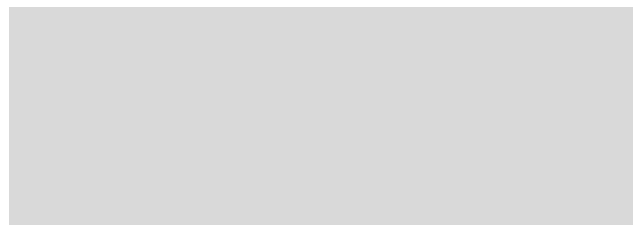


2021-2022

ANNUAL REPORT

DRAKE UNIVERSITY HEAD START



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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Head Start and Early Head Start programs provide early childhood education to children ages birth to five. The majority of the families served by Head Start and Early Head Start face significant challenges such as poverty, homelessness, disability, or trauma.

The US Department of Health and Human Services – Administration for Children and Family Services – Office of Head Start (ACF-OHS) provides funding for Head Start/Early Head Start grantees across the nation. Drake University has served children and families in Central Iowa through the Head Start/Early Head Start grant since 1977.

During the 2021-2022 program year, Drake University operated two grants: the Head Start/Early Head Start (HS/EHS) grant and the Early Head Start - Child Care Partnership (EHS-CCP) grant.

The EHS-CCP grant was designed to improve the quality of existing child care programs and expand access to high-quality care for infants and toddlers. **The Drake University EHS-CCP 2021-2022 Annual Report can be found within this report following the Head Start/Early Head Start section.**

Head Start

Drake University is the Grantee for the largest Head Start grant in the state of Iowa. Drake University provides Head Start services to children ages three to five across six counties: Polk, Boone, Warren, Jasper, Marion, and Story (Ames only). Drake University Head Start classrooms are located in the following cities:

- Ames
- Ankeny
- Boone
- Des Moines
- Indianola
- Knoxville
- Newton
- West Des Moines

Families in Polk County also have the option for home-based Head Start services.

Des Moines Public Schools (DMPS), the largest school district in the state, provides Head Start services in the DMPS enrollment area as a Delegate of Drake University Head Start.

Early Head Start

Early Head Start (EHS) programming is available to children from birth to three years of age who reside in Polk County. The EHS home visiting program is available to children ages birth to three. Children between the ages of two and three have the option to attend a center-based program uniquely designed to suit the specific needs of toddlers.

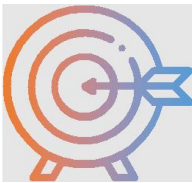
PROGRAM GOALS

Program goals are determined at the start of each 5-year project period. Drake University Head Start's goals for the 2020-2025 project period are:



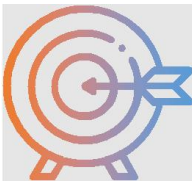
GOAL #1

Children will be better prepared for school success.



GOAL #2

Enhance the monitoring system to fully utilize data to make informed program decisions.



GOAL #3

Foster a positive culture and climate built upon collaboration and strengths.



GOAL #4

Empower families to be their child's first, most important, and forever teacher.

FUNDING

Drake University Head Start receives federal funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services through the Administration for Children and Families – Office of Head Start (ACF-OHS).

The agency was awarded a total of \$10,652,924 for the 2021-2022 program year. This figure includes \$605,179 for carryover of prior year operating funds and \$491,389 for carryover COVID-19 CARES Act funding. A cost of living adjustment of 1.22% on operating funds only was awarded to all Head Start grantees in the 2021-2022 program year. For Drake University, this provided an increase of \$94,049 for the Head Start Operating budget, and \$19,762 for the Early Head Start Operating budget.

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to present many challenges throughout the program year. Classrooms closed and services were offered virtually with limited in-person interaction as a result of child and staff illness and staff shortages. The result of virtual programming, remote office staff, and overall staffing shortages/vacancies was that many of the usual supplies and consumables did not need ordered and a funding balance remained at the end of the program year. The surplus funds not requested from the funding agency were approved for carryover into the 2022-2023 program year.

The following tables and charts detail the funding allocation, proposed budget, and actual expenditures for the Drake University HS/EHS grant for the 2021-2022 program year.

2021-2022 Drake University Head Start Funding Allocation	
Head Start Programming*	\$8,356,479
Head Start Training**	\$77,587
Early Head Start Programming	\$1,691,265
Early Head Start Training	\$35,204
Carryover COVID-19- CARES Act ***	\$491,389
Total Funding Award	\$10,651,924

*Includes \$2,351,459 in Head Start funds for contractual Delegate programming.

**Includes \$11,448 training funds for contractual Delegate training.

***includes \$243,588 in COVID Care Act Carryover funds for Delegate playgrounds.

FUNDING (cont.)

