



Young Families Early Head Start

ANNUAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025



YOUNG FAMILIES
EARLY HEAD START

We're so grateful!

As we reflect on the past year, we would first like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our generous supporters and friends. Your commitment to our mission has made this year one of growth, impact, and hope for the children and families we serve.

Young Families Early Head Start (YFEHS) provides free, high-quality early childhood education, child care, and comprehensive family support services to low-income families with children from birth to age three, expectant families, and foster families. Our exceptional team of educators and family advocates create safe, nurturing, and developmentally appropriate learning environments that promote each child's physical, cognitive, social, and emotional growth. Through a strength-based, relationship-focused approach, we support families from pregnancy and through their child's third birthday; along with addressing the full spectrum of needs that contribute to long-term success.

Research shows that the earliest years of life are critical to brain development, with much of a child's foundation for future learning established by age three. YFEHS helps build that foundation by providing parent education, full-day child care, prenatal education and support, parent and infant health tracking, and comprehensive case management for every enrolled family.

Our services also play an important role in helping pregnant and parenting teens remain in school and work toward graduation while ensuring their infants and young children receive a healthy start. Teen parents participate in educational labs with an onsite School District 2 teacher before being transported to their respective high schools to complete their school day. This partnership also supports parents pursuing their HiSET, with flexible scheduling designed to reduce barriers and increase opportunities for success.

As we look ahead, we do so with enthusiasm and optimism. Guided by our dedicated Board of Directors, Policy Council, and committed staff, we remain focused on advancing our mission and expanding our impact to meet the growing needs of our community. We invite you to stay connected as we continue giving children and families the support they need to thrive.

At YFEHS, we believe that a family's current economic circumstances should never define a child's future potential. Because of supporters like you, more children are receiving the strong start they deserve and more families are building brighter futures. While we are proud of what we have accomplished together, there is still important work ahead- and we cannot wait to share what comes next.



Young Families Early Head Start

Since November 1983, Young Families Early Head Start (YFEHS) has been trusted source of high-quality child care and support for families in the Billings community. Originally established to assist pregnant and parenting teens in completing their high school education, the program has remained steadfast in its commitment to helping families build brighter futures.

With the addition of Early Head Start services in 1998, YFEHS expanded its mission to provide comprehensive, two-generational support to low-income families with children from birth to age three, including children with disabilities, expectant families, and foster families. Recognizing that the earliest years of life are critical to healthy development, YFEHS offers intensive wrap-around services beginning during pregnancy and continuing through the first three years of a child's life.

Today, YFEHS continues to support pregnant and parenting teens as they pursue high school graduation while also assisting parents seeking post-secondary education and career training through colleges and technical schools. We believe that when parents are empowered to achieve their goals, entire families thrive.

Through a strengths-based approach, parents are encouraged to identify both their immediate needs and their long-term dreams. Together, families and staff establish meaningful goals and work toward achieving them throughout their time in the program. As a result, families gain greater stability and self-sufficiency through improved access to safe and affordable housing, reliable transportation, food security, emergency savings, education, employment opportunities, and other essential resources.

At YFEHS, we believe parents are their child's first and most important teachers. We partner with families to nurture both parent and child development, honoring each family's culture, values, and aspirations while building upon their unique strengths. We are committed to advocating for a community where every child and every family has the opportunity to succeed, regardless of socioeconomic circumstances.



Measures of Success

GRADUATION RATE OF OUR TEEN PARENTS

Program Year 2024-2025: **100%** of all parents who were scheduled to graduate or earn their HiSET were successful in this achievement resulting in four high school graduates and one HiSet Certificate.

Program Year 2023-2024: **100%** of all parents who were scheduled to graduate or earn their HiSET were successful in this achievement resulting in one high school diploma and seven HiSet Certificates.

Program Year 2022-2023: **82%** of all parents who were scheduled to graduate or earn their HiSET were successful in this achievement resulting in six high school diplomas and two HiSet Certificates.

Program Year 2021-2022: **88%** of all parents who were scheduled to graduate or earn their HiSET were successful in this achievement resulting in six high school diplomas and one HiSET Certificate.



Every year the Family Partnership Specialist works directly with families to identify needs and set goals utilizing the Family Outcomes Matrix. This is done three times per year resulting in approximately 5-8 goals accomplished per family each year.

The Family Outcomes Matrix is divided into seven categories:

- Family Well-Being
- Positive Parent-Child Relationships
- Families as Lifelong Educators
- Families as Learners
- Family Engagement in Transitions
- Family Connections to Peers and Community
- Families as Advocates and Leaders.





