



2021-22 ANNUAL REPORT



1415 Shelton Avenue
Statesville, NC 28677
www.icare-inc.org

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ABOUT US

I-CARE, Inc., a non-profit Community Action Agency, has been serving low-income communities since 1965. We play a crucial role in positively impacting communities by addressing various social and economic challenges. Our primary goal is to alleviate poverty and promote self-sufficiency among disadvantaged individuals and families. I-CARE contributes to positive community development in various ways including:

1. **Poverty Alleviation:** I-CARE provide essential services to help low-income individuals and families meet their basic needs and reduce poverty levels.
2. **Employment and Job Training:** We offer job training, education, and employment assistance programs to help individuals acquire new skills, find employment, and improve their financial stability.
3. **Early Childhood Education:** I-CARE operates Head Start and Early Head Start programs, providing quality early childhood education to low-income children, which helps improve school readiness and lifelong educational outcomes.
4. **Affordable Housing:** I-CARE leverages relationships with local partners to address housing insecurity issues.
5. **Financial Literacy and Budgeting:** We provide financial education and counseling to help individuals and families manage their finances, reduce debt, and save for the future.
6. **Energy Assistance:** We administer energy assistance programs to help low-income households with utility bills and weatherization services, making homes more energy-efficient and reducing energy costs.
7. **Community Development:** I-CARE participates in community revitalization projects, economic development initiatives, and neighborhood improvement efforts to enhance the overall quality of life in the community.
8. **Food Assistance:** We leverage relationships to address hunger and food insecurity.
9. **Advocacy:** We advocate for policies and initiatives that benefit low-income and vulnerable populations, working to address systemic issues that perpetuate poverty.
10. **Civic Engagement and Community Building:** I-CARE promotes community engagement, volunteerism, and social cohesion to build stronger, more resilient neighborhoods.

Our impact varies depending on our specific programs, funding, and community needs. However, the objective of our work is to empower individuals and families to overcome poverty and achieve self-sufficiency, ultimately improving the well-being of the entire community.



TO OUR STAKEHOLDERS

Dear Friends and Supporters of I-CARE,

I am delighted to present to you our Annual Report, which highlights the incredible work and impact of I-CARE, Inc. in our 2021-22 fiscal year. It is with immense gratitude that we reflect on the progress we've made in fulfilling our mission to strengthen our community and improve the lives of those we serve in Iredell, Catawba, Alexander, and Lincoln counties.



The past year brought unprecedented challenges, but it also showcased the unwavering dedication and resilience of our team, as well as the remarkable support from our partners and community members. We served 525 individuals coming from 496 households. Of these, 182 were children 0-5 years of age. Bolstered by the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act) funding, we also served 188 individuals in the 25-44 year old age range. 193 (39%) of the individuals we served were living in extreme poverty with household income less than 50% of federal poverty guidelines. I-CARE, Inc. remained steadfast in our commitment to addressing the diverse needs of our community, and together, we made significant strides in key areas:

1. **Nutrition and Food/Meals:** We continued to provide essential food support to those facing food insecurity, especially during the pandemic. Our food assistance efforts reached 457 families, ensuring that our families had access to food. These included nutrition classes, gift cards for food purchases, prepared meals, and food distribution efforts (e.g., food boxes/bags).
2. **Housing Stability:** We worked tirelessly to prevent homelessness and provide housing solutions for families facing eviction. Our CARES-funded emergency assistance efforts offered a lifeline to 167 households in need, creating stable and safe living environments through emergency rent and mortgage assistance. We also assisted 113 families with emergency utility payments using CARES funding.
3. **Economic Empowerment:** We facilitated job training and employment support, empowering individuals to attain financial independence and self-sufficiency. We

assisted 53 individuals with vocational training and placed 4 individuals in direct on-the-job training and work experiences. 40 individuals completed job readiness training. Our career counseling and job search activities with 36 individuals also played a crucial role in empowering them to attain employment and their future economic independence.

4. **Health and Wellness:** We continued to prioritize the health and well-being of the families we assisted, offering information on healthcare access, mental health resources, and promoting healthy lifestyle choices. 156 children received dental screenings/exams as a part of promoting overall health.

This annual report not only showcases our accomplishments but also underscores the importance of your support. Your contributions, whether financial or through volunteerism, have been the backbone of our success. I want to express our heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you who believes in our mission and has helped us make a meaningful difference in the lives of our neighbors.

Looking forward, I-CARE, Inc. remains committed to innovation and excellence in our services. We are dedicated to forging partnerships that enhance our ability to serve and meet the evolving needs of our community. Together, we can continue to make a positive impact in Iredell, Catawba, Alexander, and Lincoln counties.

I encourage you to explore this annual report to gain a deeper insight into our accomplishments and the stories of those we have touched. As we move forward, we do so with a profound sense of purpose, guided by our mission and the knowledge that our work has the power to transform lives.

Thank you for being an essential part of I-CARE, Inc.'s journey. Your support is the catalyst that drives our success, and we are excited to embark on this next chapter with your continued partnership.

Bryan Duncan
Executive Director

MISSION

THE MISSION OF I-CARE, INC. IS TO EMPOWER AND ASSIST INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES WITH LOW INCOMES TO ATTAIN SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE, MOTIVATION, AND OPPORTUNITIES TO BECOME SELF-SUFFICIENT AND INDEPENDENT AS WELL AS TO REVITALIZE THEIR COMMUNITIES.

VISION

OUR COMMUNITIES FOSTER A SENSE OF HOPE AND PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL TO DREAM, PLAN, AND SUCCEED.

VALUES

INTEGRITY
COMPASSION
DIVERSITY
HONESTY
EXCELLENCE

GOVERNANCE

(2021-22 BOARD OF DIRECTORS)

PUBLIC SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES

Michelle Edwards
Carolyn Gray
Heather Griffin
Michael Ratchford
Yvette Smith
Melissa Wike



PRIVATE SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES

Jacobi Gray
Holly Hamiter
Donna Hogue
Jake Lowman
Herbert Vanegas
Louis Weeks

LOW INCOME REPRESENTATIVES

Liliana Jimenez
Rev. John McDonald, Jr.
Cheryl Millsaps
Scotty Moore
Tom Wiberg
Tonya Zsarmani

