



# **FORT PECK TRIBES HEAD START**

2022-2023

Annual Report

## MISSION STATEMENT

Head Start is committed to providing comprehensive early childhood services to economically educationally disadvantaged preschoolers and their families living on the Fort Peck Reservation through a team approach, adhering to the highest standards of ethics and integrity. Head Start recognizes parents as the primary teachers and should therefore, be made active in their children's education. Collaborative agreements with local service agencies will allow services to be coordinated effectively and on a timely basis.

## General Information / FAQ

### **What is Head Start?**

The national Head Start program began in 1965 as part of President Lyndon B. Johnson's "War on Poverty" and it continues to be one of the successful programs from that year. Currently, Head Start is administered by the Department of Health and Human Services (DPHHS) which awards grants to public, private agencies and Tribal governments. Local grant recipients provide comprehensive child development services to economically disadvantaged children, with special focus on helping three and four-year olds develop early skills needed to be successful in school.

### **What does Head Start do in our community?**

Fort Peck Head Start serves 212 low income children and their families at 6 different centers located in Fort Kipp, Poplar, Wolf Point and Frazer. Each class time varies due to children and family needs. Each child receives individualized services and the education staff work with parents to involve them in their child's education. In addition, nutritious meals are served each day in 6 Head Start Centers. Health and Disabilities Coordinators work with families to ensure that every child has a physical and dental examination with follow-up treatment as needed. Family Service Staff assist parents in setting goals for themselves and their families, including seeking education, employment, better housing, and transportation and meeting other social needs.

**Fort Peck Tribes has served as Grantee for the Head Start Program since the inception on the reservation in 1966. The Program Director reports to the Education Committee, which meet on Monday afternoon.**

### Administration Directory

Head Start Director – Hilary Gourneau.....	(406)768-2503
Education Coordinator – Cathy Wetsit.....	(406)768-2502
Fiscal Officer – Chelsie McKee.....	(406)768-2505
Assistant Bookkeeper – Faith Birdtail.....	(406)768-2504
Nutrition Coordinator – Nancy Red Star.....	(406)768-2501
Instructional Coach – Suzanne Turnbull.....	(406)768-2509
Family Services EAST – Ashley Follette.....	(406)768-2511
Family Services WEST – Jerreth Shawl-Rider.....	(406)768-2517

### Policy Council

President.....	Anessa Day
Vice-President.....	Mikki Chandler
Secretary.....	Breanna Buckles

## Head Start Teacher Qualifications

### **Are Head Start staff qualified?**

Fort Peck Head Start is fortunate to have well qualified teachers who are able to implement quality and effective classroom instruction. Eight Teachers have a Bachelor of Arts or Science Degrees/Early Childhood Education, 2 teachers have an Associate of Arts Degree and 1 teacher has a CDA-Child Development Associate Degree. Of our teacher assistants 3 have a Bachelor Degrees and 1 has an Associate of Arts Degree. 16 teaching staff are enrolled in the Early Childhood Project and are pursuing AA Degrees in ECE. EDA training is provided on a monthly basis.

### **Early Childhood Development and Kindergarten Readiness**

The Fort Peck Tribes Head Start Program uses a research-based early childhood development curriculum called OWL (Opening the World of Learning). This curriculum promotes children being actively engaged with others and the environment around them. The goals and scope and sequence of this curriculum match with Head Start Bureau, state and local outcome guidelines. This includes: literacy, mathematics, science, dramatic play, music, blocks, social/emotional, literacy and cognition.

### **School Readiness Skills**

Pre-Kindergarten students are prepared for a successful kindergarten entrance. A variety of field trips are taken to the public school facilities where the children participate in story time, library, cafeteria, physical education and the kindergarten classroom. This helps the children to become familiar with their future learning environment and to overcome any fears that they may have. Pre-kindergarten children are taught a specific skills to prepare them for kindergarten entrance. This includes:

- Phonemic awareness, mathematics, and letter/number recognition and Sounds.
- Age appropriate skills in cognition, language, social emotional and Physical
- Classroom safety and respect rules

**Our Education Coordinator meets with the head Kindergarten Teacher in each school district to schedule transition activities. The children are bussed over to the public schools.**

## Enrollment and Education Information

### 2022-2023 Enrollee Information

Site	Tribal Enrolled	3-Year Old Count	Pre-K Count	Associate Member	Not Enrolled	Total Number Placements
Fort Kipp	6	3	3	0	0	6
Poplar	53	25	228	0	8	61
Wolf Point	42	26	16	1	12	55
Frazer	3	1	2	0	0	3
Total	104	55	49	1	20	125

### 2023 Poverty Guidelines

Household Size	Maximum Income Level
1	\$14,580
2	\$19,720
3	\$24,860
4	\$30,000
5	\$35,140
6	\$40,280
7	\$45,420
8	\$50,560
*For families with more than 8 person, add \$5,140 per additional person*	

### Developmental Screening

Brigance – Used at all centers					
Screened	Passed	Failed	Referred	DN Qualify	Qualified

### Special Needs Outcome

Children with special needs have less need for special education after graduation from Head Start. 100% of the children identified receive individualized services to address special needs. Head Start graduates with special needs enter general education kindergarten classes.

