NORTH DAKOTA HEAD START ANNUAL REPORT

Save the Children®

Head Start

2017-18 School Year Results

Head Start Annual Report

Reflections From Our Director

Dear Friends,

As you may be aware, Williams County has been in the heart of the Bakken oil field boom. While the boom has tapered off and now is again on the incline, the cost of living has been slow to respond. Kids Count North Dakota details 326 children 0-4 years of age living in poverty in Williams County.

Based on assessment data collected from Teaching Strategies Gold®, the children have been making great strides toward achieving school readiness goals. In all five domains, the majority of our children have met or exceeded growth expectations.

- ✓ Social and Emotional Development: 76%
- ✓ Physical Development: 81%
- ✓ Language/Literacy: 85%
- ✓ Cognitive Development: 80%

We will continue to use these results to individualize instruction to meet the unique needs of each child.

In the short time I've been appointed to the role of Program Director, I see the ability to recruit and retain highly qualified staff remaining paramount to the success and viability of the program in our service area. Feeling blessed as we continue to partner with WilMac Multi-District Special Education Unit and await formal licensing notification from the State as it pertains to the newly opened classroom at our Waterford City site.

I look forward to meeting all of you in person soon and collaborating with the many gifted individuals who represent and live the mission of Save the Children Head Start daily!

Very Best,

Michelle

Michelle D. Eslinger-Schneider, MBA
Save the Children Head Start Program Director
North Dakota
mischneider@savechildren.org

2017-18 Williston Head Start Team

Kerri Klein, Program Director
Cheryl Mahnke, Education Manager
Lana K. Davis, Admin Asst. – Fiscal/HR/Data/Facilities
Pat Hagen, Cook
Suzy Begay, Teacher
Karen Lund, Teacher
Tina Pederson, Teacher
Amanda Stahl, Teacher
Meghan Delaney, Teacher Assistant
Vanessa Long, Teacher Assistant
Sandra Chavez, Program Aide
Karely Espinoza Sanchez, Program Aide
Shanda Hallgrimson, Program Aide On-Call
Kim Holte, Program Aide On-Call
Loretta Jessop, Program Aide On-Call
Catie A. Romero, Family Service Coordinator
Chenelle L. Horton, Family Service Coordinator

Head Start Annual Report

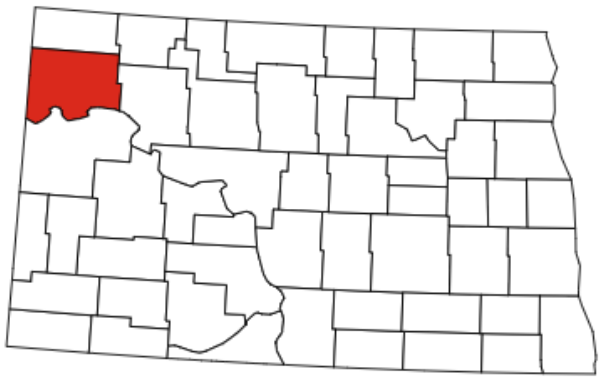
About North Dakota Head Start

Save the Children has been operating Head Start Programs in Williston since October 1, 2015. During the 2017-18 school year, we served a total of 102 children and 90 families with critical early childhood education opportunities.

The funded enrollment for the program year was 85. There were five Head Start classrooms operated in total. Of these, three full-day classrooms served 18 children for six and a half hours per day, meaning 54 children accessed full-day enrollment 5 days per week. Two part-day classrooms provided morning and afternoon sessions and three and a half hours each to an additional 31 children with enrollment 4 days per week.

The number of local staff employed Save the Children Head Start program in Williston equates to 17 personnel with 15.50 FTE's in approved budget for 2017-18.

Professional Development training was provided to the Family Service Coordinators resulting in receipt of a Family Service Credential. Family Mapping was completed with all families. Every family utilized one of the Life Wheel, Life Load Items, or Eco Map tools. To complete family partnership goals, Mindfulness Training was provided to all staff.



WILLISTON HEAD START
BY THE NUMBERS

Number of Centers	1
Total Children & Families Served	102
Children Served by Head Start	102
Families Served by Head Start	90
Average Monthly Enrollment	85 kids 100% of funded enrollment
Percentage of Eligible Children Served	97%
Children Who Received Medical Exams	94%
Children Who Received Dental Exams	94%
Number of Local Head Start Staff	17

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Save the Children prides itself of leading Head Start programs that are two-generational, serving children and parents alike. During the 2017-18 school year, the Williston program offered engagement opportunities to enhance family involvement with activities to bolster learning to include:

- Monthly Parent Committee Meetings
- Monthly Policy Council Meetings
- Volunteering opportunities in and out of the classroom
- Parent Conferences and Home Visits
- Health Education
- Kindergarten Readiness for Preschoolers
- Fatherhood Involvement
- The Week of the Young Child
- Raising A Reader
- Family Day
- Head Start Awareness
- Referrals to Local Community & County Services

Head Start Annual Report

KINDERGARTEN READINESS

The transition to kindergarten is a major milestone in the lives of children and their families. And, when that transition is well-planned, children have fewer adjustment problems and more continuous developmental success. This is where our Family Service Coordinators shine in making vital connections to build continual rapport and trusting relationships!

Next to parents, teachers are the most influential people in a student's life. When a teacher expresses to children that they are capable and worthwhile, the child believes it. Teaching strategies utilized by our teams in Williston establish supportive, structured classrooms that encourage learning, use conscious discipline and boost self-esteem. This year, **52 children graduated from Head Start** and are beginning their elementary school careers this fall.

Classroom routines and appropriate supervision reduce potential distractions to inspire listening, learning and self-control. Head Start teachers use positive peer models, prepare children for transitions, provide frequent, positive feedback and ask questions rather than reprimand. In providing opportunities that allow for movement, play is promoted with active learning activities.

Staff at Save the Children Head Start in Williston work with parents and caregivers to provide a wide variety of experiences designed to enable each child to reach his or her full potential. We help both children and families prepare for kindergarten by offering:

- **Brigance Development Screening.** All children were screened to determine individual levels of each child's development.
- **Special Service Screenings.** If necessary, and with the family's permission, further screenings are completed to determine the need for special services.
- **CLASS™.** This observation tool is used by the program to support teacher-child interactions.
- **Teaching Strategies Gold®.** This tool supports ongoing child assessment. Lessons are planned in language and literacy, social and emotional development, creative representation, movement and music, mathematics and science using the **Creative Curriculum®,** based on each child's developmental level, interest and culture.

LOOKING AHEAD

Building upon a successful 2017-18 school year, the team is ready to concentrate on Focal Points as identified by Save the Children Head Start as priorities and continually align and improve strategies in support of the mission.

We are also excited to open a second center in Watford City, located in McKenzie County, to serve children in Northwest North Dakota.

Focal areas that are mission-critical in achieving our vision for the children and families we serve include Kindergarten Readiness, Family Engagement and Referral Services.

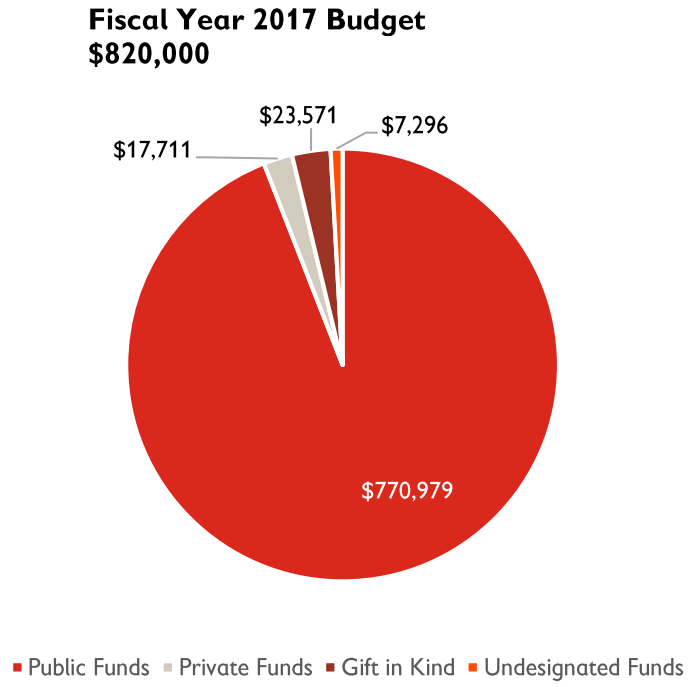
Investments continue in personnel to support their professional development and growth incorporating our core values including accountability, ambition, collaboration, creativity and integrity.

