

Futures Unlimited, Inc.

2024 Head Start Report to the Public

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Empowerment, inclusion and opportunity — *our passion, our mission!*

Head Start Report to the Public

This annual Head Start report focuses on the work and data derived from the 2023-2024 program year. The contents of this annual report will provide specific information about the Head Start Preschool and Early Head Start home visiting program, as well as highlight the major accomplishments over the past year. This report is posted to the public at www.futures-unlimited.org and shared with staff and families through notification after approval from Policy Council and the board of directors.

Futures Unlimited, Inc. is a private, non-profit corporation that serves as the administrative entity for early childhood programs, including Head Start, Pre-K At Risk, and Special Education. Although each of these programs may differ in some aspects, each has our fundamental mission at its core which is to provide comprehensive services to children and families.

Working collaboratively with community partners enables Futures' early childhood programs to support children and families on their path to successful school experiences, self-sufficiency and life preparedness. We believe we are to be an integral part of our community where many service providers work together to identify needs, remove barriers, and maximize our resources collectively to meet the needs of children and families.

For the 2023-2024 program year, our fourth year in a five-year grant cycle, we continued efforts to become a trauma-responsive program. Professional development, student support planning, trauma and resiliency assessment, and self-regulation tools for children continued. The program also maintained its collaboration with the local school district, Kansas Department of Education and the local mental health center. This originated out of a previous school-based mental health initiative and continued beyond the project period due to the benefits to children and families. Professional development, consultation, and support are key components to this initiative for developing and implementing individualized student support plans for Head Start preschool students needing this type of extra support in the classrooms. Recruitment in our Early Head Start home visitor program yielded a longer waiting list and full enrollment throughout the year. We continued to explore with the local school district and other stakeholders how to best meet the needs of the community for preschool services and child care. Lastly, we participated in two monitoring reviews for the Office of Head Start.

We want to take this opportunity to acknowledge and express our appreciation to our board of directors, Policy Council, and advisory councils who volunteer their time and expertise to provide support, oversight and direction to our agency.

Finally, this report is dedicated to our staff who work tirelessly and go above and beyond the call of duty to provide the highest level of quality services to children and families.



The Numbers

Head Start Preschool

- At the end of the enrollment year **71** cumulative eligible children and **61** families were enrolled in the federally funded Head Start program.
 - **42%** of children were eligible to receive special education and related services through an Individualized Education Plan (IEP).
 - The Head Start slots filled **four** full-day classrooms at Futures Unlimited with full enrollment of the **66** slots throughout the year.
- At the end of the year, **100%** of children had health insurance with **86%** covered by KanCare.
- At the end of the enrollment year **100%** of children had a medical home, **99%** had a dental home and **100%** were up-to-date on immunizations (all possible or exempt).

Early Head Start

- At the end of the enrollment year, **35** cumulative eligible infants and toddlers, **four** pregnant women and **28** families were enrolled in the federally funded Early Head Start program.
- **Thirty-one percent** of children were eligible to receive early intervention services through an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).
- Average monthly enrollment was **100%** of funded enrollment.
- At the end of the enrollment year **100%** of children and **100%** of prenatal mothers had health insurance. **Ninety-seven percent** of children and **100%** of prenatal mothers were covered by KanCare.
- At the end of the enrollment year **97%** of children had a medical home, **83%** had a dental home and **89%** of children were up-to-date on immunizations (all possible or exempt).



Parent Activities

Parent involvement is an important part of a child's school success. Parents are given many opportunities to be involved in their child's education while participating in Head Start Preschool and Early Head Start programs.

Family Engagement Activities:

- Many parents participated in Policy Council, Parent Committee, preschool orientations, home visits and parent/teacher conferences throughout the year.
- Impact Bank, a community partner, provided parent training on budgeting; twelve families participated.
- Parents and families completed fall and spring satisfaction surveys and a transition readiness survey.
- Twelve parents participated in parenting classes using the Conscious Discipline parenting curriculum.
- Seven Policy Council meetings and four parent committee meetings were held.
 - Families enjoyed a carnival themed back-to-school bash, a friendsgiving event in the fall, and a spring STEAM event.
 - Futures' family engagement coordinator and health specialist attended the Kindergarten Round Up to support families transitioning to kindergarten.

