



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT, INC.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION & FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT

MISSION

Partnering with families to help them solve life's problems. We do this by always finding a better way to provide accepting environments, diverse services, and proven results. YDI is a family and community-based agency that improves lives.

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ABOUT YDI

Youth Development, Incorporated founded in 1971, is a nationally recognized youth and family service organization in New Mexico. We provide preschool and child care, parental care, alternative education, job training, employment assistance, mental and behavioral health services, homeless assistance, emergency housing, mentoring, family development services, and supervised visitation.

In partnership with the Office of Head Start within the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, YDI operates 28 Head Start centers throughout New Mexico; 18 in Bernalillo County, and 10 in Taos and Rio Arriba Counties. This partnership provides FREE HIGH-QUALITY early childhood education, family development services, and childcare for children ages 0 to 5 years old. The Head Start curriculum supports the physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development of young children and offers prenatal care and education for pregnant women.



MESSAGE FROM VICE PRESIDENT DEBRA BACA

Dear Parents, Grandparents, Community Partners, Policy Makers, and Child Advocates:

It is my privilege to share the incredible work of the YDI Early Childhood Education and Family Development Division. Our team has provided young children with the best early educational experiences that foster a lifelong love of learning. In conjunction with our parents and community partners, we have formed a tight knit network with common goals to safeguard and nurture children, encourage their curiosity and discovery, and ensure a healthy learning environment.

This report provides a glimpse of the critical work done by our talented staff and team of caring, and compassionate educators, service specialists, kitchen staff, center directors, maintenance crew, and administrators. You will discover the relationships YDI has developed with parents as equal partners and see the broad range of services we provide. Head Start and Early Head Start prioritizes working with children and families with the greatest need. Health outcomes reported illustrate the importance of health screening, medical and dental exams, and the positive impact of nutritious meals on brain development. When children are healthy, they are ready to learn. Educational outcomes in each of the domains are a result of phenomenal teaching techniques through a scaffolding framework which strengthens understanding and makes learning FUN!

I encourage you to visit our website at ydinm.org to learn more about the comprehensive services the agency provides.

Warmest Regards,

Debra L. Baca



FAMILIES SERVED

FAMILIES RECEIVING SERVICES

The total number of families receiving services included 593 for Head Start and 467 for Early Head Start. Services received varied as needs evolved. There was an increase in participation in the supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP) which improved access to healthy meals and reduced food insecurity. Eligibility for SNAP benefits also qualified families to gain access to other services that reduced the need for emergency crisis intervention.

2022-2023 ENROLLMENT

Approximately 12% of eligible children in Bernalillo, Rio Arriba, and Taos Counties were served.

2022-2023 ENROLLMENT		
	HEAD START	EARLY HEAD START
Funded Enrollment	693	448
Total Cumulative Enrollment (including drops and new enrollees)	625	557
Average monthly enrollment for July 2022 – June 2023	76%	68%

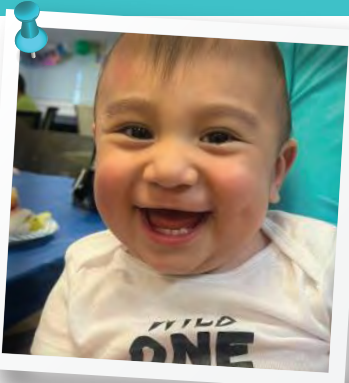
FAMILY SERVICES PROVIDED	TOTAL NUMBER OF HEAD START FAMILIES WHO RECEIVED SERVICES	TOTAL NUMBER OF EARLY HEAD START FAMILIES WHO RECEIVED SERVICES
Emergency/crisis intervention such as meeting immediate needs for food, clothing, or shelter	66	69
Housing assistance such as subsidies, utilities, repairs, etc.	44	39
Asset building services such as financial education, and debt counseling	58	46
Mental Health Services	64	58
Substance misuse prevention	3	3
Substance misuse treatment	0	1
English as a Second Language (ESL) training	8	8
Assistance in enrolling into an education or job training program	69	70
Research-based parenting curriculum	138	122
Involvement in discussing their child's screening and assessment results and their child's progress	574	282
Supporting transitions between programs such as EHS to HS and HS to kindergarten	94	122
Education on preventive medical and oral health	134	100
Education on health and developmental consequences of tobacco product use	3	37
Education on nutrition	286	165
Education on postpartum care such as breastfeeding support	11	47
Education on relationship/marriage	5	3
Assistance to families of incarcerated individuals	1	0
Of these, the number that received at least one of the services listed above	574	367
TOTAL NUMBER OF FAMILIES SERVED	593	467

EARLY HEAD START-HOME BASED

Early Head Start Home Based served a total of 132 families which included over 2280 home visits. There were families that continued into their second year of enrollment, while others received support with the transition to center-based care. Activities and events had great family participation. Home based staff conducted 22 socializations throughout the year, both virtual and in-person. As in-person events occurred, the number of participants increased over time with everyone taking precautions to stay healthy. During weekly home visits, families engaged with home visitors using the “Partners for a Healthy Baby”, research-based curriculum to develop improved prenatal care and, healthy birth outcomes, bonding and attachment, positive parenting, enhanced child health development, infant mental health, economic sufficiency, and family stability.

TRAINING & ACTIVITIES

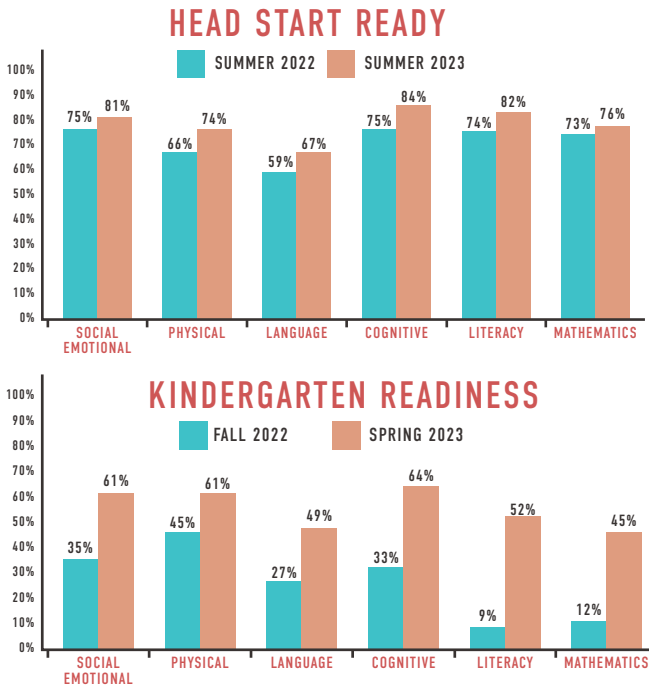
- ◆ ABRRIENDO PUERTAS/OPENING DOORS
- ◆ FIRST AIDE/CPR
- ◆ HEALTH FAIR, ENCUESTRO
- ◆ MUSIC WITH MOE
- ◆ HOME WISE, LIBRARY TOUR, TEATIME
- ◆ CAR SEAT SAFETY
- ◆ AT-HOME LEARNING
- ◆ REGULATION & CO-REGULATIONS
- ◆ ARTS & CRAFTS



EDUCATION AND SCHOOL READINESS

The 2022-2023 program year was our third year of implementing “Creative Curriculum” and its partner child assessment tool “GOLD”. After three years, our teaching staff has acquired skills and gained confidence to work with both the curriculum and assessment tool. Analysis of child outcome data revealed positive growth of Early Head Start and Head Start children. Sixteen percent of our Early Head Start children shifted from the category of not meeting expectations to Head Start Ready. Our Head Start children demonstrated similar gains with 20% more shifting from the category of not meeting expectations to Kindergarten Ready. The graphs reflect changes across the six domains of development which include social emotional, physical, language, cognitive literacy, and mathematics. Early Head Start children demonstrated growth across all domains. The data includes children that began in our program July 2022 and transitioned to Head

