



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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A WORD FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As I reflect on 2023, it excites me for the future of Growing Futures Early Education Center. We have continued to be laser focused on nurturing children and strengthening families to enrich our community by engaging our entire village to accomplish these goals.

When we first entered into the year, our team was faced with the same challenge as most of the Education sector in securing quality educators to do this important work. We took a step back to see the landscape, addressed the challenges we needed to overcome, made room for strategy, and stepped forward with intention to prioritize retention. We pulled our resources together within our organization to reinvest in our educators to build a foundation for retention.

We also invested in mental health support, training, employee benefits, staff appreciation initiatives, and continued to work on providing a psychologically safe work environment. Today I am pleased to say 100% of our classrooms are open, we are fully staffed, and we are able to provide our children with a quality educational experience because of our re-investment into our educators.

One of the ways we track the magical work being done at Growing Futures is focused on assuring our children transition into their Kindergarten year “School-Ready”. Nationally, only 33% of children go into the school system ready for school. In Kansas City, 66% are ready for school. Growing Futures is proud to report that this year, of the 52 children who graduated from our program, 93% of them transitioned into their Kindergarten year school-ready! While our educators and full team are doing the great work of serving our children and families at the highest level, our classroom environments did not meet that same level of quality.



We want our educators to be equipped with the materials needed to provide the best experiences for young children; likewise, we wanted children to learn in a space that reflects the dedication and love they deserve. This is why we took a concerted effort to invest in the classrooms through our “Adopt a Classroom” campaign. In 2022, we had 6 of our 11 classrooms sponsored for renovations. Today, all classrooms have been sponsored and updated with educational materials that allow for quality, engaging learning.

This year has been full of experiences. We tried our hand at a Pickleball tournament, and were successful at having a great time at our first annual Pickleball & Jams (PB&J) fundraising event, while bringing awareness to a new demographic. Our largest fundraiser, Harvesting Hope, was the most successful to date for Growing Futures, grossing over \$130,000. It was a perfect night for a sip and shop, live music, great food and a powerhouse panel, including Former Mayor Sly James, discussing the importance of early education to our education system, community, economy and future workforce.

In addition to new experiences, Growing Futures was also surprised with the honor of being selected as Nonprofit of the Year from the Northeast Johnson County Chamber of Commerce. It is because of the steadfast efforts of the team in its entirety that we were able to receive this acknowledgement and, most importantly, provide a voice for our children and families right here in our village. Showcasing our approach to education is a key strategy we will utilize as we broaden our village of support.

As we move into 2024, we will continue to keep our mission top of mind as we serve the children and families that need us most in Johnson County, Kansas, with excellence. We look forward to bringing passionate, like-minded individuals and businesses alongside us in this journey. Together, our village will remain focused on providing quality early learning opportunities that lead to responsible and productive citizens in our community. We will continue to advocate for our earliest learners who are at the Start of life; the children who will become the foundation of our future communities. It takes collaboration and teamwork to transform a community for the better. I cannot wait to see who joins our village in the upcoming year!

LARRY LEWIS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A WORD FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT



Years of hard work, rewarded.

2023 was a very special year for Growing Futures highlighted by several milestone events, the most significant of which would be getting back to serving children and families at full capacity within the classrooms.

- Record fundraising
- Diversification of funding streams
- Strong financial performance
- Significantly improved recruitment and retainment of staff
- Reopening of classrooms previously closed due to teacher shortage
- Increased awareness of Growing Futures within the greater KC community
- Meaningful increases to staff compensation
- Achieved NAEYC accreditation
- 93% of graduating children kindergarten ready!!

The entire Growing Futures team has worked extremely hard post pandemic to get the organization back to operating at full capacity and now new challenges and opportunities lie ahead. The coming year's priorities include serving more families in the home, ambitious fundraising goals, and making progress towards a capital campaign that will ensure the children in our community have a quality and contemporary facility to learn in. Please consider doing what you can to help Growing Futures continue to deliver on its mission of nurturing children and strengthening families to enrich the community.

Thank you for your interest in Growing Futures

JAKE BARNES

BOARD PRESIDENT | ELECTED JULY 2022 | FAS WEALTH PARTNERS



OUR MISSION

To nurture children and strengthen families to enrich our community.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

1. Excellence in Education
2. Support for Whole Child & Family
3. Excellence in People & Organizational Culture
4. Community Awareness & Partnerships
5. Long-Term Sustainability

OUR VISION

Growing Futures Early Education Center will be a leading center of excellence in the growth and development of young children and support of their families.

BOARD MEMBERS



Jake Barnes
Financial Advisory Service, Inc.
President



Scott Campbell
Integrit Ops.
Past President



Debra Peterson
Comm365
Vice President



Kendall Burr
Blue Valley School District
Secretary



Paul Stephens
Ernst & Young
Treasurer



Tarena Terry
Academy Bank



Anne Mills
Retired Hallmark



Antoinette Redmond
Dairy Farmers of America



Kate Allen
Johnson County Community College



Brian Zickefoose
Husch Blackwell



Jennifer Miller
Henderson Engineers



Chris Davis
PGAV Architects



Carol Gonzalez
MARC



Beauty Henecke
Goering & Granatino, P.A.



Leanne Smith
JCYM Liaison



Jessica Nollett
Enterprise Bank



Marc Shaffer
Searcy Financial Services



Chris Goodger
Financial Advisory Services

SENIOR LEADERSHIP



LARRY LEWIS
Executive Director



TANESHA THOMPSON
Program Director



KATHLEEN KANE
Finance Director



SUZANNE HANDLIN
Human Resources
Manager



JESSICA HOFFMAN
Director of Development
& Community Relations

POLICY COUNCIL

Officers:

President: Guadalupe Mullett

Vice President: Juliana Liu

Secretary: Destiny Aguilar

Treasurer: Lidia Reyes Olvera

Members:

- | | | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Jennifer Cardwell | Guadalupe Mullett | Chaumia Jackson | Madison Todd |
| Destiny Aguilar | Lidia Reyes Olvera | Cynthia Rubio | Lizabeth Arita |
| Joseph Dulex | Rebecca Blankenship | Mary Marara | Samantha Bien-Aime |
| Kathy Ward | Maria Fernanda Bazurto | Danielle Doty | Shelby Stoneking |
| Rhonda Gould | Julisa Aldana | Sandra Diaz | Claudia Lopez |
| Farah Al-Dulaimi | Sarah Garcia | Ethan Price | Anette Lopez |
| Maria Luz | Selamawit Gebremaria | Shelby Walter | Makenzie Kinsella |
| Lidia Chavarria | Jordan Randle | Jar Lasi | Khalid Algburi |
| Juliana Liu | Veronica Hollinger | Belen Villegas | Laurel Assignon |
| | | | Samantha McCune |

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Gale Hansen | Gene Wilson | Jim Lisson | Lillian Hall
Sara Whalen | Sherry Hutchison | Art Ruby | Ann Kenney

Located in the Downtown Overland Park District, Growing Futures Early Education Center is a non-profit Head Start organization that provides quality early education opportunities and family support services to 223 children, ages 0-5 and their families, living in Johnson County, Kansas. All of our families live at or below 100% of the federal poverty threshold, are in foster care or are experiencing homelessness. That means, for a family of three, they make no more than \$24,860 a year. Enrolled families also have access to a variety of comprehensive support services, including health and nutrition services, onsite play therapy, parent education, mental health, medical and dental health, family support, social services and engagement opportunities. Our education programs are:

Early Head Start Home-Based
Early Head Start Center-Based
Head Start Extended Day
Head Start Wrap-Around Care

These programs focus on developing a child's academic readiness with an emphasis on social and emotional development. In addition, we use the following teaching curriculums:

Parents-As-Teachers
HighScope's Tender Care and Early Learning
HighScope Preschool
Second Steps
Conscious Discipline
Early Childhood Hands On Science (ECHOS)

While we have grown since our establishment in 1965 from serving 17 children to 223, we continue to offer a nurturing and warm environment that feels like family; a place where children can develop a lifelong passion for learning. The number of children served has continued to grow to keep up with increasing poverty, however, we regularly maintain a wait list of more than 200 eligible children.

We apply for and receive grant funding from the Office of Head Start, which only covers a portion of our program operations. We rely heavily on support from our community partners, corporate sponsors, donors, local grants and our volunteers. There are so many ways to get involved with Growing Futures and we invite you to partner with us in our mission...to nurture children and strengthen families to enrich our community.

Early Head Start Home-Based

This program option serves pregnant women and children, ages birth to three years of age. In this program, Family Educators (FEs) work with families in the home, performing 90-minute home visits that utilize the Parents as Teachers Evidence Based Model™ Curriculum. This program also provides monthly socialization opportunities and access to family engagement events plus other resources provided by Growing Futures. This program option is provided at no cost to qualifying families. With COVID-19, some home visits were performed virtually or outdoors. Families must reside within Johnson County, Kansas. There are a total of 77 slots available in this program.



Early Head Start Center-Based

This program option serves children six weeks to three years of age at Growing Futures, and in one classroom at Growing Futures' partnering site Kids At Heart (KAH). Services for this program option are offered for up to 9.25 hours a day, Monday through Friday, year round. These classrooms implement HighScope's Tender Care and Early Learning curriculum. Families must reside within the current Shawnee Mission School District boundaries. There are 38 total slots in this program.



Head Start Extended Day

This program option serves children three to five years of age at Growing Futures. Services for this program option are offered 6 hours a day, Monday through Thursday, year round. This program option is provided at no cost to qualifying families. This program option utilizes HighScope Preschool, Second Steps, Conscious Discipline, and Early Childhood Hands On Science (ECHOS) curriculum. Families must reside within the current Shawnee Mission School District boundaries. There are 80 total slots in the Head Start Extended Day Program.

