Head Start/EHS ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

South Central Iowa
Community Action Program

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SCICAP HEAD START & EARLY HEAD START
ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

SCICAP's Agency Mission

South Central Iowa Community Action Program empowers individuals and families with services to become self-sufficient and contribute positively to their communities.

SCICAP Head Start's Mission Statement

To provide a quality program to empower children and families for lifelong learning and success.

Program Overview

SCICAP's age-appropriate, quality comprehensive Head Start and Early Head Start program is funded to provide 212 children with school readiness skills, nutritious breakfasts, lunches and snacks, health screenings, social service supports, mental health support and family involvement opportunities. SCICAP has been serving Head Start and Early Head Start children and families since 1966.

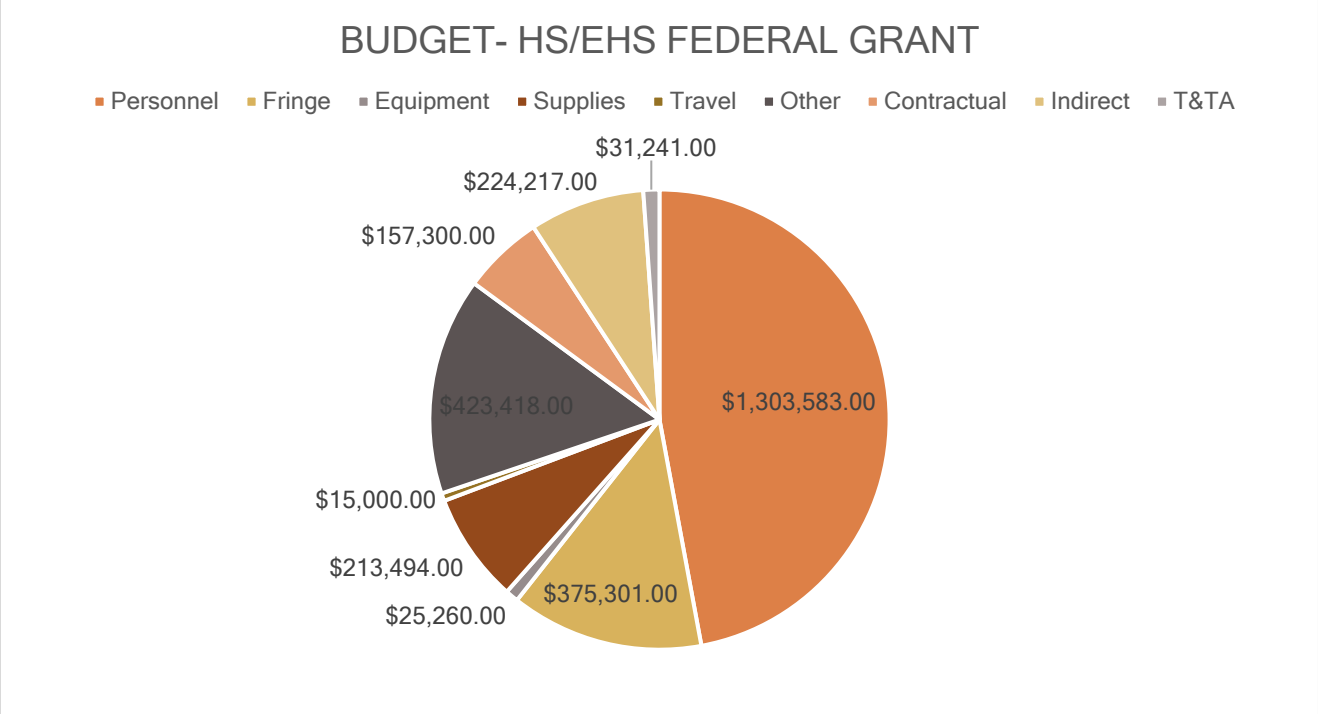
All classrooms in our five counties have qualified teachers, to best serve our children so they are school ready. Our goal is for Head Start children to be prepared for kindergarten, but more importantly to be lifelong learners. Head Start helps children build the skills they need to be successful in school and throughout their lives.

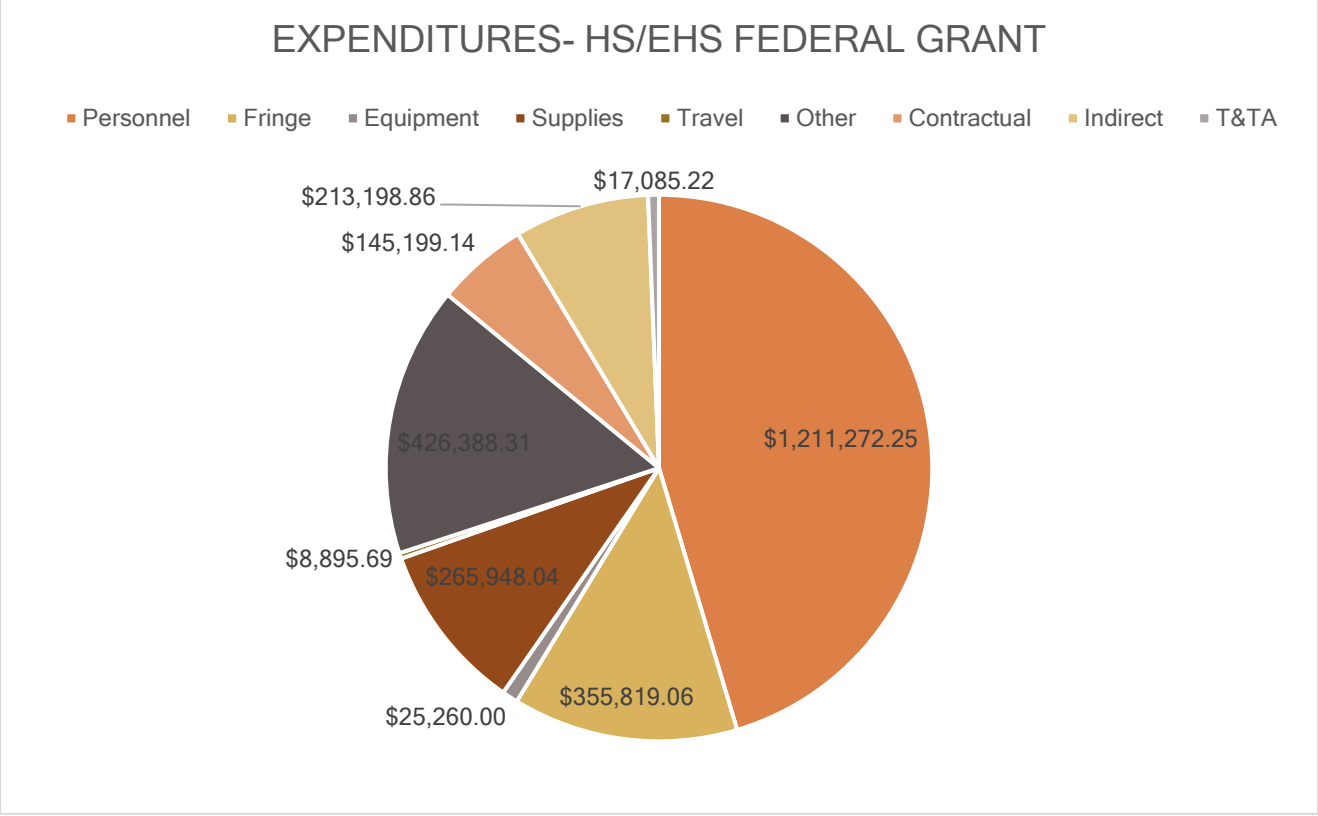
Children are served utilizing 9 different facilities with a total of 18 classrooms and EHS homebased services across five counties. Most center-based/collaboration students are enrolled in full-day classes.

Five County Service Area:
Clarke, Decatur, Lucas, Monroe, and Wayne Counties

Federal Funding

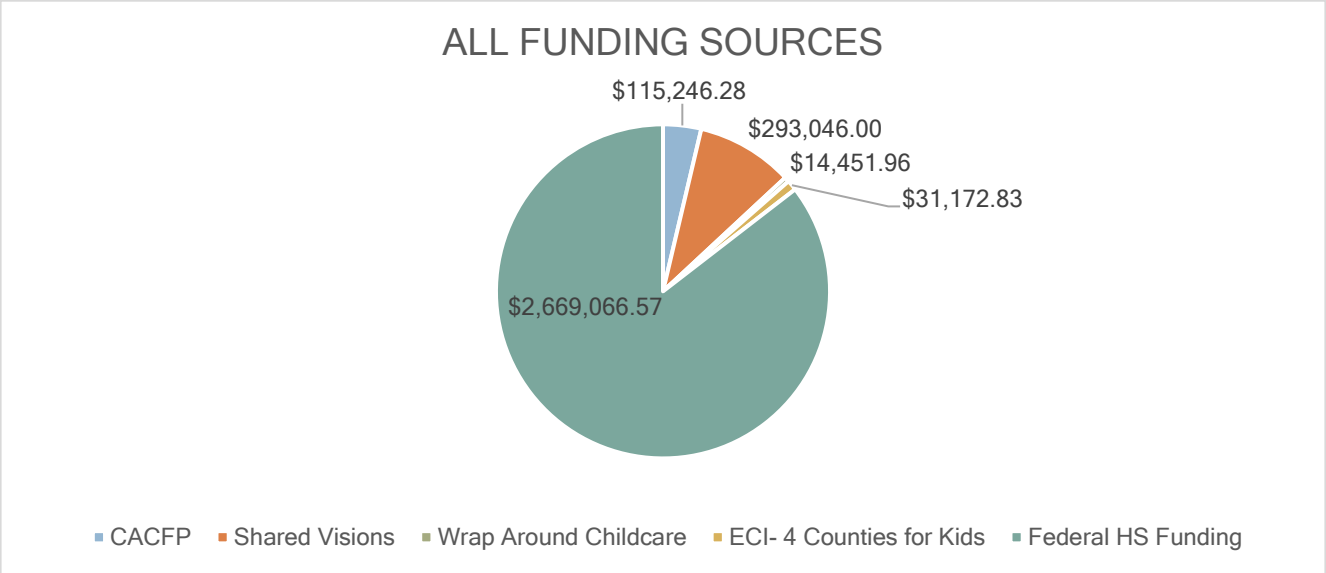
Head Start Federal Funding	$ 2,737,573.00
Head Start Training	$ 31,241.00
Total Federal Funding	$ 2,768,814.00
Non-Federal Share	$ 618,063.00