Start Fall 2023. Each set of vertical bars represents percentages of children who met or exceeded expectations. While gains in all domains reflected progress, we are especially pleased with growth in language, cognitive, and literacy domains as these good predictors of our children’s future academic success. Head Start results also revealed strong outcomes related to future school success. Across all six domains, our Head Start children who entered kindergarten Fall 2023, demonstrated skills that reflected they were Kindergarten Ready. A review of the graph shows that when reviewing Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 outcomes, 29% more of YDI Head Start children now in kindergarten, were prepared. Overall, 56% left our program Kindergarten Ready.



FATHER OR FATHER FIGURE ENGAGEMENT

Providing opportunities for families, to engage in activities with their children is a top priority, and we are especially proud of the level of father/father figure engagement. Father engagement reduces the frequency of behavioral problems, while also decreasing delinquency and economic disadvantage in low-income families. For girls and young women, father engagement reduces psychological problems and likelihood of depression (Children’s Bureau, 2023).

The positive changes in the number of fathers engaged in our program are:

- ◆ An 89% increase in the numbers of fathers/father figures engaged in family assessment.
- ◆ A 116% jump in fathers/father figures engaged in family goal setting.
- ◆ A 16% improvement in the number of fathers/father figures involved in their child’s Head Start experiences such as home visits or parent-teacher conferences.

We are optimistic about the father/father figure engagement improvements, we will continue to focus our efforts on providing opportunities for fathers/father figures to engage in all aspects of our program.

FATHERS ENGAGED IN ACTIVITIES	HEAD START	EARLY HEAD START
Family assessment	66	48
Family goal setting	26	30
Involvement in child's Head Start child development experiences such as home visits and parent-teacher conferences	160	73
Head Start program governance such as participation in the Policy Council	2	1
Parenting education workshops	11	0



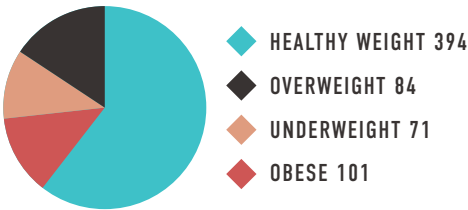
NUTRITION SERVICES

The 2022-2023 school year was a “come back year” as YDI focused on ensuring children had access to healthy meals, locally grown fruits and vegetables, and physical activity. Getting back to a pre-pandemic state by providing children with the healthiest start possible was a top priority. Early childhood nutrition practices are important for growth and development, to create healthy eating habits and to assist children in recognizing their hunger and fullness cues. Children receive two-thirds of their daily nutritional value while in a YDI classroom with YDI providing balanced meals of fruits and vegetables, whole grains, protein, and dairy. Meals served were 273,540, with 324 nutritional concerns addressed by our consultant dietitian, and 171 special diets.

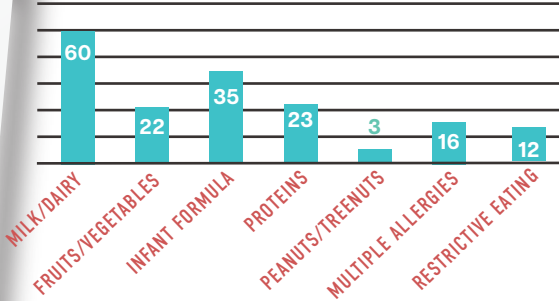
MEALS SERVED	JULY 2022-JUNE 2023
Breakfast	92,436
Lunch	94,965
PM Snacks	86,139
Total	273,540

HEAD START WEIGHTS

Weights of Head Starts children’s varied as families continue to experience economic hardships, housing, and food insecurity.



