

ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025



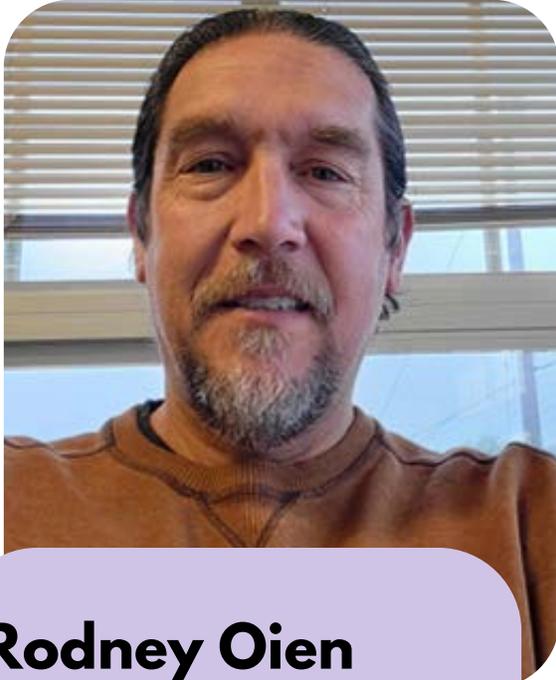
Artwork from 2025 Pastels on the Plaza by Stasia Allen



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Letter from the Executive Director



Rodney Oien

Executive Director of
Northcoast Children's
Services

I am pleased to share with you the NCS 2024-25 program year's annual report.

As we reflect on the past year, I am proud of the resilience and dedication of our staff. This was a year of both challenge and progress, and together we continued to uphold our mission of providing high-quality early childhood education and family support across Humboldt and Del Norte Counties.

Early in the year, we faced a compliance challenge following a Risk Assessment Notification review finding in the prior year. Through focused effort, staff training, and strengthened policies, we successfully cleared the deficiency by March. This achievement underscores our commitment to creating safe, nurturing environments for every child.

Some of the highlights and progress at NCS this past year include:

- Program Quality: State reviews and audits confirmed strong compliance, including a 0% error rate in reimbursements.
- Staff Support: We invested in preservice training, updated personnel policies, and expanded mental health consultation for our staff.
- Community Engagement: Events like Pastels on the Plaza reminded us of the power of community in sustaining our programs.

One of the most persistent challenges this year was the uncertainty surrounding federal funding. Shifts in national policy and delays in guidance required us to remain vigilant and adaptable. Despite these uncertainties, we successfully maintained operations and continued to draw down funds without any major interruption—thanks to the dedication of our accounting staff in clearly identifying the reasons for all fund drawdowns.

Looking ahead, we remain focused on strengthening our workforce, maintaining enrollment, and expanding access to longer hours of care for children and families. Thank you to our dedicated staff, board members, policy council, and community partners for your unwavering support. Together, we are building a more caring community.

ABOUT US

Northcoast Children's Services, Inc. is a private non-profit corporation serving low-income pregnant women and families with children from birth to kindergarten age. Founded in 1969, we provide a mix of home visiting and center-based programs focused on providing high quality educational and family services.



OUR MISSION



Northcoast Children's Services believes that healthy families are crucial to the development that occurs from the beginning of life through early childhood. Respectfully building on each family's strengths and goals, NCS works in partnership with children, families, and communities to promote and advocate for healthy development.

OUR VISION



To nurture and empower the whole child and family, to enhance our quality of life, and create a more peaceful community.



OUR SERVICES

Northcoast Children's Services programs are comprehensive child development programs providing center and home-based options with a focus on education, health, nutrition and social services to pregnant women and/or families with children ages 0-5.



HOME-BASED FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES



CENTER-BASED CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES



CHILDCARE



PRESCHOOL

HEAD START

Head Start is a federally funded early childhood education program that provides comprehensive services — including education, health, nutrition, and family support — to low-income children (ages 0-5) and their families.

HOME-BASED EARLY HEAD START

NCS Early Head Start home visiting helps families get a head start during pregnancy & infancy with a full range of supportive services.

HOME-BASED HEAD START

Head Start Home Based programs offer weekly home visits and playgroups to families with children from age 3 to 5. Visits focus on health, development, nutrition, and parenting.