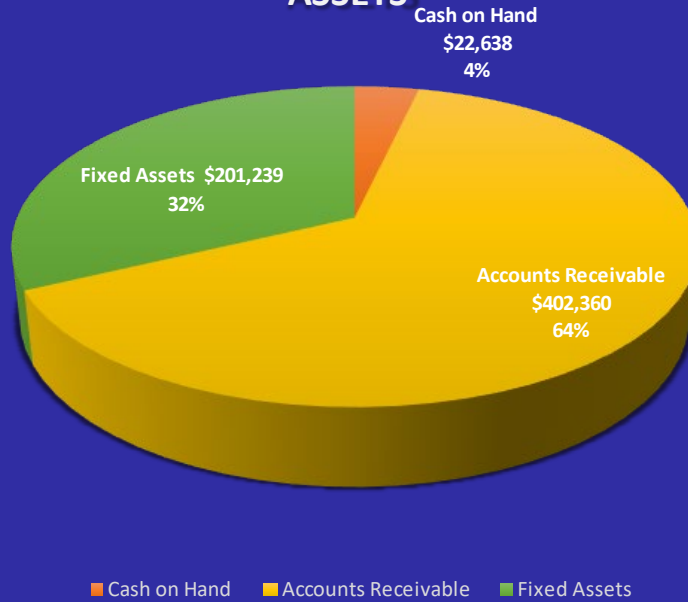
FINANCIAL INFORMATION

ICARE, INC.				
As of April 30, 2022				
Statement of Financial Position				
	ASSETS:			
	Cash on Hand		\$	22,638
	Accounts Receivable		\$	402,360
	Fixed Assets		\$	201,239
	Total Assets		\$	626,237
	LIABILITIES & EQUITY:			
	Current Liabilities		\$	378,614
	Equity		\$	247,623
	Total Liabilities & Equity		\$	626,237
	NET ASSETS:		\$	-
GRANT AWARDED				
Grant Period	Grant Awarded	Award Amount	Type of Funding Source	
5/1/2021 - 4/30/2022	Head Start *Non-Federal Match Excluded	\$ 2,148,871	Federal - Restricted	
5/1/2021 - 4/30/2022	Early Head Start *Non-Federal Match Excluded	\$ 693,261	Federal - Restricted	
5/1/2021 - 4/30/2022	Head Start & Early Head Start Cost-Of-Living-Adjustment and Quality Improvement (*Non-Federal Match Not Required)	\$ 34,184	Federal - Restricted	
4/1/2021 - 3/31/2023	Head Start & Early Head Start Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Acct (CRRSA) (*Non-Federal Match Not Required)	\$ 70,728	Federal - Restricted	
4/1/2021 - 3/31/2023	Head Start & Early Head Start American Rescue Plan (ARP) (*Non-Federal Match Not Required)	\$ 281,178	Federal - Restricted	
10/1/2021 - 9/30/2022	United States Department of Agriculture-CACFP	\$ 295,432	Federal - Restricted	
10/1/2021 - 9/30/2022	NC DSS FNS Employment & Training	\$ 2,700	Federal - Pass-through Restricted	
7/1/2021 - 6/30/2022	Community Services Block Grant - Iredell	\$ 226,139	Federal - Pass-through Restricted	
7/1/2021 - 6/30/2022	Community Services Block Grant - Alexander	\$ 62,898	Federal - Pass-through Restricted	
6/1/2020 - 9/30/2022	NC CSBG CARES	\$ 503,725	Federal - Pass-through Restricted	
7/1/2021 - 6/30/2022	Weatherization - DOE	\$ 243,005	Federal - Pass-through Restricted	
7/1/2021 - 6/30/2022	Weatherization - LIHEAP	\$ 180,992	Federal - Pass-through Restricted	
7/1/2021 - 6/30/2022	Weatherization - HARRP (Heating Appliance Repair & Replacement Program)	\$ 123,334	Federal - Pass-through Restricted	
7/1/2021 - 6/30/2022	United Way of Iredell County	\$ 12,000	Non-Federal - Unrestricted	
10/1/2021 - 12/31/2022	Duke Energy Helping Home Fund	\$ 36,000	Non-Federal - Unrestricted	
N/A	Duke Energy Weatherization Rebate Fund	\$ -	Non-Federal - Unrestricted	
7/1/2020 - 12/31/2022	BlueCross,BlueShield Healthy Home Initiative	\$ 62,510	Non-Federal - Unrestricted	
6/1/2021 - 5/31/2022	Iredell County Community Foundation	\$ 12,000	Non-Federal - Unrestricted	
Total Grant Awards		\$	4,988,957	
(Award amounts are based on grant's funding year)				

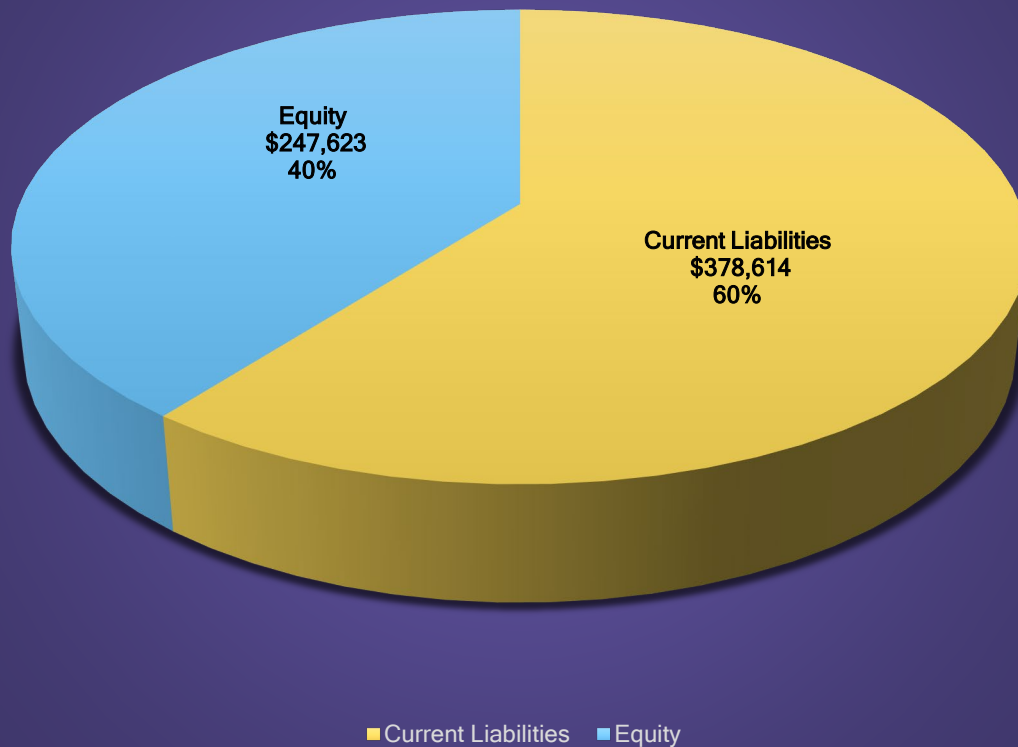
HEAD START ACTUALS

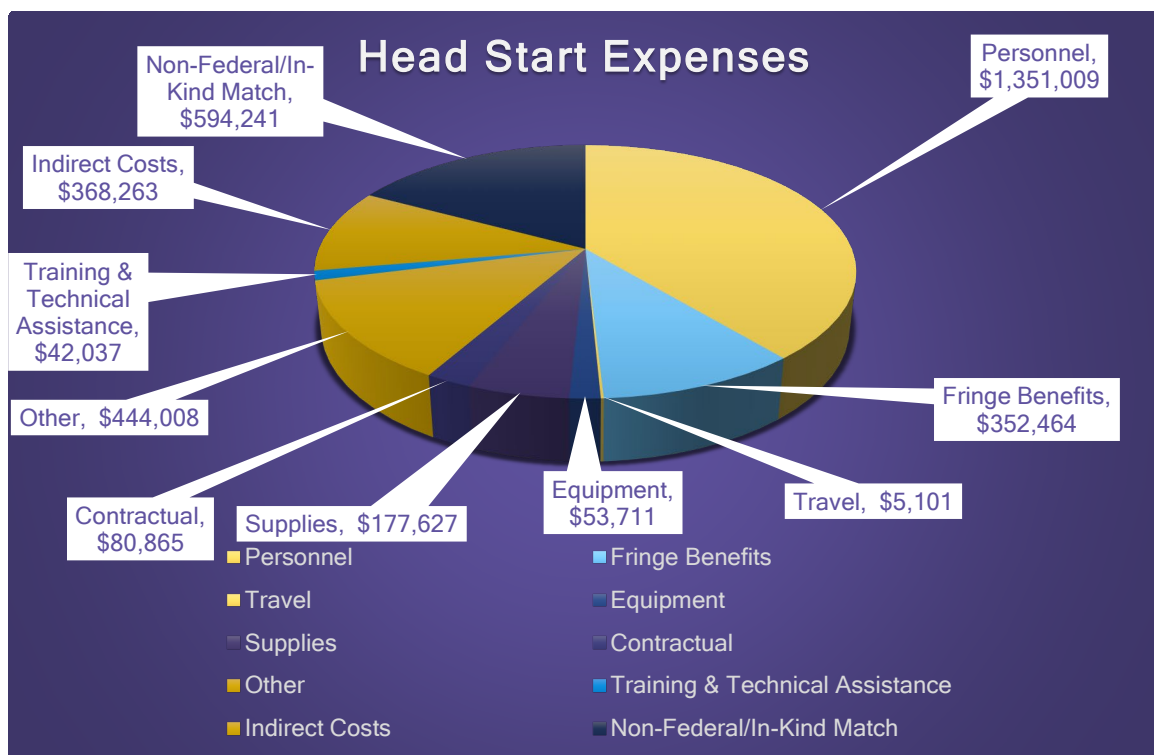
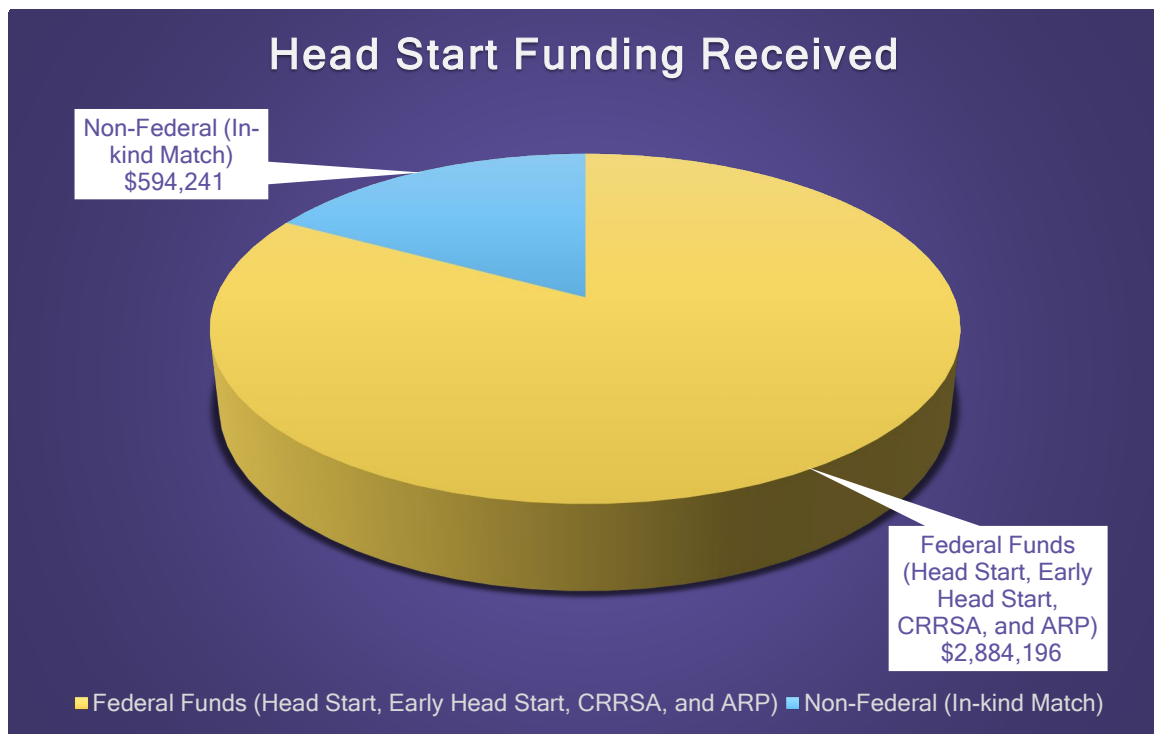
HEAD START				
As of April 30, 2022				
Statement of Activities (Actuals)				
	REVENUE			
	Federal Funds (Head Start, Early Head Start, CRRSA, and ARP)		\$	2,884,196
	Non-Federal (In-kind Match)		\$	594,241
	TOTAL REVENUE		\$	3,478,437
	EXPENDITURES			
	Personnel		\$	1,351,009
	Fringe Benefits		\$	352,464
	Travel		\$	5,101
	Equipment		\$	53,711
	Supplies		\$	177,627
	Contractual		\$	80,865
	Other		\$	444,008
	Training & Technical Assistance		\$	42,037
	Indirect Costs		\$	368,263
	Non-Federal/In-Kind Match		\$	594,241
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES		\$	3,469,325
	Remaining funds related to CRRSA and ARP which were expensed in the following program year by their grant end period of March 2023		\$	9,112

