



HEAD START

Annual Program
Report 2024-2025



The annual report was prepared in compliance with the Head Start Act, Section 622(a)(2).
The report can be viewed online at nic.edu/headstart.

What is Head Start?

North Idaho College Head Start is a federally-funded program that provides services in five northern counties of Idaho. The program promotes the school-readiness of children ages 3 to 5 – for the two crucial years before they are age-eligible for kindergarten. We prioritize limited income families, homeless families, foster children, families that receive public assistance (including SNAP benefits) and children with disabilities. NIC Head Start provides free comprehensive education, health and nutrition services to children and families that can benefit the most from our program services. Our young students receive intensive child development services. Parents receive education and support for family well-being as well as tools to support their children's success in school.

Mission

North Idaho College Head Start is a school-readiness program that provides education and support for young children and their families.

Five-Year Program Goals

Our five year goals were established through our yearly self-assessment and improvement plan and our community assessment.

2020-2025 Goals



Recruit and retain families that can benefit the most from program services, staff that exemplify program quality standards, and volunteers that are prepared to assist the program in meeting high-quality child and family services.



Institute trauma-informed practices across all program services including children and families, staff, and the communities we serve.



Comprehensive Services

Academic Success

Our children make notable gains across all learning domains, with individualized instructions from well-qualified teachers. When children begin school armed with academic skills and knowledge, they are more likely to graduate high school and attend college, be employed with a livable income, engage in healthy behaviors, and contribute to their community.

Children's Health and Well-Being

Children must be healthy to learn. Families with a lack of resources such as nutritious healthy food, limited opportunities for outside physical activity, or access to health care may need intervention. We directly address these issues with a robust nutrition plan, outdoor play areas filled with opportunities to explore and grow, and health screenings and services provided by our staff and community partners.

Parent Engagement

We work to support family well-being and promote children's development. Our parents focus on learning skills to support their children. NIC Head Start directly supports the economic needs of low-income families because child care costs create a significant barrier to employment, education and job training. Because our services are provided to families at no cost, our families can direct their limited budgets to other life necessities.

Head Start Centers in North Idaho

Boundary County

Julien Bucher Early Learning Center

 **20 Children**

Bonner County

Sandpoint Head Start

 **35 Children**

Kootenai County

Community Early Learning Center

 **17 Children**

Harding Head Start

 **57 Children**

Lakeland Head Start

 **20 Children**

NIC Children's Center

 **16 Children**

Post Falls Head Start

 **40 Children**

Benewah County

St. Maries Head Start

 **17 Children**

UpRiver Head Start

 **18 Children**

Shoshone County

Shoshone Head Start

 **19 Children**



Eligibility and Enrollment

Total Funded Enrollment: **259**

Actual Cumulative Enrollment: **302**

Eligible Families Served: **293**

22% of children enrolled were homeless

30% of children enrolled that experienced homelessness during the program year

1% of children enrolled were foster

85% of average daily attendance

Eligibility, Services and Unmet Needs for 2024-2025

County	Children Under 5 Years Living in Poverty*	Federally Funded Enrollment Slots	TANF Funded Enrollment Slots	Actual Federally Funded Enrollment	Actual TANF Funded Enrollment	Total Actual Enrollment
Boundary	177	20	0	23	0	23
Bonner	616	16	19	19	20	39
Kootenai	1982	150	0	172	0	172
Benewah	70	35	0	41	0	41
Shoshone	290	19	0	27	0	27
Total	3135	240	19	302	20	302

(TANF) Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.

*data.census.gov. (12/2025)

Education

Preparing children for academic and social success in kindergarten and beyond is a key focus of Head Start services. Every Head Start staff member contributes to helping children and families succeed in school. The program employs the HighScope Curriculum to deliver developmentally appropriate activities in the classroom. Each child's progress and school readiness are assessed three times annually. These assessments help coach educators to improve school readiness and identify training needs for the program.

