

Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency Head Start
 PY 20-21
 Annual Report to the Public



NICAA Head Start Mission Statement

NICAA Head Start will enhance the lived of pre-school children and their families by Providing a high-quality program, which includes academics, health, nutrition, parent involvement, and social emotional related services. We will collaborate with families as they work to set and attain their goals.

Head Start provides service to the Stephenson and Jo Daviess areas. We are a granted program with 190 pre-school slots. While we provide a print rich environment that enables the children to explore and learn academics as well as emotions, the program is actually a social service program aimed at helping children by providing access to on-site dentals exams, nutritious food, transportation to medical appointments (if needed), family goal setting, referrals to help with housing, food and clothing needs as well as providing resources to help with household expenses.

NICAA Head Start Annual Budget

A. NICAA Head Start Grant year is July 1 – June 30 of each year. Public and private funds received during this time period are as follows:

1.	Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)	
	Continuation grant:	\$1,349,842.40
2.	USDA Child Care Food Program	50,286.89
3.	In-kind donations:	263,941.72
	Total	\$1,664,071.01

B. Budget Expenditures

	Program Operation:	Continuation
1.	Personnel	\$ 791,968.90
2.	Fringe	263,729.55
3.	Supplies	81,802.81
4.	Contractual	93,014.24
5.	Program Costs	1,517,815.40
6.	Training/Technical Assistance	3032.62
7.	USDA Food Costs	48,222.78
8.	USDA Commodity Costs	2,064.00
9.	Total	\$2,801,650.30

In-Kind

a.	Contractual	\$10,200.00
b.	Supplies (donations of toothbrushes, paint, paper, etc.)	21,626.35
c.	Rental Space	349,145.50
d.	Other	232,115.37
	Total	\$613,087.22

***In-kind contributions are contributions that our program is required to get in order to prove that our community supports our program. In-kind must be allowable, reasonable, verifiable, and necessary for the operation of our Head Start Program.

C. Performance Standards

The Head Start Performance Standards were first published in 1975 and are in place to ensure that all programs provide high quality services. In November of 2016, the Department of Human and Health released the new Performance Standards. To ensure that programs are complying with the Performance Standards programs must go through Federal Review during their 5-year grant cycle they are the FA1, FA2, and CLASS. Office of Head Start uses the information collected during reviews to understand the grantee's approach to program design and services. The information is also used to evaluate their performance and continuous program improvement.

D. Results of the most recent Head Start Federal Reviews

NICAA Head Start is its fourth year of a five-year grant. Head Start's are mandated to participate in Federal Review of their program throughout the five years. This is done to ensure that programs are bring properly ran. We have gone through our FA1 and FA 2 review. Out of both reviews, we had one area that needed to be corrected. We corrected this area and are in compliance in all areas, on both reviews.

E. Results of the most recent financial audit

NICAA's annual financial audit for reported that there were no audit findings which were required to be reported in accordance with the office of Management and Budget Circular A-133, Section 510 (a) and no instances of noncompliance related to the financial statements were disclosed during the audit. Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency qualified as a low-risk auditee.

F. Funded Enrollment

NICAA is funded to serve 190 children and families. In the past 3 years we have seen a decline in the number of families needing pre-school placement due to having more pre-school options in the community. After doing a community assessment and surveying our parents, Head Start has made the decision to add Early Head Start to its program. Early Head Start will be able to enroll 24 pregnant woman and children ages 6 weeks to 2 years of ages. Once they reach three, they will transition into our Head Start program which serves children ages 3 – 5 years old.

Attendance percentage chart for school year 2019 - 2020

PY 2020-2021

September	80%
October	86%
November	81%
December	86%
January	88%
February	83%
March	81%
April	87%
May	80%

Average for
the year 84%

Our goal is to maintain no less than 85% student attendance. When the attendance falls below that, we look for the causes through our data. We contact parents and do home visits to emphasize the importance of student attendance.

D. The percentage of enrolled children that received medical and dental exams.

100% of enrolled children received medical and dental exams. The Stephenson County Health Department / Park City Dental did the dental exams in Stephenson County along with follow-up treatment. East Dubuque exams were done by Dr. Grinter in Galena.





E. Parent Involvement Activities include:

Head Start has a board made up of Head Start parents who assist in the decision-making process of program operations. These positions that they have to run for and be voted in by the other Head Start parents. They are the voice of all Head Start parents.

- Parent Committee Meetings
- Parent Child Literacy Activity Nights



- Participation on Policy Council
- Participation on NICAA Board
- Classroom Volunteers
- Volunteering in home preparing classroom materials.
- Field Trip Volunteers
- Completing Parent Partnership Agreements

- Participating in Home Visits and Parent Teacher Conferences
- Participating in the self-assessment.
- Parent Café
- Activities sent home to do with children
- PAD and PEN activities with their children and family

Due to COVID, Head Start switched to doing their parent/child days part n-person and part through zoom. It has worked out well!



G. NICAA's Head Start's efforts to prepare children for Kindergarten

NICAA Head Start uses Creative Curriculum in the classroom and Teaching Strategies Gold assessment tool to show the children's growth throughout the year. Data is collected three times

per year, in the fall, winter, and spring. After each collection period, the data is reviewed and program adjustments are made based on areas of need.