Head Start Wrap Around Care

This program option serves children, ages three to five years, at Growing Futures. Services for this program option are offered for up to 9.25 hours a day, Monday through Friday, year-round. Families must be working or attending school at least 30 hours a week to qualify for this program. This program also utilizes HighScope Preschool, Second Steps, Conscious Discipline, and Early Childhood Hands On Science (ECHOS) curriculum. Families must reside within the current Shawnee Mission School District boundaries. There are 28 total slots in the Head Start Wrap Around Care Program.



THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PROVIDED AS REQUIRED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES, ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES, OFFICE OF HEAD START



A NOTE REGARDING RECENT REVIEW BY THE SECRETARY...

The Office of Head Start (OHS) implemented a new monitoring system, called Aligned Monitoring in the fall of 2014. Previously, grantees operated under an indefinite grant period with a review every three years to ensure compliance with Head Start regulations. The OHS transitioned to a 5 year grant cycle with monitoring reviews carried out over the first three years of a grant. Each review focused on particular content areas. Growing Futures received a 5-year federal grant award in July of 2018.

GROWING FUTURES IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT REGULATIONS.

A NOTE REGARDING FINANCIAL AUDIT...

Our audit was conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and 2 CFR Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements. Financial statements presented fairly, in all material aspects, the financial position of Growing Futures Early Education Center, Inc., and we were issued an unmodified opinion.



MONITORING REVIEWS...

Aligned Monitoring Focus Area One was completed April 2020. The report consisted of program highlights with no areas of non-compliance. Aligned Monitoring Focus Area Two occurred in 2021 with no areas of concern or non-compliance.

DISABILITIES PROACTIVE ACTIONS



SCREENING

Screening assesses vision, hearing, problem-solving, personal-social development, gross/fine motor skills, and speech/language skills.

SHAWNEE MISSION SCHOOL DISTRICT

Growing Futures partners with the Shawnee Mission School District to serve children, ages 3 to 5 years old that have suspected delays. We determine the appropriate educational plan and placement of Growing Futures' children.



INFANT TODDLER SERVICES OF JOHNSON COUNTY

ITS-JC provides services to infants and toddlers eligible for special education. If delays are suspected, we will setup a discussion with the parent(s) and evaluation of the child. ITS-JC then provides a multi-disciplinary team evaluation.

INCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

Growing Futures will provide an inclusive environment for full participation of children with disabilities enrolled.



0%

93

KINDERGARTEN READY

Compared to 33% at the nationwide level.

Period 1

7/11/22-10/5/23

Period 2

10/7/22-1/18/23

Period 3

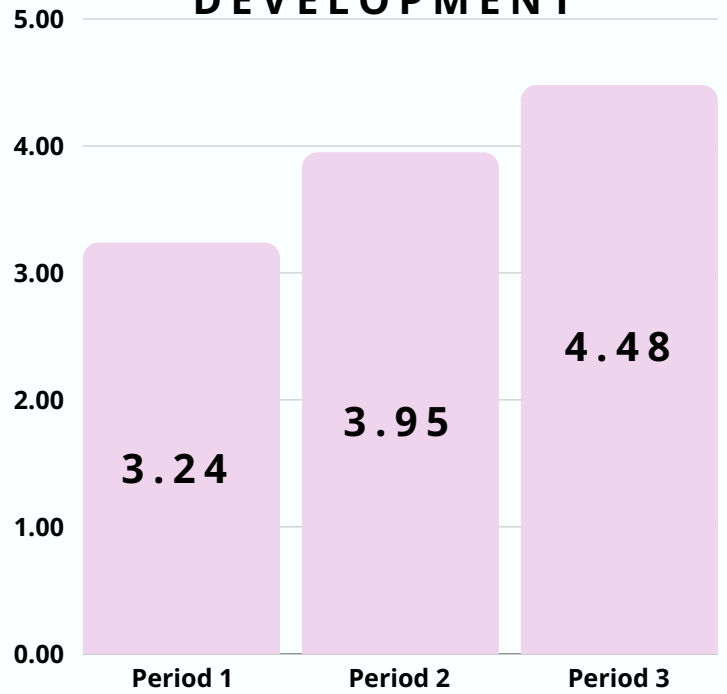
1/20/23-4/11/23

KINDERGARTEN READINESS

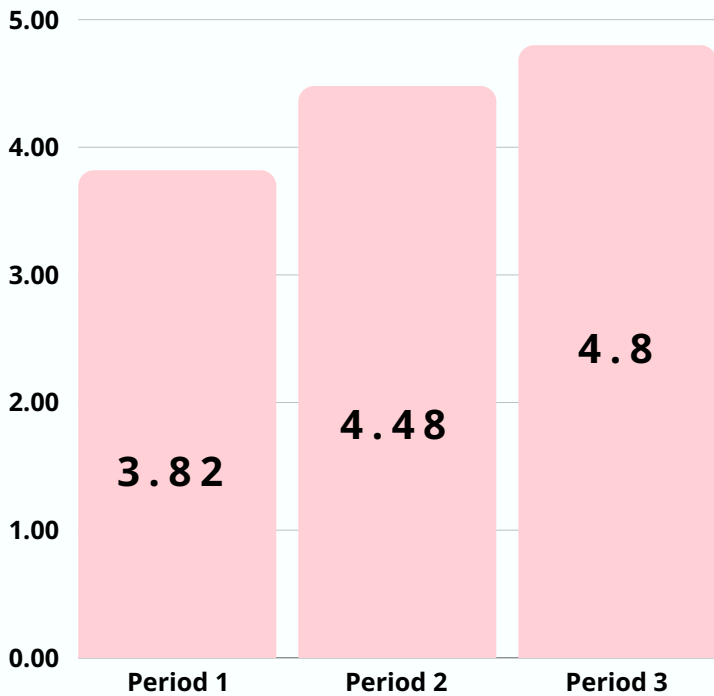
APPROACHES TO LEARNING



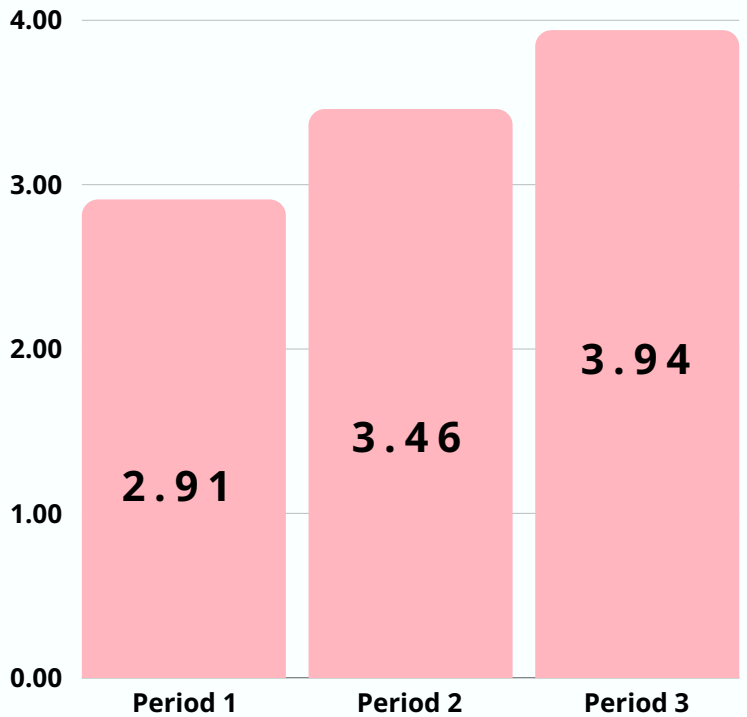
SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT



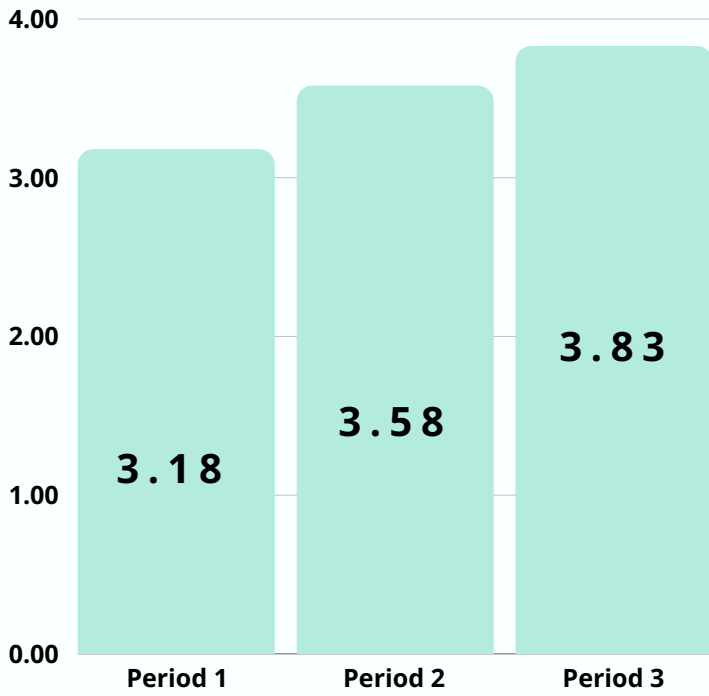
PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT & HEALTH