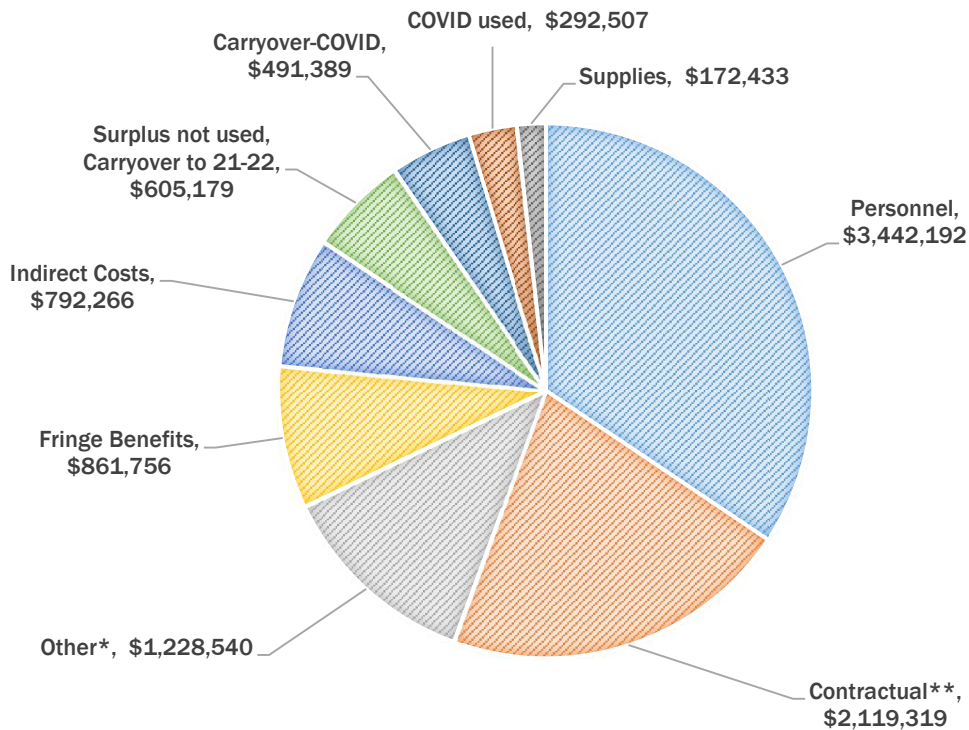
2021-2022 Proposed Budget

Personnel	\$ 3,923,784
Contractual (DMPS Delegate) ¹	\$ 2,362,907
Fringe Benefits	\$ 1,098,602
Indirect Costs	\$ 1,021,817
Supplies	\$ 138,877
Equipment ²	\$ 0
Travel	\$ 11,409
Other	\$ 2,094,528
Construction	\$ 0
Total	\$10,651,924

¹Includes DMPS portion of carryover COVID funds, \$243,588

²"Equipment" refers to capital equipment with a value of \$5,000 or greater. No capital equipment was anticipated or purchased during the 2021-2022 program year.

2021-2022 ACTUAL EXPENDITURES



*Other includes expenditures such as repair/maintenance, space and construction costs, interpretation/translation services, software, etc.

**Contractual refers to Drake University Head Start's contract with DMPS (Delegate agency). Includes operating \$2,107,871 and training \$11,448.

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

Poverty

Data from the United States Census Bureau's American Community Survey (2021 Five-Year Estimates) provides a snapshot of the need that exists within the Drake University Head Start service area.

The term "poverty," as it is used here, refers to families who fall below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) established by the US government.

In the Drake University HS/EHS service area, the percentage of families living below poverty levels ranges from 3% to 10% by county, with higher levels in both Ames (18%) and Des Moines (15%). This may create the illusion that poverty is not a significant issue within this service area; however, 3-10% of the families in each of the counties served by Drake University Head Start equates to more than 15,350 families with children under five years living below the FPL across the service area.

2021 FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES

FAMILY SIZE	ANNUAL INCOME
2	\$17,420
3	\$21,960
4	\$26,500



THERE ARE MORE THAN 15,350 FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS IN THE DRAKE UNIVERSITY HEAD START SERVICE AREA LIVING BELOW THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL

Foster Care

There were 38 children in foster care served by Drake University Head Start during the 2021-2022 program year. Community Assessment data for this area comes from US Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS). According to the ACS, the number of children in foster care at a county level has increased 20% from 2019 to 2020. Jasper County had a 20% decrease; otherwise, all others had significant increases of children in foster care (Boone, 11%; Polk, 15%; Warren, 20%; Ames, 20%). The most dramatic

increase in the number of children in foster care was in Marion County. Data from the 2019 ACS indicated that there were 76 children in foster care. The 2020 ACS showed 219 children, an increase of 188%.

Free and Reduced-Price Meals

The school districts Drake University Head Start serves are generally those with a high percentage of families receiving free and reduced-price meals. Free and reduced-price meal data from the Iowa Department of Education for the 2021-2022 school year reflects that the districts in which Drake University Head Start operates had a free and reduced meals rate of around 42%. Des Moines Public Schools, the district that operates the agency's Delegate program, had a free and reduced lunch rate of 77.76%. The free and reduced meal rate was stable from the prior year for Des Moines Public Schools. Decreases ranging from 1-11% and increases ranging from up to 24% were seen in some districts.

