

Centro de la Familia 2022-2023

# ANNUAL REPORT



**CENTRO**

Utah • Nevada • Colorado

# Table of Contents

<b>01</b>	About Us	<b>10</b>	Health Services
<b>02</b>	Letter from our CEO	<b>11</b>	Education Services
<b>04</b>	Board of Directors	<b>13</b>	Family Services
<b>05</b>	Parent Letters	<b>14</b>	Community Programs
<b>07</b>	Head Start	<b>15</b>	Fiscal Management
<b>08</b>	PIR Data	<b>16</b>	Service Areas
<b>09</b>	Mental Health Services	<b>19</b>	Thank You



# About Us

Centro de la Familia de Utah is a nonprofit organization that promotes healthy and engaged communities by advocating for children's educational success. Working with children and families since 1975, Centro has excelled at managing early outreach and educational programs among under-served communities in both urban and rural areas.

Today, Centro operates 23 Head Start centers and 4 childcare partnerships in Utah, Colorado, and Nevada. Additionally, Centro manages a portfolio of outcomes-based programs for elementary, middle, and high school students, and programs for adults that provide the tools and skills necessary for self-sufficiency.



1263 Kids  
served annually



700 children  
bused to centers



1053 parent  
volunteers





# Letter from the CEO

I am delighted to present to you our annual report for the fiscal year 2022-2023. As we reflect on the past year's challenges and look ahead to the opportunities that lie before us, I am filled with pride and gratitude for the incredible resilience of our employees and families and the progress we have made together as we leave the COVID years behind.

Some of the highlights of this year have undoubtedly been in the area of facilities with the opening of our new Head Start Center in Holden, Utah, a renovated small town historical site that served as the town's store for over 100 years, and the purchase of land in Gilcrest, Colorado, where Centro will consolidate its existing centers in northern Colorado. These new sites represent not only a significant investment in the communities we serve but also a reflection of our commitment to early childhood education and the well-being of families in rural areas.

In addition to our community-focused endeavors, we have also prioritized the post COVID well-being of our employees through the implementation of an Employee Assistance Program (EAP). Mental health is a critical aspect of overall well-being, and we recognize the importance of providing our employees with the support they need to navigate life's challenges. Our EAP offers free therapy sessions for employees and their families, ensuring that help is readily available when it is needed most. By investing in the mental health of our team, we are not only fostering a healthier workforce but also driving a sense of belonging and success for our employees in the agency.

# Letter from the CEO

Furthermore, I am pleased to announce the launch of two important initiatives. The implementation of the Pyramid Model in education and Centro's own data collection and reporting system, C-FIT (Child Focused Information Tracker). The Pyramid Model offers a timely, post COVID, research-based approach to supporting staff and families with social and emotional development and responding to children's challenging behaviors. C-FIT is Centro's comprehensive data management system designed by Head Start content area managers and users at all levels of the organization to track and monitor the delivery of quality services to children and families. C-FIT has successfully replaced outdated, traditional Head Start data systems providing efficient, beyond-compliance real-time tracking of Continuous Quality Improvement indicators in a data-driven culture within the organization.

I am immensely proud of what we have accomplished together, and I am grateful for the dedication and hard work of our employees, whose contributions have been instrumental to our success. As always, thank you to our parents for recognizing the value in our program for their children. Their extraordinary participation during the year is represented by over 200,000 volunteer hours of educational activities, at home with their children, a reported value of over \$5 Million of non-federal share contribution to our program.

Through these initiatives and accomplishments, we are laying the foundation for future generations to thrive, and I am confident that the impact of our efforts will be felt for years to come.

