



LA CASA
de Esperanza, Inc.



Early
Head Start

EARLY HEAD START

2023-2024

ANNUAL REPORT



(262) 547-0887

www.lacasadeesperanza.org

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LEADERSHIP

MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

On behalf of La Casa de Esperanza's Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, and the children and families that participate in our programs, we are grateful for the opportunity to serve our community through the Early Head Start Program. Early Head Start is a program that clearly illustrates La Casa's mission to provide opportunities for financial and social self-sufficiency by providing services that strengthen families and give infants and toddlers the best possible head start in life.

"Our goal is to recruit and enroll children and families who are most in need within the community. La Casa is finishing its eleventh year of providing high-quality services to children and families through this valuable program, and we are excited to share with you the strengths and challenges in the Early Head Start Annual Report from August 1, 2023, through July 31, 2024."

Very best regards,

Shari Campbell
President & CEO

Amy Orta
Director of Early Childhood
Education Program

Policy Council

Members

Maria Carrillo - Chair
(Parent)

Jazmin Walls (Community
Member - Former EHS
Parent)

Luisa Garcia
(Parent)

Jill Herz
(Community Member-
Secretary)

Chenika West
(Parent)



POLICY COUNCIL

La Casa de Esperanza's Early Head Start Policy Council is an active advisory body consisting of parents and community participants who are committed to ensuring that the children and families we serve receive the most comprehensive and quality services possible. We greatly appreciate the time and commitment each member contributes to the Policy Council and highly encourage parents and other stakeholders to become involved.

FEDERAL MONITORING REVIEW RESULTS

From June 12, 2022, through June 16, 2023, La Casa de Esperanza's Early Head Start Program received its Focus Area 2 review Federal Monitoring Review. The review resulted in no deficiencies. However, there was one area of non-compliance. From December 4, 2023, to December 8, 2023, the Administration of Children and Families (ACF) conducted a monitoring review of La Casa de Esperanza's Early Head Start to determine whether the previously identified findings had been corrected. We are happy to announce that the Administration for Children and Families closed the previously identified findings based on the information gathered during the review.

FULL ENROLLMENT INITIATIVE

On November 3, 2023, La Casa de Esperanza received a letter from the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), pursuant to Section 641A(h)(3) of the Head Start Act, La Casa de Esperanza, Inc. is required to develop a plan in collaboration with the Office of Head Start (OHS) to address its current under enrollment status. La Casa de Esperanza, Inc. will be given 12 months to achieve at least 97 percent enrollment.

Our Families

Parents and guardians that participate in the program self report that:

63% are Hispanic and 44% live in Spanish-speaking households.

73% live in households with annual income under \$25,000 per year.

57% live in households headed by single parents.

62% of the parents are under the age of 30 with 31% under the age of 24.

26% of children experienced homelessness during enrollment year.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The home-based program operates with four home-based educators and serves 46 children (40 through federal funding and 6 through state funding) ages birth to three, as well as pregnant women. Our Early Head Start program uses comprehensive and interdisciplinary services to foster optimal growth and development, ultimately meeting our school readiness goals and promoting positive parental involvement. La Casa de Esperanza's center-based Early Head Start Program is located at our Community Center near downtown Waukesha, Wisconsin. Our center-based program operates year-round from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., serving 32 children ages six weeks to three years.

Total number of children served	86
Total number of families served	79
Total number of families experiencing homelessness	26
Percent of children who received medical exams	68

**Wisconsin does not require dental exams for children ages 0-3 years.*

**Some families did not seek medical care during the pandemic*

ENROLLMENT

La Casa de Esperanza is funded and authorized to provide services for 78 children and families. During the period of this report, August 1, 2023, through July 31, 2024, 70% of enrollment was maintained.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

At La Casa de Esperanza, we know that parents are their children's first and most important teachers. Parental involvement is critical to the success of children. Therefore, La Casa de Esperanza's Early Head Start Program continuously strives to increase parental involvement by providing multiple volunteering opportunities, collaborating with teachers, and attending events.