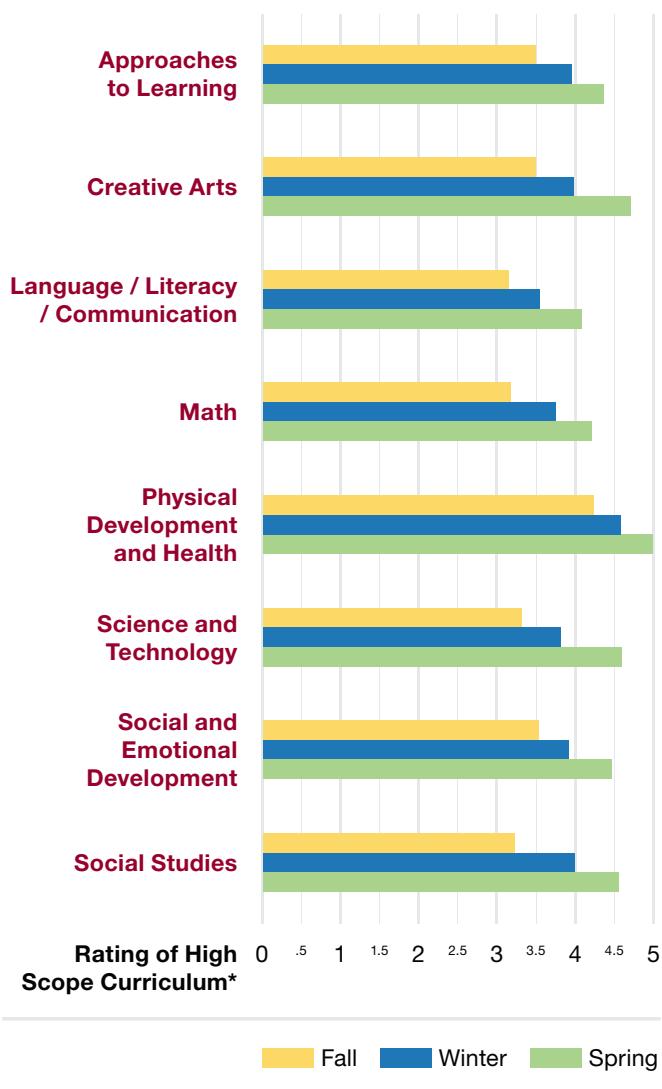
Teacher Qualifications

In 2024-2025, all (100%) lead teachers working for NIC Head Start met at least the minimum credential requirement of a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education, and all assistant teachers either met or are working toward CDAs, an advanced child development certificate, or an associate's degree in early childhood education.



2024-2025 North Idaho College Head Start School Readiness Goals within the HighScope Curriculum. Group statistics reflect ratings of school readiness across eight developmental domains for all NICHS-enrolled four-year-olds who transitioned to kindergarten in Fall 2025. The HighScope Curriculum focuses on children's naturally occurring activities to measure performance, allowing for a broader assessment of each child's development.

School Readiness Goals 2024-2025



Special Services

NIC Head Start prioritizes services to children with suspected disabilities. We are working diligently to make sure children receive any special services they may need to remove barriers to learning.

