

ANNUAL REPORT

2024



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LETTER FROM THE CEO



Dear Friends and Partners,

The 2023-2024 program year was a time of remarkable growth for Centro—both in the number of children and families we serve and in the strength of our programs. This year, we expanded into new communities, improved our systems, and deepened our commitment to high-quality services for children and families. We began the year with two major milestones. First, we successfully rolled out C-FIT, our custom-built data system, across our Region 8 programs, giving staff better tools to track and support child outcomes. Then, just as we completed our preservice training, we received the news that our San Luis Valley expansion was approved. By September, we were providing services to families in this new community.

Our Colorado Western Slope program demonstrated the power of adaptability and self-reflection. While child recruitment was strong, staffing shortages posed a challenge—one felt across the entire education field. Rather than seeing this as an enrollment issue, we focused on finding the right people, ensuring Centro was a good fit for them, and retaining staff through improved talent acquisition and employee satisfaction. By the end of the year, the results were clear: the Western Slope program reached full enrollment.



Beyond our existing service areas, Centro seized new opportunities to support families. In Montana, while administering the Food and Farm Worker Relief program, we discovered a critical gap—despite its agricultural workforce, the state had no Migrant and Seasonal Head Start programs. When expansion funding became available, we applied to open two centers, and in September 2024, we were approved to bring much-needed early childhood services to Montana families. We are now preparing to launch services in April 2025.

As we reflect on this year, one thing is clear: Centro is not just growing in size—we are growing in strength, innovation, and impact. Every challenge has been met with determination, every opportunity embraced with vision. As we look ahead, we remain committed to expanding access, improving quality, and ensuring that every child and family we serve has the foundation they need to thrive.

Thank you for being part of this journey. The best is yet to come.

Sincerely,

Gonzalo Palza
CEO and Head Start Director
Centro de la Familia de Utah

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joshua Lakin, CPA
Board President
Financial Expert

Silvia Norman
Board Secretary

P. Corper James
Board Member
Legal Expert

Teresa Newlan
Board Member
Early Childhood Expert

Sebastian de Freitas
Board Member

Gabriela Mena
Board Member

Nicole Salazar-Hall
Board Member

Mickael Sorensen
Board Member

Heather Harper
R8 Policy Council
Representative

Luz Molina
Migrant Policy Council
Representative



A photograph of three young children playing in a park. One child is standing and holding a yellow toy car, while two others are crouching on the ground. They are surrounded by large trees and a white lattice fence in the background.

COMPANY OVERVIEW

VISION

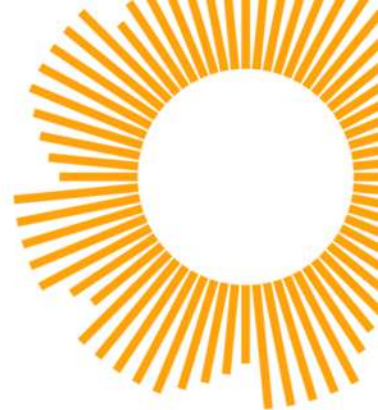
Educated, self-sustained, and empowered families shaping their future and strengthening vibrant communities where every child can thrive.

MISSION

Centro is dedicated to promoting educational success for children and families and fostering healthy and engaged communities.

HEAD START

PROGRAM INFORMATION



Centro de la Familia is committed to providing high-quality early childhood education and comprehensive support to children under five, pregnant women, and their families through the federally funded Head Start program. Our services promote school readiness, family well-being, and healthy child development.

Centro operates three Region 8 Head Start and Early Head Start programs, serving families in Colorado and Utah. Additionally, we provide Migrant and Seasonal Head Start (MSHS) services across Utah, Colorado, and Nevada through two separate grants—one specifically for Utah and a Multistate grant covering Colorado and Nevada. These programs support agricultural families by providing early learning and family services designed to meet their unique needs.

In 2024, Centro expanded its MSHS program to Montana, marking a significant milestone in our commitment to reaching more families in need. Services in Montana will begin in April 2025, further extending our impact and ensuring that more children and families have access to the resources and support they need to thrive.



