

# Futures Unlimited, Inc.

2022 Head Start/Early Head Start Report to the Public

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**Empowerment, inclusion and opportunity** — *our passion, our mission!*

# Head Start Report to Public

This annual Head Start/Early Head Start report focuses on the work and data derived from the 2021-2022 program year. The contents of this annual report will provide specific information about the Head Start and Early Head Start programs as well as highlight the major accomplishments over the past year.

Futures Unlimited, Inc. is a private non-profit corporation that serves as the administrative entity for early childhood programs, including Head Start, Early Head Start, Pre-K At Risk, and Special Education. Although each of these programs may differ in some aspects, each has our fundamental mission at its core which is **to provide comprehensive services to children and families**.

Working collaboratively with community partners enables Futures' early childhood programs to support children and families on their path to successful school experiences, self-sufficiency and life preparedness. We believe we are to be an integral part of our community where many service providers work together to identify needs, remove barriers, and maximize our resources collectively to meet the needs of children and families.

The 2021-2022 program year, our second in a five-year grant cycle, brought the end of COVID limitations for classroom size as we continued to implement other safety strategies with the goal of maintaining in-person preschool services throughout the school year. Masking, although not required in Kansas, was a safety precaution we felt necessary to help minimize the effects of COVID on our program staff, children and families. We started the school year without cohorts but quickly reimplemented this safety precaution used the previous year after having to shut down a classroom for one week due to COVID. Disinfecting and restricting outside visitors, including parents, in our preschool classrooms continued. Home visiting and socializations were conducted virtually for part of the year but resumed in person, with safety precautions midway through the program year. The COVID response team continued to meet to discuss how to respond to COVID based on community statistics, CDC recommendations, local health authority and OHS guidance, and staff and parent feedback. Staff and families diligently followed program guidance and safety protocols for health screenings and masking which allowed our program to continue with in-person preschool services throughout the year. Through these efforts, we are happy to report we were fully enrolled in both programs throughout the year! Enhancements to our outdoor playground space were completed including a large pavilion for outdoor learning and socialization space, basketball court expansion, large track trike and sidewalk connecting the pavilion and expanded playground spaces. Additional playground features are planned for the 2022-2023 program year. The program was

awarded a National grant from NHSA and the Scott's Miracle-Gro Foundation to enhance the green space in the expanded playground area. A dozen trees will be added to the space with this funding. For the second year, the program collaborated with the local school district, Kansas Department of Education and the local mental health center on a school-based mental health initiative to implement trauma-responsive supports. Professional development, consultation, and support are key components to this initiative for developing and implementing individualized student support plans for Head Start children needing this type of extra support in the classrooms.

We want to take this opportunity to acknowledge and express our appreciation to our board of directors, Policy Council, and advisory councils who volunteer their time and expertise to provide support, oversight and direction to our agency. Finally, this report is dedicated to our staff who work tirelessly and go above and beyond the call of duty to provide the highest level of quality services to children and families.



# The Numbers

## Head Start

- At the end of the enrollment year **74** cumulative eligible children and **69** families were enrolled in the federally funded Head Start program.
- **41%** of children were eligible to receive special education and related services through an Individualized Education Plan (IEP).
- The Head Start slots filled **four** full-day classrooms at Futures Unlimited with full enrollment of the 66 slots throughout the year.
- At the end of the year, **100%** of children had health insurance, with **88%** covered by KanCare
- At the end of the enrollment year **100%** of children had a medical home, **97%** had a dental home and **100%** were up-to-date on immunizations (all possible or exempt).

## Early Head Start

- At the end of the enrollment year **38** cumulative eligible infants, toddlers, **four** pregnant women and **27** families were enrolled in the federally funded Early Head Start program.
- **Sixteen percent** of children were eligible to receive early intervention services through an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).
- Average monthly enrollment was **100%** of funded enrollment.
- At the end of the enrollment year **100%** of children and **100%** of prenatal mothers had health insurance. **Eighty-nine percent** of children and **25%** of prenatal mothers were covered by KanCare.
- At the end of the enrollment year **100%** of children had a medical home, **92%** had a dental home and **79%** of children were up-to-date on immunizations (all possible or exempt).



## Parent Activities

Parent involvement is an important part of a child's school success. Parents are given many opportunities to be involved in their child's education while participating in Head Start and Early Head Start programs. Although outside visitors, including parents, were restricted in the classrooms, and home visiting services were delivered virtually for a portion of the year—parents had many opportunities for involvement this year.

### Family Engagement Activities:

Virtual Policy Council/Parent Committee, preschool orientation, home visits and parent/teacher conferences  
When weather permitted socializations were completed outdoors  
Virtual Conscious Discipline parenting classes  
Virtual family activity nights with a book and a learning experience  
Parent satisfaction surveys and transition readiness surveys were completed with parents/families  
Weekly curriculum-based activities sent home for students and families  
Learning Genie was used as an enhanced form of communication between parents and teachers  
Families enjoyed a Cinco De Mayo end-of-year bash

# School Readiness



## School Readiness—Birth to Five

Head Start and Early Head Start lead the early childhood field with a well-defined approach on healthy child development. This includes cognitive, social-emotional and physical developments—all of which are essential to preparing children for school. Child-level assessment data is aggregated from several sources to inform School Readiness goals for the program. This strategy helps all children in Futures' programs develop the necessary skills for school success. In our effort to become a trauma-responsive program, additional assessment data for social-emotional development and resiliency continued and were expanded to all program participants. School readiness assessments revealed strengths for EHS children in motor and cognitive development areas. For Head Start children strengths included motor and language development.

## Early Head Start Program Highlights:

- Socializations consisting of age-appropriate activities aligned with the Early Learning Outcomes Framework were offered in-person utilizing COVID precautions during the summer, and virtually with porch supply drops during inclement weather.
- Virtual home visits from July 2021 until the end of February 2022 with lesson plans and supplies mailed or delivered via porch drop. In-person visits restarted March 2022 with COVID precautions.
- On-site dental exams were offered to EHS families.
- Early Head Start staff attended the virtual 2021 Kansas Home Visiting Conference to stay up to date on service delivery needs in Kansas during COVID
- Early Head Start staff attended the Kansas Association for Infant Mental Health conference, *Understanding Young Children's Social Development: A new lens for supporting psychological resilience and optimal long-term outcomes*

## Head Start Program Highlights:

- Forty children transitioned to kindergarten, and transition passports were provided to families for the receiving school district
- Seven students received support in the classroom through the student support planning process
- Four students received Therapeutic Preschool services
- The Trike Theater, a virtual social/emotional theatrical experience, presented 'Turning Red Learning To Choose Love' to Head Start students.
- On-site dental exams were provided in the 2021-22 school year with COVID precautions
- Teachers received professional development in Mindfulness Yoga as a tool to help children with their regulation skills
- Early childhood teams met every six weeks to discuss progress for individual students
- Staff attended an end-of-year wellness seminar with Jason Kotecki

# Federal Review Results

Futures Unlimited operates high-quality Head Start & Early Head Start programs. The program received an onsite CLASS review in September 2018, which measures teacher-child interactions. Scores from this review landed in the middle to high range and were used to inform program design and teaching support. From January 31, 2022 through February 4, 2022 the Administration for Children and Families conducted a Focus Area One (FA1) monitoring review of the Futures Unlimited Head Start and Early Head Start programs. The FA1 review allows OHS to understand how programs are progressing in providing services in the 5-year grant cycle. According to the review report, the program was able to describe progress toward implementing program services that promote quality outcomes for children and families and was in compliance with the requirements of the Head Start Program.



## Financial Audit Results

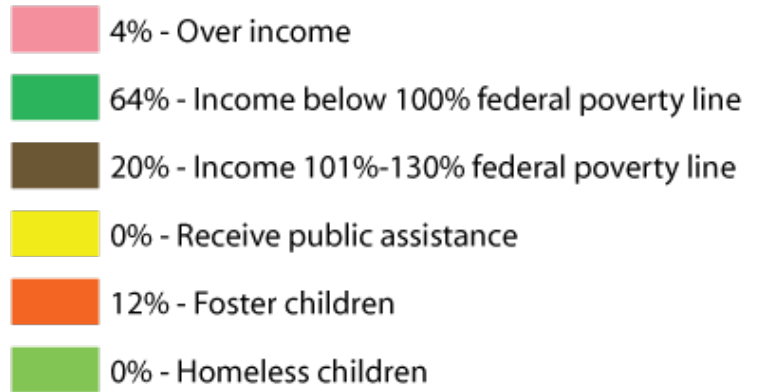
The Grantee for Head Start/Early Head Start in Sumner county, Kansas is Futures Unlimited, Inc. The budget year begins July 1 and ends the following June 30 of each year. An independent accounting firm completes an audit of the agency, which includes all funds and accounts of Head Start/Early Head Start. Single audits must be performed in accordance with Generally Accepted Governmental Auditing Standards by an independent auditor for organizations that receive \$750,000 or more in federal financial assistance.

