

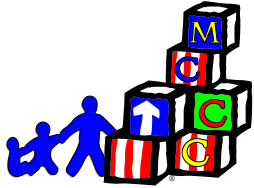


Mid-Columbia Children's Council

ANNUAL REPORT

2016-2017





Mission/Vision

Mission

Educating children and families with innovative, high-quality early childhood learning opportunities and family partnerships to build better communities, one person at a time



Vision

Nurturing Children
And
Families Today,
Strengthening Communities
for
Tomorrow



Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Thank you for making 2016-2017 a notable year! I am always amazed at how fast time goes by. When you take a moment to reflect back, you realize just how much was accomplished in service of others.

Our 2016-2017 program year picked up into high gear right where we left off. We successfully operated a full day full school year duration model at our Parkdale and Madres sites and are excited about increasing the number of duration classrooms in the upcoming years. We worked closely with our partners and parents in Maupin and Tygh Valley to assess future service area needs. We also developed a new partnership with the Columbia Gorge Health Council to implement the Bridges to Health Pathway's program in Hood River and Wasco Counties. In May 2017, MCCC began our **celebration of 30 years of service "Giving Families a Head Start"**.

In the pages that follow you will read the growth and changes embodied in our programs and services, the impact Mid-Columbia Children's Council has on the lives of children and the many ways our organization works and partners with families to overcome obstacles.

Our success is directly related to the dedicated staff working for MCCC and the families that support us. Through our partnerships shared challenges became opportunities, enriching and empowering each of us to learn, grow and develop the gifts and talents we have for an even brighter future. Our hope is that all children are prepared for and remain successful in school and in life. That the lessons, support, well-being and care provided to our children will elevate their lives, their families and our community.

As always, Mid-Columbia Children's Council will continue to search for and develop ways to improve and increase services, resources and programing to meet the growing needs of the communities we serve.

MCCC recognizes the foundation of our success is and will always be in the support we receive from you. The gifts of time, talent and assistance you've given are working to change the lives of children and families in our community. Thank you for believing in our mission and for supporting the work we do each day

Thank you for all that you do!

Paul Runyon



Our Story

Our family has been able to benefit from Early Head Start and Head Start through the years. My children's needs and also school readiness have been met with the supportive teachers in Head Start. Our family has also gone through family struggles but with the support of the teachers and agencies Head Start works with, our family is united again. We continue this positive unity.

The support we had with needs that my middle child had, helped me notice needs that my current child who attends Head Start has. The school readiness materials and other important information that the teachers have shared with me has helped me as a mother to be more motivational in their emotion, social, and school readiness development.

Head Start really has listen to the needs of our family throughout the years. I feel like the agency really takes the time to help each family differently as each family needs are not the same. Being a parent of children who have attended Early Head Start and Head Start, I stress that the programs really know and match each family's needs.



This year in my son's preschool, teachers have deeply supported us in many ways. We are a family again and my son's needs and behaviors are being supported. Teachers work very closely with Early Intervention, and this eases the communication and proactive support for my child.

Early Intervention also has impacted our family in such a way that has helped me become a stronger mom. Along with Head Start they have really helped our family reach our goals and to be hopeful for my children's future. The teachers have impacted my family and our children in such a positive way. My daughter's preschool teacher has given us support throughout the years. She is such a great teacher and mentor to my kids and myself. My son's Head Start teacher has also impacted our family in such a positive way in such a short time that we have known her. Our family is very blessed to have great supportive teachers in our children's lives so far! We have become a family thanks to the program and the teachers that work in the classrooms.