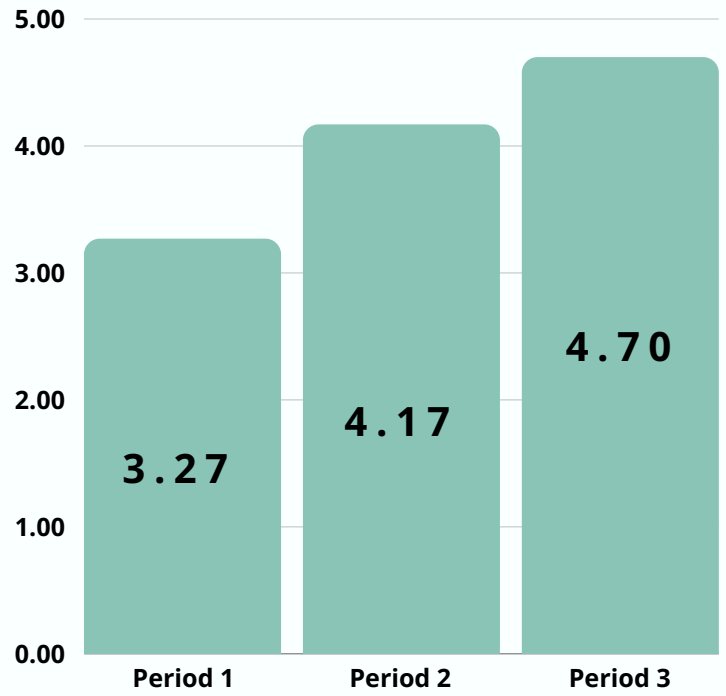
LANGUAGE & LITERACY



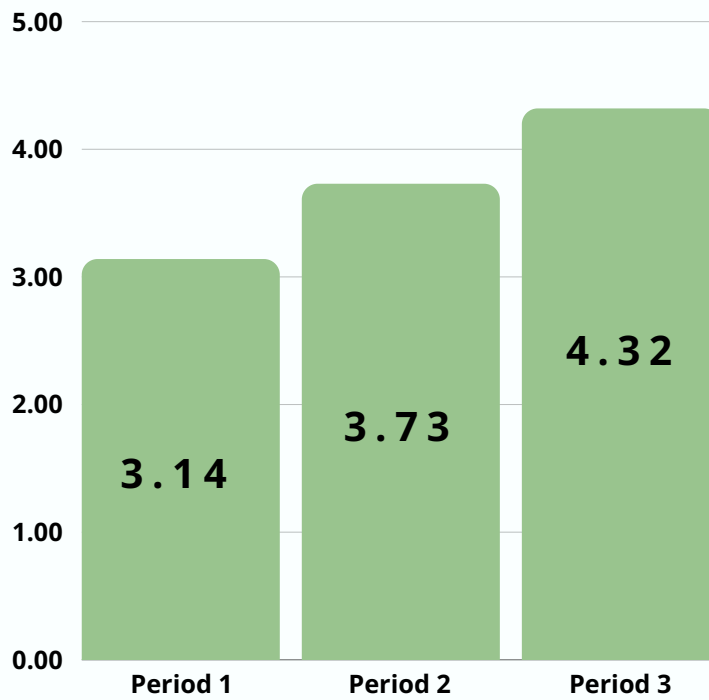
MATHEMATICS



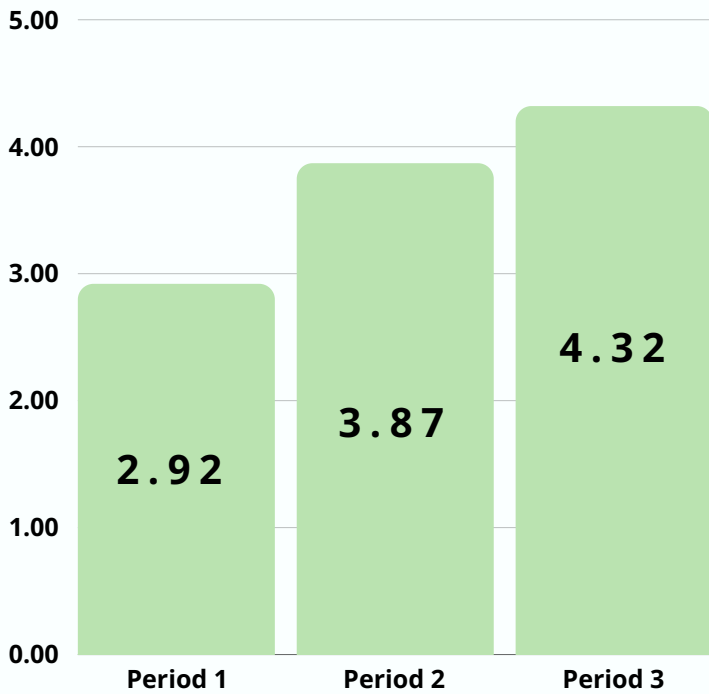
CREATIVE ARTS



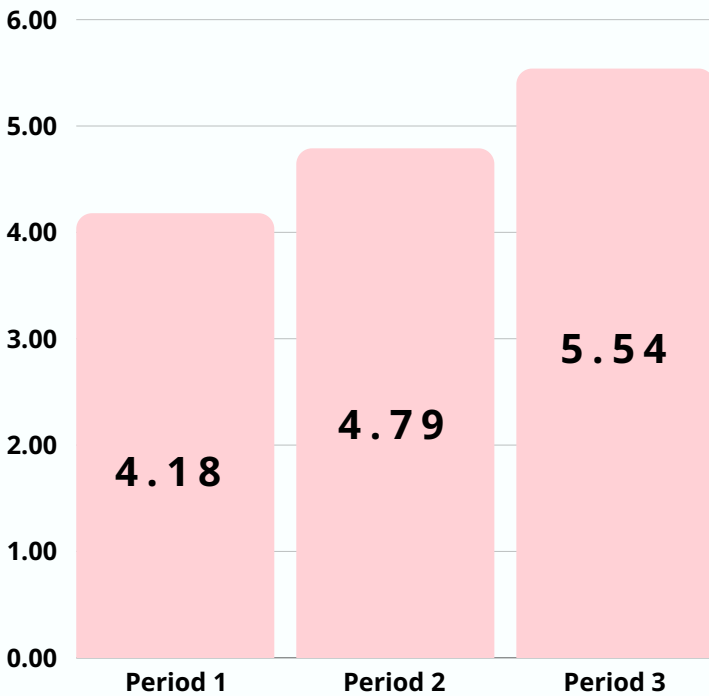
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



SOCIAL STUDIES



ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS



Immunizations

100%

Early Head Start

99%

Head Start

96%

Home-Based

Dental Home

96%

Early Head Start

97%

Head Start

66%

Home-Based

Preventative Care

100%

Early Head Start

100%

Head Start

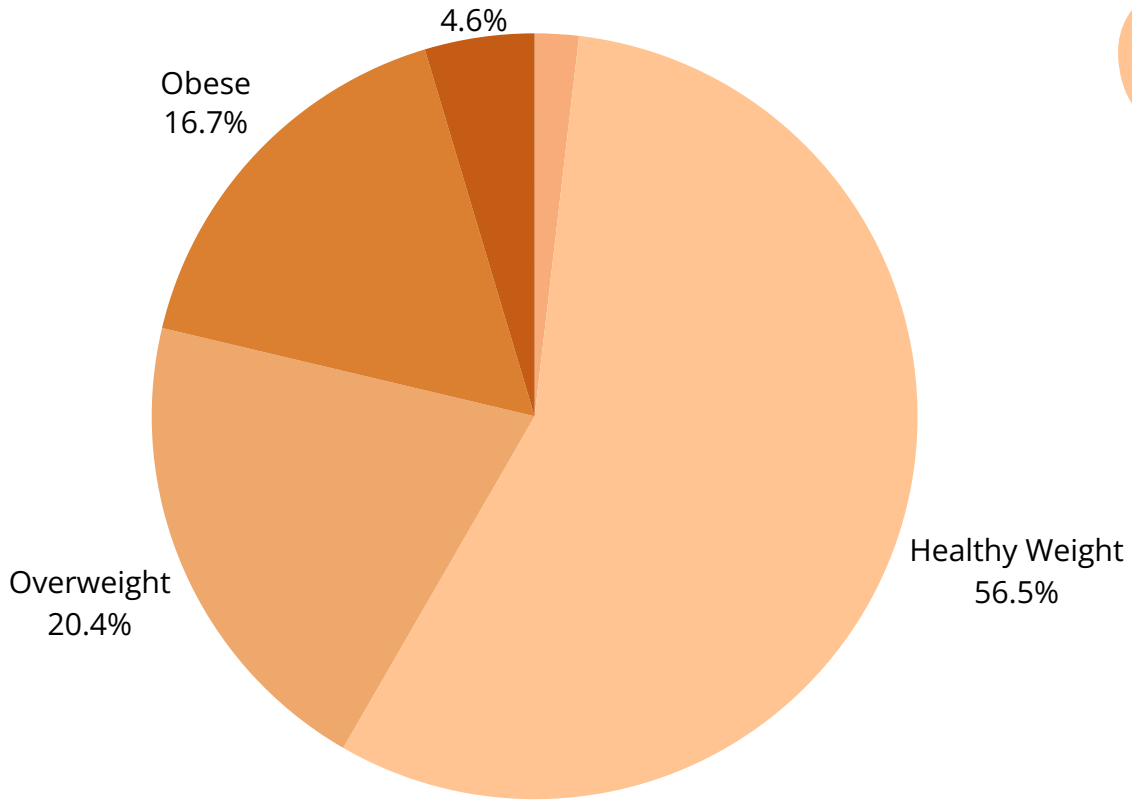
99%

Home-Based

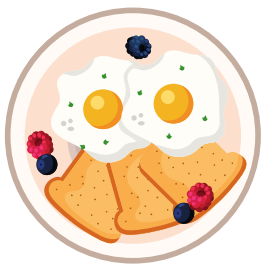
The health and nutrition specialist tracks immunization records and provides referrals as needed. In a normal year, each child would receive regular growth assessments, hearing and vision screenings, brush their teeth daily onsite after being provided a family-style meal to assist with socio-emotional development.

We continued to serve daily meals for the children we served in the center-based programs. Children who are hungry are not prepared to learn. At Growing Futures, we accommodate a variety of dietary needs and restrictions. We also continued our partnership with After the Harvest that supplied our families with fresh produce throughout much of the year.

Body Mass Index



Meals Served



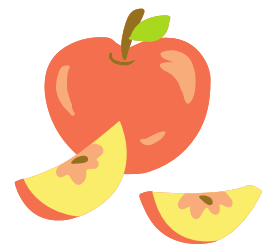
17,777

Breakfast



17,820

Lunch



9,516

Snack

Total: 45,116

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

As a Head Start Program, Growing Futures provides comprehensive services to children and families. A key piece in this is supporting the mental health and wellness for children, caregivers and staff. Growing Futures supports this need by having a mental health specialist on staff who consults with teachers, parents and staff regarding the support they might need. The mental health specialist receives referrals from teachers, family support advocates, family educators and the disabilities and school readiness specialist. When a child has concerns on an ASQ SE screening, is exhibiting persistent challenging behaviors in the classroom or needs additional social-emotional/mental health support, the mental health specialist connects parents to agencies that provide mental health services when needed. During the last program year, the mental health specialist worked with 39 children by either meeting with the teachers and parents, completing classroom observations, sending information home for the parents, brainstorming strategies, or providing referrals for additional services.

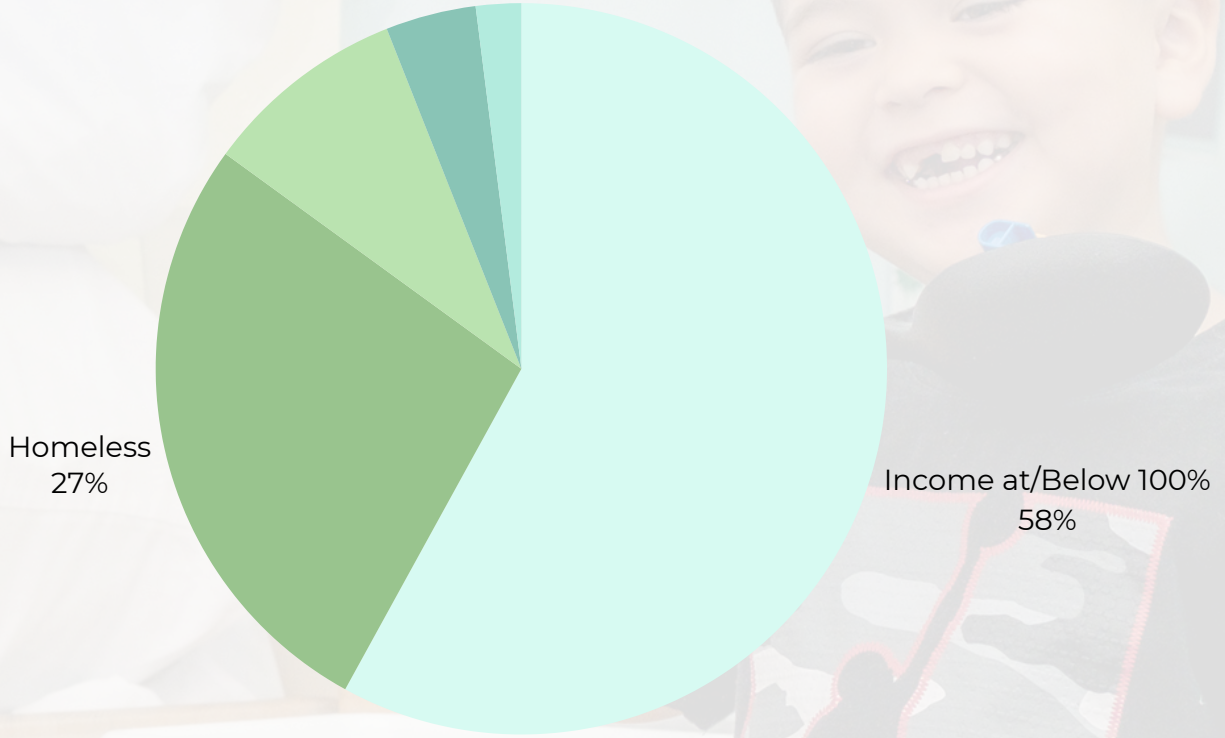
In addition, the mental health specialist also completes mental health check-ins with prenatal and postpartum (newborn-9 mo) parents in the program.

During check-ins, the MHS provides information about signs and symptoms of prenatal mood disorders, resources on support services in community for postpartum mental health challenges, and monitors all Edinburgh Screens that are completed. This program year, the mental health specialist provided prenatal mental health check-ins to 12 pregnant parents, and postpartum mental health check-ins to 18 postpartum parents.

The mental health specialist coordinates positive parenting classes offered to all families enrolled at Growing Futures every Fall and Spring. In the Fall of 2022, The Family Conservancy provided a five-week Conscious Discipline class for parents, which was available both in person and on zoom. A total of 18 Families attended at least 1 session either in person or on zoom. In the Spring of 2023, the mental health specialist provided a five-week parent class on zoom utilizing the Positive Solutions for Families curriculum. A total of 5 families attended at least one session. In May of 2023, an additional one-day session on Trauma informed practices was offered to parents provided by a TIC grant. A total of 7 families attended the session.

FAMILY ELIGIBILITY INCOMES

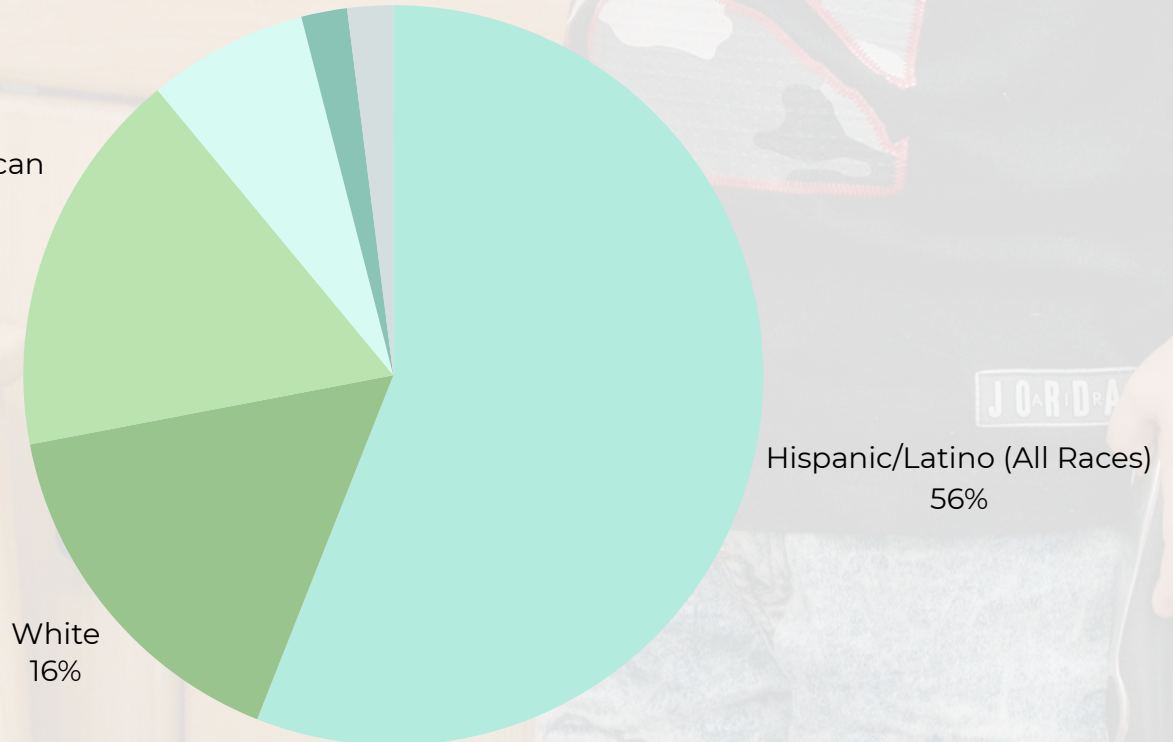
Public Assistance (SNAP, SSI, or TANF)
9%