CENTER-BASED EARLY HEAD START

EHS Center Based classrooms are 7 hours a day 4 or 5 days a week for children 2 years of age. These services include school readiness and family support.

HALF DAY PRESCHOOL

Head Start & State Center Based Preschools offer preschool 3.5 hours a day 4 or 5 days a week for children ages 3 to 5 years of age.

FULL DAY PRESCHOOL

Head Start & State Center Based Preschools offer preschool 7 hours a day 4 or 5 days a week for children ages 3 to 5 years of age.

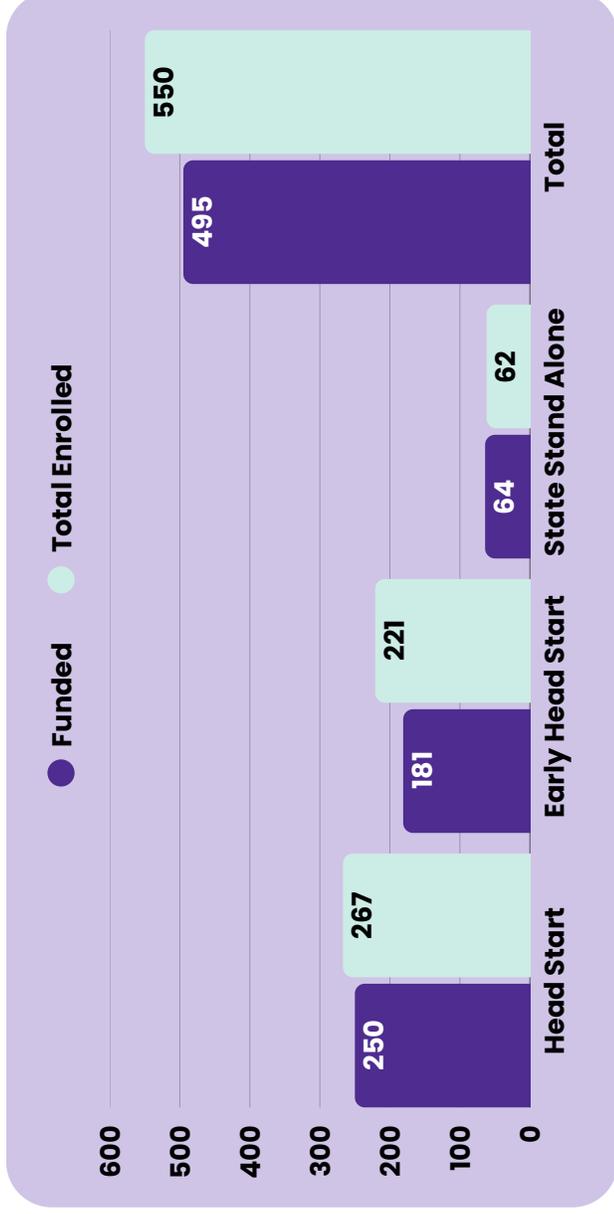
CHILDCARE

NCS operates two Childcare Programs for children ages 3-5, as well as two programs for children ages 18-36 months. These centers operate 5 days a week year-round. A monthly family service fee may apply depending on family income.