DEPARTMENT OF
**PUBLIC HEALTH &
HUMAN SERVICES**

The Best Beginnings STARS to Quality Program is a voluntary quality rating and improvement system that aligns quality indicators with support and incentives for early childhood programs and early childhood professionals. The mission of STARS is to support high quality early care and education programs for child care and education through a quality rating and improvement system that strengthens programs and practitioners with continuous improvement strategies and assists families in making informed decisions.

The vision of STARS is to be a quality rating improvement system which supports early childhood education programs in achieving an environment of continuous quality improvement.

STARS has several components:

1. Workforce Development
2. Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS)
3. Infrastructure to administer the programs, provide training, coaching, and technical assistance, and to validate the STARS system.

The Early Childhood Services Bureau has enjoyed watching the program grow and develop with the input from the various stakeholders, and has listened carefully to early childhood professionals, parents, and national experts to provide a strong program, desired by many.

**Out of a 1-5 rating,
Young Families Early Head Start
has sustained a level 4 or higher since 2015.**

Program Data

Total Individuals Served Within the Year: 44

Average Montly Attendance: 94%

Race of Participants:

American/Alaska Native	11
Black/African American	3
White	18
Bi-Racial/Multi-Racial	12

Ethnicity: (# of Children/Pregnant Women)

Hispanic or Latino Origin	17
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino Origin	27

Projected Number of Participants to be Served (2024-2025):

Under one year	8
1 Year Old	10
2 Years Old	10
3 Years Old	12

Program Data

Actual Number of Children Served (at year-end or exit date):

Under one year	1
1 Year Old	10
2 Years Old	18
3 Years Old	12

Actual Number of Pre-natals Served: 3

Primary Language Spoken in Home

English	40
Spanish	4

% of Children Who Recieved Vision Screenings: 100%

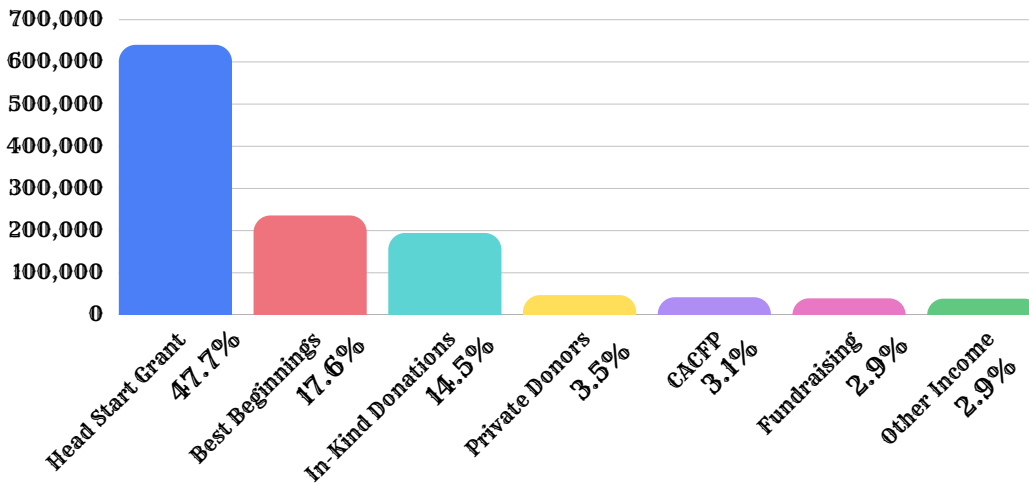
% of Children Who Recieved Dental Screenings: 100%