ENROLLMENT

Funded Enrollment

Drake University Head Start receives funding to serve 892 Head Start/Early Head Start children ages birth to five across a six-county service area. Of the 892 children Drake University Head Start is funded to serve, DMPS serves 420 Head Start children in the district attendance area. Drake University provides Head Start services for 384 preschool-age children and 88 Early Head Start children.

One of the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic experienced by Head Start agencies across the nation is reduced child enrollment.

DRAKE UNIVERSITY HEAD START SERVED 809 CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES OVER THE COURSE OF THE 2021-2022 PROGRAM YEAR

Head Start Enrollment

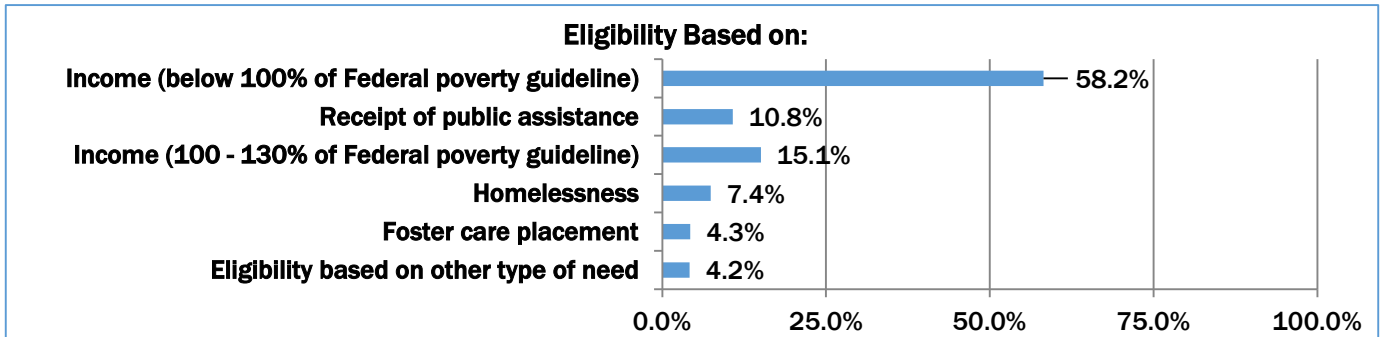
Head Start Funded Enrollment: 804
Average monthly Head Start Enrollment:
83.7%*
*Average monthly HS enrollment (Sept-May)

Early Head Start Enrollment

Early Head Start Funded Enrollment: 88
Average monthly Early Head Start Enrollment:
97.9%*
*Average monthly EHS enrollment (July-June)

Eligibility

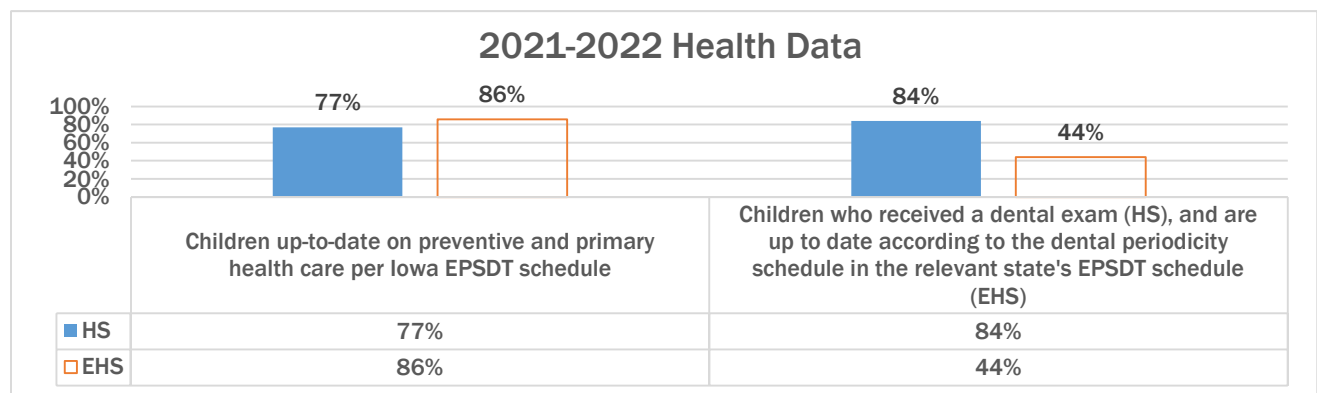
Many families served by the program are eligible in multiple categories; however, Head Start programs may report only one eligibility category per family to the US Department of Health and Human Services. The percentage of eligible children in each category is reported below.



HEALTH

Along with conducting hearing, vision, and developmental screenings for enrolled children, Head Start provides families with educational materials and resources that underscore the importance of keeping children healthy.

The chart below reflects the percentage of children who were up to date on their preventive and primary health care, those who received a dental exam by the end of the program year for HS children, and those who are up to date according to the dental periodicity schedule in the relevant state’s EPSDT schedule.



Health Education

Health education events provide Grantee and Delegate families with resources and tools to meet their health goals. In the 2020-2021 program year, trainings were only offered virtually due to COVID-19 restrictions. Because many Head Start and EHS parents have limited access to mobile

devices and data to participate in virtual trainings, attendance at these trainings was low. As a result, only one *Health Care Institute* training was offered during the 2021-2022 program year. The agency hopes to continue with more *Health Care Institute* trainings and engage parents to attend now that they are also able to be back into the classrooms on a limited basis. *CPR and First Aid for Friends and Family* is offered in service areas where the Parent Needs and Interests Survey indicates high parent interest.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Drake University Head Start engages families in their child's learning and development through parent education, leadership opportunities in program governance, and parent/child activities and events.

Parent Education

Drake University Head Start staff work one-on-one with parents to learn more about the family's needs and provide parents with appropriate resources.

Parent Resources

In addition to individualized resources, families receive:

- MONTHLY NEWSLETTERS
- MONTHLY *KID FOOD* AND *SMART FOOD* BULLETINS
- PARENT EDUCATION CLASSES
 - HEALTH CARE INSTITUTE
 - POSITIVE SOLUTIONS FOR FAMILIES
- ACCESS TO A FAMILY LENDING LIBRARY
- PARENT AND CHILD TOGETHER (PACT) TIME TO PROMOTE PARENT/CHILD ENGAGEMENT AT SCHOOL IN THE CLASSROOM
 - WEEKLY FOR DMPS
 - MONTHLY FOR DRAKE UNIVERSITY HEAD START



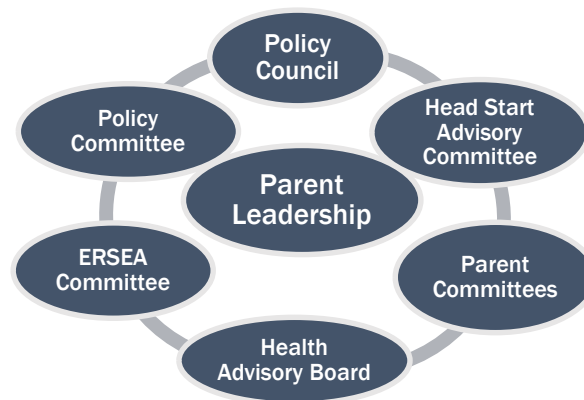
Des Moines Public Schools Early Education Programs offers parent education through virtual and social media platforms. These platforms were utilized in response to district health, safety, and security measures. Based upon responses from fall and spring parent surveys, needs assessments, and family partnership agreements, community connections and evidence-based parent education opportunities were offered. Family Engagement Facilitators share information and resources with families using *SNAP! Connect*, a private media platform which translates into more than 75 languages. Families are notified of opportunities and resources related to health, safety, mental health, school readiness, and community connections. Resources shared with

families include seasonal and utility assistance, adult education, employment opportunities, citizenship support, public libraries, clinics, housing and financial education and more. Families can request assistance in making connections through the *SNAP! Connect* app, with their messaging being translated to and from members of the Family Support Service Team.

DMPS Head Start partnered with Iowa State Extension University to offer virtual parent education titled *Our Bookshelf*, a 4-part, evidence-based series promoting early literacy home-based activities, available in both English and Spanish. ISU Extension's Expanded Food and Nutrition programming is also promoted to families. Family Engagement Facilitators presented the *Positive Solutions for Families* training series to families in both English and Spanish via Microsoft Teams.

Parent Leadership

Parents are encouraged to develop their leadership skills by participating in a variety of committees and sub-committees within the agency's governance structure. The image below displays the different opportunities Drake University Head Start and DMPS offer parents throughout the program year.



Parent/Child Activities and Events

In addition to PACT times, most years, Drake University Head Start offers three agency-wide parent/child events for all enrolled children and their families:

- A Day at Living History Farms
- An Evening at the Science Center of Iowa
- Head Start Day at the Blank Park Zoo

In 2021-2022, however, Drake University Head Start was not able to offer the annual Science Center event due to COVID-19, but had record-setting

attendance at the Living History Farms and Blank Park Zoo events. Over 550 children and adults attended each event.

SCHOOL READINESS

School Readiness Goals

Drake University Head Start's foremost goal is that "Children will be better prepared for school success." Agency objectives assess progress toward this goal to address overall school performance with a focus on social-emotional development and literacy skills.

