



Chugachmiut BIRTH TO FIVE Head Start

# 2025 Annual Report

This Annual Report summarizes key information about the Chugachmiut Birth to Five Head Start Program for the program year of 2024-25.



# Head Start Birth to Five



Chugachmiut’s Birth to Five Head Start is a federal- and state-funded program that promotes school readiness and provides quality health, nutritional, social, and other services to enrolled children and families. Head Start is a federal program that prepares young children, birth to five years old, for success in school and in life. Programs work to meet high standards for delivering quality services to children and their families.

Children who attend Head Start programs participate in school readiness activities while developing social skills. Head Start children also receive nutritious meals and the necessary health care in a safe environment. Head Start and Early Head Start welcome children with disabilities.

Parents with children in Head Start are actively involved in all aspects of the program. They help to govern, plan what children learn, and provide advice about the services needed.

Parents and other community members also volunteer in classrooms and throughout the programs.

In the 24-25 program year, Chugachmiut Birth to Five provided Head Start services for children aged 3-5 in Nanwalek and Port Graham. Home-based Early Head Start services were provided in Nanwalek to children ages 0-3. Chugachmiut was funded to serve 22 children and their families in these two communities. We received an Expansion grant that will allow us to serve an additional 70 children in Cordova (18 children ages 3-5), Seward (18 children ages 3-5), and Valdez (18 children ages 3-5, 16 children 0-3) in center-based classrooms. Services are expected to begin in the 25-26 program year.



# Enrollment and Attendance

Over the 2024-25 school year, we served **24 total children** through our Birth to Five program in two center-based classrooms (13 children) and the Early Head Start Home-Based program (11 children) in Nanwalek. In these two communities, we have 22 total slots. In FY 24, we received 70 Expansion slots to serve Cordova, Seward, and Valdez. We were approved for a one-year start-up period (start serving in 25/26 program year). However, the expansion funding was awarded as a supplement, and the slots were added in the 24/25 program year. As a result we were determined to be chronically under-enrolled and placed on an Under-Enrollment Plan by the Office of Head Start. We have until April of 2026 to be fully enrolled.

**Average monthly Enrollment (as a percentage of funded enrollment) in Nanwalek and Port Graham: 93%**

We served **100% of the eligible children** in our two communities who wanted to enroll in Head Start/EHS services in Nanwalek and Port Graham.

**Average monthly Enrollment (as a percentage of funded enrollment) for Expansion slots: 0%**

**Average monthly Enrollment (as a percentage of funded enrollment) TOTAL: 24%**

Attendance by month:

Month	Attendance Percentage
August 2024	72%
September 2024	70%
October 2024	68%
November 2024	64%
December 2024	73%
January 2025	66%
February 2025	77%
March 2025	72%
April 2025	75%
May 2025	76%



## Head Start Medical and Dental Services



Medical: 100% of enrolled children had medical homes, which include community clinics. **100% of children were up to date on their well-child exams** according to the EPSDT schedule. 100% of enrolled children's immunizations were appropriate for their age and/or catch-up schedule. One child had a State of Alaska-approved immunization exemption.

Dental: **6 children (25%) received a dental exam.** Of these children, 3 were diagnosed as needing, and all received, further dental treatment by the end of the school year. These low numbers are due to the lack of itinerant dental staff and no dental services (itinerant only) in our communities.

## Parent, Family, Community Engagement

We believe a child's family is their most important teacher and advocate. Chugachmiut staff strive to build relationships with families that support family well-being, strong parent/child relationships and ongoing learning and development for both parents and children.

We provide the following opportunities for our families:

- Parent Orientation
- Parent Committee Meetings
- Policy Council
- Cultural opportunities and events
- Home Visits for our center-based programs
- Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Family activity events
- Family literacy nights
- Father Engagement and Family Lunch and Learn training events.



We partner with parents to create family goals, such as obtaining a GED, building a resume, applying for jobs, and connecting with resources and services. We share the responsibility for the children's outcomes, through parent input into the curriculum and encouraging home activities that support developmental goals for each child.