% of Children Who Recieved Hearing Screenings: 100%

% of Children Who Recieved Developmental Screenings: 100%

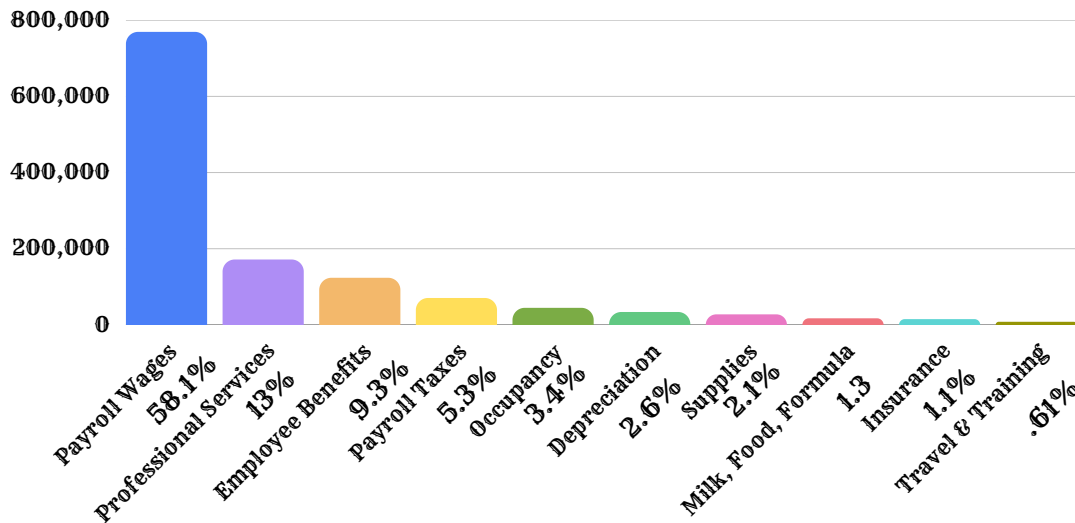
% of Pre-natals Who Maintained Ongoing Medical Care: 100%

Income



Total Income
\$1,343,016

Expenses



Total Expenses
\$ 1,324,827

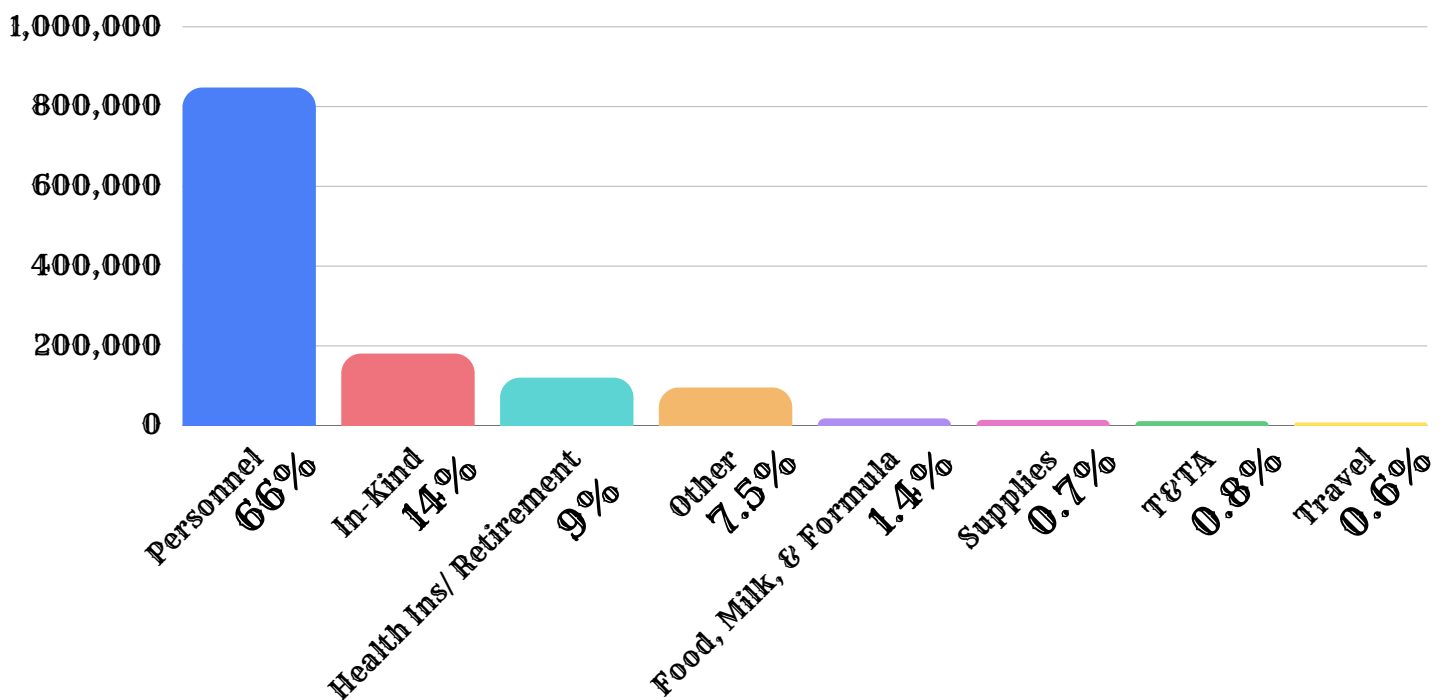
Total Assets
2024: \$1,415,159
2025: \$ 1,439,526

Total Liabilities
2024: \$ 81,216
2025: \$ 87,394

Young Families Head Start, Inc. contracts with Summers McNea to complete an independent audit of our financial statements. It is Summers McNea's opinion that the financial statements of Young Families Head Start, Inc. presents fairly, in all material aspects, the financial position of Young Families Early Head Start Inc. as of June 30, 2025 and the results of the operations, changes in net assets and its cash flows for the year ended June 30, 2025 .

