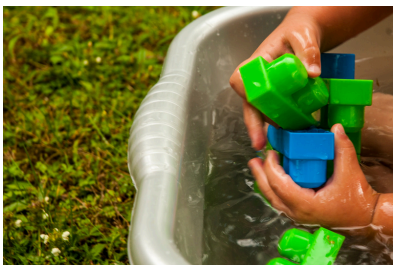




# Lower Columbia College Head Start/EHS/ECEAP

**2024**  
**Annual Report**





# CONTENTS

01.  
**To our Supporters**
02.  
**Mission and Vision**
03.  
**Program Goals**
04.  
**Developmental Outcomes & Goals**
05.  
**Measuring Progress**
06.  
**Financial Summary**
07.  
**Family & Community Partnerships**
08.  
**Parent Involvement**

# TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Dear Community,

As we close another impactful year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the dedication and resilience of our team and families. Through their hard work, significant outcomes for children were achieved. Specifically, with 100% enrollment and huge developmental gains for children across all learning domains, their efforts have made a lasting difference. With 100% of children insured and screened and 16% who received special education services, we continue to provide the comprehensive wraparound support children need to thrive.

This year also brought major program advancements, including securing a new five-year grant for Head Start/EHS, implementing smaller class sizes, launching new playground projects, and stabilizing mental health services. Thanks to your contributions through surveys, committees, and direct service, we successfully positioned our program for the future, ensuring that 294 children and families receive high-quality early learning and support in 2024-2025. Let's celebrate these achievements and continue our commitment to excellence.

Coordination with community partners, support from donors, and the unwavering dedication of our employees and parents are truly shaping brighter futures for our community's most vulnerable children.

Mindy Leasure, Program Director



# MISSION & VISION

---

Lower Columbia College Head Start/EHS/ECEAP Program is a holistic program that provides quality early childhood education experiences through comprehensive services that support income-eligible children and families, prenatal to five.

We are committed to building healthier communities by providing school readiness to each child through:

- Working together with each parent/guardian in their role as the primary nurturer and educator of their child
- Nurturing each child's and family's unique qualities and potential
- Partnering with families; building upon their strengths
- Creating an environment that promotes respect and growth
- Collaborating with community partners in Cowlitz County

Our vision is that families be empowered to make a positive difference in their lives and in the community where we all live, work and learn.



“  
we learn  
through  
play



# PROGRAM GOALS

---

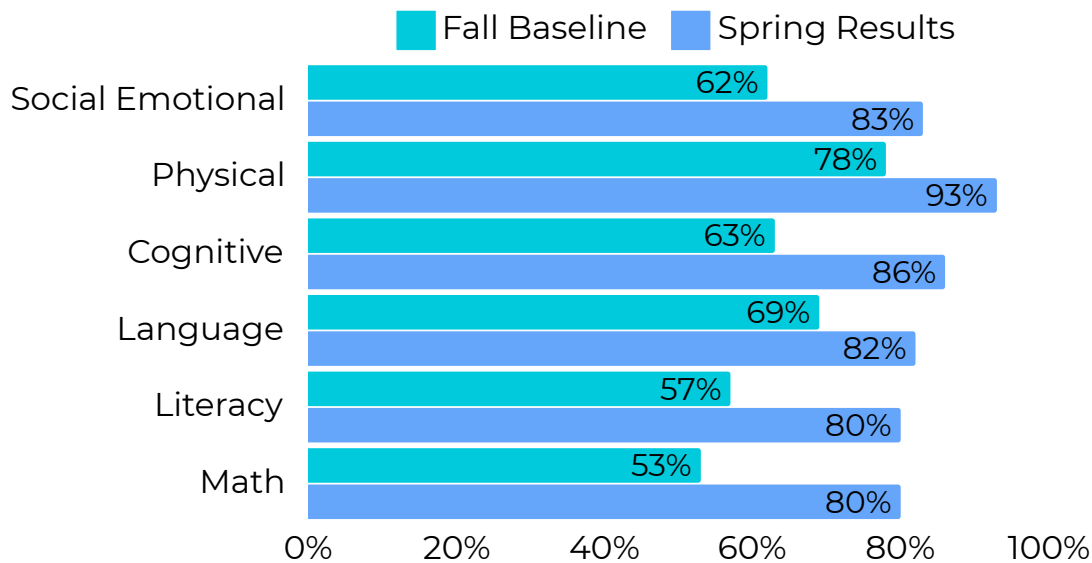
Through a collaborative process, our Board, Policy Council, and staff leveraged comprehensive community assessment and program data to define strategic goals for the 2024-2029 project period.