SPECIAL DIETS



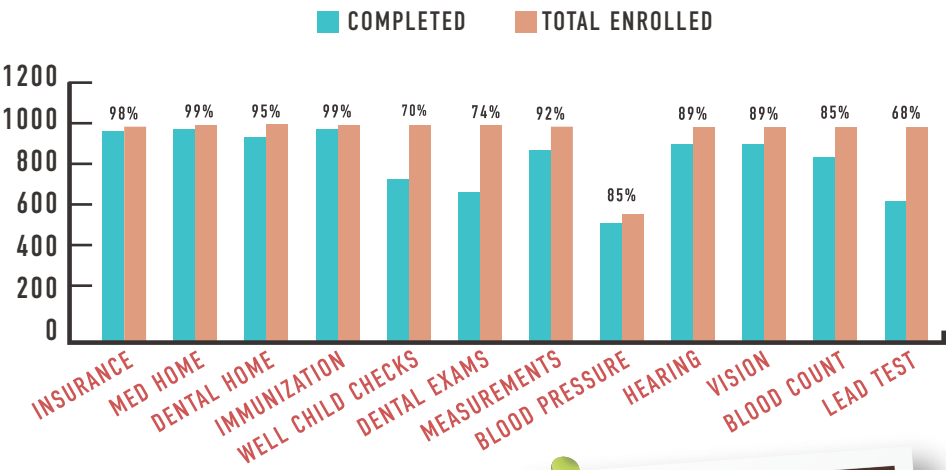
HEALTH SERVICES

When children are healthy, they are ready to learn. YDI served 1,026 Head Start (HS) and Early Head Start (EHS) children. Between 95-99% of children had a medical and dental provider and health insurance and 78% of children had a well child check. Early Head Start requires a well child check at 2–3-month intervals until the age of three. Dental exams are not required for infants until they are 12 months of age. Staff continued to increase health literacy by stressing the importance of dental exams. This resulted in a steady increase of families pursuing dental visits for their young children.

Early Head Start children are not required to receive blood pressure screening until the age of three. Eighty-five percent of HS children received a blood pressure screening and 89% received vision and a hearing screening in YDI centers. Eighty-five percent received a non-invasive hematocrit/blood count screening to determine if they had healthy iron levels in their body.

Children over 24 months require two lead tests, one at 12 months and one at 24 months. Sixty-eight percent of children were current or complete on their lead test although most children only received a lead test at 12 months of age. One reason children do not receive both required lead tests is due to the varying parental views. Physicians use a lead screening questionnaire and if families do not score as elevated risk on the questionnaire, a lead test is not ordered for the child. This decision is made despite a lead test being required for all children enrolled in Medicaid. Parents may decline the test if a physician orders the child to receive an intravenous blood draw and are more willing to have their child tested through a simple in-office finger prick. Collaboration between the Department of Health Lead Educator and physicians ensure children are screened for lead. Health education on the importance of lead testing equips parents with information to advocate and make informed decisions for their children.

2022-2023 HEALTH SERVICE OUTCOMES



MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

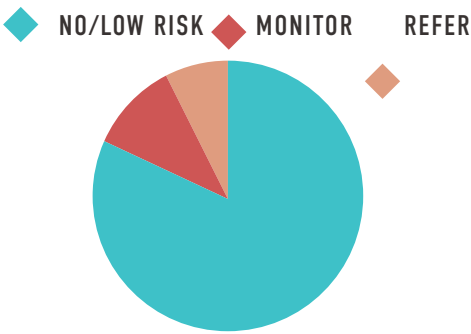
SCREENING: AGES & STAGES QUESTIONNAIRE: SOCIAL EMOTIONAL-2

YDI uses the Ages and Stages Questionnaire: Social Emotional-2 (ASQ: SE-2) tool to screen children’s social and emotional development. Every child is screened within 45 days of the new school year and within 45 days of enrollment for children who start YDI anytime during the year. The items within the ASQ:SE-2 screening tool are categorized within the following seven behavioral areas: self-regulation, compliance, adaptive functioning, autonomy, affect, social-communication, and interaction. Of the 658 screenings in Head Start and Early Head Start Programs, 83% scored within the Low/No Risk area; 10% scored within the Monitor Zone, and 7% scored above the cut-off, indicating a need for referral.

