



2023-24 Impact Report

This report outlines the performance and community impact of I-CARE, Inc., a Community Action Agency serving low-income individuals and families in Iredell, Catawba, Alexander, and Lincoln counties in North Carolina. It includes highlights from our workforce development, early childhood education, weatherization, and housing repair programs, as well as success stories and recent media coverage.

Program Performance Highlights

- Over 170 children received medical exams and 177 received dental exams in the 2023–24 Head Start program year.
- 61,770 meals were served to enrolled children.
- 10 youth participated in the 2025 Summer Youth Employment Program, learning soft skills and earning wages.
- More than 10 homeowners received critical roof repairs through the Urgent Repair Program (URP).
- Weatherization Assistance Program upgrades helped low-income households reduce utility costs and improve safety.

HEAD START

Staff Professional Development

Math is Everywhere: Supporting Math Skills in Infants and Toddlers
Starting a Healthy and Safe School Year
Supporting Families' Financial Goals
Conflict Competence for Leaders
Developmentally Appropriate Behaviors: But I'm Supposed to Act Like This!
A Time to Shine: Strategies, Systems, and Smarts for a Vibrant Life and Career
Responding to Persistent Challenging Behaviors as a Leader
Right From the Start: Early Head Start Community of Practice
Helping Early Childhood Educators Thrive
Building Partnerships with Families

I-CARE, Inc. provides over 52 hours of professional development and training to Head Start/Early Head Start staff and parents. These trainings are approved by the North Carolina Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE).

Family/Child Engagement Activities

Parents invited into the classroom via Zoom Links on Tuesdays and Thursdays, Mondays with Moms, Grandparents Day, Fatherhood Fridays, Rainbow Tea, Spring Fling, Cinco de Mayo, Fall Feast, Family Reading Night, Monthly Reading Logs, Winterfest, Friendship Day, Parent/Child Engagement Activities, End of Year Celebration, and Monthly Parent Meetings - - Activities meet PFCE and SR goals

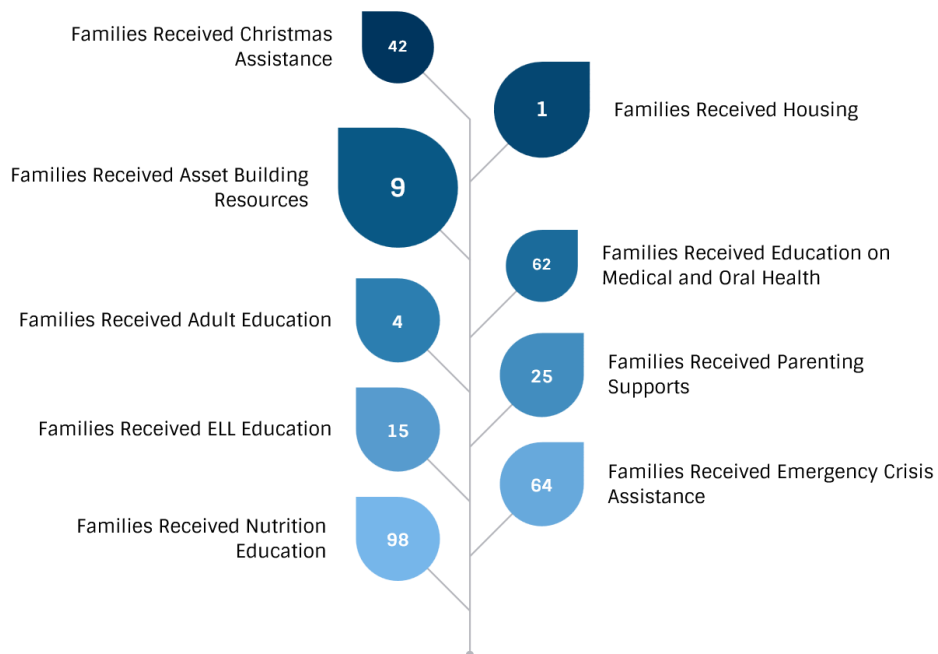


Community Partners

KidsReady Catawba
Iredell County Safe Kids
Startown Veterinary Hospital
Sleep in Heavenly Peace
Newton-Conover Public Schools
Morganton Children's Developmental Service Agency
Iredell County Partnership for Young Children
Concord Children's Developmental Services Agency
Catawba County Partnership for Children
Success Institute Charter School

Langtree Charter Academy
Highways and Hedges
Smile Starters
Catawba County Schools
American Renaissance School
Iredell-Statesville Schools
Mooresville Graded Schools
Pharaoh's Parenting
Hickory City Schools
Pine Lake Preparatory School

Family Services



86% Average Monthly Funded Enrollment



177 Dental Exams Completed
172 Medical Exams Completed



61,770 Meals Served



Head Start/Early Head Start Family Data



60 Two Parent Families

112 Single Parent Families

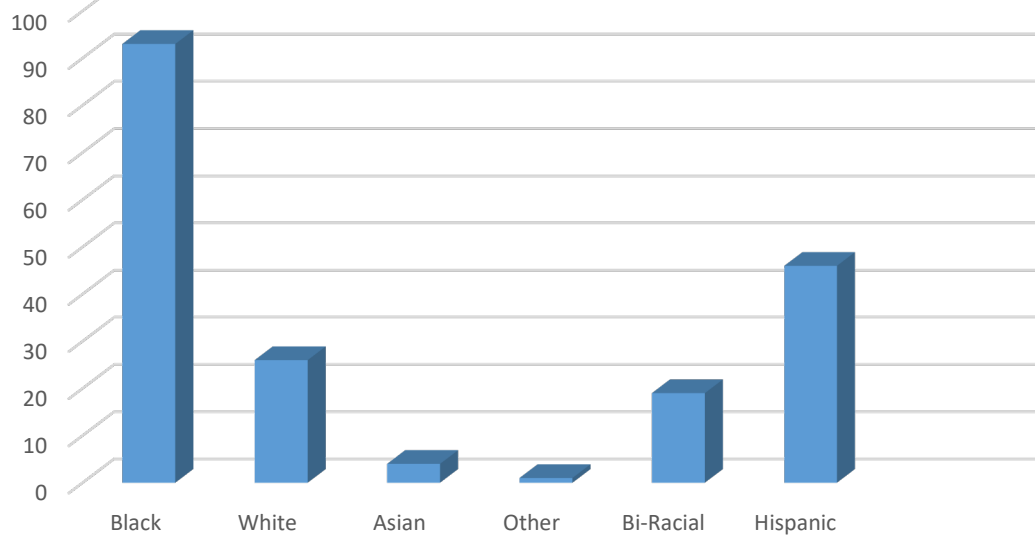
0 Other Family Types

15 Homeless Families

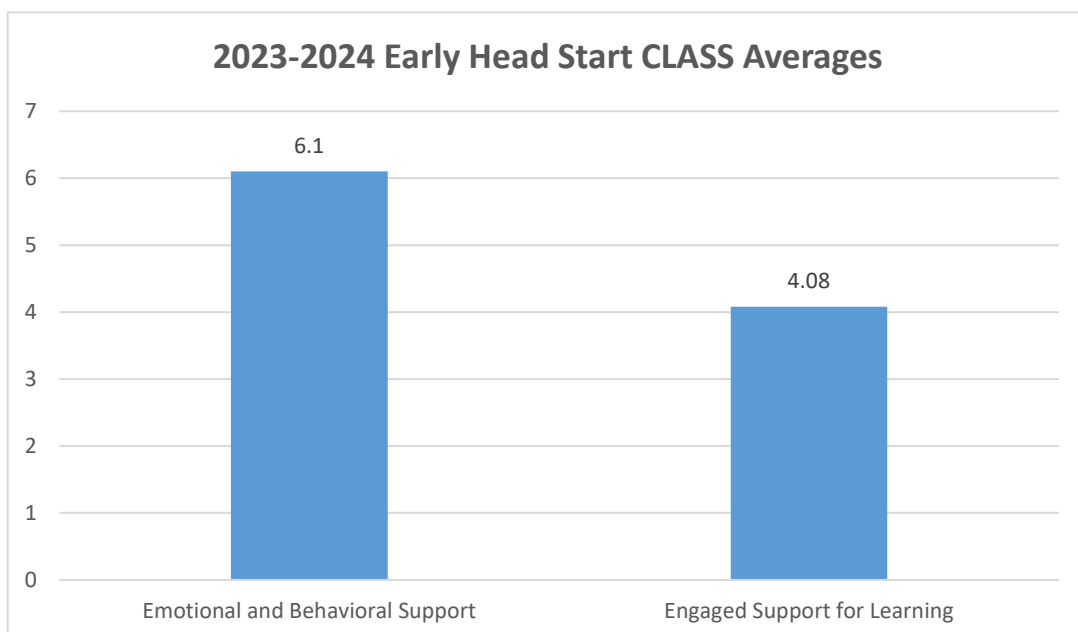
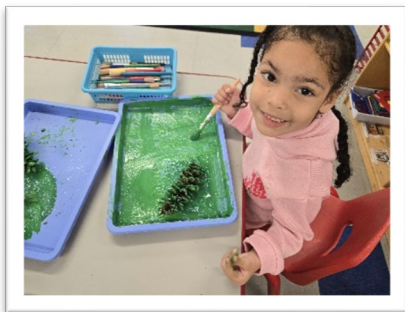
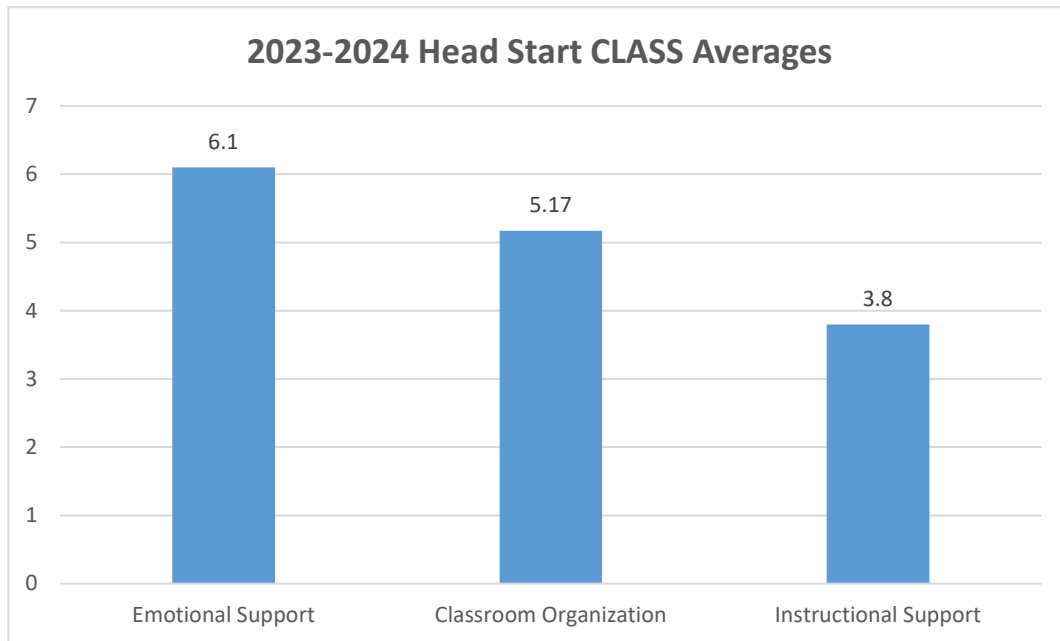
3 Foster Care Families



Child Ethnic Data



Classroom Assessment Scoring System



Disabilities



9 Non-Categorical/Developmental Delay

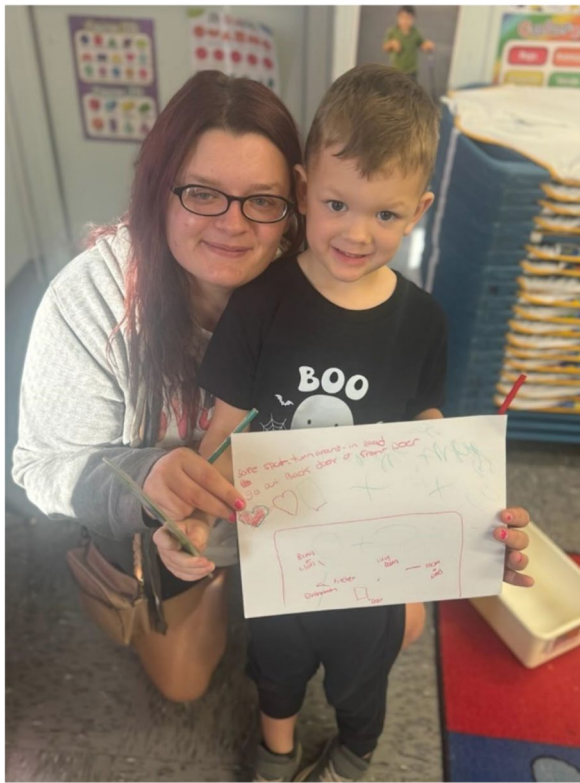
12 Speech or Language Impairments

1 Autism

3 Specific Learning Disability

2 Individualized Family Service Plans

Transition Activities



Healthy Alternatives for Little Ones (HALO)

