for their dedication to our community’s children.

### BCHS Revenue and Expenditures

Revenue



Expenses



During BCHS’ 2022-2023 school year, expenses exceeded revenues. Costs rose due to filling vacant positions and opening a new Head Start location while pandemic-related revenues diminished. We bridged this gap with revenues accumulated from past years.

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 Childcare Assistance Program, Boulder Valley School District administered Colorado Preschool Program, American Rescue Plan, Child Care Relief Grant, and the Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation.