

HEAD START 101:

WCMCA
Head Start
Orientation

WCMCA INC. MISSION STATEMENT

“Partnering to build community and empower people to overcome poverty and achieve their full potential.”



WCMCA, Inc.

West Central MN Communities Action Inc. is the parent organization for the following programs.

 **Head Start**

 **Live Well at Home**

 **Emergency Services**

 **Energy Assistance**

 **FAIM Savings Program**

 **Fathers' Resource**

 **Group Cares Camp**

 **Housing Programs**

 **PLUS kids**

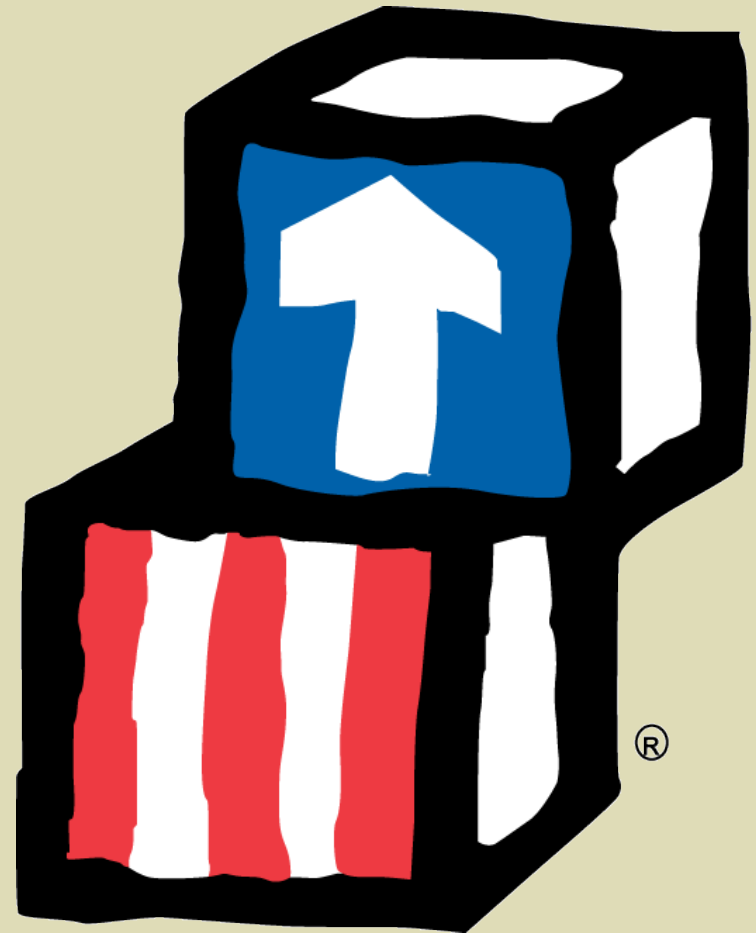
 **Lead Testing**

 **Free Tax Preparation**

 **Weatherization**

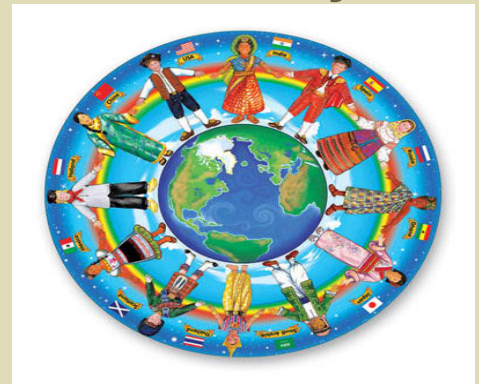
HEAD START MISSION STATEMENT

Head Start provides a supportive environment that encourages children, families, staff and communities to thrive by identifying strengths and opportunities, and developing strong partnerships to meet needs.



HEAD START GOALS AND CORE VALUES

- Establish a supportive learning environment for children, parents, and staff, in which the processes of enhancing awareness, refining skills, and increasing understanding are valued and promoted.
- Recognize that the members of the Head Start community-children, families, and staff have roots in many cultures.



HEAD START GOALS AND CORE VALUES

- Head Start families and staff, working together as a team, can effectively promote respectful, sensitive, and proactive approaches to diversity issues.
- Respect the importance of all aspects of an individual's development, including social, emotional, cognitive, and physical growth.

PROGRAM GOVERNANCE- HEAD START'S PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

Head Start Performance Standards are the mandatory regulations that agencies must implement in order to operate a Head Start Program. The Head Start performance Standards provide a valuable guidance on quality practices, which reflect the latest research on how best to work with young children and families.

Minnesota Rule 3

- ❖ *Under the supervision of MN Dept. of Human Services, Rule 3 is a specific set of rules that sets forth minimum standards that must be met in order to provide out of home services to children*



Program Design and Management

- Facilities and Equipment
- Human Resources
- Management
- Governance



WCMCA Head Start Orientation-Head Start 101

HEAD START PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

CHILD MENTAL HEALTH

DISABILITIES

EDUCATION

ERSEA

FACILITIES

FAMILY PARTNERSHIPS

Community Partnerships

GOVERNANCE

HEALTH & SAFETY

HEALTH SERVICES

HUMAN RESOURCES

MANAGEMENT

NUTRITION

TRANSPORTATION

COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES

- Child Mental Health
 - Services for Children with Disabilities
 - Education & Early Childhood Development
 - Child Health & Development
 - Child Health & Safety
 - Family & Community Partnership
 - Community Partnership
 - Child Nutrition
- Comprehensive child services surround the child to support learning within the context of the family and the community.



