



Early Childhood Programs

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Our community

MICA helps people who are experiencing poverty meet their needs, build on their strengths, and achieve their goals.

According to the U.S. Census American Community Survey, nearly one in six children under the age of five in MICA's five-county core service area live in poverty. Research has shown that these children are more likely to start their education at a development level behind that of their peers – a gap that tends to grow throughout a child's education.

MICA offers Head Start (HS), for children 3-5 years old, and Early Head Start (EHS), for pregnant people and children 0-3 years old. These programs combine age-appropriate learning, social interaction, health screenings, nutrition education, strong family engagement and support services to provide children with a rich learning environment.

More detailed information about the communities we serve can be found in the agency's community assessment, available online at www.micaonline.org/reports.

Learn more about our
communities through our
Community Needs
Assessment!

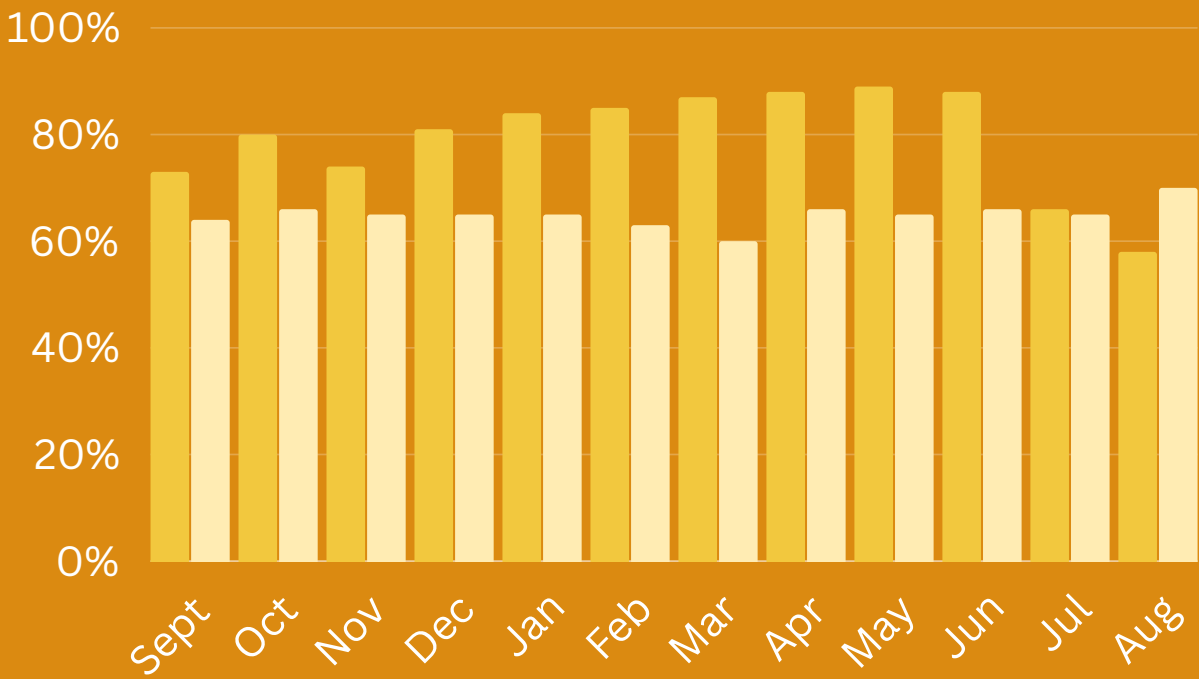


Our Impact

At MICA, we measure our impact in the number of lives we change.

In 2023, MICA's Early Childhood Programs served 329 children and families (221 in HS, 108 in EHS). Not only did hundreds of children receive a quality early childhood education, but their adult family members also received information and support, creating a strong and stable family environment.

Several HS classrooms operated on a program year with a summer break. Therefore, it is normal for HS enrollment to fall below capacity during the summer months. However, there have been several other recruitment challenges including declining eligible populations that resulted in enrollment being under capacity this year. Recruitment efforts are ongoing.