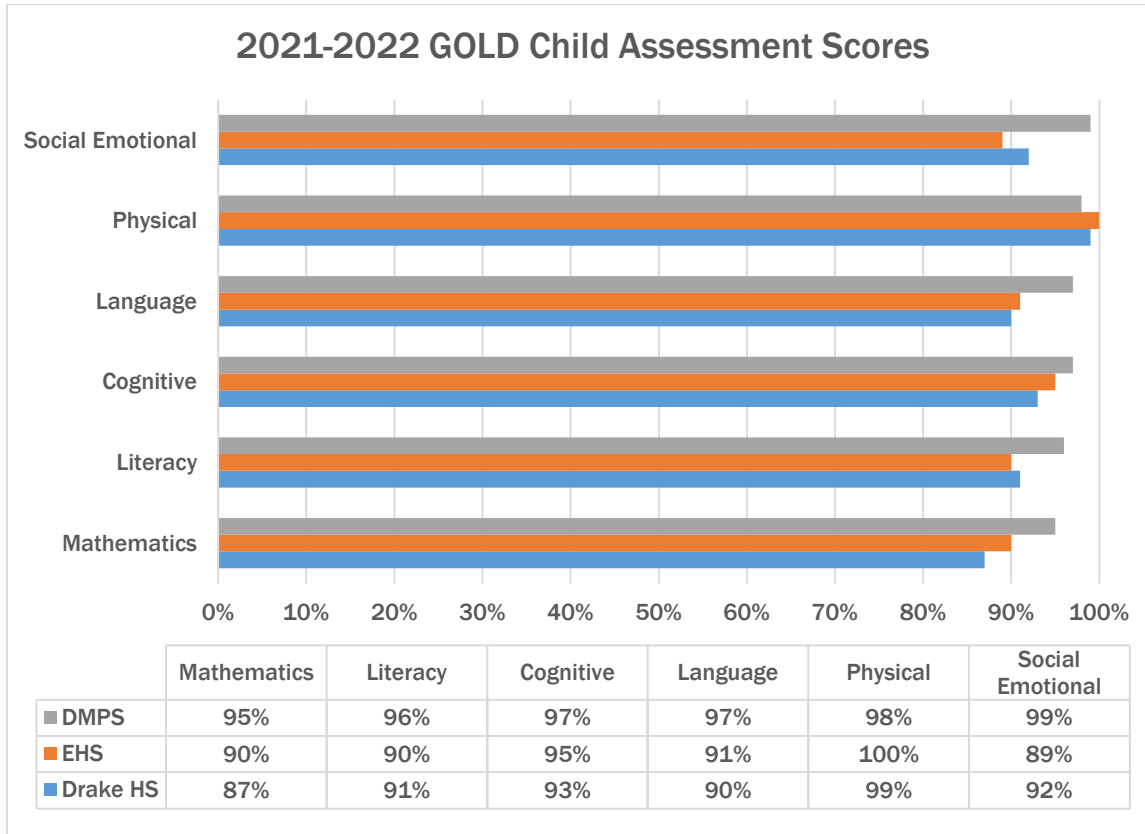
GOLD

Drake University Head Start and Early Head Start programs conduct ongoing child assessment using the Teaching Strategies GOLD Online Assessment System. Teachers and Infant/Toddler Specialists enter anecdotal and media evidence into the GOLD database, assessing child progress at common checkpoints during the year.

THE GOLD ONLINE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM MEASURES CHILD PROGRESS TOWARD AGE-APPROPRIATE, WIDELY HELD EXPECTATIONS IN THE FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTAL DOMAINS:





- SOCIAL EMOTIONAL
- PHYSICAL
- COGNITIVE
- LANGUAGE
- LITERACY
- MATHEMATICS

The following chart represents the percentage of children meeting or exceeding GOLD Widely Held Expectations at the end of the 2021-2022 program year. These numbers represent all children enrolled in the Grantee Head Start and Early Head Start programs as well as those enrolled in the DMPS Delegate Head Start program.



HEAD START PREPARES CHILDREN FOR KINDERGARTEN

Drake University Head Start and Des Moines Public Schools partner with families to facilitate a successful transition to kindergarten. Head Start works closely with families, helping them plan for this change through:

-  Discussions about transition during parent-teacher conferences;
-  Information to parents about their child’s neighborhood school, including information on registration/enrollment processes for kindergarten such as Kindergarten Round Up;
-  Information to parents about summer learning opportunities; and
-  Exchange of pertinent information and student records with parents and between programs as appropriate.

FEDERAL MONITORING REVIEW

The most recent federal monitoring review for Drake University Head Start took place in March, 2022. A federal monitoring review team conducted a Focus Area Two monitoring review with Drake University Head Start. Team members visited Grantee and Delegate classrooms, observing daily operations for compliance with the Head Start Act of 2007 and Head Start Program Performance Standards.

Overview of Findings

The Overview of Findings is explicitly aligned with sections of the Head Start Program Performance Standards and Head Start Act of 2007. The Overview of Findings identifies areas of compliance, non-compliance, or concern for each section from the Head Start Monitoring Protocol. Results of the monitoring review showed one concern and one area of non-compliance with OHS standards and the Head Start Act of 2007 641A(c)(2)(F). Remediation measures were immediately implemented and both the concern and the non-compliance have been resolved.

