



2024

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.

- 4
- Boulder County Head Start locations:

Woodlands Children’s Center
2675 Mapleton Ave., Boulder – Capacity: 32 Children

The Sunflower School
2850Mapleton Ave., Boulder – Capacity: 15 Children

The Violeta School
745 College Ave., Boulder – Capacity: 23 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 133 children. BCHS served a total of 104 children during the 2023-2024 school year.

Enrollment Qualification	
Income at or below 100% of federal poverty line	34
Incomes between 101% and 130% of the federal poverty line	7
Public assistance programs	59
Foster care	0
Homeless	20
Other qualifying need	13
Total served during the school year	133

86% identify as Latino/a

100% of eligible children who sought enrollment were served

60% speak Spanish as the primary language at home

89% of enrollment capacity was maintained on average during the year

44 returned for their second year

49 3-4-year-olds served cumulatively

65 graduated at the end of the school year

84 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.

5

children qualified for and received speech and language disability services

26

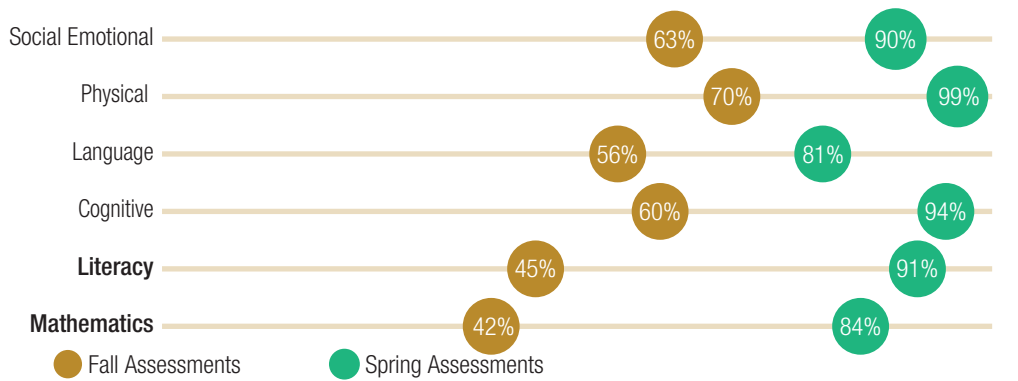
children's disabilities were identified during the school year

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.



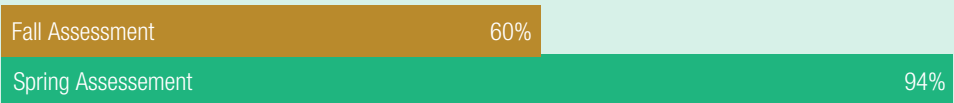
Students made the most improvement in literacy and mathematics between Fall and Spring assessments.

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

94% 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 increased by 34%. Cognitive readiness goals include demonstrating positive approaches to learning, solving problems, and making connections. 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 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.

93%

of children had at least one well child medical exam

95%

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

24%

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

3

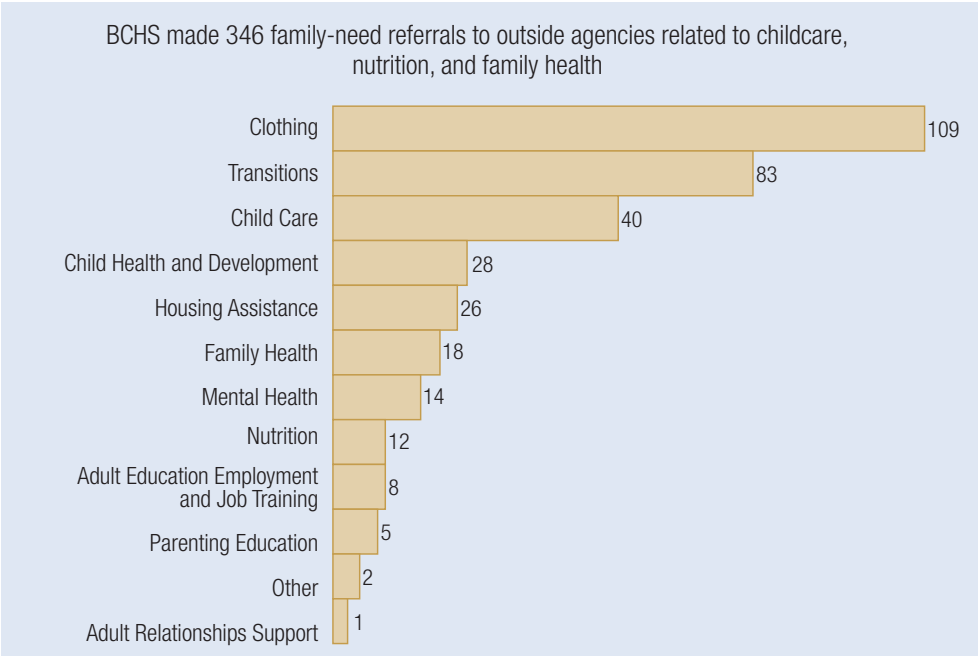
enrolled child was exempted from immunization



For Our Parents

Family Advocates build relationships with families through a personalized intake and application process. The process 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.



