

Southern Seven Health Department/Head Start 2025-2026 Annual Report



A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD START DIRECTOR



Dear Families, Community Partners, Staff, and Friends,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to our annual report and share some of the incredible work accomplished by Southern Seven Head Start over the past year.

Every day, I have the privilege of witnessing the impact that Head Start has on children, families, and communities across Southern Illinois. From a child's first successful classroom experience to a family's journey toward greater stability and self-sufficiency, the work we do extends far beyond early childhood education. We are helping build strong foundations for lifelong learning, confidence, and success.

This past year has been filled with growth, achievement, and meaningful connections. Our dedicated teachers and staff have continued to provide high-quality learning experiences that encourage children to explore, discover, and develop a love of learning. We have strengthened our partnerships with families, knowing that parents are a child's first and most important teachers. Together, we are creating supportive environments where children can thrive.

One of the things that makes me most proud of our program is our commitment to serving every child and family with respect, compassion, and inclusion. We celebrate the unique backgrounds, cultures, abilities, and experiences that make our communities strong. By fostering belonging and acceptance, we help children learn not only academic skills but also the values of kindness, empathy, and understanding.

None of our accomplishments would be possible without the dedication of our staff, the support of our Policy Council and governing bodies, our community partners, and the trust that families place in us. Your collaboration and commitment allow us to continue making a positive difference in the lives of young children throughout the seven counties we serve.

As we look ahead, we remain focused on our mission of preparing children for school and life success while supporting families in achieving their goals. The future is bright, and I am excited about the opportunities that lie ahead for our program and the families we serve.

Thank you for being part of our Head Start family and for helping us create brighter futures for the children in our communities.

Rebecca Reed
Head Start Director

GOVERNANCE – BOARD OF HEALTH & POLICY COUNCIL

The Board of Health is a governing body responsible for overseeing the management and operations of the Southern Seven Health Department. The Board is comprised of four members from each of the seven counties in the Health Department's jurisdiction. These members are appointed independently by each respective county's Board of Commissioners. The Board of Commissioners --essentially the local government leadership-- selects and appoints individuals to serve on the Board of Health based on the appointees' qualifications, expertise, and dedication to Public Health. The Board of Health is responsible for the oversight of quality services for Head Start children and families and for making decisions related to program design and implementation.

The Policy Council is responsible for the direction of the Head Start Program, including program design and operation, long- and short-term planning goals and objectives, and gathering information from the annual communitywide strategic planning & needs assessment and self-assessment. The Policy Council is made up of parents of children currently enrolled in the Head Start Program and members of the community served by the Southern Seven Agency.

County	Board of Health Members		Policy Council Members	
Alexander	Mike Mathis Sherry Pecord	Jim Smith Dianna Williams	Brad Misner	
Hardin	Darrick Armstrong	Todd Carr	Susan Armstrong	
Johnson	Chrissy Hayden Ryan Rademaker	Emily Taylor Jason Taylor	Chelsi Diles	
Massac	Jayson Farmer Brian Horn	Chris Scott	Kathy Hutcherson Clarissa Johnson	Serina Logeman Christine Parmer
Pope	Lindzey Barger Tommy Hobbs	Rita McKinley	Nanci Berger	Mariam Joaquin
Pulaski	Debbie Brown Jill Bosecker	Rob Reichert Mike Sharp	Kim Clayton	Dasia Swansey
Union	Brandon Bierstedt Harry Brockus	Gretchen Emrick Debby McKibben	Harry Brockus Maria Martinez	Kevin Westall

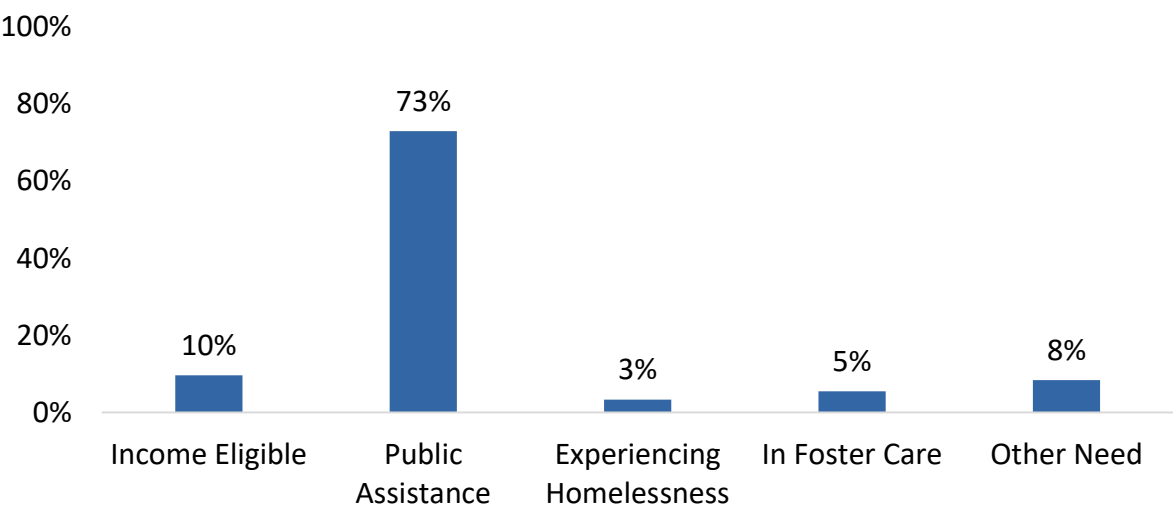
TOTAL POPULATION SERVED



Southern Seven Head Start served 240 children from 217 families during the 2025-2026 program year.