To provide consistent high-quality services, the Lower Columbia College Head Start/EHS/ECEA program will achieve:

- Workforce Stability
- Full Enrollment
- Safety
- School Readiness
- Health & Nutrition
- Family & Community Engagement



# DEVELOPMENTAL OUTCOMES & GOALS



Goals	Infant/Toddler	Preschool-3-5 year Old
Social/ Emotional	Children will demonstrate improved social behavior, emotion regulation, and emotional well-being	Children will display healthy and positive interactions, self-regulation and increase social skills.
Physical Development/ Health	Children will demonstrate improved perceptual, motor and physical development.	Children will learn healthy behaviors. Children will demonstrate skill in fine and gross motor
Cognition/ Approach to Learning	Children will demonstrate improved positive approaches towards learning including improved attentions skills.	Children will stay focused, problem-solve, and engage with activities and materials.
Language	Children will demonstrate improved communication, language, and emergent literacy skills.	Children will communicate with others and expand vocabulary.
Literacy		Children will gain an understanding that print has meaning and will begin to identify letters and sounds.
Math	Children will be exposed to math vocabulary and simple math quantities.	Children will use math in everyday routines and play to count, compare and identify patterns.
Positive Parent/Child Relationships	Families will demonstrate improved positive parent child/relationships.	

# MEASURING PROGRESS

## Children Enrolled

Head Start 220  
ECEAP 48  
Early Head Start 61

## Attendance

Preschool 81%  
Early Head Start 81%

## Nutrition

Nutrition Assessments  
Completed 99%  
  
Meals 12,000

## Family Services

Preschool Home Visits 1,428  
Parent/Teacher Conferences 606  
Family Partnership Goals 380

## Disability Services

Children with an  
IEP/IFSP 16%  
  
Children with an  
accommodation  
28%

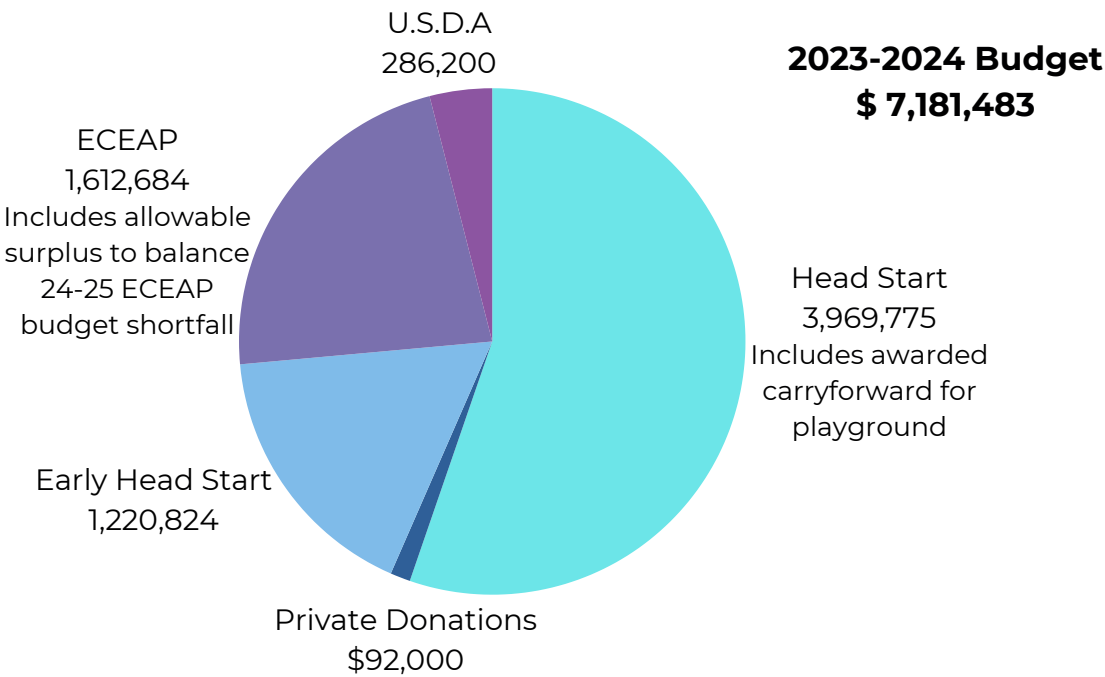
## WELLBEING

Mental Health  
Consulation  
Services 630

## Health & Dental

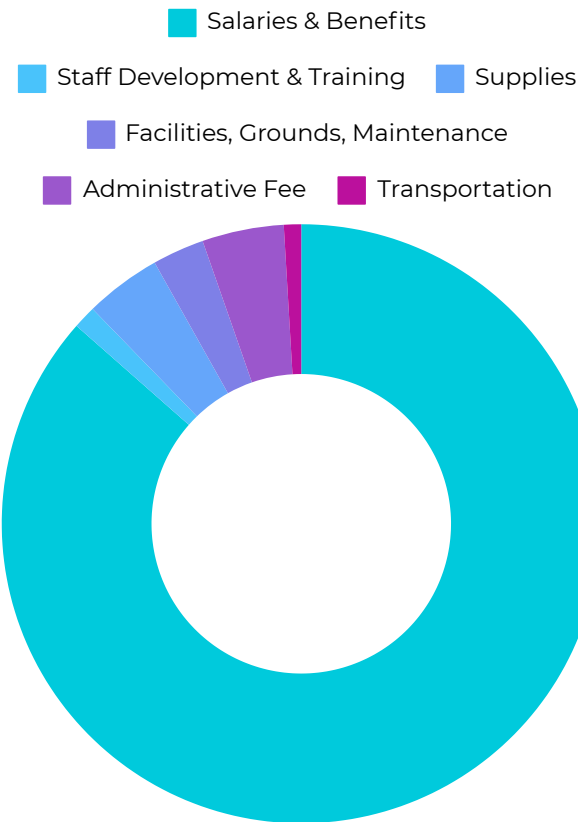
Health Insurance 100%  
  
Immunizations 91%  
Physical Exams 77%  
Dental Exams 69%

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY



**2023-2024 Expenditures**  
**\$ 6,709,855**

Salaries & Benefits	\$ 5,803,227
Staff Development & Training	\$ 83,384
Supplies	\$ 276,778
Facilities & Grounds	\$ 187,941
Administrative Fee	\$ 295,954
Transportation	\$ 62,571
Total	\$ 6,709,855





# FAMILY & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

## Generous Donors

Altrusa  
Amalak  
Audigy Group  
Carleen Wolgamott  
Carol Robbins  
Cindy Lopez-Werth  
Community Foundation for SW WA  
Daniel Fuller  
Debbie & Steve Ingram  
Diana and Ted Gruber  
Harold Mahnke  
Jumbo Toy Run  
Kelso Eagles  
Kim Gantner  
Kiwanis Club of Kelso Longview WA  
Laurie Severson  
Longview Firefighters Union  
Mindy Leasure  
Norpac  
Peggy Hoffman  
Sharon McLarty  
The Wollenberg Foundation  
United Way Designations from Kim Gantner, Daniel Fuller  
United Way of Cowlitz & Wahkiakum Counties

## Community Partnerships

Leveraging strong community partnerships, we successfully facilitated an impressive 2,700 individualized referrals to our valued partner agencies, significantly expanding the support network available to families.

## Parent and Community Leadership

Featuring dedicated parent representatives and esteemed community members, our Policy Council offers key governance with the Lower Columbia College Board of Trustees. At monthly Policy Council meetings, facilitated by trained parent leaders, they approve new hires, funding, policies, expenses, and other vital items.

Parents also have the opportunity to participate in advocacy efforts and even serve in a state-wide level.

# PARENT INVOLVEMENT

## Get Involved!

### A Head Start Parent's Call to Action

I am a second year Head Start parent and strive to be as involved as possible with my daughter's education. Early childhood education is not the same as regular child care. These providers are teaching our kids how to learn along with the social emotional skills they need to prepare them for the rest of their school career.

Parents can be involved by going to parent meetings, orientations, family nights, volunteering, and even just acknowledging what their children learn and continuing it at home. This is the transitional age between being a dependent child at home and going to kindergarten 6-7 hours a day without parents. They are expected to know basic school rules and social emotional skills. Head Start teacher, Jaci Watson, states that "preschool is a great time for parents to build their confidence in understanding how their child learns best and what they need from a classroom and educator."

Being involved with my daughter's school began by going to parent meetings. Within the year, I joined the Policy Council Executive Committee and was chosen as a Parent Ambassador for Head Start and ECEAP at the state level. I don't think parents are aware that their voices can make a difference and I want to be proof they can. My advocacy goal is to take my knowledge as far as possible to get parents more involved because our children are the future.



Justice Mendez