



2025

Annual Report

(573) 221-3892

[www.douglassonline.org](http://www.douglassonline.org)

711 Grand Ave., Hannibal MO

# A Letter From Our CEO

We are pleased to present the Douglass Community Services 2025 Annual Report, a record of our work to build strong kids, strong families, and strong communities throughout Northeast Missouri. This past year was challenging — it tested our capacity and required more from our staff and leadership than any of us anticipated. They responded by maintaining services, adapting to obstacles, and continuing to show up for the individuals and families who depend on us. Their perseverance made it possible for Douglass to continue moving forward in service of our mission.



We encourage you to read this report to understand the scope of our work, the progress we made in 2025, and why your support matters. Each program and outcome described in these pages is the result of the efforts of our staff, partners, donors, and community members who believe in this mission. To learn more or get involved, visit us at [www.douglassonline.org](http://www.douglassonline.org). We are grateful for your partnership and look forward to what we can accomplish together.

*Stephanie Cooper*

Stephanie Cooper, LMSW

Chief Executive Officer

Douglass Community Services, Inc.



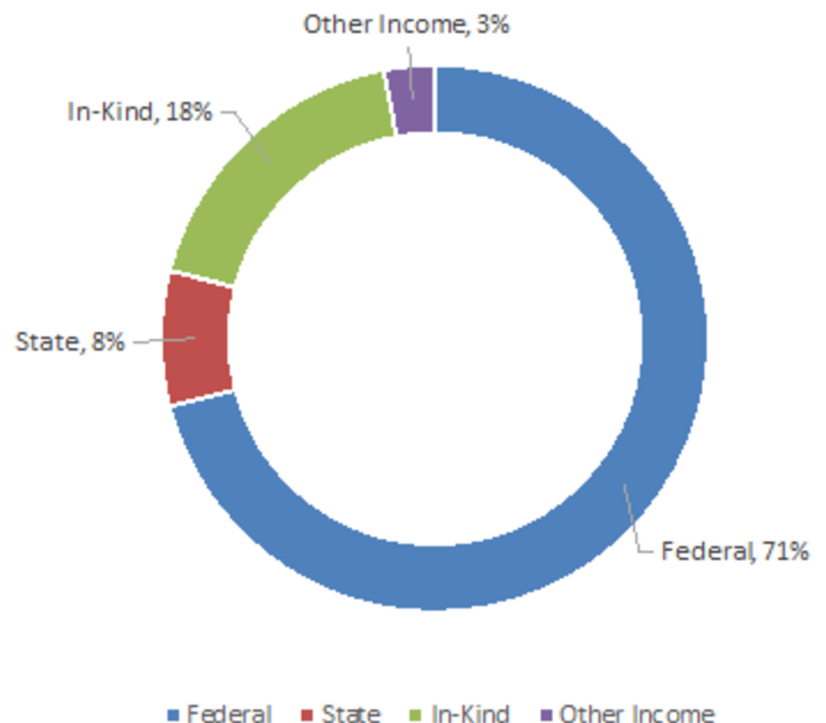
# Fiscal Report

Douglass Community Services is fiscally responsible for managing \$11.4 million dollars in Federal Grant Funds, State Grants, Local Government Grants, Foundation bequests, Donations, Fundraising activities, In-Kind contributions, and other miscellaneous funds. It is the agency's fiduciary responsibility to see that all funds are expended according to all Federal, State, Local and other funding sources' regulations as set forth in the awards.

Internal control policies have been implemented to ensure that costs are allocated correctly, payroll cost analysis, record keeping, ethical standards, conflict of interest, authorized signatures are used, the safeguard of agency cash receipts, utilization of company credit cards, access to government recordkeeping, security of financial data, and the use of agency assets.

As stated in the independent audit report conducted by the independent audit firm of, Gray Hunter Stenn; "the financial statements of Douglass Community Services, Inc., present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position, and the change in its net assets, functional expenses, and its cash flows in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America."