Cumulative Enrollment

1,460



Families Served

1,240



Engaged Father
Figures

651



MIGRANT & SEASONAL HEAD START



Funded: 616
Enrolled: 663

107.6%

Total Child Enrollment



Funded: 28
Enrolled: 32

114.3%

Total Pregnant
Women Enrollment

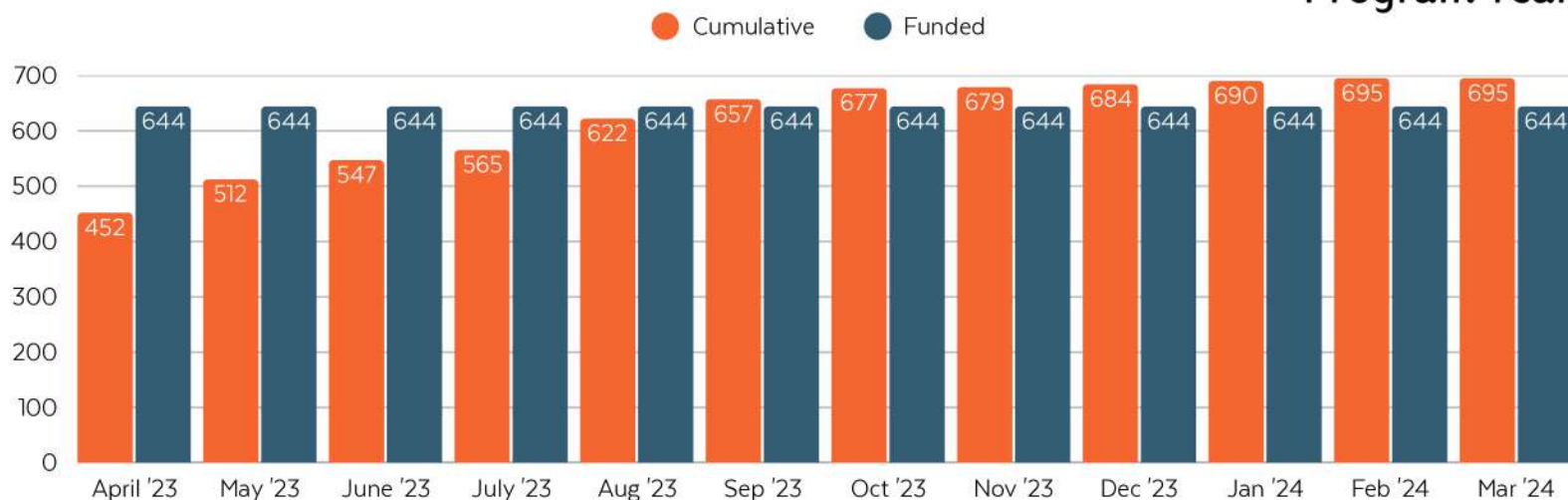


496

Total Families Served

Cumulative vs Funded Enrollment by Month

2023-2024
Program Year



80%

Enrolled children who
received a dental exam



91%

Enrolled children who
received a medical exam



93%

Enrolled children who have
a medical home



REGION VIII HEAD START



Funded: 618
Enrolled: 743

108%

Total Child Enrollment



Funded: 9
Enrolled: 22

244%

Total Pregnant
Women Enrollment

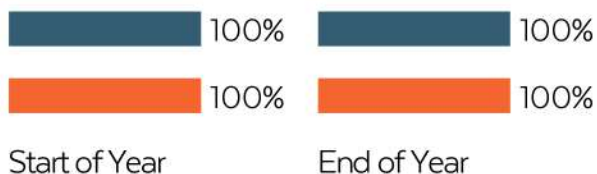


744

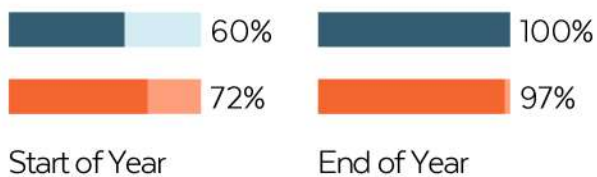
Total Families Served

Cumulative vs Funded Enrollment 2023-2024 Program Year

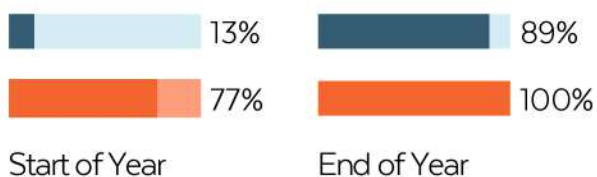
Utah



Colorado Western Slope



Colorado San Luis Valley



■ Early Head Start ■ Head Start

In the 2023-2024 school year, Centro's Region 8 program in Utah met full enrollment. However, our two Colorado programs faced challenges.

The Colorado Western Slope program started the year with a full enrollment plan but struggled due to a teacher shortage. With HR support, program managers improved recruiting and hiring, achieving full enrollment by year-end.

San Luis Valley launched Head Start, reaching full enrollment by month three. Centro also introduced Early Head Start, filling all available slots by month four. However, space constraints capped EHS enrollment at 89%. To address this, Centro is constructing a modular with two classrooms, which will bring EHS to full enrollment once filled.

As shown on the left, both Colorado programs made significant progress. We are proud of their achievements and look forward to reporting full enrollment next year.



