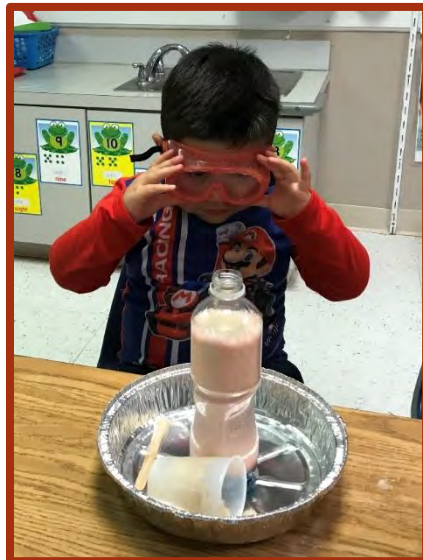


CAPWN HEAD START

3350 10th Street
Gering, Nebraska 69341

2023-2024
ANNUAL REPORT



MIGRANT & SEASONAL HEAD START



COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP of WESTERN NEBRASKA

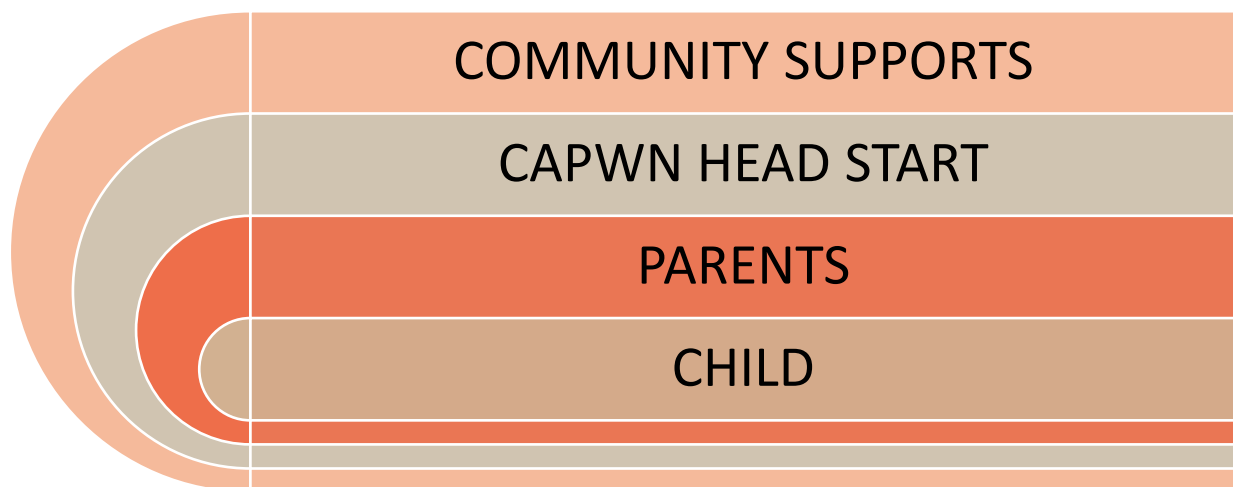
Helping People – Changing Lives

This Annual Report is a summary of the services provided by Community Action Partnership of Western Nebraska (CAPWN) Head Start during 2023-2024. It is presented to the CAPWN Board of Directors, CAPWN Head Start Policy Council, and made available to the public on the capwn.org website.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

“To offer family members with opportunities and support for growth and change, believing that people can identify their own strengths and interests and are capable of finding solutions.”

“To foster the roles of parents as the primary educators, nurturers, and advocates for their children. To work in close partnerships with parents to assist them in developing and utilizing individual and family strengths to successfully meet personal and family objectives. To encourage parents to become involved in all aspects of the program, from participation in children’s activities to direct involvement in policy and program decisions.”



CAPWN Health Center is a Community Action Partnership and member of a national network of over 1,000 community action agencies across America. We are a non-profit, community-based health and human services organization that services low-income, disadvantaged, and those unable to meet their needs through other sources. The agency was established in 1965 and provides services to over 9,000 individuals, children, and families each year.

ABOUT US

CAPWN Head Start is a Migrant and Seasonal Head Start (MSHS) program serving low-income children and families working in agriculture in Western Nebraska. The CAPWN Head Start program is part of the CAPWN Health Center located in the city of Gering. CAPWN Head Start has

operating sites in Scottsbluff and Alliance. The program serves children who are six weeks old until they are eligible to begin kindergarten. Families must derive at least 51% of their income from agriculturally related work or be categorically eligible. Selection criteria are used to ensure that the program serves the neediest of the needy.

Head Start programs across the nation are divided into regions. The CAPWN Head Start program operates in Region XII - Migrant and Seasonal Head Start. All programs are governed by the current Head Start Act and follow the Head Start Performance Standards to ensure quality programs across the country. In addition to the Head Start Performance Standards, programs must comply with all CACFP, and state and local childcare licensing regulations. The highest standards of regulations are met.

Head Start programs are federally funded through five-year grants and are implemented at no-cost to families. CAPWN Head Start completed the fifth year of their grant cycle from March 1, 2023, to February 28, 2024. We served children in 2023 from June through October at both sites.