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

18% 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

6 families were referred to an outside mental health service

Co-Chair of the Policy Council, Laura Lopez:

I am part of the policy Council for Head Start in Boulder, Colorado. My 4 year old daughter is currently attending. My experience with Head Start goes all the way back to 2004, when my oldest son attended Head Start at the age of 4. Head Start has always been a program that

supports my family when my kids are young. I was a family of only one parent working, unable to afford private child care. Through the years Head Start teachers have always become part of my family not only because they have my kids 8 hours a day, but because they are the educators to prepare preschoolers to start kindergarten. They always have to make it fun to learn, 6 of my 8 kids have attend Head Start through the years. My oldest is now 25. Each one is proud to be a Head Start graduate. The way Head Start welcomes families is amazing. Kids from a lot of different places of the world come together. Every Head Start person that makes Head Start possible makes a huge impact on families but most importantly on those preschoolers. They are our future. It has been a great pleasure to be part of this amazing program. These days, it's with Policy Council because I know now how much work it takes behind the scenes to make this program possible for all these families, including myself.



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.

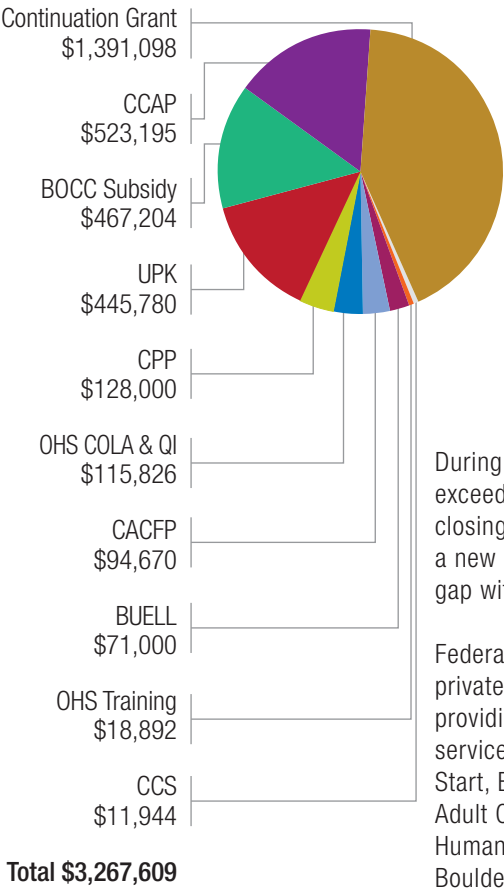
Over the years, the program has evolved to meet the needs of three to-five-year-old children and their families living in poverty. The program has seen many changes over time, including shifting services from half-day (2.75 hours per day) to full working day (9.5 hours per day); adapting to changing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

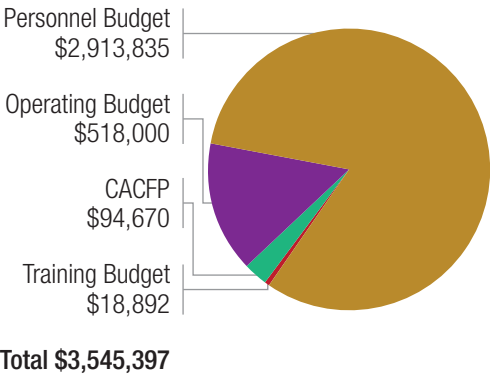
Boulder County Head Start’s Policy Council is a parent oversight board comprised of both current and former parents and community members. Parents are essential partners in educating young children and leading the Head Start program. BCHS wishes to thank all Policy Council for their dedication to our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

BCHS Revenue and Expenditures

Revenue



Expenses



During BCHS' 2023-2024 school year, expenses exceeded revenues. Costs rose due to payroll increases, closing one Head Start location in Lafayette, and opening a new Head Start location in Boulder. 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, City of Boulder Child Care Subsidy Program, Colorado's Universal Preschool Program, and the Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation.