

SMALL MIRACLES



INSTITUTE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC.
2024-2025 Annual Report - Benton County



Making Small Miracles a Great Success!!!

OUR VISION

ICS will be globally recognized by strengthening comprehensive services for children and families.

OUR MISSION

ICS enriches and strengthens children, families and communities for future success.

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BACK COVER

From the Office of Public Relations

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Greetings,

I am honored and excited to welcome you again to review the results of ICS annual report regarding the gains and successes our children obtained during the 2024-2025 program year. ICS is an early childhood program that provides comprehensive services for children from birth to age five. Our program is devoted exclusively to exploring, documenting, and showcasing the wonderful growth spans the children are exhibiting during their time at the centers.

Our teachers are extraordinary because they are resilient when it comes to ensuring that the children are obtaining the necessary skills by honoring the past, reflecting on the present, and shaping the future of our children and families. I just want to say they deserve our utmost admiration for doing a superb job in educating the children in each class. I know our staff are doing exceedingly well because at ICS we pledge to work together with the families, the community partners, and our colleagues. This is why we are unique.

ICS has encountered difficult times during this year, but we will not throw in the towel. We will continue to serve our children and families to the best of our abilities. We do not just want to survive but we want to thrive for the future.

So, let's look at the results our agency has accomplished this year and let us all cheer and applaud everyone for the great results that are printed. We are making everyone take a look at what we are doing-Making Small Miracles a Great Success! ICS, we have one voice, and that is to ensure all of our Head Start children succeed.

ICS, we are changing lives and making a difference!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eloise McClinton".

Eloise McClinton
Executive Director

FROM THE BOARD CHAIR



We have been given the opportunity to be a part of the lives of children and families in fourteen of Mississippi's eighty-two counties. This is an awesome responsibility, and a challenge we must prepare for each year. Accepting the fact that our children and families now have choices means we must acquire new skills, be willing to adapt to new strategies, and continue to recruit and retain employees who are willing and able to accept the responsibility of providing children with a head start. We must all keep in mind that we hold the future of children in our hands and believe that we can make a difference every day.

We will always have challenges. However, as the group of individuals that make up the Institute of Community Services, board, council, and employees, we can, and we must face these challenges and either rise to the occasion or go by way of the dinosaur. Let us choose to keep rising.

Howard Hollins
Board Chairman

FROM THE BOARD VICE CHAIR



With children, families and communities at its core, (ICS) the Institute of Community Services, Project Head Start is diligently working to make great successes as it strives for excellence. The staff, stakeholders, community partners, Policy Council and Board are dedicated to the mission and vision of this great program.

ICS realizes that during turbulent economies and the many challenges facing the Head Start Program, we must not forget our goal – Making Small Miracles a great success! Our dedicated staff and stakeholders work tirelessly, engaging in innovative strategies and ideas to keep hope alive for ICS. ICS, we encourage you to continue this awesome journey of helping to make children, families and communities successful now and into the future.

Juanita Jones
Vice Chair

FROM THE POLICY COUNCIL CHAIR



I am truly grateful for the trust you have placed in me as the Chair of Policy Council. I am committed to leading our Council with dedication, integrity, and a steadfast focus on our shared goals. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Policy Council, Board, and Staff of ICS Head Start. Your dedication and enthusiasm continue inspire me.

As we move forward, I want to continue to emphasize the critical role that parents play in our Policy Council. I encourage all parents to actively engage with us by sharing insights, and collaborating to shape policies that reflect the collective wisdom of our community. Thank you for your dedication and support.

Sherise Jones-Sims
Policy Council Chair

EARLY HEAD START REPORT

For The 2024-2025 School Year



FROM THE EARLY HEAD START DIRECTOR

ICS EHS Program provides high quality, early, continuous child development and family support services to low-income families. We provide educational and developmentally appropriate activities and instruction for children ages birth to 3 years in Benton County ,MS. ICS Early Head Start currently 96 infants and toddlers.

Our services are child and family focused and has the overall goal of increasing the School Readiness of young children. All of our services are center based and comprehensive. Children attend our program five (5) days a week in a safe, nurturing learning environment. Activities and routines address approaches to learning, social and emotional development, language and literacy, cognition, and perceptual motor and physical development domains. Learning experiences are within the context of children cultures and community.

Early Head Start is committed to protecting and strengthening the bond between parents and children. We support parents as the primary educator of their child. We provide continuity of care in our program which helps children build strong relationships that are critical for their social and intellectual development. We support parents' efforts to fulfill their parental role and be an advocate for their child. We provide resources and training that will help parent's support their child's development and move them toward self-sufficiency and life preparedness.

It is our goal to provide a positive impact in the communities that we serve by working and partnering with those in the community who share common goal of strengthening families. We work continuously to fortify established relationships and build new relationships to enhance services to infants, toddlers and families.

Karen Pegues,
Early Head Start Director

School Readiness

In development of our School Readiness goals the School Readiness Committee reviewed and used the following documents:

- The Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework
- NAEYC Standards
- Early Learning Guidelines IT for Mississippi
- Learning Accomplishment Profile (Birth to Kindergarten))
- The Creative Curriculum for Infants, Toddlers and Two's

Our efforts to prepare children begin with access to proper prenatal care and training for expectant mothers to focus on healthy birth outcomes. Once children are enrolled, well baby checkups are maintained and developmental, social emotional, vision, and hearing screenings are administered within forty-five (45) days.

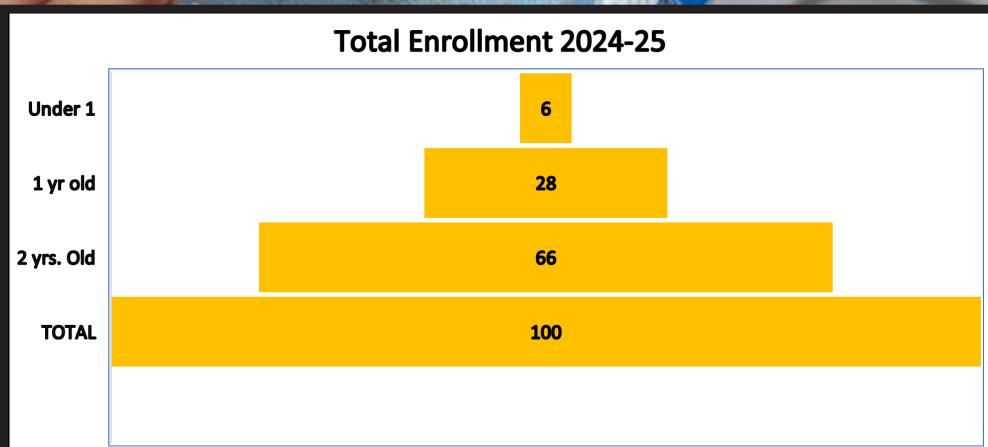
Children are assessed at least three (3) times yearly using online LAP-BK assessment. Child Development Support Plans and teacher-child interactions are individualized to enhance child's development and to meet School Readiness Goals. Transition begins for children within six (6) months of their 3rd birthday.

ICS Early Head Start program continues to make measurable progress in supporting the holistic development of infants and toddlers. Through intentional teaching, family partnerships, and data-driven practices, we remain committed to preparing children for lifelong learning and success.

4.

Early Head Start enrolled 100 participants during the 2024-25 school year. Funded enrollment was 96 infants and toddlers.

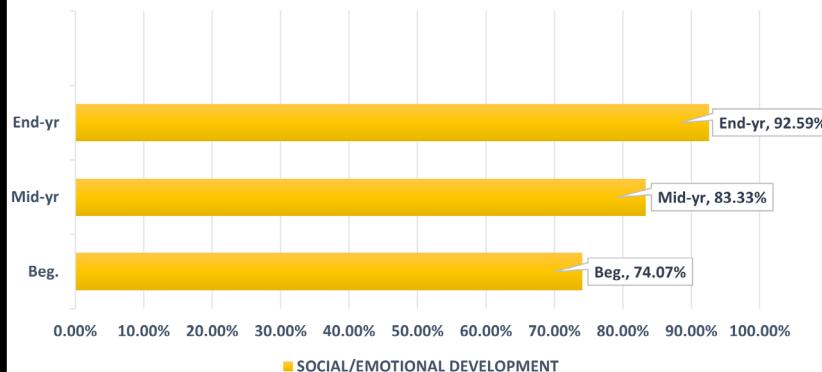
- 68% - income eligible
- 26% - on public assistance
- 2% - in Foster Care, and
- 4% - over income based on other needs.



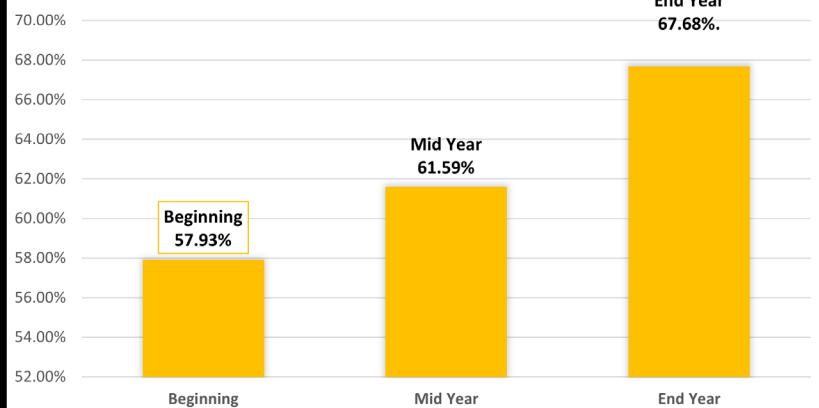
Early Head Start LAP-BK Developmental Assessment Progress

These five (5) charts reflect the range of scores for children enrolled in ICS-EHS based on the School Readiness Goals for Infants and Toddlers in Head Start and Early Head Start Programs. Graphs and numbers represented by the graphs are based on the highest score, the lowest score, and the average score for all Early Head Start children in the program with assessment results during that checkpoint.