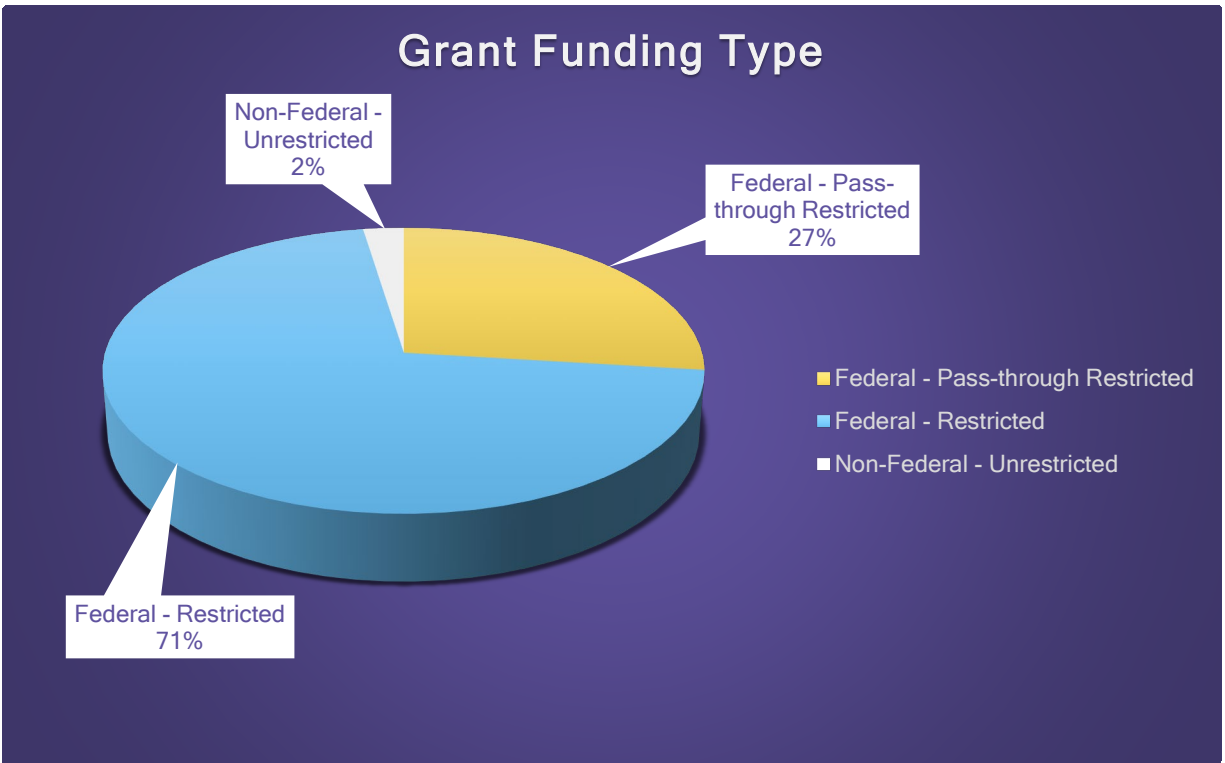
ASSETS



Liabilites & Equity







INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Bernard Robinson & Company, L.L. P.

Auditor's Report

ICARE, INC.
Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs
Year Ended April 30, 2022

Items required to be reported under 2 CFR section 200.515(d):

Section I - Summary of Auditor's Results

Financial Statements

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| (i) Type of auditor's report issued: | Unmodified |
| (ii) Internal control over financial reporting: | |
| (a) Material weakness(es) identified? | _____ yes <u>X</u> no |
| (b) Significant deficiency(ies) identified? | _____ yes <u>X</u> none reported |
| (iii) Noncompliance material to financial statements noted? | _____ yes <u>X</u> no |

Federal Awards

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| (i) Internal control over major programs: | |
| (a) Material weakness(es) identified? | _____ yes <u>X</u> no |
| (b) Significant deficiency(ies) identified? | _____ yes <u>X</u> none reported |
| (ii) Type of auditor's report issued on compliance for major programs: | Unmodified |
| (iii) Any audit findings disclosed that are required to be reported in accordance with 2 CFR section 200.516(a)? | _____ yes <u>X</u> no |
| (iv) Identification of major programs: | |
| <u>CFDA Number(s)</u> | <u>Name of Federal Program</u> |
| 93.600 | Head Start Cluster |
| (v) Dollar threshold used to distinguish between type A and type B programs: | 750,000 |
| (vi) Auditee qualified as low-risk auditee? | <u>X</u> yes _____ no |

Section II - Findings relating to the financial statements which are required to be reported in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards:

A. Deficiencies in Internal Control

None reported

B. Compliance Findings

None reported

Section III - Findings and questioned costs relating to the major programs which are required to be reported as defined by the Uniform Guidance [2 CFR 200.516(a)]:

Findings and Questioned Costs

None reported

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Our Children's Services department includes Head Start and Early Head Start programs that operate in Iredell and Catawba counties.

Staff Professional Development

NC DCDEE Moodle Training
Active Supervision
Shared Governance Training
Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS)
ERSEA
Circle of Security Parenting Curriculum
Rules and Regulations 101 for the Classroom
Developmentally Appropriate Practice for Infants and Toddlers
Maintaining Quality in the ITERS Classroom
Building Social and Emotional Development Outdoors

I-CARE, Inc. provides over 55 hours of professional development and training to Head Start staff and parents. These trainings are approved



Family/Child Engagement Activities

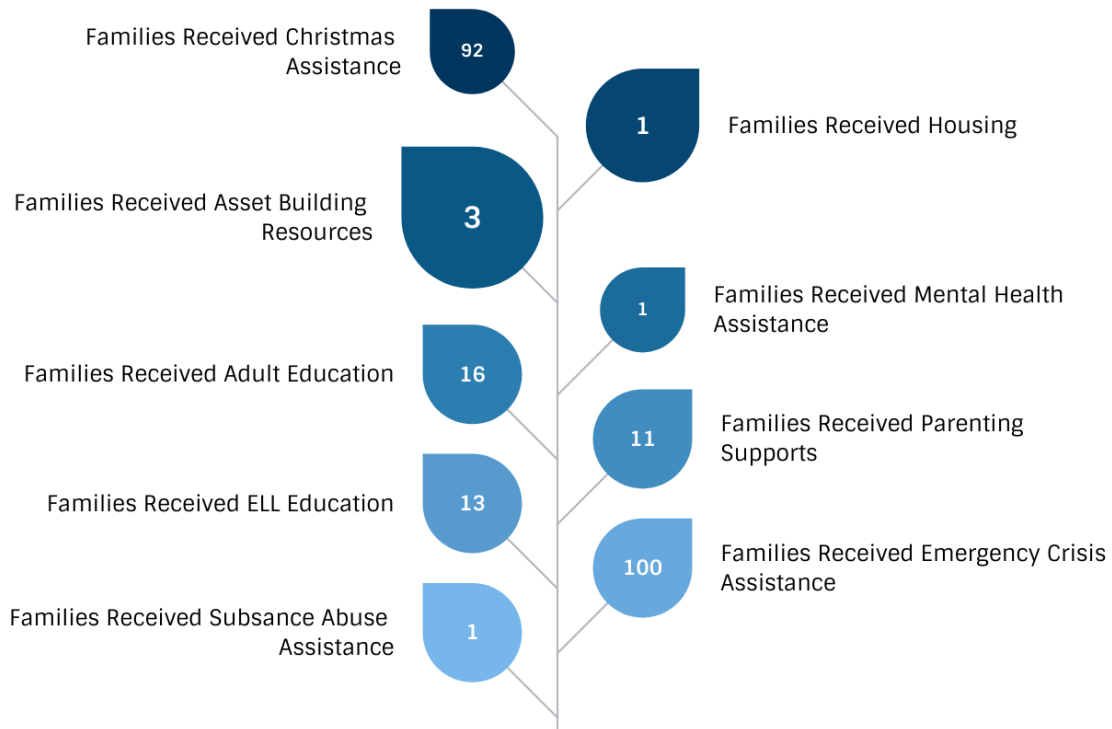
Parents invited into the classroom via Zoom Links on Tuesdays and Thursdays, Mondays with Moms, Grandparents Day, Fatherhood Fridays, Rainbow Tea, Spring Fling, Cinco de Mayo, Fall Feat, Family Reading Night, Monthly Reading Logs, Winterfest, Friendship Day, Parent/Child Engagement Activities, End of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

Activities meet PFCE and SR goals

Community Partners

5 Local Education Agencies
 Iredell Christian Ministries
 Smart Start
 RPM Wood Finishes
 Centro Latino
 Latina Nails
 Food Diversity
 Trinity Reformed Church of Christ
 Sleep in Heavenly Peace
 More than Enough Ministries
 Superior Barbershop
 Flips Barbershop