CAPWN Head Start is proud to have completed 33 years of service to children and families who are migrant and seasonal agricultural workers. The program not only met but exceed the funded enrollment of 54 children by serving 57 children. We also met our 10% disability requirement and non-federal share requirement. Staff and families worked diligently to meet the requirements.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR



We continue to work through the fallout of the pandemic. The biggest impact has been in hiring and retaining staff. As I work with other childcare programs, I realize this is not only a problem for our program. In working with our Region 12 Office, we were able to apply for carryover funds to implement staff retention and staff wellness initiatives. Our hope is that we can retain the quality staff we have and attract new staff. Overall, we had a very successful year, as you will see by the information in our annual report.

Sincerely,

Sarah L. Ochoa
Community Services Director

The Head Start Act requires federal reviews of all Head Start programs. The Office of Head Start (OHS) uses the Aligned Monitoring System (AMS 2.0) to review grantees for performance, progress, and compliance across multiple years of program implementation. This provides grant recipients opportunities for continuous improvement with a focus on high quality. The Head Start monitoring process is a review of program information, data, and systems. CAPWN Head Start received outstanding Focus Area One and Focus Area Two reviews with 100% compliance in all areas in 2021 and 2022 and was not scheduled for a monitoring review in 2023.

MONITORING

In addition to the federal monitoring, DZA Accountants/ Advisors audited the financial statements of Community Action Partnership of Western Nebraska, Inc. and Affiliate (the Organization) for the year ended June 30, 2023. No adverse findings were found. Excerpts from the reports included the following statements, *“No transactions were noted that were entered into by the Organization during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus.”* and *“All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period. In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Organization as of June 30, 2023 and 2022, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.”*

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

ELIZABETH ANN (BETTY) KENYON

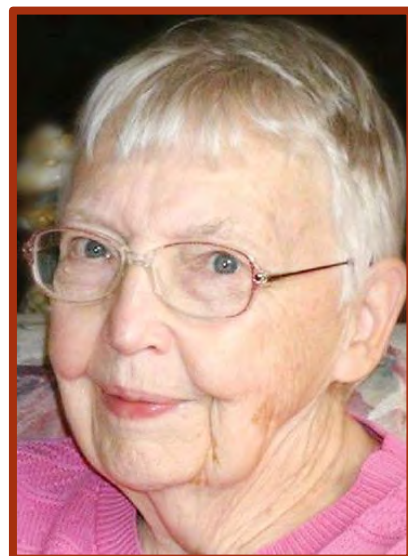
“My friend, Joan Cromer, called me one day in 1985, and asked if I would like to manage the WIC Program at Panhandle Community Services. I was traveling about 2,000 miles a month to nursing homes and small hospitals in Nebraska and Wyoming because one of the requirements of the Medicare/Medicaid Program was that each hospital and nursing home had to have a consulting Registered Dietitian. I was also teaching nutrition at Nebraska Western College. I liked the flexible schedule so I might attend my children’s events and be home for the holidays. But I had no paid time off.

So, I began working for PCS at Panhandle Station managing the WIC and Commodity Supplemental Food Programs. PCS moved to the building on North O Street in Gering. After the new Health Center building was completed, WIC moved there. And the name was changed to Community Action Partnership of Western Nebraska.

After a time, I left these programs but continued with CAPWN (and continued teaching) for over 30 years. Through those years I was a nutritional advisor for Head Start and Migrant Head Start. I also produced agency publicity for a while.

To this day, I am reviewing Head Start children’s nutrition for ESU Head Start and CAPWN Head Start.

I have never regretted that I said “yes” so many years ago.



YULETH ESMERALDA VERA

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

"On October 31, 1989, I was born early at 7 months, weighing 6 pounds, and could fit inside a shoe box. My lucky day -- I was a Halloween baby. My mother had no name picked out for me, so my grandmother named me Yuleth, an archaic term for Christmas which does not match with me being born on Halloween. I was born in a small town along the border of Texas. My parents are from Mexico. Therefore, I used to spend my afternoons and weekends visiting my grandmother who lived across the border in Mexico. Those were the best of times! My grandmother was a teacher for an elementary school for 40 years. So, every vacation time we had off from school, I would go spend it in her classroom.

There was a sad time in my life due to having knee problems. My first knee surgery was on both knees at the same time. It was done in 2001, and I was home-schooled for a while because I couldn't walk. Then, I finally went back to public school, and I completed elementary school and moved to Dallas! All I can remember is my mother being a single mother and always working. I was the first grandchild on my mother's side to be born and that makes me the oldest of my siblings. I have a younger sister and brother, named Lizbeth and Luis.

I grew up helping my mother translate whenever she needed help at doctors' appointments or at the stores. I also helped her with my siblings because she worked most of the time. We moved many times in Dallas. I graduated from W. T. White High School in 2008. I was a young mother of 17 years old with my son Francisco. After graduating, I had my 2nd child Angelina. It was tough being a young parent, but my mother did not let me give up. I had my first job at a restaurant named Luby's Cafeteria to help my children's father and I out economically. My mother encouraged me to go back to school and I did! I went to a community college named Kapwn. I completed a 9-month course for computer technician. I remember, I was the only woman in a class full of men. I graduated in 2011!

