

# **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 the 2014-2015 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, \$ 92,745.00 Pathway II Early Learning Scholarship funding, \$233,930.00 State Head Start funding, \$ 1,113,754.00 Federal Head Start Funding and \$278,439.00 of in-kind. In addition to this we received \$38,681.00 from the Child and Adult Food Program.

### **2015 Reviews:**

The Administration for Children and Families conducted two on-site monitoring review the Head Start Key Indicator compliance, HSKI-C, in January and the health and Environmental Safety Review in April. We are waiting for the written report to be completed.

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.

### **2015 CLASS SCORES review will occur in October**

Emotional Support: 6.7083

Classroom Organization: 6.3889

Instructional Support: 2.5278

These were the CLASS Scores from our last CLASS observation in 2012

**SMOC Head Start received a Minnesota Four Star Parent Aware Rating in September 2012  
We obtained our 4-Star Parent Aware Re-Rating in 2014**

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**Average Monthly Enrollment**

- We maintained full enrollment of 192 children, 151 Federal children and their families, 18 Pathway II children and their families and 23 State slots, for the entire 2014-2015 school year, maintaining a 91% Combo attendance average and an 87% Center attendance average. We are required to maintain an 85% average attendance.
- We served 223 children and families during the 2014-2015 school year. We had 28 drops during the year.
- Our enrollment consisted of 10 special needs children, we are required to serve 19 special needs children, 10% of enrollment spaces. We made 35 referrals to the school districts for developmental delay concerns and 13 referrals to Greater MN Family Services for Social-Emotional Concerns with 3 children receiving follow up support.

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**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 2012-2013: 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 22,094 hours to the SMOC Head Start program and their children!

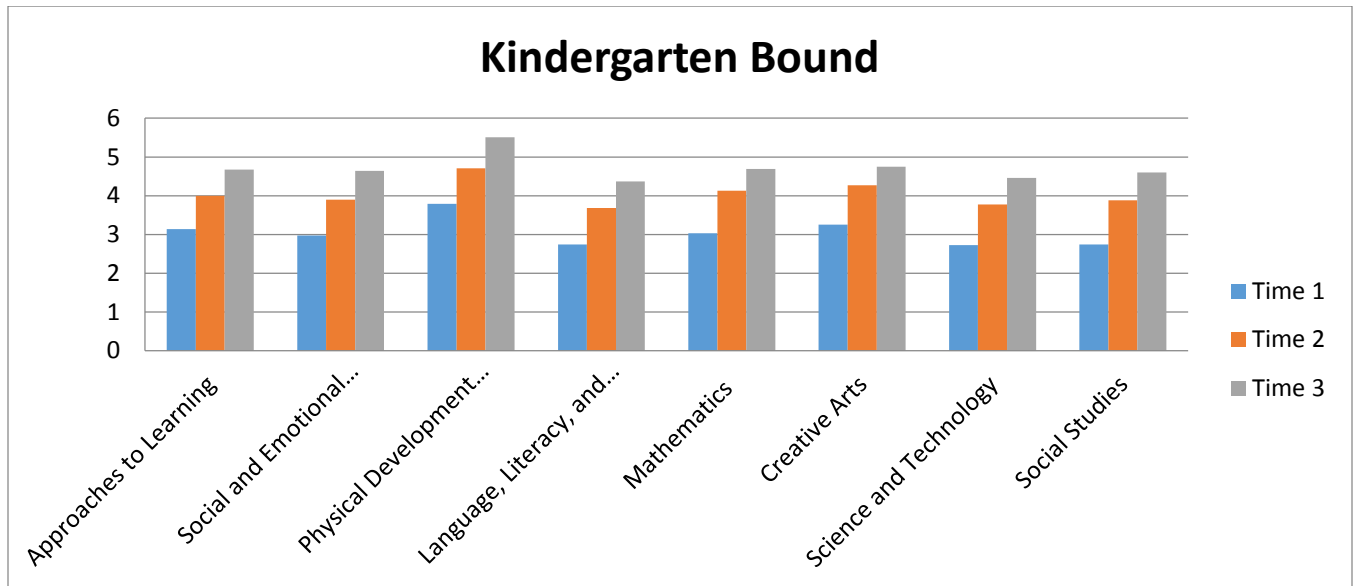
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**Kindergarten Readiness**

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 2014-2015 school year outcomes)
- Our evidence-based curriculum, HighScope, 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.
- To enhance kindergarten readiness Content Area Leadership team members meets 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

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### 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 94 %  
Number of children who received a dental exams 86 %

In additions we provide nutrition education in class, Nutrition Education for Parents during Parent meetings, and with the Community Nutrition Educators during Socializations, when appropriate.

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### Annual Budget

Category	FY 2014
Personnel & Fringe	83.43%
Travel	0.48%
Supplies	1.88%
Contractual	5.85%
Other	8.13%

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### Financial Audit

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