



# **2023-2024 City of Rockford Head Start Annual Report**

# Did you know

Head Start has the overall objective of breaking the cycle of poverty by preparing children to be effective learners and by assisting families to achieve greater economic, social and personal self-sufficiency in support of their children.



Head Start services have been provided to families in Winnebago County since 1965. In 1975, the City of Rockford received the federal award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to operate Head Start in Winnebago County. Each subsequent year continuation grants have been funded to provide comprehensive education and health services to children from low-income families. Parents and caretakers are provided services, information and referrals to meet the needs and goals of the entire family.

Grant funds are primarily spent in the community, through salaries, materials and services. Eligibility for services is based on family income. The program strives to maximize a child's strengths, provide a rich learning environment and prepare children for success in their home, school and community.

**Head Start in  
Winnebago County  
is funded for  
714 Children  
180 - Early Head start  
534 -Head Start**

## Program Options

### Part-day

3 hours per day,  
five days a week

### Full day center based

6.5 hours per day,  
five days a week,  
during the school year

### Full day full year

full-day, year round services,  
provided through  
child care partners

### Home Base

Weekly home visits 1.5 hours

### Full day full year

6.5 hours per day  
year round services  
provided at our PACE location

	Part Day	Home Base	Full Day/ Full Year	Full Day/ 9 Month
Beyer Elementary 333 15th Ave, Rockford	HS-204			HS - 80
YMCA, 2918 Glenwood Ave, Rockford			HS - 40	
Summerdale, 3320 Glenwood Ave, Rockford	HS - 136 (9 months)			HS-40
Early Head Start Home Base (Parent/child socialization)		EHS 102 Children 12 Pregnant Women		
Hand-n-Hand 9350 Forest Hills Rd, Loves Park			HS- 34 EHS- 26	
Parent/Child Education Center 902 Acorn St, Rockford			EHS -24	
Trinity Day Care			EHS-16	
Total	340	114	140	120

# PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Head Start parents:

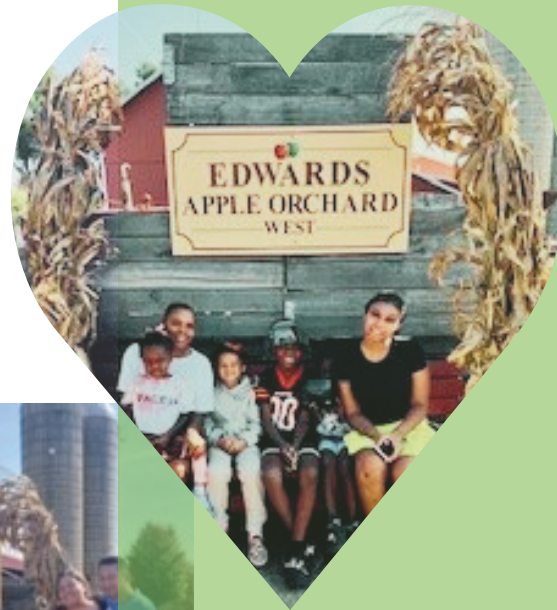
- Participate in their child's education and development
- Make decisions and offer suggestions that will contribute to program quality
- Volunteer in the classroom and on field trips
- Develop their skills as their child's first and most important teacher and advocate

Additional opportunities are available to all parents: Policy Council is an elected body of parents and community representatives who participate in all important decisions affecting the program. Parent participants are elected by site and program option level and make up the majority of the membership. Parent Committees are organized at the site level, the committee keeps parents informed about activities and makes recommendations for program plans. Family Partnerships identify and support the interests, goals, needs and strengths of the individual family.

Parent education and training is provided at the site level and through community resources. Topics include family literacy, health, child development and self-sufficiency.



