Director of Early Childhood and Family Services Report
June 2024

Federal Updates:

Home At Head Start --In this short video, Director Garvin shares how family service professionals can initiate caring conversations about McKinney-Vento eligibility.
https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/video/call-action

Regulatory Guidance: We will be reviewing this as an Administrative team.

- Information Memorandum **ACF-OHS-IM-24-01 Strategies and Recommendations for Supporting Mental Health**
- **45CFR 1302.45** Child Mental Health and Social Emotional Well Being
- **45CFR 1302.46** Family Support Services for Health Nutrition and Mental Health
- **45CFR 1302.17** Suspension and Expulsion

State Updates:

- We received feedback from the Dept. of Education on our MOUs with school systems. We are working with our LEAs to add any missing information and we are reorganizing the sections to match the flow of the feedback rubric.
- CCDF 2025-2027 State Plan Draft https://www.childcare.virginia.gov/reports-resources/administrative-program-manuals-reports-and-data/virginia-child-care-plan
    - June 5th at 12:00 pm Public Comment via livestream You tube https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrbxl9wHScrWKWIEoUWNIfQ
    - Public Comment statements can be added until midnight June 16th use link here https://forms.office.com/g/FEtmS73jgv

NRCA Program Updates:

Enrollment- We ended the year with 260 children enrolled or 82%. Recruitment continues for next program year In my July report I will include a detailed report of enrollment at each site and if there is a waitlist.
If you know of a child that would benefit from Head Start, applications for Head Start can be found online at the New River Community Action, Inc. webpage or any local public-school website.

Personnel- We are preparing our advertising campaign. Tentatively we have 2 LT, 3 AT and 2 CA positions to fill.

Self -Assessment-Our Annual Program Self-Assessment is underway. We will beginning planning for our 5-year goals and the data to track goal progress in our next 5-year project period.

Fiscal Update- We received notice that our award with the change in scope has been approved and the Notice of Award has been issued.

We submitted our 1-time proposal for health and safety (Christiansburg roof). We should hear a final August-September time frame.

We met our in-kind contribution match for the year. There are no dashboard attachments this month.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roni Fitch

Director of Early Childhood and Family Services

Director of Early Childhood and Family Services Report
July 2024

Federal Updates:

Fiscal Year 2025 Monitoring Process for Head Start and Early Head Start Recipients ACF-OHS-IM-24-02

https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/policy/im/acf-ohs-im-24-02 This Information Memorandum (IM) outlines the OHS monitoring process for fiscal year 2025 (FY25). It describes the types of monitoring reviews that recipients may experience, highlighting Focus Area 1 (FA1), Focus Area 2 (FA2), Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS®), Risk Assessment Notification (RAN), and unannounced reviews.

A new Grant Number has been added to our existing HSES account.

Regulatory Guidance: We will be reviewing this as an Administrative team.

- Information Memorandum **ACF-OHS-IM-24-01 Strategies and Recommendations for Supporting Mental Health**
- **45CFR 1302.45** Child Mental Health and Social Emotional Well Being
- **45CFR 1302.46** Family Support Services for Health Nutrition and Mental Health
- **45CFR 1302.17** Suspension and Expulsion

State Updates:

- We are working with each of the local school systems and Head Start Admin to update our MOUs. This process will be completed by the end of July and will reflect the feedback from the VDOE.

NRCA Program Updates:

Enrollment- Enrollment continues in each jurisdiction. We will have a change of location in Floyd County. After reviewing the eligible child applications, we are shifting our blended classroom from Check Elementary School to Floyd Elementary School to serve the children who are most at risk. Check will continue to have a classroom and any Head Start income eligible applications for that service area have been shared with the school system and will be served in VPI. This change also allows the Head Start 3-year-olds who are returning for their 4-year-old experience to continue with Head Start services at Floyd E and provide an opportunity for before and after school care for our working parents.
We continue to take applications. If you know of a child that would benefit from Head Start, applications for Head Start can be found online at the New River Community Action, Inc. webpage or any local public-school website.
We have begun the transition to close the classrooms outlined in our Change in Scope application.

Professional Development- Family Wellness Coaches met in June
Personnel- Our hiring campaign is underway. Currently we have 1 LT, 1 AT and 2 CA positions to fill. We have some interviews set up and continue to screen new applicants.
Self -Assessment-Our Annual Program Self-Assessment is underway. I will be meeting with Specialists to talk about/plan for outcomes data to track our 5-year goal progress and MBI reporting.
Annual Report- We are starting to work on our Annual Report to the Public.
Fiscal Update- We received notice of our new grant number. We are still waiting to hear regarding our submission for the one-time supplemental funds to replace the roof at Christiansburg Head Start.

There is an updated enrollment dashboard attached.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roni Fitch, Director of Early Childhood and Family Services

NRCA Head Start Acceptance Report - as of July 1, 2024

Acceptance

Center	Funded Enrollment	Current Acceptance	Number O/I Accepted	# Vacant Slots within 30 days	Average Attendance
Blacksburg	17	15			
Christiansburg	34	29	1		
Floyd Elem	10	10	1		
Floyd	16	15	1		
HS ELC	17	17	2		
Macy *	10	8			
Margaet Beeks *	9	8			
McHarg	16	16			
Pearisburg	34	31	1		
Pulaski	51	40	6		
Radford 1B	14	10	1		
Program Total	228	199	13		

Waitlist

Criteria	Homeless	Foster	Public Assistance	Low Income		130%		Over Income		2/3	Total	Declined Services
Age	3 or 4	3 or 4	3 or 4	4	3	4	3	4	3			
Blacksburg			6		2			1	4	1	14	
Christiansburg			3		3	1	1	2	4		14	
ELC			1					3	1		5	
Floyd									3	1	4	
Giles			6					2	1	1	10	
Pulaski								3	5	3	11	
Radford			10		1		1	1	3		16	
Program Total	0	0	26	0	6	1	2	12	21	6	74	0

Disabilities

Children enrolled with an IEP	20
Children Referred to LEA (in the process)	2
Children Awaiting Services	
Families in NRVCS Case Management Services	44

Comments

rformance Standards	
1302.12(d)(1)(ii)	*Establishes criteria that ensures eligible children are served first*
1302.13	*In order to reach those most in need of services, a program must develop and implement a recruitment process.*
1302.14(b)(1)	*A program must ensure at least 10% of its total funded enrollment is filled by children eligible for services under IDEA*
1302.15(a)	*A program must maintain its funded enrollment level and fill any vacancy as soon as possible. A program must fill any vacancy within 30 days.*
1302.16(b)	*If a program's monthly average daily attendance rate falls below 85 percent, the program must analyze the causes of absenteeism to identify any systematic issues that contribute to the program's absense rate.*

Director of Early Childhood and Family Services Report
August 2024

Federal Updates:

Fiscal Year 2025 Monitoring Process for Head Start and Early Head Start Recipients ACF-OHS-IM-24-02

State Updates:

- We are working with each of the local school systems and Head Start Admin to update our MOUs. This process will be completed by the end of July and will reflect the feedback from the VDOE.

NRCA Program Updates:

Enrollment- Enrollment continues.

Professional Development- Staff have reported to work and are starting their year with several training topics. Curriculum and Assessment, Pyramid Model Practices, Safe Environments, Home Visiting and Program Outcomes. All program staff will be participating in these trainings.
Personnel- Our hiring campaign is underway. Currently we have 3 LT, 1 AT and 2 CA positions to fill. We have some interviews set up and continue to screen new applicants. We posted an ad for the Floyd LT position which included a sign on bonus. It looks like we have someone in the hiring process for all 6 positions above. Of course, background checks are the hold up,

Annual Reports Due

- **Self -Assessment**-Our Annual Program Self-Assessment is underway. Submitted in September
- Our **Annual Report to the Public** will be submitted for review in September.
- Program Information Report **"PIR**" is due Aug. 31st.
- **Integrated Service Area Plans and Procedures** will be submitted in September.

Fiscal Update- Close out of the previous project period is due Aug. 31st.

Attached is the Enrollment Dashboard for August. We continue to take and process applications.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roni Fitch, Director of Early Childhood and Family Services

NRCA Head Start Acceptance Report - as of August 1, 2024

Acceptance

Center	Funded Enrollment	Current Acceptance	Number O/I Accepted	# Vacant Slots within 30 days	Average Attendance
Blacksburg	17	15			
Christiansburg	34	29	1		
Floyd Elem	10	10	1		
Floyd	16	15	1		
HS ELC	17	17	2		
Macy *	10	8			
Margaet Beeks *	9	8			
McHarg	16	16			
Pearisburg	34	31	1		
Pulaski	51	40	6		
Radford 1B	14	10	1		
Program Total	228	199	13		

Waitlist

Criteria	Homeless	Foster	Public Assistance	Low Income		130%		Over Income		2/3	Total	Declined Services
Age	3 or 4	3 or 4	3 or 4	4	3	4	3	4	3			
Blacksburg			6		2			1	4	1	14	
Christiansburg			3		3	1	1	2	4		14	
ELC			1					3	1		5	
Floyd									3	1	4	
Giles			6					2	1	1	10	
Pulaski								3	5	3	11	
Radford			10		1		1	1	3		16	
Program Total	0	0	26	0	6	1	2	12	21	6	74	0

Disabilities

Children enrolled with an IEP	20
Children Referred to LEA (in the process)	2
Children Awaiting Services	
Families in NRVCS Case Management Services	44

Comments

rformance Standards	
1302.12(d)(1)(ii)	*Establishes criteria that ensures eligible children are served first*
1302.13	*In order to reach those most in need of services, a program must develop and implement a recruitment process.*
1302.14(b)(1)	*A program must ensure at least 10% of its total funded enrollment is filled by children eligible for services under IDEA*
1302.15(a)	*A program must maintain its funded enrollment level and fill any vacancy as soon as possible. A program must fill any vacancy within 30 days.*
1302.16(b)	*If a program's monthly average daily attendance rate falls below 85 percent, the program must analyze the causes of absenteeism to identify any systematic issues that contribute to the program's absense rate.*

Director of Early Childhood and Family Services Report
September 2024

Federal Updates:

Final Rule Supporting the Head Start Workforce and Consistent Quality Programming

The Administration for Children and Families released a final rule in the Federal Register, Supporting the Head Start Workforce and Consistent Quality Programming. The rule updates the Head Start Program Performance Standards to respond to concerns affecting the sustainability of Head Start programs. Changes to the standards increase wages and benefits for Head Start educators and other staff, better integrate mental health supports across program services, strengthen processes to support child health and safety, and enhance family engagement services. They also modernize the process programs use to identify and meet community needs.

These updated Performance Standards provide clear federal requirements for:

- Wages and benefits to support the Head Start workforce
- Better integration of mental health across all aspects of Head Start programming
- Quality improvement and clarity of requirements in other service areas

Check out this page for information on where changes have been made to the Performance Standards, clarifying and promotional materials, and resources to support the implementation process.

Federal Register Notice--- Read the final rule, including the Preamble, in the Federal Register.

Tracked Changes-- This document illustrates where the changes have been made to the Performance Standards.

Fact Sheet ---Read a concise overview of the changes.

https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/policy/article/final-rule-supporting-head-start-workforce-consistent-quality-programming

State Updates:

- We continue to participate in the Virginia Quality Rating System and are preparing sites for data entry and observations.
- We are completing meetings with each school system to review MOUs. School systems will submit the MOUs in September to the VDOE.

NRCA Program Updates:

Enrollment- Our last 2 classrooms will start September 3rd bringing enrollment to 196. Over the next few weeks as classrooms settle into their routines, we will begin adding children to bring us up to full enrollment.

Professional Development- Staff have reported to work and are starting their year with several training topics. Curriculum and Assessment, Pyramid Model Practices, Safe Environments, Home Visiting and Program Outcomes. All program staff will be participating in these trainings. We are planning for each classroom to have an Active Supervision observation in the first 2 weeks of September.

Personnel- Currently we have 0 LT, 1 AT and 1 CA positions open. We will begin advertising for substitutes.

Included with this month's report:

- Enrollment and Fiscal Dashboards
- Full Enrollment Initiative **(FEI)** Checkpoint period 2 report
- The annual program Information Report **"PIR"**
- **The annual program Self -Assessment**-
- Our **Annual Report to the Public**.
- **Integrated Service Area Plans and Procedures** will be updated to reflect new program standards and submitted in November.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roni Fitch, Director of Early Childhood and Family Services

NRCA Head Start Monthly Enrollment Report - as of Sept. 1, 2024

Enrollment and Attendance

Center	Funded Enrollment	Current Enrollment	# Vacant Slots within 30 days	Average Daily Attendance (August)	Over Income Enrolled for the Year
Blacksburg	17				
Christiansburg	34	28		95%	1
Floyd Elem	10	10		92%	1
Floyd	16				1
HS ELC	17	14		81%	4
Macy *	10	10		96%	
Margaret Beeks *	9	8		96%	
McHarg	16	16		95%	
Pearisburg	34	34		89%	1
Pulaski	51	38		89%	6
Radford 1B	14	10		90%	1
Program Total	228	168		91%	15

Waitlist

Criteria	Homeless	Foster	Public Assistance	Income Eligible		130%		Over Income		2/3	Total	Declined Services
Age	3 or 4	3 or 4	3 or 4	4	3	4	3	4	3			
Blacksburg	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	1	4	1	11	
Christiansburg	0	0	3	0	2	2	0	2	3	0	12	
ELC	0	0	4	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	8	
Floyd	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	5	
Giles	2	1	8	0	0	0	0	3	1	1	16	
Pulaski	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	4	5	3	15	
Radford	1	0	7	0	1	0	1	1	2	0	13	
Program Total	3	1	30	2	5	2	1	12	19	5	80	0

Disabilities

Children enrolled with an IEP	21
Children Referred to LEA (in the process)	0
Children Awaiting Services	0
Families in NRVCS Case Management Services	44

Comments:

Enrollment numbers reflect through August. Both Floyd and Blacksburg first day is Sept 3rd. We are working on referrals to the LEAs and for Case Management Services.

Performance Standards

1302.12(d)(1)(ii)	*Establishes criteria that ensures eligible children are served first*
1302.13	*In order to reach those most in need of services, a program must develop and implement a recruitment process.*
1302.14(b)(1)	*A program must ensure at least 10% of its total funded enrollment is filled by children eligible for services under IDEA*
1302.15(a)	*A program must maintain its funded enrollment level and fill any vacancy as soon as possible. A program must fill any vacancy within 30 days.*
1302.16(b)	*If a program's monthly average daily attendance rate falls below 85 percent, the program must analyze the causes of absenteeism to identify any systematic issues that contribute to the program's absense rate.*

Director of Early Childhood and Family Services Report
October 2024

Federal Updates:

A reminder memo was sent to all grantees: General Disaster Recovery Flexibilities ACF-IM-HS-19-01

Background: In the event of a significant disaster, such as a hurricane, wildfire, or tornado, OHS is removing barriers to make it easier for Head Start agencies to meet the needs of affected children and families, especially newly homeless children and families. Review this IM for information on the role programs play in the recovery of impacted communities.
https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/policy/im/acf-im-hs-19-01?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Hurricane%20Helene%20Emergency%20Response%20Resources&utm_content=Hurricane%20Helene%20Emergency%20Response%20Resources+CID_3f57c0ca9c8a654de0826dd8ae845ab4&utm_source=CM%20Eblast&utm_term=ACF-IM-HS-19-01%20General%20Disaster%20Flexibilities&cid=3f57c0ca9c8a654de0826dd8ae845ab4#

State Updates:

- We continue to participate in the Virginia Quality Rating System. Both internal and external Fall CLASS observations have begun.
- The public website containing the results of programs' Va Quality Rating goes live this month. Once the website is live, they will post an announcement in Readiness Connections and they will send another email to VQB5 sites with the live URL. There will also be a VDOE press release about the VQB5 Quality Profiles once it has been published.