Parents are always welcome at the agency and in the classroom to:

- **Help with and/or lead activities and projects in the classroom. Parents have come to read stories and assist teachers with art projects and special activities.**
- **Attend special events such as Breakfast with Santa, Harvest Fest, and Health Fair.**
- **Assist the teacher in classroom planning efforts.**
- **Participate in activities and shared program governance through the Parent Committee and the Policy Council.**
- **Participate in family engagement nights, socializations, and at home activities that are designed to enrich the classroom activities and experiences.**

We encourage parents to share their opinions, thoughts, and ideas with us and lend resources so that they can support their children's learning at home. We also promote the sharing of a favorite song, tradition, or other aspect of a family's culture.



PREPARING CHILDREN FOR SCHOOL

At La Casa, we believe in a comprehensive approach to preparing children for academic success, starting even before birth. With our expanded EHS home-based option, parents receive education about school readiness that covers all aspects of their child's development. Our Home-Based Educators and Family Service Specialists begin to educate parents about early fetal development and the beginnings of bonding and attachment with their babies. A child who feels safe and secure is ready to learn. Our educators ensure that our parents and children are prepared for future academic success by implementing our School Readiness Goals. These goals are not just academic, but cover each of the developmental domains, including Language and Communication, Cognition and General Knowledge, Health and Physical Development, Social Emotional Development and Approaches to Learning. Each goal created is integrated into the children's individual lesson plans, classroom curriculum, and staff and parent training. La Casa de Esperanza is committed to preparing our children and families with the tools necessary to be prepared and ready for school.

OUR EXPERTS STAFF MAKES THE DIFFERENCE

To serve the individual needs of our children and families in a comprehensive and coordinated manner, we are excited to add these content experts to our staff team:

- **Home-Based Educators and Family Service Coordinator**
- **Education Coordinator**
- **Mental Health Professional**
- **Nurse Consultant**
- **Nutritionist Consultant**
- **Disabilities Consultant**
- **Teachers with an Infant/Toddler Credential, Associates or Bachelors Degrees (All classes maintain a 1:4 teacher to child ratio)**



TEACHING STRATEGIES GOLD

ASSESSMENTS

To ensure that our Early Head Start children are growing and learning at a rate that is greater than or consistent with their age levels, individualized implementation plans are developed for each child by these research assessment tools and curriculum:

- Teaching Strategies Gold Assessments and Checkpoints
- Ages and Stages questionnaires for developmental and social-emotional screenings
- Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards
- Creative Curriculum for Infants, Toddlers, and Twos
- Parents AS TEACHERS' Curriculum
- Teacher observations
- Individualized Child Learning Plan

Creative Curriculum and Teaching Strategies Gold automatically connects assessment data and observation capabilities with daily instructional resources, creating ongoing feedback to individualize learning plans. Using this information, teachers gain a deeper understanding of each child's development and plan learning activities to better support each child.

Teaching Strategies Gold involves reviewing the data collected, analyzing the results, and making informed decisions based on the assessment data. Teachers ensure that all necessary data points have been captured for each child and utilize the generated report data to measure progress.

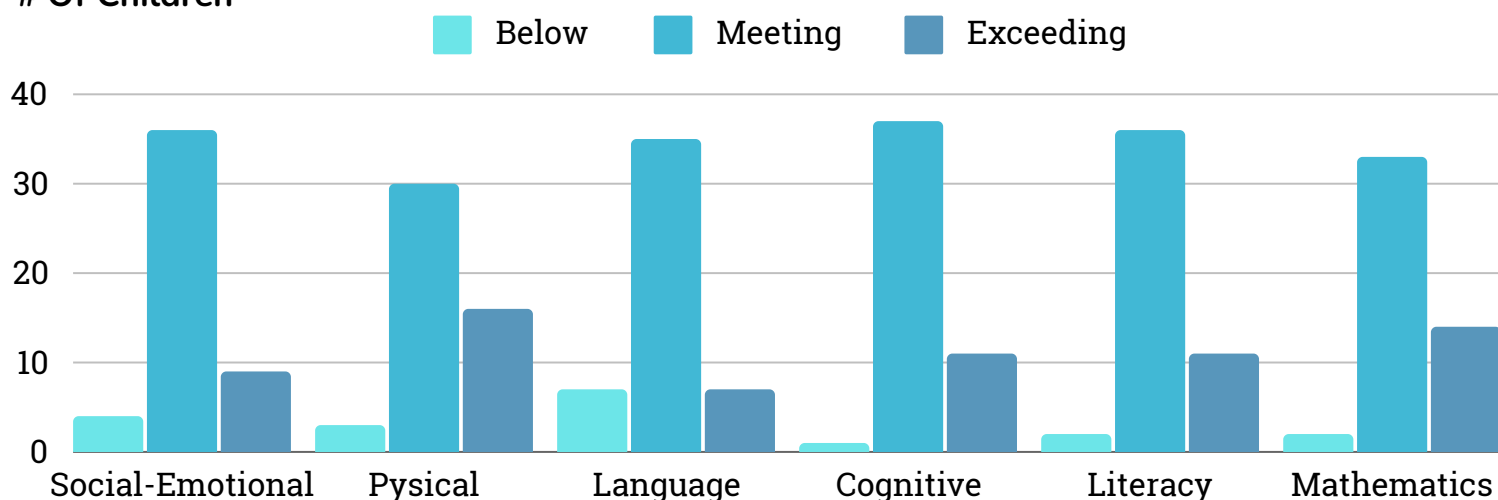
Checkpoint data in the Teaching Strategies Gold assessment system is associated with Objectives for Development and Learning in each domain, e.g., Social-Emotional, Physical, Language, Cognitive, Literacy, and Mathematics. This data aligns with the content in the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework. Teachers use this data to include individualized instruction by connecting every facet of a child's learning, from curriculum to assessment, professional development, and family engagement.

The Checkpoint data assessment results at a given point in time determine which children are below, meeting, or exceeding expectations for each learning domain. The data shown on the next page is generated from the Winter 2023/2024 to Spring/Summer 2023/2024 checkpoint period within the same program year. The data shows that there was growth in every learning domain for meeting expectations from the Winter to Spring/Summer checkpoint.

WINTER 2023/2024 INDICATES THE FOLLOWING:

- SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL: 8.16% **BELOW**, 73.47% **MEETING**, 18.37% **EXCEEDING**
- PHYSICAL: 6.12% **BELOW**, 61.22% **MEETING**, 32.65% **EXCEEDING**
- LANGUAGE: 14.29% **BELOW**, 71.43% **MEETING**, 14.29% **EXCEEDING**
- COGNITIVE: 2.04% **BELOW**, 75.51 % **MEETING**, 22.45% **EXCEEDING**
- LITERACY: 4.08% **BELOW**, 73.47% **MEETING**, 22.45% **EXCEEDING**
- MATHEMATICS: 4.08% **BELOW**, 67.35% **MEETING**, 28.57% **EXCEEDING**