**Thank You Jeremiah!  
5-years on Policy Council**

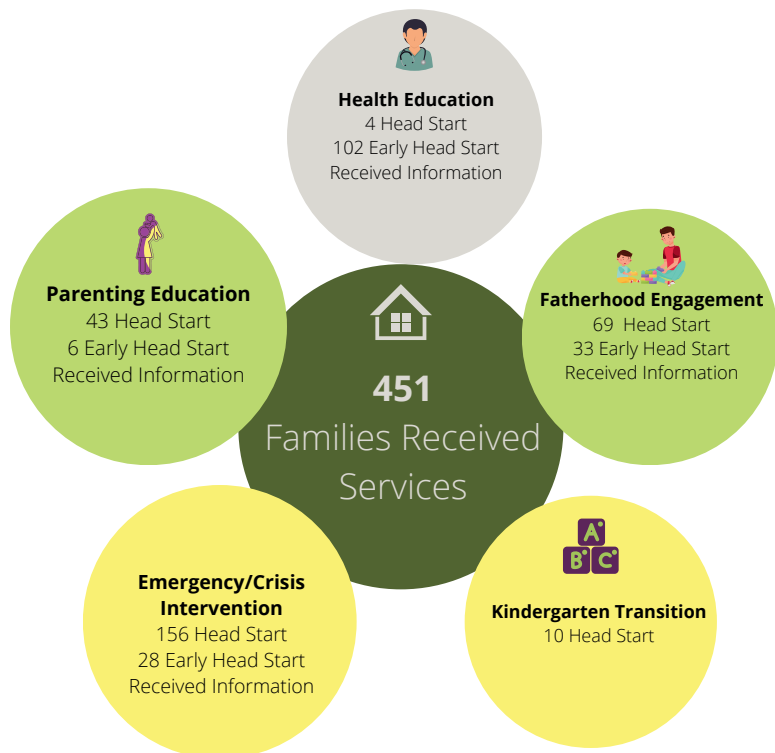


# 2023-2024 FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Head Start Family Support Specialists and Early Head Start Home Visitor Teachers partner with families to build positive and goal-oriented relationships and we provide or connect them with services designed to strengthen families.

Parent education and activities are provided per program option and site. Opportunities include but not limited to Health & Wellness, Community Resources, Continuing Education, Job Training, Car Seat Safety, Parent Cafes, Dads' Group, Kindergarten Transition, and Parent/Child activities.

Families play a critical role in their child's developmental growth and academic success. Families collaborate with Head Start/Early Head Start staff to determine individualized family goals. Goals may focus on enhancing family well-being, promoting their child's school readiness, entering the work force, or continuing education.



# 2024 Illinois Association of Community Action Agencies, Family of Distinction Winner



The Jimenez-Ortiz family started their Early Head Start Home Visiting journey in April 2018, when they were expecting their second child. Their multigenerational family lived in an apartment and wanted to purchase a home of their own to accommodate their growing family. Over 3 ½ years, two pregnancies, completing a college degree, two job changes for Samantha, and Fermin working for the same company for 22 years; they worked diligently to get approved for a home loan. In November of 2021, the Jimenez-Ortiz family became homeowners. The family, as of today, has completed 253 home visits and currently has perfect attendance for the 23-24 program year.

## Rockford Promise Volunteer of the Year

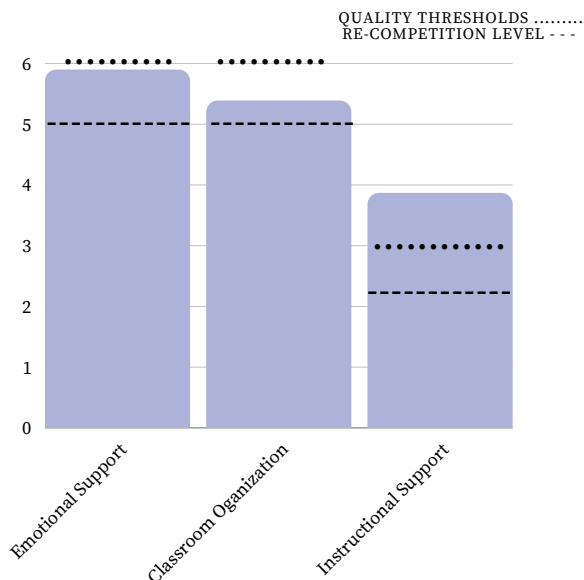
*Amy Morris, Early Head Start Home Visitor Teacher*