658 SCREENINGS	HEAD START	EARLY HEAD START
No/Low Risk	299	244
Monitor	47	21
Refer	27	20
Total	373	285



ASQ: SE-2 RESULTS FOR HEAD START & EARLY HEAD START, 2022-2023

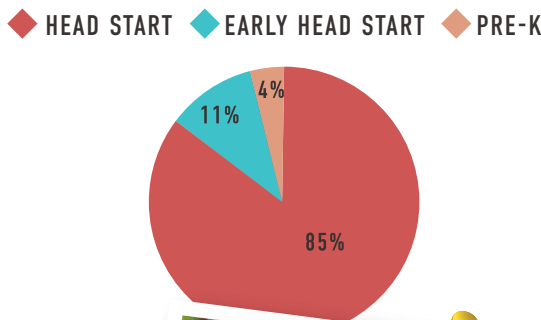


CHILD AND FAMILY SUPPORT: MENTAL HEALTH REFERRALS AND CONSULTATION WITH STAFF AND FAMILIES

There were 76 internal early childhood mental health referrals submitted. Of those, 65 were ongoing while 11 of those referred dis-enrolled from YDI or their status changed to “Inactive/Monitor”. The majority of referrals, or 85%, were for Head Start Children while 11% of referrals were made for Early Head Start children and 4% were for Pre-K children.

76 MENTAL HEALTH REFERRALS
65 Head Start
8 Early Head Start
3 Pre-K

EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH REFERRALS, 2022-2023



SPECIAL EDUCATION

Head Start and Early Head Start continued to meet children and families where they were by ensuring school readiness through individualized learning experiences. As a program, we strive to create an inclusive environment for all children and families. Our educational team of professionals includes teachers, specialists, center directors, and content area managers who provide support, resources, and referrals for children and families.

Services were provided to 211 children in Head Start and Early Head Start diagnosed with disabilities.

PROGRAM	DIAGNOSED DISABILITIES WITH AN INDIVIDUAL EDUCATION PROGRAM (IEP) OR INDIVIDUALIZED FAMILY SERVICE PLAN (IFSP)	PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN RECEIVING SERVICES BASED ON FULL TIME ENROLLMENT
Head Start	130	18.7%
Early Head Start	81	18%



LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCY PARTNERSHIP: SPECIAL EDUCATION REFERRALS AND OUTCOMES:

YDI served a high proportion of children with developmental disabilities and partnered with the Local Education Agency (LEA) across the service area to provide in-classroom pre-school special education support teachers to thirty-seven children as recommended within their IEP.

Of the 130 Head Start children with an IEP, forty-five were dually enrolled in developmental preschool through the LEA. Children receiving services under a primary disability category within the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA):

PRIMARY DISABILITY	# OF CHILDREN RECEIVING SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES
Speech Language Impairment	76
Developmental Delay	37
Autism	16
Intellectual Disability	1

HEAD START

113 children were referred under part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

- ◆ 83 were evaluated
- ◆ 60 received IEP
- ◆ 23 did not qualify for services under the IDEA
- ◆ 30 withdrew from the program or ended the school year prior to evaluation

EARLY HEAD START

7 children were referred for services under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

- ◆ 11 received an IFSP
- ◆ 26 were in the process or transitioned into Head Start program.

PROMISING PRACTICES

The 18-month W.K. Kellogg Foundation-funded YDI LENA Grow intervention project ended June 2023 and the evaluation results provided us with important information about how to enhance teaching practices. Our overarching goal was to determine whether the intervention improved the quality of early care and education in our Early Head Start classrooms. The results revealed 3 key findings:

1. Toddler teachers demonstrated higher quality teacher-child interactions after completing the LENA intervention. This finding is especially important as high-quality teacher-child interactions are related to better child outcomes.
2. Teachers who completed the LENA intervention increased their vocalizations to girls who initially were spoken to less than boys in the same classrooms. Researchers consistently find that boys are spoken to more than girls. Our intent is to implement the LENA intervention to ensure all our staff implement gender equity practices that provide all our YDI children with the best learning opportunity.
3. Teachers who completed the LENA intervention increased their vocalizations to children with special needs. A large body of research reveals that children with special needs are often spoken to less than their typically developing peers. The outcomes of our project serve as evidence that the LENA intervention can be used to enhance the quality of education we provide to our children with special needs.



