

2023

Early Learning Annual Report



**Kenaitze Early Learning
Annual Report
Head Start/Early Head Start Grantee 90CI010062 FY23 (1/2023-12/2023)**

Administrator's Statement

Fiscal year 2023 brought with us many changes and new challenges that our staff navigated with tenacity.

This was our second full school year in our new Kahtnuht'ana Duhdeldiht ("the Kenai River People's Learning Place") Campus. We remained fully enrolled throughout the entire program year serving a total of 138 families.

Many of you participated in our Community Assessment and Self-Assessment which gave us a better glimpse at the needs of our families and how we can adjust programming to fill these needs. Our management team sought to streamline our strategic operations in 2023 and look forward to continuing that work in FY 2024. The annual report is made available to the public on Kenaitze Indian Tribe's Facebook page and website. Printed copies are also kept at the front desk available for any members of the public or participants in the program.

In July of 2024, we wished Teresa Smith, our Education Director, who served the Head Start program since 2000 a Happy Retirement. We are thankful for all of her efforts to shape this program into what it is now and wish her all the best in all of her new adventures.

We welcome Mr. Kyle McFall as the new Education Director and are anticipating achieving new milestones with his support and direction.

Keep an eye out for these changes as we begin our 2024-2025 School Year:

- Attendance guidelines which are more aligned with the school district as we focus on school readiness.
- Year-round programming for our Early Head Start families.
- Behavioral health support with Miss Haylee to offer resources for our students and families to be as successful as possible in the school environment.

Our families are the reason coming to work is enjoyable. Your work raising your children is powerful; we are honored to support you in this precious work.

Diane Bernard

Early Learning Manager

**Kenaitze Early Learning
Annual Report
Head Start/Early Head Start Grantee 90CI010062 FY23 (1/2023-12/2023)**

REVENUES:

Grant Revenue:

DHHS – Office of Head Start FY23	\$1,224,268
DHHS – OHS – Early Head Start FY23	\$1,111,893
FY22 Carry Over to FY23	\$193,962
Kenaitze Indian Tribe Support	\$289,567
SUBTOTAL:	\$2,819,690
SOA – State of Alaska Head Start FY23	\$274,538
USDA – Alaska Child and Adult Care Food Program FY23	\$300,085
CITC – CCDF Child Care	\$72,448
Total Grant Revenue:	\$3,177,194

EXPENSES

**Head Start/Early Head Start
90CI010062 FY23:**

Payroll Expense	\$ 1,922,253
Training & Technical Assistance	\$35,144
Program Supplies	\$210,272
Indirect Expense	\$326,749
Other Administrative	\$305,125
Professional Services	\$20,147
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,819,690

Projected Budget for year FY24 NOA:

DHHS – Office of Head Start	\$1,308,326
DHHS – OHS – Early Head Start	\$1,203,624
FY23 Carry Over to FY24 - FY24	\$203,897
COLA	
SOA – State of Alaska Head Start	\$186,368
USDA – Alaska Child and Adult Care Food Program	\$349,760
CITC – CCDF Child Care	\$72,448
Total Grant Revenue:	\$3,324,403
In-Kind Donations	100% Waiver

Total Revenue: **\$3,324,403**

Projected Budget for DHHS – OHS 90CI010062 FY25 (HS & EHS)

Program Supplies	\$23,902
Training & Technical Assistance	\$35,144
Payroll Expense	\$2,242,109
Indirect Expense	\$155,000
Professional Services Expenses	\$114,000
Non-Federal Share – 100% Waiver	\$ 00.00

Total DHHS – Office of Head Start **\$2,570,155**

**Kenaitze Early Learning
Annual Report
Head Start/Early Head Start Grantee 90CI010062 FY23 (1/2023-12/2023)**

	Head Start	Early Head Start	<u>Funded EnrollmentFY23</u>
Children Served:	66	59	57 HS, 48 EHS
Income Eligible Children Served	80%	98%	
American Indian/Alaska Native children served	43%	61%	
Average Monthly Attendance	59%	83%	
Children up-to-date on primary health care	98%	85%	
Children receiving preventive dental care	94%	46%	
Children with disabilities	26%	1%	
Families Served:	Head Start/Early Head Start		90

Federal Review Results:

April 3 – 5, 2023 a Focus Area 1 (FA1) monitoring review was conducted virtually.