Sincerely,

Shawna Rivera McLean



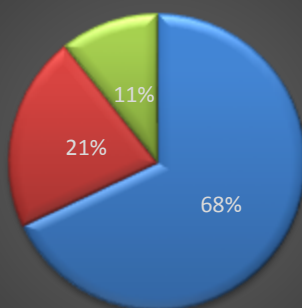
Financial Statement

Fiscal Year Ending November 30, 2017

	For Year Ended 11/30/2016 Audited*	For Year Ended 11/30/2017 Audited*	Budgeted FY 2017-2018
Support and Revenues			
US Department of Health & Human Services	4,462,527	4,653,031	4,736,582
Oregon Department of Education	893,339	839,455	886,306
Washington Department of Early Learning	215,122	130,230	139,338
US Department of Agriculture-Child Care Food Program	207,508	214,948	205,000
Program Income	40,421	61,616	75,881
Private Grants	7,500		
Cash and In-Kind Contributions	103,676	77,349	101,000
Total Support and Revenues	5,930,093	5,978,019	6,144,107
Functional Expenses			
Personnel	4,070,855	4,243,851	4,586,374
Program Services	1,273,861	1,292,671	912,602
Management and General	638,399	666,497	645,131
Total Expenses	5,983,115	6,203,019	6,144,107

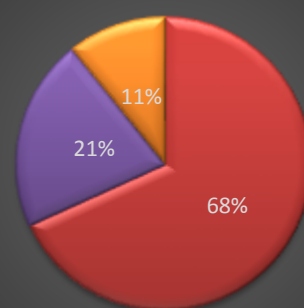
*The independent auditors' reports on the financial statements expressed unqualified opinions for the years ended November 30, 2017 and 2016. The independent auditor's reports on compliance with requirement of major programs expressed unqualified opinions for the years ended November 30, 2017 and 2016.

FY2015-2016 Year End



■ Personnel ■ Program Services ■ Management & General

FY2016-2017 Year End



■ Personnel ■ Program Services ■ Management & General

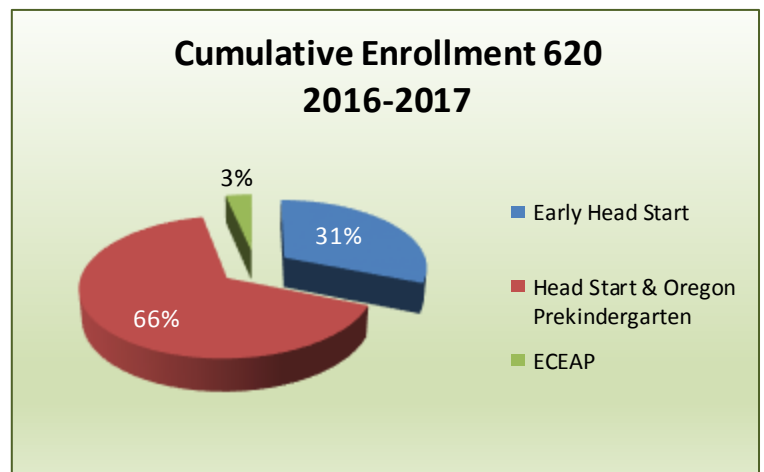


ERSEA

MCCC combines funding from a variety of sources to provide services to children and families in the Mid-Columbia area and in Madras, Oregon. Here is an overview of the funding for the 2016-2017 program year (Our program year runs from August 1st through July 31st). From the Office of Head Start we provided funding for 252 preschool-age children and 138 pregnant mothers, infants and toddlers. The Office of Head Start provided the majority of our funding. Two state funding sources provided additional funding: the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) in Washington and the Oregon Department of Education. ECEAP provided funding for 18 slots (space in a classroom) while the Oregon Department of Education provided 91 slots for preschoolers through Oregon Pre-Kindergarten (OPK) and 5 slots for birth to three through Oregon Department of Education (ODE). These funding sources provide a total of 504 slots to serve children and their families. For our ERSEA (Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment, and Attendance) section of this annual report we have three charts: Cumulative Enrollment, Enrollment Numbers by Month and the Percentage of Children by Income Level.