Source of Funds	Revenues	% of Revenue
Federal	\$8,078,842	71%
State	\$934,244	8%
Local	\$137,364	1%
Grants	\$23,179	<1%
United Way	\$42,580	<1%
In-Kind	\$2,088,443	18%
Other Income	\$125,688	1%
All Sources	\$11,430,340	100%



# Food Pantry Report

DCS 2025

Food insecurity remains a persistent challenge in Marion County, Missouri, driven by economic instability, rising food costs, and transportation barriers. **In 2024, an estimated 13.6% of Marion County residents lived below the poverty line,** underscoring the continued need for reliable food assistance. During the same period, food prices across Missouri increased approximately 2.2%, placing additional strain on household budgets and making it increasingly difficult for families to access nutritious food.

Throughout 2025, the Douglass Community Services (DCS) Food Pantry remained a vital resource for individuals and families experiencing food insecurity. Supported by a dedicated team of staff and volunteers, the pantry provided consistent, dignified supplemental food assistance to Marion County residents and others facing hardship.

DCS strengthened its impact through strategic partnerships with the Food Bank of Central and Northeast Missouri and retail rescue partners, including Walmart and Dollar General, helping maximize food availability while reducing waste. These partnerships, combined with strong community support, allowed the pantry to respond effectively to growing demand.

Local food and monetary donations continued to play a critical role in sustaining operations. Annual contributions from Share the Harvest, providing locally sourced deer meat, and Festival of Sharing, supplying emergency food boxes and care closet items, enhanced the nutritional quality and reliability of pantry offerings. In addition, grant funding from the United Way of the Mark Twain Area, Arby's Foundation and the Reidle Foundation provided essential financial support, enabling DCS to maintain consistent service delivery and operational stability.



## Jane Mays- Volunteer Spotlight



# Food Pantry Report

The community rallied for the Food Pantry this year. Both in-kind donations and monetary support flooded in during the fourth quarter in response to the SNAP with holdings.

## Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is open 15 hours a week and serves approximately 1000 clients a month.

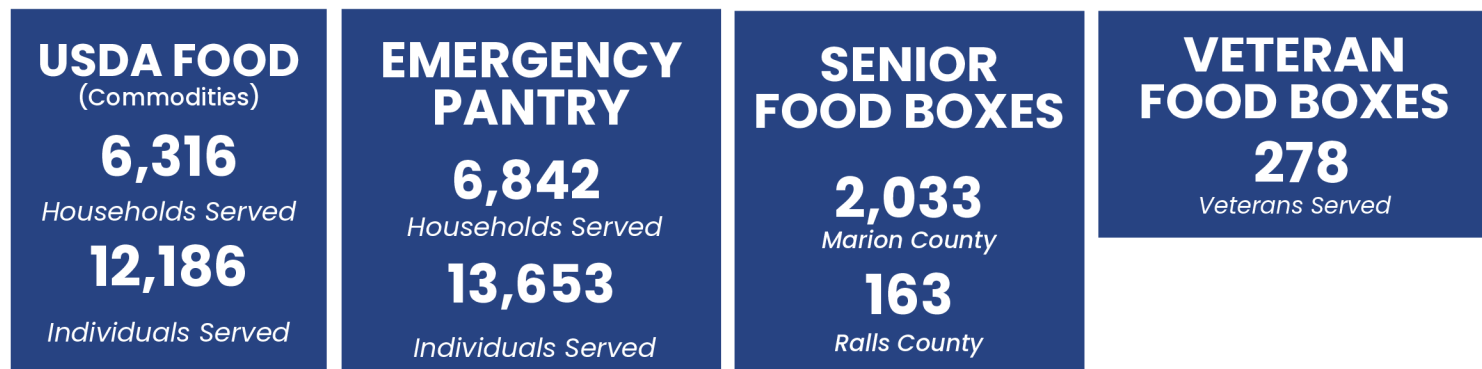
### Food Pantry Hours

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday  
8:30-11:30 a.m.  
& Tuesday and Thursday  
1:00-4:00 p.m.

## Thrift Store

The volunteers at the Thrifts Store also provide a valuable service to Hannibal area neighbors through low-cost clothing and quarterly clothing vouchers. **In 2025 approximately, \$10,046 of clothing was distributed to 954 clients through the voucher system.** Thrift Store Volunteers hosted a Saturday Garage sale in a campaign to rotate inventory and make room for home goods.

**Thrift Store Hours** Monday – Friday 8am -4pm



These figures reflect the growing need for food assistance across all age groups and populations, including seniors and veterans on fixed incomes. Through the commitment of staff, volunteers, donors, and community partners, Douglass Community Services continues to meet this need with compassion, efficiency, and accountability.

This work was supported by **12 Food Pantry Volunteers who logged 3077 hours, valuing \$107,049 in volunteer labor.** Additional support was provided by the BEST Interns from Hannibal Public School during the school year.



Mary & Charlie - Volunteers



# Food Initiatives Report

## DCS Community Garden at 711 Grand

On May 20, 2025 Scouting America Life Scout Dylan Harmon presented the DCS Board with infrastructure for a Community Garden as well as a financial contribution to help with future garden plantings. With the help from a grant from MU Extension and the Rotary Club of Hannibal, Harmon was able to raise funds for garden tools as well as the raised beds. Produce from the Community Garden benefited the DCS Food Pantry clients as well as gave the Kids in Motion participants the opportunity to learn about gardening.



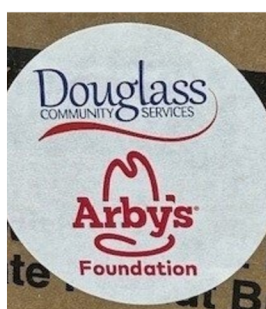
## Summer Food Program Benefits Children of Palmyra, MO

This past summer, DCS successfully provided 2021 meals to children in the Palmyra, MO school district with the rural non-congregate bulk food program. Each week volunteers packaged 5 lunches per child to be distributed at Flower City Park in Palmyra, MO. In addition, with the Arby's Foundation grant we were able to provide 75 back to school food boxes for children in Marion County.

## SNAP at the Central Park Farmers Market



Douglass Community Services again partnered with the Central Park Farmers Market and Hannibal Parks and Recreation to provide SNAP recipients with access to health fruits and vegetables. This year Double Up Food Bucks returned, which allowed SNAP recipients to receive a match to their snap purchase up to \$25. Both neighbors and vendors benefit from this partnership. In 2025, farmers stepped up their commitment to DCS and made weekly donations of produce to the food pantry and the Summer Food program. This was a boon to our pantry! The Reidel Foundation supported the DCS Volunteers who committed their Saturday mornings with gratitude stipend. DCS is honored to extend support for the program.



**2025 marked the third year for DCS to partner with Missouri Foundation for Health to continue the work of the Food Security Council to identify the root causes of food insecurity in Northeast Missouri and to create local programs that focus on reducing or eliminating those identified root causes.**

# Housing Report

DCS 2025

The Housing Program at Douglass Community Services helps households in the region that have low- or very low-income gain housing stability through assistance with housing and utility expenses.

Douglass applies for a federal grant (Homeless Emergency Solutions Program-Homelessness Prevention) and a state grant (Missouri Housing Trust Fund-Emergency Assistance) each year and for 2025 both grants were awarded. These grants are designed to help low-income households that are in danger of becoming homeless remain housed. Both grants have specific guidelines that must be met for eligibility. The Housing Director determines if households meet eligibility through dialog that occurs via phone conversations and at the intake application process. During 2025, direct financial assistance to eligible households from these two grants totaled \$74,153.50 in which 182 individuals in the region met the criteria for eligibility. HESP-HP is a grant that Douglass has been awarded since 2013. Through January 2026, Douglass has provided \$764,028.51 in direct funding assistance since 2013 and MHTF-EA funding assistance totals since 2017 are \$309,766.94. Case management is also provided for households as well through these two grants.

