



Head Start
Early Head Start



REACH-UP, INC.'S ANNUAL REPORT TO THE PUBLIC

(Fall 2025)

Reach-Up Inc's Annual Report to the Public is shared on Reach-Up Inc's website for the public to view –
www.reachupinc.org

350 Highway 10 South Suite 100 | St. Cloud MN, 56304
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that strengthen young children and their families who are experiencing low-income.**

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Mission Statement

Reach-Up Head Start & Early Head Start provides comprehensive education and support services that strengthen Children and their families who are experiencing low income.

Core Values

We Value:

- *All relationships and base them on integrity, trust and respect;*
- *Strength-based partnerships with children, families, and community agencies;*
- *Uniqueness and diversity within communities.*

Vision Statement

Reach-Up Head Start & Early Head Start is recognized throughout the community and state as a family focused early childhood developmental model of excellence that has lasting impact.

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Annual Report - 2025

Actual Revenue 2024-25

Funding Source	Amount
Federal Head Start/Early Head Start	\$4,321,195
State Head Start/Early Head Start/Great Start	1,541,611
MDE Early Learning Scholarships	122,826
USDA/CACFP	173,153
United Way of Central MN	16,868
Child Care Receipts	112,534
Other Receipts & Donations	18,419
Total	\$6,306,606
InKind	1,152,807
Total with InKind	\$7,459,413

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2025-26 Projected Budget

Revenues	\$7,141,353
Expenditures:	
Salaries & Benefits	4,813,333
Contracted Services	36,170
Equipment	0
Supplies	56,481
Travel & Vehicle Repair	41,739
Space & Rental	629,181
Food	178,456
Professional Fees	41,269
Other Expenses	290,002
InKind	<u>1,058,620</u>
Total Expenditures with InKind	<u>\$7,140,162</u>
Excess Revenues over Expenses	<u>\$ (3,898)</u>

(a negative balance is merely timing of when the grant
is received compared to when spent)

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Highlights 2024-25

Enrollment

Head Start Funded Enrollment 216

Early Head Start Funded Enrollment 66

Head Start Avg Monthly Enrollment 82% (Sept 24'-June 25')

Early Head Start Avg Monthly Enrollment 83% (Sept 24'-June 25')

EHS & HS Children Who Are Up-To-Date For Preventative/Primary

Health Care Services: HS=97%, EHS=99%

HS Children With Continuous, Accessible Dental Care: HS=91%, EHS=70%

Compliance

Fiscal Reviews and Audits:

An independent audit by CliftonLarsonAllen CPA firm for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2024 provided an unmodified opinion which is the highest level of assurance a CPA firm can provide.

Minnesota Department of Education did a Fiscal Monitoring Review of the Head Start grant for the period ending November 30th 2024. No issues were identified.

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CLASS Mean Scores

CLASS, or the Classroom Assessment Scoring System, is an observation tool developed by Teachstone and used by the Office of Head Start to measure and improve the quality of interactions between teachers and students.

CLASS scores are assigned based on a scale of 1–7, scoring behaviors that were consistently present and reflective of every child's experience.

The Head Start Program Performance Standards (HSPPS) include thresholds for each CLASS® domain(s). These quality thresholds represent the expectations of the Office of Head Start (OHS) for the quality of the learning environment in every Head Start program. These thresholds do not relate to competition, but instead reflect a quality improvement focus on teacher-child interactions, with support from OHS. The Quality Threshold scores are: 6, 6, 3. The competitive thresholds reflect the minimum score that programs must achieve in each CLASS® domain: 5, 5, 2.3.

	CLASS OBSERVATION DOMAINS		
	EMOTIONAL SUPPORT	CLASSROOM ORGANIZATION	INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT
AVG. FOR 2024-25 PROGRAM YEAR 1. Fall Reach-Up Internal Assessment 2. Spring Federal Monitoring Review	5.75	5.26	3.4
Variance from 2022-23 Scores	-0.11	-0.36	0

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Parent Involvement Activities

Parents and other family members are offered the opportunity to be involved in their children's' programming from the initial enrollment. Specifically, families are encouraged to attend site-based parent meetings, to visit or volunteer in the classroom, to serve on the Policy Council, to serve on Reach-Up's advisory committees, to attend MHSA-sponsored trainings, to attend the annual MHSA parent conference, and to participate in other relevant activities. 83 HS and 50 EHS current and/or former Reach-Up parents volunteered in their children's programming throughout the 2024-25 year.

Preparation For Kindergarten

Reach-Up facilitates the successful transition of past Head Start children and their families into the elementary school system. Reach-Up supports families through individualized home visits and supports kindergarten teachers and/or principals through transition meetings.

During the 2024-25 program year:

- 93 families whose child enters kindergarten for the 2024-2025 school year received some type of Kindergarten Transition service.