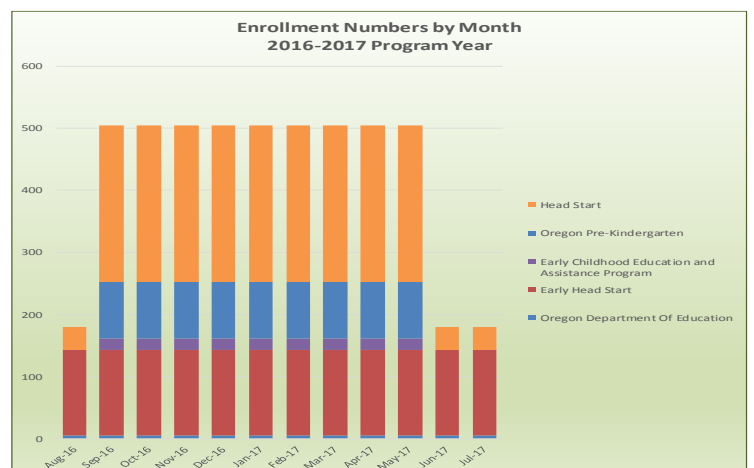
Cumulative Enrollment

The Cumulative Enrollment chart shows the total number of children that attended MCCC for the year. Including children that attended the entire year or children that attended for only a portion of the year. MCCC has a maximum funded enrollment of 504, so at any one time during the year MCCC can have up to 504 children. The cumulative enrollment for 2016-2017 was 620.



Enrollment Numbers by Month

Each month MCCC maintains full enrollment of 504 children during the regular school year and 179 children during the summer. Classrooms that were open during the summer included two child care classrooms for preschoolers with 36 children total and 143 pregnant women and children birth to three who have services all year in different service models including: home-based, a combination of classroom and home-based, and child care.



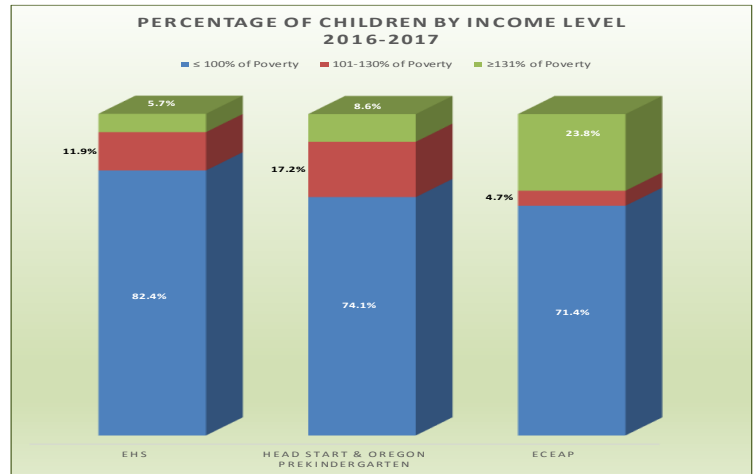


ERSEA

Percentages of Children by Income Level

Per regulations, MCCC categorizes enrollee's based on income within three categories: $\leq 100\%$ of poverty, 101-130% of poverty, and over-income ($\geq 130\%$ of poverty). There are limits in the total percentage of participants that can be in the last two categories for 101-130% of poverty MCCC cannot exceed 35% of our total participants and for over-income no more than 10% of the total can be from this category. These limits apply to Head Start, Early Head Start and Oregon Department of Education

(Shown as EHS on the chart) and Oregon Pre-Kindergarten. For ECEAP some of the children that are over-income are considered eligible because they are children with a disability.



This letter is in regard to our son, Joshua and his participation with the Mid-Columbia Children's Council Head Start program, Country Club location. When Joshua first started attending Head Start, he was talking in 2-3 word sentences sporadically with limited vocabulary. After his first year, his vocabulary had expanded greatly, and he was utilizing 4-5 words sentences frequently. He has learned to interact with peers and make friends. He has definitely come out of his "shell" over the course of the last two year in the program. Joshua's teachers have been most influential and have helped him achieve his goals and grow and thrive in his school environment. Joshua would not be where he is today, ready to transition into Kindergarten next year, without the Head Start program and all of the dedicated people involved.