The day after my graduation, my little family and I headed to Scottsbluff, Nebraska, where we had family. I started working right away in a few restaurants. I enrolled my children in Head Start. My children's teacher encouraged me to apply for a bus monitor position for the center. That is when I started working for CAPWN. I started as a bus monitor, then I became a teacher aide, and in 2016, I became the family advocate for CAPWN Head Start. In the off season, I became a teacher in the infant and toddler classroom at a child development center. I have not stopped yet. I am still planning on going back to school to add to my career in human services.

As a family advocate, I enjoy having challenges. I find that there is always something new to learn. I really feel good when I help a family out in their wellbeing. As a teacher, I enjoy the children's smiles and how funny they can be! I feel complete when I am the caregiver they look for to comfort them, play with them, or help them. with my 3rd child, Esmeralda! She keeps me on my toes! I am thankful for my children.

In 2018, I had my 2nd knee surgery. At that time, I had no family in town, so my biggest help was my son, Francisco. He was right hand when I needed anything because I couldn't walk around, and my children's father would be at work. I also found out I was pregnant



A short time later, I started a new chapter in my life and went through a divorce. Since that time, we have bought a home which we love, got a new golden retriever named Dodger, got engaged in the 49ers Stadium in San Francisco, California, and will soon have a wedding.

For fun I enjoy going to the gym to relax and going on family vacations to the beach in Texas - especially if my sister is with us! She's lots of fun and funny! I love learning new recipes and cooking for my family. As a family, we spend weekends together listening to music and playing games.

Now waiting for the next Chapter! Can we please turn the page already!"

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

CAPWN Head Start recognizes and supports parents as their children's primary teachers and advocates. Head Start staff actively engage parents, and promote the connection between family participation, child outcomes,

and school success. Parents are offered services through family engagement activities to strengthen the relationships between the child, parent, and the program.

One key component of family engagement is the utilization of a Policy Council. This special group of parents is elected by the parents at each site to represent all children and parents at the local level. The Policy Council meets monthly and has direct influence in the decision making and character of the program. These representatives are the liaisons between the local parent groups and the program administrators. Parent meetings are held at each site. Childcare and meals are provided. Parent officers are elected and receive leadership training. The officers conduct formal business meetings at parent meetings. All parents have input into the training topics and planned events. Topics covered during the 2023 season included the following: Love Them Protect Them: Injury Prevention Starts at Home, Health Eating and Nutrition by WIC, and Social Emotional Development by Kalyn Tissue from Rooted in Relationships. Local health fairs were held with many representatives from local resources in the communities including; dental and oral health, nutrition/diabetes, lead poisoning prevention, hearing, domestic violence and support groups, WIC, enrollment in the HealthCare Marketplace, Migrant Health Services, Migrant Education Services, Rooted in Relationships, Legal Aid of Nebraska, and Nebraska Department of Labor.

Another key component of family engagement is the program's family advocates (FAs). The family advocates build relationships with families beginning with the recruitment and enrollment process. Family Advocates continue to support families throughout their time in the program. Through these connections, FAs learn about the family's strengths, aspirations, and challenges. Goal setting is a key focus for Head Start, and Family Advocates work alongside families to identify, establish, and achieve their goals. Family outcomes are assessed in areas such as family well-being, positive parent-child relationships, families as lifelong educators and learners, engagement in transitions, connections to peers and the community, and involvement as advocates and leaders. The information gathered from these outcomes helps to guide the identification of family goals.

During the 2023-2024 season, parenting classes were held on the following topics: Relationships Matter- the importance of caring relationships and sharing and exploring foundational positive strategies, You Can Make a Difference – exploring practical strategies to use with children when they are choosing challenging behaviors as a way to communicate their wants and needs, and Families as Partners - a deep understanding of developmentally appropriate expectations for children and the impact family engagement has on children. Parents and teachers partnered together throughout the program. Parents set school readiness goals for their children and teachers worked with the children in the classrooms to achieve those goals. Parents met with teachers regularly through home visits and parent teacher conferences. Newsletters and parent-child activities and materials were also sent home for families to enjoy together. This was vital for connecting with parents who could not come during the day to visit due to work schedules.



Child literacy continued to be a priority of the CAPWN Head Start program. Information about the importance of reading aloud to children at early ages is provided to families frequently throughout the program, and families are encouraged to read daily to their child. Research shows that reading aloud to young children has long lasting effects in school success.

Children and parents were given high quality children's books that were age and developmentally appropriate throughout their enrollment in the program. One program goal was to provide one book at each scheduled contact (home visits, conferences, meetings, trainings, etc.) with the family. Whenever possible, the books were in the families' home languages.