Family Services



94.26% Average Monthly
Funded Enrollment

(No Slot Went Vacant More

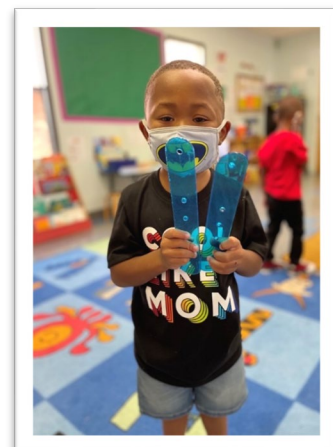


131 Dental Exams Completed

164 Medical Exams Completed



23,326 Meals Served



Family Data



76 Two Parent Families

142 Single Parent Families

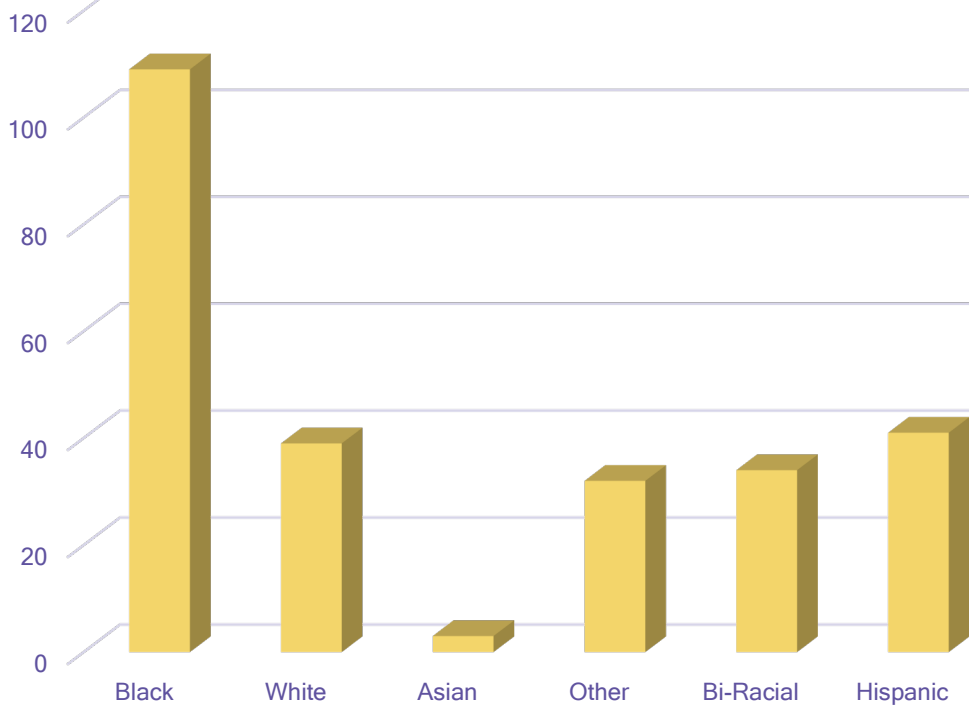
7 Other Family Types

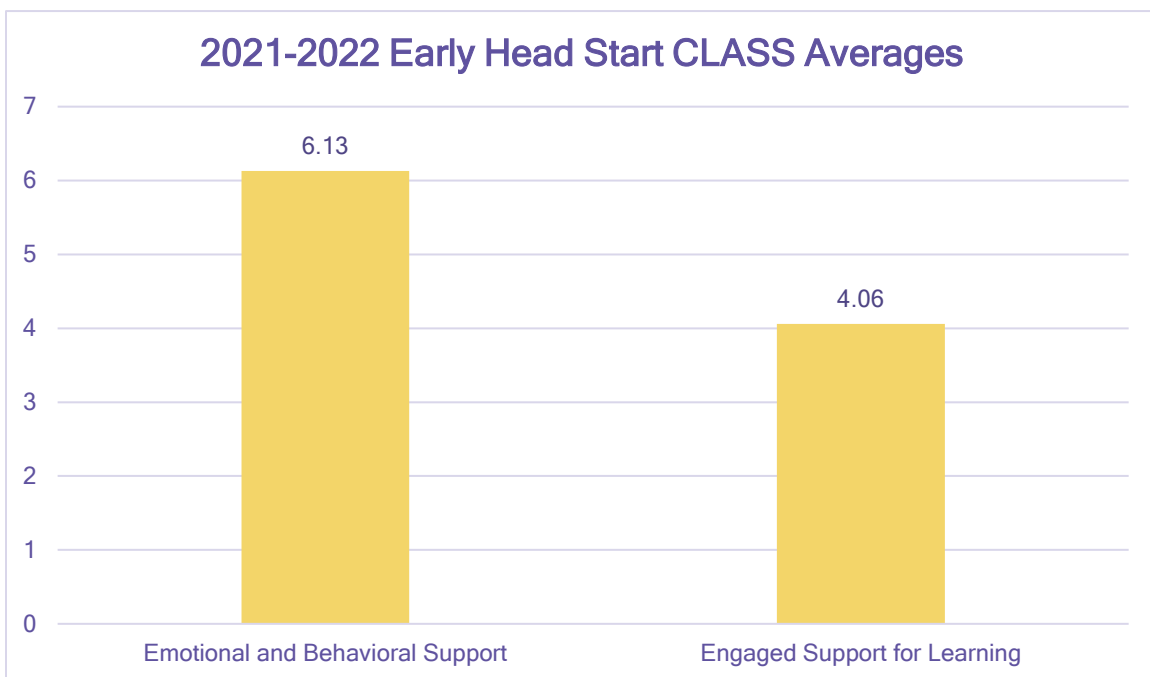
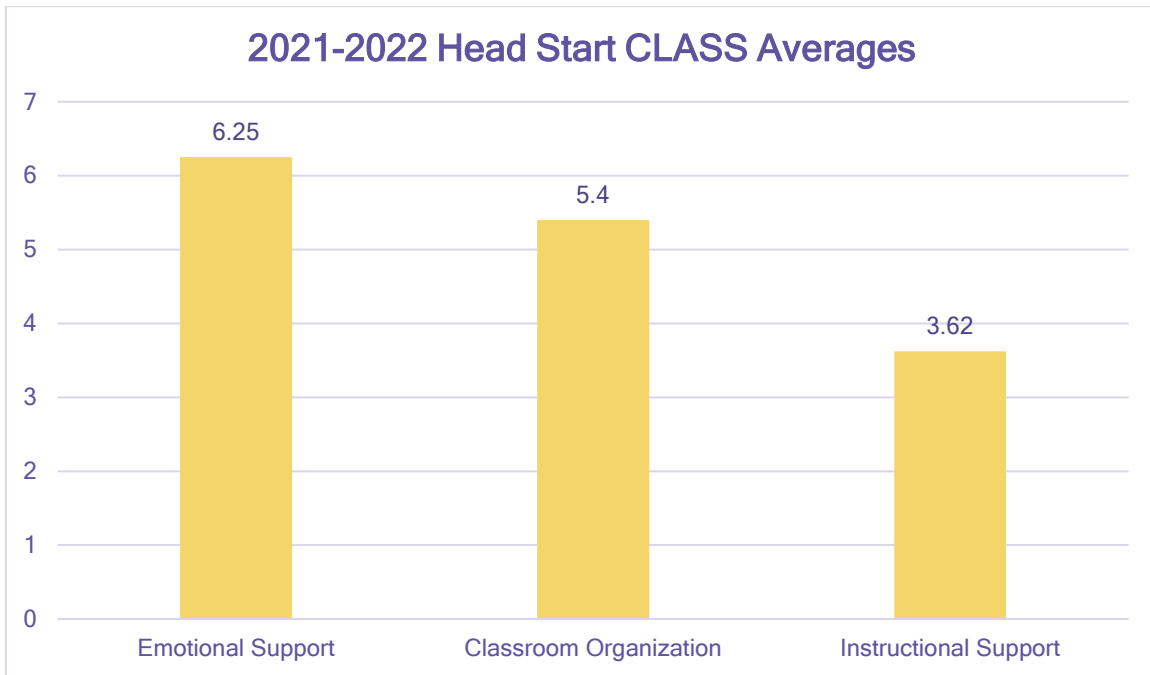
34 Homeless Families

