



EMA Head Start Annual Report 2023

EMA Head Start is a federally funded program designed to provide comprehensive early childhood and family development services to children ages 3-5 years old. Head Start provides services in the areas of education and early childhood development, medical, dental, nutrition, mental health and parent involvement. EMA Head Start offers a center-based option for eligible children throughout our eight county service area. This area includes Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Iron, Madison, Perry, St. Francois, Ste. Genevieve and Washington counties.

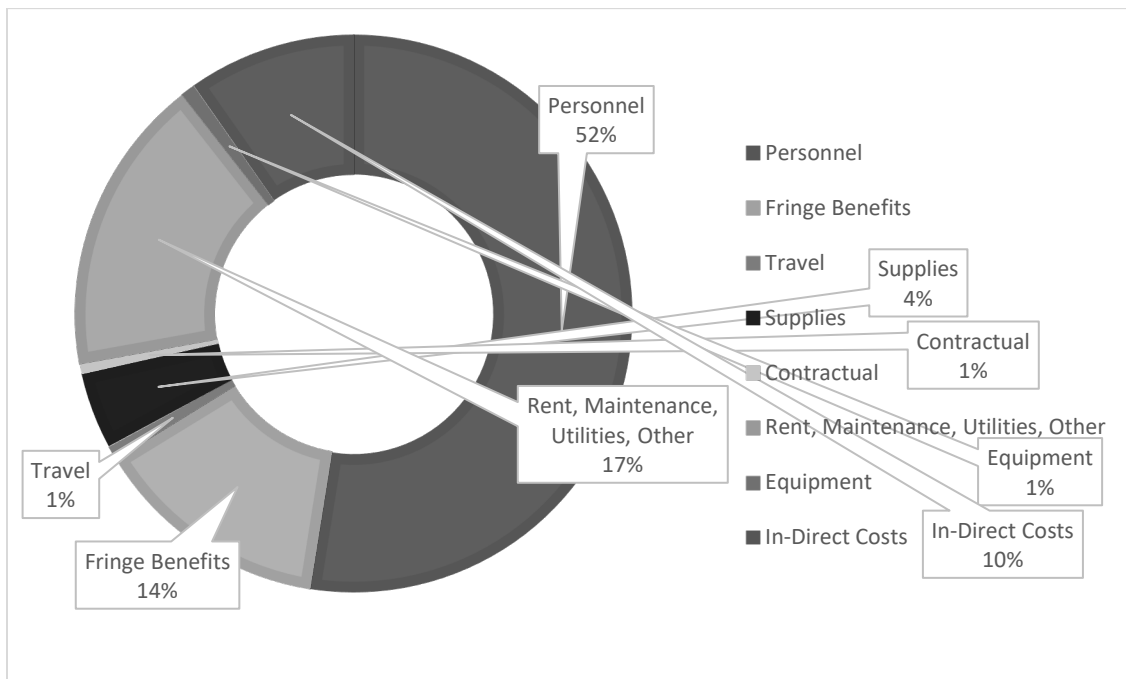
Program Funding:

The majority of funds received are awarded from the Administration for Children and Families (federal funds). We also receive funds through the State Child and Adult Food Care Program (CACFP) as reimbursement for cost of the food used in our program.

The chart below demonstrates our 2023 funding amounts:

Basic Grant Fund	\$5,428,066.00
COLA & Quality Improvement	\$454,252.00
CACFP	\$401,608.57

Budget breakdown are as follows:



Our proposed budget for 2024 is \$5,882,318

Enrollment Information:

Funded Enrollment	542 (506 with change of scope)
Actual Enrollment	591 (includes dropped children)

Enrollment by months for the 2023 Budget Year:

January	498	92%
February	499	92%
March	500	92%
April	486	90%
May	480	89%
June	Not in Session	Not in Session
July	Not in Session	Not in Session
August	506	93%
September	506	93%
October	506	93%
November	506	93%
December	506	93%

Of the actual enrolled children 591, 591 were income eligible.

Of the total enrolled children 591, 565 received medical exams and 450 received dental exams.

Of the total enrolled children 591, we served 6 homeless families.

At the beginning of the program year, only 129 children were up-to-date on their immunizations. By the end of enrollment, 433 were up-to-date on their immunizations.

Meals Served:

From January 1 to December 31, 2023 our CACFP served **149,997** meals.

Financial Audit:

The independent audit report completed by Wipfli for the year ended September 30, 2022 revealed no audit findings.

Aligned Monitoring System:

2023 was the last year of our five year grant award cycle. During the week of March 28 – April 1, 2022 we received a focus Area II Review. We had no findings or non-compliant issues.

Parent involvement activities include the following:

- * Monthly parent meetings
- * Home visits
- * Parent Based Curriculum

- * Participation in Policy Council
- * Participation in Health Service Advisory meetings
- * Volunteering in classrooms
- * Father/Father figure activities

We also offer before and after care for our working parent or parents in job training or furthering their education as well as parents that are job seeking. All centers are open from 7:30am – 4:30pm with some extended hours (before and after) for centers that have a high demand due to parents work schedule.