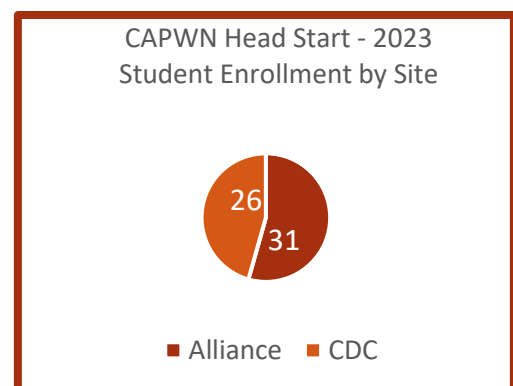
PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

ENROLLMENT

Funded enrollment – 54
Actual enrollment – 57
All children received full, center-based services.

LOCATIONS – 2 Sites - One in Alliance, NE & one in Scottsbluff, NE

- Alliance – 31 Children
- Scottsbluff Child Development Center – 26 Children



ATTENDANCE – 2023 (100% of eligible children were served)

Actual Attendance

Month	Alliance	CDC	Total
June	82.13%	88.89%	85.44%
July	88.74%	83.84%	86.31%
August	93.10%	87.27%	90.40%
September	90.19%	94.23%	91.69%
October	78.17%	84.77%	80.65%

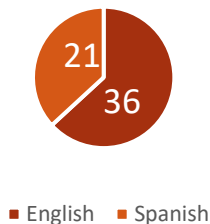
Funded Attendance

Month	Alliance	CDC	Total
June	58.64%	60.91%	59.77%
July	75.24%	69.79%	72.51%
August	74.44%	72.51%	73.56%
September	79.97%	91.88%	83.91%
October	69.12%	84.21%	74.37%



LANGUAGES

CAPWN Head Start - 2023
Primary Language of Children



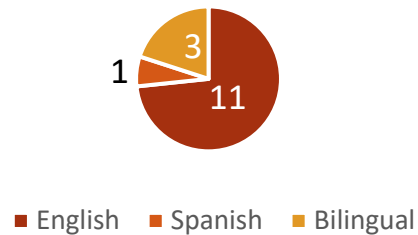
Home languages of children

- English - 36
- Spanish – 21

Languages of classroom staff

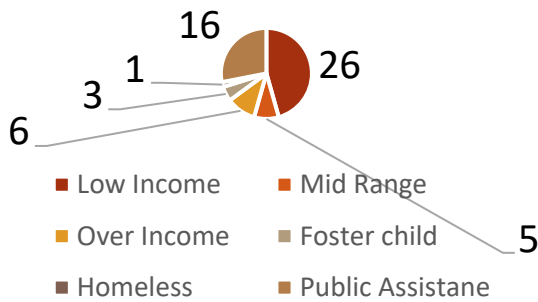
- English - 11
- Spanish - 1
- Bi-lingual –3

CAPWN Head Start - 2023
Languages of Classroom Staff



FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES 2023

CAPWN Head Start 2023 - Eligibility



Family Size	Income numbers
For a family of 2	\$19,720
For a family of 3	\$24,860
For a family of 4	\$30,000

- Low Income – 0%-100%
- Mid-Range – 101% - 130%
- Over income – 131% and Up

HEALTH SERVICES

NUTRITION

- Meals served to children
 - Breakfast 2440
 - Lunch 2537
 - PM Snack 2406



HEALTH EXAMS/SCREENINGS

Health Services	Completed	%Rate	Referrals	# Underage
Physicals	50	87.7%		
Dental Screenings	55	100%	4	2
Vision Screenings	55	100%	7	2
Lead Screenings	36	70.6%		6
Blood Pressures	21	45.7%		11
Hemoglobin	21	70%		27
Growth Assessments	53	93%		
Hearing	48	84.2%		



DISABILITIES – During the 2023-2024 season CAPWN Head Start served 3 children with an open IEP and 4 children with an open IFSP. The primary disabilities included autism, orthopedic impairment, and speech or language impairment. There were additional children with possible concerns identified during the season. The program followed the steps necessary to get these children started in the process towards services needed for early interventions. One external referral was made before the season ended.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

2023-2024 Year	Proposed Budget	COLA*	QI**	COB***	Total Grant Funds	Actual Costs
Personnel	463,422	33,979	17,991	133,693	649,085	642,699.59
Fringe Benefits	91,795	4,400	2,330	17,313	115,838	116,382.37
Indirect Costs	94,318	6,517	3,450	27,181	131,466	132,202.55
Supplies	30,617		956	1,922	33,495	33,581.77
Other	121,311		1,543	9,420	132,274	139,202.55
Training & Technical Assistance	38,504				38,504	25,892.96
TOTAL	836,964	44,896	23,270	189,529	1,100,662	1,089,961.79

*COLA – Cost-of-Living Adjustment

**QI – Quality Improvement Funds

***COB – Carryover Budget Request

The program received a 5.60% cost-of-living adjustment to increase pay scales for all staff. In addition, programs received quality improvement funds for sustainable quality improvement investments. In addition, our program applied to use carryover funds for staff retention and staff wellness initiatives. The program received \$19,876.34 in USDA Child Care and Adult Food Program reimbursement for providing breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack.