All Funding Sources

CACFP	$ 115,246.28
Shared Visions	$ 293,046.00
Wrap Around Childcare	$ 14,451.96
ECI – 4 Counties for Kids	$ 31,172.83
Federal HS Funding	$ 2,669,066.57
Total Funding	$ 3,112,983.64



Non-Federal Match Funds - Program In-Kind $ 618,063.00

Volunteers' time and other contributions are an integral part of the program. Volunteers include Governing Board, Policy Council, Parent Meetings, community partners, parents' support of curriculum activities, classroom support and facility/center assistance. Collaborations contribute utilities, maintenance, space, and staffing support.

Playground Renovation Projects

We added new playground equipment in the Osceola, Chariton and Albia Centers including new musical play structures and shade structures. The new renovations give added shade to the playgrounds as required by IQ4K and add new musical items to encourage learning on the playgrounds.

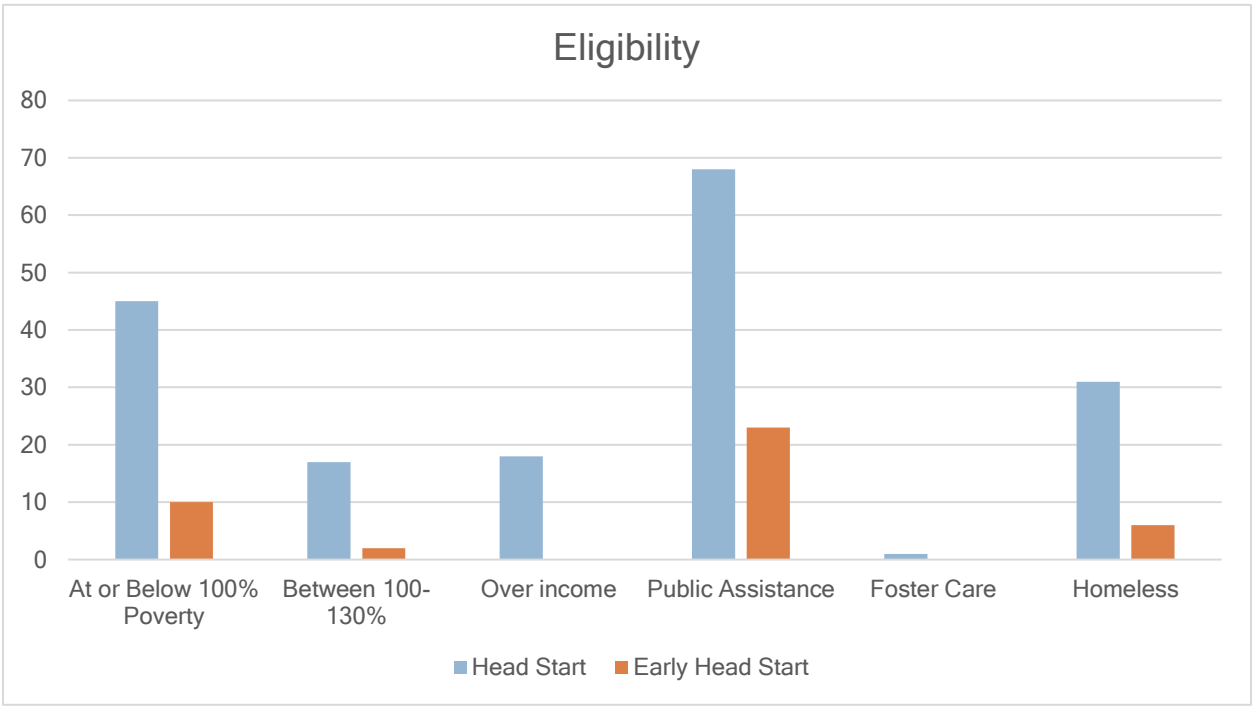
Children and Families Served

The SCICAP Early Childhood Program served a total of 180 Head Start children and 41 Early Head Start children and pregnant women. A total of 221 children were served representing a total of 200 families.

Our Head Start program averaged 150-170 enrolled students of the 180 total funded HS slots. EHS averaged 31-32 children enrolled of the 32 funded EHS slots.

Eligibility

Many children served by the program are eligible in multiple categories, however, Head Start programs may report only one elgibility category per family. Please see the percentage of eligible children in each category below.



Student Average Daily Attendance

Head Start

- 90.68%

Early Head Start

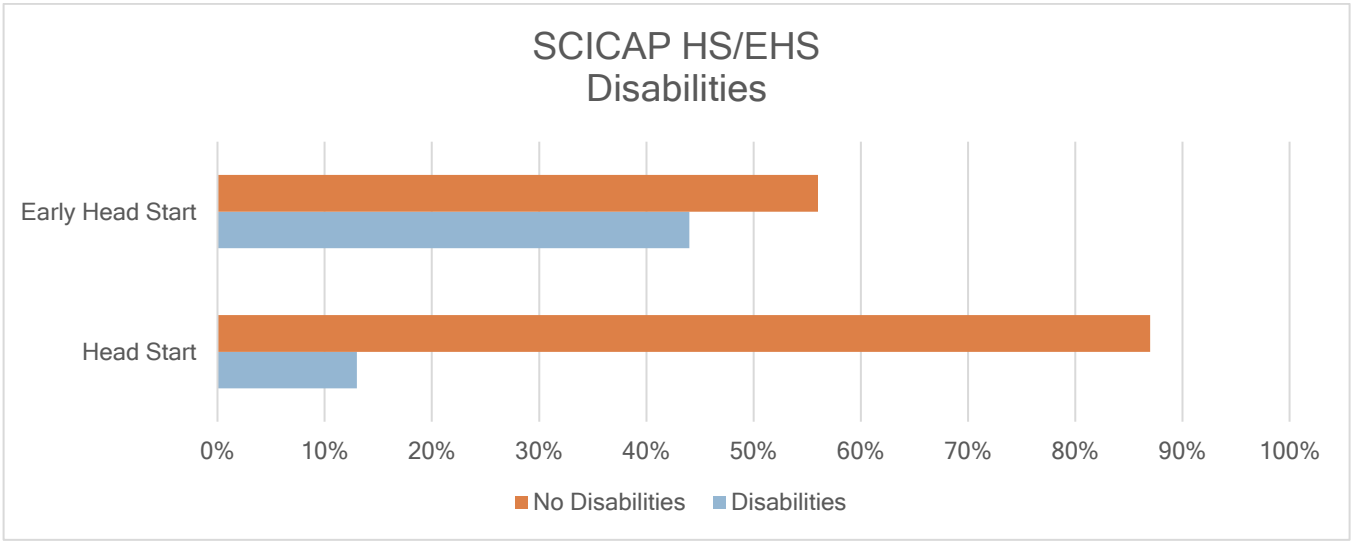
- 85.38%

Illnesses continued…

We saw an increase in our average attendance numbers this year versus last year.

Disabilities

EHS had a total of 24.2% of children with disabilities. Head Start had a total of 14.4% of students with disabilities. This meets the 10% requirement in the Head Start Program Performance Standards. These numbers are slightly higher for Early Head Start when compared to the previous year. Our program partners with local AEAs to serve our children with special needs.