Child Mental Health

Head Start embraces a vision of mental wellness that focuses on the awareness and understanding of wellness.

Anticipating and understanding a child's behavior and development helps parents and staff respond in a manner more likely to enhance the child's development.

CLASSROOM STAFF SETS CLEAR LIMITS THAT INCLUDES RESPECT FOR OTHERS AND USE POSITIVE METHODS OF CHILD GUIDANCE.



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HEAD START PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

CHILD MENTAL HEALTH – 1302.45

DISABILITIES – 1302.60

EDUCATION – 1302.30

ERSEA – 1302.10

FACILITIES – 1303.40

FAMILY PARTNERSHIPS – 1302.52

Community Partnerships – 1302.53

GOVERNANCE – 1301.1

HEALTH & SAFETY – 1302.47

HEALTH SERVICES – 1302.40

HUMAN RESOURCES – 1302.90

MANAGEMENT – 1302.100

NUTRITION – 1302.44

TRANSPORTATION – 1303.70

Disabilities

Head Start serves all enrolled children in integrated, developmentally appropriate settings.

10% or more of enrolled Head Start Children have an identified disability.

HEAD START, IN COLLABORATION WITH PARENTS, WORKS WITH THE LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCY (LEA) WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR IDENTIFYING, EVALUATING, AND PROVIDING FREE APPROPRIATE PUBLIC EDUCATION AND MANDATED SERVICES.



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Education and Developmentally Appropriate Practice

Supported by a shared philosophy between the program and parents, and a planned, organized, consistently implemented curriculum.

The curriculum helps the program to meet goals for children's development and learn by providing experiences to meet such goals, and identifying the roles of staff members and parents, and identifying appropriate materials and equipment.

A TRANSFORMATIONAL PROCESS BASED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT NOT ONLY DOES SUCH A CURRICULUM CHANGE THE LEARNER BUT THE LEARNER ALSO AFFECTS AND CHANGES THE CURRICULUM.



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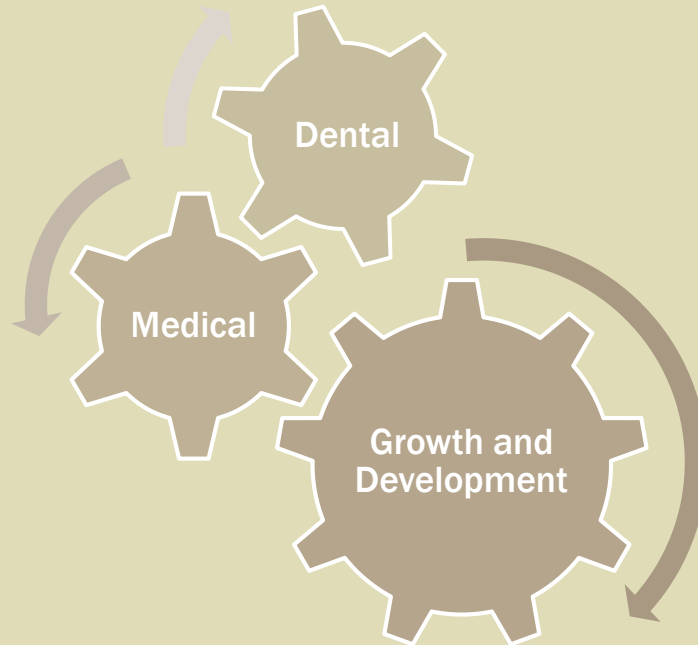
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Health Services

Commitment to ongoing, accessible care to ensure wellness, works to determine a child's health status and developmental needs

Collaborate with parents and professionals to provide ongoing health services to families.



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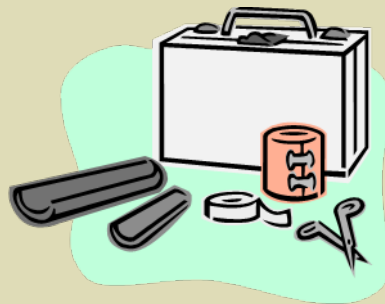
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Health and Safety

- Health Emergency Procedures
- Conditions of Short-Term Exclusion & Administration
- Injury Prevention
- Hygiene
- First Aid

In emergency situations, staff members are prepared to act quickly to ensure the health and well-being of each child.



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Family Partnerships

Access Community Services and Resources
Family Goal Setting

Parent Involvement in Child Development and Education, Health, Nutrition, Mental Health Education, Community Advocacy, Transition to or out of Head Start

Head Start offers parents opportunities and support for growth, so they can identify their own strengths, needs and interests, and find their own solutions.



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Community Partnerships

Head Start serves families within the context of the community, and recognizes that many other agencies and groups work with the same families. This collaborative effort ensures the highest level of services to children and families.

❖ Community Partnerships

❖ Advisory Committees

❖ Transition Services



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Nutrition

- Identify Nutritional Needs
- Nutritional Services
- Meal Service
- Family Assistance with Nutrition
- Food Safety and Sanitation

A CHILD'S HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT IS PROMOTED THROUGH ONGOING COMMUNICATION BETWEEN STAFF AND FAMILIES.



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