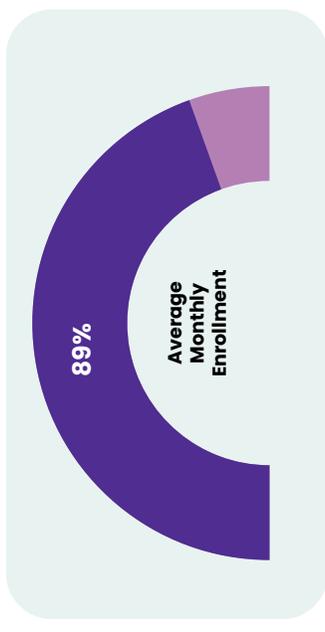


ENROLLMENT

Enrollment by Funding Type



Average Monthly Enrollment

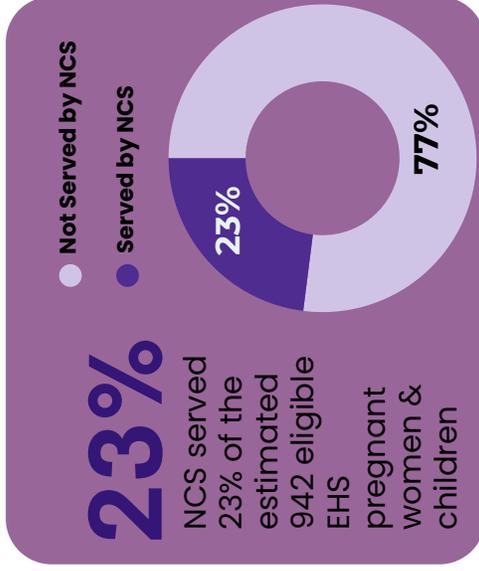


550
children served

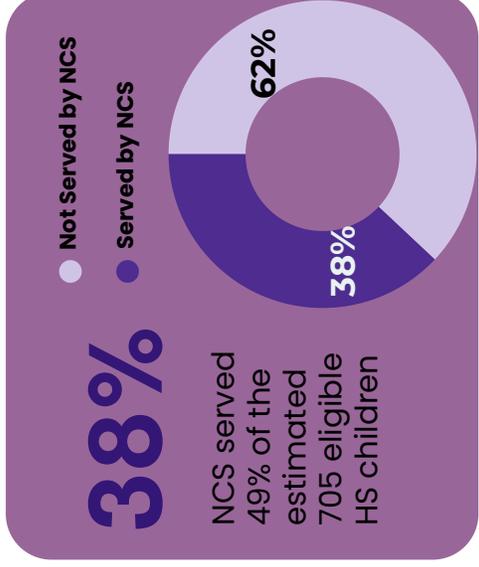
121
served in home-based programs

429
served in center-based programs

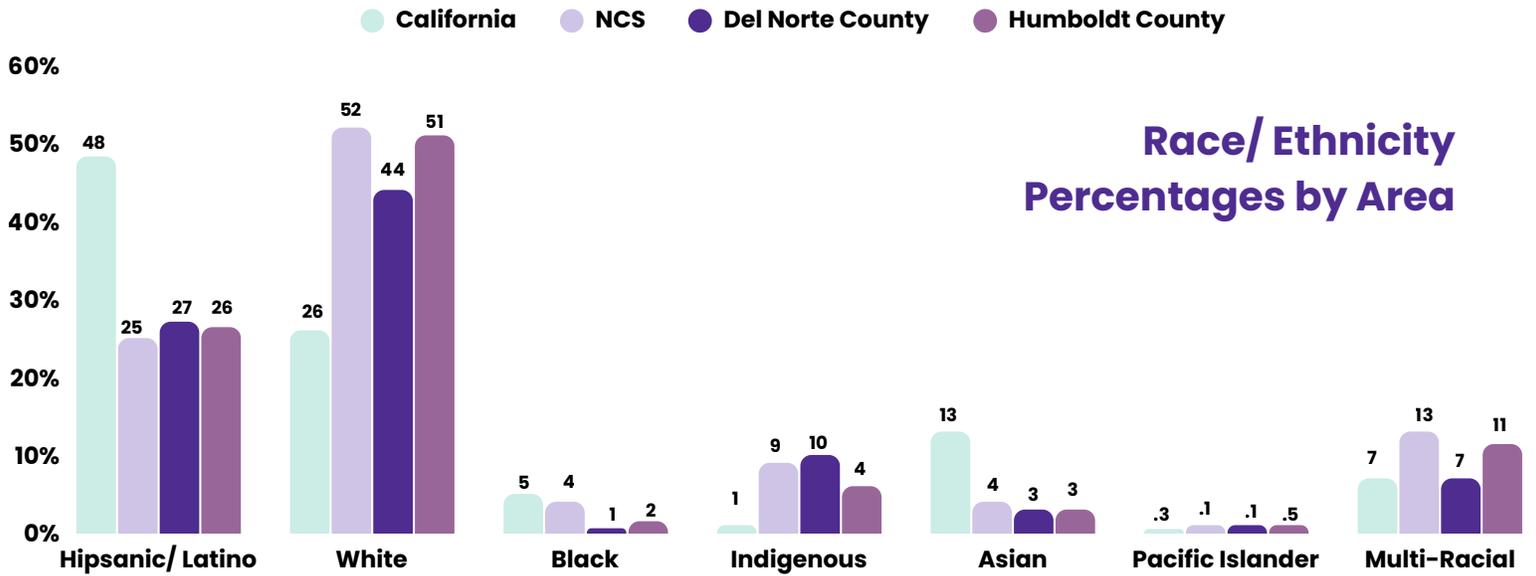
Eligible Early Head Start Pregnant Women & Children Served