With warm regards,

**Gonzalo Palza**  
CEO / Head Start Director



# Board of Directors

## Joshua Lakin

President, Financial Expert

## Corper James

Legal Expert

## Silvia Norman

Secretary

## Karla Palmer

ECE Expert

## Sebastian de Freitas

Member

## Nicole Salazar Hill

Member

## Mikael Sorensen

Member

## Gabriela Mena

Member

## Jasmine Morales

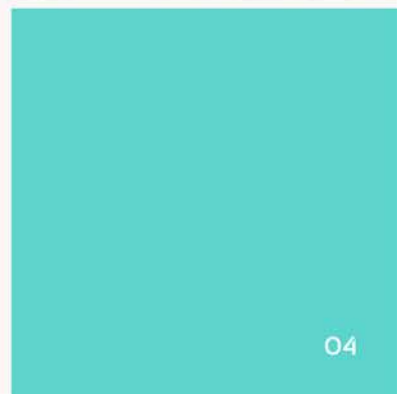
Region 12 Policy

Council Rep

## Alexa Chenoweth

Region 8 Policy

Council Rep



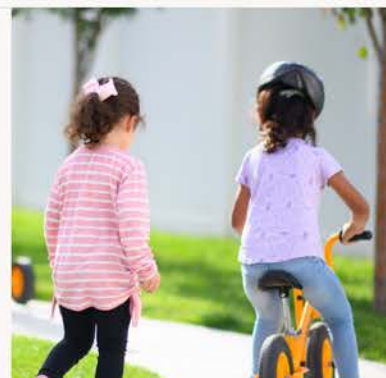


# Parent Letters

When I think of my children's education, I think of what Centro de la Familia - Honeyville has offered to my family. This service has had an enormous impact on my family. For starters, it has given my children early exposure to education. My two graduates from the center have shown excellent performance in their now kindergarten and first-grade classes. My youngest child has been able to exercise her social skills, which has helped a lot. She is a "pandemic" baby, and socializing wasn't a big thing in her early stages of life.

We have loved everything the center offers, from the bus transportation to the faculty and staff to the special events they host and informative resources that have helped ends meet on several occasions. We are thankful that this allows us to avoid an extra expense (child care), yet go to work every day knowing that our children are being cared for, educated, and fed. Our Family Service Specialist, Luz Rodriguez, has been a great advocate and guide through these years. I have participated as a parent committee president for a year to contribute a little to what this great program has given us.

Jasmine



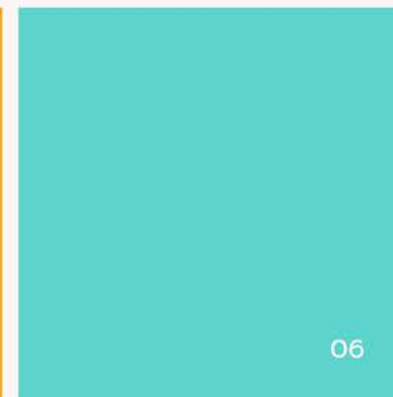
# Parent Letters

El curso Abriendo Puertas de Centro de la Familia se tocó puntos de mucha relevancia para el desarrollo de nuestros hijos, y sobre comportamiento de nosotros como padres hacia ellos. También me gustó que experimentamos lazos de amistad con las otras madres de los compañeros de mi hijo. Este curso brindó las herramientas para poder entender mejor el comportamiento de mi hijo.

Carolina

Quiero dar mi opinión acerca del curso que me otorgo centro de la familia. El curso nos brindó muchísima información de como tratar y controlar de manera respetuosa a nuestros niños. El programa nos ayudó a comprender cada etapa de los niños y sin duda todo fue bueno para ayudar o cambiar la forma de educación.

Carla





# Head Start

Head Start equips at-risk children with essential skills for success in school and life, benefiting kids, families, and communities. Since 1965, it has promoted school readiness among economically disadvantaged children through educational, health, nutrition, and social services.

Since 1991, Centro has delivered comprehensive Head Start services in Utah, addressing challenges faced by minority, immigrant, and low-income communities. Our high-quality services include full-day programs for children aged 6 weeks to 5 years, free for qualifying families, with bilingual English/Spanish classrooms. We provide daily meals, transportation services across Utah, Nevada, and select locations in Colorado, and employ qualified teaching staff with a nationally recognized curriculum. Annually, we serve about 1,263 children and 975 families.