School Readiness



School Readiness—Birth to Five

Head Start Preschool and Early Head Start leads the early childhood field with a well-defined approach on healthy child development. This includes cognitive, social-emotional and physical developments—all of which are essential to preparing children for school. Child-level assessment data is aggregated from several sources to inform school readiness goals for the program. The Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP) is the primary assessment tool. Additional assessment data for social-emotional development and resiliency continued. School readiness assessments revealed strengths for Early Head Start children in physical development and language and literacy. For Head Start Preschool children, aggregate data revealed developmentally appropriate gains made at each of three checkpoints program-wide. Reports indicate 90-100% of 4-year-old students met or exceeded targets by the spring assessment across all eight domains.

Early Head Start Highlights:

- Early Head Start partnered with Oral Health Kansas to bring the Brush Book Bed program to families.
- EHS staff attended the First3Years 2024 Conference, an infant mental health conference, on creating reflective relationships with families.
- EHS completed 22 in-person socializations.
- On-site dental exams and in home dental hygienist services were offered to EHS families.
- EHS staff participated in several recruitment activities to help build the EHS waitlist, including Picnic in the Park, the Wheat Festival parade, and the Community Baby Shower.



Head Start Preschool Highlights:

- Preschool staff completed Conscious Discipline training.
- Classroom staff completed MANDT training.
- The Dr. Yum’s Food Adventure was implemented in all classrooms, an evidenced based interactive curriculum designed for young children to “make friends” with new fruits and vegetables.
- Thirty-two students transitioned to kindergarten and transition passports for the receiving school districts were provided to families.
- Reinforced doors were added to classrooms, a pour-in-place playground surface was completed, and the addition of video monitoring of classroom doors wrapped up a multi-year plan to enhance safety and security.
- Classroom lighting was converted to LED lighting with dimmer switches, to address sensory issues.
- Eleven students received support in the classroom through the student support planning process.
- Fifteen students received therapeutic preschool services.

Federal Review Results

Futures Unlimited operates high-quality Head Start Preschool and Early Head Start home visiting programs. In fiscal year 2023-24, we participated in two federal monitorings. These fulfill the three required OHS reviews for a five-year grant cycle. The first of which was a Focus Area One (FA1) which occurred in 2022 to monitor progression in service provision, resulting in compliance in each of the five focus areas. Our second monitoring, a CLASS video review, took place from January 3 to March 13, 2024. This monitoring measures teacher-child interactions. Scores landed in the low range for instructional support and mid-range for classroom organization and emotional support. In addition to informing OHS of a grantee's performance, scores are used to inform program goals and professional development. From April 22 to April 26, 2024, the Administration for Children and Families conducted a Focus Area Two (FA2) monitoring. The FA2 reviews performance and compliance with Head Start Program Performance Standards (HSPPS) and the *Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007*. Three of the twenty-three performance areas reviewed against standards were noted as strong practices for our organization. One area was considered out of compliance, and corrected within the specified timeline, and no areas of deficiency.



Financial Audit Results

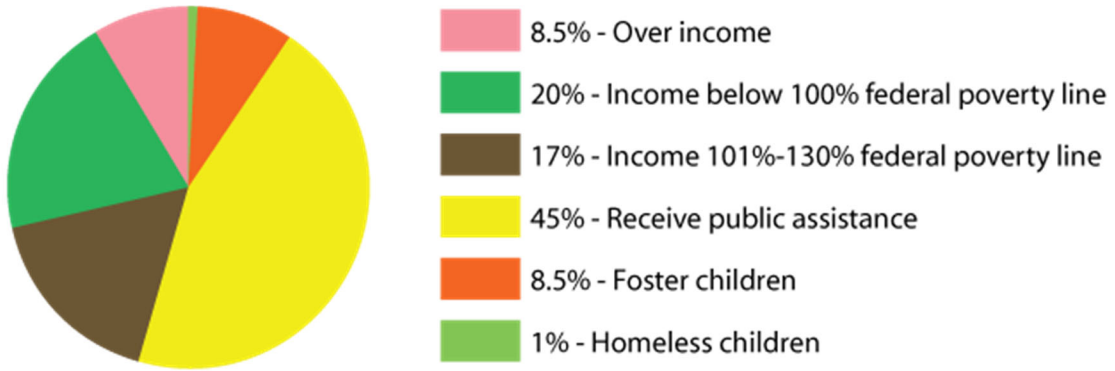
The Grantee for Head Start in Sumner County, Kansas is Futures Unlimited, Inc. The budget year begins July 1 and ends the following June 30 of each year. An independent accounting firm completes an audit of the agency, which includes all funds and accounts of Head Start. Single audits must be performed in accordance with Generally Accepted Governmental Auditing Standards by an independent auditor for organizations that receive \$750,000 or more in federal financial assistance.