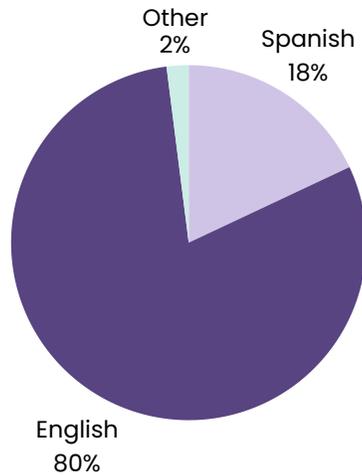
Eligible Head Start Children Served



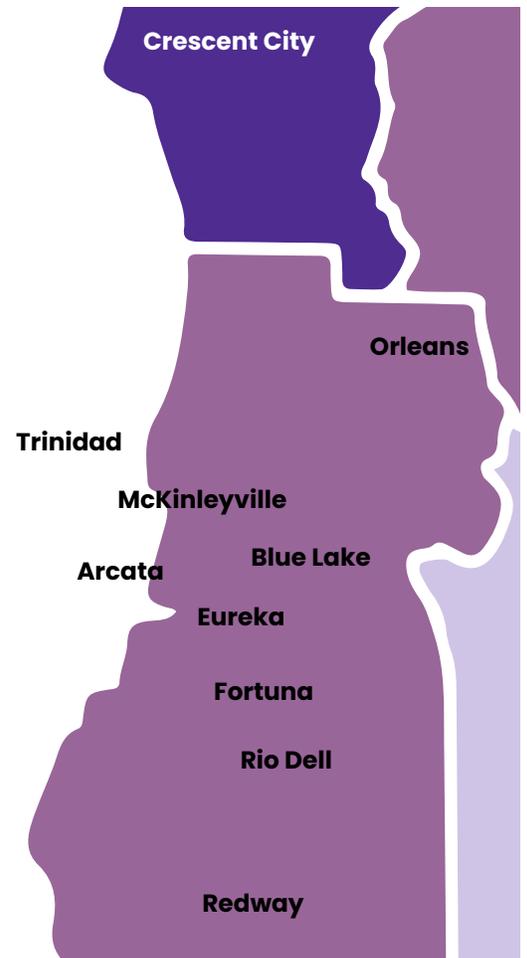
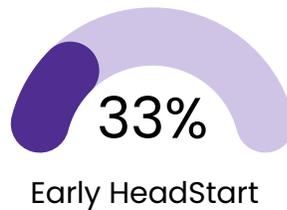
DEMOGRAPHICS



Languages Spoken by NCS Families



English Language Learners

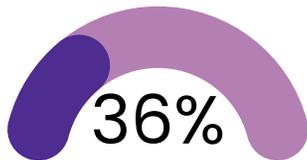




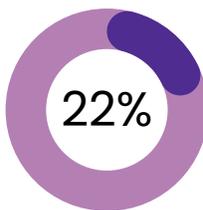
NCS supports families by helping them access resources as well as providing assistance with applications and transportation to necessary appointments. NCS also works with families to prevent the loss of housing

HOMELESS & FOSTER YOUTH

In the 24-25 fiscal year, 4% of children served by NCS were in the foster care system, and 8% of children were experiencing homelessness.



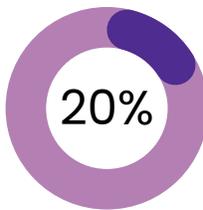
of NCS families experiencing homelessness found housing.



% of foster care population served

FOSTER CARE

Head Start and Early Head Start combined served **20** of the estimated **93** children ages 0-5 in foster care in our service area.



% of homeless population served

HOMELESS CHILDREN

Head Start and Early Head Start combined served **44** of the estimated **223** children experiencing homelessness in Humboldt County.

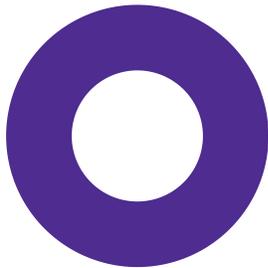
The NCS Enrollment Manager serves as the preschool liaison for the Humboldt County Homeless & Foster Coalition.