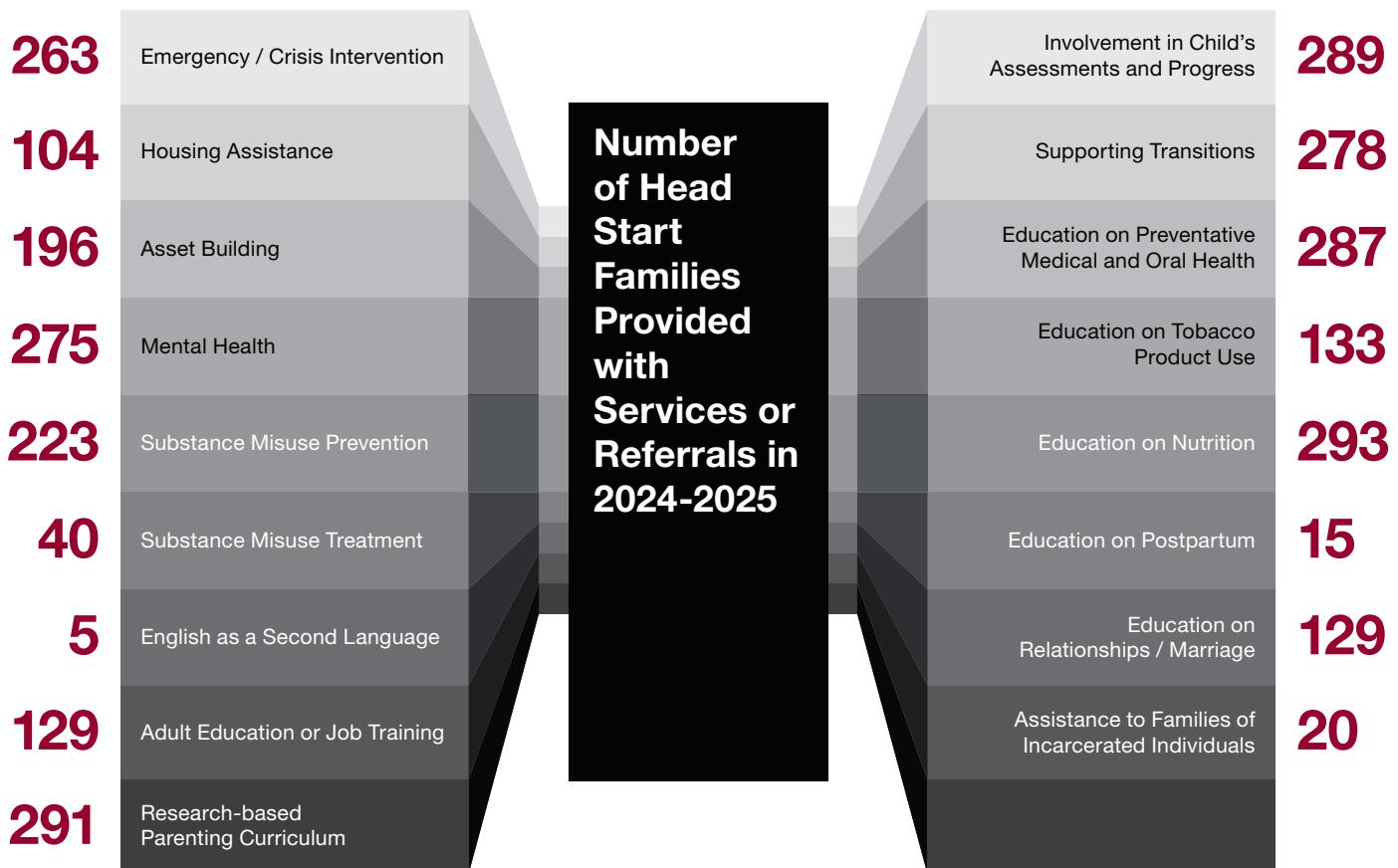
Percentage of children with disabilities enrolled in program year 2024-2025*: 14%

*required to make available at least 10% of slots for children with disabilities



Family Services

Family Advocates developed partnership agreements and initiated goals with parents. This was an invaluable process not only for the families, but for program outcomes as well. Building relationships with families is necessary to support family well-being and to help families in meeting goals for themselves and their children.



Family Engagement Activities

for the 2024-2025 school-year.

- Program orientation
- Parent business meetings
- Parent education events
- Policy Council meetings
- Community resource fairs
- Curriculum planning
- Classroom activities
- Field trips
- Home visits
- Parenting curriculum
- Father involvement activities
- Nutrition education workshops
- Take-home activities to connect with classroom learning
- Books provided to families to increase literacy

Policy Council

Parents in our program have the opportunity to be involved in the decision-making process by participating on the Policy Council which is comprised of parents of currently enrolled children, community members, and past parents.

Parents are elected by their fellow parents at the center level and participate in monthly meetings with program management staff.

The Policy Council allows parents and community members to be actively involved in the strategic planning and evaluation of the program by offering their feedback and suggestions. They are also integral in the hiring process, serving on interview committees and giving approval of potential hires.