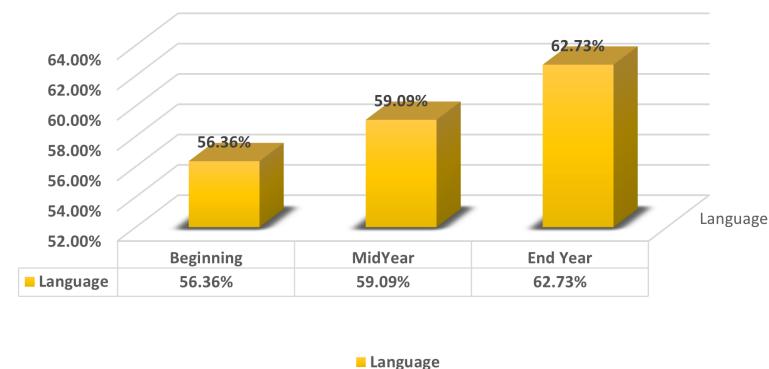
SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT



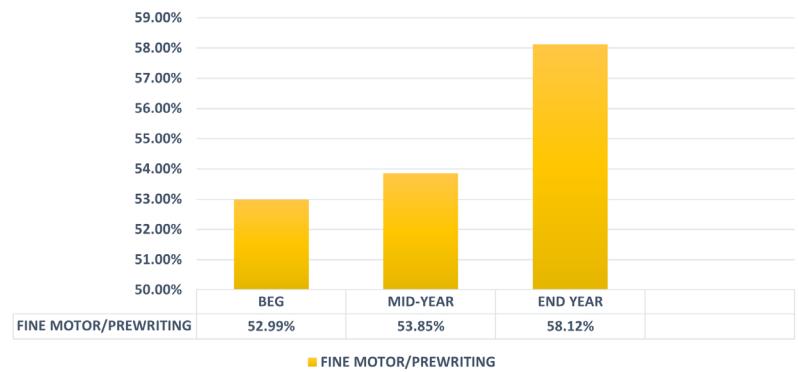
COGNITION



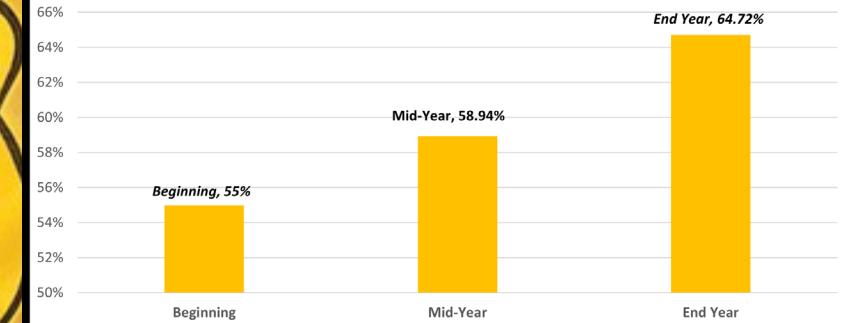
Language and Communication



FINE MOTOR/PREWRITING

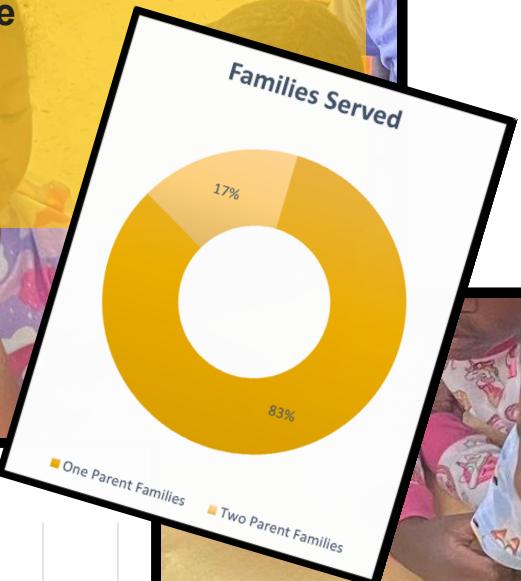
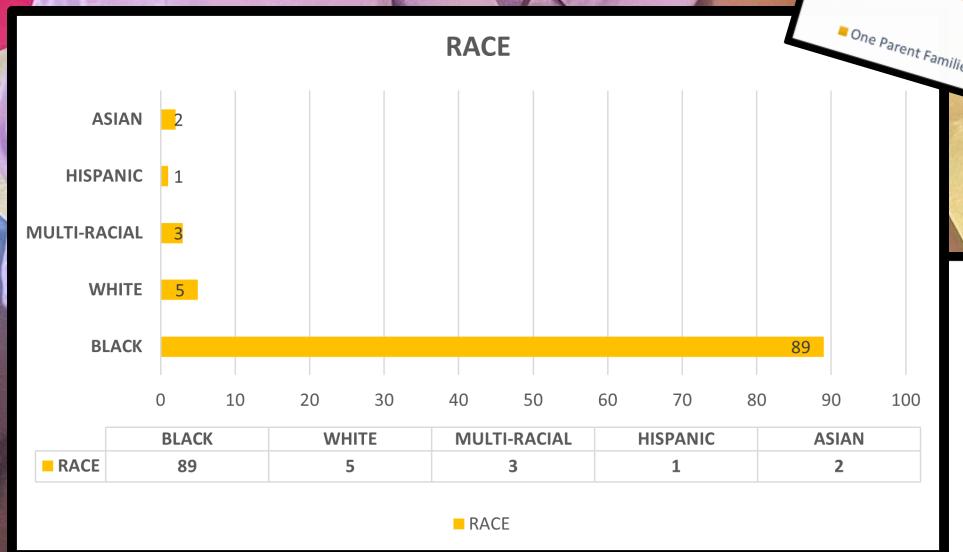