PARENT AND FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

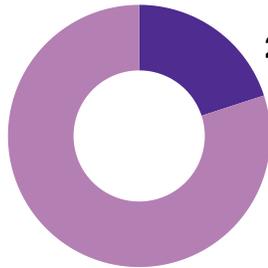
98,567

hours of volunteer work completed by parents



100%

100% of NCS HS/EHS families received family services



20%

20 % of NCS HS/EHS families received emergency/ crisis intervention



184

parent information events were held



32

parents served on Policy Council



4,095

home visits



11

parents attended a parent education class.



380

parents volunteered for NCS

HEALTH SERVICES

Enrolled HS/EHS children receive health, vision, hearing, mental health, and dental screenings. Additionally, families receive assistance in establishing medical & dental homes, obtaining insurance, & support with receiving follow up treatment.



Early Head Start



84% of children received medical exams



59% of children received dental exams

Head Start

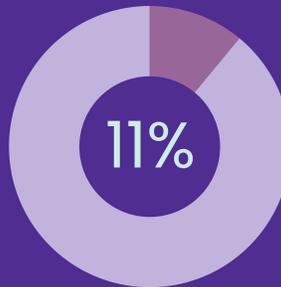


75% of children received medical exams

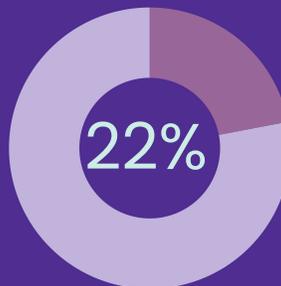


46% of children received dental exams

EHS & HS



11% of children were diagnosed with a chronic health condition



22% of children were eligible for special education or early intervention services



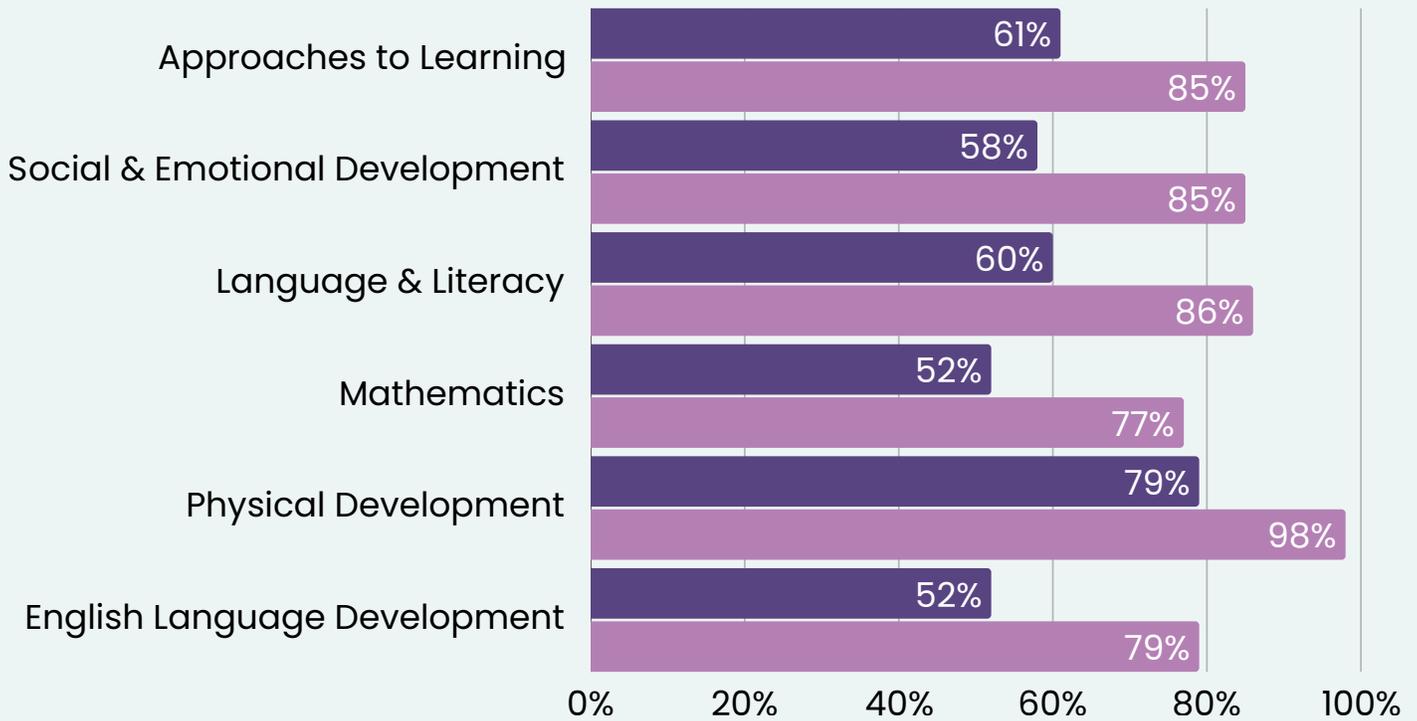
NCS provided about 83,412 meals, including 31,405 breakfasts, 36,198 lunches, and 15,809 snacks. All meals are free to enrolled children and subsidized through the California Adult & Child Care Food Program.

