

MIDCOAST MAINE  
**Community Action**



**Head Start &  
Early Head Start**

**2023 - 2024  
Annual Report**



# MMCA HEAD START ANNUAL REPORT 2023 - 2024



We are thrilled to share our Head Start Annual Report with you!

As you will see, the past year has seen a significant increase in the number of children and families we serve, exciting facility expansions and upgrades, and a growing staff of dedicated, highly qualified teachers, coaches, specialists, advocates, and leaders.

We are proud to share the news that we won our new five and a half-year \$19 million grant from Federal Head Start! This will enable us to continue serving our communities into the future.

- We are particularly excited to welcome new teachers and coaches throughout our program, and experts in mental health and disabilities, nutrition, and health.
- New partnership classrooms with the Brunswick Public Schools opened in 2023-24, and we look forward to collaborating with the Dresden and Wiscasset public schools during the 2024-2025 school year;
- We doubled our number of early Head Start classrooms in 2023-2024 and will add additional classes for the 2024-25 school year.
- New playgrounds were installed in our Bath, Brunswick, Salt Bay, and Waldoboro centers.

This is an exciting time at MMCA and Head Start. We would love to show you how we have grown and to welcome you into our community.

Andrew Slater  
Director of Child and Family Services

*A Year's Overview*

# FAMILIES ARE CHILDREN'S FIRST AND MOST IMPORTANT TEACHERS



## School Readiness

Head Start's goal is to give children and families the tools and experiences they need to make gains towards five essential areas of school readiness:

- Social and Emotional Development
- Cognitive Development
- Approaches to Learning
- Language and Literacy Development
- Physical Development, including Health



# MIDCOAST MAINE COMMUNITY ACTION HEAD START & EARLY HEAD START



Midcoast Maine Community Action's Head Start and Early Head Start program serves children ages 0-5 in center-based, home-based and school-based options throughout the Lincoln, Sagadahoc, and Northern Cumberland communities.







# HEAD START

Head Start is a comprehensive, full-day program that strives to create environments that develop cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development in children aged three to five. Understanding the importance of the whole child, Head Start emphasizes health, nutrition, and parent engagement as critical in the educational, social-emotional, and cognitive development of children. The overarching goal is to increase school readiness and social competence in young children from low-income families. Participating in a diversity of educational and social activities, our PreK for ME and Second Step Social Emotional Learning curriculums reflect best practices. The ranges of Head Start services are responsive and appropriate for each child's and family's development, cultural heritage, experience and needs.



# EARLY HEAD START

Early Head Start, providing full-day services for children aged 0-3 years, provides continuous, comprehensive, and high-quality services to underserved infants, toddlers, and pregnant women in center-based and home-based care. Teachers and home visitors are highly trained in child development and education and receive ongoing professional development. Our Creative Curricula focuses on supporting all facets of early childhood development.







## SUPPORT SERVICES

In addition to early education and care, children and their families have access to a multitude of support services, including referrals to medical and social services and early intervention services for those children who have been identified as having additional needs, parent education, as well as WIC, Families Can!, LiHeap, Economic Stability, and other needed supports. Each child is given dental, vision, hearing and developmental screenings multiple times throughout the year.





With input from parents, teachers, and the Desired Results Development Profile (a formative assessment designed for teachers to observe, document and reflect on the growth of their students), we collect data and form goals for each student. We also use the data to review program-wide goals and to determine if we need to revise our school readiness goals or approach, to enhance our program development, and to plan staff development.

As children transition to kindergarten, we work closely with the receiving classroom teachers and administration to ensure a smooth beginning. Our supports for parents include parent-teacher conferences, home visits for those who welcome this, transition and information meetings with the kindergarten teams, reading materials for parents about what to expect in the transitions, and information packets about the kindergarten program if needed.

*A Year's Overview*

# HEAD START REVENUE BY SOURCE

State DHHS Revenue	\$438,043
State CACFP Revenue	\$75,000
Federal Head Start	\$2,470,593
Local School Districts	\$150,000
United Way	\$35,000
Federal Early Head Start	\$994,710
MRTQ Salary Supplement	\$125,000
Whole Families	\$80,000
MeCAP	\$100,000
InKind	\$866,325

**TOTAL:** **\$5,334,671**

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# 2023 - 2024:

## Head Start

### Budgeted Expenses by Category

Salaries	\$2,929,925
Fringe Benefits	\$797,864
Contractual	\$86,028
Facilities	\$307,211
Supplies	\$70,491
Equipment	\$60,284
CACFP Food & Supplies	\$95,000
Training & Technical Assistance	\$44,480
Indirect Costs	\$163,091
InKind	\$866,325

**TOTAL: \$5,334,671**



**2023 - 2024:**  
**MMCA cumulatively**  
**served:**  
**93 Head Start**  
**60 Early Head Start**  
**Students**

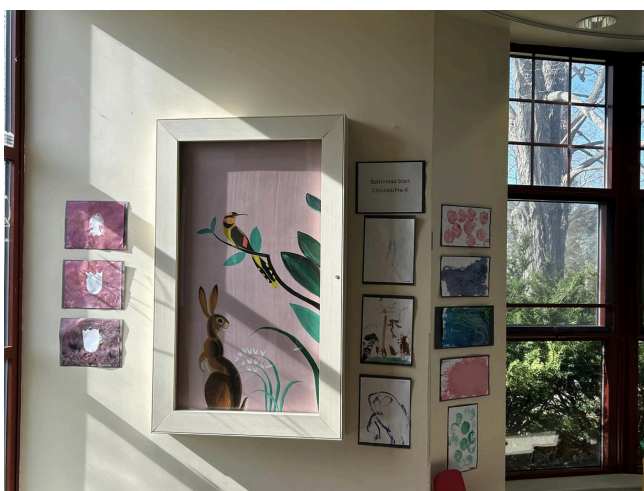


**% of children that received the following  
preventative care in 2023-2024:**

	<b>Head Start</b>	<b>Early HS</b>
<b>Received vision exams</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Received hearing exams</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Received oral exam</b>	<b>48.3%</b>	<b>50.7%</b>
<b>Up-to-date physical exams</b>	<b>93.5%</b>	<b>68.2%</b>
<b>Up-to-date immunizations</b>	<b>98.9%</b>	<b>95.2%</b>

# 2023 - 2024: Parent Engagement

Parent/Family engagement is a big part of the success of Head Start! Our governing body is built on the collaboration Parent/Family Policy Council and the MMCA Board of Directors to help improve our program, vote on important policies, and guide our growth.



Last year, our families joined together for parent meetings at all centers; attended Policy Council meetings; had movie nights in Bath, and in Brunswick; met for a potluck meal in Brunswick; attended the MMCA Community Baby Shower; had graduation meals together in Salt Bay; enjoyed an Art Show at the Patten Free Library in Bath, and more!

## It takes a village to raise a child!