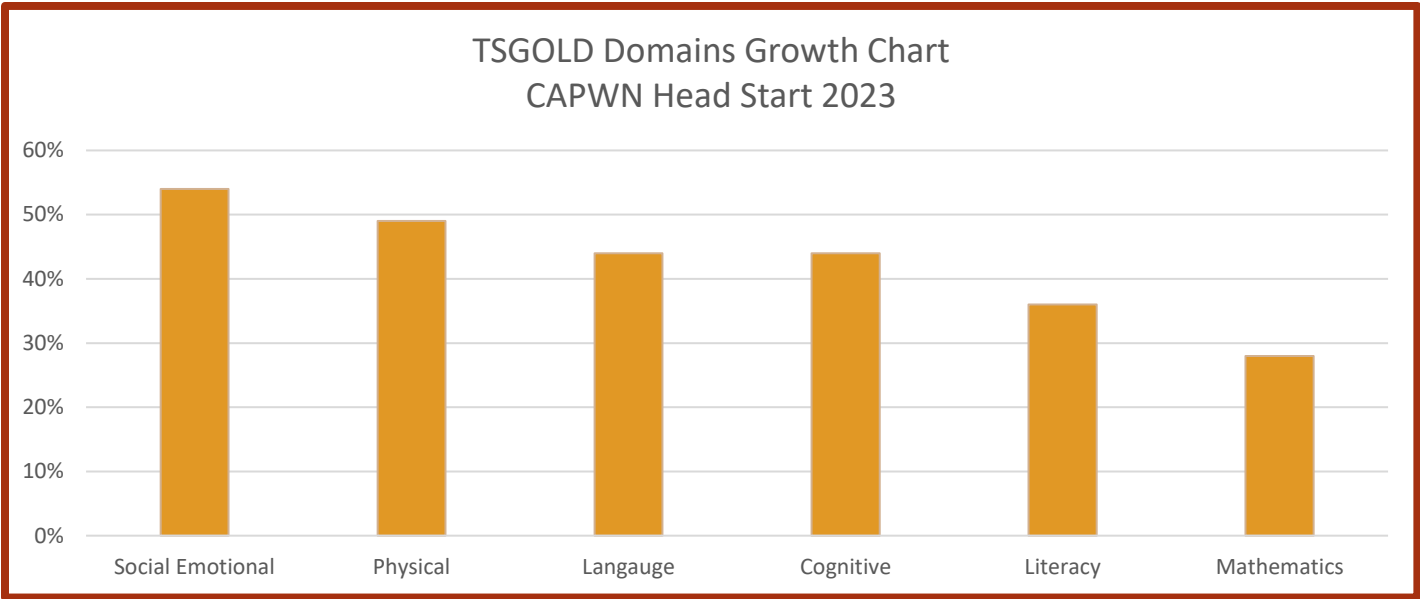


EDUCATION

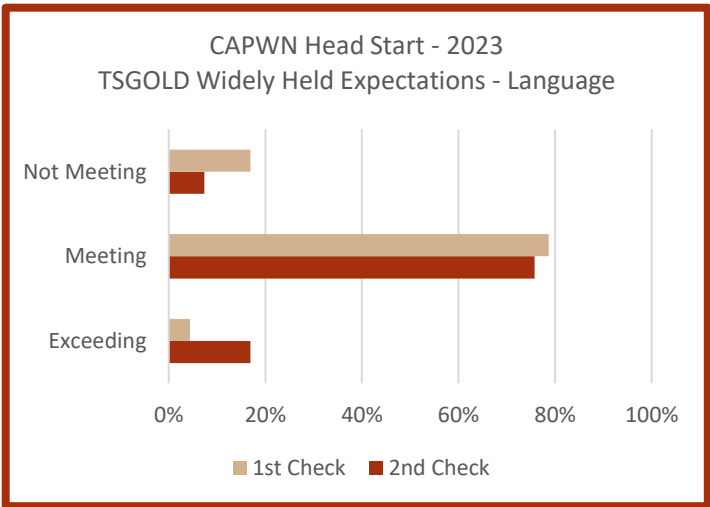
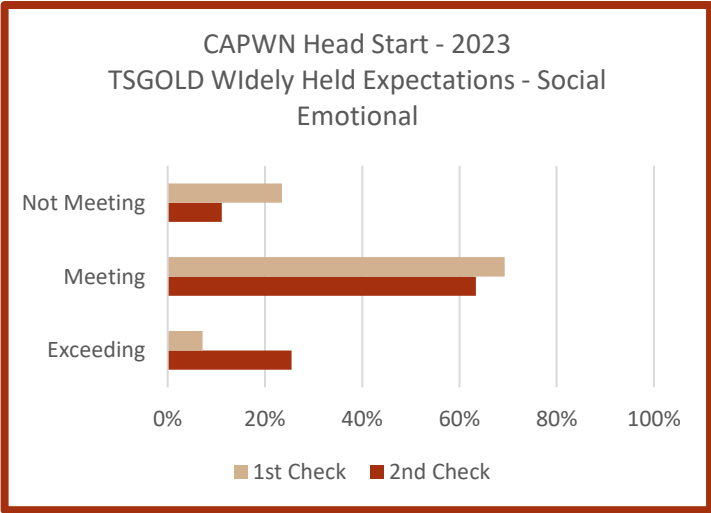
CAPWN Head Start used The Creative Curriculum from the Teaching Strategies Ecosystem® in 2023. It is a comprehensive, research-based curriculum that focuses on children's interests, encourages critical thinking skills, and promotes school readiness. It is designed to work for all children, including children with disabilities and English language learners. Activities are provided to be used in classrooms and in homes to promote family engagement. The curriculum recognizes that children are unique individuals with unique needs and patterns of development. Teachers used the materials and activities to individualize for children in the program.