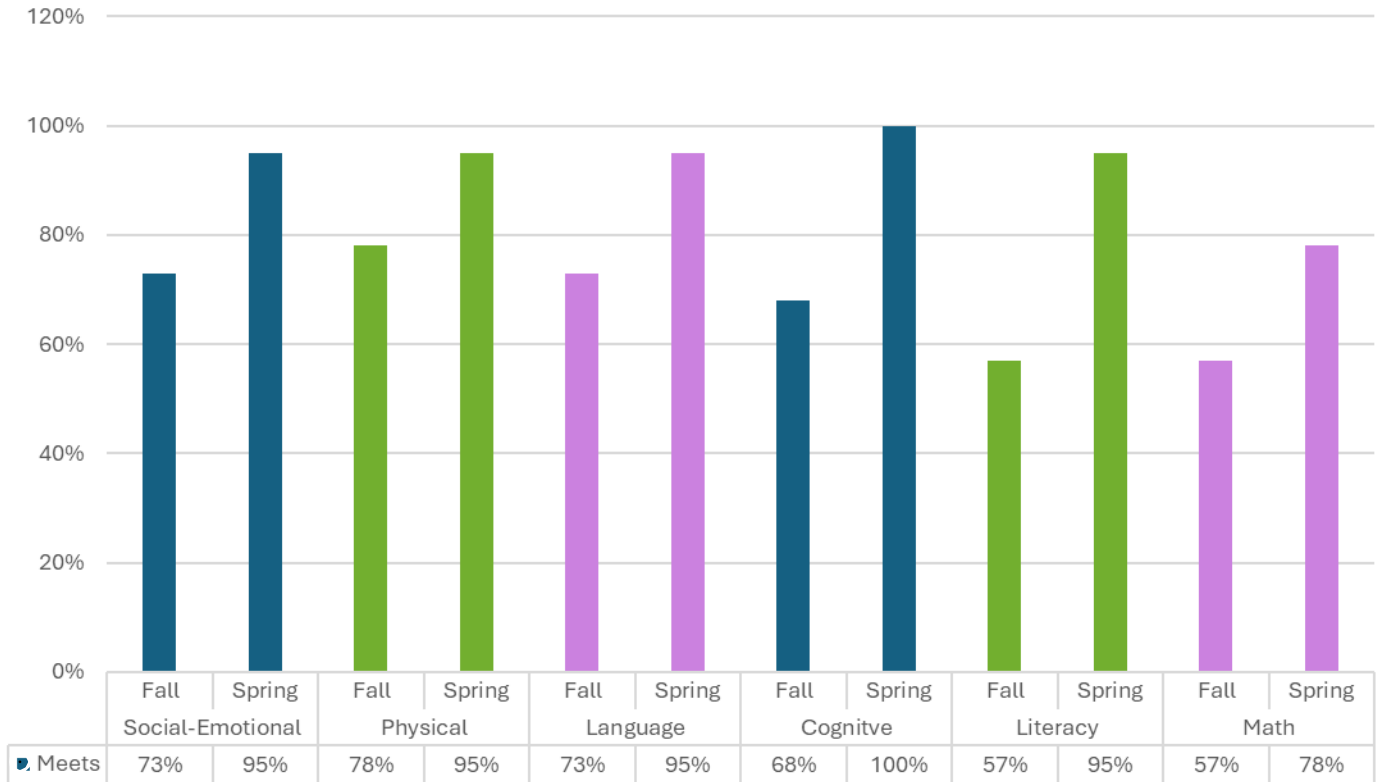
During the 24-25 program year, we served 22 families who all received at least one program service to promote family outcomes.

# School Readiness

Preparing children and families for success in school and life is an overall goal of our program. To ensure children transition successfully to elementary school, our teachers use a standardized curriculum and assessment tool. Teachers track each child’s progress in five developmental areas: Approaches to Learning, Social and Emotional, Language and Literacy, Cognition, and Perceptual, Motor, and Physical. Our School Readiness Goals are aligned with our curriculum (The Creative Curriculum), our assessment tool (Teaching Strategies GOLD), the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework (ELOF), and the Alaska Early Learning Guidelines, and report children’s learning progress in the school readiness skills/areas of social-emotional development, physical development, language, cognitive, literacy, and math.

A report is generated three times a year for parents, staff, and governing bodies. Our program analyzes data to assess children's overall growth and make decisions to enhance program quality. In the 24-25 school year, there was an eleven to twenty-seven percent growth in all areas of development. The most notable progress was observed in the literacy, cognitive, and math domains of development.

Chugachmiut Birth to Five Head Start  
Percent of Children Meeting School Readiness Goals  
Fall/Spring 2024-2025



## Transition to Kindergarten



Transition materials are provided to all parents at the last home visit/parent-teacher conference.

Head Start staff meet with the Kindergarten Teacher to share information (with a release) about each child's school readiness outcomes. The Head Start Teachers and transitioning children spend one to three days visiting the Kindergarten classroom.

## Federal and State Monitoring



January 21-23, 2025, a Focus Area 1 Federal Monitoring Review for Chugachmiut Birth to Five Head Start was conducted. We were fully compliant with one Area of Concern in Child Health and Oral Health Status and Care. The review team recommended that we improve our efforts to obtain medical determinations from a health care professional for all children within the prescribed timeframe. In response, we have improved our systems and processes to work directly with Chugachmiut Health Services, determining if children are up to date on Well Child Checks and Dental Care, and establishing follow-up.

