

Southwestern Minnesota Opportunity Council, Inc. Head Start Annual Report

Head Start for Murray, Nobles, Pipestone and Rock Counties



Head Start Philosophy

The Head Start Program believes that parents are their children's first and most important teachers. We work together with children and their whole family to build on their strengths. Head Start provides medical, dental, nutrition and mental health services. We also work with schools and other agencies to find out if your children are growing and developing as they should be for their age. Parents get involved in their children's education in Head Start so they will be involved when their children go on to public school. Head Start helps parents with parent education during home visits and at Family Nights by providing information on topics they request. The program also pays for parents to take other trainings. We believe that each child is an individual who should have a safe place to learn, to play and work together with the help of people who are trained and who care about them.

This Annual Report covers the SMOC Agency's 2016 Fiscal Year and the 2016-2017 Head Start Program year.

Funding for the SMOC Head Start Program is provided by the State and Federal Governments. Total funds used for education during this time period was, \$1,859,160 plus \$311,906 of in-kind and non-federal share. In addition to this we received \$ 36,377 from the Child and Adult Food Program. The total revenue for our program, including the in-kind / nonfederal share is \$2,207,443 for the 2016 calendar year.

2015 Reviews:

The Administration for Children and Families conducted an on-site monitoring Head Start Key Indicators, HSKI-C review the week of January 20, 2015. Based upon information gathered during the review, it was determined that the SMOC Head Start program did not qualify for the differential monitoring. This review does not generate a report, so one is not available for review.

The Administration for Children and Families conducted an on-site monitoring Environmental Health and Safety review the week of April 21, 2015. The report we received stated that there we NO areas of noncompliance and no corrective action was necessary.

The Administration for Children and Families conducted an on-site monitoring ERSEA/Fiscal review the week of November 30, 2015. The review determined we were out of compliance regarding 1309.54 – Davis

Bacon requirement and FIS 5.3 Part – 74 Financial And Program Management, not all in-kind documentation was verifiable from the records. Charges for volunteer services was not supported.

The Administration for Children and Families conducted an on-site monitoring CLASS Observations the week of December 8, 2015. Our scores for the CLASS observations are an average for all classrooms observed.

2015 CLASS SCORES

Emotional Support: 5.6042

Classroom Organization: 5.1667

Instructional Support: 1.9444

These scores indicate a need for continued professional development and School Readiness coaching. We hired a CLASS Consultant to assist for the remainder of the year. She has provided trainings, coaching sessions and classroom observations. Head Start will have staff in place who will assume these duties during the summer of 2016.

An area of strength which was identified relates to the diverse population we serve in this large rural area. The minority population has shifted from 6% in 1990 to about 23% in 2000, and continues to increase annually. The grantee adapted its program to ensure its services meet the need of the changing population, through hiring of multilingual staff and using interpreters during home visits.

SMOC Head Start has a Four Start Parent Aware Rating, highest rating available, since 2012.

Average Monthly Enrollment

- We maintained full enrollment of 197 children, 151 Federal slots and 27 State preschool slots, 19 Minnesota Department of Education Pathway II Scholarship slots and 9 Early Head Start State Funded slots for the 2015-2016 program year, maintaining an 83.39% program wide average daily attendance.
- We served 234 children and families during the 2015-2016 program year. We had 28 drops during the year.
- Our enrollment consisted of identification and referrals to our Local Education Agency of 46 children with concerns in development, 18 special needs children being identified and served this program year.

Parent Involvement Activities

SMOC Head Start promotes parents as their child's first and most important teacher. Head Start parents have many opportunities to participate in educational activities in their individual service area. The following educational presentations and tours were completed during the program year for 2015-2016: Bus and Pedestrian Safety, Nutrition Nights, Mental Health presentations on Routines, Brain Development, Sibling Rivalry and general parenting, Winter Survival, Apple Orchard tours, Airport tours, Gym days, First Aid and Choking training, and participation in local Children's Fairs.