Head Start Annual Report

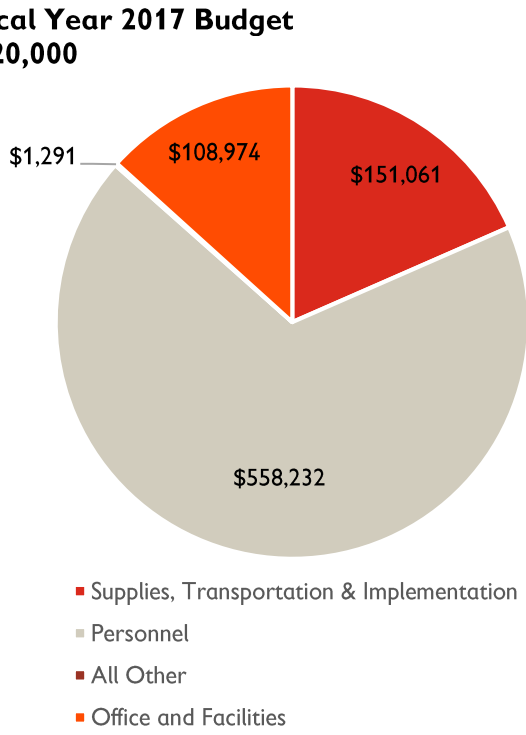
FINANCIALS

As it relates to total funding for Save the Children Head Start in Williston, we are focusing this analysis on Save the Children's fiscal year (January 1 – December 31), which is different than the grant term (August 1 – July 31).

SOURCES OF FUNDING



FY17 BUDGETARY EXPENDITURES



While the majority of North Dakota's funding derives from federal funds, we also receive Gift in Kind Donations that are generated from organizations to provide budget relief to our programs as well as a small amount of private and undesignated funding to support our program.

SECRETARY REVIEW & FINANCIAL AUDIT RESULTS

Save the Children's Head Start programs are included in the annual Save the Children A-133 Audit. There were no findings in the audit for fiscal year ending 2017. There was a finding for fiscal year ending 2016 in Head Start related to inventory tracking. A response was submitted by management to the external auditor in 2017 in which Save the Children's processes were updated to correct the inventory finding.

Head Start Annual Report

PROPOSED FY18 BUDGET

Our projected FY18 budget is $872,000. In Fiscal Year 2018, our budget increased due to approval of one-time supplemental funds as well as a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA). We plan to expense only federal funding along with Gift in Kind donations planned for the year. The main difference in Fiscal Year 2017 expenses and 2018 planned expenses is an increase in Personnel expenses due to filling vacancies across the program as well as an increase in Personnel costs due to the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA).

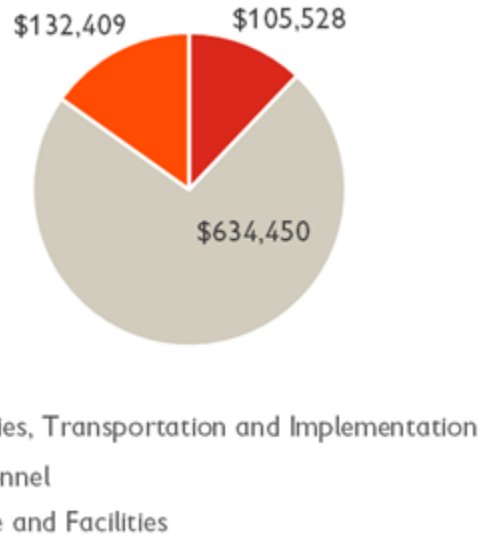
Here's a look at our plan for allocation this school year:

SOURCES OF FUNDING

Fiscal Year 2018 Budget
$872,000

FY18 BUDGETARY EXPENDITURES

Fiscal Year 2018 Budget
$872,000



North Dakota Head Start Sites

SITE	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	PHONE
Watford City Head Start	908 4th Avenue, NE	Watford City	ND	58854	(701) 214-4076
Williston Head Start	409 7th Avenue, E	Williston	ND	58801	(701) 214-4053

Head Start Annual Report

Save the Children's Commitment to Head Start

Every child deserves the best chance for a bright future. That's why, for nearly 100 years, Save the Children has been working in the United States and around the world to keep children healthy, educated and safe. We deliver lasting results for millions of children, including those hardest to reach. Here are home, that means focusing our efforts on serving children in rural America. From our earliest days in Appalachia to the present, Save the Children is committed to meeting children's needs, going where others cannot, filling critical gaps in services and delivering scalable solutions to the challenges children face.

In 2011, Save the Children identified a failing Head Start program in eastern Arkansas with no viable local providers. In that absence, Save the Children applied for and was awarded our first Head Start grant. Since then, we have been awarded additional grants and currently operate Head Start and Early Head Start programs in rural communities in four states: Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and North Dakota.

Questions about Save the Children's work in North Dakota may be directed to Michelle D. Eslinger-Schneider by email at mischneider@savechildren.org or by phone at (701) 214-4053.

Khari Garvin serves as the Executive Director of Save the Children's Head Start Programs and can be reached at kgarvin@savechildren.org.

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Save the Children®

Head Start