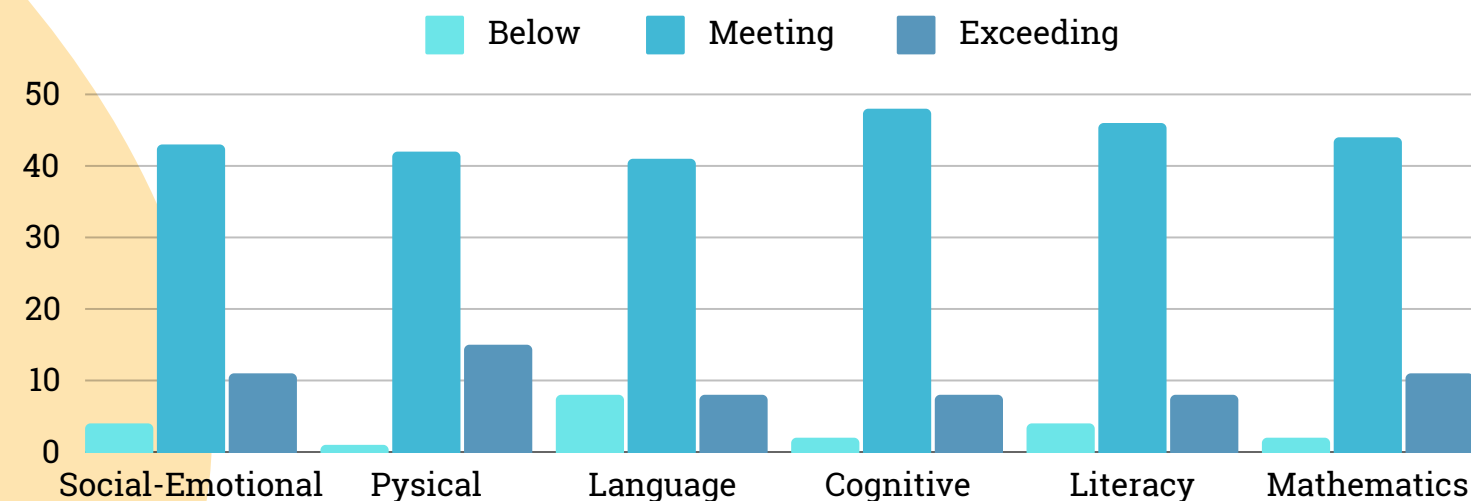
Of Children



SPRING/SUMMER 2023/2024 INDICATES THE FOLLOWING:

- SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL: 6.9% **BELOW**, 74.14% **MEETING**, 18.97% **EXCEEDING**
- PHYSICAL: 1.72% **BELOW**, 72.41% **MEETING**, 25.86% **EXCEEDING**
- LANGUAGE: 14.04% **BELOW**, 71.93% **MEETING**, 14.04% **EXCEEDING**
- COGNITIVE: 3.45% **BELOW**, 82.76% **MEETING**, 13.79% **EXCEEDING**
- LITERACY: 6.9% **BELOW**, 79.31% **MEETING**, 13.79% **EXCEEDING**
- MATHEMATICS: 3.51% **BELOW**, 77.19% **MEETING**, 19.3% **EXCEEDING**

Of Children



FINANCIALS

2023 CALANDAR YEAR AGENCY BUDGET:

Admin. Support from Programs	64,450	Cost of Goods Sold	\$7,423,200
Fee For Service Income	893,971	Personnel Expense	9,654,132
W-2 Revenue	549,450	Program Expenses	697,765
Parent Fees & Co-Pays	293,243	Marketing & Program Development	44,001
Other Fee For Service Income	0	Special Events Expenses	76,431
Rental Income	51,278	Administrative Expense	1,459,515
Private Contributions	295,754	Building & Equipment Expense	402,434
Special Events Revenue	309,535	Depreciation Expense	631,707
Grant & Contract Revenue	19,743,919	In Kind Expenses	158,393
Weatherization	14,021,274	Interest Expense	235,597
Early Head Start Federal Share	1,150,678	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$20,783,175
Early Head Start State	57,489		
United Way Grants	347,133		
DPI Meal Program	83,024		
DPI Charter School Grants	3,348,621	REVENUE	\$21,584,467
VITA Federal Grants	65,000	EXPENSES	\$20,783,175
Other Grants	670,700	CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$801,292
Interest and Investment Income	118,445		
InKind Contributions	158,393		
TOTAL REVENUE	21,584,467		

In 2023, La Casa spent \$18.4 million on Program participants' direct expenses. The major concentration is in the Cost of Goods and services provided for the Weatherization Program and La Casa's Program's Direct Personnel and Operating Expenses.

Indirect Expenses are budgeted to be \$1.2 million for the year and \$1.1 million for other program expenses such as space, food, supplies, marketing, insurance, and interest expenses.

La Casa's Financial Audit:

- There were no findings in La Casa's Financial audit for the period ending December 31, 2023
- La Casa's 2023 financial audit was reviewed and accepted by its Board of Directors and EHS Policy Council. For a complete copy of the audit, please contact Ailec Gonzalez, Chief Administrative and Finance Officer, at 262-547-0887.



LA CASA
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UNIDOSUS
AFFILIATE



ALLIANCE
for Children & Families