3 Foster Care Families



Child Ethnic Data



CLASS

DISABILITIES



5 Non-Categorical/Developmental Delay
13 Speech or Language Impairments

TRANSITION ACTIVITIES

Healthy Alternatives for Little Ones (HALO)

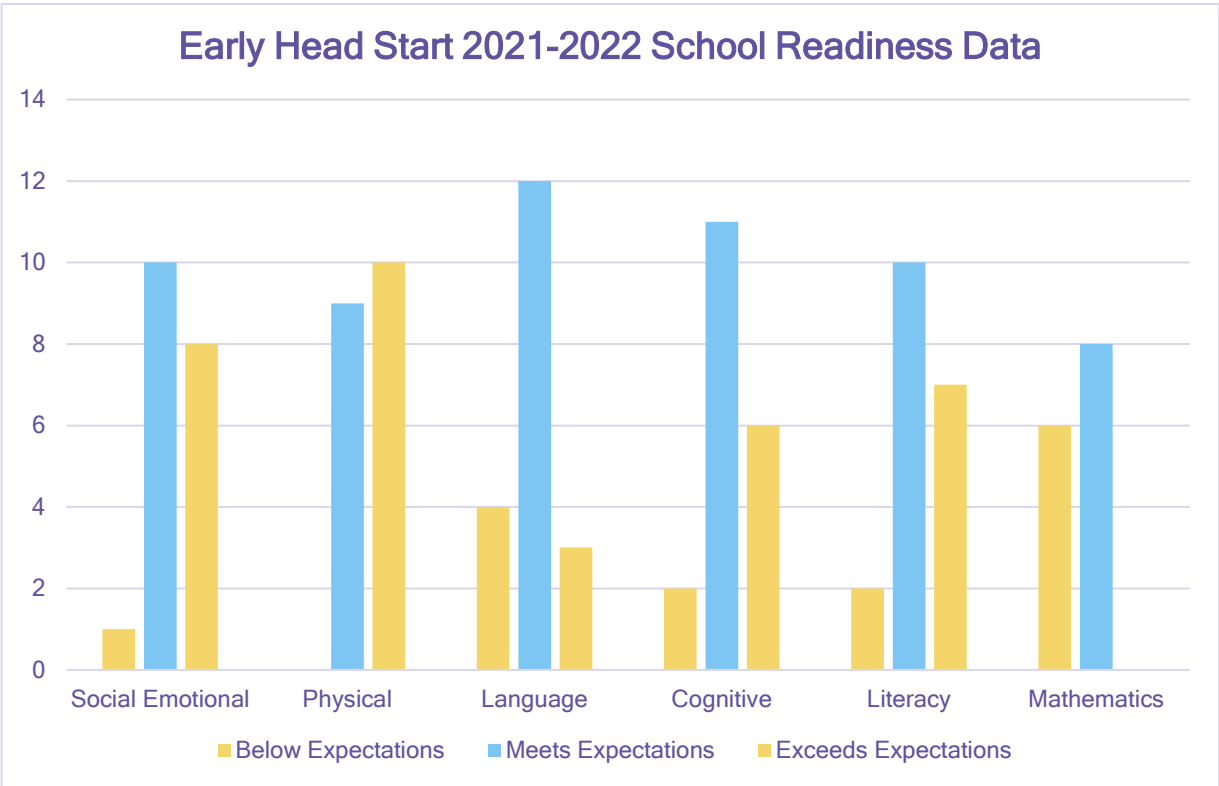
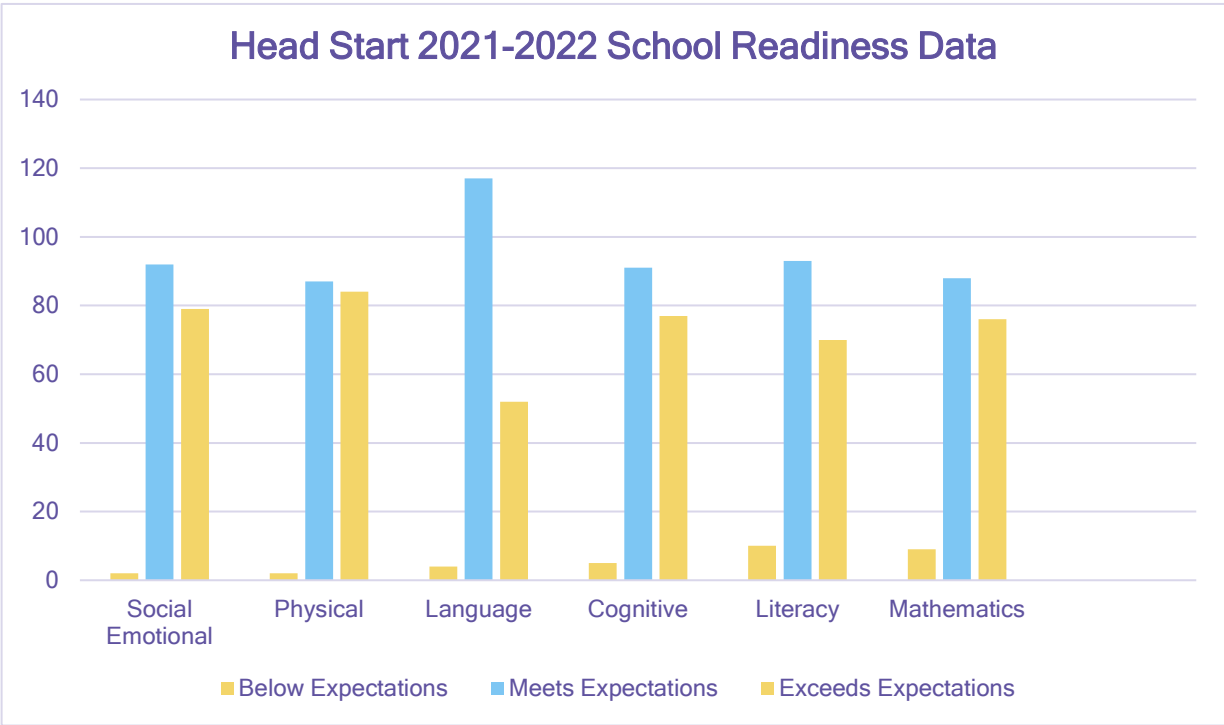
Virtual Learning Early Head Start Transition Packets