GROSS MOTOR

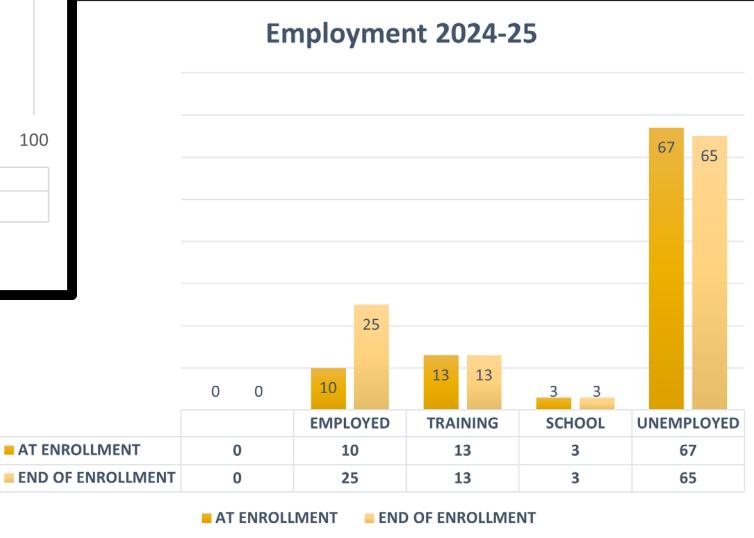
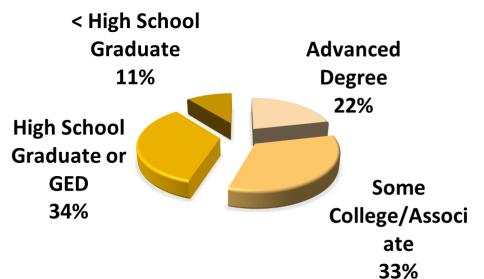


Our Early Head Start Families

The following charts are a breakdown of the composition of the families we serve in EHS, their employment, job training, and educational levels. Our goal in EHS is to meet our parents where they are and assist them with achieving goals for both themselves and their families.



LEVELS OF EDUCATION OBTAINED BY PARENTS



6.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT REPORT

For The 2024-2025 School Year



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT

With support from our families and community partners, ICS Head Start pre-school provides comprehensive services for the whole child and their families. We know that each child is unique and will succeed at their own rate of readiness. Families are the children's first, and most important caregivers and advocates. Our families are respected and supported as the primary influence in their child's early learning. As quality early childhood educators, we acknowledge our students and individuals whose development is as unique as their personalities. We understand the importance of creating inclusive environments that support the various learning needs of each child. As a result, teachers provide individualized instruction and modify their teaching methods and lesson plans to suit the learning style of children. This ensures that all children can thrive and reach their full potential.

The curriculums used in our Head Start Pre-school classrooms are Our World of Learning, Learn Every Day, and Mississippi Beginnings Pre-K. All curriculums are research based and are aligned with Mississippi State Early Learning Outcomes Framework.

Our ICS program has two very special partnerships that help children understand the importance of eating healthily and growing some of their food. **Farm to Table** is a program that connects early childhood settings with local food systems. They develop school gardens, visit local farms and foster relationships with their community and the natural world.

They also build a foundation for lifelong healthy eating habits.

Growing Healthy Minds, Bodies, and Communities is an innovative, standards-based curriculum designed to promote whole child wellness through education, family, and community engagement and integration of yoga/mindfulness, gardening/nutrition, social emotional learning, and physical activity.

It is important to provide children with stimulating environments and experiences to enhance their abilities during their preschool years. One main benefit of early education is the support it offers to prepare children for kindergarten. We teach children to reason by integrating problem solving tasks, which help to develop critical thinking skills. Our teachers are encouraged to explore within the classroom, outdoors and the community environment, which fosters curiosity and a sense of wonder; it also allows children to exercise creativity and develop an imagination. We do integrate some age-appropriate technology that enhances learning and technical literacy, which is a practical skill in this digital age.