72%

Enrolled children who
received a dental exam



81%

Enrolled children who
received a medical exam



83%

Enrolled children who have
a medical home

PARENT & SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT & READINESS

Partnering for Success

At Centro, we know that school readiness isn't just about what happens in the classroom—it's a partnership that includes parents, staff, and the entire community. Our time with a child is limited, but parents will be there for a lifetime. That's why we emphasize parent engagement as a key factor in preparing children for kindergarten and lifelong success.

From the moment families enroll, we focus on engaging them in their child's education and development. We help parents understand the developmental domains and track their child's progress, reinforcing that learning happens everywhere—at home, in the classroom, and in daily routines. Parents are encouraged to take on leadership roles in center committees and the Policy Council, fostering a support network and building advocacy skills that benefit their families long after they leave our program.

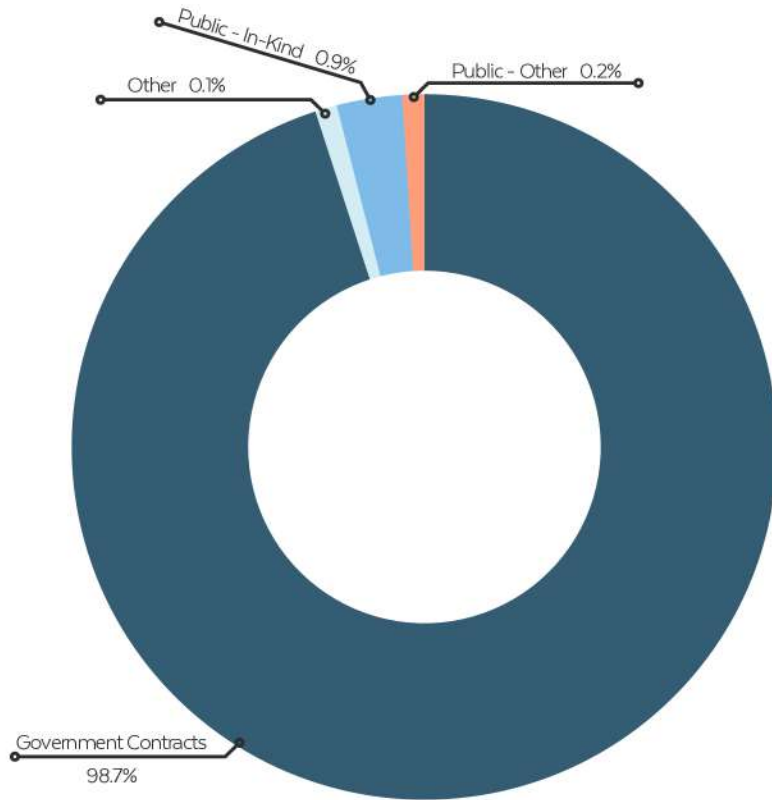
We support families in making value shifts that set their children up for success—prioritizing attendance, volunteering in classrooms, partnering with teachers, reading at home, completing learning activities, and knowing their rights and responsibilities in education. These habits strengthen parent-child relationships, reinforce learning at home, and lay the foundation for success in kindergarten and beyond.

School readiness is a shared responsibility. Centro has established School Readiness Goals for each developmental domain, ensuring a well-rounded approach. Our newly developed Child Outcomes Report tracks progress over time, allowing staff to quickly identify children who need extra support. This data sparks collaboration across all program areas to better serve both children and families.

Everyone Plays a Role in School Readiness

Centro's education team set a goal to improve language and literacy skills. To support this, all center staff will be encouraged to reinforce language development throughout the day. Bus drivers could use descriptive greetings like, "I love your yellow boots!" Cooks can spark conversations during meals, asking, "We're having green beans today—do you like green foods?" Teachers and Family Service Specialists will share simple strategies with parents to build literacy at home. By engaging staff and families in this effort, we expect to see significant gains in language and literacy outcomes.