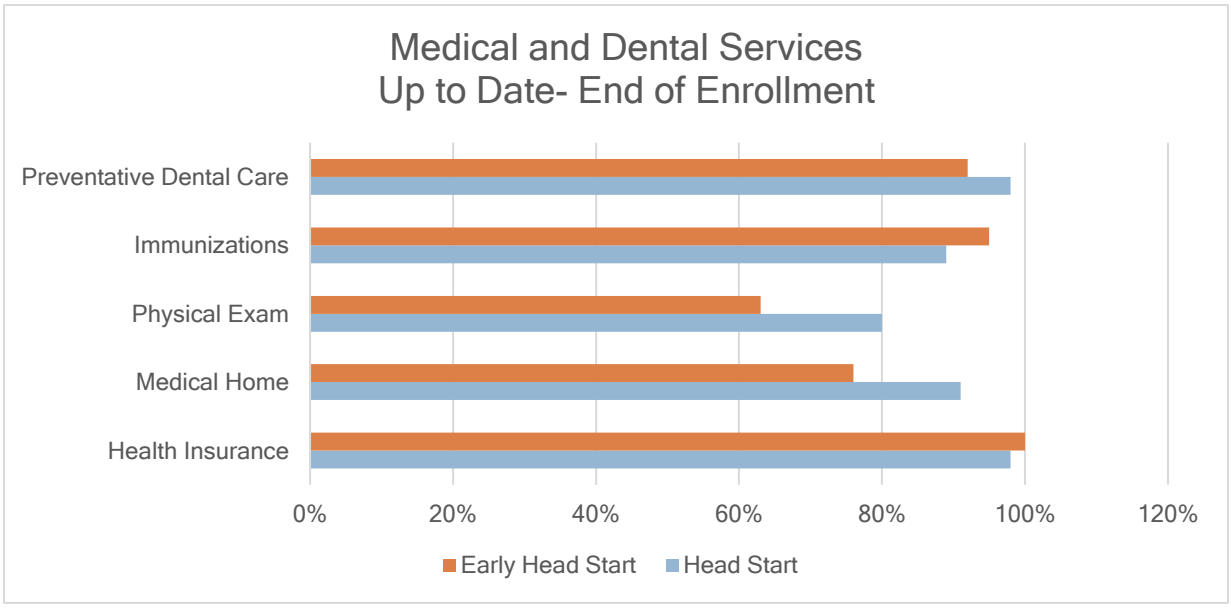
76 Head Start children received no-cost transportation services.

Transportation Services

We were able to provide no-cost transportation services for children who attended our Albia, Chariton, Corydon, Humeston, Leon, Lamoni, Murray and Osceola Head Start sites. We were able to add transportation services for our Osceola Center mid-year and that helped to increase the number of children who received no-cost transportation services this year.

Health Services

Our program has a CMA and licensed and registered dietician on staff. Our staff conducted hearing, vision, lead and developmental screenings. Health and nutrition education and resources were provided to all families. We partner with the Lions Club for vision screenings and I-Smile for preventative dental care and oral screenings. Mental health services are contracted through Infinity Health of Southern Iowa and The Holding Space LLC. We also have a Behavior Specialist on staff to support our employees, students, and families mental health.



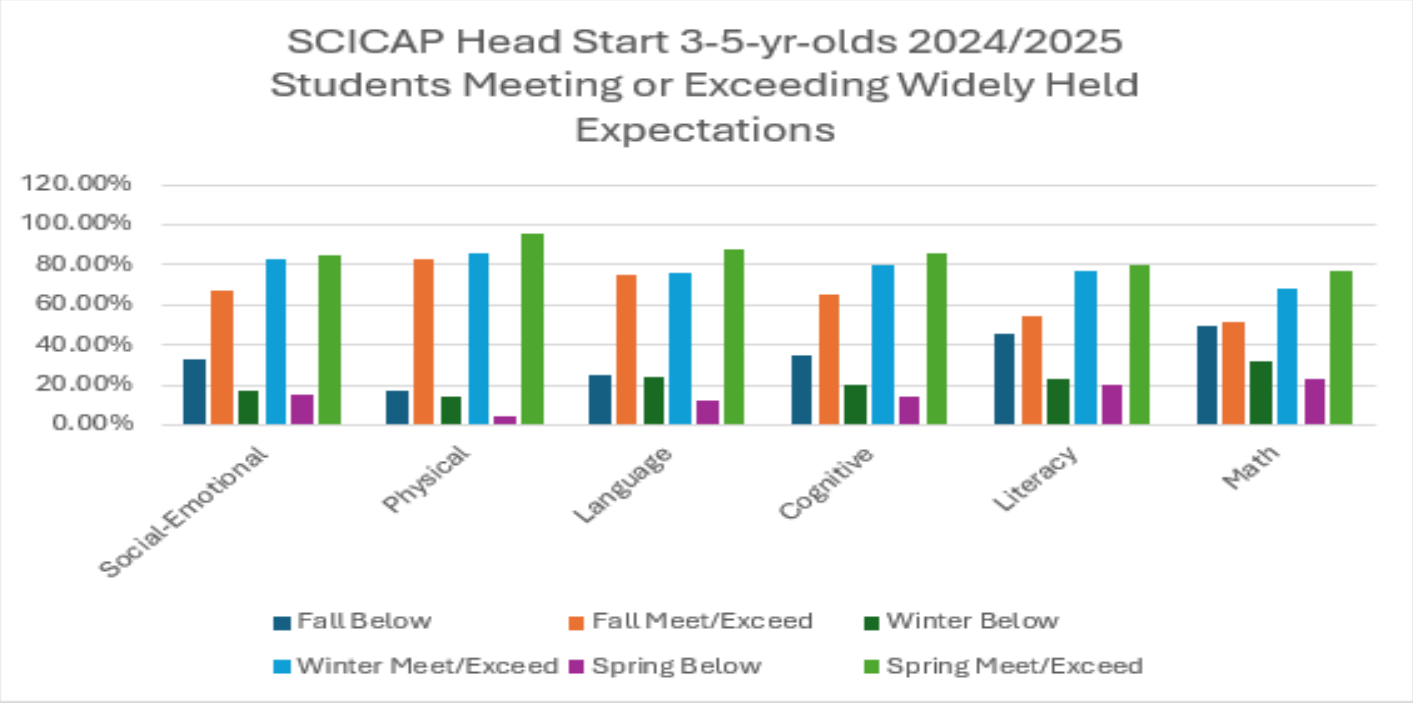
We saw a significant increase in the number of students who were up to date on a schedule of age-appropriate preventative and primary health care this year. Students at collaborations and students receiving EHS homebased services had lower medical exam and dental screening rates when compared to center-based students.

