

**NOOKSACK INDIAN TRIBE
HEAD START
ANNUAL REPORT
2023-2024**

tl'a7áshen! Welcome!

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the Nooksack Indian Tribal Head Start program to provide comprehensive services to the children and families of the community. Through partnerships with the tribal programs, school districts, and local agencies we will respectfully identify the needs of children, families and the community, and provide opportunities to participate in a high-quality early childhood educational program that is culturally relevant to help strengthen, educate and empower children and families.



PROGRAM INFORMATION

Deming Site:
5018 Alder Street
Deming, WA 98244

Everson Site:
6760 Mission Road
Everson, WA 98247

Number of Staff
16
Enrollment Slots
64
Actual Enrollment
51

Service Delivery

In-Person
Kindergarten Readiness
At-Home Learning Activities



OVERVIEW

The Administration for Children and Families, Office of Head Start has provided funding to the Nooksack Indian Tribe Head Start for Project Period: 01/01/2019-12/31/2023 (60 months) in a total amount of \$6,066,331.00.

The Nooksack Indian Tribe headquarters is located in the town of Deming, Washington. The House of Children Head Start (HOC) operates as an educational provider on behalf of the Nooksack Indian Tribe. The HOC Head Start is governed by the Nooksack Indian Tribe Council and the HOC Policy Council.

The Nooksack Tribal Administration manages the implementation of the HOC’s program operations, social services, human resources and legal, given program support internally is lean. The Nooksack Tribal Administration programs provide updated reports to Parent Policy Council and Nooksack Tribal Council.

The HOC is a comprehensive center-based cultural and community-focused early learning program for preschool children aged 3-5 years old. The early childhood education program supports school readiness through individualized support in each of these areas:

- approaches to learning,
- social-emotional development,
- language and literacy,
- cognition and perceptual, and
- motor and physical development.

CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES

Dental Services

- 51 Had Dental in Classroom
- 46 Had Fluoride Treatment in Classroom

Medical Services

- 43 Were up to date on Immunization
- 08 Were not up to date

Mental Health

- 51 Children Received Mental Health Services/Assessments On-Site

IEP

- 07 Children had an Individual Education Plan

Kindergarten Ready

- 23 Children Transitioned to Kindergarten

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Each program year begins with a parent questionnaire. The questionnaire asks parents how and when they would like to volunteer in the classroom. The survey gives the program insights into topics families are interested in and one's worth exploring during our parent classes and events. Our philosophy is to encourage parents to partake in learning activities at home with their child, and emphasize their role as their child's first and most important teacher. Parents are not pressured to participate in activities, but are encouraged to spend one-on-one time engaging with their children.

This year, the program returned to monthly field trips to the local library following the *Coronavirus pandemic*. These trips supported language and literacy development as well as family engagement, as each family received applications for Library cards that could be used outside of school to make use of library services in the area.



KINDERGARTEN READY! Creative Curriculum for Preschoolers

The program implements Comprehensive Services, and within the service delivery plan has adopted a research-based curriculum and assessment program. The program and approach to high quality early childhood educational services, includes nutritional, health educational, and social service, which was provided to 64 low-income children and families. Head Start is a comprehensive child development program that provides services to eligible children and families at no cost.

****In accordance with Federal Law, Head Start is prohibited from discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex age or disability.*

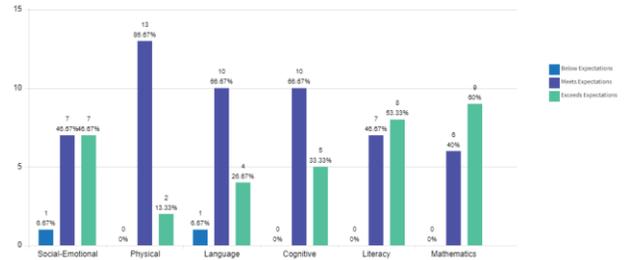
The program year began with a focus on school readiness, and supporting children’s individual development through the process of screening, individual learning support, and ongoing assessment. Our staff’s goal for individualizing with the children is to focus on the Social Emotional, Physical, Cognitive, and Language areas once a week with documentation collected during daily activities. The Parent Policy approved Creative Curriculum supported teachers’ documentation of children’s progress and development using Teaching Strategies Gold online assessment tool.