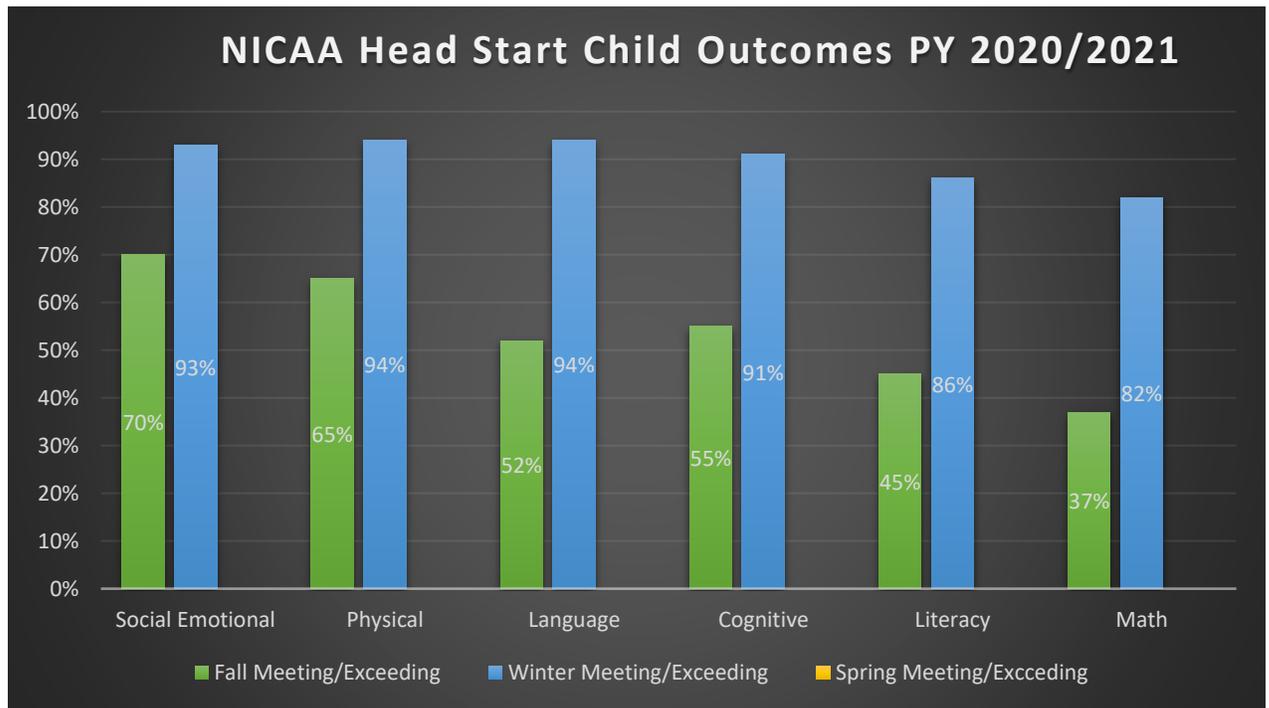
Head Start Transition to Kindergarten

NICAA helps families during the transition to kindergarten by sending home flyers about when and where to register their child and providing the parents with the necessary documents needed when registering their child(ren). We also collaborate with the school district to host several on site kindergarten sign up days at one of our Head Start sites. Books about kindergarten are read to the children at school and sent home for the parents to read to them at home. We also partner with the school district to provide on-site kindergarten sign-up for the parents at our KCC site.

Child Assessment

Children are assessed in many areas, below are the results of the number of children who fall in each area during the course of the year. The following areas are Social emotional, Physical – Gross Motor, Physical – Fine motor, Language, Cognitive, Literacy and Math.

Some children enter our program below average in the skills assessed. As you can see on the chart below, by the end of the school year, there are a great percentage of children meeting or exceeding the program goals. Children entering Kindergarten from NICAA Head Start are very prepared. Assessing children throughout the year allows us to track on-going progress in the mentioned areas.



Note: At the beginning of the year, it is appropriate for student’s skills and abilities to fall below widely held expectations because the child may not have been exposed to some of the experiences that enhance the child’s ability to do that skill.

To provide a smooth transition to Kindergarten, Head Start teachers begin the school year following our programs School Readiness Plan as well as our Kindergarten Transition Plan. This ensures that our program is preparing our children for success. Parents are invited to attend parent meetings with guest speakers from our school district. These meetings are very helpful as they let everyone know the expectations of new students entering into the school system as well as informing them of the different experiences they will encounter. Each child moving to Kindergarten will get a book about going to kindergarten and they will be able to tour an actual kindergarten classroom in one of the school district facilities.



H. NICAA Head Start Staff

NICAA Head Start had 33 full part time employees

- 8 Administration staff members
- 5 Lead Teachers
- Teachers Assistants
- Teacher Qualifications include BA's or AA's in Early Childhood Education
- Teacher Assistant qualifications include BA, AA's, in Early Childhood Education and or a Child Development Associate (CDA)
- 33% of our teaching staff are currently either taking classes to complete a degree in a higher learner institute, or obtaining their Child Development Associate through NICAA Head Start.

NICAA Head Start staff have done an extremely awesome job working during the past two years that we have been dealing with COVID. They have posted videos of themselves reading so that the students' parents can go on Facebook and the child can see their teacher reading, doing science experiments, art projects, sing-a-longs and much more. They have delivered learning packets, and art supplies so that the kids have the proper items to complete the art project the teacher is doing. They also do ZOOM meeting with the children, one on one so that the child can still see their classmates, they will do an all class zoom! They have even delivered breakfast, lunch and snacks to all of our parents who requested them. Thank you and great job!!

Head Start provides resource and referrals to parents, as well as providing transportation to and from school, educational field trips, a quality education, breakfast, lunch and snack, on-site dentals, regular student assessments, parent activity days and parent enrichment nights, and great staff, all at no charge to our families.

*The Head Start program contracts consultants to assist us with mental health, nutrition, and speech issues.