## Nutrition and Health Information

Children from low-income families sometimes have impoverished diets, too low in fresh fruits and vegetables and too high in starchy and fatty foods. Head Start provides ½ to 2/3 of a child's daily nutritional requirements on class days. Typical menus include no processed foods and ample portions of protein and vitamins in the form of fresh milk, cheese, yogurt, and fresh vegetables and fruits of all kinds. Nutrition education is provided at the table and in class activities and children learn to serve themselves family style. Meal times are designated to be times of good eating and pleasant conversation among the children and adults. Head Start children's Body Mass Index (BMI) that is less than the 5th percentile is considered underweight and above the 95th percentile is considered overweight. Children with a BMI between the 85th and 95th percentile is considered to be at risk of becoming overweight. For this reason, our Head Start participates in "I'm Moving – I'm Learning" (IMLM) where children learn about foods and moving more.

### **Nutrition Outcomes**

- Choose to eat health foods
- Displays respectful table manners and self-help skills
- Engages frequently in exercise both indoors and outdoors
- Practice good hygiene

### **Mental Health**

Part of being a healthy person is being able to get along with others in a group setting. This requires having a sense of self and an ability to respect the needs and rights of others. For children, families and staff who need additional support to develop healthy social and emotion habits. Head Start has an agreement with HPDP to provide free on-site) free to the person - Head Start pays) behavior skills training and mental health therapy working with children, parents and staff in develop more effective behavior management techniques.

### **Health**

Children who are sick or plagued with painful tooth decay do not have the energy or stamina to learn. Head Start ensures that all children have the opportunity to receive health and dental care so that they are well and strong enough to receive the full benefits from preschool learning activities. The Health and Disabilities Coordinators are on-site daily to help our children with their health needs. Below is a summary of the health data provided during the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

Health Screening	Received Exams	Need Treatment	Children Received Treatment
Physicals	125	0	0
Vision	125	17	17
Dental	125	70	62
Hearing	125	8	8
Immunizations	125	0	0

### Health Outcome and Goals

- 100% of children receive a physical exam
- 100% of children are fully immunized
- 100% staff physicals and immunizations updated

## Family Involvement

Research overwhelmingly demonstrates that parental involvement in their children's learning is positively related to achievement. Looking more closely at the research there are strong indications that the most effective forms of parent involvement are those which engage parents in working directly with their children on learning activities in the home, programs which involve parents in reading with their children show particularly impressive results. The research also shows that the earlier in a child's education process parent involvement begins the more powerful the effects will be.

At Head Start parents are encouraged to be involved directly in their children's education through a variety of ways. Recognizing that parents differ greatly in their willingness, ability, and available time for involvement in learning activities. Head Start provides a continuum of options for parent participation. During the school year parents can participate in one or more of the following options:

- Family Fun Night
- Parent Teacher Conferences
- Parent Committees
- Parent Trainings
- Field Trips
- Home Visits
- Classroom Activities
- Policy Council
- Yearend Celebrations

In addition, the Family Services Coordinators provides assistance in the following areas in order to help our children and their families succeed.

- Emergency Crisis Intervention
- Housing Assistance
- Medical Health Assistance
- Adult Education (GED, HISET)
- Job Training / Employment Application
- Domestic Violence Services
- Child Support Assistance
- Health Education
- Parenting Education

## **Community Partnerships**

The cost of Head Start per child is about \$12,500 per school year. The federal government provides grants that cover 80% of the cost. The other 20% is usually raised every year in the community. Though waivers have been put in place, we at Fort Peck Head Start would like to see more in-kind support from a wide variety of sources such as:

- School Districts
- Individual Donors
- Small Businesses
- IHS
- Tribal Education
- Community Donor



### Financial Information

Income Description	Amount
Federal Grant	\$1,922,424.00
Federal T&TA	\$23,268.00
USDA/CACFP	\$85,000.00
JOM	\$6,303.00
Total	\$2,036,995.00

### **Federal Budget Breakdown**

Budget Description	Budget Amount
Salary	\$1,402,283.00
Fringe Benefits	\$238,016.00
Travel	\$10,000.00
Equipment	\$7,000.00
Supplies	\$52,000.00
Contractual	\$31,000.00
Professional Development	\$43,268.00
Other	\$185,393.00
Total	\$1,945,692.00

USDA/CACFP funds are used towards creditable food items. JOM funds are distributed according to the fund application.