The year ended June 30, 2022.

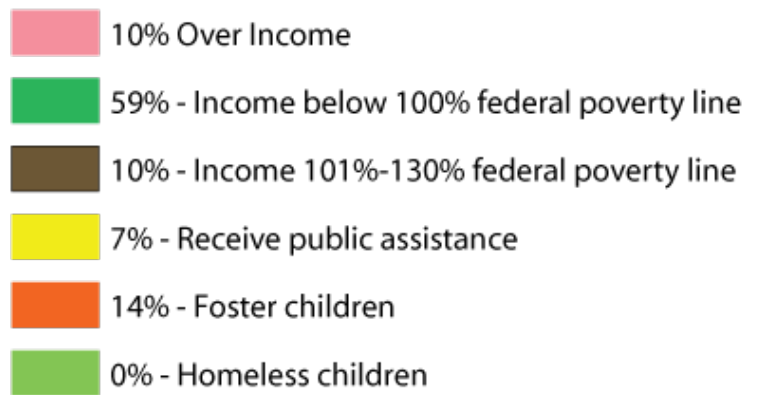
The most recent audit report is available upon request.

# Number of Children and Families Served

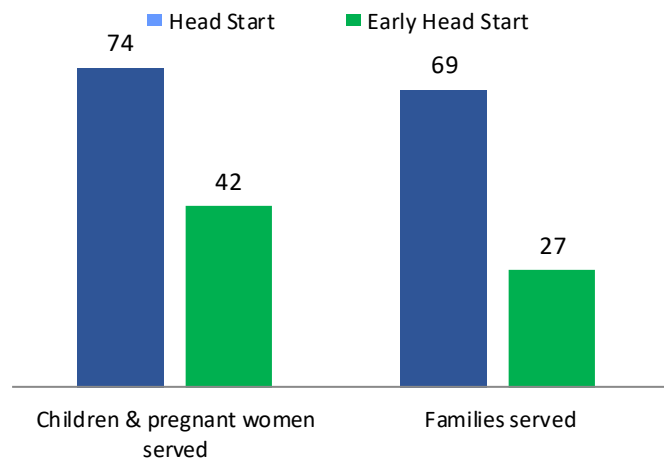
## Head Start



## Early Head Start

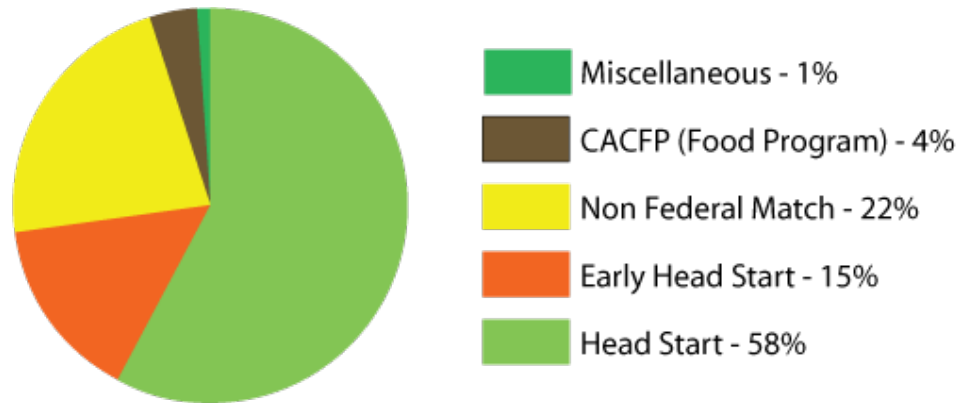


## Total Number Served



# 2022 Program Revenue & Expenses

Revenue—\$1,394,963



Expenses—\$1,455,330