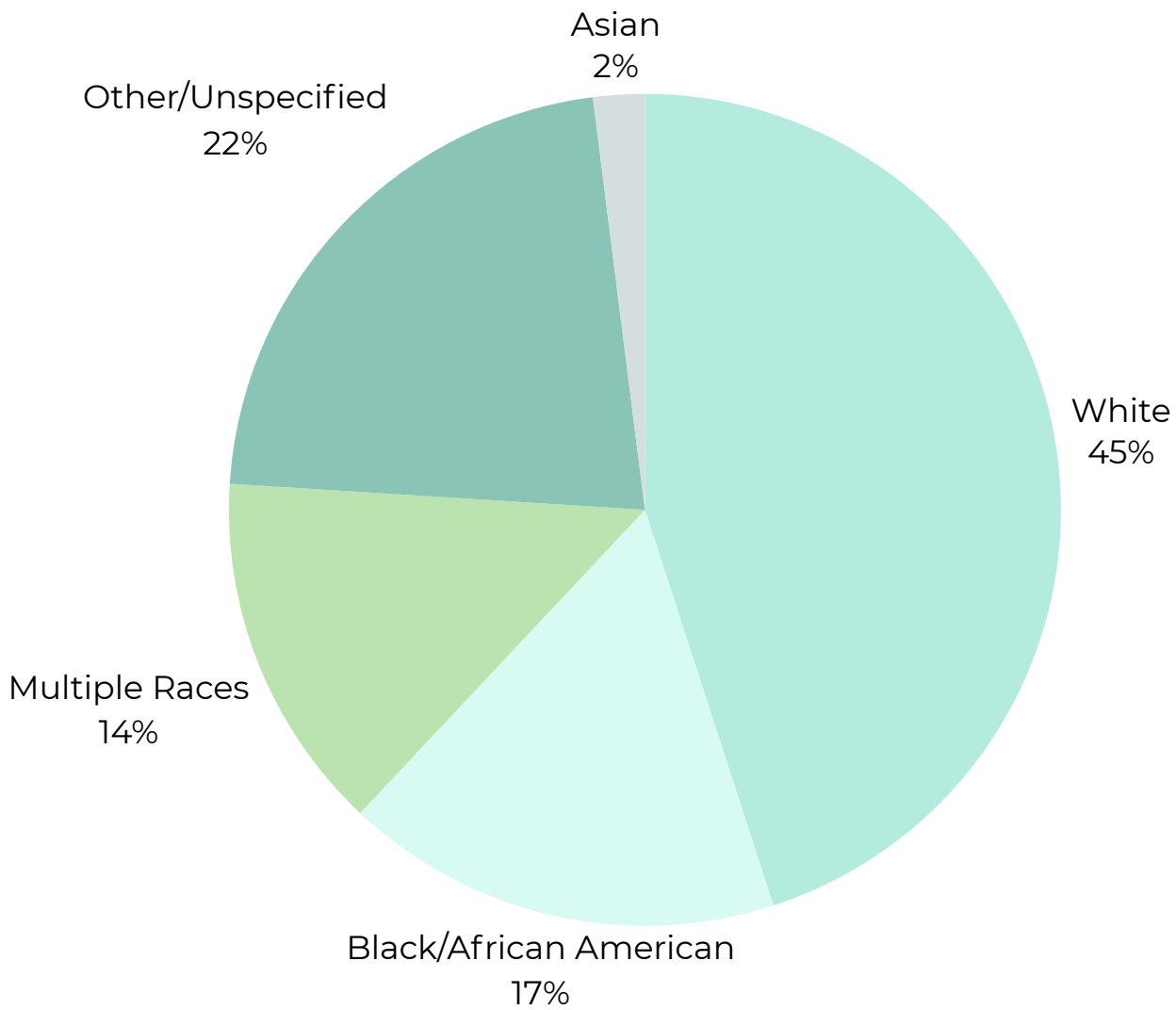
RACE & ETHNICITY

Multiple Races 7%
Asian 2%

Black/African American
17%

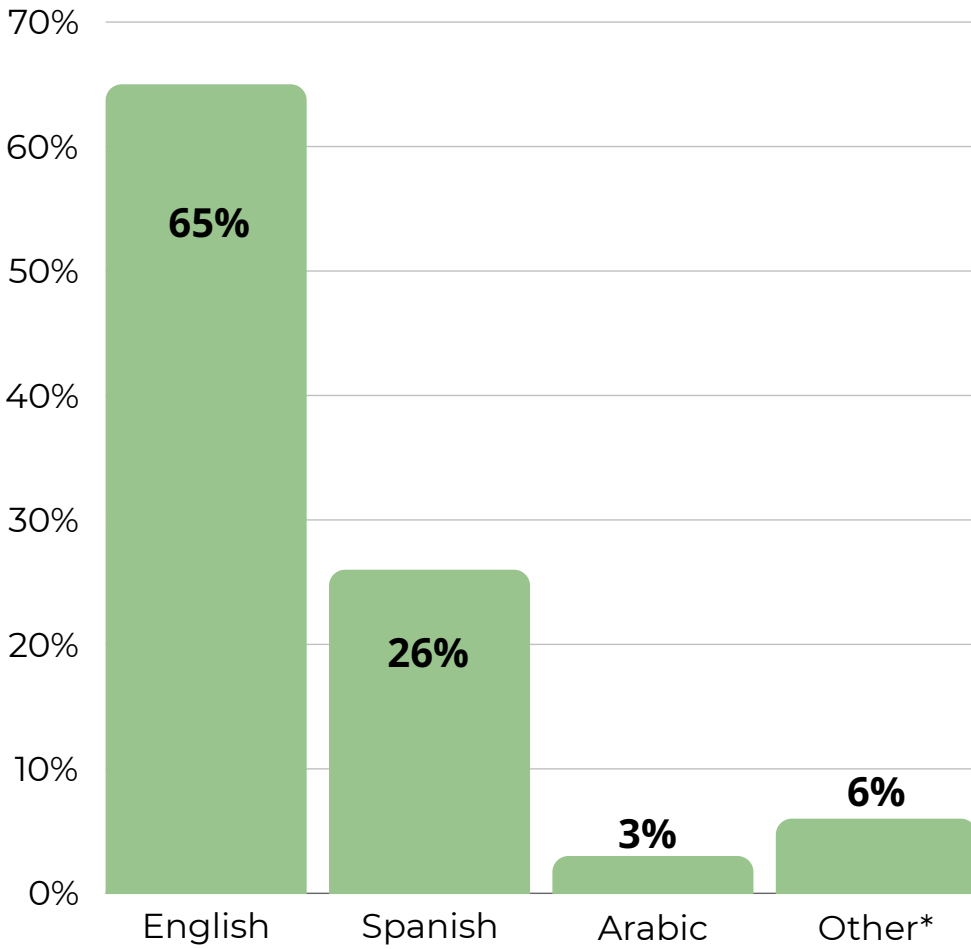


PARTICIPANT RACE



PARTICIPANT ETHNICITY

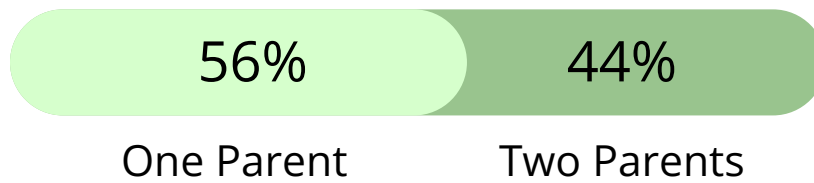




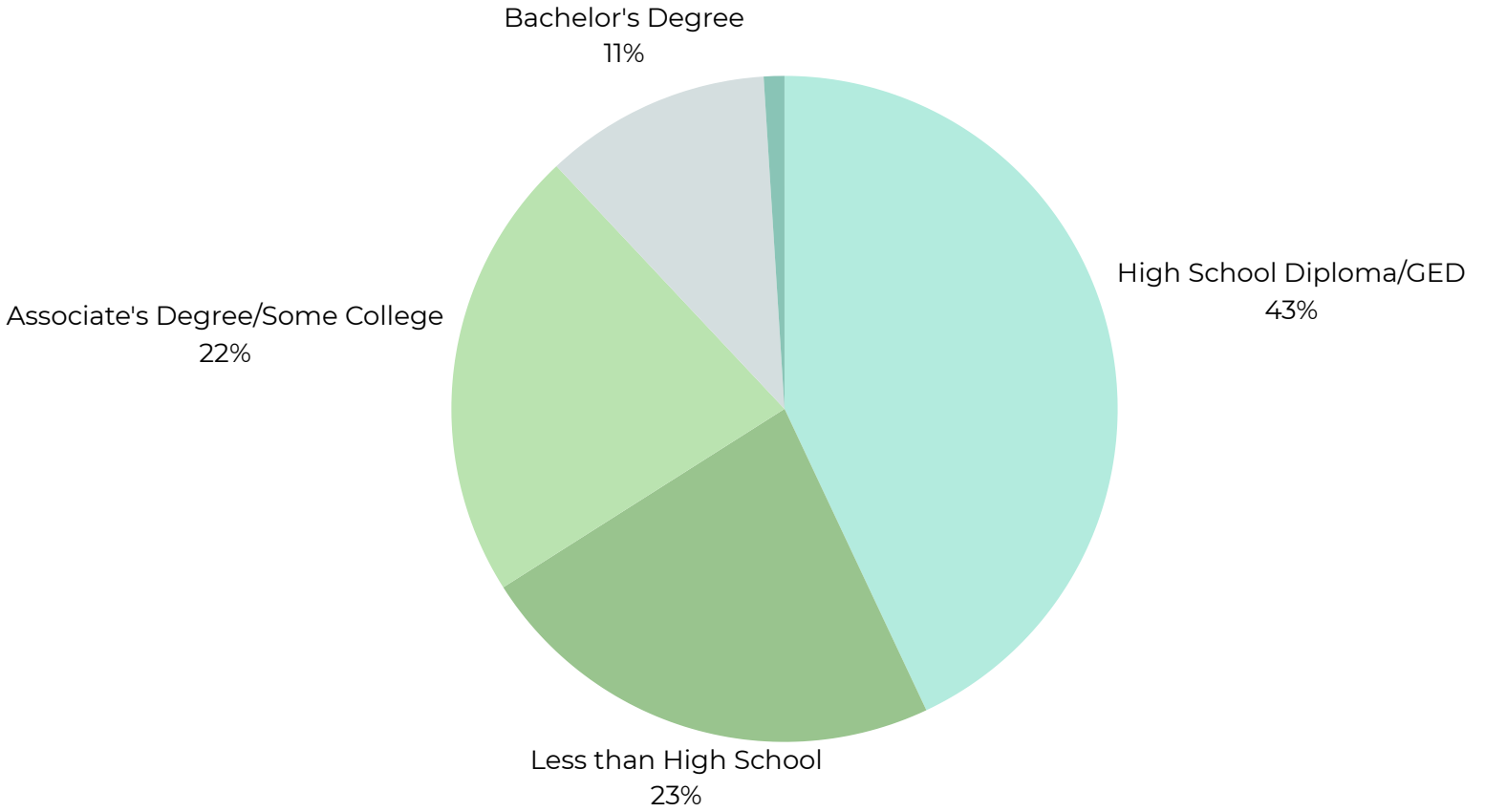
PRIMARY LANGUAGE

- *American Sign Language
- Amharic
- Berber
- French
- Macedonian
- Punjabi
- Tagalog
- Urdu
- Vietnamese