May 18, 2023 the Program Performance Summary Report was received, citing one area of non-compliance:

Citation Definition: 1302.45 Child mental health and social and emotional well-being (b) Mental health consultants. A program must ensure mental health consultants assist: (1) The program to implement strategies to identify and support children with mental health and social and emotional concerns;

Timeframe for Correction: 120 days, with an additional 120 days extension requested; Program completed an Action Plan to Improve Quality and address the non-compliance which closed the finding on July 15, 2024. Kenaitze Early Learning went into contract with Reclaiming Wellness on 7/3/2024.

Audit Results: No Findings

Services Provided: Comprehensive early childhood education services are provided to children from birth through 5 years old focuses on the individual learning styles of children while incorporating Dena’ina culture, creative arts, literacy, language development and communication, science, math, physical health and development, as well as social skills and problem solving competency.

The Early Learning Program consists of the programs described below, serving children in Kenai, Soldotna, Nikiski, Kasilof, Sterling & Cooper Landing.

The comprehensive, school readiness pre-school operates from 8:00 am to 12:30 pm, Monday- Friday, 170 days per year, as a center based program, serving 57 primarily income eligible Native and non-Native children ages 3 to 5. There are four preschool classrooms one Teacher and one Early Learning Aide working as a team in each room along with two Early Learning Aides as classroom floats. The Early Learning’s comprehensive school readiness preschool program includes, a healthy breakfast/lunch, health screenings, developmental and social services for children and families.

Preschool Teachers use the *Creative Curriculum*™ in conjunction with the *Dena’ina Cultural Curriculum*. Our Kenaitze Dena’ina Language Department assists the program teaching classroom staff in Dena’ina language. All staff are trained in Project ACHIEVE Stop and Think, which is used as our social emotional and problem solving skills curriculum. Information and training is offered to parents and community partners. Teachers, together with parents, plan educational experiences that meet the needs of the individual child and family. Assessments on children’s progress are conducted three times each program year using Teaching Strategies GOLD. Teachers plan individual and group activities focused around the child’s social/emotional and cognitive growth to prepare them for elementary school. Local public schools work with us to ensure expectations are met for kindergarten and that transitions to elementary schools are seamless. Teachers have (or are working toward) a minimum of a Bachelor’s degree in Early Childhood or related field and receive a minimum of 25 hours of continuing education training hours each year.

**Kenaitze Early Learning
Annual Report
Head Start/Early Head Start Grantee 90CI010062 FY23 (1/2023-12/2023)**

Collaborative agreements assist the program in providing services in health, nutrition, dental, hearing & vision screenings, mental health, disabilities, training & technical assistance, parent groups, transition services from Head Start to the public schools, and family services.

The Early Head Start program served pregnant women and children from birth to three years of age in a center-based setting. These center-based services include 6 classroom with one Teacher and one Early Learning Aide with one Early Learning Aide that floats between the six classrooms. Teachers have (or are working toward) a minimum of an Associate's degree in Early Childhood or related field and receive a minimum of 25 hours of continuing education training hours each year.

Early Head Start supports families to educate and nurture their children and will provide links to community resources. The purpose of Early Head Start is to promote school readiness goals that focus on children's physical, social-emotional, and cognitive and language development to prepare them for preschool and beyond.

The Early Head Start center-based program uses the research based Creative Curriculum for Infant, Toddlers and Two's, covering these five components – cognitive, language, gross & fine motor, social and self-mastery skills. All children enrolled will receive developmental and social/emotional screenings using Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ-3) and e-DECA for social/emotional.

The goal for services to pregnant women and their families is to provide early, continuous, intensive and comprehensive child development and family support services.

All parents/guardians can participate in Classroom Social Meetings, Policy Council, Health Advisory Committee, School Readiness/Curriculum Committee, Enrollment Selection Committee, and as volunteers in the classroom. Parent/family activities/educational trainings hosted by the staff and/or community partners incorporating Family Engagement Outcomes are offered one to two times a month on topics such as budgeting, nutrition (picky eaters), emergency preparedness and positive behavior/parent skills. Some of the fun family activities that are held are Story Nights, Gross Motor Play, Holiday crafts and Book Bingo, Central Peninsula Hospital Safe Kids-Care Seat Check.

Submitted by *Diane Bernard, Early Learning Administrator*

Date 8/19/24