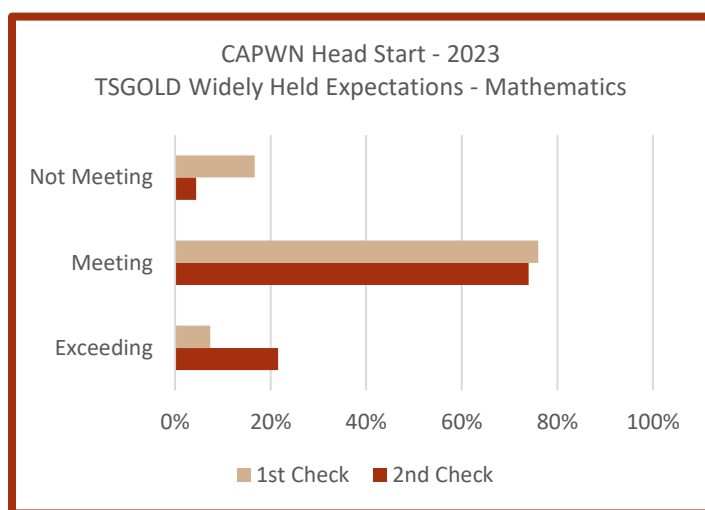
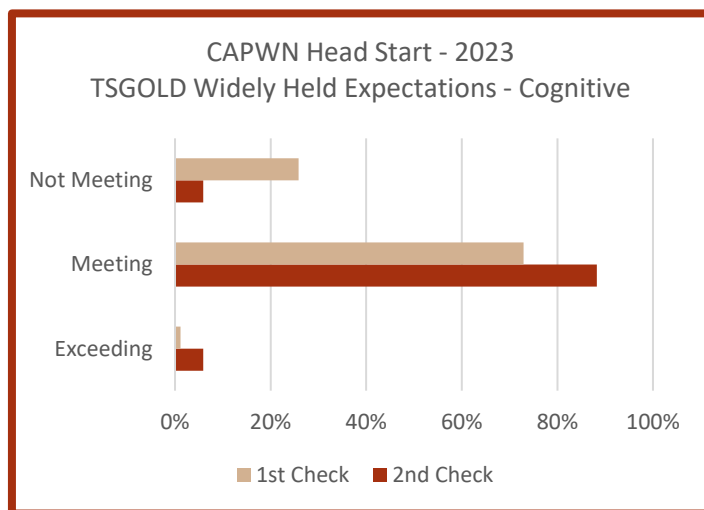
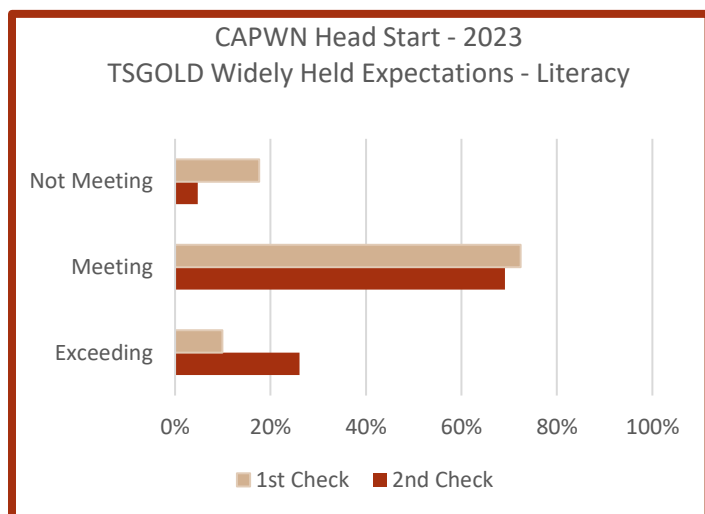
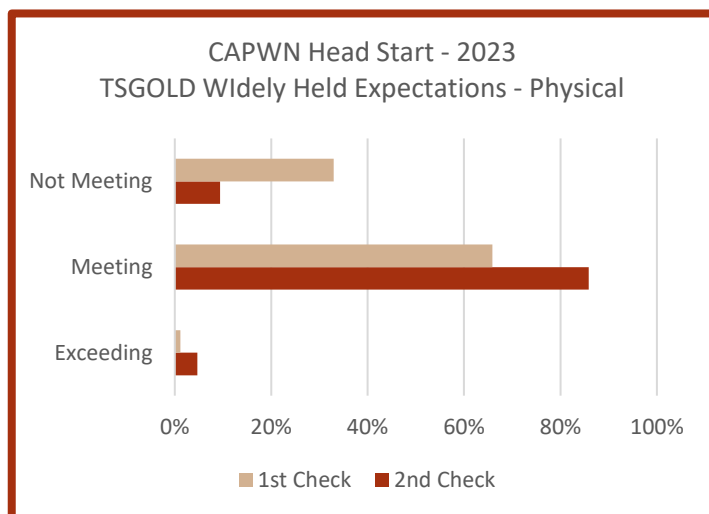
The Teaching Strategies Ecosystem® has an ongoing assessment system called Teaching Strategies Gold (TSGOLD). Teachers observe the children learning and developing in six areas of development every day while in their care. These observations are entered into a computerized system which provides data for teachers, parents, and the program. Teachers can plan activities to scaffold learning for optimal growth, parents can see reports on their child's development and learn ways to support learning in the home, and the program can use the data to make decisions for program improvement.