Stephanie Frank



Our Story

My name is Marivel Ravadan Pacheco. My first son went to Head Start when he was 4 years old. At the time I didn't know what Head Start was. I started with the program in 2008. To date I continue with the program with my youngest daughter. I became acquainted with the Early Head Start program which is a home visiting program back then our teacher began to visit me. For our family this program was very effective. As a mother it helped me to reach my goals because I don't drive and it helped me with medical appointments,



and WIC. Each appointment that I have the program always helps support me with transportation and interpretation at the appointments. Thanks to the program my children completed 3 years of Early Head Start and 2 years of Head Start. I have 6 children ages 14, 12, 10, 8, 6, 4. Without this program my children would not have developed so well. I have learned thanks to the program about punctuality and to not miss classes. It has helped my family and me to gather as a family and to attend as a family to interesting parent meetings with useful information. The program has helped us in joining together as a team for our children's goals and supporting us to achieve them. Without the teachers the children would not have the same opportunity to be successful in their emotional and intellectual development. I would like to recognize the work of the teachers. I feel happy with the teachers because they always show the love and caring that they have for the children and the work. They care when the children don't attend school and offer support to families that need it. The program strengthened my six children. My family is grateful to the program and the teachers for all of their love and support. Thank you teachers for your support and good work that you do, and for my daughter thank you to everyone that is behind the program.

Sincerely,

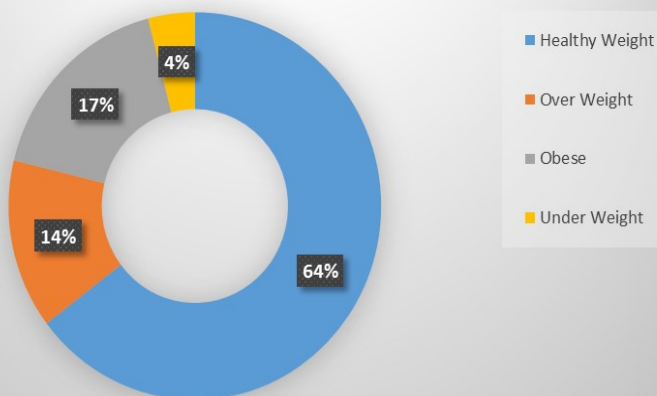
Marivel Ravadan Jaimes



Health

MCCC works in collaboration with parents/guardians to ensure that all children are healthy and ready to learn. Our program strives to ensure that children are up to date on medical and dental care. With parent permission, a variety of screenings are completed to determine if the child has vision, hearing, dental or nutritional needs. MCCC works with many different community partners in the five county radius including dental and medical providers, health departments, local Ear, Nose and Throat providers and Optometrists, as well as the OSU Extension which provides education and activities on healthy meals. MCCC is devoted to help children and families eat healthy and proudly serves Child and Adult Food Program (CACFP) approved meals to our enrolled participants. Education is also provided for families using CACFP and 5210 Every Day (5 or more servings of fruits & vegetables, 2 hours or less recreational screen time, 1 hour or more of physical activity, 0 sugary drinks, more water & low fat milk) resources.

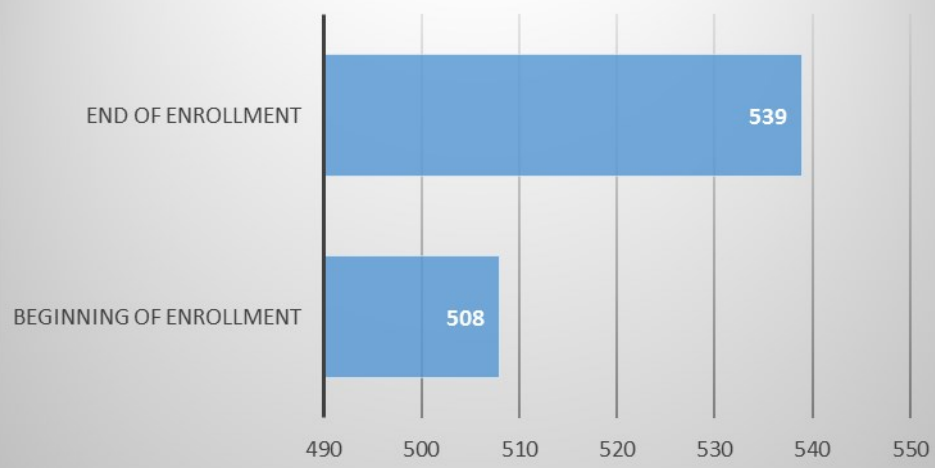
Body Mass Index for Head Start Children



Growth assessment data is collected at the beginning of each program year and again at the end. This chart indicates the percentage of children and the Body Mass Index (BMI) category that they measured and weighed into. The healthy weight is 6% to 84% BMI, overweight is 85% to 94% BMI, obese is 95% and higher, and underweight is 5% or less BMI.