A local grant that Douglass receives is the HBPW: Project Share-N-Care grant that is a monthly stipend that Hannibal Board of Public Works provides to Douglass to assist households that have a past due bill or are in danger of disconnect. During 2025, Douglass provided 128 different households with \$30,151.09 in utility assistance to maintain, regain, or obtain utility services in Hannibal through this collaboration with HBPW.

Other sources of funding that is used for households in need from the region come from collaborations with other local agencies. These are Tri-County Alliance for Unmet Needs and Project Community Connect. The local agencies for Tri-County Alliance include several area churches, Families and Communities Together (FACT), Salvation Army, Northeast Community Action Corporation (NECAC), Preferred Family Healthcare, Mark Twain Behavioral Health, United Way and Douglass. During 2025, \$16,614.78 was used from the donations from TCA to help households in Marion, Ralls, and Monroe counties that were in need. Project Community Connect is comprised of the same agencies that plan a yearly event held the first Thursday in October since 2016. Funds that are raised through yearly fundraising and local donations are used to provide quality of life services to households that present at the event and/or connect with agencies during the year with a need to gain or maintain housing. During the 2025 calendar year, \$4,680.31 from this program was spent to provide assistance.

*For more information, the Housing Director at Douglass Community Services, Inc. is Mike Blase and he can be reached at (573)221-3892 x282. For in-person contact, an appointment is necessary as all programs are coordinated through him.*

## Quote from T.R.

*(Single mother of 2 living in Hannibal that has been receiving help through HESP-HP grant)*

**"Douglass has been able to help me stay housed for the past 4 months through assisting with the past due rent that I owed to avoid eviction and then supplementing me with monthly rental assistance that I couldn't pay. I lost my full-time job about 5 months ago and only recently got a part-time job to help with some of my bills. Without the help that I received through Douglass, my family would have been homeless."**

# Foster Grandparents Program Report



DCS 2025

The AmeriCorps Seniors Foster Grandparent Program connects adults age 55 and older with children who have special or exceptional needs or who are academically or socially at risk. Through one-on-one mentoring, tutoring, and encouragement, Foster Grandparents help children succeed. Volunteers report working with children as “absolutely awesome” and value seeing their progress over time.

Foster Grandparents gain meaningful connections, hands-on training, and community support. A 2024–25 analysis of statewide assessment data (e.g., Georgia Milestones) found that third-grade reading levels strongly correlate with later academic success, including high school graduation and college readiness outcomes, with early proficiency linked to sustained performance across grades 3–12. Foster Grandparents provide the individual attention children need to build literacy, confidence, and emotional resilience. Eligible volunteers receive a small, tax-free hourly stipend, transportation reimbursement, supplemental insurance, and annual recognition. No teaching experience is required—just compassion and a desire to help children succeed. While experiencing improved health, purpose, and connection themselves. Research shows that volunteering improves mental and physical health, reduces loneliness, and increases overall happiness among older adults.



**“I love the children. They bring me such joy. It gives me a reason to get up each morning, a purpose.”**

*- Jean Miles who has been volunteering for nearly 20 years.*

## Project Impact:

- **21** active Foster Grandparent volunteers
- **48** children with special needs served
- **218** children positively impacted daily
- Volunteers serve **5–40 hours** per week



**Contact Information:** Gayle Thompson

Phone: 573-600-9467 | Location: 711 Grand Ave. Hannibal, MO 63401

# Kids In Motion Report

DCS 2025



Kids in Motion is a short-term summer program for incoming 5th and 6th grade students in the Hannibal Public School District. Through hands-on career exploration the youth learn about a variety of career opportunities, the corresponding skill sets, and the education or technical requirements needed to pursue each path. By broadening their career horizons, the youth are able to engage in plans for future education and employment opportunities. Banking basics and fundamental financial topics, as well as, volunteerism are essential elements of the program. Participants earn a daily stipend, up to \$15 per day, based on their participation, performance and attitude.

This year the participants engaged with local entrepreneurs and small business owners during Entrepreneur Day and completed the Junior Achievement More Than Money curriculum where they developed their own business concepts.

KIM Participants showed substantial learning in the following areas:

- Introducing themselves to strangers
- Feeling confident to ask questions when unsure
- Identifying the education/skills required for jobs they experienced
- Setting up a bank account and visiting a bank

## Impact Snapshot:

28

Participants

96%

Completed the program students self-selected. No one was dismissed

\$3863.50

Youth Stipends Awarded



# Kids In Motion Report

DCS 2025

*Thank you to all of our donors!*



COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION  
WEST CENTRAL ILLINOIS & NORTHEAST MISSOURI



EARLY BIRD



United Way of  
The Mark Twain Area



Stones Prairie  
Foundation



# Kids In Motion Report

*We couldn't have done it without your generous support!*



DCS 2025

- First Presbyterian Church
- Hannibal Fire Department
- Hannibal Police Department
- Marion County EMS
- NECOMM 911
- DCS Food Pantry
- NEMO Humane Society
- Hannibal Board of Public Works
- Hannibal City Hall
- Mississippi Market Place
- Moberly Area Community College
- Bleigh Ready Mix
- US Bank
- Great Rivers Bank
- Mark Twain Boyhood Home & Museum
- Culligan Water
- Junior Achievement
- Visitor's Center
- Grand Pharmacy
- HREDC & SBDC
- Gracie Barra
- The Rabbit Hole
- The Powder Room & Emily
- Lennox
- DMO Promo
- Tigerhawk Technologies
- Smooth as Ice
- Advanced Counseling Services
- Missouri Department of Conservation
- First Christian Church



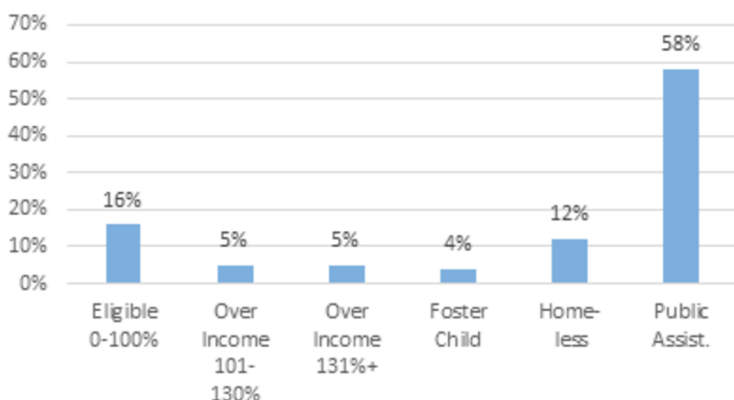
# Head Start Report



Douglass Community Services Head Start serves Pike, Ralls, Marion, Lewis, Shelby, Monroe, Macon, and Randolph counties in Northeast, Missouri. Head Start provides comprehensive services to children ages 0 to 5 years old and to their families. This is to ensure that children develop the skills needed to be successful in Kindergarten and in life. Families can choose the following Head Start services: center-based, family childcare, home-based, or prenatal.

**388 children, 311 families, and 20 prenatals were served in the Douglass Community Services Head Start program. There were 171 two-parent families, and 140 one-parent families served. Also, 291 of the families served were headed by adopted or biological parents, 6 foster parents, and 12 grandparents. 270 of the families served were working, going to school, and/or in training.**

Eligibility Percentages



90% of the children served were eligible, with 16% of the eligible children being in the 0%-100% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, 4% foster children, 12% homeless children, and 58% receiving public assistance. 10% over-income families were served. The average monthly enrollment was 46% due to a continued nationwide staff shortage.