Teachers used assessment and observation report data to reflect on teaching approaches, and plan next steps to support child progress in each developmental domain. Our teaching staff also partnered with kindergarten teachers at local Mt. Baker and Nooksack Valley schools to participate in a virtual meet & greet with

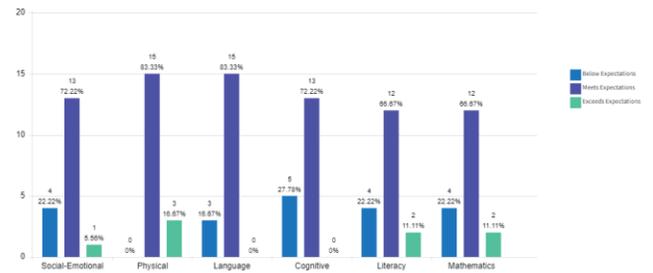
children and families. This partnership has continued through the years to support PreK-K transitions.

2023-24 PROGRAM YEAR EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES

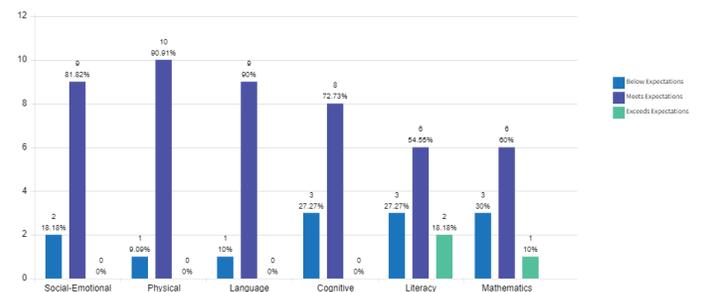
Washington Department of Children, Youth, and Families - Deming B 23-24
Spring 2023/2024 - Widely Held Expectations



Washington Department of Children, Youth, and Families - Everson 23-24 class A
Spring 2023/2024 - Widely Held Expectations



Washington Department of Children, Youth, and Families - NOOKSACK INDIAN TRIBE
Spring 2023/2024 - Widely Held Expectations



FINANCIAL REPORT

The Head Start program is a major federally funded program, which reflects revenues and expenditures related to the tribe’s annual funding agreements with the US Department of Health and Human Services. The tribe provides health care, social services, and educational services to eligible participants with these revenues.

Following are excerpts taken from the Head Start Enterprise System:

OPERATING BUDGET 2023

<i>Personnel</i>	\$595,044
<i>Fringe</i>	\$246,661
<i>Supplies</i>	\$16,000
<i>Contractual</i>	\$1,000
<i>Other</i>	\$45,000
<i>T/TA</i>	\$11,824
Total Direct Charges	\$915,529
Indirect Charges	\$139,641
Non-Federal Share	\$255,534
TOTAL	\$1,310,704

The sum of personnel and fringe benefits is between 70% and 80% of the total federal budget. The Head Start budget covers salaries and wages for 16 staff members. The amount of staff members reflected in this budget has not changed compared to prior years of Head Start funding. The Nooksack Indian Tribe absorbs any costs or expenses over and above the costs not covered by this grant application budget by using Tribal hard dollars from the Nooksack Indian Tribe's budget.

HEAD START USDA CHILD & ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM

Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
Child & Adult Care Food Program
Reimbursed Amount Based on Reported
Parent Income & Total Meals Claimed
During Program Year.
 CACFP Reimbursement
 (1/1/ 2023 — 12/31/2023)

Total Amount \$33,750



ADULT & CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM

The Nooksack Indian Tribe House of Children (NHOC) Head Start is a proud participant in the *US Department of Agriculture Child and Adult Care Food Program* managed by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)

In-person meals are available to enrolled children at no separate charge without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability.