ICS School Readiness Goals

LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

- LD1:** Children will develop and use increasingly complex and varied vocabulary.
- LD2:** Children will use different grammatical structures or rules for using language.
- LD3:** Children who are dual language learners will demonstrate competency in their home language while acquiring beginning and increasingly proficiency in English.

LITERACY KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS

- LK1:** Children will develop an awareness that language can be broken down into pieces of sound, words, beginning and ending sounds of words and syllables.
- LK2:** Children will associate letter names with correct sound.
- LK3:** Children will demonstrate print concepts and early decoding.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT & HEALTH

- PD1:** Children will demonstrate control of large muscles for movement, navigation, and balance.
- PD2:** Children will control small muscles for such purposes as using utensils, selfcare, building, drawing, writing, and exploring.
- PD3:** Children will demonstrate positive health, safety, and nutritional practices in the daily routine of the classroom.

SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- SE1:** Children will demonstrate positive social emotional skills including social relationships.
- SE2:** Children will recognize and regulate emotions, attention, impulses, and behavior.

COGNITION & GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

- GK1:** Children will use a range of math strategies, such as counting, matching, problem solving, sorting to compare quantity in sets of objects and describe the comparisons with terms such as more, less, greater than, fewer or equal to.
- GK2:** Children will engage in exploring their environment through observations, manipulation, asking questions, making predictions, and developing generalizations and hypotheses.
- GK3:** Children will find multiple solutions to questions, tasks, problems, and challenges in the natural and physical world.

APPROACHES TO LEARNING

- AL1:** Children will demonstrate an interest in varied topics and activities, desire to learn creativeness and independence of learning.
- AL2:** Children will begin and finish activities with persistence, cooperation, and attention.
- AL3:** Children will demonstrate interest and engage in large and small group experiences.



We are engaged in collaborative partnerships with other ELCs and organizations that provide services to our children and their families. These combined efforts provide opportunities that each of us alone could not provide.

BENTON COUNTY

Ashland and Hickory Flat Centers

Alignment of ICS School Readiness Goals with Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework (HSELOF) & Achievement Utilizing the Learning Accomplishment Profile-3 (LAP-BK)

DOMAIN	LAP-BK Beginning Average Proficiency	LAP-BK End Average Proficiency
Gross Motor	98.00	98.00
Fine Motor/Prewriting	73.00	90.00
Self Help	78.00	80.00
Cognitive	82.00	92.00
Language	70.00	85.00
Social and Emotional	78.00	80.00

ELC COLLABORATIVIES/# CLASSROOMS

2025-2026

COLUMBUS (*Coleman Center*) (2)

GRENADA (*Grenada Center*) (5)

HOLLY SPRINGS:

Marjean Taylor Myatt Center (3)

Holly Springs Primary (1)

LAFAYETTE (*Mary Cathey Center*) (1)

NOXUBEE (*Noxubee Center*) (2)

SENATOBIA (*Clen Moore Center*) (2)

SOUTH PANOLA (*Batesville Center*) (2)

STARKVILLE (*Oktibbeha Center*) (3)

WEST POINT:

Clay County HS (4)

East Side Elementary (4)

West Clay Elementary (1)

TELA:

Eva Covington Center (2)

West Tallahatchie Center (2)

