



Dodge County Head Start 2019-2020 Annual Report



"To provide a caring, structured learning environment, in order to partner with parents and caregivers to give children another opportunity to learn important social and academic skills needed for success in education and life."



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Program History

Head Start is a federal grant program for low income 3- and 4-year-old children that was started in 1965 as part of President Johnson’s war on poverty. Midland University has been the grantee for the Dodge County Head Start Program since its inception. Harriet Egertson and Stan Carlson were instrumental in obtaining the first grant in Dodge County, which was to run as a six-week summer program in Fremont Hall on the Midland Campus. The first Head Start grant in 1965 was to serve 20 income eligible children. A few years later, the program was moved to the Presbyterian Church. At the same time, it changed from a summer program to a school year program. In 1994, the program moved to its current location, a remodeled facility at 1024 West 23rd Street. During the 2019-2020 school year, the program was funded to serve 64 pre-school children in a center-base setting, and 15 pregnant women, infants, and toddlers in a home-based setting. The program is funded to serve all of Dodge County.

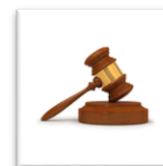
Organizational Structure

Head Start is a federal grant program whose rules and regulations called “Performance Standards” are determined by Congress. The structure of the program is as follows:

- President/Congress
- Secretary of HHS—ACF - Office of Head Start
- Region VII ACF – Kansas City
- MU Board of Trustees/MU Grantee Board
- Policy Council - Parents
- Head Start Director & Management Team

The purpose of the Grantee Board is to act as the Grantee supervisory agent in all matters regarding the Head Start program under its jurisdiction, as authorized by the President of Midland University and its Board of Trustees. Members include:

- Steve Pribnow — Chair; MU Board of Trustees
- Rhonda Gdowski
- Felisha Croy
- Kelly Ramirez
- Karen Kortan
- Kevin Kraus
- Karen Russell
- Sherry Koehler



Operations During the COVID-19 Pandemic:

Like many other schools and publicly funded education programs, Dodge County Head Start was forced to suspend in-person operations in March 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Education, family support, nutrition, and health education services continued to be provided to enrolled Head Start and Early Head Start families virtually through the of May. Weekly food and educational care packages were distributed to families, home visits were held virtually, and program family service staff continued to assist enrolled families in accessing needed community supports as the pandemic continued.

Although most federal reporting requirements were suspended for the end of the school year, Dodge County Head Start continued forward with an abbreviated child outcomes report, a full parent satisfaction survey, and complete financial reporting as required by the federal Office of Head Start. In addition, the program also made significant progress in achieving its identified program goals – despite the continuing pandemic.

Broad Program Goals

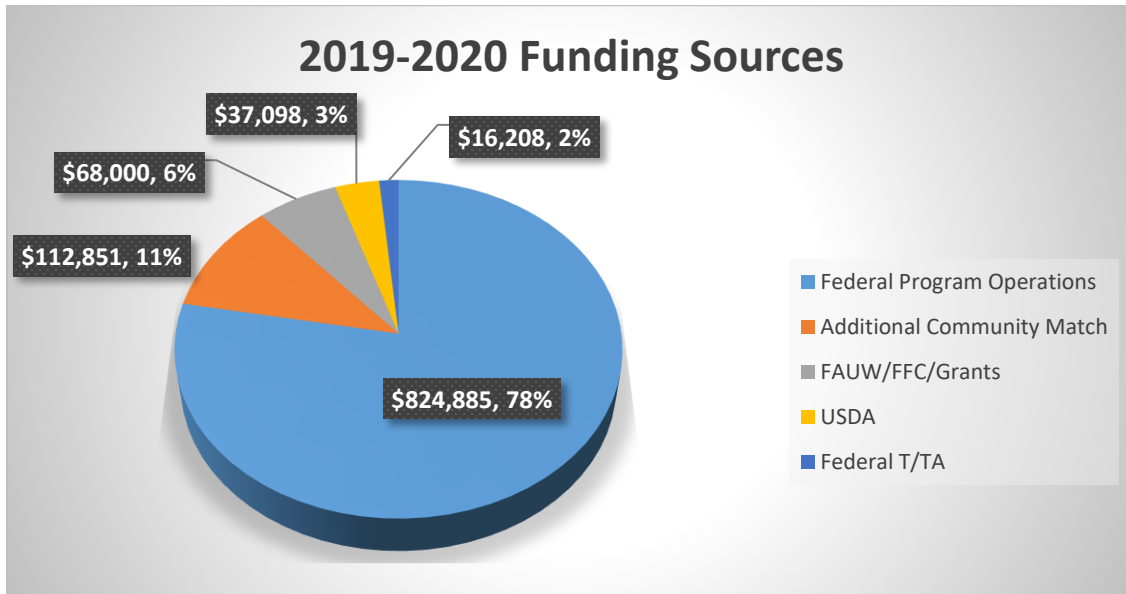
During its current approved project period, each Head Start program, through a strategic planning process based on community needs, is required to develop, and demonstrate progress toward a set of broad program goals. Following are the Dodge County Head Start's Grantee Board and Policy Council approved goals for the current 5-Year Project Period:

- 1. PROGRAM GOAL #1: Dodge County Head Start will systematize training and professional development to support continuous quality improvement for all staff.**
- 2. PROGRAM GOAL #2: Dodge County Head Start will actively engage community stakeholder and families to expand and strengthen comprehensive birth to five services.**
- 3. PROGRAM GOAL #3: Dodge County Head Start will increase opportunities for program resources.**



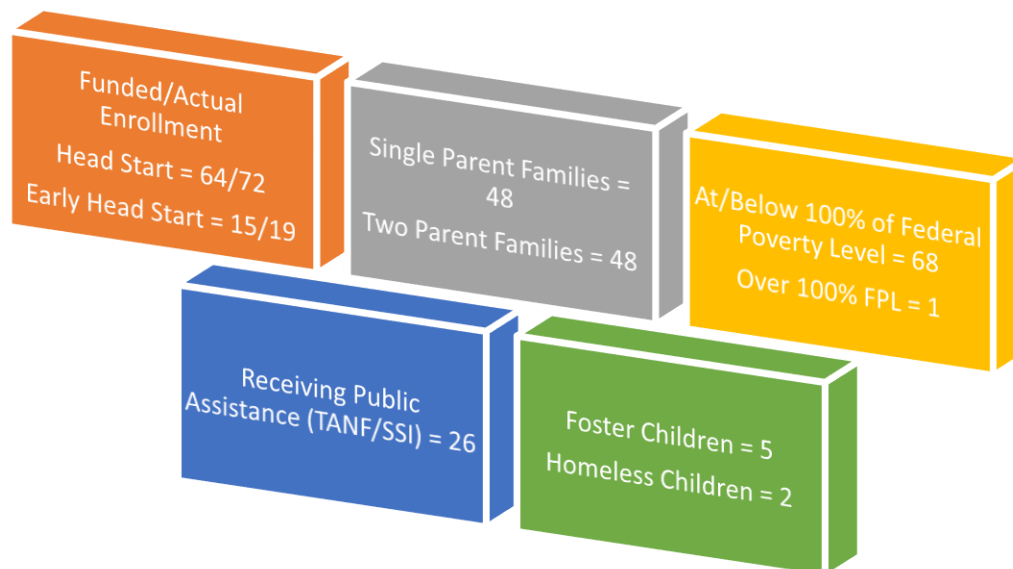
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Program Funding



Federal Program Operations = Department of Health and Human Services
Federal T/TA = Department of Health and Human Services Training & Technical Assistance
FAUW/FFC = Fremont Area United Way/Fremont Family Coalition/Additional Community Grants
Additional Community Match = Community Donations, Donated Time, Parent Engagement Activities
USDA = Child and Adult Care Food Program through Nebraska Department of Education (Meal Reimbursement)