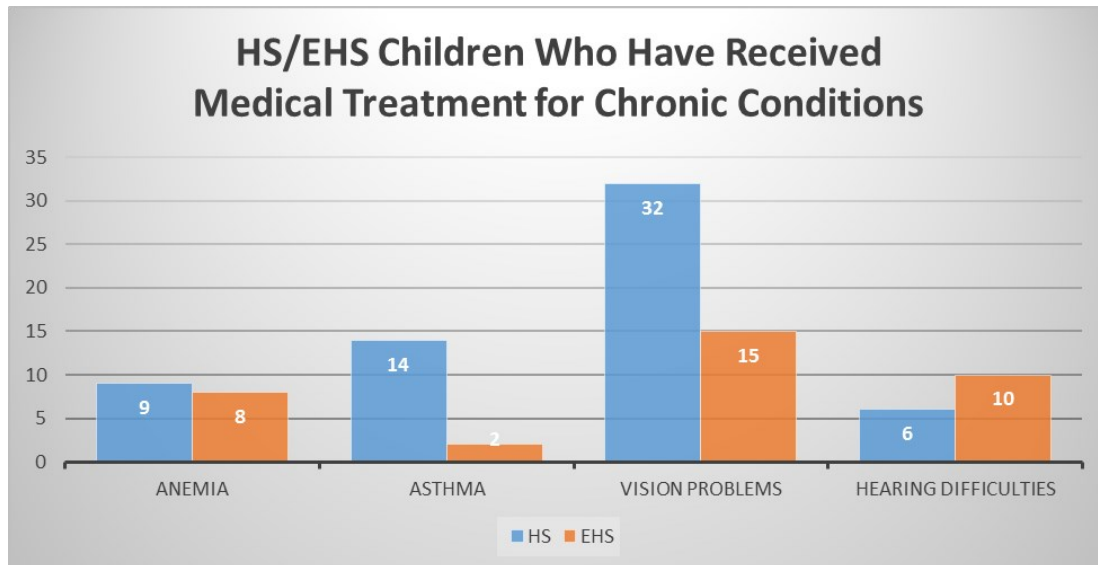
This chart indicates the number of Head Start and Early Head Start children determined to be up to date with all needed immunizations.