NRCA Program Updates:

Monitoring and Quality -- Fall internal and external CLASS observations have begun as well as monthly monitoring of Active Supervision, and file reviews. Alison, our Teaching Practices and Coaching Specialist has been covering the Floyd classroom while we have been hiring staff. We are now fully staffed, and she will begin Coaching in identified areas.

Enrollment- see attached enrollment dashboard for enrollment, waitlists and attendance data.

Professional Development- We are working on plans for our November 5th Professional Development Day. Staff will participate in 5 small group training courses. Topics included on this day will be the Standards of Conduct, Curriculum and Assessment, Interactions, BIR data and the new Performance Standards.

Personnel- Currently we have 0 LT, 0 AT and 2 CA positions open. Advertisements for substitutes have been posted and additionally parents received a flier at each site.

Screenings --45-day Health and Developmental screenings are coming to an end. Referrals are beginning.
90-day health screenings including dental visits continue.

Christiansburg Site – We received notification that funds for a new roof at the Christiansburg site have been approved. Katie is working on scheduling the roof replacement. We are also planning to replace the gutters at the same time. Katie is also working on having the ducts cleaned out and checking of the ultraviolet lights in the duct work.

Lead Water testing – Testing has been completed at all of our Head Start buildings, and the Floyd Elementary classroom. We have permission to test in both Giles and Montgomery blended classrooms and are scheduling a meeting to talk about it in Radford. We are waiting for the boil water notice to lift before testing at Margaret Beeks.

Included with this month's report:

- Enrollment and Fiscal Dashboards
- **Integrated Service Area Plans and Procedures** will be updated to reflect new program standards and submitted in November.

Respectfully Submitted,
Roni Fitch, Director of Early Childhood and Family Services

NRCA Head Start Monthly Enrollment Report - as of Oct. 31, 2024

Enrollment and Attendance

Center	Funded Enrollment	Current Enrollment	# Vacant Slots within 30 days	Average Daily Attendance (October)	Over Income Enrolled for the Year
Blacksburg	17	15		88%	
Christiansburg	34	12/14 (26)		91%	1
Floyd Elem	10	10		90%	1
Floyd	16	15		90%	2
HS ELC	17	14		90%	4
Macy *	10	5/5 (10)		98%	
Margaret Beeks *	9	8		93%	
McHarg	16	16		97%	
Pearisburg	34	16/17 (33)		92%	1
Pulaski	51	11/13/12 (36)		88%	6
Radford 1B	14	11		84%	1
Program Total	228	194		91%	16

Waitlist

Criteria	Homeless	Foster	Public Assistance	Income Eligible		130%		Over Income		2/3	Total	Declined Services
Age	3 or 4	3 or 4	3 or 4	4	3	4	3	4	3			
Blacksburg	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	1	4	1	11	
Christiansburg	0	0	3	0	2	2	0	2	3	0	12	
ELC	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	
Floyd	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	5	
Giles	2	1	8	0	0	0	0	3	1	1	16	
Pulaski	2	0	9	1	1	0	0	4	6	3	26	
Radford	1	0	7	0	1	0	1	1	2	0	13	
Program Total	5	1	33	1	6	2	1	11	20	5	85	0

Disabilities

Children enrolled with an IEP	25
Children Referred to LEA (in the process)	3
Children Awaiting Services	0
Families in NRVCS Case Management Services	65

Comments:

There are 13% of enrolled children with an IEP.

Performance Standards

1302.12(d)(1)(ii)	*Establishes criteria that ensures eligible children are served first*
1302.13	*In order to reach those most in need of services, a program must develop and implement a recruitment process.*
1302.14(b)(1)	*A program must ensure at least 10% of its total funded enrollment is filled by children eligible for services under IDEA*
1302.15(a)	*A program must maintain its funded enrollment level and fill any vacancy as soon as possible. A program must fill any vacancy within 30 days.*
1302.16(b)	*If a program's monthly average daily attendance rate falls below 85 percent, the program must analyze the causes of absenteeism to identify any systematic issues that contribute to the program's absense rate.*

Director of Early Childhood and Family Services Report
November 2024

Federal Updates:

Information Mandate No. ACF-OHS-IM-24-04 https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/policy/im/acf-ohs-im-24-04
The Office of Head Start (OHS) is committed to the provision of services in high-quality facilities with safe indoor and outdoor learning environments. This Information Memorandum (IM) is intended to support recipients in understanding the Head Start application and funding process for facilities activities. OHS is providing this guidance based on the recently revised Head Start Program Performance Standards (the Performance Standards) published on August 21, 2024. This IM supersedes ACF-IM-HS-17-01.

FYI -----In early 2025, the Office of Head Start's (OHS) Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center (ECLKC) website address will officially move to **HeadStart.gov**!

State Updates:

- I completed an annual Need Assessment Survey from the Virginia Collaboration Office.
- Virginia Quality Rating internal and external Fall CLASS observations are continuing.

NRCA Program Updates:

Our USDA CACFP 24/25 application has been approved.

Monitoring and Quality – Specialists are continuing to monitor enrollment, attendance, classroom quality, behavior incidents, and referrals as well as safety practices.

Enrollment- see attached enrollment dashboard for enrollment, waitlists and attendance data.

Professional Development- We are working on plans for our November 5th Professional Development Day. We spent some time focusing on staff wellness, including completing a wellness survey, and program updates and staff had the opportunity to hear Jennifer speak to the group on meeting special needs in our classrooms. Afternoon topics for staff included, the new Performance Standards, meet USDA CACFP program standards, Behavior Incident Reports data, and Streamin3 updates. We are planning for monthly classroom Tucker Turtle spirit days.

Personnel- Currently we have 1 LT, 0 AT and 2 CA positions open and 1 long-term substitute. We are also working on 5 parent substitutes.

Highlights-

- Teachers have completed Fall parent-teacher conferences.
- Family/Health Advocates are meeting with families to establish their IFPAs.
- Staff are submitting BIRs for Specialist Review and Follow up.
- Health file reviews will begin soon.
- Health and Developmental referrals are continuing.
- Coaching has begun at our Floyd, Christiansburg, Pearisburg and Blacksburg sites.
- Christiansburg Site work is being scheduled for the roof and gutter replacement, and duct cleaning.

Included with this month's report:

- Enrollment and Fiscal Dashboards
- Integrated Service Area Plans and Procedures will be updated to reflect new program standards and submitted in November.

Respectfully Submitted,
Roni Fitch, Director of Early Childhood and Family Services

NRCA Head Start Monthly Enrollment Report - as of Nov. 30, 2024

Enrollment and Attendance

Center	Funded Enrollment	Current Enrollment	# Vacant Slots within 30 days	Average Daily Attendance (November)	Over Income Enrolled for the Year
Blacksburg	17	16		89%	
Christiansburg	34	17/17 (34)		90%	2
Floyd Elem	10	10		89%	1
Floyd	16	16		89%	2
HS ELC	17	13	1	82%	4
Macy *	10	4/5 (9)	1	87%	
Margaret Beeks *	9	8		93%	
McHarg	16	16		93%	
Pearisburg	34	16/17 (33)		90%	1
Pulaski	51	14/13/14 (41)	1	90%	6
Radford 1B	14	13	1	94%	1
Program Total	228	209	4	90%	17

Waitlist

Criteria	Homeless	Foster	Public Assistance	Income Eligible		130%		Over Income		2/3	Total	Declined Services
Age	3 or 4	3 or 4	3 or 4	4	3	4	3	4	3			
Blacksburg	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	1	4	1	11	
Christiansburg	0	0	3	0	2	2	0	2	2	0	11	
ELC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	
Floyd	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	5	
Giles	2	1	8	0	0	0	0	3	1	1	16	
Pulaski	2	0	9	1	1	0	0	4	6	3	26	
Radford	1	0	7	0	1	0	1	1	2	0	13	
Program Total	5	1	33	1	5	2	1	11	19	5	83	0

Disabilities

Children enrolled with an IEP	
Children Referred to LEA (in the process)	
Children Awaiting Services	
Families in NRVCS Case Management Services	

Comments:

ELC did not meet required 85% classroom attendance.

Performance Standards

1302.12(d)(1)(ii)	*Establishes criteria that ensures eligible children are served first*
1302.13	*In order to reach those most in need of services, a program must develop and implement a recruitment process.*
1302.14(b)(1)	*A program must ensure at least 10% of its total funded enrollment is filled by children eligible for services under IDEA*
1302.15(a)	*A program must maintain its funded enrollment level and fill any vacancy as soon as possible. A program must fill any vacancy within 30 days.*
1302.16(b)	*If a program's monthly average daily attendance rate falls below 85 percent, the program must analyze the causes of absenteeism to identify any systematic issues that contribute to the program's absense rate.*

Director of Early Childhood and Family Services Report
December 2024

Federal Updates:

Log No. ACF-OHS-PI-24-07 The effective date in the Head Start Program Performance Standards (the Performance Standards) that raises the CLASS Instructional Support competitive threshold from 2.3 to 2.5 was August 1, 2025. This final rule officially delays the effective date to August 1, 2027 https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/policy/im/acf-ohs-im-24-07

ACF-OHS-IM-24-04 Facilities Guidance This Information Memorandum (IM) is intended to support recipients in understanding the Head Start application and funding process for facilities activities https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/policy/im/acf-ohs-im-24-04-attachment-1

ACF-OHS-IM-24-06 Reporting Child Health and Safety Incidents the Head Start Program Performance Standards (the Performance Standards updated on August 21, 2024, require programs to submit reports, as appropriate, to the responsible U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) official immediately, but no later than seven calendar days, following an incident. This includes reports of any significant incident that affects the health or safety of a child. https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/policy/im/acf-ohs-im-24-06

Log No. ACF-OHS-IM-24-07 This Information Memorandum (IM) outlines the OHS monitoring process for fiscal year 2025 (FY25). It describes the types of monitoring reviews that recipients may experience, highlighting Focus Area 1 (FA1), Focus Area 2 (FA2), Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS®), Risk Assessment Notification (RAN), and unannounced reviews. NRCA Head Start is expecting a FA1 review sometime this program year.

This Program Instruction (PI) notes a few technical updates to **ACF-OHS-PI-24-05**, which summarizes the final rule and outlines changes to the Performance Standards. These technical updates are minor corrections for typographic errors or omissions that do not substantively change the policies described in the final rule. https://hendall.cmail19.com/t/j-e-ghitrll-druykdjll-r/

State Updates:

- I completed a meeting on 12/5/24 with the Va DOE Collaboration Office providing information about our classroom and partnership with New River Community College. There is some national interest around the idea of Head Start classrooms on Community College campuses "Kids on Campus."
- Virginia Quality Rating internal and external Fall CLASS observations are complete.

NRCA Program Updates:

Training - We are completing some T/TA with the Region 3 Office. Topics for support include Enrollment and the new housing allowance guidance, and ERSEA selection process. Onboarding and supporting staff with the Big 5 Practices, and program Safety practices. The Admin Team and Site Administrators will participate in Train the Trainers for Big 5 Practices on January 2. Safet PD on January 3rd will include Big 5 Practices and a mid-year Active Supervision training.

Monitoring and Quality – Specialists are continuing to monitor enrollment, attendance, classroom quality, behavior incidents, and referrals as well as safety practices. The mid-year Manage by Information MBI report will be submitted to you in January and the Period 1 educational outcomes.

Integrated Service Area Plans and Procedures will be updated to reflect new program standards and submitted in November

Enrollment- see attached enrollment dashboard for enrollment, waitlists and attendance data.

Personnel- Currently we have 1 LT, 1 AT and 0 CA positions open and have onboarded 3 substitutes.

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Respectfully Submitted,

Roni Fitch, Director of Early Childhood and Family Services

NRCA Head Start Monthly Enrollment Report - as of Dec. 20, 2024

Enrollment and Attendance

Center	Funded Enrollment	Current Enrollment	# Vacant Slots within 30 days	Average Daily Attendance (December)	Over Income Enrolled for the Year
Blacksburg	17	17		84%	
Christiansburg	34	16/18 (34)		86%	2
Floyd Elem	10	10		87%	1
Floyd	16	16		81%	3
HS ELC	17	14		88%	4
Macy *	10	4/5 (9)	1	95%	
Margaret Beeks *	9	8		93%	
McHarg	16	16		95%	
Pearisburg	34	17/16 (33)	1	86%	1
Pulaski	51	15/13/14 (42)	2	87%	6
Radford 1B	14	12	1	86%	1
Program Total	228	211	5	88%	18

Waitlist

Criteria	Homeless	Foster	Public Assistance	Income Eligible		130%		Over Income		2/3	Total	Declined Services
Age	3 or 4	3 or 4	3 or 4	4	3	4	3	4	3			
Blacksburg	1	0	2	0	5	1	0	1	4	1	15	
Christiansburg	1	0	4	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	9	
ELC	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	3	
Floyd	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	5	
Giles	1	1	5	0	0	0	0	2	3	2	14	
Pulaski	0	0	7	1	1	0	0	3	5	1	18	
Radford	1	0	3	0	1	0	1	2	3	2	13	
Program Total	4	1	25	1	8	1	1	10	20	6	77	0

Disabilities

Children enrolled with an IEP	27
Children Referred to LEA (in the process)	34
Children Awaiting Services	2
Families in NRVCS Case Management Services	87

Comments:

Performance Standards

1302.12(d)(1)(ii)	*Establishes criteria that ensures eligible children are served first*
1302.13	*In order to reach those most in need of services, a program must develop and implement a recruitment process.*
1302.14(b)(1)	*A program must ensure at least 10% of its total funded enrollment is filled by children eligible for services under IDEA*
1302.15(a)	*A program must maintain its funded enrollment level and fill any vacancy as soon as possible. A program must fill any vacancy within 30 days.*
1302.16(b)	*If a program's monthly average daily attendance rate falls below 85 percent, the program must analyze the causes of absenteeism to identify any systematic issues that contribute to the program's absense rate.*

Director of Early Childhood and Family Services Report
January 2025

Federal Updates:

- A note from Khari Garvin, director of the Office of Head Start (OHS), sharing his feelings of fondness for and appreciation of our nation's Head Start program.
  https://outlook.office.com/mail/AAMkADg2Yzc1OGQzLTY4NzEtNDRlZi05OGI2LWU4YzJhYTVmNjdkMgAuAAAAAAAIxhefyxtAQ7td8QvWxwVCAQBcVEW%2FI88bSoGrUfSI6GKxAAYsR%2F%2BNAAA%3D/id/AAMkADg2Yzc1OGQzLTY4NzEtNDRlZi05OGI2LWU4YzJhYTVmNjdkMgBGAAAAAAAIxhefyxtAQ7td8QvWxwVCBwBcVEW%2FI88bSoGrUfSI6GKxAAYsR%2F%2BNAABcVEW%2FI88bSoGrUfSI6GKxAAkRVDbcAAA%3D
- **Improper Payment Study:** The Improper Payment Study is a review process designed to ensure that federal programs comply with regulatory standards. The Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019 (PIIA), which became law on March 2, 2020, requires agencies to identify and review all programs and activities that may be susceptible to significant improper payments. On March 5, 2021, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued M-21-19, which provided guidance to program offices on implementing PIIA requirements. Based on this, the Office of Head Start (OHS) is required to conduct an Improper Payment (IP) Study. The Fiscal Year 2024 Improper Payment Study is starting soon, and selection will happen in January 2025. If selected, participation is mandatory.

State Updates:

- Virginia Quality Rating internal and external Spring CLASS observations are beginning.

NRCA Program Updates:

Training - We completed our mid-year Active Supervision on January 4th. We completed training on January 3rd with Region 3 T/TA around Big 5 Practices and started some implementation conversations with centers.

Monitoring and Quality – Specialists are continuing to monitor enrollment, attendance, classroom quality, behavior incidents, and referrals as well as safety practices. The mid-year Manage by Information MBI report is being submitted to you including the Period 1 educational outcomes.

Integrated Service Area Plans and Procedures will be updated to reflect new program standards and submitted in March.

Enrollment- see attached enrollment dashboard for enrollment, waitlists and attendance data. We are prepared to meet full Enrollment by January 25th. There are 17 new children starting in January.

Personnel- Currently we have 1 LT, 1 AT and 0 CA positions open and have onboarded 3 substitutes. We are experiencing some difficulty with the background check system and have been for several weeks. Tabbi is talking with our Va. Licensing agents. The outage is not isolated to our program. They made some changes to the system, and it will not allow us to access our account or create a new one. This is impacting 2 of our new hires and 1 current staff member is due for their routine background check.

Submitted for your review and approval: The Head Start 2025-2026 Continuation grant narrative including a transportation waiver, T/TA narrative and budget, 2025-2026 Selection Criteria. The budget will be submitted for review and approval in February and submission deadline is March 1, 2025.

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Respectfully Submitted,
Roni Fitch, Director of Early Childhood and Family Services

NRCA Head Start Monthly Enrollment Report - as of Jan. 31, 2025

Enrollment and Attendance

Center	Funded Enrollment	Current Enrollment	# Vacant Slots within 30 days	Average Daily Attendance (January)	Over Income Enrolled for the Year
Blacksburg	17	17		82%	
Christiansburg	34	16/18 (34)		88%	2
Floyd Elem	10	10		87%	1
Floyd	16	16		87%	3
HS ELC	17	17		78%	6
Macy *	10	5/5 (10)		90%	
Margaret Beeks *	9	9		93%	
McHarg	16	16		91%	
Pearisburg	34	17/17 (34)		91%	1
Pulaski	51	17/17/17 (51)		83%	7
Radford 1B	14	14		77%	1
Program Total	228	228		86%	21

Waitlist

Criteria	Homeless	Foster	Public Assistance	Income Eligible		130%		Over Income		2/3	Total	Declined Services
Age	3 or 4	3 or 4	3 or 4	4	3	4	3	4	3			
Blacksburg	1	0	1	0	5	1	0	1	4	1	14	
Christiansburg	1	0	4	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	9	
ELC	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Floyd	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	5	
Giles	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	2	3	1	11	
Pulaski	0	0	6	1	1	0	0	3	4	1	16	
Radford	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	2	3	2	11	
Program Total	3	0	22	1	8	1	0	9	18	5	67	0

Disabilities

Children enrolled with an IEP	27
Children Referred to LEA (in the process)	34
Children Awaiting Services	2
Families in NRVCS Case Management Services	87

Comments:

We are at 13% of children enrolled with an IEP.

Performance Standards

1302.12(d)(1)(ii)	*Establishes criteria that ensures eligible children are served first*
1302.13	*In order to reach those most in need of services, a program must develop and implement a recruitment process.*
1302.14(b)(1)	*A program must ensure at least 10% of its total funded enrollment is filled by children eligible for services under IDEA*
1302.15(a)	*A program must maintain its funded enrollment level and fill any vacancy as soon as possible. A program must fill any vacancy within 30 days.*
1302.16(b)	*If a program's monthly average daily attendance rate falls below 85 percent, the program must analyze the causes of absenteeism to identify any systematic issues that contribute to the program's absense rate.*

Director of Early Childhood and Family Services Report
February 2025

Federal Updates:

Head Start grant recipients,
The new guidelines below are required for all federally funded recipients to be applied to your program's website. Please review the following updates and implement them as needed:

- Remove the **ACF or HHS logos** if they appear on your site.
- Add a **disclaimer** to your site to clarify the nature of the content and its alignment. For example:

> *This website is supported by Grant Number **[xyz]** from the Office of Head Start within the Administration for Children and Families, a division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Neither the Administration for Children and Families nor any of its components operate, control, are responsible for, or necessarily endorse this website (including, without limitation, its content, technical infrastructure, and policies, and any services or tools provided). The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed are those of **[your agency name]** and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Administration for Children and Families and the Office of Head Start.*

Thank you for the work you do on behalf of children and families.
/ Tala Hooban /
Tala Hooban
CAPT, U.S. Public Health Service
Acting Director, Office of Head Start
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

State Updates:

- Virginia Quality Rating internal and external Spring CLASS observations continue.

NRCA Program Updates:

Training - Region 3 T/TA around Big 5 Practices continue with centers.

Monitoring and Quality – Specialists are continuing to monitor enrollment, attendance, classroom quality, behavior incidents, and referrals as well as safety practices.

Integrated Service Area Plans and Procedures will be updated to reflect new program standards and submitted in March/April timeframe.

Enrollment- see attached enrollment dashboard for enrollment, waitlists and attendance data. We are at full enrollment, with 228 children.

Personnel- Currently we have 0 LT, 0 AT and 2 CA positions open and have 1 substitute onboarding.

Submitted for your review and approval: The Head Start 2025-2026 Continuation grant narrative and budget including a transportation waiver, T/TA narrative and budget, 2025-2026 Selection Criteria. The submission deadline is March 1, 2025.

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Respectfully Submitted,
Roni Fitch, Director of Early Childhood and Family Services

NRCA Head Start Monthly Enrollment Report - as of Feb. 28, 2025

Enrollment and Attendance

Center	Funded Enrollment	Current Enrollment	# Vacant Slots within 30 days	Average Daily Attendance (February)	Over Income Enrolled for the Year
Blacksburg	17	17		81%	
Christiansburg	34	16/18 (34)		82%	2
Floyd Elem	10	10		82%	1
Floyd	16	16		80%	3
HS ELC	17	17		74%	6
Macy *	10	5/5 (10)		83%	
Margaret Beeks *	9	9		92%	
McHarg	16	16		93%	
Pearisburg	34	17/17 (34)		86%	1
Pulaski	51	17/17/16 (50)	1	82%	7
Radford 1B	14	13	1	89%	1
Program Total	228	226	2	84%	21

Waitlist

Criteria	Homeless	Foster	Public Assistance	Income Eligible		130%		Over Income		2/3	Total	Declined Services
Age	3 or 4	3 or 4	3 or 4	4	3	4	3	4	3			
Blacksburg	1	0	1	0	5	1	0	1	4	1	14	
Christiansburg	1	0	4	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	9	
ELC	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Floyd	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	5	
Giles	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	2	3	1	11	
Pulaski	0	0	3			0	0		4	1	8	
Radford	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	2	3	2	11	
Program Total	3	0	19	0	7	1	0	6	18	5	59	0

Disabilities

Children enrolled with an IEP	34
Children Referred to LEA (in the process)	43
Children Awaiting Services	4
Families in NRVCS Case Management Services	89

Comments:

We are 100% enrolled. 17% of the enrolled children have an IEP or awaiting services to begin. 19% of the enrolled children are in the referral process and 40% of our families are in case management services,

Performance Standards

1302.12(d)(1)(ii)	*Establishes criteria that ensures eligible children are served first*
1302.13	*In order to reach those most in need of services, a program must develop and implement a recruitment process.*
1302.14(b)(1)	*A program must ensure at least 10% of its total funded enrollment is filled by children eligible for services under IDEA*
1302.15(a)	*A program must maintain its funded enrollment level and fill any vacancy as soon as possible. A program must fill any vacancy within 30 days.*
1302.16(b)	*If a program's monthly average daily attendance rate falls below 85 percent, the program must analyze the causes of absenteeism to identify any systematic issues that contribute to the program's absense rate.*

Director of Early Childhood and Family Services Report
March 2025

Federal Updates:

Delays with the Payment Management System

Office of Head Start (OHS) is aware that some Payment Management System (PMS) users experienced technical issues in the last few weeks. The system, through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Program Support Center (PSC), is back up and running now. However, users may experience lags in the usual processing time due to the high volume of requests.