FINANCIALS



REVENUES

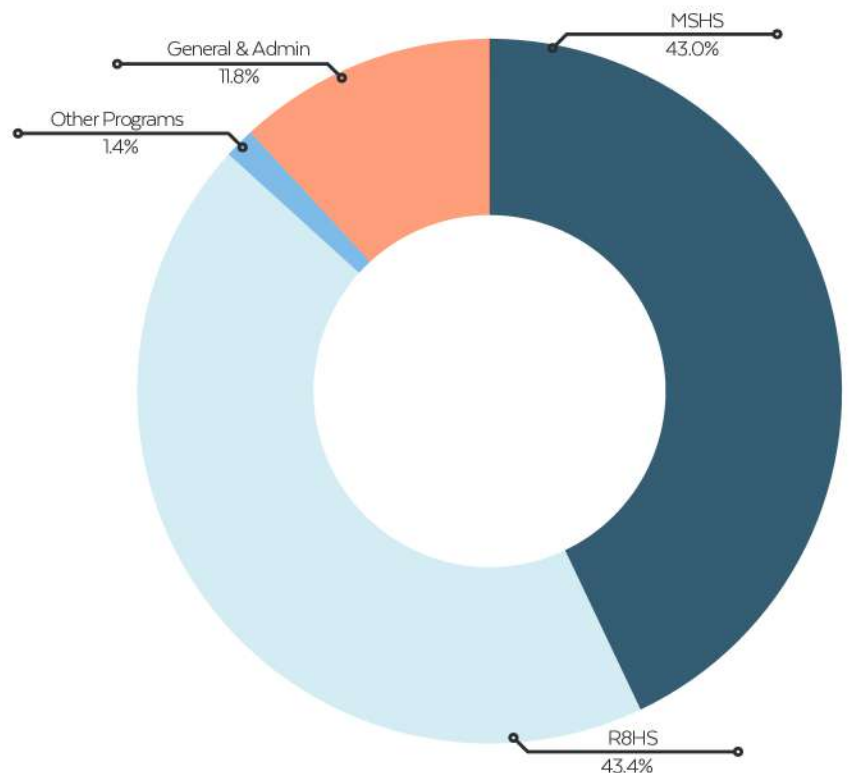
July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024

Government Contracts	28,228,442
Other	23,157
Public Support - In-Kind	271,262
Public Support - Other	63,460
Total Revenues	28,586,321

EXPENSES

July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024

MSHS Program	11,787,000
R8HS Program	12,012,487
Other Programs	384,462
General & Admin	3,251,112
Fundraising	5,158
Total Expenses	27,440,219



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Safe Dates

Helps teenagers acquire the skills to develop healthy relationships and prevent risky relationship behaviors.



Nuevo Dia

Serving ages 9-12. Promotes awareness and communication between youth and their parents.

Treasure Chest

Provides at-home activities for families with children experiencing developmental or speech delays.

Plazas Comunitarias

Provides Spanish speaking adults the opportunity to complete their elementary and middle school education.



LOCATIONS

UTAH

SALT LAKE UTAH

CENTRO HEADQUARTERS

525 South 300 West
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

SOUTH UTAH

GENOLA CENTER

352 E 800 S
Genola, UT 84655

NORTH UTAH

PROVIDENCE CENTER

1316 N Gateway Dr.
Providence, UT 84332

MT. PLEASANT CENTER

1150 S Blackhawk Blvd
Mt Pleasant, UT 84647

BOX ELDER CENTER

6980 N 2550 W
Honeyville, UT 84314

CENTERFIELD CENTER

270 E 300 N
Centerfield, UT 84622

CLINTON CENTER

844 North 2000 West
Clearfield, UT 84015

HOLDEN CENTER

5 North Main St
Holden, UT 84636



LOCATIONS

COLORADO

WESTERN SLOPE

COLORADO MAIN OFFICE
685 W Gunnison Ave, Ste. 111
Grand Junction, CO 81501

ECHO CANYON ACADEMY
3099 Patterson Rd.
Grand Junction, CO 81504

GATEWAY CANYON ACADEMY
3093 E 1/4 Road
Grand Junction, CO 81504

RED CANYON ACADEMY
2813 Patterson Rd
Grand Junction, CO 81506

RIVERSIDE HEAD START
648 W. Colorado Ave
Grand Junction, CO 81501

PARACHUTE HEAD START
101 W Battlement Pkwy
Parachute, CO 81635

RIFLE HEAD START
719 Garden Lane
Rifle, CO 81504

SAN LUIS VALLEY

ALAMOSA HEAD START
1560 W 12th St
Alamosa, Co 81101

CONEJOS HEAD START
6535 County Rd 12.9
Conejos, CO 81129

SANFORD HEAD START
390 Greenleaf St.
Sanford, CO 81151

MIGRANT HEAD START

GRAND JUNCTION MIGRANT HS
3093 E 1/4 Road
Grand Junction, CO 81504

OLATHE MIGRANT HS
290 Hap Ct.
Olathe, CO 81425

BRIGHTON MIGRANT HS
130 South Main St. Suite B
Brighton, CO 80601

GREELEY MIGRANT HS
6101 West 10th St.
Greeley, CO 80634

LOCATIONS

NEVADA & MONTANA

NEVADA

FALLON MIGRANT HS
531 Humboldt St.
Fallon, NV 89406

YERINGTON MIGRANT HS
311 Virginia St.
Yerington, NV 89447

WINNEMUCCA MIGRANT HS
1095 South Bridge Street,
Winnemucca, NV 89445

MONTANA

BILLINGS MIGRANT HS
1722 Lampman Dr
Billings MT 59102

BOZEMAN MIGRANT HS
Coming soon!



CONTACT US



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centroUT