The Policy Council also has several sub-committees that work in conjunction with management staff to review program information in detail.



Health Services

The program provides comprehensive health services such as preventative vision and hearing screenings, height and weight monitoring and fluoride varnish. We work closely with families to connect them with medical and dental services in the community.

226 children who are up-to-date on a schedule of age-appropriate preventative and primary health care

240 children who are up-to-date on a schedule of age-appropriate preventative and primary dental care

296 children with continuous, accessible health care

285 children with continuous, accessible dental care provided by a dentist

Nutrition Services

North Idaho College Head Start participates in USDA's Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). Each center has a full kitchen in which nutritional and delicious meals are prepared each day. Meals are served family-style where children are encouraged to serve themselves. Serving themselves gives children time to practice skills like passing, pouring, and scooping foods.

Meals Served to Head Start Children in 2024-2025

20,306
Breakfast meals

23,409
Lunch meals

12,554
Snacks

Budget Programs

2024-2025

Income and Expenses

Total Income	\$4,230,478
Federal Grant	\$3,792,415
USDA Reimbursement	\$173,266
TANF Funding	\$250,897
Harding Family Center Rentals	\$13,290
Other*	\$610

Total Expenses	\$4,230,478
Personnel	\$2,309,179
Fringe	\$889,186
Travel	\$14,340
Equipment	\$10,226
Supplies	\$458,104
Contractual	\$84,774
Other**	\$464,699

2025-2026 Projected Budget

Total Income	\$4,207,202
Federal Grant	\$3,792,415
USDA Reimbursement	\$195,582
TANF Funding	\$205,205
Harding Family Center Rentals	\$14,000
Other*	—

Total Expenses	\$4,207,202
Personnel	\$2,405,158
Fringe	\$969,388
Travel	\$21,180
Equipment	—
Supplies	\$283,095
Contractual	\$75,760
Other**	\$452,621

The Temporary and Needy Families (TANF) grant allows NIC Head Start to serve 19 children through state funding provided by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare.

The annual audit was conducted by Eide Bailly in accordance with "Government Auditing Standards" issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, resulting in an "unqualified opinion."

The North Idaho College 2025 Final Financial Statements report, which includes the annual audit report, is available at: nic.edu/about/budget

Our non-federal share match collected through contributions of goods, services or time from parents and community members in 2024-2025:

\$1,188,708.14

The required match for 2024-2025:

\$948,104

* Includes donations, supplemental grants, etc.

** Includes child services (medical, dental, nutrition, and mental health/psychological, disability); fiscal audit; insurance; utilities; building leases; parent education; communications; maintenance and repair; Policy Council expenses; staff mileage; memberships; subscriptions; advertising and printing.

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usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:



U.S. Department of Agriculture

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights

1400 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, D.C. 20250-9410



(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442



program.intake@usda.gov

USDA is an equal opportunity provider.



HEAD START

North Idaho Locations



North Idaho College Head Start – Central Office

411 N. 15th St.
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
(208) 666-6755



Community Early Learning Center
1470 W. Hanley Ave.
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815
(208) 666-5493



NIC Children's Center
489 N. College Dr.
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
(208) 769-4383



St. Maries Head Start
1230 Main St.
St. Maries, ID 83861
(208) 245-6519



Harding Head Start
411 N. 15th St.
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
(208) 666-6762



Post Falls Head Start
106 W. 9th Ave.
Post Falls, ID 83854
(208) 773-6164



UpRiver Head Start
75 Fern St.
Fernwood, ID 83830
(208) 245-6519



Julien Bucher Early Learning Center
6653 Chippewa St.
Bonners Ferry, ID 83805
(208) 267-5756



Sandpoint Head Start
101 S. Euclid
Sandpoint, ID 83864
(208) 263-6232



Lakeland Head Start
14797 N. Kimo Ct.
Rathdrum, ID 83858
(208) 687-1682



Shoshone Head Start
123 W. Mission Ave.
Kellogg, ID 83837
(208) 784-5581