A Strong Start

MICA's Early Childhood Programs provide the groundwork for a child's lifelong educational success. Its immediate impact can be seen in preparing children for entry into kindergarten.

Making a difference!

Jordan, from our Iowa Falls Center, shared a story of a child who started in her classroom last year. This child was unable to walk, feed herself, or communicate. In partnership with her mom, AEA and other therapists, this child now feeds herself, runs on the playground and has started saying and signing some words!

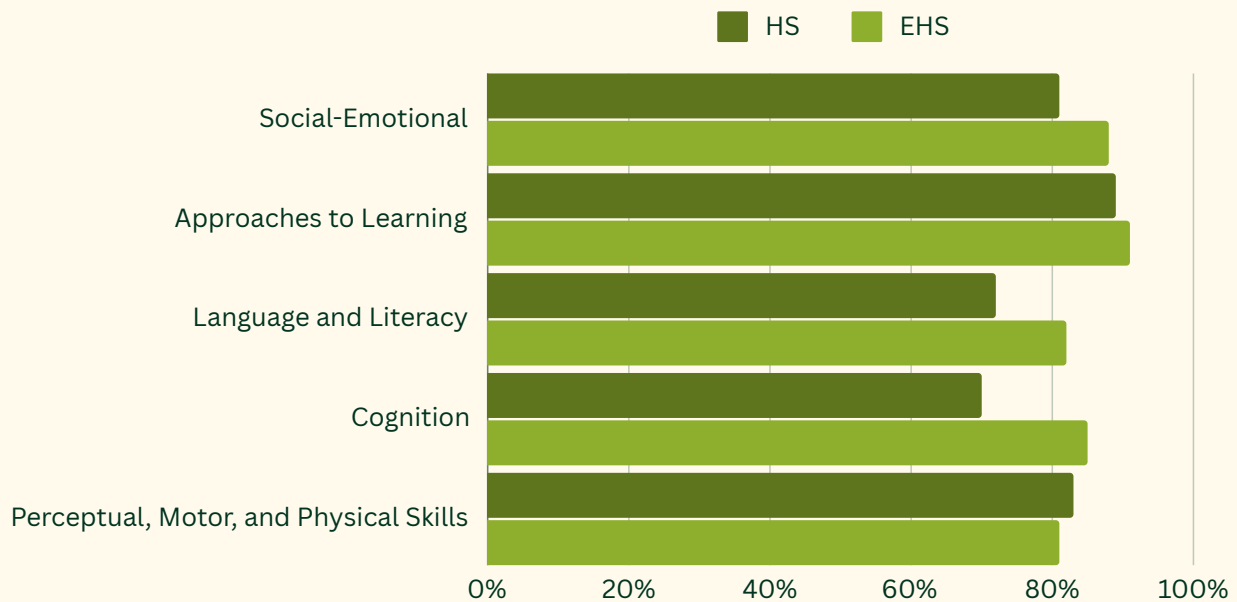


A Whole Family Approach

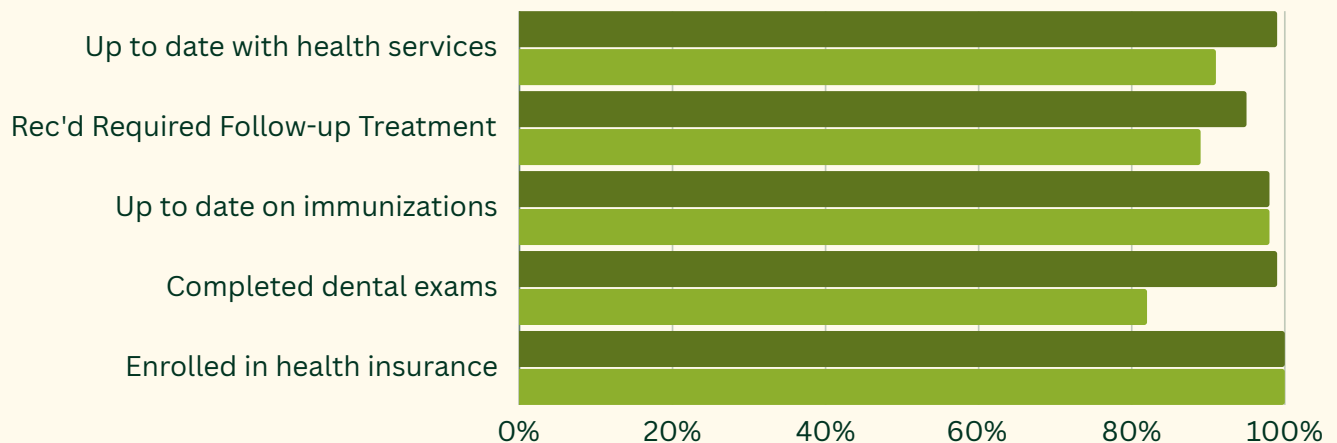
A family at our Hope Head Start Center was really struggling with their child's development and potential Autism Spectrum Disorder diagnosis. Alyssa and Alma worked extremely hard to provide resources, education, support to the family. They were in constant contact with the doctors and other providers to help support the child and the parents. The parents now have a better understanding and are working to be advocates for their child's needs.

