

# 2023–2024 Annual Report

# History

Western Kentucky University Child Care Consortium (WKUCCC) is a division of Training and Technical Assistance Services (T/TAS) at Western Kentucky University. Established in 1984, WKUCCC began as an innovative partnership when there was an opportunity for expansion in Head Start programs. These three agencies, led by individuals that were leaders in the Head Start field, realized that western Kentucky needed additional services. T/TAS, housed at WKU in Bowling Green, KY, had served as a Head Start training entity for eleven years, serving Kentucky, Tennessee, and eventually other states. The other agencies, both Head Start grantees in their own right at that time, Audubon Area Community Services, Inc. Head Start and Murray Board of Education Head Start, had worked with T/TAS for many years on state initiatives.

When the expansion opportunity presented itself, each agency recognized that their own communities had a need for additional children, but each program was not able to serve the minimal number that was required at that time on their own. This began what would become a forty-year partnership that became known as Western Kentucky University Child Care Consortium and was an integral part of WKUCCC operations. Through the collaboration with these organizations, the program retained a depth of service and knowledge that was beneficial to the children and families throughout the western region of the state.

WKU serves as a grantee with these two delegate agencies in western Kentucky. Both delegates are Head Start grantees in their own right, Audubon Area Community Services, Inc. Head Start and Murray Board of Education Head Start. The total funded enrollment for the WKUCCC fiscal year beginning Nov. 1, 2023-Oct. 31, 2024 was 168, with WKU directly serving 55 preschool children and ten Early Head Start children. WKU currently delegates 36 children to Audubon and 67 children to Murray. Combined with these delegates the program serves children and families in Warren, Daviess, Marshall, Graves, and McCracken counties.

WKUCCC is located at Jones Jagers Hall on the campus of Western Kentucky University and is a part of the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences. WKUCCC also offered Early Head Start to 11 children and families through a delegate agreement with Murray Board of Education, and WKUCCC also offers extended day child care services for children ages six weeks to five years leveraging state subsidy funds as well as parent fees. WKUCCC provides a combination of full-year, full-day childcare services. Both Head Start and Early Head Start operate Monday through Friday, 7:30 am until 2:30 pm, giving families 7 hours a day of services. Head Start operated for 146 days and 1,022 hours. Early Head Start operated for 198 days and 1,386 hours. Extended day services are available to families working or going to school from 2:30 until 5:00pm.

Audubon Area Community Services, Head Start Program (AAHS) is a Community Action Agency program serving 16 counties in western Kentucky. As a delegate agency of WKUCCC, AAHS has served 36 Head Start slots in Daviess County. The primary program option utilized for Head Start is part-year/full-day classrooms in a center-based setting. The full-day program operates five days a week for children.

Murray Board of Education serves as the grantee for the Murray Head Start/Early Head Start program and serves 14 counties in far west Kentucky in a collaborative arrangement with the public school preschool programs in those counties. Murray served 67 preschool children in the last fiscal year in four school systems with half-day classes, four days a week.

After forty-one years, with WKUCCC serving as a grantee with two delegate agencies in western Kentucky, WKUCCC made a change in scope and began to make changes to the delegate arrangements beginning Nov. 1, 2024. As mentioned previously, the arrangements were important, but as times have changed and needs of communities have changed, WKUCCC and the delegate agencies are having to embrace the needs for the future in an effort to better serve the needs of children, families, and staff.

## **Program Goals**

**Goal 1:** To provide three and four year-old preschool children and their families comprehensive services that will foster children's development competence in all learning areas to support the foundation for school readiness during the early years.

**Goal 2:** To ensure all families have access to a support system designed to provide children and their families with appropriate health, oral health, nutrition and mental health services.

**Goal 3:** Parent, Family and Community Engagement (PFCE): To increase the number of families who participate in the Family Partnership Agreement (FPA) process and to seek new community partners with focus on advocating for children's academic success.

**Goal 4:** Program Design and Management: To ensure comprehensive services are provided by maintaining efficient data systems and assure systems are in place and properly maintained.

### **Head Start and Early Head Start**

Grant Year: November 1, 2023 through October 31, 2024

Program Year: August 2023 through May 2024

**93 children served, ages birth-5 years.**

**WKU – Jones Jagers served:**

67 Children ages 3-5

26 Children 6 weeks –3



## Kentucky ALL STARS

Western Kentucky University Campus Child Care is currently a five star program.

Kentucky All STARS recognizes and supports quality early care and education programs.

Level 5 providers are considered highest quality and are eligible for initial, annual, and subsidy enrollment monetary incentives while funding is available.





## Federal Monitoring Including Financial Audit

WKU has a financial audit annually. Head Start is a part of that audit. The last audit had no areas of concern and was done through 6/30/24.

ADMINISTRATION FOR  
**CHILDREN & FAMILIES**

## Fiscal 11/1/23-10/31/24

Head Start and Early Head Start	
Federal Operating Funds (WKU HS)	785,700
Carryover of Federal Operating Funds (WKU HS)	38,759
Federal Operating Funds (Audubon HS)	625,202
Carryover of Federal Operating Funds (Audubon HS)	44,886
Federal Operating Funds (Murray HS)	471,223
Federal Operating Funds (WKU Early Head Start)	238,620
Carryover of Federal Operating Funds (WKU EHS)	35,346
Federal Operating Funds (Murray EHS)	182,168
Federal Training & Technical Assistance (WKU HS)	17,963
Federal Training & Technical Assistance (WKU EHS)	3,019
Federal Training & Technical Assistance (Murray EHS)	3,664
Carryover for Training & Technical Assistance (WKU HS)	1,381,
Carryover for Training & Technical Assistance (WKU EHS)	1,476
Federal Training & Technical Assistance (EHS)	3,664
Federal COLA	49,416
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,502,487</b>

Other Grants	
USDA	83,174



## Proposed Budget 11/1/24-10/31/25

	HS	EHS	TOTAL
<b>Personnel</b>	521,957	284,792	<b>806,749</b>
<b>Fringe Benefits</b>	425,652	181,229	<b>607,881</b>
<b>Supplies</b>	8,000	20,000	<b>28,000</b>
<b>Memberships/Licenses</b>	2,300	5,900	<b>8,200</b>
<b>Equipment Rental</b>	1,000	1,800	<b>2,800</b>
<b>Contractual</b>	808	2,000	<b>2,808</b>
<b>Local Phone Service</b>	740	100	<b>840</b>
<b>Long Distance Phone Service</b>	52	25	<b>77</b>
<b>Other</b>	1,500	3,297	<b>4797</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>962,009</b>	<b>499,143</b>	<b>1,462,152</b>

## Non-Federal Share (In-Kind)

WKU Child Care Center receives **80%** of its total federal budget needed to operate each program. The remaining **20%** of the total federal budget is garnered from other sources.

A waiver was requested for non-federal match for the 2023-2024.



## Budgetary Expenditures 11/1/23-10/31/24

	HS	EHS	TOTAL
<b>Personnel</b>	397,621.38 \$	137,342.90	<b>534,964.28</b>
<b>Fringe Benefits</b>	266,999.80	118,924.10	<b>385,923.90</b>
<b>Supplies</b>	34,152.28	3,640.95	<b>37,793.23</b>
<b>Delegates</b>	939,371.79	0	<b>939,371.79</b>
<b>Contractual</b>	2,264.24	530.00	<b>2,794.24</b>
<b>F&amp;A</b>	50,807.50	20,505.18	<b>71,312.68</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,691,216.99</b> ,	<b>280,943.13</b>	<b>1,972,160.12</b>

*EHS Delegate budget is on different fiscal year– but total FY 2024 award included above. FY2025 will start 9/1/2024*



## Children & Families Served

### Head Start and Early Head Start

HEAD START AND EARLY HEAD START	Children	Families	Homeless Children
WKU Jones Jagers	93	74	0



### The Head Start Pledge

I believe every child can succeed;

I believe my work in Head Start helps children and families succeed;

I believe every vulnerable child should be served by Head Start;

I pledge to work together with the families I serve, my community partners, and my colleagues;

I pledge to work together to ensure this nation honors its commitment to vulnerable children;

I pledge to be part of the untiring voice that will not be quiet until every vulnerable child is served by Head Start.



## Why is WKU CCC Unique?

WKU CCC is unique in that it offers blended services, each classroom consisting of Head Start/Early Head Start children as well as Child Care. This results in WKU students and professors having the opportunity to obtain affordable child care right here on campus. The mingling of families of different backgrounds, race, ethnicity, and income provides a diversity to our enrollment not often found in Head Start classrooms.

## Enrollment & Attendance

### Head Start and Early Head Start:

Head Start and Early Head Start were able to maintain fully funded enrollment for the entire year!

**HS: 67** (cumulative enrollment)

**EHS: 26** (cumulative enrollment)



### Average Monthly Attendance Percentages

HS	EHS
83%	88%

## Family Engagement

The purpose of Family Engagement in Head Start is to support parents as being their child's first and most important teacher. The following engagement opportunities were provided: Fall Festival; Thanksgiving Luncheon; Muffins with Your Sweetheart; and Under the Sea FACT Shop.

Staff also engaged with families in goal setting. Goal setting is simply identifying a goal and mapping out a plan to achieve that goal. The top family goals for families during the 2022-2023 program year were: To start college/trade school and to obtain better housing.

Families who participated in the family goal setting process	
HS	15 Families
EHS	1 Families

## Health Services

WKU CCC recognizes that health is the foundation of school readiness. If a child doesn't feel well, they can't be expected to participate fully in learning opportunities, resulting in not being ready for school. Our goal is to ensure that all child health and developmental concerns are identified and addressed.

	HS	EHS
Up-to-date Physicals	60	15
Up-to-date Dentals	59	9

## Child Nutrition Services

Promoting the nutritional well-being of children is a vital component of the Head Start Program.

	HS/EHS
# of Breakfasts Provided	10861
# of Lunches Provided	11234
# of Snacks Provided	6453
TOTAL MEALS	28,548





## Education & Early Childhood Services

WKU CCC provides learning environments that are safe, nurturing, engaging, and enjoyable, supporting individualized learning. Children enrolled in the program develop a sense of independence, social competence, confidence, and responsibility.

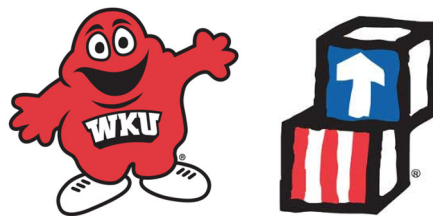
	HS	EHS
<b>Brigance Screenings Completed</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>ASQ:SE Screenings Completed</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>17</b>

## Disability Services

Program policies ensure that our program prioritizes the individualized needs of children with disabilities and those needs are being met. The program also ensures all children have access to, and can fully participate in, the full range of activities and services. In partnership with local education agencies, our classrooms provide any necessary modification to the environment, varied formats of instruction, and individualized accommodations and support as needed for the full participation of children with disabilities.

	HS	EHS
<b>Children Served with an IEP</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Children Served with an IFSP</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>2</b>

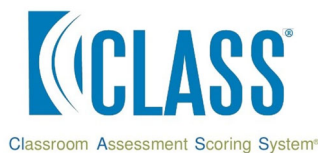




## CLASS Scores

WKU CCC uses the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) as an observational instrument to assess our preschool classrooms on an annual basis. CLASS is a valid and reliable research-based observational instrument. CLASS measures and assesses the quality of teacher-child engagements across the areas of: (1) Emotional Support; (2) Classroom Organization; and, (3) Instructional Support, which are linked to positive child outcomes and later achievement.

DOMAIN	SCORE	Quality Threshold	Competitive Threshold
Emotional Support	6.125	6	5
Classroom Organization	5.8974	6	5
Instructional Support	3.2949	3	2.3



For the federal review, WKU CCC was chosen to PILOT the CLASS review utilizing video cameras. It was an honor to take part in the cutting edge practice of off-site monitoring.



# School Readiness Goals

Goals have been identified to ensure children are making progress in all domains throughout the program year. Progress is tracked, for each child, in Teaching Strategies GOLD.



## Social and Emotional Development

Children Meeting Goal:

- ◇ 44% Head Start
- ◇ 90% Early Head Start

## Physical Development

Children Meeting Goal:

- ◇ 67% Head Start
- ◇ 90% Early Head Start

## Language Development

Children Meeting Goal:

- ◇ 64% Head Start
- ◇ 80% Early Head Start

## Cognitive Development

Children Meeting Goal:

- ◇ 62% Head Start
- ◇ 90% Early Head Start

## School Readiness Goals (Continued)

### Literacy

Children Meeting Goal:

- ◇ **64%** Head Start
- ◇ **90%** Early Head Start

### Mathematics

Children Meeting Goal:

- ◇ **38%** Head Start
- ◇ **70%** Early Head Start



## Staff Qualifications

	EHS	HS
<b>Baccalaureate or higher</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Associate Degree</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Child Development Associate or lower</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>





## Professional Development

We understand the role of our teachers is important. It's a time when young minds are shaped, and lifelong learning patterns are established. That is the reason WKU CCC prioritizes individual professional development of staff. Training, observations, and follow-up are the cornerstones of our high-quality programming. Comprehensive training equips teachers with the knowledge and skills needed to create developmentally appropriate environments, identify signs of developmental delays, and effectively manage classrooms. It empowers educators to navigate the complexities of early childhood with confidence.



## ChildPlus Software

WKU CCC uses ChildPlus Software to manage data. ChildPlus supports data based decision making ensuring the needs of the children and families served are addressed in a meaningful manner.



## Foster Grandparents

WKU CCC is also involved in the Foster Grandparents Program. This is a program that provides senior volunteers, ages 55 and older, an opportunity to support, encourage, mentor, and nurture children. Foster Grandparent volunteers, the children they serve, the teachers, the classrooms, and our communities all benefit from the program. Children of all ages can improve with the interaction, support, attention, and wisdom provided by Foster Grandparent volunteers.





## Volunteers

Volunteers are critical to the success of our program. The participation of volunteers has been an effective way of mobilizing community resources to strengthen our Services. Volunteers provide a wide range of services. Volunteers can be professionals and nonprofessionals, parents, local residents, and members of the larger community, board members and those who serve on policy and advisory groups, those who work in classrooms, offices, or kitchens, and those who provide necessary



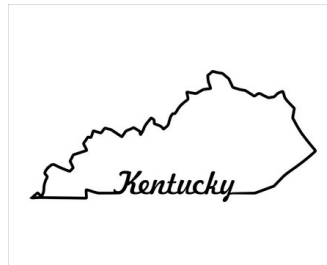
## ReadyRosie Parent Curriculum

ReadyRosie, an evidence-informed, research-based family engagement resource and parenting curriculum that has been shown to have positive impacts on family behaviors and child outcomes. This curriculum is an online resource that emails daily activities to adults to do with their children ages 0-5. Each activity is modeled with a two minute video. The activities are simple, take about two minutes, and help prepare children for school building off the foundation set in the belief that parents are their children's first and most important teacher.



## Kentucky Head Start Association

KHSA champions Head Start programs through a common vision, a united voice, and shared expertise to serve Kentucky's most vulnerable children and their families. WKU CCC is a proud member.





## National Head Start Association

WKU CCC is also a member of the National Head Start Association's (NHSA's) mission is to coalesce, inspire, and support the Head Start field as a leader in early childhood development and education. Western Kentucky University Child Care Center is a member of the NHSA. As a member, NHSA advocates for us before Congress and the Administration. We also have access to online resources and additional learning and networking opportunities at annual conferences.



## Policy Council

Head Start programs are required to establish and maintain a formal structure of shared governance allowing parents the opportunity to participate in policy making and other decisions regarding the program. This is accomplished by providing parents with two different opportunities.

- 1) Parent Meetings - These meetings give parents an opportunity to have a voice in local center decisions.
- 2) Policy Council Meetings - Parents are elected from the parent meetings to act as an advocate for the parents ensuring their voices are not only heard but considered in decision making.

### **Policy Council in 2023-2024**

President: Laura Beth Fox-Ezell



## Board of Directors

WKU CCC has a Governing Board which holds the legal and fiscal responsibility for administering the Head Start programs.

### **Governing Board Members for 2023-2024**

Chairperson: Lindsey Carter

*I'd like to thank you for taking the time to learn about the unique services we offer. I often explain the children we serve as coming to us with invisible backpacks. In these backpacks are bricks. The bricks represent obstacles between them and school readiness. Our job as a Head Start program is to work with families to lift each brick so when their child goes to Kindergarten their backpack can be filled with the "good stuff. This is possible because of our dedicated staff. I truly believe there is nothing standing between our children and their ability to be the next generation of Toppers! It is my absolute pleasure to serve as the Director for WKU Campus Child Care.*



Melody R. Hedden



We invite you to share this booklet to inform others of the services being provided on our corner of campus. Also please like and follow us on Facebook **Western Kentucky University Campus Child Care.**