TSGOLD also provides data which demonstrates the growth of children when engaged in a high-quality early learning environment. Twenty-nine children in the control group in the 2023 program demonstrated growth in all six measured areas of TSGOLD. Over 40% of the children in the CAPWN Head Start program demonstrated growth in 4 areas of development: social emotional, physical, language, and cognition.



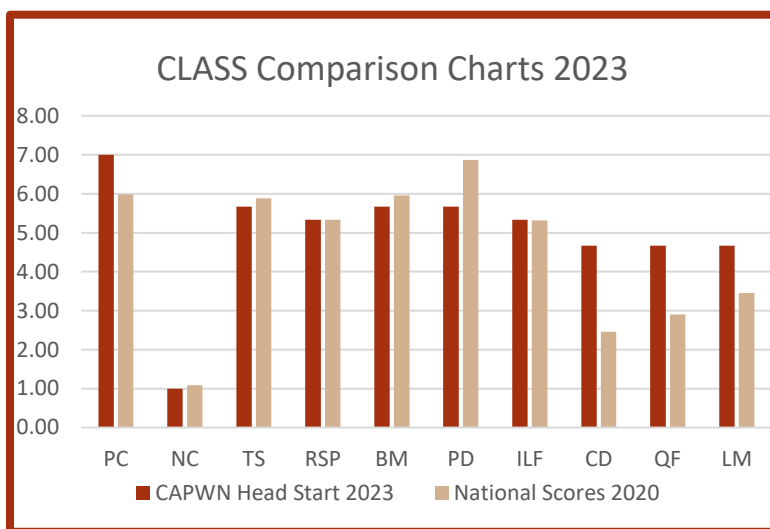
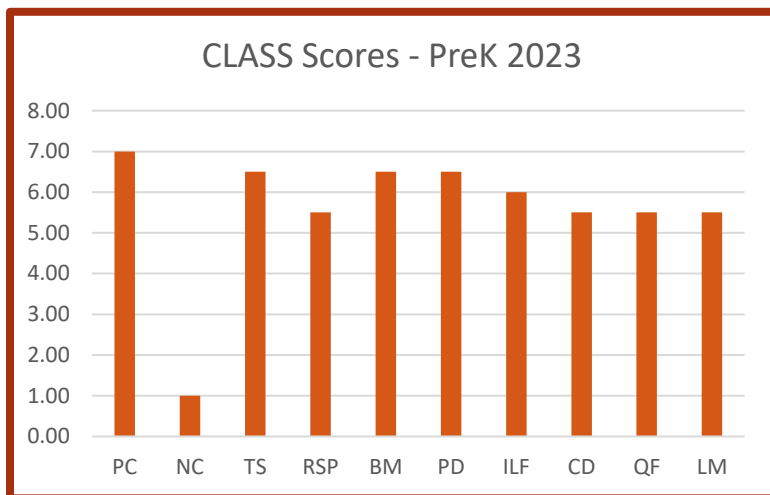
Data shows that the majority of the program’s students began the season meeting widely held expectations as defined by research through Teaching Strategies Gold (TSGOLD) in all six areas of development. However, over one-fifth of the students were behind in the areas of social-emotional, literacy, and mathematics development. For many students, this is their first time they have been exposed to group care and stimulating learning environments outside of their homes. These numbers significantly drop as the season progresses and new skills are learned. The data also shows that children attending more than one season are now exceeding in many areas of development.





The Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) is an observational tool used to rate the quality of interactions between teachers and children in preschool classrooms. The Office of Head Start uses the CLASS instrument as one component of the federal monitoring system. Since the COVID 19 pandemic, system changes have been made in the implementation of the federal CLASS observations. Even though CAPWN Head Start was not scheduled for a federal CLASS observation, the program continued to use the tool to internally monitor the program and to identify strengths and needs of the program.

The CLASS tool is research based and supports the theory that quality interactions between children and adults are the primary way to support children's learning and development. The CLASS tool utilizes a 7-point scoring system to assess the quality of teacher-child interactions. Low scores range from 1-2, mid-range scores are 3-5, and high range scores are 6-7. CAPWN Head Start strives for high range scores where quality interactions are consistently present for every child. During the 2023 season, CAPWN Head Start scored above the mid-range in all areas; Positive Climate (PC), Negative Climate (NC- Low scores are desired), Teacher Sensitivity (TS), Regard for Student Perspectives (RSP), Behavior Management (BM), Productivity (PD), Instructional Learning Formats (ILF), Concept Development (CD), Quality of Feedback (QF), and Language Modeling (LM). The program also scored higher in some areas compared to the CLASS National scores from 2020.



