



UCHRA Van Buren County Head Start has “**School Readiness Goals**” that help children become more confident, more cooperative, and more self-aware. Children learn about sounds, words, letters, and books. UCHRA Van Buren County Head Start supports language rich environments which helps increase their vocabulary library. Dual language learners keep their home language while learning a new language. Children become curious, while at the same time developing the skills needed to explore on their own and focus on their work. They learn to work with shapes, and begin using math and science as they investigate the world, solve problems and predict events on their own. They also learn basic health and safety practices. Outdoors, they learn to walk, run, climb, and throw, as well as learning to get along with other children. Inside they learn to work with blocks and scissors, and begin to write their names. We track the progress of each child and share it with their parents.

Head Start by The Numbers
Selected PIR Numbers

- 37 Number of children funded
- 100%-Percentage of eligible children served
- 47-Number of children served
- 6-Number of teachers/teacher assistants
- 2-Number of classrooms
- 1:6-Ratio of teaching staff to children
- 100%-Children with all possible immunizations
- 100%-Children w/continuous access to medical care at end of year
- 86%Children w/continuous access to dental care at end of year
- 89.4%- Children receiving preventative dental care
- 100%- Children with disabilities who received special services
- 57%- Children bused
- 87%-Children at a healthy weight
- 34%- Single-parent families
- 53% - Two-parent families
- 32%- Number of families in which the parent is not employed
- 100%-Families with a high school education or greater
- 43%-Families receiving SNAP benefits (food stamps)

This Head Start Program is operated by
UCHRA

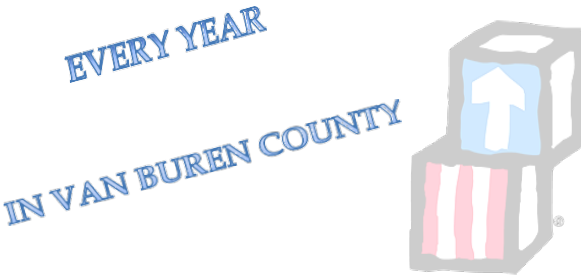
In addition to federal grants of \$891,819
(For the period of July 1, through June 30,)
UCHRA Van Buren County Head Start also received

- *\$39,300 From the U.S Department of Agriculture as reimbursement for the cost of providing meals for Head Start children; and
- *\$197,955 in required local matching funds from people who donate goods and services

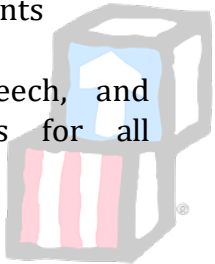


Annual Report 2024/25

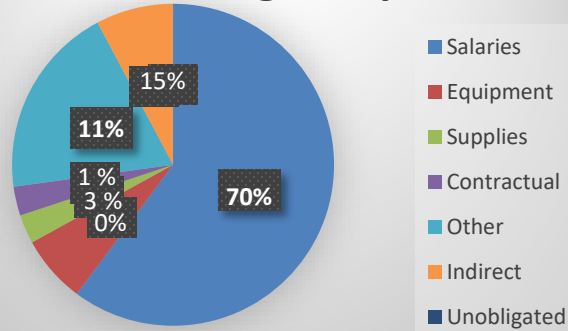
Information in this brochure is designed to fulfill requirements of Head Start federal law related to the general public.



- research-based education and family support for the most vulnerable children in our area
- one of the Nation’s superior Head Start programs for children 3-4 years old
- preventative health care for each child
- free dental exams & treatment
- health insurance referrals
- family goal planning and other services for families
- emergency help through referrals to local resources
- bus transportation to the neediest
- special education services for children with disabilities
- well-supervised staff with professional degrees or CDA credentials
- staff teaching ratio of 1:6
- nutrition services
- mental health services, with professional consultants available
- hearing, vision, speech, and language screenings for all children