**99%** of the children served had a medical exam, and **87%** had a dental exam completed. Also, **96%** of the children served received up-to-date medical exams according to the EPSTD schedule. **96%** of the children served were also up to date on immunizations. **99%** of the children served were identified as needing medical follow-up and received treatment for chronic conditions. **27** children served were identified and treated for vision concerns. **26** children served were identified and treated for hearing concerns. **100%** of the pregnant mothers receiving prenatal services received prenatal health care and education on fetal development, nutrition, infant care, and risks of alcohol, drugs, and/or smoking. In addition, **100%** of enrolled children had medical insurance, **100%** identified a medical home, and **98%** identified a dental home.



# Head Start Report



DCS 2025

Parents are an important part of the program, and their leadership helps ensure Head Start provides the services their communities need. Families are encouraged to participate in family engagement opportunities throughout the year. These opportunities consist of parent meetings, parent-family activities, classroom interactions, and child-focused education activities in the home. These include Reading Journeys and Learning Journeys. 271 children participated in completing Reading and Learning Journeys. 386 current and former Head Start families volunteered within the program.

Families are also asked to complete a yearly Family Outcomes survey, establishing the level of support they receive and how helpful they find the program. **Below are some quotes from the survey of parents who thought the program was very helpful:**

- The teachers and staff have helped tremendously with the transition of our foster son being placed in our care. They have helped with clothing and getting information we needed for him to be successful.*
- My oldest son that was in the program graduated out last year but the program has helped me prepare him for kindergarten and my daughter that is 3. The program works with me with my daughters health issues and gives me ideas or suggestions to get her to eat food as that is a big struggle for her.*
- Very helpful with transitioning from work to school and school to home getting her prepared for kindergarten.*
- The three weeks that we've had, she absolutely loves Head Start and is excited to go each day. She comes home and shares what she's learned with us. I appreciated making a family goal with Ms. Emily. We are focused on bonding and building a trusting relationship.*
- It has helped build stronger relationships with new people and help create good family habits.*
- Helped me get a car seat for my child, find resources for food, clothes, and helped me set goals and assisted me to achieve those goals. Staff would listen to me vent when I needed it most.*
- The staff is so wonderful and my child loves coming to school. I will miss this program when my son ages out. If I could have another child just so I could see all of the staff and utilize this amazing program, I would, but I can't have any more children at this time. Such wonderful staff and caring, I would of been lost without this program and all the benefits it applied to my life. All of my children were head start kiddos and its been a blessing to be apart of such a wonderful program.*
- This program is absolutely amazing and has the best staff. I can work knowing my child is in the best care.*
- Giving us the freedom of going to work without worrying about childcare for our kid. works with us on concerns. Drives us to reach our goals.*