Kindergarten Here I Come Resources & Calendar

Summer Send Off Calendar & Parent/Child Engagement Activities



SCHOOL READINESS





FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

<u>2021-22 outcomes</u>	<u>Standard CSBG Funding</u>	<u>CARES Funding*</u>
# of families served	127	564
# of families rising above (125% of) the poverty level	17	0
Avg. change in annual income per participant family	\$19,401.48	\$8,723.75
# of participant families obtaining employment	24	9
# of participant families obtaining better employment	8	2
# of participant families obtaining jobs with medical benefits	23	9
Participant average wage rate	\$15.30	\$12.28
# of participant families completing education/training programs	34	23
# of participant families securing standard housing	1	0
# of participant families provided emergency assistance	27	199
# of participant families provided employment supports	22	3
# of participant families provided education supports	35	15

***CARES funding was utilized primarily for emergency assistance to help stabilize families during the pandemic**

ENERGY EFFICIENCY SERVICES

Weatherization Assistance Program

Dwelling Unit Production	WAP	HARRP
a. Owner Occ. Single Family	14	9
b. Renter Occ. Single Family	0	0
c. Renter Occ. Multi-Family	0	0
d. Owner Occ. Mobile Home	6	4
e. Renter Occ. Mobile Home	0	0
f. Total Units to Date	20	13
g. Average Sq. Ft. of Completed Units	1,221	1,026

People Assisted	WAP	HARRP
a. Total Assisted	37	16
b. Elderly (60+)	10	7
c. Disabled	2	0
d. Native American	0	0
e. Children Under 3 Years	0	0
f. Children 3yrs. to 5yrs.	0	0
g. Children 6yrs. to 17yrs.	9	3
h. Adults 18yrs. to 59yrs.	16	6

Energy Burden	WAP	HARRP
a. Energy Burden 10% to 14%	2	0
b. Energy Burden 15% to 21%	1	0
c. Energy Burden 22% to 29%	0	0
d. Energy Burden 30% and over	1	12
e. High Energy Burden	2	12
f. Average Annual Energy Expenditure	542	2,844

Health & Safety	WAP	HARRP
a. Units	20	0
b. Expenditures	494	0

Unit Production By Agency, County	WAP	HARRP
IREDELL	15	10
LINCOLN	5	3

Heating Source	WAP	HARRP
a. Natural Gas	4	4
b. Oil	0	0
c. Electric	15	9
d. Propane	1	0

Heating Source	WAP	HARRP
a. Natural Gas	4	4
b. Oil	0	0
c. Electric	15	9
d. Propane	1	0

Annual Household Income	WAP	HARRP
a. 0 to 75% of poverty	3	12
b. 76% to 100% of poverty	6	0
c. 101% to 125% of poverty	4	0
d. 126% to 150% of poverty	1	0
e. 151% to 175% of poverty	2	0
f. 176% to 200% of poverty	4	0
g. Above 200% of poverty - TANF family	0	0
h. Above 200% of poverty - SSI family	0	0
i. Above 200% of poverty - Other	0	0
j. Average Annual Income	19,692	2,131

Efficiency Data	WAP	HARRP
a. Average Material \$ Installed Per Unit	1,627	4,819
b. Average Cost Per Unit	1,627	4,819

Diagnostics	WAP	HARRP
a. Average Pre Blower Door Reading	2,875	
b. Average Post Blower Door Reading	2,263	
c. Average Infiltration Reduction	612	

Totals	WAP	HARRP
a. TOTAL UNITS	20	13
b. SQUARE FOOTAGE	24,418	13,343
c. MATERIAL COST	32,549	62,644
d. TOTAL COST OF UNITS COMPLETED	50,115	88,369
e. AVERAGE COST PER UNIT	2,506	6,798





BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD HEALTHY HOME INITIATIVE

SERVICES DELIVERED

- Safety Repair - Replaced non-working refrigerator
- Moisture-Mold Abatement - Treated for mold
- Interior Pest Control - Treated for major bed bug infestation
- Moisture-Mold Abatement - Replaced non-working bath fans and kitchen fan to remove moisture for mold and mildew avoidance
- Safety Repair - Built steps to ensure safe ingress into house, Safety Repair - Replaced old steps and added new steps for safe ingress to home
- Handicap Accessibility - Repaired weak flooring and replaced existing toilet with a handicap toilet due to wheelchair accessibility
- Safety Repair – Built handicap ramp
- Safety Repair - Replaced low voltage wiring and repaired ductwork damaged by animals
- Safety Repair - Replaced old leaking hot water tank





Community Services Block Grant

Tyeisha has experienced some tough times. But...things are really improving, thanks to I-CARE and their CSBG (Community Services Block Grant) funding and most importantly, the people behind it.

2020 and most of 2021 were difficult financially, as the COVID-19 pandemic began to have a significant impact on Tyeisha's employment. She was employed at the Hilton Garden Inn in member services and bartending. Travel slowed and so did her tips. "I was hopeful things would return to normal," said Tyeisha. As time passed, she continued to experience hardships with maintaining her household. A friend mentioned I-CARE helped people obtain certifications and employment. "I knew this was my opportunity," said Tyeisha. "I wanted to get my Commercial Driver's License Class A to gain stable employment".

With the guidance and assistance of I-CARE CSBG funding and staff, Tyeisha was able to enroll in CDL training at Trans Tech CDL School in Newton, North Carolina. Tyeisha stated, "the training was tough and that her family was motivation to successfully complete".

Tyeisha received assistance with job search and utilized a referral to gain employment with Kaanan Transportation Service in January 2022, for over-the-road (OTR) transit. Unfortunately, the OTR routes presented challenges within her family, and she was forced to leave the job. After a couple weeks of searching, Tyeisha was offered a driving position with The Blood Connection, Inc. in February 2022. "I'm glad everything worked out so I can take care of my family". "I plan to cross-train in Phlebotomy for additional wages", said Tyeisha.

"April and Mr. Moore have been in my corner since the beginning. I couldn't have done it without them."

D'Nai possesses several characteristics that lead to success for many of us. "I've never been comfortable with letting my past define who I am", D'Nai said. "I know what I want, and I'm determined to provide a good quality of life for my family", but it wasn't always that easy.

D'Nai grew up in Mooresville and graduated from Mooresville High School in June of 2008. Life roles and responsibilities soon shifted as her family size changed to 3. D'Nai stated, "I had to do something to improve my situation". Seeking an opportunity to provide for her family, she pursued a career in healthcare and became a Certified Nursing Assistant. However, the physical and emotional challenges were an issue. D'Nai stated "the demands of the work didn't match the pay". She struggled to maintain monthly expenses. She wanted a change and was ready to transition to another career in the medical field.

D'Nai developed an interest in dentistry and contacted Lake Norman Dentist School for training. After learning the tuition cost was too expensive, she was referred to I-CARE, Inc. for possible assistance through their CSBG (Community Services Block Grant) funding. "I didn't know about I-CARE, but I called and spoke with Ms. Cindi (Bacon). D'Nai completed the enrollment process in June 2021 and eventually received tuition assistance to cover the remaining balance. She set goals for education and employment to become self-sufficient. She also participated in other activities that included budgeting and soft skills. D'Nai received Dental Assistant certification in October of 2021 and began receiving assistance with job search. "I went on lots of interviews, but it was hard to find work because I had no experience, said D'Nai". Despite the frustration and becoming exhausting, the process finally paid off in February 2022 when she received a job offer from an endodontist in Mooresville.

D'Nai said, "I'm happy with my job and income to provide for my family". "Every day is different, and I still get to interact with people and I love that." "You have to make up your mind to do better". "You need the proper mindset because things will not just fall into place. But...you can make your dreams come true."