Any person who believes that he or she has been discriminated against by any USDA related act should write immediately to:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
 The Secretary of Agriculture
 1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
 Washington, DC 20250

Information Hotline: (202) 720-2791
 Email: [Contact USDA](#)

During in-person services, meals were provided at the centers located at:

Nooksack Head Start
 5018 Alder Street,
 Deming, WA. 98244

House of Children
 Head Start, *Everson Site*
 6067 Mission Road
 Everson, WA. 98247

****A Monthly Income Guideline Is Available.

About Our Children

64	Funded Slots
51	Children Receiving Services

Eligibility

19	Below Federal Poverty Line
03	Income b/n 100-130% FPL
03	Above the 130% FPL
20	Received Public Assistance (TANF, SSI, SNAP, WIC)
05	Families Reported Homelessness
01	Children in Foster Care



Race & Ethnicity

27	Native American/Alaska Native
00	African American
10	Hispanic or Latino
11	White
01	Multi-cultural
02	Other

Characteristics

10	Three Year Olds
18	Four Year Olds
23	Five Year Olds

Health Services Coverage

46	Had Health Insurance
23	Medicaid Insurance
11	State Only Funded Insurance
05	Private Insurance
01	State Health Insurance
06	Other



During the 2023-2024 Program Year, HOCHS Program facilitated family education and support services in the following areas based on identified needs:

- Application Assistance
- Behavior Management
- Page Ahead
- Kindergarten readiness Assistance
- Virtual Parent Teacher Conferences
- Parent Policy Council
- SAMSHA Trunk-or-Treat Night
- Positive Indian parenting
- Male Involvement

Family Engagement Nights were held monthly from *October-February* and focused on Literacy, Bike Safety, Fire Safety, Immunizations, Dental Health, Personal Safety, Safe Trick-or-Treating, which promoted:

- Family Literacy
- Community Engagement
- Networking
- Community Connections
- Family participation & Advocacy
- Male Involvement

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Health & Nutrition Manager recruited and worked with the Health Services Advisory Committee at least annually to address pressing health and nutrition matters within the program. This committee is comprised of local doctors, nurses, safety staff, and the HOC managers.

The Health & Nutrition Manager also worked with families to ensure they have access to health insurance and located medical and dental homes for the students to receive regular check-ups.

WATER QUALITY

Water quality reports for the year 2023 are available for the Joe Louie Water Association and Deming Water Association, which provides service to our Everson and Deming program sites.

Reported by Joe Louie Water Association: The Water Quality report is required by the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) to inform the public of the quality of drinking water: **“YOUR WATER IS SAFE TO DRINK.”**

Our system had no violations. The EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels. We are proud to report that our drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State water quality standards.

The Deming Water Association, which services our Deming classroom site, reported the following: Tap water provided by this water utility (Deming Water Assoc.) was in compliance with federal health-based drinking water standards.

ANNUAL HEALTH INSPECTION

The Northwest Indian Health Board conducted facility health & safety inspections of both the Deming & Everson Head Start sites on 6/22/2023.

Deming Site:

Total 34 Deficiencies:
9 Critical Deficiencies:
0 Repeat Critical Deficiencies:

Everson Site:

Total 51 Deficiencies:
11 Critical Deficiencies:
1 Repeat Critical Deficiency:

Nooksack Tribal Maintenance is supporting our program to ensure these issues are taken care.



**NIT Head Start
STAFF**

13 Staff Members

02 Former Head Start Parents

+++ All staff meet federal criteria

Head Start Director

- ED D Educational Administration, Management, and Leadership
- Master of Education
- Bachelor Science
 - Early Childhood Education
 - Bilingual Education

ERSEA Manager

- Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Education

Education & Disabilities Manager

- Bachelor of Science in Management

Health & Nutrition Manager

- Doctorate of Pharmacy
- Bachelor of Arts
 - Biology
 - Chemistry

****The Education & Disabilities and ERSEA program manager served as the Lead Teacher at the Deming and Everson center.

Teacher Aides

- Two Working Towards Associates in Early Childhood Education
- All Teacher Aides - Pursuing a CDA in Early Childhood Education

Bus Drivers

- Hold CDL Endorsements

All staff are trained annually in: First Aid, CPR, Mandated Reporting of Child Abuse & Neglect, Bloodborne Pathogens, Fire Safety & Extinguisher training, Child Development, Medication

Administration, Curriculum and Classroom Management, Child Observation and assessment, Confidentiality, Bus & Transportation Safety, Head Start Policies and Performance Standards.