Although the LENA Grow intervention was delivered to infant teachers, results did not reveal significant differences in classroom quality when pre and post intervention CLASS scores were compared. As with most projects, the end of our 18-month LENA project raised more questions. We are grateful to the W.K. Kellogg Foundation for recently awarding us a 36-month grant for \$500,000 that will enable us to deliver the LENA intervention to newly hired and new to Early Head Start teachers, all Head Start teachers, and Early Head Start center-based parents/caregivers.

MONITORING REVIEW AND FINANCIAL AUDIT

MONITORING REVIEW AND FINANCIAL AUDIT

On October 25-28, 2021, YDI completed the Focus Area One Monitoring Review. Reviews of Head Start agencies are conducted under the authority of the Head Start Act to determine whether Head Start agencies meet regulatory requirements with respect to program, administrative, and financial management, and to help programs identify areas for improvement and areas of strength as part of their ongoing self-assessment process. **The overall results of the October 2021 review for Youth Development, Inc. determined that the program met the requirements of all applicable Head Start Program Performance Standards, laws, regulations, and policy requirements.**

The agency financial audit report completed by SJT Group LLC for the 2021-2022 fiscal year revealed an “unmodified” auditor report. The audit was approved by the YDI Policy Council on June 20, 2023, and the YDI Board of Directors on April 20, 2023.

CATEGORIES	2023 BUDGET AMOUNT	2024 PROPOSAL BUDGET AMOUNT
Personnel	\$8,619,179	\$9,386,164
Fringe Benefits	\$3,142,539	\$3,448,275
Travel	\$9,000	\$13,000
Equipment	\$0	\$24,922
Supplies	\$1,093,463	\$1,060,026
Contractual	\$1,082,810	\$780,435
Other	\$2,324,093	\$1,762,368
Indirect	\$ 1,749,138	\$1,545,032
TOTAL	\$ 18,020,222	\$ 18,020,222

PROGRAM	BUDGET	FUNDING SOURCE
Head Start/Early Head Start	\$18,020,222	U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services – Admin. for Children & Families (ACF)
American Rescue Plan One-Time Funding	\$1,101,320	U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services – Admin. for Children & Families (ACF)
Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations One-Time Funding	\$140,940	U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services – Admin. for Children & Families (ACF)
Pre-K	\$446,160	N.M. Early Childhood Education & Care Department (ECECD)
N.M. Pre-K Stabilization One-time Funding (ended 8/2023) Camino/ Centro	\$195,250	N.M. Early Childhood Education & Care Department (ECECD)
Home Visitation	\$337,500	N.M. Early Childhood Education & Care Department (ECECD)
Food Program (CACFP)	\$668,732	N.M. Early Childhood Education & Care Department (ECECD)
Childcare Subsidies	\$203,007	N.M. Early Childhood Education & Care Department (ECECD)
Nurse Family Partnership	\$504,694	Nurse Family Partnership Incentive Fund
Nurse Family Partnership	\$164,061	Centennial Start - N.M Early Childhood Education & Care (ECECD) Trust Fund
Nurse Family Partnership	\$304,474	N.M. Medicaid
ECECD Systems Building (Home Visitation)	\$150,000	N.M. Early Childhood Education & Care Department (ECECD)
Project LENA Language Development Grant	\$200,000	W.K. Kellogg Foundation
N.M Grow	\$16,000	N.M. Early Childhood Education & Care Department (ECECD)
In-Kind Contributions	\$4,653,399	Community/Parent Volunteer Services
TOTAL	\$27,105,759	



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