

Annual Report

2024-2025



As I reflect on my first year serving as Head Start Director, I am proud of the resilience, dedication, and teamwork that defined our journey. Together, we successfully navigated several major transitions, including relocating our office, completing the Focus Area 1 review, managing the challenges of flat funding, and growing in advocacy for Head Start. Despite our hurdles, our commitment to excellence never wavered.

Our program continued to deliver a high-quality, comprehensive kindergarten readiness experience for the children and families we serve. We remained focused on recruitment and retention efforts, which resulted in full enrollment in both Early Head Start and Head Start, a testament to the strength of our outreach and the trust our community places in us.

-Stacy Dixon
Director of Early Learning



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YEAR AT A GLANCE

2024-2025 PROGRAM STATISTICS

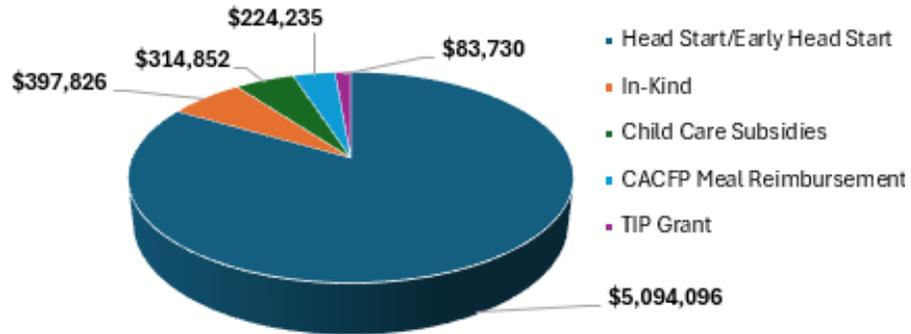
- Funded enrollment was 205 children for Head Start, and 110 children for Early head start and Child Care Partnerships.
- A total of 425 children were served: 224 in Head Start and 181 in Early head Start and Child Care Partnerships.
- Average monthly enrollment was 310 out of 315 funded slots (98%).
- 373 children (87%) were from families with income at or below poverty, including 45 foster children and 38 homeless children.
- 36 Head Start children, and 19 Early Head Start Children (17%) were identified with disabilities.
- 420 children (99%) had an ongoing source of continuous health care (medical home).
- 281 children (67%) were up to date on all immunizations.
- 148 Head Start children (68%) received a dental exam.
- 15 Head Start children received needed dental treatment.
- 31 Head Start children received mental health services through the TIP program.
- 354 families (84%) received family services.
- 418 volunteers' In-Kind contributions.
 - 2,192 hours- parents
 - 163 hours - non-parents
 - 1,508 hours - agencies



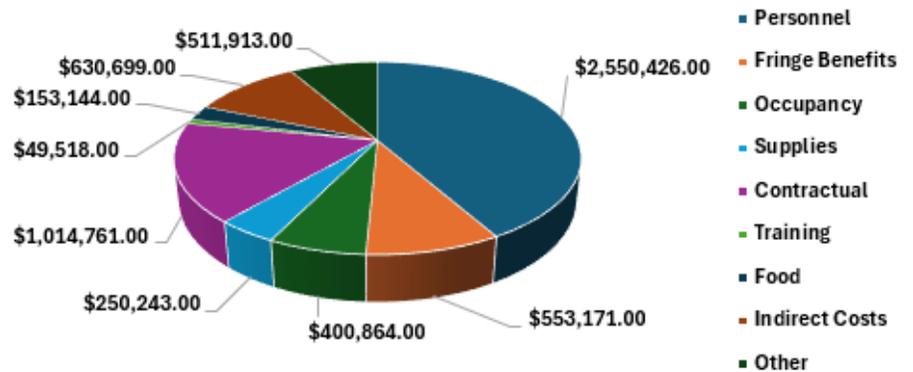
2024-2025 BUDGET

WCCS inc. received a grant of \$5,094,096 from the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to serve 205 Head Start children and 110 infants and toddlers. Local volunteers and donors contributed \$397,826 in donations and non-federal match for the grants. We received \$314,852 in childcare subsidies and payments, and \$224,235 in meal reimbursement from the USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). We also received \$83,730 in local grants to support the Therapeutic Interagency Tip Program (TIP).