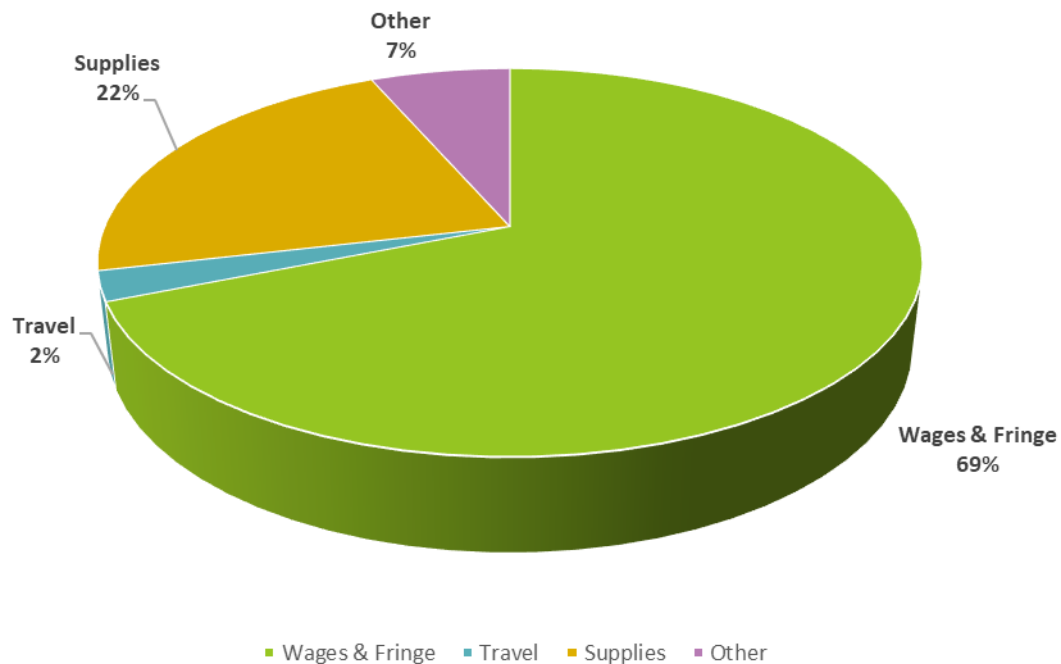
The State of Alaska conducted a Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Site review of Nanwalek on December 8, 2025. We are scheduled for the final part of the FY26 CACFP Administrative review in March of 2026.

## 24-25 Birth to Five Program Year Funding

Revenue	Amount
Federal Head Start	\$3,840,179*
State of Alaska Head Start	\$202,357
CACFP (Food Program)	\$10,598
Alaska Head Start Stabilization	\$27,936
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,081,070</b>

*\* includes expansion funds*

## 24-25 Birth to Five Program Year Operating Expenses



## Looking forward: 25-26 Program Year Funding

Our FY 25-26 Total Budget for Head Start (including projected carry-over) is **\$7,185,880**. We received FY24 Federal Head Start Expansion funding to provide services to 70 additional children in Eyak/Cordova (Head Start), Seward (Head Start), and Valdez (Head Start and Early Head Start). Additionally, the State of Alaska Head Start funding was increased by the Alaska State Legislature for 25-26, and we received additional one-time funding from the Alaska Head Start Stabilization grant and a one-time sponsorship from the Alaska Preschool Development Grant to focus on Staff Wellness.

### 25-26 Program Year Budget At-a-Glance by funding source:

Budget Category	State Head Start	CACFP Food Program	AK Head Start Stabilization	Alaska PDG Sponsorship	Federal Head Start Year 2 of 5	Federal Head Start Carry-over and reprogram*
Personnel	<b>\$343,857</b>		<b>\$40,481</b>		<b>\$1,939,588</b>	
Fringe Benefits	<b>\$137,543</b>				<b>\$775,835</b>	
Travel					<b>\$133,990</b>	<b>\$42,966</b>
Contractual						
Equipment					<b>\$147,350</b>	
Supplies	<b>\$20,028</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>		<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>\$101,500</b>	<b>\$654,236</b>
Other	<b>\$98,400</b>			<b>\$20,000</b>	<b>\$195,960</b>	<b>\$1,529,123</b>
TTA					<b>\$64,283</b>	
Indirect	<b>\$89,974</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>	<b>\$7,144</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$ 481,673</b>	<b>\$338,948</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$689,802</b>	<b>\$ 23,000</b>	<b>\$47,625</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>	<b>\$3,840,179</b>	<b>\$2,560,274*</b>

\*This has been requested, not approved yet

## Financial Audit

Chugachmiut's financial audit meets the GAAP and Uniform Guidance requirements of its federal grant sources, including Head Start. In FY24, there were no audit findings relative to the major federal and state awards.

Chugachmiut's FY25 Audit is in the process of being completed.

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