Early Head Start Transition Packets

Kindergarten Tours

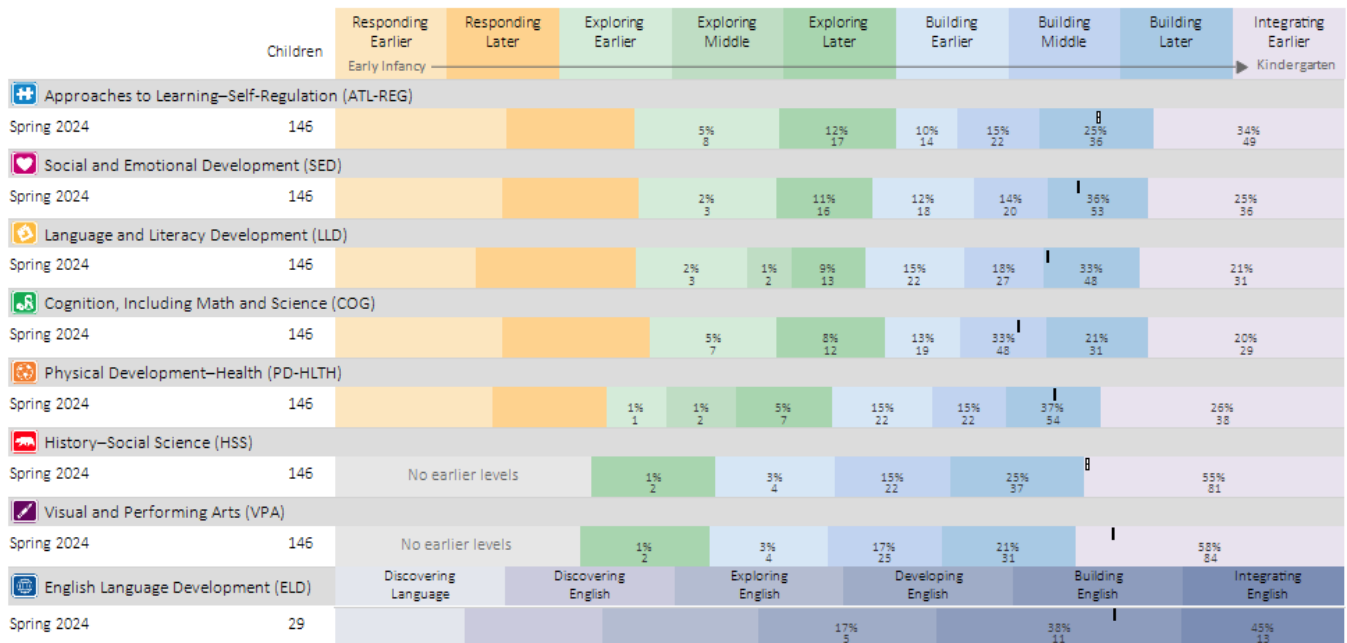
Kindergarten Here I Come Resources

Letting the Learning Continue Through the Summer Calendar Packets

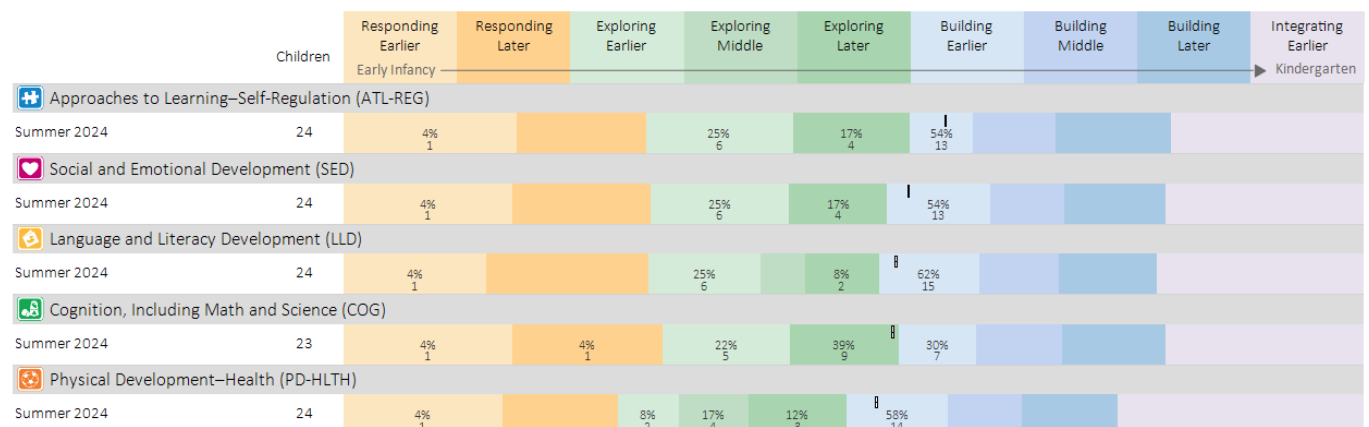
12-Weeks of Parent/Child Engagement Activities



Head Start 2023-2024 School Readiness Data



Head Start 2023-2024 School Readiness Data



✦ Rising Together: Real Stories of Progress and Possibility

Community Action Agencies (CAAs) play a vital role in helping local communities thrive. By addressing the root causes of poverty and providing targeted support—such as workforce training, early childhood education, housing assistance, and energy efficiency upgrades—CAAs help individuals and families overcome barriers and build lasting stability. These local agencies are not only safety nets but also springboards for opportunity, fueling economic mobility and strengthening the fabric of our communities.

Head Start provides parents with the opportunity to work, attend school, and pursue entrepreneurial goals by offering reliable childcare and early childhood education.

◆ **Patrice Sawyer:** From Head Start Parent to Business Owner

As a single mother of six, Patrice Sawyer couldn't work due to a lack of childcare—until she enrolled her child in Early Head Start. With reliable care in place, she began working as a cook for I-CARE, Inc. and soon launched her own catering business, Love's Country Kitchen & Catering. Head Start gave her the stability and time to pursue employment, map out her goals, and build a path toward homeownership. Today, Patrice is self-employed, saving for a home, and proving that with support and opportunity, dreams can become reality.

◆ **Davis-Lewis Family:** Business Growth and Father Engagement

The Davis-Lewis family joined Head Start while running a small ice cream truck business. Their FPA goal was to increase revenue — and they did, thanks to I-CARE's support, community outreach, and encouragement. They hosted parties and community events like the Apple Festival. Ms. Davis attended 6 parent meetings; Mr. Lewis attended 8 center events and a Male Engagement Conference. "I want to be a role model for other fathers," he said. Their business has grown, and Mr. Lewis found employment, all while staying engaged in their child's education.

◆ **Ranika & Roger:** A Family Built on Love and Stability

Ranika and Roger began their journey living with Ranika's mother. With I-CARE's support and financial coaching, they paid off their car and bought a home in November 2023 — just before welcoming their second child. They attended 7 of 9 parent meetings, volunteered at events, and Roger even took out trash daily for the classroom. He received a certificate of appreciation at his daughter's Moving Up Ceremony. "I-CARE gave us stability when we needed it most," Ranika said.

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funding enables Community Action Agencies to support individuals and families in building the skills and resources necessary to secure employment or advance to better-paying jobs.