# PIR Data



**888**

Families Served



**1107**

Children Served



**38**

Pregnant Women  
Served



**99%**

Of funded enrollment  
slots served



**85%**

Of children who received  
dental exams



**91%**

Average monthly  
enrollment

# Mental Health Services

Our commitment to mental health remains steadfast, encompassing support for children, families, and staff members alike. Through dedicated initiatives, we strive to foster a culture of well-being and resilience within our organization.

This year, we provided crucial mental health services to children. This included 142 sessions, alongside targeted interventions in substance misuse prevention (13 sessions). Additionally there were 190 sessions of parenting curriculum and 50 sessions of marriage/relationship support. We also received 395 requests for mental health support, demonstrating the growing need within our community.

Under the Family Parent-Infant Relationship program, we delivered a comprehensive range of services, including mental health support, substance misuse prevention, and parenting curriculum. This year, our efforts impacted 395 families, highlighting the depth of our commitment to familial well-being.

Recognizing the importance of staff well-being, we provided mental health support to 60 teachers, ensuring they are equipped to navigate personal and professional challenges effectively. We also launched a staff wellness initiative aimed at promoting mental and physical health among our workforce, underscoring our commitment to creating a supportive work environment.





# Health Services

The Fiscal Year for 2023 marked a season of remarkable reach for our health services. In the Grand Junction area of Colorado, Centro secured contracts with nurse consultants to better support children with medication needs. Additionally, centers in Utah and Nevada were recipients of revised menus that offer greater varieties of food components for the children served. Continued partnerships with Federally Qualified Community Health Centers and the University of Utah assisted with providing well-child exams for children in Utah. The above-mentioned initiatives are only a few examples of the work being done to support the health and nutrition of the children served every day by Centro.

As always, Centro's impact on the health of the community can be measured through the individual lives touched. Such was the case with Juan (name changed for confidentiality), a 2-year-old boy from Riverdale, Utah. Juan demonstrated significant problems with dental wellness, however, due to the economic state of the family and other unexpected hardships, Juan's mother thought the care for her child's teeth would need to be delayed. Sofia, the family service specialist for the Clinton, Utah area, tremendously impacted the family's life for good. Through a partnership with UnidosUS's Healthy and Ready for the Future program that is supported by Comic Relief USA, Juan was able to receive dental care that relieved pain and prevented further dental emergency diagnoses.



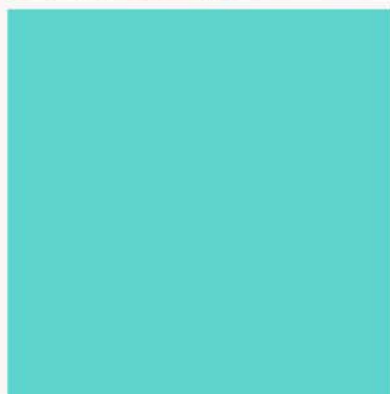
# Education Services

In a move towards fostering safe and nurturing environments for learning, Centro's Program Wide Behavior Expectations—"We are safe, helpful, gentle, and kind"—were selected, reflecting our collective values and aspirations. These expectations serve as guiding principles, not only shaping behavior but also cultivating a culture of respect, empathy, and inclusivity.

By implementing these expectations, Centro prioritizes the well-being and holistic development of every individual within our community. Students, staff, and visitors alike are encouraged to embody these core values, creating an atmosphere where everyone feels valued, supported, and empowered to thrive and learn.

A new Behavior Incident Report system was also implemented, which exemplifies our unwavering commitment to transparency, accountability, and ongoing enhancement in effectively addressing behavioral incidents.

These milestones collectively represent Centro's commitment to fostering a nurturing and inclusive educational environment, where every individual has the opportunity to succeed.