Weatherization Assistance Program

Sunday,
October 17,
2021

I-Care put new insulation in my home and weather strips around my doors. They also installed two "split" units and a bathroom exhaust fan. This all took place within a six - eight month period of this year.

Each crew that came was mindful of being safe, courteous, respectful and professional.

I have noticed an almost half decrease in my power bill, which is a blessing!

I want to say "Thank You" to all in the biggest way!

Yours truly,
Barbara L. Hancock

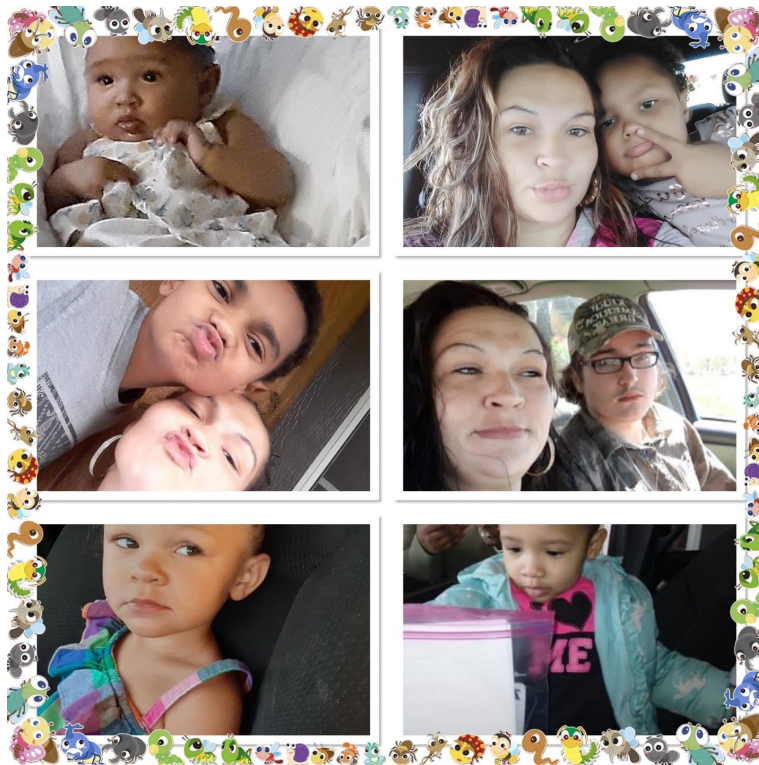
Head Start

Octavia

Octavia is a single mother of 7 children, 5 of whom reside with her. They live in a local hotel after coming to North Carolina from Florida. The I-CARE, Inc. Head Start / Early Head Start program has a current Community Partnership Agreement with the local hotel, and through that partnership Octavia was referred to the Head Start / Early Head Start program.

Octavia receives disability for she and her autistic child.

Octavia desired to receive childcare for her children who were too young to enroll into the public school system so that they could increase their social skills and begin their educational journey. She also had a goal of going back to school, but she was uncertain as to which educational path she wanted to take. Her barriers to accomplishing her goals were the lack of childcare, motivation, finances, and support.



The I-CARE Head Start / Early Head Start program accepted three of her children into the program. After being assigned a Family Advocate, Octavia was able to prioritize her responsibilities and develop a plan to accomplish her goals. Staff members within the program were able to assist her with motivation by helping her to identify her strengths

through the difficult times and experiences that she was enduring. This allowed her to feel supported.

Since becoming enrolled into the program, Octavia has received assistance with clothing for her enrolled children, resources to receive clothing at little to no cost for her eldest children, assistance with gas to ensure that she was able to transport her children to and from school and travel to needed appointments, referrals for Christmas assistance (which was followed through with and received), a referral for the I-CARE, Inc. CSBG program to receive assistance with becoming a certified phlebotomist, a referral to receive diapers and pull-ups at no cost (which was received), aid in making one of her children fully potty trained, and, as reported by Octavia, all enrolled children have obtained an increase in their social-emotional skills. Most importantly, she was able to find a home for her and her family.

The I-CARE, Inc. Head Start / Early Head Start program continues to motivate and assist their family to ensure that as Octavia continues her growth, she becomes an inspiration to her children and other mothers who are striving to make better lives for themselves while facing extreme barriers. Despite the many challenges Octavia has faced from being homeless, lacking transportation, not having childcare, and being emotionally exhausted, she has been able to overcome many of her obstacles and begin building a brighter future for her family while moving towards self-sufficiency and independence.

Chantae

Chantae heard about I-CARE Inc.'s Head Start program from her mother. Chantae has four children, ages 5, 3, 2, and 1. Two of her children have attended Head Start. When Chantae enrolled her oldest in the Head Start program, she was classified as homeless by the McKinney Vento Act as she and her children were staying with her mother. Chantae was also not working due to childcare issues. Chantae was eventually able to move out and secure her own housing for her and her children with their father. Her first goal was to find employment and get on a schedule with her children. She found full time employment working as a Human Service Specialist. Her next goal was to save money to purchase a newer vehicle, which she was still working on when the family finished the school year. During her time in our program, Chantae successfully completed our Circle of Security parenting curriculum. She was always engaged and participated in each class. She and the children's father also attended multiple parent meetings. They were able to learn about the importance of a dental home, signs of

child abuse and neglect, and about developmentally appropriate activities they can do with their children during the summer months. We were able to provide gift cards to help offset the rising cost of fuel so they could continue to bring their children to the program. We provided a car seat check to ensure all the children's seats were properly installed. We also educated Chantae on proper installation of the car seats.

When asked for feedback on the I-CARE Head Start program, Chantae said "Head Start has allowed me to get back to work. I was able to find and afford a home of our own. We are a family again and I am forever grateful. I truly appreciate all of the staff and all they have done for me and my family."

Head Start Parent



This Head Start family includes a mother and 4 children, one of whom has autism. In the beginning of the program year, the family's goal was to purchase a home. However, the mother was experiencing some barriers finding one that met the requirements of the loan agreement. The mother was frustrated with the process, but she still had the motivation to push for her goal of gaining housing for her family.

In the beginning of the school year, the family was experiencing stress and the mother was lashing out on staff members. Head Start staff worked with her on effective communication and encouraged her to be polite as we all may be going through things. Afterwards, she became very respectful to staff and more engaged with her child's teachers. She also completed the Circle of Security Parenting Program. After completing the course, she expressed that she truly felt it was beneficial to her and her family. She regularly participated in our monthly Parent Meetings. This mother also actively participated in our Economic Mobility Program which assisted her with achieving her goal of home ownership.

Not only did this single mother achieve her goal for obtaining housing for her family, but she also grew in other aspects of her life. She grew a hunger to set goals for herself to achieve.

By the end of the program, she wanted to further her education and gain employment due to all of her children going to school. She shared that I-CARE Head Start staff aided in her being able to not only achieve her goals, but to continue to create new ones. Because she did not have to pay childcare fees, she was able to save money to put towards getting her home. She also expressed her gratitude for being able to shop in our Head Start store to earn items that she could use in her home. She is very thankful that she enrolled her daughter into Head Start, not just for her child, but because of the personal growth that has motivated her to want to grow in other areas of her life as well.



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