If you have additional questions or specific issues with funding, please use one of the following ways to get in touch:

- Call or email your OHS Regional Office.
- PMS support can be reached directly at (toll-free) 877-614-5533 or **PMSSupport@psc.hhs.gov**. Please be aware that while they are working through the backlog, PMS may be slow to respond to individual requests.
- General PMS payment request information is available at this location on the PMS website: **https://pms.psc.gov/grant-recipients/funding-request-formula.html**

Workforce Webinar and Resources

Key Strategies to Support Head Start Staff

Take a deep dive into wage and benefits changes with Office of Head Start in this webinar from late September, **Workforce Policies in the Updated Head Start Program Performance Standards**. The webinar highlights critical updates to the Head Start Program Performance Standards (the Performance Standards) designed to stabilize the Head Start workforce and improve comprehensive services for children and families.

Whether you missed it the first time or want to revisit this valuable content, now is your chance to access the recording, presentation slides, and key resources.

Access the On-demand Webinar

Select the links below to view the recording and explore the featured resources:

- **Workforce Policies in the Updated Head Start Program Performance Standards webinar** with **presentation slides**
- **Wages and Pay Parity Tip Sheet**
- **Early Care and Education Workforce Salary Scale Playbook**
- **Health Coverage Outreach Toolkit for the Early Care and Education Workforce**
- **What do Early Childhood Educators Need to Know About Public Service Loan Forgiveness?**

State Updates:

- Virginia Quality Rating internal and external Spring CLASS observations continue.
- Single point of entry applications have gone out to all of our localities.
- Ready Regions is putting together a video for Week of the Young Child celebration.

NRCA Program Updates:

Training - Region 3 T/TA around Big 5 Practices, safety and fiscal strategies continue.

Monitoring and Quality – The mid-year MBI report is attached for your review including Period 2 Educational Outcomes. Our Focus Area 1 Review is March 24-26.

Integrated Service Area Plans and Procedures will be updated to reflect new program standards and submitted for your review.

Enrollment- see attached enrollment dashboard. We are at full enrollment, with 228 children.

Personnel- Currently we have 0 LT, 0 AT and 1 CA positions open and have 1 substitute onboarding.

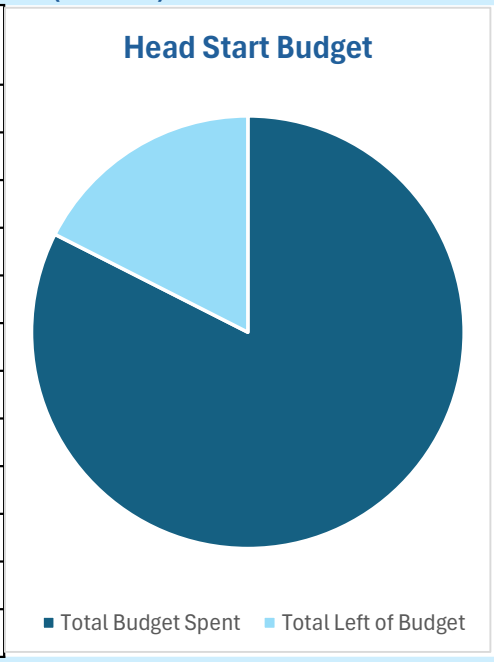
Respectfully Submitted,

Roni Fitch, Director of Early Childhood and Family Services

Head Start - March (May Meeting)

Head Start Grant Budget Tracker: 10 of 12 Months (83.33%)

	Annual Budget	YTD Actual	% Spent	Over/ Under
Salaries & Benefits	$2,654,263.00	$2,198,371.28	82.82%	U
T & TA	$35,586.00	$22,892.30	64.33%	U
Local Travel	$11,250.00	$8,763.11	77.89%	U
Vehicle	$21,200.00	$25,849.94	121.93%	O
Supplies	$64,300.00	$52,515.59	81.67%	U
Equipment	$19,700.00	$19,860.84	100.82%	O
Consultant/Contracts	$18,356.00	$13,985.61	76.19%	U
Facilities	$149,882.00	$133,002.24	88.74%	O
Client Expenses	$20,745.00	$21,199.95	102.19%	O
Miscellaneous	$14,038.00	$2,843.02	20.25%	U
Indirect	$678,184.00	$542,178.25	79.95%	U
TOTAL	**$3,687,504.00**	**$3,041,462.13**	**82.48%**	**U**



Over/Under Explanations

T&TA: We have a couple more trainings that have not been paid yet.

Vehicle: We paid our vehicle insurance for the year.

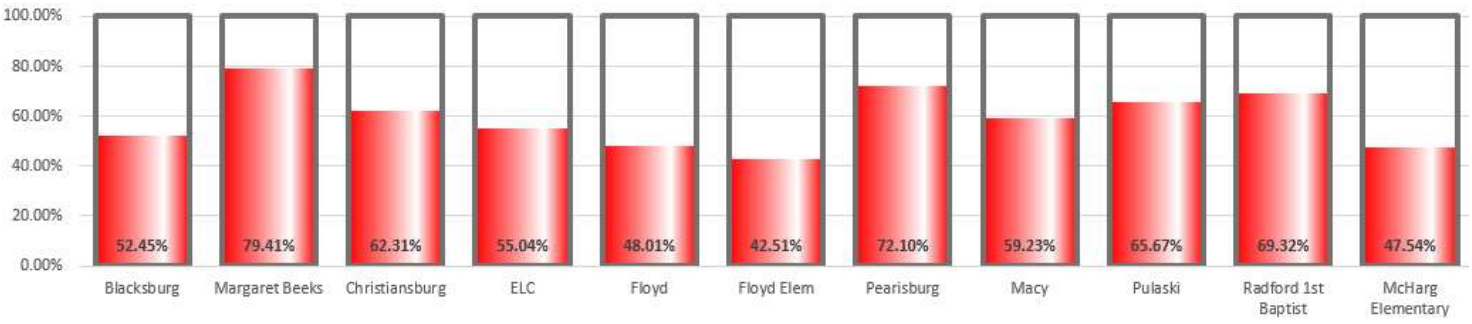
Equipment: We paid for 15 new laptops to replace old ones that wouldn't run Windows 11. We also paid our annual GoEngage software subscription.

Client Expenses: We paid all of our psychological services for the year

Miscellaneous: This is where our $5,568 for PC is budgeted

CSBG TANF transfer - $104,805.74

In-Kind - Progress to Goal



Credit Card Expenditures

The credit card statements from this month are provided for your review. Some purchases the credit cards were used for are as follows:

pullups & wipes, children's food, vehicle registrations, cleaning supplies, laundry detergent, background checks, Twilio subscription, laptops, food for events, lattice for sandbox, spray paint, office keys, conference registrations/recertifications, hotel/rental car for training

USDA

Thank you for submitting your reimbursement claim for the Child & Adult Care Food Program.
Sponsor Name: New River Community Action, Inc.
Sponsor ID: 10161

Claim Month:
February in the amount of **$13,278.94** providing **3,698** meals.
Program Year: 2024/2025

Director of Early Childhood and Family Services Report
April 2025

Federal Updates:

CACFP Review The reviewer examined CACFP documentation such as attendance records, meal count records, menus and food service cost records. The review focused on the records supporting the January 2025 claim for reimbursement. Additionally, compliance with civil rights requirements was assessed and a meal service was observed.
VDH is pleased to report that no deficiencies were detected with New River Community Action Inc operation of the CACFP and that corrective action is not required at this time. The compliance review is now closed. Please continue to operate the program according to CACFP regulatory standards and do not hesitate to contact Dakota Mays at 804-864-7795 or Dakota.Mays@vdh.virginia.gov with any questions regarding this letter or the compliance review.