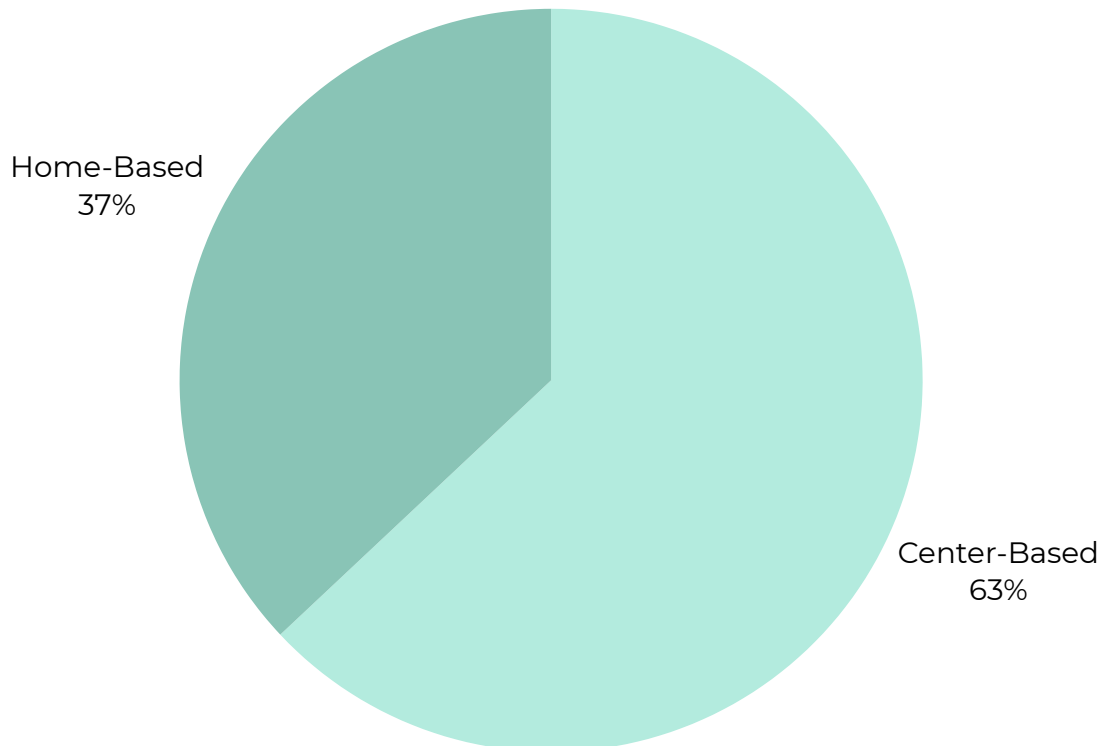
FAMILY STATUS

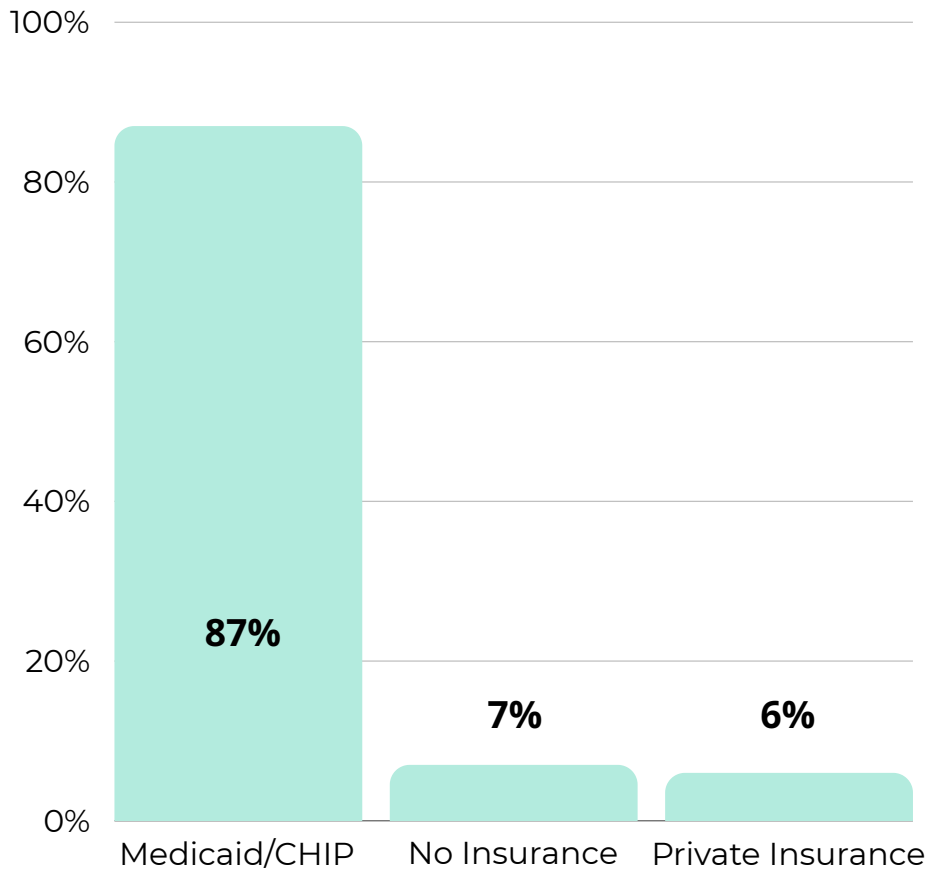


PARENT EDUCATION LEVELS



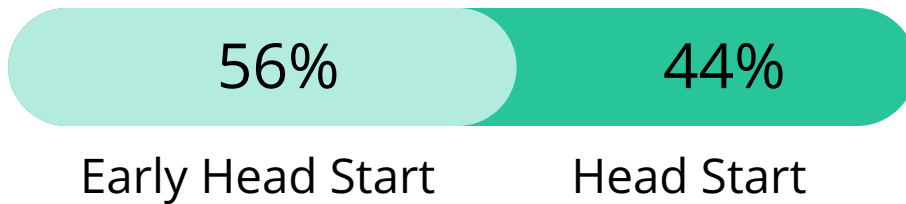
CENTER-BASED VS. HOME-BASED





FAMILIES WITH HEALTH INSURANCE

PROGRAM ENROLLMENT



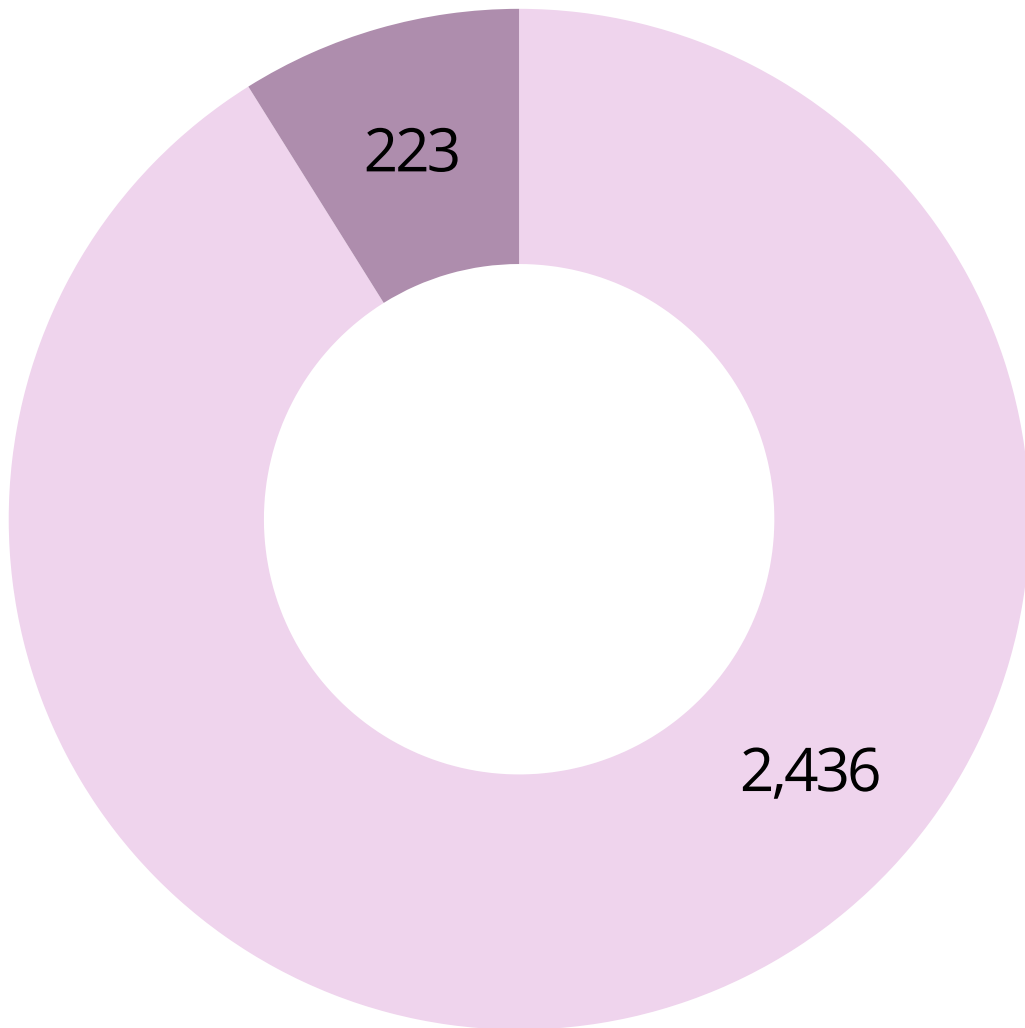
PARENT EMPLOYMENT STATUS



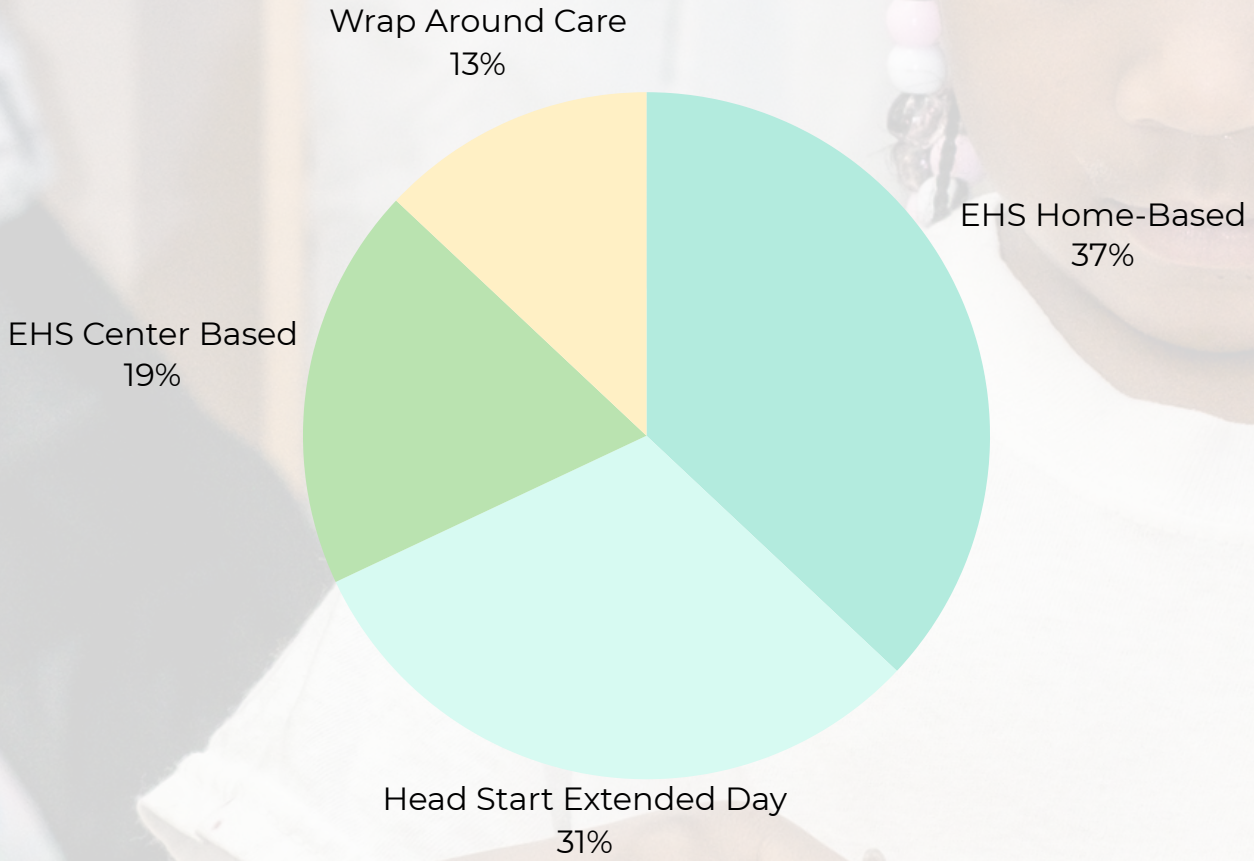
Work/and or school No work/school

ELIGIBLE CHILDREN BEING SERVED IN JOHNSON COUNTY

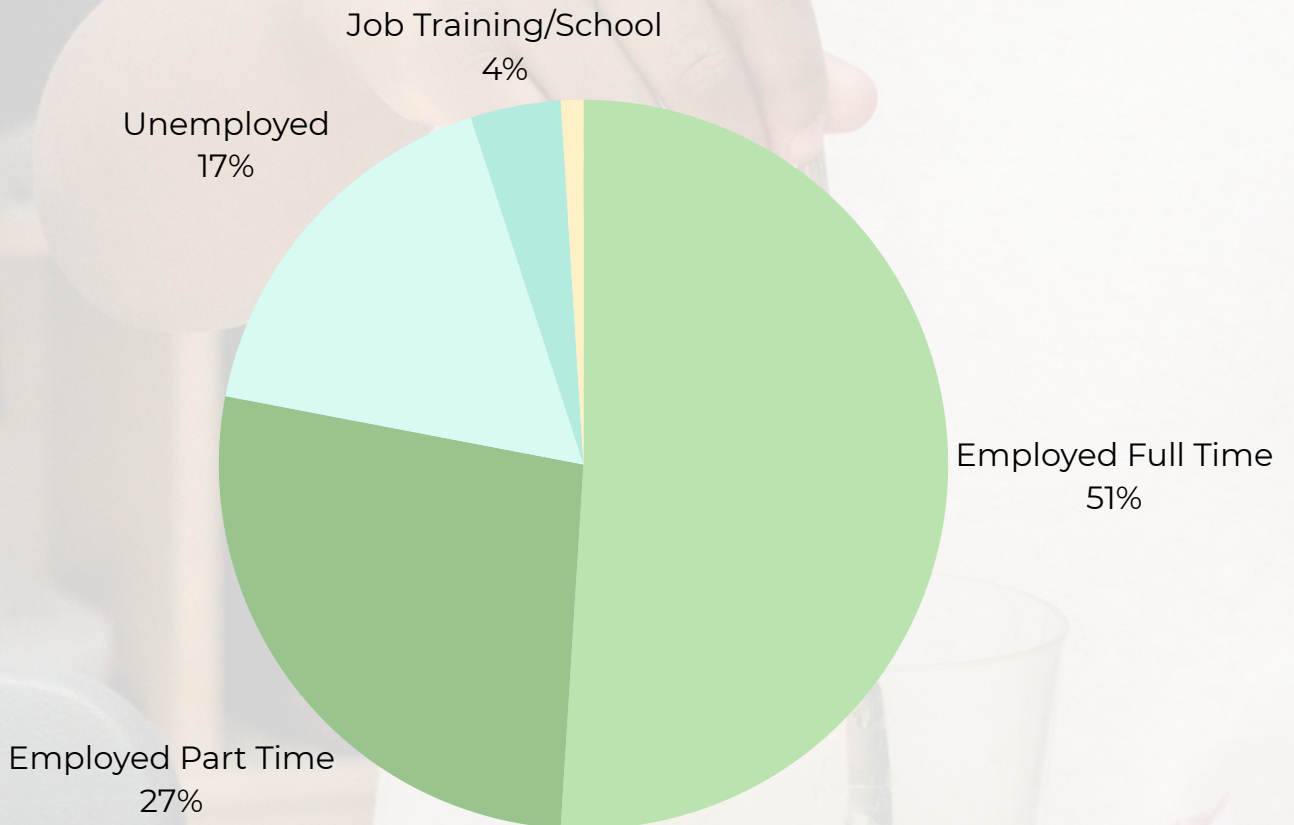
- Children who qualify for our services
- Children being served by Growing Futures



ENROLLMENT BY PROGRAM OPTION



PARENT EMPLOYMENT STATUS



ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

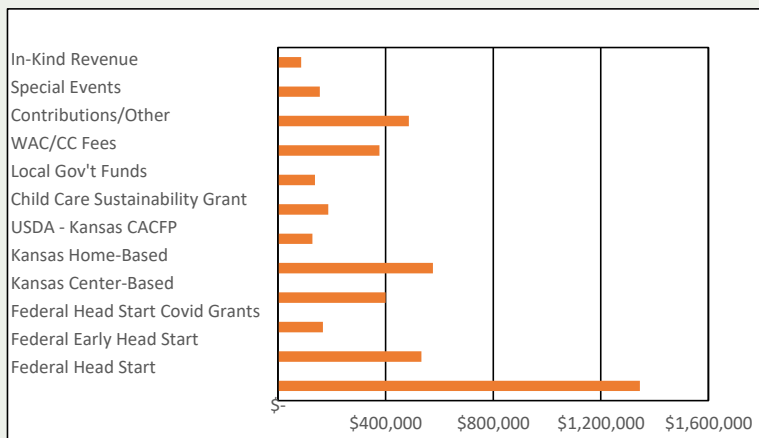
CURRENT ASSETS	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 953,284 \$
Certificate of deposits	299,203
Grants receivable	331,273
Contributions Receivable	
Accrued Interest Receivable	3,865
Prepaid Expenses	8,074
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>1,595,699</u>
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT	
Leasehold improvements	5,000
Playground equipment	106,657
Office equipment	13,375
	<u>125,032</u>
Accumulated depreciation and amortization	(110,772)
TOTAL PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT	<u>14,260</u>
Operating Lease Right of Use Asset	1,666,276
DEPOSITS	15,523 \$
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>3,291,758</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
CURRENT LIABILITIES	
Accounts payable	\$ 4,279
Accrued expenses	221,432
Refundable Grant Advance	24,140
Current portion of operating lease liability	307,332
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	557,183
OPERATING LEASE LIABILITY less current portion	<u>1,416,025</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>1,973,208</u>
NET ASSETS	
Without donor restrictions	
Undesignated	739,219
Board-designated	400,000
Total without donor restrictions	<u>1,139,219</u>
With donor restrictions	
Purpose restrictions	175,831
Time restrictions	3,500
Total with donor restrictions	<u>179,331</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS	<u>1,318,550</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>\$ 3,291,758</u>