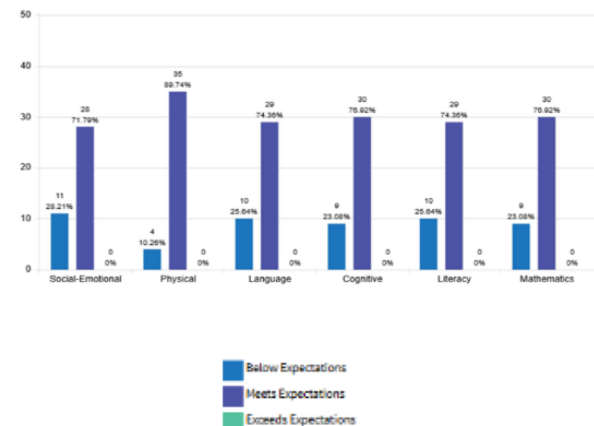
Annual Budget Report



Our center holds the state's highest quality rating, and follows the recommendations of accrediting agencies recognized across America.



Child Outcomes Data



UCHRA Van Buren County Head Start provides the best preschool experience for children that can be had! *UCHRA Van Buren Co. Head Start operates one Center for Van Buren County and is funded for 37 children. We have two classrooms, with degreed staff in each class. Our staff, besides the Director, includes the Assistant Director/Education Supervisor, Family Service Worker, Family/Community Partnership Specialist, Health/Disability Specialist, Teachers and Teacher Aides, Literacy Aide/Safety Coordinator, and Custodian/ Bus Monitor. All meals are served family style and are prepared on site. The food is nutritious and low in sodium, fat and sugar. Children are served breakfast, lunch and a PM snack. In a partnership with Build-a-Bear, children learn about new cultures. Every month, the Bear wears a different costume from a different country and there is a food from that country on the menu. Children not only learn about another culture but they also get to experience food that the people eat, teaching them about others in the world. We also integrate a social-emotional aspect to our program. This helps children to develop self-control, to get along with others, become independent and have more awareness and empathy for others. Our transition program assures that Children will be comfortable on their first day of Kindergarten. Everything that children learn and experience at UCHRA Van Buren Co. Head Start prepares them for their future education, for Kindergarten and beyond! We are accredited through the prestigious NAEYC- National Association for the Education of Young Children - the largest organization in the world that not only advocates for children with 60,000 members and 50 affiliates, but actually sets the standards for early childhood educational programs. This means that parents can be assured their child will receive the best they can: a high-quality education. UCHRA Van Buren Co. Head Start receives the highest rating of three stars from the State's Three Star Program. We are proud to have had this rating since the inception of the State's STAR licensing program!

Federal Review and Audit Both Indicate Excellence

Our most recent federal review earned congratulations from the federal review team for the staff, parents, and board members on the agency's practices procedures, and successes. The federal team issued a final report with zero findings and zero deficiencies. Our Program is in full compliance, adhering to all laws, regulations and performance standards of the Office of Head Start.

No deficiencies relating to the audit of the financial statements are reported in the Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and On Compliance and Other Matters Based on An Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with Government Auditing Standards.

Audits are available on www.ucvbheadstart.org all of our review documents are available for public inspection

In addition to academic and social services to children, Head Start also provides many services to families

Typical Services and Referrals Provided to Families

- *Utility Bill Assistance
- *Child Support Resources
- *Health/Dental Services
- *Clothing
- *Home Safety Training
- *Nutrition Training
- *Budgeting
- *Counseling
- *Transitioning
- *Food Preparation
- *Parenting
- *Marriage Enrichment
- *Stress Reduction
- *Job Training
- *Job Counseling
- *Adult Education
- *Emergency Food
- *Domestic Violence program
-AND SO MUCH MORE



Typical School Readiness Home Activities and Parent Involvement Activities

- *Visits from musicians, police, firefighters
- *Family Reading Night
- *Parent volunteers in the classroom
- *End-of-year kindergarten transition for parents and children
- *"Dad-Friendly" activities
- *Mother's Day Out
- *Policy Council participation
- *Parent meetings that include parent-selected educational topics such as health, nutrition, and parenting
- *Medical & dental appointments & follow-ups
- *Seasonal projects for parent and child