Assessment Goals

The chart below shows the percentage of children in both EHS and HS who were meeting MICA's School Readiness goals for year-end 2023.



Health and Wellbeing



Family Engagement

A child's family members are their most important teachers. They participate in home visits and conferences, set educational goals, read to their child, and engage in educational activities with their child at home.

MICA gives family members many opportunities to be involved in their child's education. Their involvement in regularly scheduled meetings like the Policy Council and Parent Committees help shape the direction of the program and give them a meaningful role in the decision-making process. We also provide support and family engagement on a variety of topics. The list below reflects some of the topics we discussed during the 2022-2023 program year:

Family Engagement Topics:

Attendance
Attendance
Behaviors
Childhood Illness
Conscious Discipline- Breathing Techniques
Conscious Discipline- I Love You Rituals
Co-parenting
Drowning Prevention
Environmental Hazards
Finance
Fire Safety
Health
Healthy Relationships
Literacy
Managing Stress
Mental Health
Nature and Animals in Iowa
Nurtition on a Budget
Nutrition

Oral Health Care
Positive Parenting
Potty Training
Relationships
Routines
Sleep
Summer Safety
Transition from Early Head Start to a preschool setting
Transitions from Head Start to Kindergarten
Winter Safety



Early Head Start 2022 Annual Expense Report
Fiscal Year: December 2021 - November 2022

Salaries & Wages	\$860,695.66
Fringe Benefits	\$249,289.84
Indirect Costs	\$221,442.11
In Area Mileage Cars	\$19,269.20
Van Fuel	\$81.65
Licensing & Fingerprinting Fees	\$535.25
Classroom/Disability/ITDS Supplies	\$35,569.52
Cleaning Supplies	\$2,294.54
Kitchen Supplies	\$5,892.41
Medical/Dental Supplies	\$1,296.77
Socialization Supplies	\$493.98
Copies/Printing	\$6,317.14
Postage	\$55.78
Mental Health	\$3,236.71
ChildPlus	\$2,164.45
Translation Services	\$2,074.95
Other Contracts/Services	\$244.00
Insurance	\$5,938.55
Phone/Internet	\$25,074.64
Advertising	\$2,219.42
Van/Building/Equipment Maintenance	\$11,025.52
Space	\$77,792.80
Classroom/Computer Equipment	\$37,424.10
Training Costs	\$31,417.00
Employee Physicals/TB Screenings/Vaccinations	\$1,625.00
Parent Meetings/Activities	\$2,439.12
Child Meals	\$19,134.07
Adult Meals	\$13,730.80
Policy Council	\$1,467.69
Program Assessment/Accreditation Fees	\$362.50
Total Expenses	<u><u>\$1,640,605.17</u></u>