Our program is funded to serve 250 children. On average, 81% of our funded enrollment opportunities for children were filled at any given time.

Enrollment by Eligibility



26 dual language learners

27 children with a disability

102 children enrolled in prior years

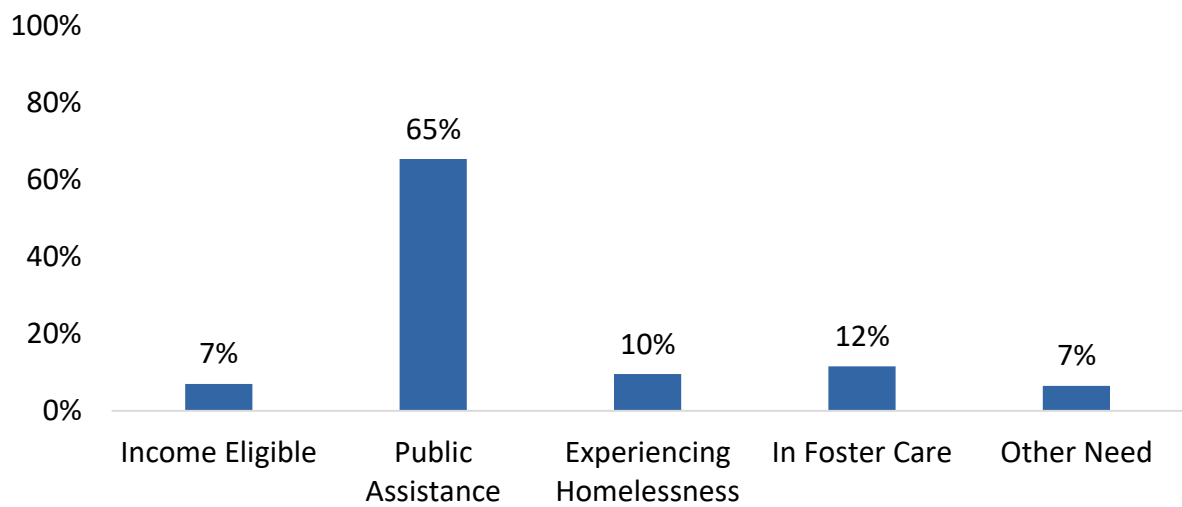
TOTAL POPULATION SERVED



Southern Seven Early Head Start served 195 children from 170 families during the 2025-2026 program year.

Our program is funded to serve 142 children and 6 pregnant women. On average, 95% of our funded enrollment opportunities for children were filled at any given time.

Enrollment by Eligibility



11 dual language learners

18 children with a disability

60 children enrolled in prior years

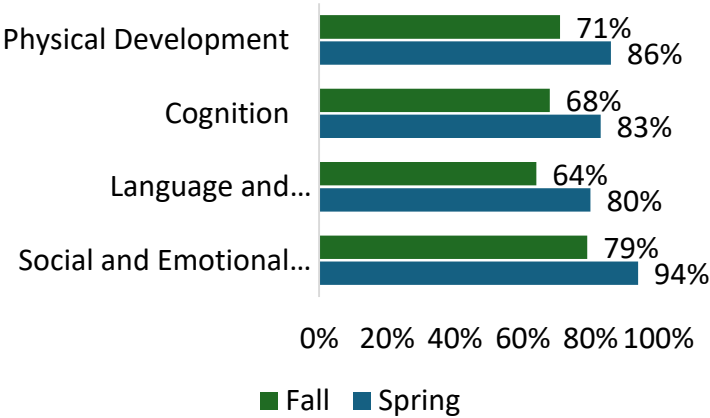
EDUCATION & KINDERGARTEN READINESS



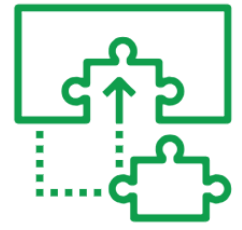
The Early Head Start Program (birth-3) and Head Start Program (3-5) track educational outcomes to assure program effectiveness. Southern Seven uses Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP) which is a web-based assessment tool that allows teachers and administrators to monitor each child’s progress. Outcomes are monitored in the Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer (for EHS). The data gathered is analyzed and aggregated to determine classroom and individual needs or concerns. The growth is documented and the information is used to assure children receive the most effective classroom learning environment. Parents are provided with updates on their child’s progress during Home Visits & Parent/Teacher Conferences. In the chart below is the percentage of Developmental Growth per domain for the 2025-2026 School Year.