HS/EHS Up to Date Immunizations

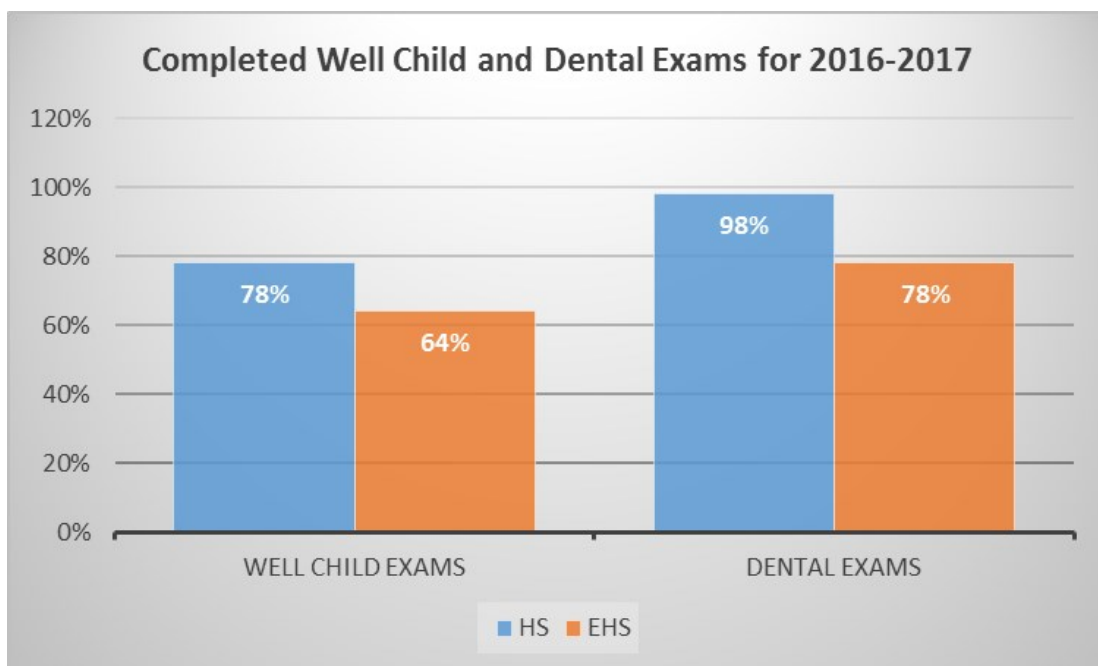




Health



Chronic conditions are identified at enrollment by the Health History information provided by parents or by medical providers obtained with parental permission. MCCC staff screen children's vision and hearing to identify and refer children with concerns. This data indicates the number of Head Start and Early Head Start children who received medical treatment for identified conditions.

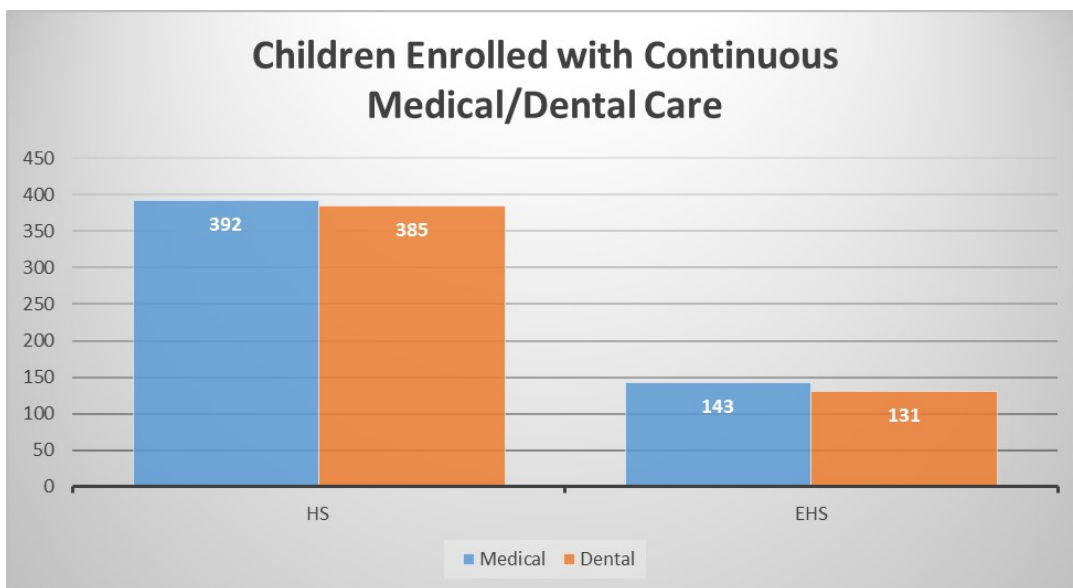


The graph indicates the percentage of Head Start and Early Head Start children that have completed the well child exam and dental exam as required.



Health

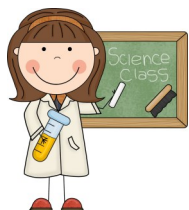
This graph indicates the number of Head Start and Early Head Start children that have a medical and dental home. Parents have signed release documents and the MCCC Health Component staff work with medical/dental providers to obtain results. Staff support parents in keeping up to date on well child and dental exams.



“My son and I have been with MCCC for 2 years. My son started off with some difficult learning disabilities. The staff at MCHS took the time to learn the ins and outs of him. His growth the past two years being in the program is undeniable. The teachers at MCCC are super heroes. I feel extremely luck to have been able to take part in this program.”

Emily Cortner





Child Outcomes

Improving Child Outcomes with CLASS and Practice Based Coaching

MCCC is dedicated to providing high quality educational services for children. In order to improve child outcomes, there also needs to be an increased focus on the quality of teaching practices. Professional development is a priority for MCCC and throughout the year relevant, engaging and innovative information is received through a variety of modalities including conferences, workshops, expert presenters and individual and mentor coaching. These training opportunities provide teaching staff members with new and updated information, a chance to collaborate with peers and additional or improved practices they can put into place in classrooms.