***All Nooksack Indian Tribe staff complete a background check and drug screening upon hire and prior to returning to their positions after summer break. All staff must adhere to the Nooksack Tribe's Personnel Policies and Procedures.

GOVERNING BOARD & ADVISORS

NOOKSACK TRIBAL COUNCIL

RoseMary LaClair
Chairwoman

Alita Charles
Vice Chairwoman

Gary Kentner
Treasurer

Frank Leyva
Secretary

Roman Swanaset-Simmonds
Council Member

Victor Joe
Council Member

Ryawn Cline
Council Member

Roy Bailey
Council Member

HEAD START POLICY COUNCIL

Kyle Desautel, Chair
Susan Clark, Vice Chair
Trina Cline, Secretary
Ashlie Filbert, Treasurer

ADMINISTRATION

Veronica Washington
General Manager

Carmen Cooper
Administrative Services

Jeff Levin
Nooksack Tribe CFO

Amy Taylor
Nooksack Human Resources Director

George Swanaset Jr.
Cultural Resources Director

Dr. Aamer Kahn
Nooksack Behavioral Health Director

Greg Pulido
Nooksack Automotive Lead

Richard Edwards
*Nooksack Facilities, Maintenance,
and Grounds Director*

Loren Roberts
Tribal Language Instructor

Advisors, Stakeholders

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS,
SERVICE PROVIDERS**

Nooksack Pandemic Response Team

Lona Johnson
*Nooksack Health Department
& Tribal Clinic Director*

Therese Davis
*Nooksack Health Clinic
Operations Manager*

Kaye Marshall
*Mt. Baker School District
Early Learning Specialist*

Shelby Madera
*Northwest Indian Health Board
Environmental Health Specialist*

Sheri Goebel, RN
Nooksack Community Health Nurse

Francisco Sanchez
Nooksack Law Enforcement

Andrea Garcia RN
Nooksack Tribal Clinic Manager

Dr. Cate Webb
Nooksack Tribal Clinic Pediatrician

Dr. Frank James
Nooksack Tribal Health Officer

Dr. Aamer Kahn
Nooksack Behavioral Health Director

Leinani Swanaset
WIC Program

Allison Wigbers
Nooksack Community Health Nurse

Dr. Burke Cheung
Nooksack Dental Clinic

INTERAGENCY AGREEMENTS

Mount Baker School District
Special Services Department

Nooksack Valley School District
Special Services Department

Nooksack Indian Tribe
Administrative Departments

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS

- Nooksack Indian Tribe Nutrition Staff
- Nooksack Health Clinic

**SERVICE AREA FEDERAL
OFFICIALS**

Todd Lertjuntharangool
*Regional Program Manager Office of Head
Start, Region XI*

Amber Lea
Office of Head Start Program Specialist

COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

The Nooksack Head Start Staff and Policy Council invite you to help us deliver comprehensive educational, health, and social services by volunteering to support in the following areas:

- Policy Council
- Elders in the Classroom
- Parent Committee
- Health Services Advisory Committee
- Annual Self-Assessment
- Classroom Volunteer
- Community Needs Assessment



****Excerpts from this Annual Report may be published in the monthly Nooksack Tribal Newsletter – Snee Nee Chum

This Annual Report, the Environmental Health and Safety reports, Program Outcomes and Results for both sites, PIR Reports, and other reports that generated information and data for this report may be made available by contacting:

Dr. Elvira Bitsoi
Head Start Director

Amy Brandland, Manager
Education & Disabilities

Debi Bentley, Manager
ERSEA

Dr. Lauren Brandland, Manager
Health & Nutrition

Nooksack Indian Tribe
Post Office Box 157
Deming, WA 98244

**** *This annual report can be translated to
Español by request.*