SCHOOL READINESS & TRANSITION

The main goal for every student who is accepted into CAPWN Head Start is to help that child and family to be optimally ready to be successful in school and life. This includes children with disabilities and English language learners. The CAPWN Head Start School Readiness Plan defines five broad goals for every child addressing all areas of development. These five goals provide direction for program-wide decisions to individualized activities in classrooms.

Parents are an integral component of our School Readiness Plan. CAPWN recognizes the importance of parental support for lifelong success. Parents and teachers set individual school readiness goals for each child that are supported in the homes and in the classrooms. The program also educates parents on the importance of these critical ages of early development and explains that the connections a child makes now impact future success. CAPWN Head Start has five comprehensive school readiness goals. They are as follows:

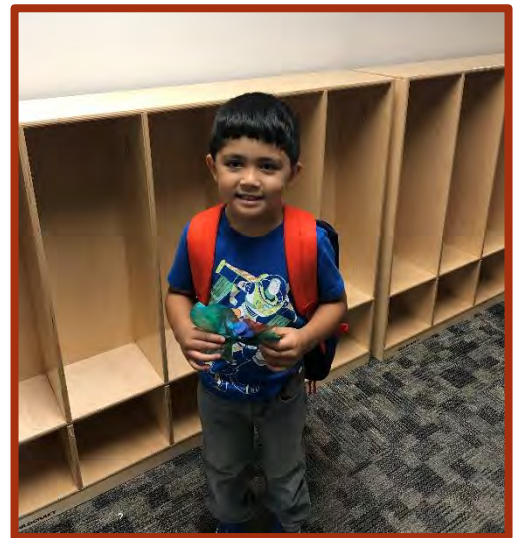
School Readiness Goals	
Objective 1	- All children, including children with disabilities, will engage in activities and interactions to increase comprehension and understanding of expressive and receptive language to communicate in their home language and English.
Objective 2	- All children, including children with disabilities, will develop appropriate self-help skills, show progress in expressing feelings, needs, and opinions and establish secure relationships with adults and peers.
Objective 3	- All children, including children with disabilities, will have opportunities to develop and display emotional and behavioral self-regulation skills and executive functioning skills.
Objective 4	- All children, including children with disabilities, will have opportunities to develop cognitive skills including reasoning, memory, problem solving, and thinking skills to understand and organize their world.
Objective 5	- All children, including children with disabilities, will have the ability to develop perception, gross motor skills, fine motor skills, and gain knowledge and use of safe, healthy behaviors, and routines.

The CAPWN Head Start program goal is to increase the percentages of growth for each in these five school readiness goals each year. Unfortunately, one of the challenges that the program continues to face is the recruitment, hiring, and retention of qualified teaching staff at the Alliance site. During the 2023-2024 season, Alliance began the season with new teachers in every classroom. Analysis of the Teaching Strategies Gold (TSGOLD) data demonstrates growth in all areas of development. It is, however, difficult to do a year to year comparison without the consistency of teaching staff. The program continues to work towards hiring and retaining qualified staff.

From the first day students and families enter the program until their last day, children and families are being prepared to transition to the next step of their educational journeys. Infants begin forming trusting relationships with caring adults and primary caregivers outside the nucleus of their family. They develop physically and gain mobility interacting with stimulating environments. Toddlers gain skills to grow independence and develop social connections with other children and adults. Preschoolers learn how to follow the daily routine, navigate social interactions, improve fine and gross motor skills, follow directions, and develop friendships. All these steps are integral pieces in school readiness.

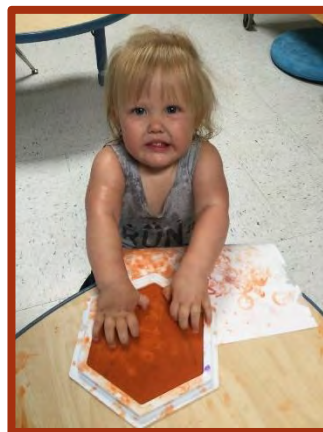
Families also develop skills by being a part of CAPWN Head Start. They begin building trusting relationships with teachers and staff. They attend parent teacher conferences, meetings, and classes to learn about the importance of healthy habits, reading to their child, exercise, limiting screen time, and ways they can support their child in school and life. They learn how to become strong advocates for their children and the importance of being fully engaged for success in school and life.

When children leave CAPWN Head Start, they and their families leave with a skill set to build upon wherever they go next. The program helps families make connections to the local school districts, regional Head Start programs, and community resources. Our kindergarteners are each given a backpack specifically chosen to match their interests, filled with the school supplies that their school requested.



LEARNING IS FUN!

Educational staff provided stimulating learning environments and opportunities through consistent daily routines to scaffold children's learning. Children were provided with health and nutritional services to ensure strong physical development. Children thrived in healthy & happy classrooms.



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

CAPWN Head Start is thankful for the many community people and programs that support the program by graciously giving of their time.