I am a third generation Rockford native. I was the first one on my mom's side of the family to attend college full time. I did not have anyone to guide me through the whole process of financial aid, selecting classes, or answering any questions about college. I graduated from RU quite some time ago with my BA in Child Development/Elementary Education and later completed my M. of Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction with National Louis University. I have worked in the early childhood field for 29 years. I currently work for Head Start with the City of Rockford. A parent of a former student suggested that I look into being a mentor for Rockford Promise because she thought I would be a good candidate. Here I am going on my fifth year of being a mentor. I am looking forward to getting to know my next group of scholars and working with them to make it a great start to their college experience. I spend my free time reading, going to musicals, volunteering with Safe Kids to safely install car seats, volunteering at community events with the Rockford Police Department's Citizens Assisting Police, and last but not least, volunteering as a Mentor with Rockford Promise.

# 2023-2024 HEAD START

## 2023-2024 CLASS ASSESSMENT SCORES



The Head Start classroom assessment scoring system (CLASS) is an observation tool that focuses on the effectiveness of classroom interactions among teachers and children. These daily interactions promote children's social and cognitive development. Children thrive when teachers create nurturing, well managed settings and provide frequent and engaging opportunities to learn. Each Head Start classroom is observed yearly and the scores are used to provide teachers with additional professional development including individual coaching and peer group learning communities. CLASS data from the collaboration classrooms at Summerdale, Beyer, Hand n Hand child care and YMCA children's learning center for this program year is used to provide training and teacher support to increase the class scores for the next program year.

## 2023-2024 HEAD START OUTCOMES DATA

**Language:** 81% of 3 year olds and 86% of 4 year olds met or exceeded expectation in spring 2024.

**Math:** 86% of 3 year olds and 89% of 4 year olds met or exceeded expectations in spring of 2024.

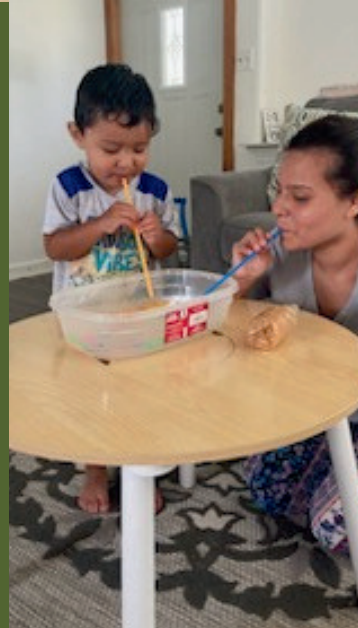
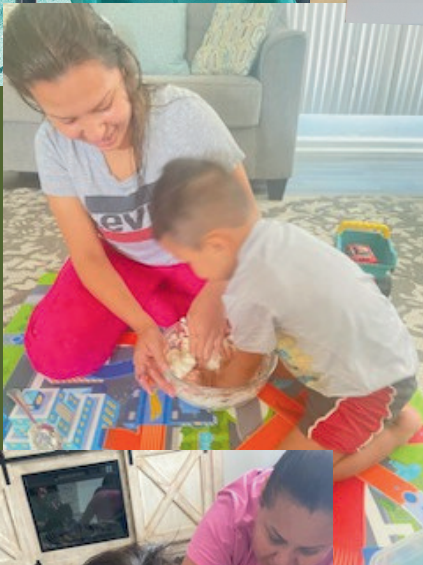
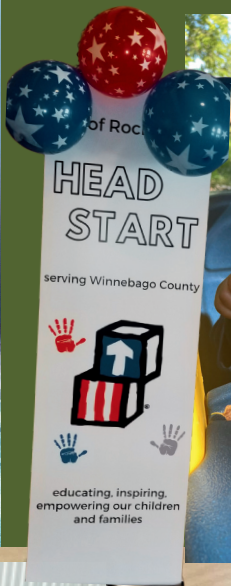
**Motor:** 96% of 3 year olds and 99% of 4 year olds met or exceeded expectations in Spring 2024.

**Scientific Inquiry:** 76% of 3 year olds and 88% of 4 year olds met or exceeded expectations in spring 2024.

**Social:** 87% of 3 year olds and 88% of 4 year olds met or exceed expectation in Spring of 2024

City of Rockford Head Start prepares children for kindergarten using a variety of teaching strategies and individualized learning activities. Progress toward kindergarten readiness is tracked using the outcomes data tool, the Early Learning Scale (ELS). The ELS uses observable indicators to track children's development in 5 domains; Math and Science, Social-Emotional/Social Studies, Language and Literacy, Physical Development, and the Arts.