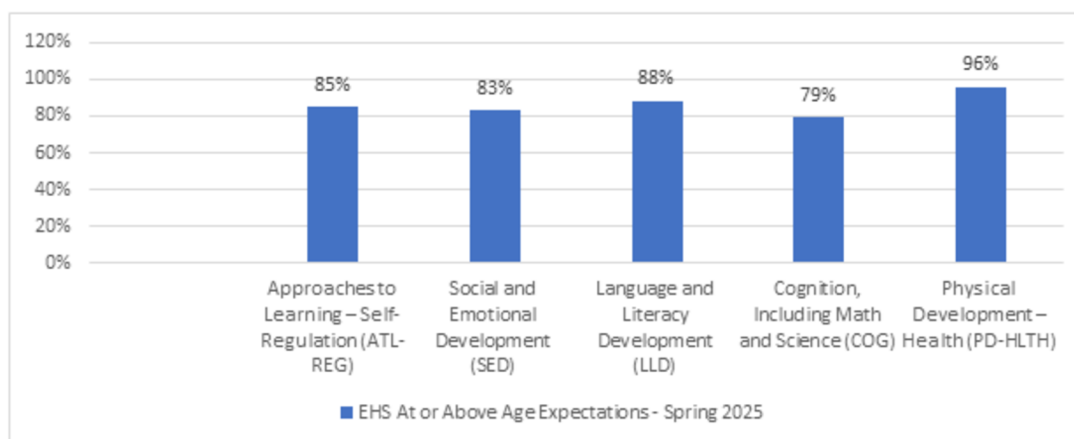
# Head Start Report



Children in the Head Start programs are supported in developing academic skills through ongoing assessment. Progress is measured as being at or above age expectations. The progress for each program is shown in the following charts:

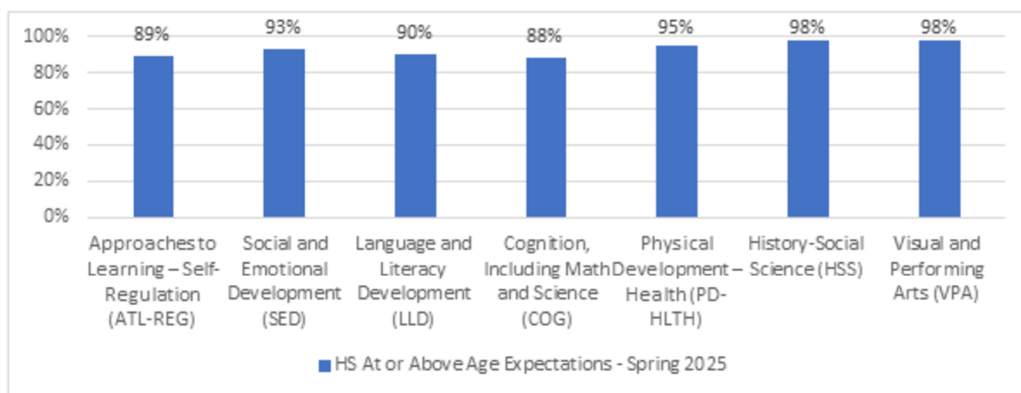
## Early Head Start Approaches to Learning

- Self-Regulation (ATL-REG) – 85%
- Social and Emotional Development (SED) – 83%
- Language and Literacy Development (LLD) – 88%
- Cognition, Including Math and Science (COG) – 79%
- Physical Development – Health (PD-HLTH) – 96%



## Head Start Approaches to Learning

- Self-Regulation (ATL-REG) – 89%
- Social and Emotional Development (SED) – 93%
- Language and Literacy Development (LLD) – 90%
- Cognition, Including Math and Science (COG) – 88%
- Physical Development – Health (PD-HLTH) – 95%
- History-Social Science (HSS) – 98%
- Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) – 98%



# Head Start Report



DCS 2025

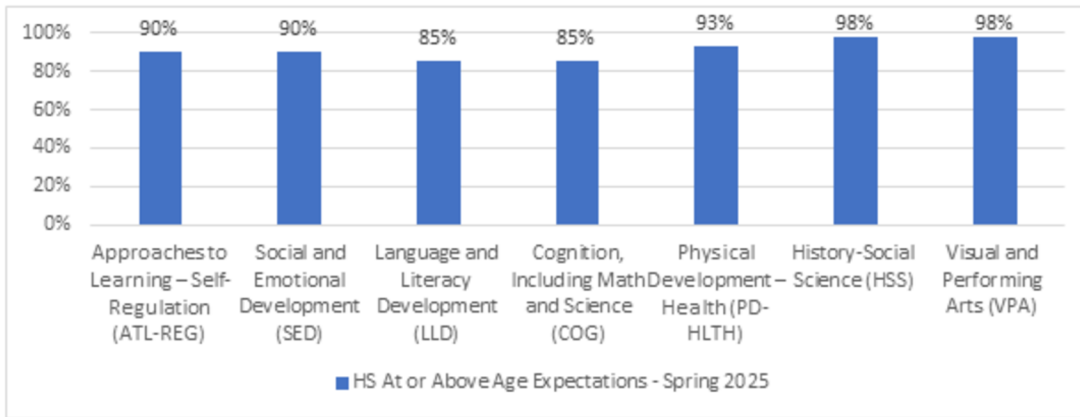
5-year-old headed to Kindergarten in Fall 2025  
**41 children enrolled for full school year**