Parent Involvement Activities

SCICAP Head Start believes parents are a child's most important educator. We encourage families to engage in their child's learning and development through parent education, leadership opportunities in program governance, and parent/child activities. Each center has separate parent trainings and activities. The following involvement activities were offered in all the counties we serve: family orientations, scheduled parent meetings, Policy Council, Governing Board, scheduled family activities, volunteering, home visits, transition activities, parent evaluations, parent/teacher conferences, literacy activities, open houses, fatherhood activities and remote learning with parental involvement.

To promote parent participation in parent meetings many centers offered parents the opportunity to participate in meetings virtually so parents who were unable to attend in person were able to join remotely.

Kindergarten Readiness



This graph demonstrates that Head Start children showed growth in all six domains (social-emotional, physical, language, cognitive, literacy and math). This indicates evidence of

meeting our kindergarten readiness goals. HS and EHS children are assessed three times per program year using Teaching Strategies GOLD child assessments.

Transition Activities

School districts in the service area partner with our program each year to provide collaborative transitions for our students. They agree that Head Start preschool and kindergarten teachers, parents and appropriate agency representatives will meet to discuss specific needs of children to preview what transitioning Head Start students' projected proficiency levels will be at the beginning of the school year. Head Start children visit kindergarten classrooms they will be attending in the upcoming year. Some of the kindergarten teachers were able to come to Head Start classrooms for visits.

School Readiness Goals for Ages Three to Five Years

1. Children ages 3-5 will show progress in the areas of; purposefully and persistently initiate in experiences and play with creativity, independence, and positive behavior by the end of the school year
2. Children ages 3-5 will show progress in the areas of; engage in positive relationships with adults and peers through interactions and working through resolving conflicts by the end of the school year
3. Children ages 3-5 will show progress in the areas of; comprehend and engage in appropriate conversations while demonstrating a knowledge of alphabet/phonics and print concepts by the end of the school year
4. Children ages 3-5 will show progress in the areas of; connecting experiences through recognition, classification, and investigation by the end of the school year
5. Children ages 3-5 will show progress in the areas of; demonstrating strength and coordination including gross and fine motor skills by the end of the school year