In the past few years there has been a new focus on professional development through a research based model called *Practiced Based Coaching*. The new model combines monthly small group collaborative learning experiences with regular focused observations and feedback from coaches. Experienced teachers are encouraged and supported to view and reflect upon videos of themselves in action in the classroom. Teachers take turns sharing videos with the peers in their groups and benefit from feedback and discussion about shared experiences and classroom challenges. Teaching staff members are assigned to learning groups based upon background experience, individual self-assessments of their teaching practices and the results of observations using the *Classroom Assessment Scoring System*, known in short as *CLASS*.

Use of *CLASS* is required by the Office of Head Start for continual program improvement. The tool is used by coaches and federal reviewers to assess teaching team skills in three domains: Emotional Support, Classroom Organization and Instructional Support. Specific teaching practices are linked to each domain and are scored on a scale of 1-7 during 4 rounds of observation in the fall and again in the spring of each program year. Scores are aggregated for the MCCC program as a whole and compared to average scores of national Head Start grantees. We are proud to show that MCCC teaching staff scores compare favorably to the national grantee averages and have improved since we first used the tool in 2012.

Class Domains	Fall 2012	Spring 2013	Fall 2016	Spring 2017	National Grantee Averages 2016
Emotional Support	5.68	6.10	6.25	6.18	6.00
Classroom Organization	5.06	5.50	5.64	5.73	5.73
Instructional Support	2.85	3.10	3.23	3.61	2.83



Child Outcomes

Teachers know that the ability to self-regulate and follow a daily routine is the most important kindergarten readiness skill so they strive to use a variety of strategies to provide a warm, inviting environment and enable children to participate cooperatively in daily activities. Being well organized ensures that children can transition easily from one activity to the next and that materials are ready for exploration and learning. Instructional support strategies include modeling appropriate language, helping children to express their needs and ideas, engaging children in extended conversations about things that are meaningful, providing an enriched vocabulary, and presenting opportunities for children to compare, analyze and create. These instructional strategies promote kindergarten readiness by helping children develop a foundation for ongoing academic learning. Teachers are clearly invested in developing their own skills so that they can do their best for Head Start children.



At the Petersburg Center teachers are facilitating studies to enhance learning. One such study is on trees. The children explored the many parts of a tree and during this study time discovered items made from trees. The topic of musical instruments came up and children were interested in instruments made from wood. A retired Head Start Teacher who makes her own drums out of cedar trees, deer, and elk skin came to the classroom with her instruments. She explained how she made different types of drums. The children were able to explore the differences in the sounds of each drum. Children were excited to learn how the wood from trees can be used to create sound.



Community Assessment

Mid-Columbia Children's Council Head Start & Early Head Start (MCCC HS/EHS) and its service area, which includes Jefferson, Hood River and Wasco Counties in Oregon and Skamania and Klickitat Counties in Washington. The findings of this community assessment inform the long term planning process for the Head Start and Early Head Start programs. To assess the eligible population and their needs MCCC HS/EHS contracted with Early Childhood Analytics (ECA) a consulting business based in Portland, Oregon to assist with the collection and analysis of a variety of data, including Census data, Program Information Reports from the Office of Head Start, survey data collected by MCCC HS/EHS and many county and state sources of data. This process identified many needs among MCCC Head Start & Early Head Start families, most of which are related to the challenges faced by low income, working families in any community: finding well paying employment, finding affordable housing, finding affordable childcare and paying bills.

Economic Issues

A variety of economic indicators show that there is a high level of need for Head Start services among MCCC HS/EHS families. At 28.8% in 2016, the poverty rate for young families in MCCC's service area is much higher than that of the states of Oregon and Washington at 18.7% and 13.6% respectively. This indicates that more than 1 out of every 4 families with all children under age 5 is living at or below the federal poverty line in the 5 counties served by MCCC. On average for the past 5 years the median family income of the MCCC service area is \$8,177 less than that of the state of Oregon and \$19,329 less than that of the state of Washington. Median family income in the service area was \$57,857 in 2016.