AS OF JUNE 2023

ACTIVITIES

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
SUPPORT AND REVENUE			
Federal grants	\$ 3,336,535		3,336,535
State and local grants	137,616		137,616
Contributions	186,808	300,038	486,846
Wrap Around Care & childcare fees	377,228		377,228
Special events	156,028		156,028
United Way Support		75,000	75,000
Other income	20,714		20,714
In-kind revenue	85,838		85,838
Net assets released from restrictions	326,659	(326,659)	-
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	4,627,426	48,379	4,675,805
EXPENSES			
Program	3,759,435		3,759,435
Fundraising	240,999		240,999
Management and general	596,104		596,104
TOTAL EXPENSES	4,596,538	-	4,596,538
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	30,889	48,379	79,268
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	1,108,330 \$	130,952 \$	1,239,282 \$
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	1,139,219	179,331	1,318,550

Total Public/Private Funds Received By Source



	Total \$
Federal Head Start	\$ 1,345,600
Federal Early Head Start	532,873
Federal Head Start Covid Grants	167,587
Kansas Center-Based	399,674
Kansas Home-Based	575,721
USDA - Kansas CACFP	127,680
Child Care Sustainability Grant	187,400
Local Gov't Funds	137,616
WAC/CC Fees	377,229
Contributions/Other	486,846
Special Events	156,028
In-Kind Revenue	85,838
	<u>4,580,092</u>

If you'd like a complete copy of the audit, please contact Kathleen Kane at kkane@growingfutureseec.org

GRANT AWARDS

RECEIVED DURING 22-23 YEAR

	01.	Federal Office of Head Start	
	02.	United Community Services of Johnson County - Human Service Fund	
	03.	Rotary Club of Shawnee Foundation	
	04.	Ronald D. Deffenbaugh Foundation	
	05.	Royals Charities	
	06.	Verizon TCC Gives	
	07.	Johnson County Bar Foundation	
	08.	Junior League of Wyandotte and Johnson Counties	
	09.	GEICO	
	10.	City of Shawnee, Kansas	
	11.	William McGowan Charitable Fund	
	12.	Johnson County Young Matrons	
	13.	Overland Park South Rotary Future of Hope Fund	
	14.	United Way of Greater Kansas City	
	15.	KC Centurions - Apex Group	
	16.	Early Childhood Block Grant	

362

Volunteers

2,495

Hours

\$79,791

Volunteer Match

VOLUNTEER GROUPS COLLECTION DRIVES

After the Harvest

Avila University

Brookridge Day School

Colonial Quiltmakers

Executive Women International

Farmer's Insurance

First Interstate Bank

GFL

Hallmark

Health Partnership Clinic

Heritage United Methodist Church

InterUrban ArtHouse

Johnson County Young Matrons

JOCO Department of Health & Environment

Johnson County Kiwanis

Johnson County Library

Kansas City Symphony

KDHE

Kraft Heinz

K-State Extension

L'Arche

Lockton Co

MBB

Mainstreet Credit Union

Mainstreet Retirement and Investment Center

Managed Energy Systems

McCarthy Building Companies Inc

Monticello Trails Middle School

Northeast Johnson County Chamber

Notre Dame de Sion

ONG & Co

Overland Park South Rotary

Pfizer

Prairie Village Police

PNC

Rotary Club of Shawnee Mission

Ryan Companies

Searcy Financial Service

Security Bank

Science City

Shawnee Mission La Sertoma Club

Shawnee Mission Schools

Shawnee Rotary

Strawberry Week Society

Tallgrass Creek

TCC Gives - Verizon

UMB

UPS

Westlake Ace Hardware

\$86,855

In-Kind Donations

- 
- Art Supplies
 - Baby and Toddler Supplies
 - Blankets
 - Books New and Gently Used
 - Classroom Supplies
 - Cleaning Supplies
 - Coats
 - Covid Tests
 - Dairy Farmer's of America
 - Dental Supplies
 - Cups
 - Diapers, Wipes & Creams
 - Face Masks
 - Food Collection
 - Grounds Maintenance Supplies
 - Hallmark Distribution Supplies
 - Handmade Hats
 - Harvesting Hope Donations
 - Health & Office Supplies
 - Healthy Snacks
 - iPads
 - Kansas City Symphony Music Box
 - Kitchen Supplies
 - Laundry Supplies
 - Learning Kits
 - Office Supplies
 - Paper Goods
 - Personal Hygiene Supplies
 - Plants and Flowers
 - Plush Stuffed Animals
 - Pumpkin Patch Pumpkins
 - Quilts
 - School Supplies
 - Shoes
 - Sonic Drinks
 - Staff Appreciation Supplies
 - STEM Supplies
 - Tickets for Family Experiences
 - Toys
 - Training
 - Winter Break Bag Supplies

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Safe Kids
Women, Infants & Children
Johnson County Library
Sunflower House
Strawberry Week
Kansas State University
Horizons High School
After the Harvest
Vineyard Church
Kansas Department for Children and Families
Kansas Highway Patrol
Health Partnership Clinic
Charlie's House
DCCCA
Shawnee Mission School District Clothing Exchange



RECRUITMENT PLAN

To continue to focus on recruiting participants that are living at 100% of the poverty guidelines, our weekly recruitment time continued to be focused throughout Johnson County, especially in Olathe and Gardner Kansas. Previously, we had focused on recruitment times in Olathe, KS. This year we emphasized reaching more apartment complexes, grocery stores, discount stores, community centers, etc.

Other recruitment was completed at:

- Pediatric dentist offices
- Apartment complexes
- Thrift Stores
- Food pantries
- Catholic Charities
- Kansas Department for Children and Families
- Community events
- Grocery stores
- General Practitioner Offices
- Urgent Care
- El Centro



Parent Involvement Education Events

Head Start and Early Head Start programs are charged with providing education, training, and support for families as they continue their journey of attaining self-sufficiency and becoming advocates for their children. Throughout the course of the program year, the Family Educators (FEs) and Family Support Advocates (FSAs) worked tirelessly to provide families the opportunity to stay engaged in parent connections.

Parent Committees were held monthly, covering topics that focused on overall wellness-inclusive of mental, physical, financial health and self-sufficiency. Guest speakers from partnering community agencies were invited to discuss resources and services they provide. The Family Service team created fun and developmentally appropriate activities for caregivers to do with their children. Families were given the opportunity to converse and build connections with others, as well as give the Family Service team feedback.

The Early Head Start Home-Based families had the opportunity to participate in monthly socializations, primarily targeting the parent(s) and child in development domains of social, emotional, motor, and language.

FEs maintained the bi-annual Caregivers Group to provide another avenue for family connection and support. These interactive sessions allowed parents to build relationships with other parents and share resources and parenting tips with peers.



Parent Involvement **Education Events**

They also had weekly supply drop-offs to every family's home on their caseload to make sure each caregiver had the necessary items to participate in caregiver/child interactions.

Some of the items included:

- Paint
- Paper
- Crayons
- Crafting Materials
- Sensory Toys
- Books
- Diapers
- Wipes
- Covid-19 Safety Items
- Home Safety Items
- Oral Health Care Items
- Job Applications
- Toilet Paper
- Groceries, and more.

The team also hosted our third Back to School Night in September, which allowed families to see their child's classroom, get resources for organizations in the community, and meet our staff. The team also gave families winter baskets before the center closed for winter break. The baskets included toiletry items, cleaning supplies, arts and crafts, and food.

Every family was offered a Thanksgiving basket from our partners at Vineyard Community Church. The basket included a complete traditional Thanksgiving meal. The baskets were available for families the weekend before Thanksgiving and provided enough food for families to cook multiple meals. Several families participated in this opportunity and were grateful for the basket.



A COLLECTION OF SUCCESS STORIES



Going Above and Beyond - A parent contacted a Family Support Advocate (FSA) for help with getting new car seats for their children. Both children's car seats were no longer the appropriate size. The FSA contacted Safe Kids, the Kansas Highway Patrol, and the Johnson County Sheriff's office for assistance with getting two new car seats. The Sheriff's office was able to provide both car seats for the children and ensure that the car seats were installed safely. Now the parent can rest easy knowing their children are safe while traveling in the car.

No Place Like Growing Futures - A Family Support Advocate (FSA) helped a family apply for DCF Childcare Subsidy. The child will be transitioning from an Early Head Start classroom to a Head Start classroom in the 2023-2024 program year and the family will need their child to be in the Head Start program that provides longer hours of care due to the family's work schedule called Wrap Around Care (WAC). However, the family will not be able to afford the cost of their child attending the WAC program. To help ensure their child can move to a spot in the WAC program once they turn three years old, the FSA helped the family apply for DCF Childcare Subsidy. DCF Childcare Subsidy will pay the entire cost of the child attending the WAC program when the time comes. The family felt a large sense of relief once they learned about the DCF program as it helps ensure their child will get to stay at Growing Futures, a place they trust to leave their child during the day.

A Helping Hand - The Family Support Advocate (FSA) was able to assist families with completing their kindergarten enrollment. The FSAs helped families learn which elementary school their child will be attending, find a place with free computer access to complete enrollment, helped families in collecting the required documents for enrollment, and attend the correct kindergarten kickoff event. With the support of their FSA, families were able to complete enrollment in a fast and easy manner. This helped elevate a lot of stress from these families and ensure their child is ready for kindergarten in the fall.

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FNBO
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Johnson County Community College
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Multivac
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Smash My Trash
The Terry Family
Tim Lyons Music Fund
UMB
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Lindsay Ames	Nicholas Martin	Sherry Hutchison	
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for your continued support.

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