Revised: Information Regarding the Full Enrollment Initiative 12-Month Period
This notification replaces the notification you received on March 1, 2025.
Your 12-month period to reduce under enrollment recently concluded. The Office of Head Start (OHS) is currently examining areas where the Head Start Act allows for flexibility and is committed to extending these flexibilities to grant recipients that have shown progress and initiative in reaching full enrollment.
In the coming weeks, OHS will send your agency a letter outlining next steps for your program. Please be aware if you would like OHS to consider a Change in Scope request, as part of your agency's demonstration of progress in reaching full enrollment, then your application must be received prior to OHS's issuance of the letter outlining next steps, which we anticipate will be in the coming weeks.
In the meantime, your Regional Office remains available and committed to collaborating and providing technical assistance to your program as we move forward. Thank you for the hard work you do to serve children and support families.

ACF-OHS-IM-25-03 **Promoting Healthy Eating and Nutrition for Head Start Children and Families**
https://headstart.gov/policy/im/acf-ohs-im-25-03

Head Start programs play a vital role in supporting healthy eating and nutrition for enrolled children and families. Access to healthy foods and other nutrition services helps children grow, develop, and learn. Good nutrition is essential for brain development and provides children with the energy needed to stay active and focused throughout the program day. A balanced diet helps strengthen a child's immune system, reducing the risk of infections and illnesses. It also prevents childhood obesity, which can lead to chronic diseases like heart disease and diabetes.
This Information Memorandum (IM) affirms the critical role of Head Start programs in ensuring children and families have access to healthy food and comprehensive nutrition services. It also includes an overview of relevant statutory and regulatory requirements and reminds programs of the resources and partnerships available to support robust nutrition services for children and families. Lastly, this IM provides tips to foster enthusiasm for healthy eating in early learning environments and encourages Head Start programs to use innovative strategies to promote health and nutrition. An appendix of additional resources is included to guide programs in their efforts.

Dear Head Start Grant Recipients,
Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Robert F. Kennedy recently announced a major restructuring in accordance with President Trump's Executive Order "Implementing the President's 'Department of Government Efficiency' Workforce Optimization Initiative." This restructuring will serve multiple goals without impacting critical services, ultimately saving taxpayers $1.8 billion per year.
As part of this restructuring, HHS is consolidating its 10 regional offices into 5, closing offices in Boston, New York, Chicago, Seattle, and San Francisco, effective April 1, 2025. We recognize the importance of ensuring continuity for Head Start grant recipients in the affected regions.

On behalf of the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), we are pleased to share that the Trump Administration has appointed a new Deputy Assistant Secretary at the Office of Early Childhood Development (ECD), Dr. Laurie Todd-Smith.

OHS Correspondence 3/14/25 The Office of Head Start will not approve the use of federal funding for any training and technical assistance (TTA) or other program expenditures that promote or take part in diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives. This includes expenditures for services provided by contractors or vendors. This guidance is consistent with the nondiscrimination provisions in Sec. 654 of the Head Start Act:

(a) The Secretary shall not provide financial assistance for any program, project, or activity under this subchapter unless the grant or contract with respect thereto specifically provides that no person with responsibilities in the operation thereof will discriminate with respect to any such program, project, or activity because of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, political affiliation, or beliefs.

State Updates:

- Virginia Quality Rating internal and external Spring CLASS observations continue.
- Single point of entry applications have gone out to all of our localities.
- Ready Regions is putting together a video for Week of the Young Child celebration.

NRCA Program Updates:

Breaking News: We completed our recruitment video. (attached)

Service Area Updates:

- We reviewed our data and have adjusted the last day for children to attend. Notices have gone out for sites that have changed.
- We continue to take applications for 2025-2026.
- In May will be reviewing our Code of Conduct Policies for Staff, Parents and Children with both Policy Council and the NRCA Board.
- Working on gathering data for our Self-Assessment to start in June and PIR that will be due in August,
- We are planning for next program year.
- Stephanie is attending a Safety Conference in Dallas, Tx. This information should be helpful as we plan for facilities, transportation and child safety.

Training - Region 3 T/TA around Big 5 Practices, safety and fiscal strategies continue. There have been some changes in T/TA staff. We are beginning our transfer to new T/TA Specialists for all 3 of our open goals.

Monitoring and Quality – Our Focus Area 1 Review concluded. We expect a full report in 6 weeks.

Integrated Service Area Plans and Procedures are submitted for your review.

Enrollment- see attached enrollment dashboard. We are at full enrollment, with 228 children.

Personnel- Currently we have 1 LT, 0 AT and 1 CA and 1 FWC positions open.

Respectfully Submitted,
Roni Fitch, Director of Early Childhood and Family Services

NRCA Head Start Monthly Enrollment Report - as of April 30, 2025

Enrollment and Attendance

Center	Funded Enrollment	Current Enrollment	# Vacant Slots within 30 days	Average Daily Attendance (April)	Over Income Enrolled for the Year
Blacksburg	17	17		89%	
Christiansburg	33	15/17 (32)	1	85%	2
Floyd Elem	10	10		92%	1
Floyd	17	17		82%	3
HS ELC	17	17		78%	6
Macy *	10	5/5 (10)		97%	
Margaret Beeks *	9	9		97%	
McHarg	16	16		93%	
Pearisburg	34	17/17 (34)		88%	1
Pulaski	51	17/17/17 (51)		85%	8
Radford 1B	14	14		91%	1
Program Total	228	227	1	89%	22

Waitlist

Criteria	Homeless	Foster	Public Assistance	Income Eligible		130%		Over Income		2/3	Total	Declined Services
Age	3 or 4	3 or 4	3 or 4	4	3	4	3	4	3			
Blacksburg	1	0	1	0	5	1	0	1	4	1	14	
Christiansburg	1	0	4	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	9	
ELC	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Floyd	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	5	
Giles	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	2	3	1	10	
Pulaski	0	0	3			0	0		4	1	8	
Radford	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	2	3	2	11	
Program Total	3	0	18	0	7	1	0	6	18	5	58	0

Disabilities

Children enrolled with an IEP	48
Children Referred to LEA (in the process)	9
Children Awaiting Services	0
Families in NRVCS Case Management Services	110

Comments:

We have 21% of enrolled children with an IEP.

Performance Standards

1302.12(d)(1)(ii)	*Establishes criteria that ensures eligible children are served first*
1302.13	*In order to reach those most in need of services, a program must develop and implement a recruitment process.*
1302.14(b)(1)	*A program must ensure at least 10% of its total funded enrollment is filled by children eligible for services under IDEA*
1302.15(a)	*A program must maintain its funded enrollment level and fill any vacancy as soon as possible. A program must fill any vacancy within 30 days.*
1302.16(b)	*If a program's monthly average daily attendance rate falls below 85 percent, the program must analyze the causes of absenteeism to identify any systematic issues that contribute to the program's absense rate.*

Director of Early Childhood and Family Services Report
May 2025

Federal Updates:

The 2024-2025 Program Information Report (PIR) is now final and available. You can access the form and related documents in the **Resources Tab in HSES** or at headstart.gov There are no updates from the 2023-2024 PIR.

From March 24, 2025 to March 26, 2025, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) conducted a Focus Area One (FA1) monitoring review of New River Community Action, Inc. This report contains information about the grant recipient's performance and compliance with the requirements of the Head Start Program Performance Standards (HSPPS) or Public Law 110-134, Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007. The Office of Head Start (OHS) would like to thank your governing body, policy council, parents, and staff for their engagement in the review process. Based on the information gathered during this review, it has been determined that your program meets the requirements of all applicable HSPPS, laws, regulations, and policy requirements. The full report is attached.

Log No. ACF-OHS-IM-25-04 School Choice https://headstart.gov/policy/im/acf-ohs-im-25-04

This Information Memorandum (IM) outlines Head Start programs' critical role in promoting parent choice to select the early care and education (ECE) providers that best meet their family's needs for their children and recognizes that Head Start programs serve as the foundation for school readiness by preparing young children for academic and social success. Through this work, Head Start programs also help parents understand school choice options, including ECE, and can serve as a valuable resource to prepare families to effectively utilize the options in their communities. With this IM, we strongly encourage Head Start programs to facilitate parent choice in three key ways: 1) actively participating in state and local efforts to coordinate ECE enrollment and services and promote access to a variety of ECE options in the state or local community; 2) engaging families to determine, develop, and improve their program model and consider how their program offerings respond to family needs and promote family choice; and 3) re-examining community partnerships and evaluating how they can be strengthened and expanded in ways that support family choice, including through connections to faith-based settings for families that desire this option.