Head Start 2022 Annual Expense Report
Fiscal Year: December 2021 - November 2022

Salaries & Wages	\$1,179,179.59
Fringe Benefits	\$340,998.04
Indirect Costs	\$303,275.44
In Area Mileage Cars	\$21,207.08
Van Fuel	\$16.43
Licensing & Fingerprinting Fees	\$575.75
Classroom Supplies	\$62,547.79
Cleaning Supplies	\$3,868.30
Kitchen Supplies	\$14,963.45
Medical/Dental Supplies	\$1,143.71
Copies/Printing	\$14,243.79
Postage	\$39.36
Health Contracts	\$1,873.92
Mental Health	\$9,011.98
ChildPlus	\$5,436.75
Translation Services	\$4,013.60
Other Contracts/Services	\$904.00
Insurance	\$9,401.94
Phone/Internet	\$54,392.43
Advertising	\$3,170.63
Van/Building/Equipment Maintenance	\$25,323.29
Space	\$202,630.82
Classroom/Computer Equipment	\$43,648.73
Training Costs	\$27,553.00
Employee Physicals/TB Screenings/Vaccinations	\$2,236.00
Parent Meetings/Activities	\$4,237.84
Child Meals	\$19,011.77
Adult Meals	\$27,574.15
Policy Council	\$1,467.75
Program Assessment/Accreditation Fees	\$1,887.50
Total Expenses	<u><u>\$2,385,834.83</u></u>

Public and Private Funds Received:

Marshalltown School District	\$ 47,492.64	July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023
CACFP	\$ 186,340.90	October 1, 2022 - September 30, 2023
IRVECA Early Childhood Iowa Wrap Around	\$ 52,742.00	July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023
Wrap Around Child Care Grants	\$ 137,800.00	July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023
Shared Visions Child Development Preschool	\$ 262,453.00	July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

MICA's EHS and HS fiscal year runs December 1 through November 30.



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Office of Head Start | 330 C St., SW, 4th Floor, Washington DC 20201 | eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov

March 24, 2023

Mid-Iowa Community Action, Inc.

Re: Grant No. 07CH011276

Dear Head Start Grantee:

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Office of Head Start (OHS) recently conducted a monitoring review of your program. The attached report contains information about your agency's performance and compliance with the requirements of the Head Start Program Performance Standards, Public Law 110-134, Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007, and other applicable regulations.

Please contact your Regional Office for guidance should you have any questions or concerns. Your Regional Office will follow up on the content of this report and can work with you to identify resources to support your program's continuous improvement.

If the report has findings the corrective action period will begin 72 hours from the time this email was sent.

Sincerely,

OHS Monitoring Team



ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Office of Head Start | 4th Floor – Switzer Memorial Building, 330 C Street SW, Washington DC 20024 ecikc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov

Results from CLASS® Video Pilot Observations

To: Board Chairperson

Ms. Lisa Heddens, Board Chairperson
Mid-Iowa Community Action, Inc.
1001 S 18th Ave
Marshalltown, IA 50158-3662

From: Responsible HHS Official

Date: 03/23/2023

Tala Hooban

Deputy Director, Office of Head Start

On behalf of Mr. Khari M. Garvin
Director, Office of Head Start

Thank you for your support during the recent Office of Head Start CLASS® Video Pilot review conducted from **01/18/2023** to **03/04/2023** of your Head Start program. Grant **07CH011276**. The CLASS® Video Pilot provided an opportunity for our monitoring team to ascertain the feasibility, efficiency, and quality of classroom observations obtained through video recordings in comparison to those obtained during in-person visits. Scores from observations conducted during the 2022-23 program year for this CLASS® Video Pilot will not be used for Designation Renewal System (DRS) purposes.

Observations were conducted in preschool center-based classrooms using the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS®). The CLASS® tool looks at three domains and ten dimensions of teacher-child interactions and measures those observed interactions on a seven-point scale. Please share these results with the appropriate governing board, policy council, management, staff and stakeholders.

The Head Start Program Performance Standards (HSPPS) include Quality and Competitive thresholds for each CLASS® domain(s). **While scores from observations conducted during the 2022-23 program year for this CLASS® Video Pilot will not be used for DRS purposes, we offer the following information for your program's reference:**

DOMAIN	SCORE	Quality Threshold	Competitive Threshold
Emotional Support*	5.6563	6	5
Classroom Organization	5.2917	6	5
Instructional Support	2.5694	3	2.3**

*To calculate the Emotional Support domain, subtract the Negative Climate score from 8, add the Positive Climate, Teacher Sensitivity, and Regard for Student Perspective scores, then divide by 4.