One of the main educational goals is to assure children are ready for Kindergarten. To accomplish this task, Site Supervisors and Teachers review the Kindergarten expectations from each child’s future school district and incorporate those items into daily lesson plans. Individual Educational Goals are set that helps each child succeed at their own pace. This information is shared with parents and is sent to the school district before the child enters Kindergarten.

Percentage of Developmental Growth Per Domain



COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES



Head Start Health Outcomes



91% of enrolled children received medical exams



73% of enrolled children received dental exams



16% of children have an IEP



Head Start Family Engagement Outcomes



The number of father/father figures who were engaged in the following activities:

- Family assessment – 42
- Family goal setting – 41
- Involvement in child's Head Start child development experiences – 61
- Head Start program governance – 12
- Parenting education workshops - 16



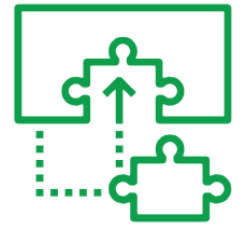
FAMILY ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES (continued)



The number of Head Start families that received the following program services:

- Emergency/crisis intervention – 84
- Housing assistance – 4
- Asset building services – 13
- Mental health services – 11
- English as a Second Language training – 2
- Assistance in enrolling into an education or job training program – 20
- Research-based parenting curriculum – 106
- Involvement in discussing their child's screening and assessment results and their child's progress – 140
- Supporting transitions between programs – 109
- Education on preventive medical and oral health – 149
- Education on health and developmental consequences of tobacco product use – 2
- Education on nutrition – 151
- Education on postpartum care – 1
- Assistance to families of incarcerated individuals – 1

COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES



Early Head Start Health Outcomes



95% of enrolled children received medical exams



97% of enrolled children that received dental exams and/or screenings



14% of children have an IFSP



Early Head Start Family Engagement Outcomes



The number of father/father figures who were engaged in the following activities:

- Family assessment – 38
- Family goal setting – 41
- Involvement in child's Early Head Start child development experiences – 43
- Early Head Start program governance – 1
- Parenting education workshops - 10



FAMILY ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES (continued)



The number of Early Head Start families that received the following program services:

- Emergency/crisis intervention – 59
- Housing assistance – 6
- Asset building services – 32
- Mental health services – 7
- Assistance in enrolling into an education or job training program – 21
- Research-based parenting curriculum – 74
- Involvement in discussing their child's screening and assessment results and their child's progress – 120
- Supporting transitions between programs – 88
- Education on preventive medical and oral health – 130
- Education on health and developmental consequences of tobacco product use – 17
- Education on nutrition – 126
- Education on postpartum care – 17
- Education on relationships/marriage - 10
- Assistance to families of incarcerated individuals – 2

Finances and Funding

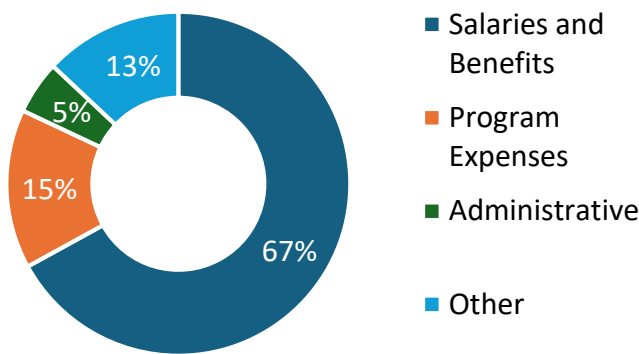
Public and Private Funding

FY 2026

Public Funds		Private Funds	
Source	Amount	Source	Amount
Federal Government	\$6,920,768	In-Kind Donations	\$1,278,678
State Government	\$210,724	Individual Donations	\$0
Other Public Funding	\$1,588,811	Other Private Funding	\$103,525
Total	\$8,720,303	Total	\$1,382,203

Budgetary Expenditures

The budget covers salaries and benefits, program expenses, administrative and other expenditures. Expenditures are tracked closely to ensure compliance with federal guidelines, with the majority of funds dedicated to personnel and program delivery.



Financial Audit

Beussink, Hey, Roe & Stroder, L.L.C conducted the Annual Financial Audit for the Year Ended June 30, 2025. No findings were noted which are required to be reported. The FY2026 Annual Audit will be conducted in October, 2026.

Other Program Options

In addition to Head Start and Early Head Start, Southern Seven offers the following program options:

- Migrant and Seasonal Head Start for low-income agricultural workers for children younger than 6 years old.
- Prevention Initiative (PI) Services through Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) for expectant parents and children birth to age 3.
- Day Care for children birth to age 5 for families that do not qualify for our grant funded program options.



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Southern Seven Health Department/Head Start is to promote a safe and healthy environment by providing preventive health care, family support services, and child development programs.

Do you want to Volunteer? Click the link below to learn more.

<https://southern7.org/head-start/get-involved-southern-seven-health-department/>

Southern Seven Health Department/Head Start

37 Rustic Campus Drive, Ullin, IL 62992

618-634-9340

southern7.org



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<https://www.facebook.com/SouthernSevenHealthDepartment>

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YouTube

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Southern 7 Podcast

<https://southern7.org/podcast/>