## Head Start Approaches to Learning

- Self-Regulation (ATL-REG) - 90%
- Social and Emotional Development (SED) - 90%
- Language and Literacy Development (LLD) - 85%
- Cognition, Including Math and Science (COG) - 85%
- Physical Development - Health (PD-HLTH) - 93%
- History-Social Science (HSS) - 98%
- Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) - 98%

## Children with Disabilities -

The program served 35 children with an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) in Early Head Start and 30 children with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) in Head Start



## Tabatha's Story

Tabitha joined head start with her son Gabe, in the center-based program. Years later I had the privilege to be a home visitor to her youngest three; Briar (currently 7th grade), Finley (currently 6th grade) and Journey, (currently 2nd grade).

Mom commented that we encouraged her to use the community resources (food bank, thrift store etc) No matter what produce was in the food box (Kale, broccoli etc) she would sneak those into her casseroles or soups so that her children would be getting vegetables and wouldn't even know it. Mom remembers a staff person putting together recipes to help her use these resources. Mom also taught herself how to garden and can food. There is no waste in her house. Its not been an easy road; the family lost their home to a house fire about a year ago but because of her knowledge of resources, relying on her village (people) and perseverance they are doing well.

She also learned the need to be an advocate for her children and the importance of perseverance, particularly for her son, who was diagnosed with ASD, and has now graduated with honors from Chaddock. She appreciated how we helped her to focus on each child's strengths instead of drilling them on their weaknesses and how each child has special talents and gifts. Gabe has begun working with a 9-year-old special needs child to give the family respite. He is enjoying it as much as the little boy. Briar and Finley are both very active in school and are in the SOAR program (gifted program). Finley reads at a 12th grade level and won a school wide project to write a short story and the prize was that she got to finish writing her book and publish it. Briar is reading at a college sophomore level, loves music and wants to be a marine biologist. Journey is finding her own way through school and will find her own special talents.

Mom commented that the classroom environment and even the family meals, (everything being child size) sets children up for success and builds their confidence.

Mom reminded me that she started doing "experiences" for her children instead of just buying them something. She said it was because I once told her, "Your children won't remember what you bought them for their 5th birthday but they will remember that mom was always there for me. She was always present at activities and encouraging. Mom stated, "That's how I want my children to remember me."

## Jude's Story

Jude embarked on an incredible journey at the Head Start in Moberly this year in August, and he was filled with a mix of nerves and excitement to return to school for a whole year. I am absolutely thrilled with his school, as he has formed numerous meaningful friendships and his teachers are exceptionally kind, supportive, and loving. You can sense the genuine love these women have for their students. Jude instantly connected with a couple of close friends, and he would often share stories about them with me. There was once instance where he told me that he and his best friend were ignoring one of their peers because he would follow them around the playground and sometimes hit them. I took this opportunity to talk to him about the importance of empathy and understanding how others feel when they're excluded. He reflected deeply on this conversation. I also make it a point to spend time with the kids during playtime, which allows me to get familiar with some of this classmates. Jude shared with me that one of his peers wasn't his friend because he didn't like him. I encouraged him to be friends with everyone and to stand up for those who are being treated unfairly. He is now proudly friends with all of these children, plus some; he loves to tell me about his friendships. I am truly proud of the remarkable young man Jude is growing up to be, and I feel grateful for his school, his friends, and his teachers.