**The competitive threshold for Instructional Support is 2.3 for CLASS® reviews conducted through July 31, 2025 and then raises to 2.5 for CLASS® reviews conducted on and after August 1, 2025.

DIMENSION	SCORE
Positive Climate	5.33
Negative Climate	1.08
Teacher Sensitivity	5.71
Regard for Student Perspectives	4.67
Behavior Management	5.46
Productivity	5.67
Instructional Learning Formats	4.75
Concept Development	1.92
Quality of Feedback	2.38
Language Modeling	3.42

If your grant's scores from this CLASS[®] review would have fallen below the *quality or competitive threshold* for one or more CLASS[®] domains, the Office of Head Start offers the following training and technical assistance (TTA) resources as a first step to support your program's efforts on quality improvement related to teacher-child interactions in these areas:

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/teaching-practices/article/class-quality-improvement>. In addition, you have the option of working with your Regional Office to explore further TTA opportunities that support improvement of classroom learning environments and teacher-child interactions in areas that could most benefit your program.

For more information on CLASS[®] domains and dimensions, please see the attached description and visit the Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center, National Center on Quality Teaching and Learning at <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/teaching-practices/article/learn-more-about-class>.

If you have any questions, please contact your Regional Office.

cc: *Mr. Clarence Small*, Regional Program Manager

Ms. Joann Steen, Policy Council Chairperson

Ms. Clarissa Thompson, CEO/Executive Director

Ms. Carrie Sadders, Head Start Director

About CLASS[®]

The Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007 requires that the Office of Head Start (OHS) include in the monitoring reviews of Head Start agencies a valid and reliable research-based observational instrument that assesses classroom quality, including the assessment of multiple dimensions of teacher-child interactions that are linked to positive child outcomes and later achievement.

CLASS[®] assesses interactions between children and teachers in three broad domains of classroom quality: Emotional Support, Classroom Organization, and Instructional Support. The Office of Head Start believes that the domains of quality measured by CLASS[®] remain central to its approach to child development and education and serve as important indicators of the future school readiness of all Head Start children.

For all dimensions[†], the scoring principles are as follows:

Low range score

1-The low range description of the CLASS[®] dimension fits the classroom and/or teacher very well. All, or almost all, relevant indicators in the low range are present.

2-The low range description of the CLASS[®] dimension mostly fits the classroom and/or teacher, but there are one or two indicators that are in the middle range.

Middle range score

3-The middle range description of the CLASS[®] dimension mostly fits the classroom and/or teacher, but there are one or two indicators in the low range.

4-The middle range description of the CLASS[®] dimension fits the classroom and/or teacher very well. All, or almost all, relevant indicators in the middle range are present.

5-The middle range description of the CLASS[®] dimension mostly fits the classroom and/or teacher, but there are one or two indicators in the high range.

High range score

6-The high range description of the CLASS[®] dimension mostly fits the classroom and/or teacher, but there are one or two indicators in the middle range.

7-The high range description of the CLASS[®] dimension fits the classroom and/or teacher very well. All, or almost all, relevant indicators in the high range are present.

[†]Note: The Negative Climate dimension is inversely scored with a higher score indicating lower quality. For all other dimensions and domains, a higher score indicates higher quality.

The scores from each class observation are averaged across the grantee to result in **grantee-level** dimension scores. The grantee dimension scores are then used to calculate the grantee-level domain scores.

The scores from CLASS[®] observations can be used for a variety of purposes, including professional development, program improvement, policy, goal setting and monitoring. The Office of Head Start began using the CLASS[®] for monitoring purposes in FY2010 to collect information on the experiences of children at each grantee.

In FY2012, OHS refined the use of the CLASS[®] in monitoring to include the use of a randomly selected sample of center-based preschool classes for observations, a clearly articulated methodology followed by CLASS[®] reviewers, and additional support for the CLASS[®] reviewer pool. For each preschool class selected in the sample, trained and certified CLASS[®] Teachstone Specialists conduct two 20-minute observations and score at the dimension level using a 7-point scale at the end of each observation cycle.