The year ended June 30, 2024.

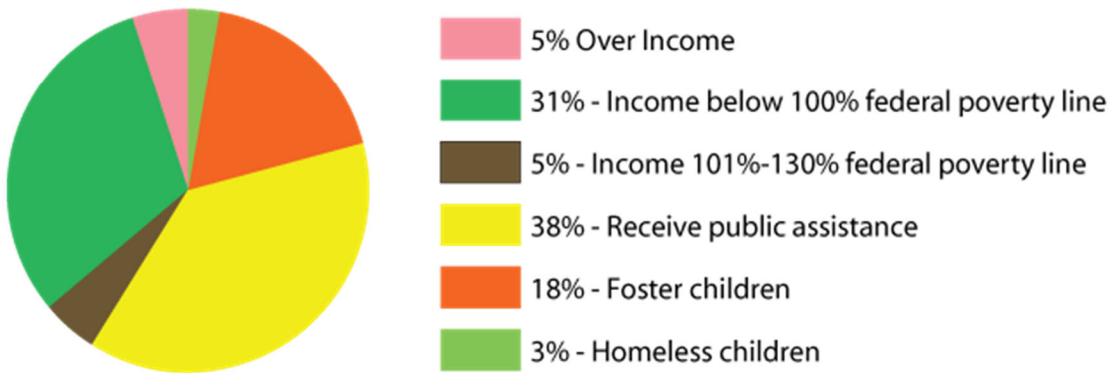
The most recent audit report is available upon request.

Number of Children and Families Served

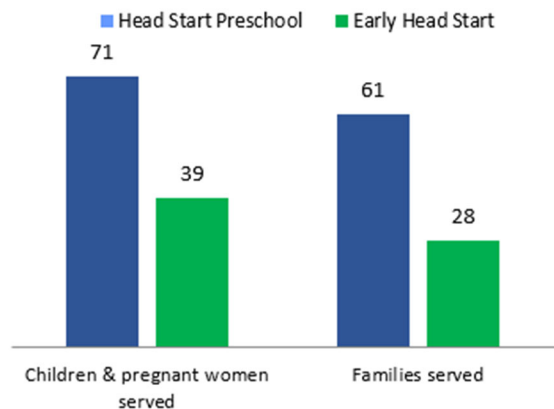
Head Start Preschool



Early Head Start

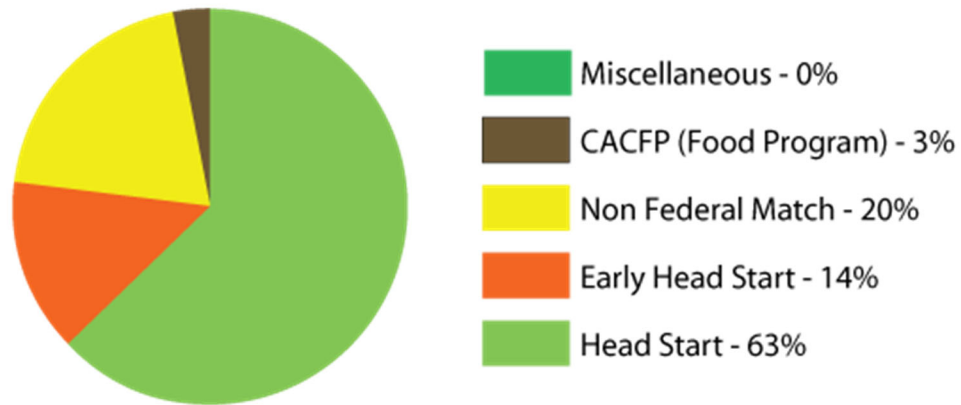


Total Number Served



2024 Program Revenue & Expenses

Revenue—\$1,674,469



Expenses—\$1,742,739