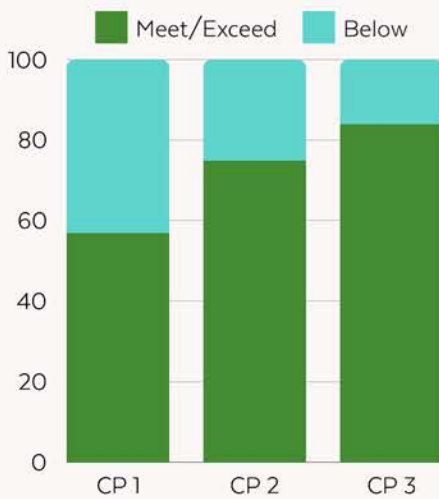




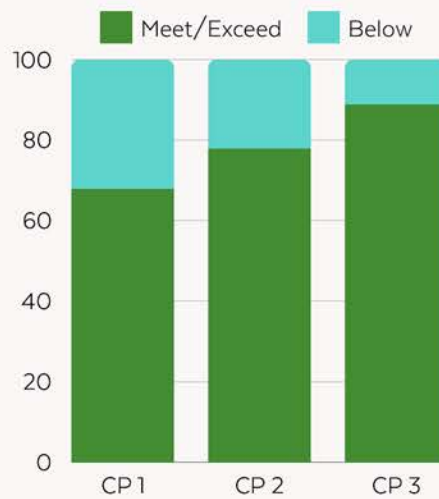
## Summary of Child Outcomes Analysis

Based on the agency-wide results from three checkpoints, children are making notable progress across all six measured domains. The domains that show the greatest progress are Social Emotional (27% increase), Language (24% increase), Cognitive (22% increase), and Physical (21% increase). Literacy and Math show moderate improvements at 10% and 13% respectively, suggesting potential areas for targeted intervention to further enhance outcomes. Centro's Education Managers and Education Specialists are collaborating with teachers to prioritize literacy and math improvement in the upcoming year.

### Social Emotional



### Physical



### Cognitive



### Language



### Literacy



### Math





# Family Services

During the year, 11 Family Service Specialists earned their Family Development Credentials. To accomplish this, the Family Service Specialists completed a 90-hour course and participated in advisement as they created portfolios that documented their work throughout the course.

The Family Service Specialists were also instrumental in the implementation of a 10-week course, *Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors*. This evidence-based curriculum empowers parents to become their child's best advocate in the world of education and in the community. Parents are taught about healthy habits and ways to implement learning in the home.

Centro also played an important role in advocating for policy change in Utah, which ultimately allowed children born in the US from non-US citizen parents to be eligible for childcare subsidies. This change benefited numerous families with mixed immigration statuses in the community. As a result, several families enrolled in the Early Head Start Childcare Partnership Program could apply for and receive childcare subsidies through the Childcare Assistance program.



# Community Programs

## PLAZAS COMUNITARIAS

Provides Spanish speaking adults the opportunity to complete their primary and secondary education.