PREPARING CHILDREN FOR KINDERGARTEN



Percentage of children at or above typical developmental levels for their age.

● Fall ● Spring



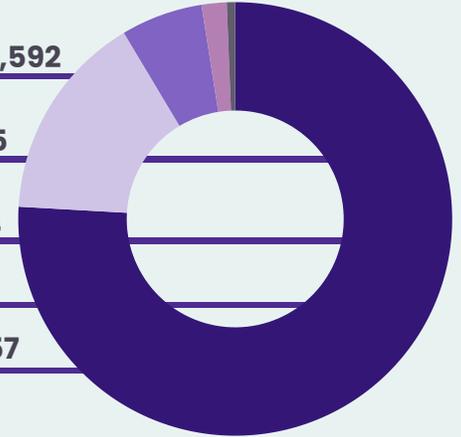
Teachers prepare individualized and group activities that promote children’s growth and development. Head Start teachers assess children’s development across multiple domains 2 times per year (fall & spring), using the Desired Results Developmental Profile.

BUDGET REPORT

Funding Sources

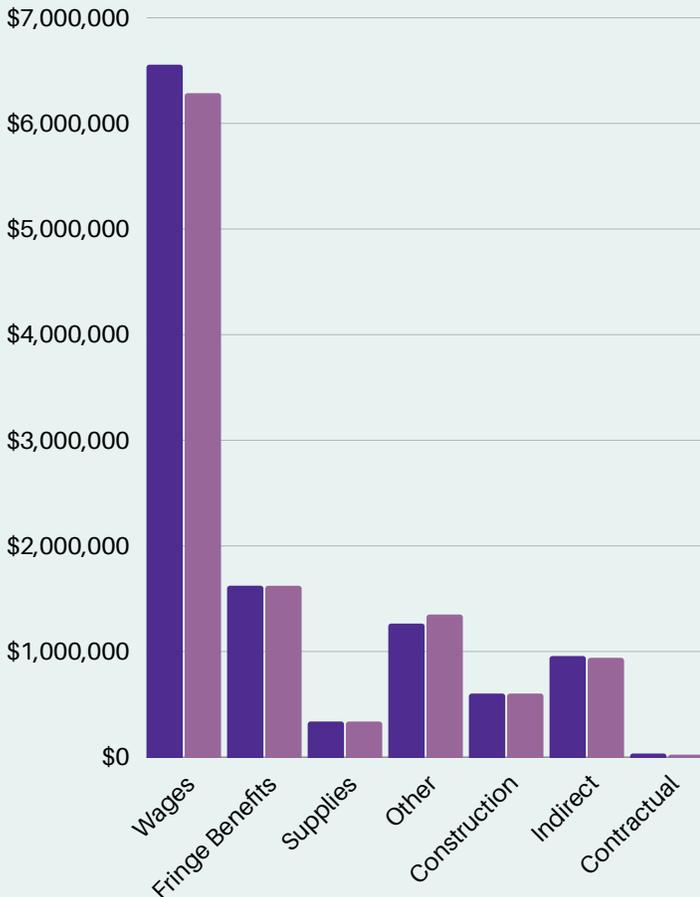
Total Head Start	Grant	Stipend	Parent Fees	\$11,082,592
California Department of Social Services	\$838,574	\$25,837	\$1,003	\$865,415
California Department of Education	\$1,830,678	\$361,960	\$13,776	\$2,206,414
USDA/ CACFP				\$265,104
Rent , Donations, Fundraising & Other				\$88,557