Curriculum

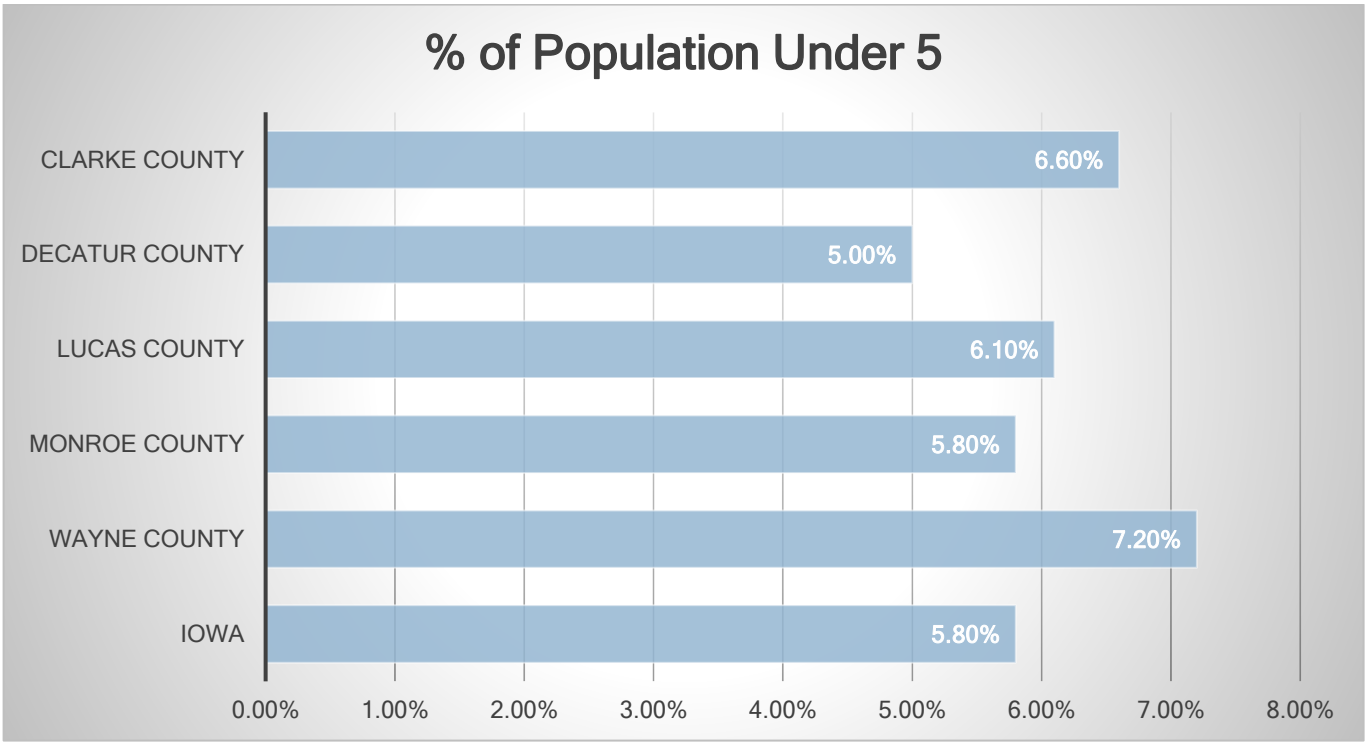
Our program uses Creative Curriculum, Jump Start to Literacy Curriculum, Parents as Teachers, Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), Conscious Discipline strategies, I am Moving I Am Learning (IMIL) and everyday classroom interactions to support meeting our school readiness goals.

Monitoring Review and Audit Findings

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Office of Head Start (OHS) conducted a monitoring review of the program in April 2025. There were no deficiencies or areas of noncompliance and only two areas of concern. These areas include Education & Child Development Services and Health Services. The concerns were noted in Curricula, Screening, and Assessment Tools for education and Child Health and Oral Health Status and Care for health services. The report also noted Strong Practice for Staffing and Staff Member Supports.

SCICAP met all requirements of the Financial Audit Report. The audit report can be found on the SCICAP website - www.SCICAP.org

Community Needs Data



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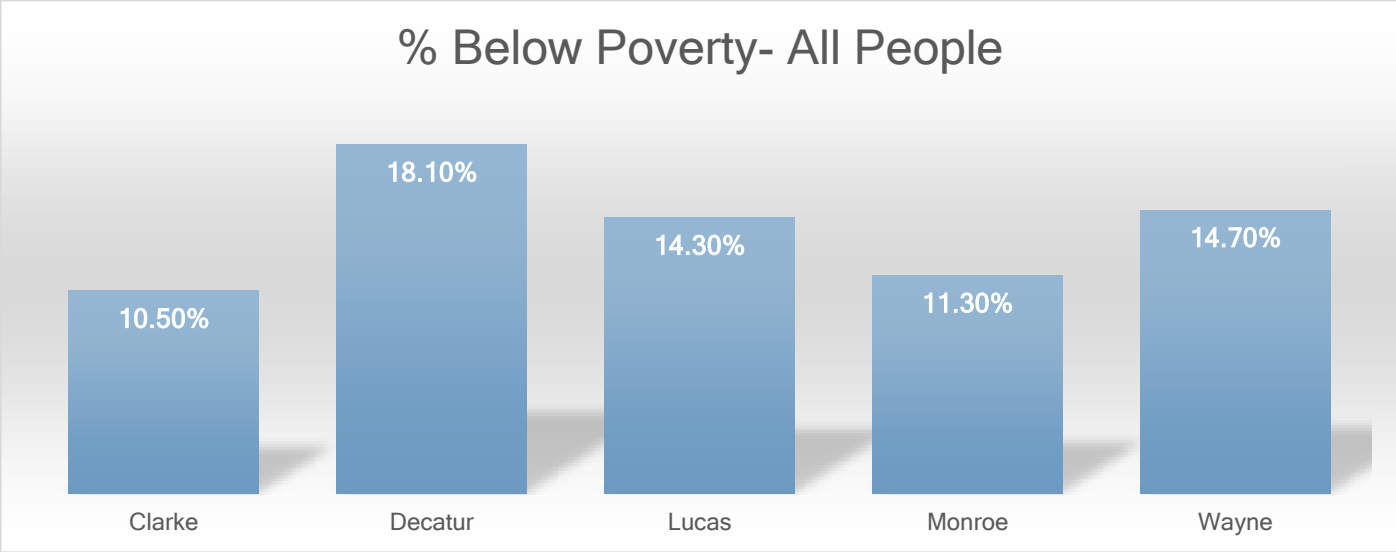