Funding Source for 2024-2025
Total Revenue \$6,114,739



Total Expenditures 2024-2025 = \$6,114,739



Supplemental Funding

\$161,781 supplemental funding (included in the Head Start/ Early Head Start grant) was received to enhance playgrounds at three of our Child Care partnership locations.



Countryside YMCA



Oak Spring Academy



Morrow Child Development Center

KINDERGARTEN READINESS

WCCS made an ongoing developmental assessment change from Teaching Strategies Gold (TSG) to the ChildPlus Desired Ratings Developmental Profile (DRDP) for this school year. The change was made due to expense as well as the appeal to look closely at children’s learning progression.

The data analyzed from DRDP supports a consistent trend of children’s skill and knowledge building from birth to five years in School Readiness Goals. The progress detailed in reports reviewed throughout the year demonstrates growth in all five developmental domains. The most significant increase occurred in cognition, which focuses on math and science knowledge. Preschool children aged three to five years had an overall increase of 22% for the school year in this domain. Children transitioning to kindergarten increased by 21 % and children with an IEP increased development in this domain by 23%.

This year we focused on individualized learning experiences in lesson plans to meet each child’s needs. This strategy facilitated teacher reflection through the review of screenings, observation/documentation, and IFSP or IEP goals. Other strategies such as partnering with families to complete “learning at home” activities, monthly literacy and family engagement nights, and targeted professional learning fostered these substantial gains in development.

The chart below highlights the growth achieved during the 2024-2025 school year. Our dedicated staff in collaboration with Early Intervention, local school districts, and community partners contributed to our children’s success. We will continue to provide comprehensive services along with high quality care and learning to positively impact our children’s future.

	Children	Reasoning		Language			Literacy			Integrating
		Earlier Early Infancy	Later	Earlier	Middle	Later	Earlier	Middle	Later	
Approaches to Learning–Self-Regulation (ATL-REG)										
Spring 2025	81		1%	19%	38%	17%	20%	5%		
Fall 2024	80	1%	5%	41%	34%	16%	2%			
Social and Emotional Development (SED)										
Spring 2025	81		6%	14%	15%	32%	23%	9%	1%	
Fall 2024	82	4%	2%	21%	37%	33%	4%			
Language and Literacy Development (LLD)										
Spring 2025	80		2%	10%	10%	14%	35%	24%	5%	
Fall 2024	81		4%	11%	20%	23%	40%	2%		
Cognition, Including Math and Science (COG)										
Spring 2025	78		3%	15%	41%	31%	10%			
Fall 2024	80	1%	4%	30%	51%	12%	1%			
Physical Development–Health (PD-HLTH)										
Spring 2025	81			4%	15%	37%	20%	23%		1%

Mental Health

During the program year we offer monthly Conscious Discipline parent education nights at each of our four centers. This year 65 parents attended one or more of the 7 sessions. 48 Head Start and EHS families participated in the training