# 2023-2024 EARLY HEAD START

The City of Rockford Early Head Start program provides infants and toddlers with high quality early learning experiences using research based curricula and individualized activities. Progress toward child development outcomes is measured using the Hawaii Early Learning Profile (HELP) assessment tool. The tool includes several observable, sequential and developmentally ordered skills to track children's development in the following domains; Approaches to Learning, Social Emotional Development, Language and Literacy, Cognition and Motor and Physical Development.

## 2023-2024 EARLY HEAD START OUTCOMES DATA

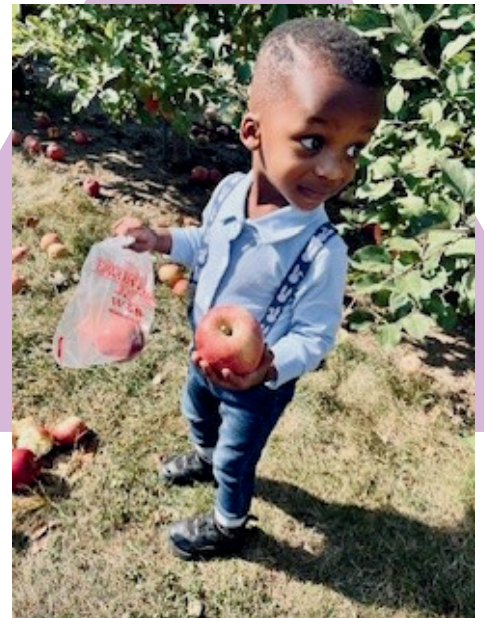
Approaches to Learning – End of year data shows that 92% of enrolled infants and toddlers met the objectives in this domain.

Social Emotional Development – 93% of infants and toddlers were meeting or exceeding expectations measured in this domain.

Language and Literacy – At year end, 74% of children met or exceeded expectations for language and literacy.

Cognition – End of year data shows that 87% of infants and toddlers met or exceeded expectations in the Cognition domain.

Motor and Physical Development – 94% of children met or exceeded expectations measured in this domain.



543  
Head Start Funded Enrollment  
3-5 Years of age

588 Children Served  
529 Families Served  
125 Two Parent Families  
50 Homeless Families Served  
78% Average Daily Attendance  
97% Income Eligible Children Served  
93% Average Monthly Enrollment  
39% of Head Start Children Received Medical Exams  
45% of Head Start Children Received Dental Exams  
89% of Children up-to-date with immunizations

TOTAL NUMBER  
828  
OF CHILDREN SERVED

NEW  
7  
STAFF

CHILDREN WITH  
436  
ACCESSIBLE DENTAL CARE

STAFF  
21  
RESIGNED

# ***Year in Review***

CHILDREN RECEIVED  
349  
TRANSPORTATION DAILY

CHILDREN WITH  
821  
ACCESSIBLE HEALTH CARE

ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
83  
LEARNERS

180  
Early Head Start Funded Enrollment  
Birth - 3 years old and pregnant women

240 Children Served  
201 Families Served  
80 Two Parent Families  
15 Homeless Families Served  
2 Pregnant Women Served  
97% Income Eligible Children Served  
85% Average Monthly Enrollment  
43% of children were up to date on Well Child Checks  
34% of Children completed an Oral Health Assessment

## 23-24 HEAD START / EARLY HEAD START FUNDING

**\$5,292,728** - Head Start Program Operations

**\$53,781** - Head Start Training and Technical Assistance

**\$3,396,870** - Early Head Start Program Operations

**\$50,524** - Early Head Start Training & Technical Assistance

**\$13,548** - Child and Adult Care Feeding Program (CACFP)

## ANNUAL AUDIT

Audit—Lauterbach & Amen is conducting the annual financial audit for the year ending December 31, 2023. This audit will include a single audit and will be in compliance with the requirements described in the U.S. Office of Management.

## 23-24 HEAD START / EARLY HEAD START BUDGET