\$14,508,082



Head Start Budget

\$11,373,913 **\$11,082,592**
 ● Budget ● Actual

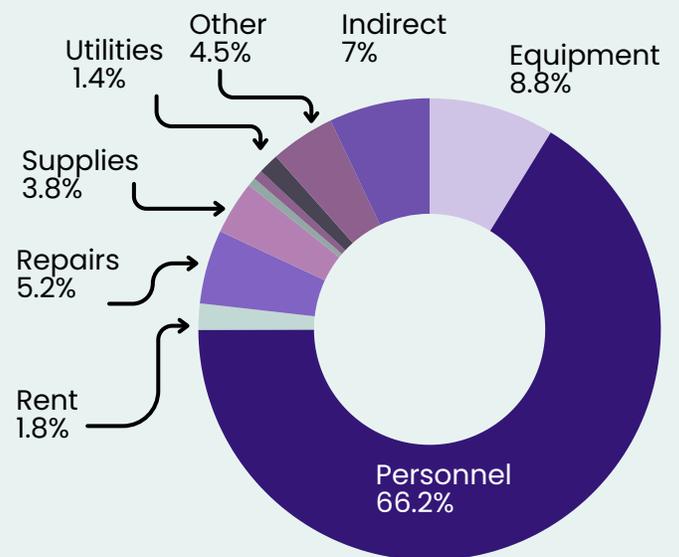


In Kind Donations

\$2,771,055



Total NCS Expenses



*The program wide independent Audit for the year ending June 30, 2025 had no findings on internal controls for both material and non-material weaknesses. Field work included reviewing internal controls, fraud risk and grant compliance testing including attendance, eligibility, and in-kind contributions.

STATE & FEDERAL MONITORING REVIEW RESULTS

As a program funded primarily through federal and state dollars, NCS is subject to regular monitoring reviews to ensure compliance with program requirements and proper expenditure of public funds. Below are the summaries of the most recent reviews of NCS operations conducted by our funders.

FA1 Review

The 2025 Focus Area One (FA1) monitoring review conducted by the Office of Head Start found that Northcoast Children's Services is largely compliant with all Head Start Program Performance Standards and applicable federal requirements. The program demonstrated strong performance across program design and governance, education and child development, family and community engagement, fiscal management, eligibility and enrollment, and safe and supportive environments, with no areas of noncompliance or deficiencies identified. One Area of Concern was noted in Health Services related to obtaining timely medical and oral health determinations for all children, with recommendations to strengthen follow-up and reduce barriers to care; however, this did not rise to the level of noncompliance. Overall, the review affirmed that the program is well managed, effectively serving children and families across a large rural service area, and meeting federal expectations for quality and accountability.

California Department of Social Services (CDSS)

The CDSS conducted a contract monitoring review from April 21-25, 2025, and all items reviewed met state requirements. The review assessed NCS infant & toddler centers for compliance with governance & administration, parent involvement, standards, assessment & accountability, staffing & professional development, opportunity & equal educational access, and teaching & learning. NCS was found to be in compliance in all areas.



“NCS has provided my autistic toddler with opportunities to grow in his social-emotional development in ways that have been life-changing for him.”



“We are so grateful to be a part of the Head Start program. Every teacher we’ve ever had or met in the program has been nothing short of amazing... Everyone is very professional very caring and you can tell they love what they do which is so important and incredible for our kids!”



Service in Action



“They have tremendously helped with my child’s learning such as speech, signing, engagement and socializations skills. I was able to maintain my employment while I was a single parent due to all their support. Staff is very kind and my daughter loves attending her school site. ”



“This program has helped my child develop his English skills and at the same time allow him to still practice his Spanish which is very important to me. He has also been more interactive with other children and has allowed him to make many new friends.”



Northcoast Children's Services

THANK YOU

for your support and for
investing in children
and their futures!

If you would like to support our mission
further, you can donate below:

DONATE 

<https://ncsheadstart.org/donate/>



**Northcoast
Children's
Services**



info@ncsheadstart.org



<https://ncsheadstart.org>



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