## NUEVO DIA

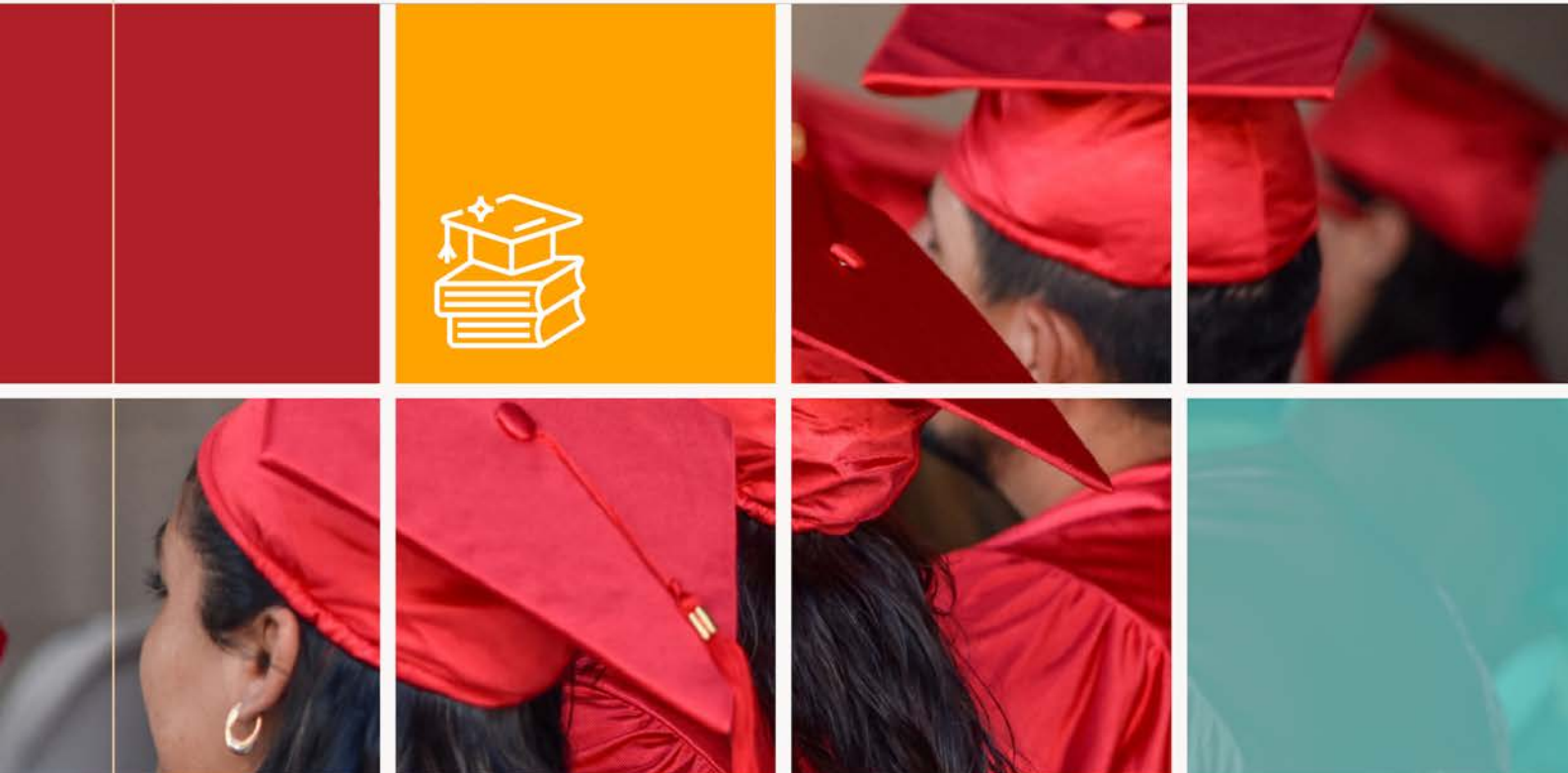
Serving ages 9-12. Promotes awareness and communication between youth and their parents.