◆ **Santario White:** A Teen Leader with Purpose

At just 14, Santario White joined I-CARE's Summer Youth Program, which offers skill-building and mentorship to youth aged 14–15. Stationed at the Statesville Fitness Center, Santario helped answer phones, supported the summer camp, and quickly became a natural leader among younger kids. "I've learned responsibility, how to talk to people, and I really enjoy meeting new people," he said.

H. Patton, the facility supervisor, praised Santario's charisma and influence: "Kids feel more comfortable talking to him than adults. They look up to him." Through weekly workshops on soft skills, leadership, and financial literacy, Santario gained tools that will benefit him for life. After completing the program, he was named in a student spotlight for his character and athletic success. His story proves the power of youth investment.

◆ **Lugabriela Pineda:** From Part-Time Cook to Dental Assistant

Lugabriela, a single mom of two working at Culver's, aspired to build a stable career. Fluent in Spanish, she saw a future in dental assisting, but financial barriers stood in the way. Through the CSBG program, she received support for tuition, books, and exam costs. "I didn't have the money to pay for dental school," she said, "but thanks to this program, I was able to make it happen." In May 2024, she was hired as a Dental Assistant at Tin Duy Lam DDS. Her benefits from Food and Nutrition Services dropped from \$496 to \$41, marking a leap toward self-sufficiency. "Helping someone get their smile back is fulfilling," she said, glowing with pride.

◆ **Philip Davis:** Turning Setbacks into Momentum

Philip, a justice-involved individual, struggled to find work and hope. He joined the CSBG program in October 2023 with one goal: get a Class A CDL and find employment. With support from CSBG, he enrolled in training at Davidson-Davie Community College. He also attended monthly job-readiness and financial literacy workshops that helped rebuild his confidence. By December 2023, he passed his exam and was hired by Schneider Trucking. "I got my confidence back," he said. "Now I can financially provide for my family and see the US in the process." Philip's story exemplifies redemption through opportunity.

The **Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)** works! With funding from the Department of Energy and LIHEAP, families receive critical home repairs that improve safety, enhance energy efficiency, and reduce heating and cooling costs."

◆ **Kay McCullough:** Safe, Efficient, and At Peace

Living on a fixed income, Kay's home was deteriorating: outdated wiring, poor insulation, and a broken HVAC system. "It seemed like everything was falling apart," she said. Thanks to WAP, her home was upgraded with new electrical systems, a modern HVAC unit, air sealing, and insulation. "I no longer worry about seasonal temperatures," she shared. "The upgrades brought me peace of mind." Her story shows that comfort and safety are life-changing when you've been living in fear.

◆ **Ronald Bishop:** No More Drafts, No More Worry

After hearing about WAP through a friend, Ronald contacted I-CARE. His home had severe air leaks and an unreliable HVAC system. WAP installed a new HVAC, performed air sealing, and completed insulation upgrades. "The house feels more stable and comfortable year-round," he said. "My utility bill is less, and the savings have been a huge relief." Ronald's experience shows how improving a home's energy efficiency transforms daily life.

Community Action Agencies leverage local and state resources to provide comprehensive, wraparound support that help hard-working families achieve their goals and build long-term stability.

Urgent Repair Program – funded by N.C. Housing Finance Agency

◆ **William Stevenson:** Roof Overhead, Burden Lifted

William, a 60-year-old disabled resident, had been living under a collapsing roof for eight years. "I had to put buckets down to catch the water," he recalled. After seeing a URP23 flyer, he applied and was approved for a full roof replacement. In April 2024, I-CARE replaced his roof, including 10 OSB sheets, 8 fascia boards, and new GAF shingles. "God sent these angels to me," he said emotionally. "They gave me a blessing of a brand-new roof." William now lives in a dry, safe home and feels deep gratitude for I-CARE.

Recent Media Coverage (attached)

- Iredell Free News (July 13, 2025): 'I-CARE summer work program provides students with job training, life skills' – Highlights the structured youth employment program and its impact on 10 local students.
- Iredell Free News (June 8, 2025): 'I-CARE urgent repair program helps low-income residents stay in their homes' – Features stories of residents whose roofs were replaced through the URP program.

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