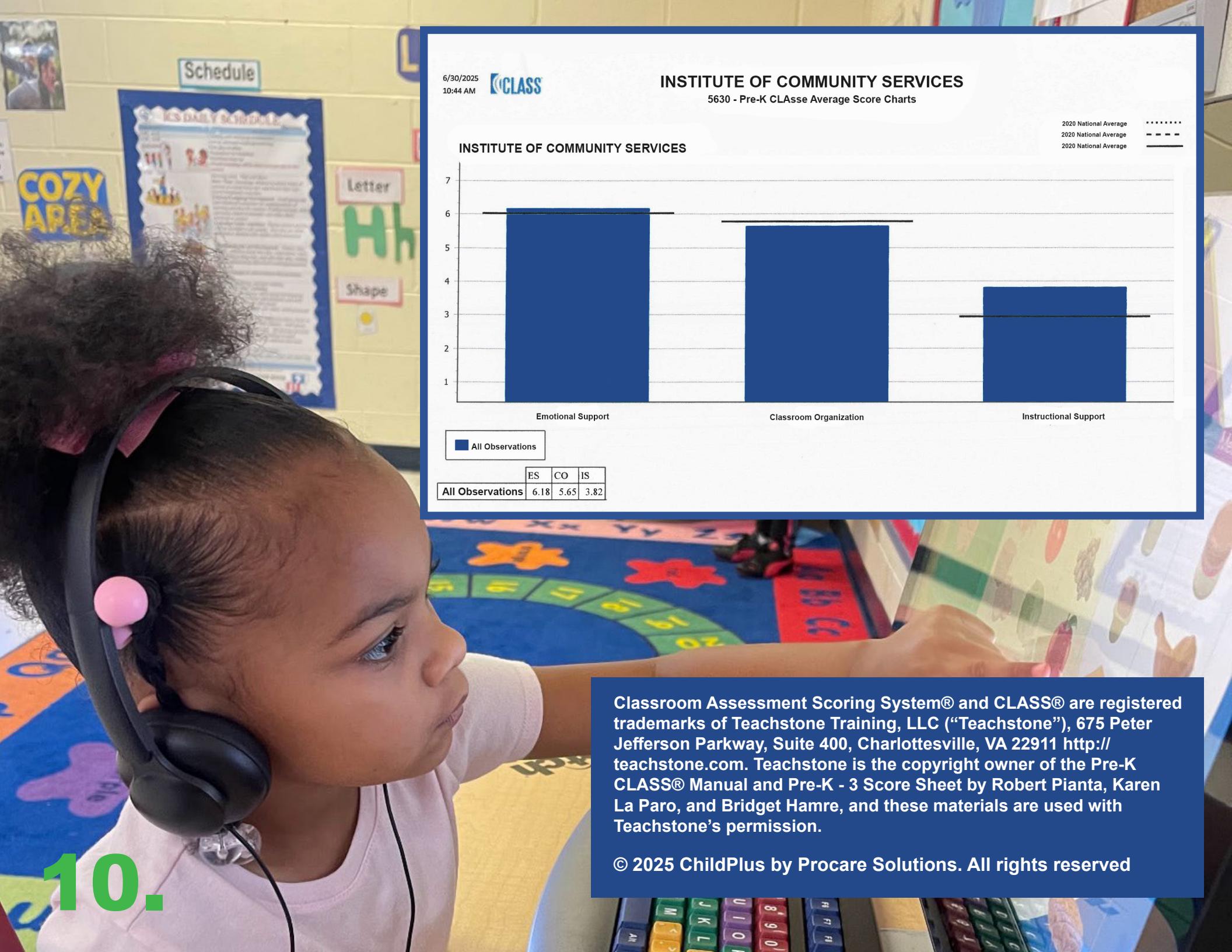
BLENDED SITES

TALLAHATCHIE:

Charleston Elementary (2)

DAY CARE CENTER:

Kids World (1)



FAMILY SERVICES & ERSEA REPORT

For The 2024-2025 School Year



Total Funded Enrollment: 100
Total Number of Children Served: 108
Total Number of Families Served: 102
Year's Total Wait-List Numbers: 10
Age Eligible Wait-List Children Not Served: 10%
Average Monthly Enrollment (ADA) as Percentage of Enrollment: 80.75%

LANGUAGE

English: 102
Spanish: 4
Mid-Eastern/South Asian European & Vietnamese: 2

RACE BREAK-DOWN

Black/African American: 52
White: 44
Biracial/Multi-racial: 6
Asian: 0
American Indian/Alaska Native: 0
Other Category (Yemen/Middle East, Hispanic): 6

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT DATA

Age Eligible Children Served: 100%
Percentage of Income Eligible Pre-School Children: 90%
Percentage of the Number Age Eligible Children in the Target Area Served in the School Year: N/A

ETHNICITY BREAK-DOWN

Hispanic or Latino: 4
Non-Hispanic/
Non-Latino: 104

SOCIAL SERVICE

There is a need for more doctors and dentists in some areas

SIGNIFICANT FACTS & DATA

Children experiencing homelessness: 0

Children in Foster Care: 2

Children with disabilities including types of disabilities and relevant services and resources provided by community agencies: 11

HEALTH SERVICES

97% of children received medical examinations

98% of children received dental examinations

HOUSEHOLDS

Single Parent Families: 66

Two Parent Families: 36

TANF Families: 0

SSI Families: 4

Income Above the poverty guideline: 10

Income Below the poverty guideline: 90

Families receive WIC: 28

Families receive SNAP: 25

EMPLOYMENT

One parent family: 50

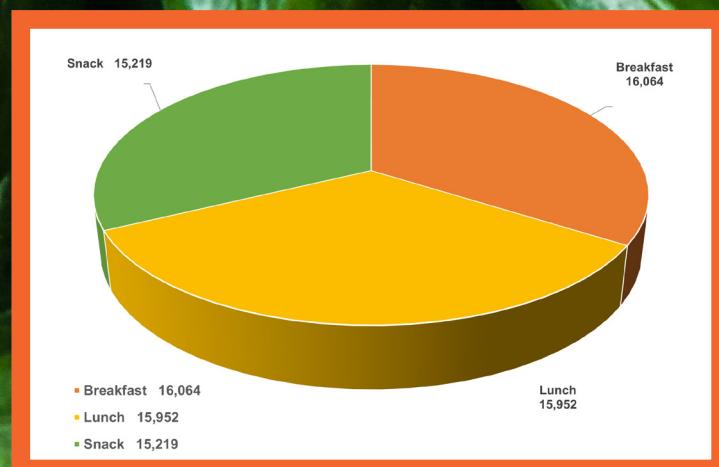
Two parent families: 23

NUTRITION REPORT

For The 2024-2025 School Year

The ICS Head Start Nutrition Department plays a vital role in supporting the health and well-being of children and families in our program. During the 2024–2025 school year, our team worked diligently to ensure that every child received nutritious meals and snacks that meet CACFP standards, while also providing education and resources to families to encourage healthy eating habits at home.