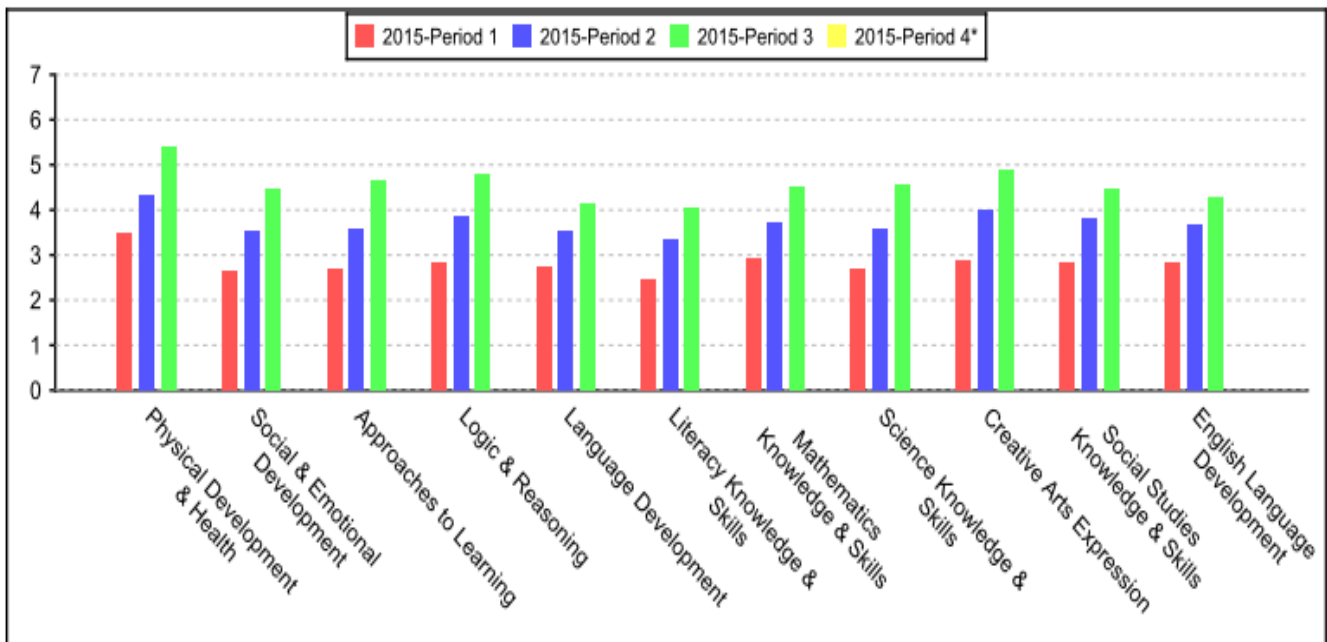
Head Start parents worked on children's goals to help prepare them for kindergarten, participated in Policy Council, attended site parent meetings, worked with a teacher and their child on home visits and

volunteered in classrooms throughout the program year. Parents donated 21,945.36 hours to the SMOC Head Start program and their children!

Kindergarten Readiness

A primary goal for Head Start is to get children ready for kindergarten. This is accomplished within our program through the following activities.

- Educational opportunities are individualized for children based on parent input, and using the results of developmental, social-emotional, and health screenings. Each child’s teacher creates individual goals for each child, and we have program-wide goals that we strive to reach. (See graph below for 2015-2016 school year outcomes)
- Our evidence-based curriculum, High Scope, includes an assessment tool that is used to track the progress children are making throughout the year. This is used as a tool to measure children’s progress towards kindergarten readiness.
- Staff members are provided with professional development opportunities that enhance their skills in creating a classroom community and building relationships with children, involving families, and for teaching the content areas.
- Parents are encouraged to be part of their children’s education. They are involved in weekly or monthly home visits that provide parent-child time which allows opportunities for parents to work on educational goals for their children.
- School Readiness Coaches were implemented in the 2015-2016 school year to enhance kindergarten readiness by meeting with teachers to discuss the progress of each child 3 times per year.



SMOC Head Start School Readiness Goals

1. Children will develop positive social relationships with adults and peers
2. Children will understand and express a range of emotions appropriately
3. Children will set goals and develop plans
4. Children will demonstrate the ability to comprehend and use language
5. Children will recognize the names and sounds associated with letters
6. Children will demonstrate a familiarity with writing implements, conventions, and emerging skills to communicate through written representations, symbols, and letters
7. Children who are “Dual Language Learners” will demonstrate the ability to comprehend and use the English language
8. Children who are “Dual Language Learners” will understand and respond to books, storytelling, and songs presented in English
9. Children will use mathematics in everyday routines to count, sort, compare, and pattern
10. Children will observe, describe, and/or discuss living things, natural processes, properties of materials and changes in objects, situations, or events
11. Children will take care of personal needs independently from adults
12. Children will develop control of large muscles for movement, navigation, and balance
13. Children will develop control of small muscles for purposes such as using utensils, self-care, building, and exploring

Medical and Dental Services

Head Start emphasizes the importance of preventative care and early identification of health problems. The program assists families in making appointments for dental and physicals exams or follow up treatment as needed.

Number of children who received a physical exams 216 or 92.3%

Number of children who received a dental exams 205 or 87.6%

In addition we work closely with our Community Nutrition Educators, providing nutrition education in class, Nutrition Education for Parents during Parent meetings, and individual contact with the CNE during Open House, when the Nutrition Information sheet is discussed.

Annual Budget

Category	FY 2015
Personnel & Fringe	79%
Travel	6%
Program Supplies	3.2%

Contractual	2.9%
Training	1.5%
Other	7.4%

Financial Audit

The SMOC Agency's most recent Independent financial audit was completed March 2015, by Turbes, Drealan, Kvilhaug, Hoefker & Co. PA, with no findings.