## EARLY ESCALERA

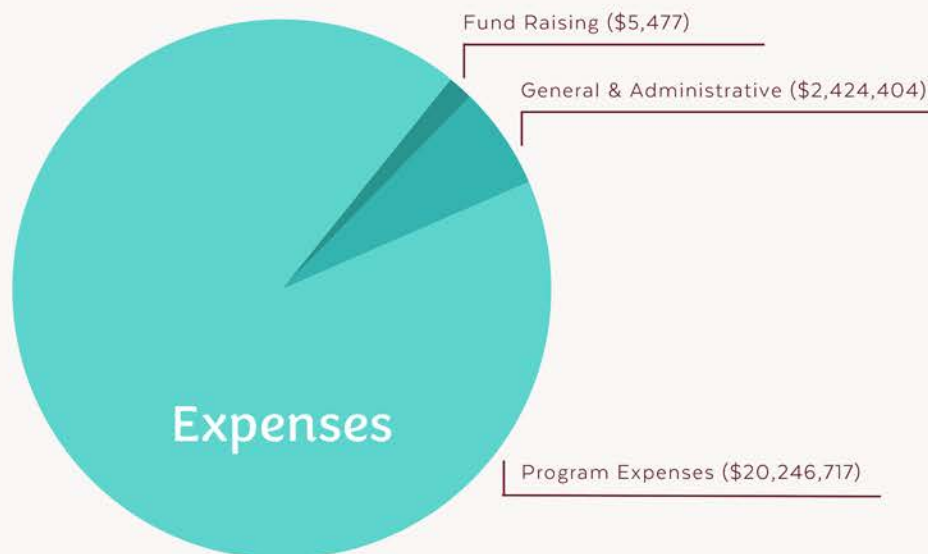
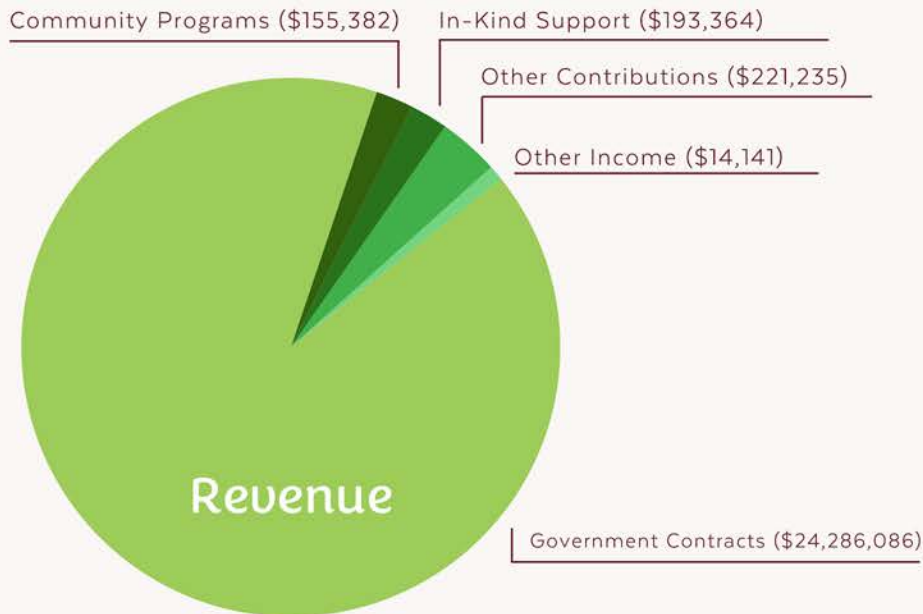
College and career preparation course designed specifically for Hispanic high school Freshmen and Sophmores

## SAFE DATES

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



# Fiscal Management



## Assets

Net Assets, beginning of year	6,710,265
Increases in Net Assets	2,193,610
Net Assets, end of year	8,903,875

The most recent review by the Office of Head Start was conducted in October 2023 with no findings.

An independent audit by Karren, Hendrix, Stagg, Allen & Co. was completed with no findings.



# Service Areas - UT

## MAIN OFFICE

Salt Lake City  
(801) 521 - 4473

## CACHE COUNTY

Providence Center  
(435) 754 - 3730

## BOX ELDER, WEBER, & DAVIS COUNTIES

Box Elder Center  
(435) 239 - 7700  
Clinton Center  
(385) 404 - 3001

## MILLARD COUNTY

Holden Center  
(385) 423 - 4043

## UTAH & JUAB COUNTIES

Genola Center  
(435) 404 - 3010

## SANPETE COUNTY

Centerfield Center  
(435) 529 - 8120  
Mt Pleasant Center  
(435) 580 - 5080

## SLC PARTNERSHIPS

Panda Child Care SLC  
(801) 359-1234  
Panda Child Care Taylorsville  
(801) 966-9468  
Smart Kids Taylorsville  
(801) 966-8664  
Smart Kids West Jordan  
(801) 566-3731