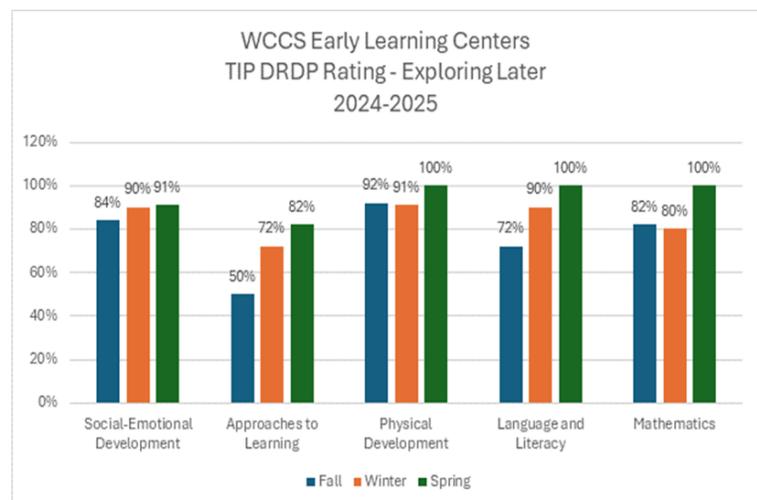
WCCS Inc. is committed to providing Health and Wellness activities for our employees such as an agency mental health day. In response to this commitment, the Wellness Committee was started. They provided singing telegrams, reminders on self-care and ensuring our staff are appreciated for the work they do each and every day.



TIP program

WCCS completed a 7th year of operating the Therapeutic Interagency Preschool (TIP) program. The TIP program serves children who have experienced trauma and abuse. Many children in the TIP program are in foster or kinship care due to substance misuse in the home. this research-based model is designed to meet the great need for trauma-focused preschool intervention service. In collaboration with Warren County Children Services and Mental Health Agencies, Kids Thrive and Access Counseling. Medicaid reimbursed transportatin is arranged by Warren County JFS and TIP is also support by generous funding from the Warren County Commissioners.

The goals fot the TIP program is to increase child resiliency and to promote healthy social interactions which are the foundation for school readiness. We were pleased to see the significant school readiness gains made by the children at the end of the year, considering we struggled this year to maintain consistent therapist. Our teaching practices shown through to meet the needs of the children they served.



Family Engagement

At the heart of our Head Start program is a deep commitment to building strong, respectful partnerships with families. We recognize parents and caregivers are their children's first and most important teachers, and we strive to support them in that role every step of the way.

This year, our family engagement efforts focused on creating opportunities for families to participate in their children's learning and development. Through home visits, parent-teacher conferences, and individualized family goal setting, we worked collaboratively with families to support their unique needs and aspirations. Parents joined their children in shared experiences through family nights, monthly literacy activities and visiting the classroom.

In addition to family's participation in their child's learning and development, parent representatives served on Policy Council to help make program-wide decisions and to recommend program improvements.



Policy Council



Parent Committee



Donuts with Dudes



Family Night

Community Child Care Partnerships

Community Child Care Partnerships play a key role in meeting our community childcare needs while providing the layer of comprehensive services for children birth to three years old. We have four locations across our county that meet the needs of 66 children and their working families providing extended care hours in conjunction with quality education. During the last school year, we remained at full enrollment for Early Head Start, increased overall in-kind contributions, conducted family engagement events and participated in continuing staff education.



Additional Information

This year we introduced Our Table funded through Community Services Block Grant. This program provided a family nutrition learning experience for the family. Parents learned how to provide a nutritious meal on a budget and how to get those all-important components for a healthy child. We served 9 families for a total of 45 participants.



Celebrations

This year we celebrated two team members retirement that have contributed to our success at Warren County Head Start. Sue Miller retired as our Health Service Manager in September. At the end of July Beth Heinkel, served 19 years with many roles including teacher, site supervisor, professional development manager and recently the Assistant Director. We wish both of these ladies the best and thank them for their time, energy and heart for our work.



Additional Information continued

Our Vision

Our vision is to empower families to create a strong foundation for each child's success in education and in life.

Our Mission

WCCS Inc's Early Learning Centers nurture child development and strengthen families by providing the highest quality inclusive early learning experiences, trauma-responsive care, and services in partnership with families and our community.

WCCS Inc. Early Learning Centers

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Center Locations

Lebanon Early Learning Center
Helen Centers Early Learning Center
Carlisle Early Learning Center
South Lebanon Early Learning Center

Community Partner Locations:

Toddler Time Inc.
Countryside YMCA
Morrow Childhood Development Center
BumbleBees Academy



wccsinc.org