Projected Program Budget

FY: July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026



Total Budget:

\$1,281,281

Parent Engagement



Transition meetings are held for families whose children will be transitioning out of the program and resources are provided to assist in the transition process. Parent engagement is a cornerstone of the Young Families Early Head Start, Inc. program. Parents are provided opportunities to work with staff and the community in their particular areas of interest to enhance their parenting skills and gain knowledge that promotes their child's physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development.

Parents and teachers work together to develop individualized lesson plans and home visit activities that reflect each child's developmental level. Each plan incorporates our research-based curriculum to support ongoing growth and learning.

Teachers conduct at least two home visits and two parent-teacher conferences each year of enrollment.

The home visits are opportunities for:

- Making connections between home and program
- Learning more about parent-child interactions
- Developing positive relationships between parents & staff
- Identifying learning opportunities in the home environment
- Focused attention on family strengths, interests, and goals

Family Enrichments activities are held monthly and they provide socialization, networking, and educational opportunities for program participants.



Leadership & Governance

Strong leadership and governance are the foundation of effective program management and guide all aspects of organizational operations. Young Families Early Head Start's leadership structure consists of three key entities: the Governing Board, which provides legal and fiscal oversight; the Policy Council, which ensures meaningful parent participation in program planning and decision-making; and the management team, which oversees the day-to-day operations and implementation of high-quality services.

Together, they are a powerful force that provides leadership and strategic direction. The yellow circle outlines the scope of these systems consistent with the five-year project period. The systems support program management, planning, and well-developed oversight systems. This enables programs to comply, increase quality, and strive for excellence.

The segmented aqua blue ring outlines each of the individual management systems. All of these systems work together to inform and influence the program's service delivery, represented in the inner blue circle. This includes Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment, and Attendance (ERSEA), Education, Health, Mental Health, Community Partnerships, and Family Engagement.

When innovative leadership, strong management systems, and well-designed services are working together, quality child and family outcomes are the result.





Current Board of Directors

Board Chair: Ana Haynes, Auditor, Eide Bailly

Board Vice Chair: Brianne McClafferty, Holland & Hart LLP

Board Treasurer: Erika Croy, First Interstate Bank

Board Secretary: Lacey Conzelman, Montana DPHHS

Joan Watts Brown

Jillian Miller

Joe Walsh

Kyle Lantz

Melanie Reaves

Andrew Gott

Current Policy Council



Policy Council Chair: Jordan Harriger

Policy Council Vice Chair: Alecia Charles

Policy Council Secretary: Sioux Fasthorse

Policy Council Treasurer: Tyler Stonebraker

Ilyanna Myers

Glorianna Beltran

Aaron Redstar



Community Partners

Angela's Piazza
Advanced Therapy Clinic
AWARE
Billings Clinic
Billings Job Service
Billings Public Library
Billings Public Schools and Adult Education
Billings School District#2
CACFP
CASA
Child Protective Services
Department of Health and Human Services
EBMS
Early Childhood Intervention
Eide Baillly LLP
Family Tree Center
Family Promise of Yellowstone County
Head Start Association of Montana
Head Start National Association
HRDC District 7
HomeFront
Intermountain Health
LaVIE

LEAF Pediatric Therapy
LIFTT
Love and SONshine
Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
Montana Community Foundation
Montana School for the Deaf and Blind
Montana State University
Nurse Family Partnership
Office of Head Start
Planned Parenthood
Rimrock Pediatric Dentistry
RiverStone Health
Saint Vincent De Paul
Stockman Bank of Montana
St. Pats Co-Cathedral
Tumbleweed
United Way of Yellowstone County
O.P. & W.E. Edwards Foundation
RiverStone Health
Yellowstone County CoC
YWCA
Zero to Five Montana

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Billings Community Foundation
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Real Estate Hub
Riverstone Clinic-Welcome Baby
Robyn Driscoll
Saint Patrick Co Cathedral
Sara Geffre
Scheels
Seven G Designs
Sodexo
St. Thomas the Apostle
Catholic Community Church
Stephanie Bond
Steven & Lacey Conzelman
Timothy Goodwin
Tire Rama
Victor Reichenback
Wade Route
Wayne
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Zachary Amos