# Service Areas - CO

## MESA COUNTY

Main Office

(970) 822-8645

Echo Canyon Center

(970) 200-8108

Grand Junction Center

(970) 628-1164

Red Canyon Center

(970) 200-8107

Gateway Center

(970) 628-1164

Riverside

(970) 822-8620

## GARFIELD COUNTY

Rifle Center

(970) 596-9803

Parachute Center

(970) 200-8106

## SAN LUIS VALLEY

Sanford Center

(970) 822-8639

Alamosa Center

(970) 822-8639

Conejos Center

(719) 480-0428

## WELD COUNTY

Greeley Center

(775)636-8305

## ADAMS COUNTY

Brighton Center

(970)200-8109

## MOFFAT COUNTY

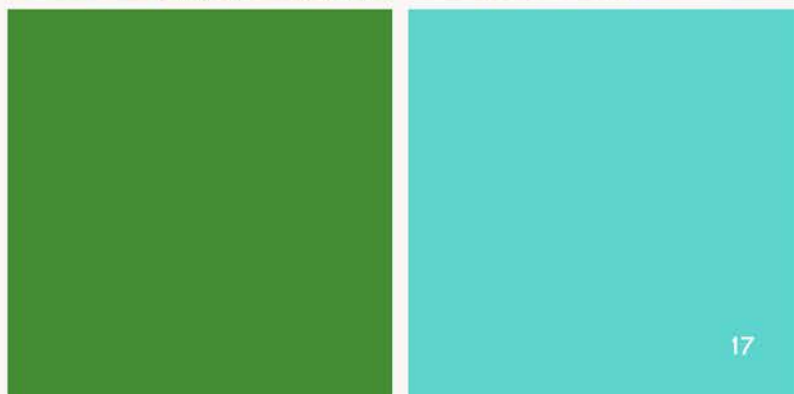
Craig Center

(970) 620-4001

## MONTROSE COUNTY

Olathe

(970) 852-7652



# Service Areas - NV

## CHURCHILL COUNTY

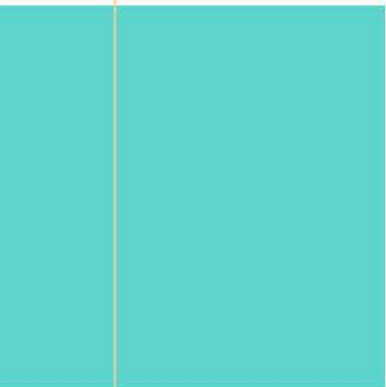
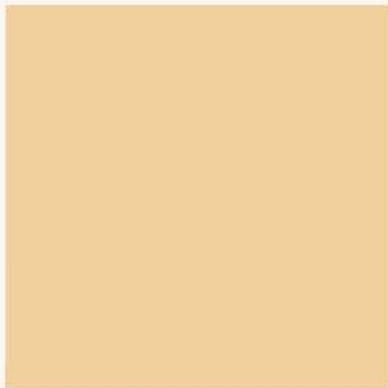
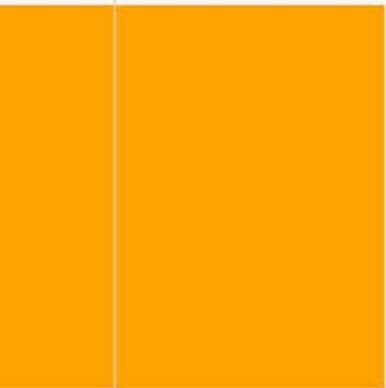
Fallon Center  
(775) 446-5060

## LYON COUNTY

Yerington Center  
(775) 636-8260







# Thank You

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to building a better, more educated world. Your efforts are shaping the future, one child and one family at a time.

With heartfelt gratitude,