AUDIT REPORT

An independent audit for Drake University, which included both grants, was conducted by Deloitte & Touche, LLP. No concerns were noted in the Independent Auditor's Report dated November 22, 2022.

EARLY HEAD START CHILD CARE PARTNERSHIP (EHS-CCP)



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Early Head Start Child Care Partnership (EHS-CCP) grant is a partnership between the Office of Head Start and the Office of Child Care, two branches of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Through this grant, Drake University works with seven local child care centers to serve 90 infants and toddlers in Des Moines, Iowa. Partner centers are located within areas of the city where a high proportion of at-risk youth and families reside.

PROGRAM GOALS

The 2021-2022 school year marked Year Three of the grant's second five-year project period. Program goals for this project period are:



GOAL #1

Improve outcomes for children by providing comprehensive, full-day, full-year experiences in a quality learning environment facilitated by highly qualified staff.



GOAL #2

Provide support and education to parents to improve self-sufficiency and competency in their roles as parents.



GOAL #3

Increase staff qualifications and skills through instructional coaching and quality, comprehensive professional development.

The following child care centers are Drake University's EHS-CCP partners:

- Capitol Park Early Learning Center
- Children & Families of Iowa – Child Development Center
- Conmigo Early Education Center
- House of Mercy Child Development Center
- Little Sprouts Children's Center
- Oak Academy
- Wonder Years Academy

During this project period, Drake University Head Start has continued to recruit families, provide high quality family services to enrolled children, and provide innovative professional development and instructional coaching to teaching staff, directors, and administrators. Additionally, the agency has developed collaborative relationships with organizations that support children and families as they age out of the EHS-CCP program.

EHS-CCP: FUNDING

EHS-CCP funding is awarded by the same source as Head Start and Early Head Start funding: the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families' Office of Head Start.

This grant received a total of \$1,347,281 for the 2021-2022 program year. This figure includes \$133,486, for carryover operating funds from the prior year, and \$28,958 for carryover COVID-19 – Cares Act funding. A cost of living adjustment of 1.22% was awarded to all EHS-CCP grantees in the 2021-2022 program year. This adjustment, in the amount of \$13,981, applies only to operating funds.

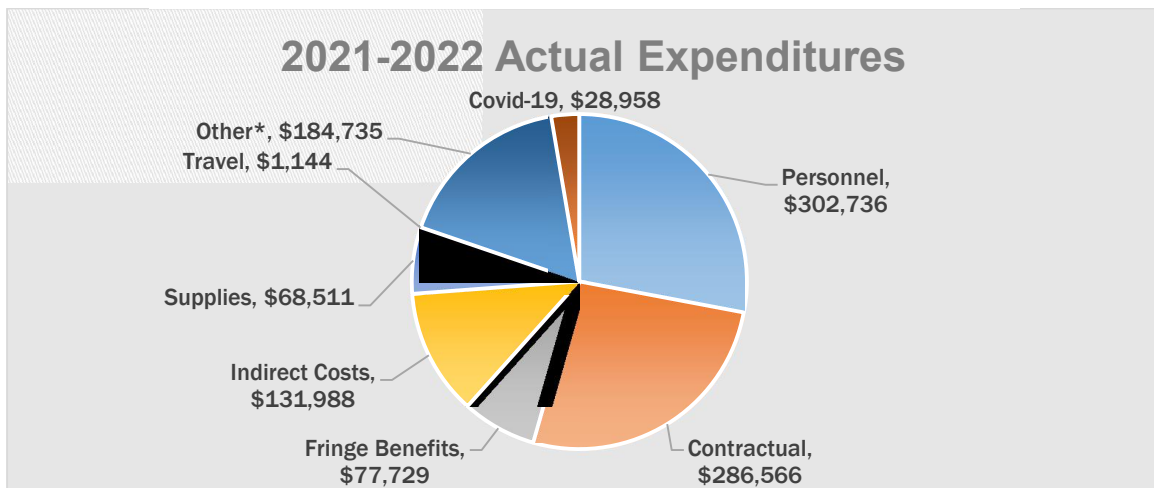
The COVID-19 pandemic continued to create many challenges for our child care partners. Although they remained open throughout the majority of the pandemic, increased demand for services could not be met due to staffing shortages that reduced the number of children they could serve in their centers.

2021-2022 Drake University EHS-CCP Funding Allocation	
Early Head Start Programming *	\$1,293,417
Early Head Start Training	\$ 24,906
COVID-19 - CARES Act carryover	\$ 28,958
TOTAL FUNDING AWARD	\$ 1,347,281

*includes carryover operating funds of \$133,486

EHS-CCP: FUNDING (cont.)

2021-2022 EHS-CCP Proposed Budget	
Personnel	\$ 311,300
Contractual	\$ 396,532
Fringe Benefits	\$ 87,685
Indirect Costs	\$ 168,159
Supplies	\$ 51,500
Equipment ¹	\$ 0
Travel	\$ 2,036
Other*	\$ 330,069
Total	\$1,347,281



*Other includes expenditures such as repair/maintenance, space and construction costs, interpretation/translation services, software, etc.