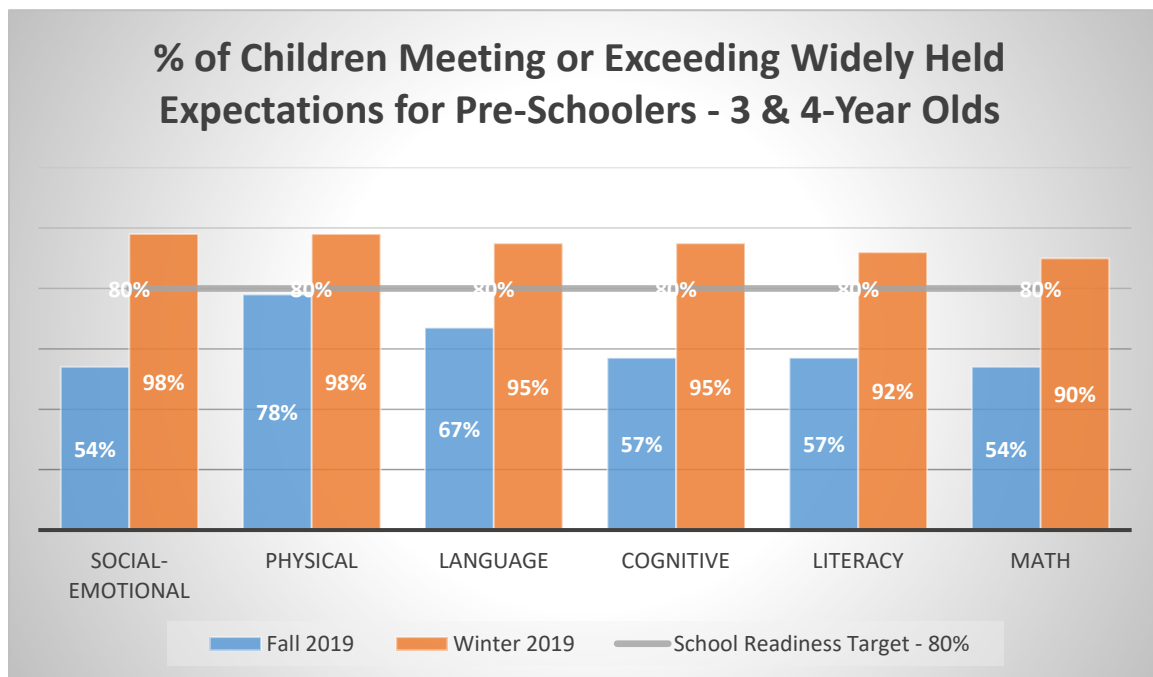
2019-2020 Enrollment Statistics



2019-2020 Child Outcomes/School Readiness

As part of a comprehensive school readiness/child outcomes collection and analysis plan, Dodge County Head Start assesses children in 6 major areas of development and learning. In a typical school year, DCHS has three targeted child assessment periods. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the program only recorded two full collection periods during the 2019-2020 school year.

Following is a summary of the abbreviated child outcomes information from the 2019-2020 school year.



Program Performance



Head Start programs are subject to rigorous federal monitoring standards. A “Focus Area 1” Federal Monitoring Review conducted by the Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families Office of Head Start in April 2020 found no areas of non-compliance after a thorough review of the program’s services and systems.







There were no findings of concern identified on the latest Grantee Audit conducted in August 2020.

2019-2020 Parent Satisfaction Survey

Each year, the Dodge County Head Start program, under the direction of the Parent Policy Council, conducts a satisfaction survey. An abbreviated survey was completed in April 2020, after the program suspended in-person services due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Following are highlights from the survey.

			
<p>90% of responding families reported that they felt supported as a parent in setting goals for their families.</p>	<p>95% of responding families indicated that their child made progress in social/emotional development.</p>	<p>100% of responding families enrolled in EHS reported that the information they received help enhance their parenting skills.</p>	<p>93% of responding families reported being highly satisfied or satisfied with their Head Start experience.</p>

Program Contact Information

Midland University/Dodge County Head Start Management Staff:

Stephanie Knust - Director

Kristen Fagan - Parent, Family, and Community Engagement Specialist

Brittany Brown - Education Specialist

Jillian Sherman - Health Specialist

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Fremont Area United Way