The following are family outcomes for the 2022-2023 program year. Our family advocates work with families to ensure they are provided all the resources they need for a strong family:

Family	Families	Assessment	Housing	Health and Wellness	Food/Nutrition	Transportation	Employment	Financial Literacy	Family Safety	Heating	Family Relationships	Child Development/Parent	Family Literacy	School Readiness	Education/Training	Family Engagement	Child's Educational Transi	Life Transitions	Family Relationships	Community Involvement	Leadership and Advocacy	TOTAL
EMAA Head Start	490	1	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.6	3.2	3.2	3.7	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.2	3.4	3.1	3.1	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.2	3	63.4
	419	2	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.5	3.4	4	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.4	3.6	3.4	3.4	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.5	3.2	68.5
	419	+/-	▲ 0.3	▲ 0.3	▲ 0.3	▲ 0.3	▲ 0.3	▲ 0.3	▲ 0.2	▲ 0.2	▲ 0.2	▲ 0.2	▲ 0.2	▲ 0.2	▲ 0.3	▲ 0.3	▲ 0.3	▲ 0.2	▲ 0.2	▲ 0.2	▲ 0.2	▲ 0.2
Report Average																						
Families w/ complete assessments:	490	1	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.6	3.2	3.2	3.7	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.2	3.4	3.1	3.1	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.2	3	63.4
	419	2	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.5	3.4	4	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.4	3.6	3.4	3.4	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.5	3.2	68.5
	419	+/-	▲ 0.3	▲ 0.3	▲ 0.3	▲ 0.3	▲ 0.3	▲ 0.3	▲ 0.2	▲ 0.2	▲ 0.2	▲ 0.2	▲ 0.2	▲ 0.2	▲ 0.3	▲ 0.3	▲ 0.3	▲ 0.2	▲ 0.2	▲ 0.2	▲ 0.2	▲ 0.2

Preparing children for Kindergarten:

EMAA Head Start strives all year to better prepare our children for Kindergarten using the scientifically research-based Creative Curriculum. This curriculum promotes school readiness in the areas of language and cognitive development, literacy and math skills, social and emotional development, physical development and logic and reasoning skills.

We use the Dial-4 screening assessment tool along with Head Start Early Learning Framework and Teaching Strategies Gold Objectives and Dimensions. In addition, teachers conduct on-going observations and develop a portfolio for each child. Progress reports are shared with families quarterly.

The following are the outcomes developed for each child through local school districts and parents to ensure children are ready for Kindergarten. These results are for the 2022-2023 program year:

OUTCOMES:	FALL	SPRING	PERCENTAGE OF INCREASE
1b Follows limits and expectations	45%	83%	38%
2a Forms relationships with adults	6%	54%	48%
2c Interacts with peers	67%	92%	25%
3a Balances needs & rights of self/others	71%	90%	19%
7a Uses fingers and hands	37%	87%	50%
7b Uses writing and drawing tools	61%	89%	28%
8a Comprehends Language	20%	85%	65%
8b Follows directions	55%	91%	36%
9b Speaks clearly	38%	79%	41%
9c Uses conventional grammar	53%	91%	38%
11a Attends & engages	48%	86%	38%
16a Identifies & names letters	92%	98%	6%
16b Uses letter-sound knowledge	88%	89%	1%
17a Uses & appreciates books	53%	89%	36%
18a Interacts during read-aloud	57%	91%	34%
19a Writes name	65%	94%	29%
20a Counts	23%	69%	46%
20c Connects numerals with their quantity	25%	71%	46%
39 Names eleven basic colors	69%	96%	27%

Head Start staff:

Fifty percent of our teachers have a four year degree in Early Childhood or a related field. We have 55 Assistant Teachers of which twenty-one (21) have at least a CDA and two (2) have an AA or greater. Twelve (12) assistant teachers are currently enrolled in CDA programs.

We have thirteen (13) Family Advocates of which six (6) have a Family Service Credential, one (1) has an AA degree, and one (1) has a BA degree. Four (4) Family Advocates are currently enrolled in Family Service Credential classes.

To help successfully transition children from Head Start to Kindergarten we invite public school teachers to be a guest speaker at a parent meeting. They discuss the requirement of Kindergarten and parents have the opportunity to ask questions regarding class policies. A field trip is planned to the public school in which the Head Start child visits the Kindergarten classroom and tours the building. A lot of times, the children even eat in the cafeteria.

Community Needs Assessment Summary:

A Community Needs Assessment was conducted in 2023. In developing our community assessment, surveys were given to parents, governing body and policy council members that outlines some of our needs. Focus groups were conducted and all three of the above identified groups served on these groups to develop needs and strategies to meet the needs. The Head Start

Strategic Plan was then developed using the identified needs, with input from the above named groups. Our program goals are outlined in this plan and were approved by both the governing body and policy council.

East Missouri Action Agency – Head Start

Angela Mehrrens – Policy Council Chairperson

Denis Moore - Chairman, EMAA Board of Directors

Keri McCrorey – Executive Director, EMAA

Courtney Laramore – Head Start Director