EHS-CCP: COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

EHS-CCP services are provided in areas of the city where the greatest concentration of at-risk families resides. Demographic data for Des Moines' Urban Core, where partner centers are located, reflects a low-income population where more residents rent than own and many do not pursue higher education.

In the 2021 American Community Survey Five Year Estimates, the US Census Bureau reported that 10.4% of families with children under the age of five in Polk County were living below the federal poverty level. Census data shows that 13.5% of families with a child under the age of five in Des Moines are living below the federal poverty level.

Census data over the course of this project period shows steady growth of Des Moines' population by about 1% annually. The percentage of DMPS families eligible for free and reduced-price meals remained steady at 77.8% during the 2021-2022 school year.

EHS-CCP: ENROLLMENT

Eligibility

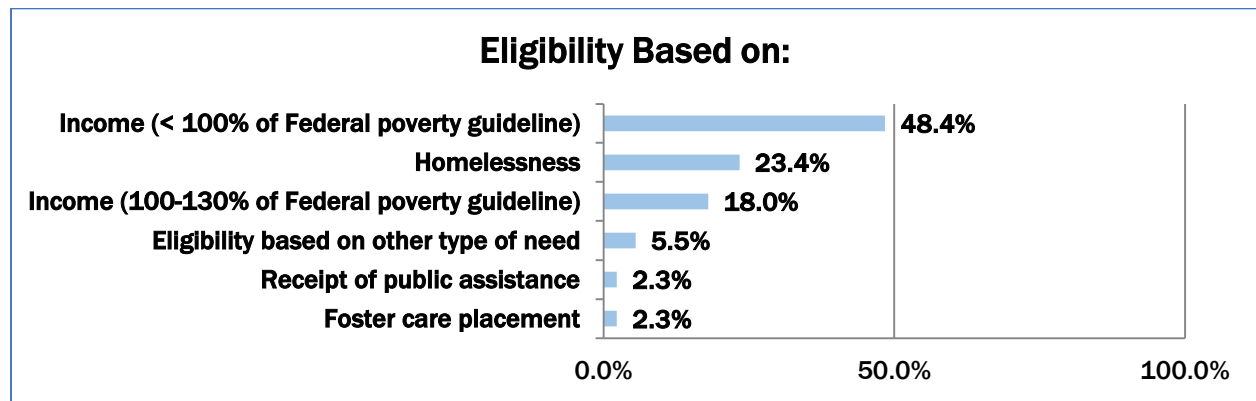
During the 2021-2022 program year, cumulative enrollment for Drake University's EHS-CCP program was 128 children. Many families served by the program are eligible in multiple categories. However, Head Start agencies report only one eligibility category per family to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The percentage of children in each category is reported below.

2021 FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES

FAMILY SIZE	ANNUAL INCOME
2	\$17,420
3	\$21,960
4	\$26,500



13.5% OF THE FAMILIES IN DES MOINES WITH CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 5 ARE LIVING IN POVERTY



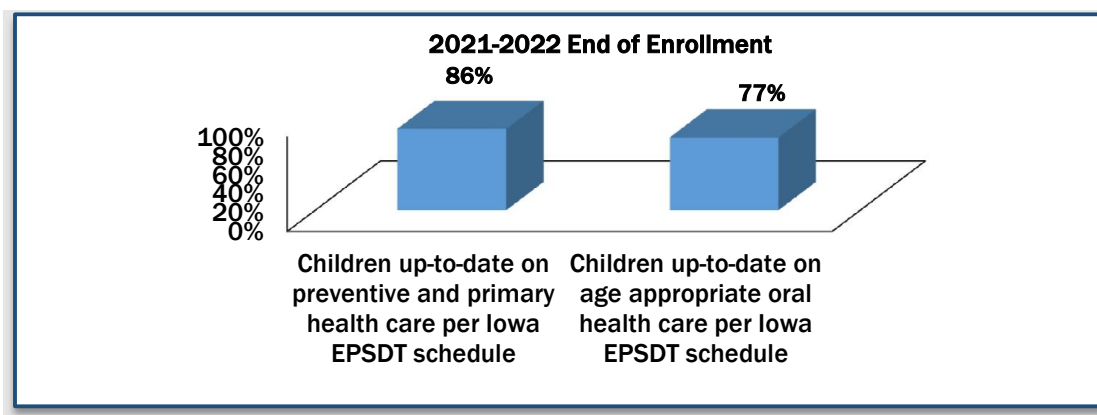
Enrollment

The data below reflects the average enrollment throughout the 2021-2022 program year.

Monthly Funded Enrollment: 90 children
Average Monthly Enrollment: 90.2%

EHS-CCP: HEALTH

Drake University EHS-CCP staff provide resources and education to families then follow up with referrals to appropriate providers. Drake University EHS-CCP focuses on improving the overall health of families by encouraging healthy habits.