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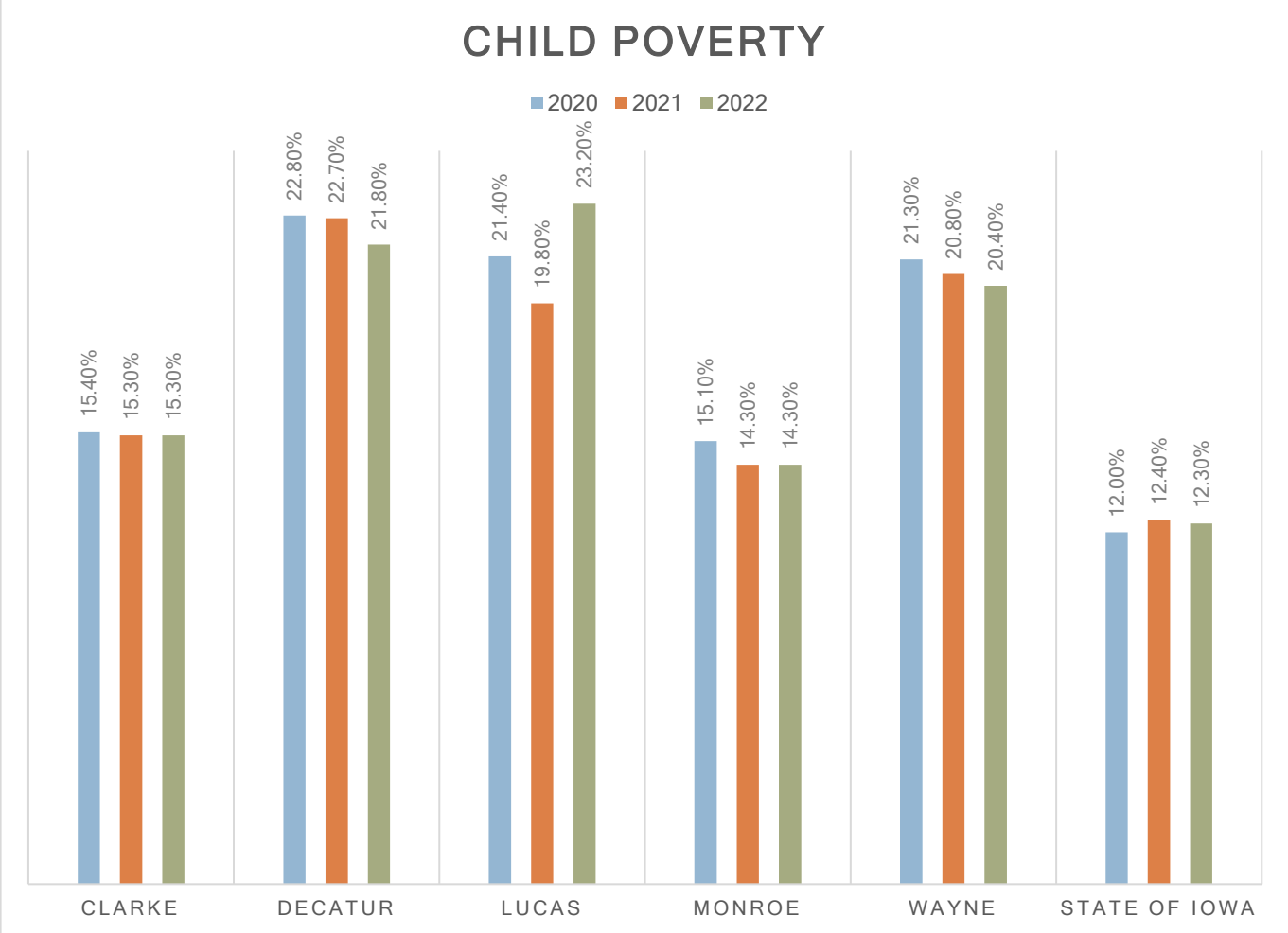

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