Request for Information: Each year, the Office of Head Start (OHS) requests all Grant Recipients to complete an Availability Calendar to support the scheduling of federal monitoring reviews. The Availability Calendar helps ensure that reviews occur when your program is operational, and children are present.

As part of the implementation of Executive Order 14222 - Implementing the President's "Department of Government Efficiency" Cost Efficiency Initiative, a new payment processing step in the Payment Management System (PMS) has been created to enhance transparency and accountability for federal funding. On March 17, 2025, PMS introduced a new mandatory field in the payment request screen at the *grant subaccount level*, which requires justification from your organization explaining the purpose of the payment at the subaccount level. You are encouraged to include detailed justifications of 1,000 characters or less.

State Updates:

- Virginia Quality Rating internal and external Spring CLASS observations completed.

NRCA Program Updates:

Service Area Updates:

- Attachments included this month:
  - Enrollment and Finance Dashboard reports.
- Recruitment for 2024-2025 continues.
- Transition to kindergarten and End of year Celebrations are continuing.
- We are preparing for Summer Session at the Early Learning Center.
- Preparing for Mixed Delivery funding and site changes
- **Personnel-** Currently we have 1 LT, 1 AT and 2 CA positions open.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roni Fitch, Director of Early Childhood and Family Services

NRCA Head Start Monthly Enrollment Report - as of May 30, 2025

Enrollment and Attendance

Center	Funded Enrollment	Current Enrollment	# Vacant Slots within 30 days	Average Daily Attendance (May)	Over Income Enrolled for the Year
Blacksburg	17	17		91%	
Christiansburg	33	15/17 (32)	1	87%	2
Floyd Elem	10	10		95%	1
Floyd	17	17		83%	3
HS ELC	17	17		81%	6
Macy *	10	5/5 (10)		95%	
Margaret Beeks *	9	9		97%	
McHarg	16	15	1	93%	
Pearisburg	34	17/17 (34)		88%	1
Pulaski	51	17/17/17 (51)		85%	8
Radford 1B	14	14		93%	1
Program Total	228	226	2	90%	22

Waitlist

Criteria	Homeless	Foster	Public Assistance	Income Eligible		130%		Over Income		2/3	Total	Declined Services
Age	3 or 4	3 or 4	3 or 4	4	3	4	3	4	3			
Blacksburg	1	0	1	0	5	1	0	1	4	1	14	
Christiansburg	1	0	4	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	9	
ELC	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Floyd	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	5	
Giles	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	2	3	1	10	
Pulaski	0	0	3			0	0		4	1	8	
Radford	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	2	3	2	11	
Program Total	3	0	18	0	7	1	0	6	18	5	58	0

Disabilities

Children enrolled with an IEP	54
Children Referred to LEA (in the process)	3
Children Awaiting Services	0
Families in NRVCS Case Management Services	110

Comments:

Serving 26% children with disabilities.

Performance Standards

1302.12(d)(1)(ii)	*Establishes criteria that ensures eligible children are served first*
1302.13	*In order to reach those most in need of services, a program must develop and implement a recruitment process.*
1302.14(b)(1)	*A program must ensure at least 10% of its total funded enrollment is filled by children eligible for services under IDEA*
1302.15(a)	*A program must maintain its funded enrollment level and fill any vacancy as soon as possible. A program must fill any vacancy within 30 days.*
1302.16(b)	*If a program's monthly average daily attendance rate falls below 85 percent, the program must analyze the causes of absenteeism to identify any systematic issues that contribute to the program's absense rate.*

Director of Early Childhood and Family Services Report
June 2025

Federal Updates:

- The Grant/Cooperative Agreement for Grant# 03CH012600-02-00 has been awarded and released. Organization: NEW RIVER COMMUNITY ACTION, INC

- To ensure more consistent support and reduce administrative burden at the regional level, the Office of Head Start (OHS) is centralizing the review and response of all child health and safety incident reports starting June 1st, 2025. This guidance applies to all reportable incidents that affect the health and safety of children, as outlined in "Reporting Child Health and Safety Incidents ACF-OHS-IM-24-06."

- **Opportunity to Submit your Ideas for Deregulatory Action through RFI** On May 13, 2025, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced the publication of a launch of a public Request for Information (RFI) in the Federal Register, to identify and eliminate outdated or unnecessary regulations. The initiative is part of a broader federal effort to reduce regulatory burdens and increase transparency, in alignment with President Trump's Executive Order 14192, "Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation." **The 60-day public comment period closes on July 14, 2025**. Stakeholders are encouraged to submit their ideas for deregulatory actions through the Regulations.gov, docket (AHRQ-2025-0001) or the newly launched online portal at Regulations.gov/Deregulation. The portal includes tools to assist users in drafting proposals that HHS may formally consider.

- In March 2025, the Payment Management System (PMS) notified Head Start recipients that a new processing step was created to enhance transparency and accountability for federal funding. The notice included instructions on how to implement the requirements of **Executive Order 14222 – Implementing the President's "Department of Government Efficiency" Cost Efficiency Initiative**.

- **Title:** Proposed Information Collection Activity; Head Start Grant Application (Office of Management and Budget #0970-0207) **Issuing Agency:** U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Head Start **Action:** Request for public comments **Issue Date Month/Year:** 5/2025 **Citation:** Federal Register Volume 90, Number 93 (Thursday, May 15, 2025) **URL: https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2025-05-15/html/2025-08622.htm** **Summary:** The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) is requesting a 3-year extension of the Grant Application Instrument and Instructions (Office of Management and Budget #0970-0207, expiration June 30, 2025). The updated grant application reduces the amount of documentation required from grant recipients, both in the baseline application and the continuation application, by reducing the number of required documents to support the application and reducing the amount of required information in the program and budget justification narrative. The goal of these changes is to reduce grant recipient burden.

State Updates:

- Virginia Quality Rating internal and external Spring CLASS observations completed.

NRCA Program Updates:

Enrollment- We ended the program year at 228 and 54 children with IEPs and 3 children waiting for their eligibility meeting. In my July report I will include a detailed report of enrollment at each site and if there is a waitlist.
If you know of a child that would benefit from Head Start, applications for Head Start can be found online at the New River Community Action, Inc. webpage or any local public-school website.

Self -Assessment-Our Annual Program Self-Assessment is underway. We will update our 5-year goal progress and review program data to identify the next steps for those goals as well as the effectiveness of our program services to children and families this school year.

Service Area Updates:

- Attachments included this month:
  - Enrollment and Finance Dashboard reports.
- **Recruitment** for 2025-2026 continues. We are completing acceptance meetings and contacting families.
- Transition to kindergarten and End of year Celebrations have concluded.
- Summer Session at the Early Learning Center has begun..
- **Personnel-** Currently we have 2 LT, 1 AT and 2 CA positions open. We do expect those numbers to change after meetings with staff.
- **Facilities** – Stephanie is working with an equipment company to install a new playground in Pearisburg.
- We met our **in-kind contribution match** for the year.
- Myself and 2 Site Administrator, Adrienne and Susie will be attending the VaHSA Directors conference.

Project Grow and Learn: We continue to prepare for Mixed Delivery funding and site changes: We are in the process of identifying which materials need to transfer to the new McHarg classroom and to Project Grow and Learn from the 1B and Pulaski sites. We are completing the hiring process for staff and determining start dates and pre-service training needs. We have been in contact with families currently in Mixed Delivery and those families interested in school age care. Our licensing application has been submitted, and we are scheduled to meet with the licensing inspector the week of June 9th. We completed a meeting with our Ready Region consultant to identify what paperwork or documentation is needed. Susie and I met with the Master Gardener's group to discuss our site participation in the continued garden project. Stephanie is preparing for some playground cleanup and indoor painting and space preparations.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roni Fitch, Director of Early Childhood and Family Services