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School Readiness Goals

Reach-Up realizes that a critical purpose of all its programs is to prepare children to enter the K-12 educational system on an equal “playing field” with their peers. To that end, the following specific school readiness goals were set effective for the 2024-2025 program year:

Goal #1: 95% of the children who have been in the program all year will meet or exceed widely held developmental expectations in the five primary domains (Social Emotional, Language and Literacy, Approaches to Learning, Cognitive and General Knowledge, Physical Development) as measured by Gold-On-Line. These results are based on the following number of children (HS: n = 121)

Results: 4 year olds 3 year olds

100%	94%	Social-Emotional
100%	100%	Physical
100%	96%	Language & Literacy
100%	96%	Cognitive & General Knowledge
100%	96%	Approaches to Learning

Goal #2: 95% of the children who have been in the program all year will demonstrate developmental progress in the five domains (Social Emotional Development, Language and Literacy, Approaches to Learning, Cognitive and General Knowledge, Physical Development and Health) as measured by Gold-On-Line and Desired Results Developmental Profile.

Results:

HS Center Base = 81%

EHS Center Base = 66%

EHS Home Base = 92%

HS Home Base = 56%

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Family Engagement in Transitions

(Head Start ➔ Kindergarten)

100% of parents, who complete individualized kindergarten transition visits prior to kindergarten entry, will indicate increased knowledge and/or skills related to helping their children and families be ready for kindergarten as measured by the Kindergarten Transition Family Survey.

In 2024-25, 100% of parents who completed individualized kindergarten transition visits prior to kindergarten entry indicated increased knowledge and/or skills related to helping their children and families be ready for kindergarten as measured by the survey.

Parent Engagement Goals

- Re: Family Well-Being: 85% of families who set housing, financial, or health goals (and have follow-up) will meet at least one goal. 33% met this goal.
- Re: Positive Parent-Child Relationships & Families As Lifelong Educators: 47% of families who set an “achievement gap” goal (and have follow-up) will meet the goal. 24% met this goal..
- Re: Families As Learners & Family Connections to Peers and Community: A minimum of 200 Reach-Up families will demonstrate parent participation/education (e.g., parent meetings, parent education classes, socializations, parent conferences/referral visits). 319 families demonstrated participation.
- Re: Families as Advocates and Leaders: A minimum of 20 Reach-Up families will be represented in parent leadership positions throughout the agency (e.g., policy council, parent meetings). 22 families were represented.

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Fall 2025 Community Assessment's significance findings for Reach-Up Head Star

Reach-Up Head Start serves families across Stearns, Benton, and Sherburne Counties. Each year's community assessment helps ensure that programs meet local needs and support positive outcomes for young children.

Regional Snapshot

The tri-county region includes urban, suburban, and rural communities centered around St. Cloud. While each county has distinct characteristics, all share strong connections in employment, health care, education, and social services.

Key Demographic Trends

The population is steadily growing and becoming more diverse, especially in Stearns County. Many families speak Somali, Spanish, or Amharic in the home, increasing the need for culturally responsive services. Despite strong education levels across the region, over **6,000 children** live in households struggling to meet basic needs. Poverty, homelessness, foster care involvement, and participation in public assistance programs remain highest among young children, emphasizing continued demand for early childhood supports.

Education, Health & Social Service Needs

Local schools serve students with a wide range of learning needs, including special education, English language support, and free or reduced-price meals.

Health systems are strong but face provider shortages—particularly in mental health—and many families report challenges with transportation, child care access, and navigating services.

Social service agencies continue to see high demand for housing support, crisis intervention, and behavioral health care.

Workforce & Family Stability

The region offers diverse employment opportunities, but many parents work low-wage or variable-hour jobs. Access to higher education and training is a regional strength, yet financial and transportation barriers limit participation for many families. These conditions contribute to instability and increase the need for reliable child care and family support services.

Child Care Landscape

Child care availability remains limited, especially for infants and toddlers. Provider turnover and rising operational costs reduce the number of available openings. An estimated **2,800–3,000 children** qualify for Head Start or Early Head Start—far more than the region's subsidized child care capacity.

As one of the few no-cost, comprehensive early childhood programs, Reach-Up Head Start fills critical service gaps.

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Community Strengths

Despite challenges, the region benefits from:

- Strong early childhood networks and home visiting programs
- Well-developed health and human service systems
- High-quality schools and multiple higher education institutions
- Active community engagement and volunteerism
- A diverse and growing regional economy
- Abundant parks, trails, and outdoor recreation

Conclusion

Stearns, Benton, and Sherburne Counties offer a strong foundation of community resources and partnerships. However, persistent barriers—poverty, limited child care, transportation challenges, and growing cultural and linguistic needs—reinforce the importance of Reach-Up Head Start. The program plays a vital role in supporting school readiness, strengthening families, and ensuring equitable opportunities for the region's youngest children.

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