The charts below show the meal reimbursements for the 2024–2025 school year. Our department successfully managed these funds, which reflect the meals and snacks served across all centers. These reimbursements were used to provide high-quality, nutrient-dense foods for children and to ensure compliance with federal nutrition standards.



Child and Adult Care Food Program Meal Reimbursements

Month	BREAKFAST	LUNCH	SNACK
OCTOBER 2024	1,992	1,998	1,894
NOVEMBER 2024	1,505	1,495	1,452
DECEMBER 2024	1,427	1,388	1,322
JANUARY 2025	1,616	1,598	1,540
FEBRUARY 2025	1,532	1,521	1,473
MARCH 2025	1,508	1,514	1,319
APRIL 2025	1,841	1,844	1,784
MAY 2025	676	648	634
JUNE 2025	1	1	1
AUGUST 2025	1,974	1,971	1,916
SEPTEMBER 2025	1,992	1,974	1,884
TOTAL	16,064	15,952	15,219

PARENT ENGAGEMENT REPORT

For The 2024-2025 School Year

ICS Head Start Preschool and Early Head Start programs place a strong emphasis on parent, family, and community engagement. The involvement of parents, in our endeavors, is critical to the child's growth and development. Parent Engagement main focus is getting parents, families, and the community involved. The hearts of our staff, parents, and communities is where it all begins. Parents play a big part in their children's life as their main teachers and supporters. Building strong positive relationships between staff and parents allows staff to better assist and support parents as they navigate the challenges of parenthood. To help our families get the resources they need to achieve their full potential, our team collaborates closely with community partners. ICS offers a parent learning curriculum and a fatherhood program. Training is provided to parents through each program service area and parents are encouraged to volunteer at their child's center. Parents may serve as members of the Policy Council and Board of Directors, having a voice in all policy decisions. The staff, parents, and communities have shown remarkable resilience and achieved positive results in spite of a variety of life challenges and various obstacles. Parents are making amazing progress, achieving their goals and pursuing their dreams for themselves and their children's future.

Parent Gauge (Family Outcomes)

Parent Gauge is a family engagement assessment tool that is designed to measure the parent's experience and the impact of our Head Start Preschool and Early Head Start program. This assessment tool is implemented twice a year. It allows us to identify areas of strengths and improvement.

Parent Gauge - Agency Post Interview Very Much/Mostly 2024 - 2025

The program gives me opportunities to get involved in volunteer and parent activities.



The program helps me feel comfortable speaking up for my child's educational needs.



The program helps understand why daily attendance is important.



The program helps me access regular well - visits for my child.



The program helps me access regular dental care for my child.



The program has provided activities to help my child transition out of EHS/Head Start...



89% 89% 90% 90% 91% 91% 92% 92% 93% 93% 94%

FATHERHOOD/MALE INVOLVEMENT

100%

of fathers or father figures actively engaged in workshops and activities specifically designed for male parents.



RESEARCH-BASED PARENT CURRICULUM

84%

Benton County surpassed the anticipated outcome goal of 50% for parent participation in the Systematic Training Effective Parenting (STEP) research-based parenting curriculum by 34%.



15.

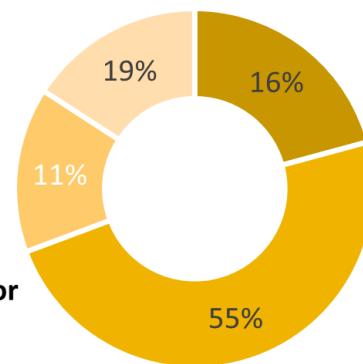
OUR HEAD START PARENTS

FAMILY TYPE



PARENT EDUCATION

- Less than HS graduate
- HS graduate or GED
- Associate degree, vocational school, or some college
- Baccalaureate or advanced degree





2024/2025 YEAR END OUTCOME DATA

SHOWING EFFORTS TO ENGAGE & PARTNER WITH PARENTS/FAMILIES

ASSET BUILDING / FINANCIAL LITERACY	79%
EMERGENCY/CRISIS SERVICES	6%
ESL CLASSES	6%
INCARCERATED FAMILY MEMBERS	0%
JOB TRAINING/AID TO ENROLL IN PARENT EDUCATION PROGRAM	18%
RELATIONSHIP/MARRIAGE SESSIONS	8%



HEAD START SUCCESS STORIES

Hi, my name is Miss Dean. I am the mother of Montreal Ramsey and Anna Dean. I have so much respect for Ashland Head Start and Early Head Start. The way my babies have grown is so amazing. They are so smart. My kids have learned so much since being at the center. I love how they're so excited to go to school and be ready to learn and then come home and tell me all about their day. The teachers and the staff, they're heaven sent.