EHS-CCP: FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Family Goals and Parent Education

EHS-CCP family engagement activities include parent education, parent leadership opportunities, and home visits. During the enrollment process, Family Engagement Specialists work with families to develop individualized goals based on the families’ needs and interests. Family Engagement

Specialists maintain routine contact with families throughout their child's enrollment to help them move toward goals.

EHS-CCP families are invited to the agency's *Health Care Institute* to learn more about how to handle various childhood illnesses and when it is imperative for children to see a doctor. They are also invited to participate in three agency-wide parent/child events each year for all enrolled children and their families:

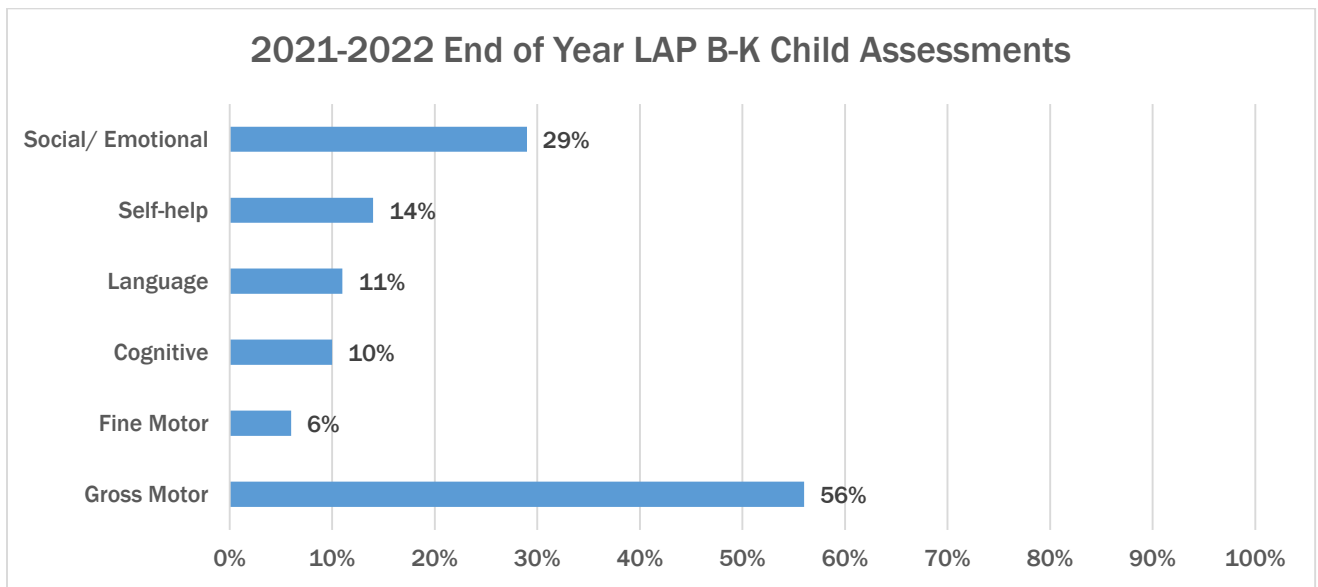
- A Day at Living History Farms
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In 2021-2022, Drake University Head Start was not able to offer the annual Science Center event due to COVID-19, but had record-setting attendance at the Living History Farms and Blank Park Zoo events. Over 550 children and adults attended each event.

EHS-CCP: SCHOOL READINESS

In infant and toddler classrooms, school readiness skills are demonstrated through child/caregiver relationships rather than writing or drawing samples. EHS-CCP programming focuses on creating a secure base for the children and forming relationships.

EHS-CCP classrooms use Learning Accomplishment Profile Birth to Kindergarten (LAP B-K) to assess child progress toward widely held expectations in each domain. Aggregated spring 2022 assessment data for the seven Child Development Centers is depicted below. The 2019-2020 program year was the first year all seven Child Development Centers utilized the LAP B-K tool. Percentages reported reflect children who have demonstrated proficiency in 51-100% of the domain items.



EHS-CCP: REVIEW RESULTS

The most recent federal monitoring review for Drake University Head Start took place in March, 2022. A federal monitoring review team conducted a Focus Area Two monitoring review with Drake University Head Start. Team members visited Grantee and Delegate classrooms, observing daily operations for compliance with the Head Start Act of 2007 and Head Start Program Performance Standards.

Overview of Findings

The Overview of Findings is explicitly aligned with sections of the Head Start Program Performance Standards and Head Start Act of 2007. The Overview of Findings identifies areas of compliance, non-compliance, or concern for each section from the Head Start Monitoring Protocol. Results of the monitoring review showed one concern and one area of non-compliance with OHS standards and the Head Start Act of 2007 641A(c)(2)(F). Remediation measures were immediately implemented, and both the concern and the non-compliance have been resolved.

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