These economic conditions are experienced first hand by Head Start and Early Head Start families. 64% of families who responded to MCCC's community assessment survey identified a "lack of good paying jobs" as the biggest issue or challenge they face, tied with "a lack of affordable housing." It was also found the MCCC HS/EHS parents tend to work more, on average, when compared to Head Start/Early Head Start parents in the states of Oregon and Washington. On average, 47.9% of MCCC HS families had all parents working (whether a single parent or two parent family), compared to 36.6% in Oregon and Washington combined. For MCCC EHS 35.8% of families had all parents working on average compared to 30.3% in the states of Oregon and Washington combined. MCCC HS/EHS families face worse economic conditions relative to HS/EHS families throughout the states of Oregon and Washington, and they also work at higher levels to make ends meet.

Enrollment and Eligible Children

In the counties served by MCCC HS/EHS, there are an estimated 762 Head Start eligible children and 1,144 Early Head Start eligible children. The program is funded to serve 361 Head Start children and 143 Early Head Start children. If Warm Springs HS/EHS is included, there are 487 Head Start funded slots and 177 Early Head Start slots, serving 66.6% of the Head Start eligible population and 16.1% of the Early Head Start eligible population. Jefferson County has the largest short fall of funded Head Start and Early Head Start slots. If the estimated number of foster care children are included (age eligible foster care children automatically qualify for HS/EHS services) then there are as many as 118 Head Start and 342 Early Head Start children unserved in Jefferson County.



Community Assessment

Enrollment and Eligible Children Cont'd

Klickitat and Skamania Counties have low levels of funded HS and EHS slots as a percentage of estimated Head Start eligible children, largely due to their low population densities. There is only enough funded Head Start enrollment slots to serve 45.9% of the estimated eligible population in Klickitat County and 35.2% of the estimated eligible population in Skamania County. This is a common characteristic of programs like MCCC HS/EHS, which must serve eligible children in larger communities such as the city of Hood River and The Dalles as well as eligible children in rural areas.

Shortfalls in Head Start and Early Head Start slots are reflected in needs identified by the Community Assessment survey. "Finding Childcare" was identified by 46.3% of survey respondents as an issue or challenge faced by families in the service area. This was the third biggest issue identified behind finding affordable housing and good paying jobs. Child care was also the most often mentioned in a question that asked survey respondents to identify three things that were immediate needs for their family.

Housing Affordability

Median rent in the 5 counties served by MCCC HS/EHS has risen by 12.2% since 2010 (in 2016 dollars.) This is 4.7 percentage points more than growth in median rent in Oregon, and 3.5 percentage points more than growth in median rent in Washington over the same time period. Though overall median rent in MCCC HS/EHS' service area is lower than that of Oregon and Washington, the service area has a comparable percentage of households that are rent overburdened at 48.4%.

These increases in rent are felt by MCCC Head Start families. In the Community Assessment Survey 64% of 175 respondents identified the high cost of rent as a major issue or challenge. This tied for the highest issue or challenge identified by survey respondents. In another question on the survey 24 of 165 respondents said that housing and affordable housing were one of three things that would help their family the most at the time of the survey.

Conclusion

Low income families in MCCC Head Start/Early Head Start's service area are faced with many of the structural challenges of living in poverty with young children. In order to support themselves, MCCC HS/EHS families work at higher rates compared to other HS/EHS families across Oregon and Washington, and as a result they express a high need for affordable childcare, particularly in more rural areas where it is more difficult for MCCC HS/EHS to provide services. Despite higher rates of poverty and lower median family income, housing in the service area is becoming less affordable and represents an increasing portion of a household's monthly expenses to the point that nearly half of renting households are rent overburdened. One in every four young families lives below the poverty level in the service area, which makes these economic trends even more difficult for families and children in the service area.



All publications that mention USDA Child Nutrition Programs must include the following revised nondiscrimination statement:

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

Mid-Columbia Children's Council is an equal opportunity provider



Washington State Department of
Early Learning



DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

Approved by

Policy Council: 05/31/2018

Board of Directors: 06/07/2018