I just want to say thank y'all for everything that y'all do for me. Y'all are truly a blessing. And the reason why I say that is because I'm a single mother of four and the support that I get and help and the reaching out that the staff do is everything. Y'all aren't nothing but angels. I just want to say that I love y'all and thank you for everything that y'all do and have done for me. and keep up the great work.



TCW: Learn vocabulary associated with going to school.

TCW: Recognize the first letter of your name.

2

children
play h

AUDIT STATEMENT & BUDGET

For The 2024-2025 School Year



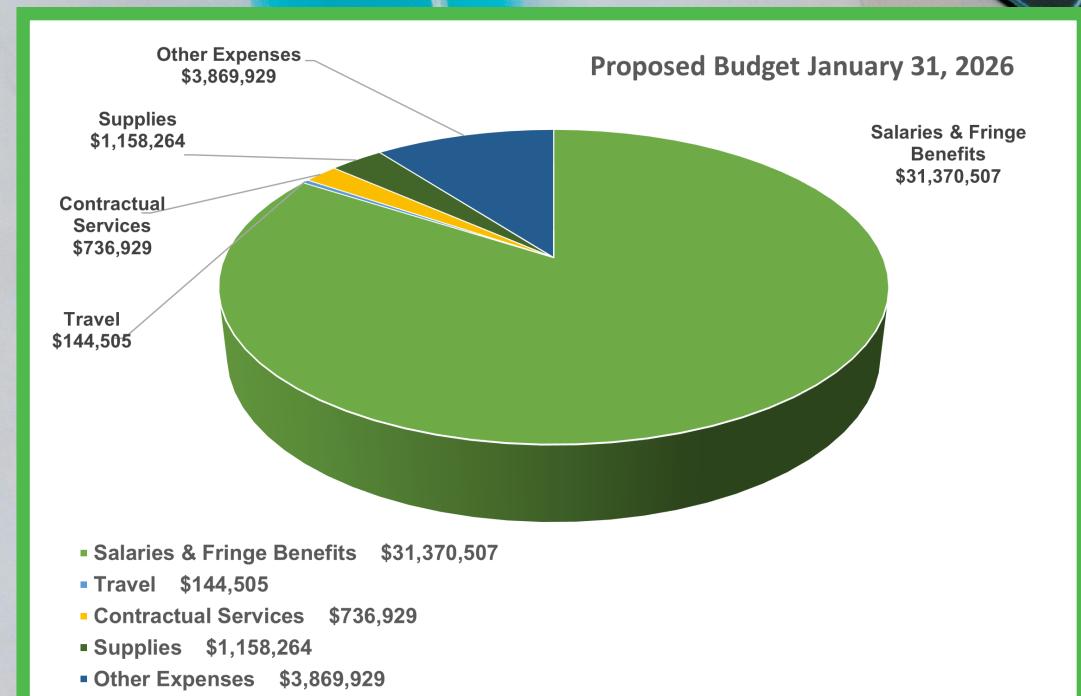
AUDIT

The Institute of Community Services, Inc. financial statement was prepared by ICS Fiscal staff and audited by an independent accounting firm. The financial statement present fairly in all material respects the financial positions of the Institute of Community Services, Inc. as of January 31, 2025.

The annual audit was conducted in accordance with General Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and as required by Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200.

The statement of financial positions, activities, functional expenses, and cash flows are all an integral part of these financial statements.

Frances Reola Young
Chief Financial Officer



**Institute of Community
Services, Inc.
Head Start Program
January 31, 2025 Expenses**

Salaries	2,061,151
Employee benefits and Payroll Taxes	659,496
Total Salaries and Related Expenses	2,720,647
Travel	19,305
Property and Equipment	205,262
Supplies	113,890
Medical and Dental Services	19,078
Contractual Services	45,057
Training	6,588
Insurance	22,664
Occupancy	64,405
Transportation	70,846
Repairs and Maintenance	6,869
Lease Expenses	6,032
Utilities	21,533
Telephone	15,016
Other Expenses	19,327
Construction	154,464
Interest	6,512
Value of Other In-Kind Services	23,021
Total Expenses before Depreciation	3,540,516
Depreciation	0
Total Expenses	3,540,516

From the Office of Public Relations

To our Stakeholders,

We thank you for the support that you give to the Institute of Institute of Community Services, Inc. (ICS Project Head Start). This Public Report is one of the ways that we can share information with our stakeholders. We appreciate each and every one of you.

Our motto of “Making Small Miracles a Great Success” is not just words that sounds good, but true in every sense. At the Institute of Community Services, Inc. (ICS), we believe in the children that walk through our halls during the year. Our staff is ready to share their training with the students. We also believe in our parents and support them in any way we can.

We want you to walk through the doors and see that these young people are ready to move; and years from now you will hear them say, “Yes, I went to Head Start, I got my start at the Institute of Community Services, Inc. (ICS) Project Head Start.” Thank you for being who you are.

Fannie L. Lampley
Director of Public Relations
Institute of Community Services, Inc. (ICS)Project Head Start

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