About Boulder County Head Start

The Head Start program began in 1965 during the Johnson administration as a summer program for children in poverty entering kindergarten. Boulder County received one of the first grants, beginning services in that inaugural year. Over the years, the program expanded to provide comprehensive early care and education for three- to five-year-old children living in poverty. The early years of Head Start focused on part-day, but as more women entered the workforce, BCHS started converting half-day programs to full-day.

BCHS has seen many changes during its 50 years of operations. Dual-language learners, or children learning English in addition to a home language, have always been a part of the BCHS community. In the 1970s and 1980s, BCHS served children of Hmong descent. In recent years, the program has seen a growing population of children whose home language is Spanish, with families immigrating from Mexico and other Central and South American countries.

Our Policy Council

We could not be a success without the active participation of our Policy Council Members, consisting of current or past parents. We would like to acknowledge the following members for their hard work and dedication:

- Romualda Avitia
- Juanita Moreno
- Svetlana Shatunova
- Trèasa Brown
- Norma Navarro
- Kellie Sluman
- Manuela Esparza
- Noemi Rivera
- Jennifer Williams
- Daniela Garza
- Justa Sarmiento
- Daniela Garza

Revenue and Expenses from the 2015-2016 program year

- Training Grant $18,650
- USDA Grant $17,022
- BOCC Subsidy $402,361
- Continuation Grant $1,168,010

Total $1,662,285

BCHS received three Federal Reviews this year: Health and Safety; Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment and Attendance (ERSEA); and Fiscal Monitoring review; and a Classroom Assessment Scoring System. We are delighted to report that there were no negative findings in all three of these reviews.

Parent Involvement

Parents play a key role in Head Start program efforts. They are encouraged to participate in a variety of organized activities that promote resilience and positive child outcomes. Examples from the 2015-2016 school year included: Latino parent transition group meetings hosted by Mental Health Partners, Nurturing Parenting Program classes provided by Sister Carmen, Pop-up Parent Grocery Tours with Share Our Strength, Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) meetings, participation in parent self-assessments, holiday gift distributions provided by St. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church and the YMCA of Boulder Valley and book and bookshelf giveaways.

A Client Story

Prior to enrolling their son in the Head Start program, the “Smith” family was dealing with a number of issues. The parents had recently separated, were dealing with substance use addiction, and were struggling financially. Also, at this time, their son “Peter” began exhibiting emotional and behavioral problems. Concern for Peter brought the family to Head Start in the hopes of getting him into a structured environment that would expose him to pro-social interactions with other children his age. He started at Boulder County Head Start just after his 3rd birthday, and soon after began showing significant improvements, including an ability to build friendships, learn appropriate boundaries, and maintain self-control.

Head Start staff was also instrumental in ensuring that the family accessed critical community services. Staff helped the family identify and connect to needed resources, provided ongoing support during the summer break, had Peter assessed by Child Find, and helped get an Individual Education Plan (IEP) in place. Importantly, because classes were full time, his mom was able to continue to work and support the family. Though Peter is no longer with Head Start, the program continues to provide support and services.

Later, Ms. Smith would report that the Head Start team laid the foundation for Peter’s success. In her words, “we needed the harsh truths and sometimes rigid thinking from teachers; we needed the loving hugs and fun-loving spirit of the teachers, and we needed their non-judgmental, gentle spirit, and genuine support.” Today Peter is a smart, loving, funny child. He is doing well in math, can tie his shoes, write his full name, and performed in a Christmas program at his kindergarten.

Revenues and Expenses from the 2015-2016 program year

Training Budget $18,650
USDA Budget $17,022
Operating Budget $170,028
Personnel Budget $1,400,343
Total $1,662,285

Revenue

Expense

Training Grant $18,650
USDA Grant $17,022
BOCC Subsidy $402,361
Continuation Grant $1,168,010
Total $1,662,285

BCHS has many partners and initiatives. Some of which are:

- Area Agency on Aging
- Boulder County Health and Human Services
- Child Protection Review Teams
- Community Justice Services
- Community Action Programs
- Community Services
- Department of Human Services
- Department of Social Health Services
- HEAD START
- HEAD START Program
- Healthy Youth Alliance
- HEAD START Volunteer Initiatives
- Neighborhood Health Center
- Nurturing Parenting Program
- USDA Budget
- USDA Child and Adult Food Program (CACFP)
- USDA Child and Adult Food Program (CACFP) grant funds are used to cover the cost of three meals for all BCHS children during the school day.

ANNUAL REPORT
Our Classes, Our Kids!
Boulder County Head Start (BCHS) is a comprehensive child development program for low income families and children with disabilities. It’s designed to meet the individual needs of children through a partnership between teachers and parents. The school year runs from late August through Memorial Day.

Boulder County Head Start locations: Woodlands Children’s Center: Serving 32 Children BOHS at Wilderness Early Learning Center: Serving 51 Children Lafayette Community School: Serving 66 Children

Who We Serve
BCHS serves a diverse array of young children and families and includes a Maintenance Transitional Bilingual Program. All native Spanish-speaking children receive instruction in both their home language and in English.

87% Eligible children served
48% Families at or below Federal Poverty Rate
94% Families are Hispanic/Latino or speak Spanish at home
90% Average child enrollment

Our Services
Head Start programs are required to preferentially enroll children who are in their last year of preschool services before entering Kindergarten, as well as children with special needs, and children from homeless families.

32 117 128
Funded vs. Enrollment Slots

84.4% funded enrollment for the 2015-16 school year was 149 children, with a total of 169 children served

TS Gold Change in % Accomplished:
3-4 YRS 4-5 YRS
100% 100%
50% 0%

Social-Emotional
Physical
Cognitive
Language
Literacy
Mathematics

Teacher Assessments
Teachers are evaluated twice a year using the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) in three domains: Emotional Support, Classroom Organization and Instructional Support (scales go from 1 to 7). We outperformed the national average in two of three areas and are working on improvements in the Instructional Support domain.

Preparing Children and Families for Kindergarten
BCHS is committed to positive outcomes for children and preparing families for a smooth transition to kindergarten. Efforts in this area include:

Home visits and parent-teacher conferences to improve school readiness and review student progress.

Kindergarten transition events to learn about kindergarten options and open enrollment processes.

Application support to ensure children are enrolled in a kindergarten program before the close of the school year.

Referrals Made for Parents

Substance Abuse | 2
Employment | 10
Legal Services | 7
Transportation | 9
Mental Health | 7
Housing / Utilities | 2
Emergency / Crisis Situations | 2
Clothing | 4
Food Assistance | 10
Health / Nutrition (WIC) | 16
Summer Child Care | 9
Education / ESL | 10
Parenting Classes | 112

Supportive Children and Family Services
Our families often face a variety of life challenges that require additional supports and services. We recognize that educational success means family success, and our compassionate staff strives to connect families and their children with the critical services they need to thrive.

For our Kids
All BCHS students enrolled at least 30 days receive hearing, vision, dental, medical and developmental screenings. Our Support Service Managers help families connect with needed health providers and BVSD’s Child Find when developmental issues are indicated.

For our Parents
As families work toward their Family Partnership Agreement goals, they are often referred to area social service agencies. The majority of parents also express interest in educational and job training, English as a Second Language (ESL), and parenting classes.