The Dimock Center Child & Family Services

ANNUAL REPORT



Early Head Start and Head Start 2024-2025

Who We Are

The Dimock Center is recognized nationally as a model for the delivery of comprehensive, integrated Health and Community Care, Behavioral Health Services, and Child and Family Services. As a part of this community, our Early Head Start and Head Start programs offer quality care, education and family well-being support to children and their families from the pre-natal period through the transition to Kindergarten. Through our work, we strive to strengthen and support positive outcomes, economic stability, and well-being for children, families, and our community.

Our Mission

Is to heal and uplift individuals, families, and our community.

Our Vision

is to redefine the model of a healthy community by creating access to comprehensive health care and education.



Our Philosophy

Our whole-child, multi-generational approach is designed with the goal of supporting optimal development, promoting school-readiness, and nurturing well-being for both children and their families during early childhood and beyond. To achieve this in 2024, we committed to:

- Promote social emotional development and early childhood mental health as the base upon which all other learning can take place.
- Invest in our workforce to build an organizational culture that supports, empowers, and retains highly qualified staff.
- Utilize data to guide continuous quality improvement
- Leverage community partnerships to empower families as advocates and leaders.
- Implement policies and practices that respond to the unique needs of our community.

Our Enrollment

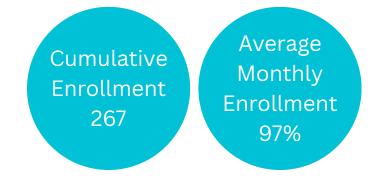


The Dimock Center Head Start's model of services includes pre-natal home visiting, home visiting for families of children up to age 3 years, socializations, developmental assessments, center-based early education, and a range of family well-being services such as health and nutrition services, early childhood mental health services, parenting education, and leadership & advocacy opportunities. Families served include eligible families living in the Boston neighborhoods of Roxbury, Dorchester, Mattapan, Jamaica Plain, Roslindale, and Hyde Park.

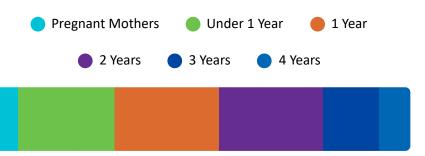
In School Year 2024-2025, the program engaged in intensive recruitment efforts as part of the Office of Head Start's Full Enrollment Initiative. As a result of these efforts, all vacancies were filled within 30 days, ensuring the program remained fully enrolled and provided services for the maximum possible number of eligible families.



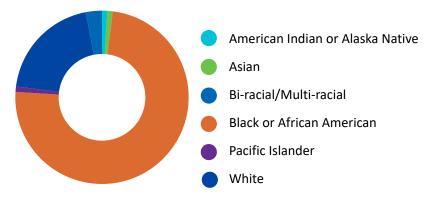




Ages Served



Racial Demographics of Enrolled Families



Parent Leadership & Engagement

Families are at the heart of all we do.

We are committed to fostering deep family engagement by providing opportunities for all caregivers to guide their child's learning journey and actively shape program direction.

Parent Committees

Parent Committees provide opportunities for parents to share their experiences, skills and knowledge and build leadership capacity. Parent Committees have many important responsibilities, including: supporting recruitment efforts, planning educational and social events, facilitating parent meetings, and electing peer representatives to serve on the Policy Council.

Policy Council

Policy Council is composed of community stakeholders and parents who are elected as representatives by their peers. Our policy council works collaboratively under a 'shared governance model' with the Community Services Board and program administration to make informed, responsive decisions about current program operations and future strategic directions. Through their efforts on behalf of the program, Policy Council members provide essential parent leadership to drive program quality and progress.

Other Engagement Opportunities





Family members are encouraged to participate actively in our program community through activities such as volunteering, attending socializations, engaging with the Parenting Curriculum, joining advocacy efforts, and planning or attending celebrations, social activities, and educational events. Parent and family engagement strategies center on fostering relationships that support overall family well-being, strengthening connections between parents and children, and promoting ongoing learning and development for both generations.

Community Partnerships

We are Rooted in Community

Partnership Highlights

Cradles to Crayons

Through a partnership with the *Cradles to Crayons* organization, the program engaged in a project to build an onsite Resource Closet for enrolled families. Through this partnership, the program is able to provide families with immediate access to items that support family health and wellbeing, including properly fitting and seasonally appropriate clothes, diapers, school supplies, coats, and other necessities. An average of 10 families per month accessed the closet over the course of the year.

Circle of Security International

During the 2024-2025 program year, the program supported 5 employees in attaining certification as facilitators of Circle of Security Training through the *Circle of Security International* organization. This is an internationally recognized relational framework that focuses on building adults' capacity to strengthen and support the healthy social and emotional development of children. These 5 trained staff facilitated formal Circle of Security Training for 12 enrolled parents to support families in understanding their children's emotional needs, supporting their child's ability to successfully manage emotions, enhancing the development of their child's self-esteem, and using overall parenting strategies that strengthen positive parent-child relationships and reduce the impact of stress on family health and well-being.

Polished Dental

Recognizing that access to preventative dental care is limited for many Boston-area families, the program initiated a partnership with *Polished Dental, LLC*. Through this partnership, Polished Dental provided enrolled children with on-site dental exams during their regularly scheduled school day and at no cost to families. In the first year of the partnership, a total of 136 exams were completed with enrolled children.



The following are just some of the partners who have contributed significantly to enhancing the quality and level of services provided for families:

Boston Public Schools/ Countdown to Kindergarten

- Transition support for families entering Kindergarten

Raising A Reader Massachusetts

-Early literacy supports and homeschool book lending initiatives

Jewish Family & Children's Service

-Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation

John Hancock

 Early Literacy Book drive and Community Read Volunteers

Alkermes

- Sensory enhancements in indoor and outdoor learning spaces

Health & Well-Being Services

Nourishing minds and bodies for a strong start and bright future

Health and well-being are the foundation for success in school and life, and our services are designed to ensure every child and family is positioned to thrive. We actively work with families to ensure all children and expectant mothers have an ongoing source of continuous health care and all children receive comprehensive health screenings to promptly identify any hearing, vision, developmental, social-emotional, or other special health care needs.



100%

childrenand pregnant mothers had medical and dental homes at end of enrollment

75%

preschool children
received
preventative oral
care during
enrollment

136

total children received dental care onsite

100%

childrenhad health insurance at end of enrollment

1500 hours

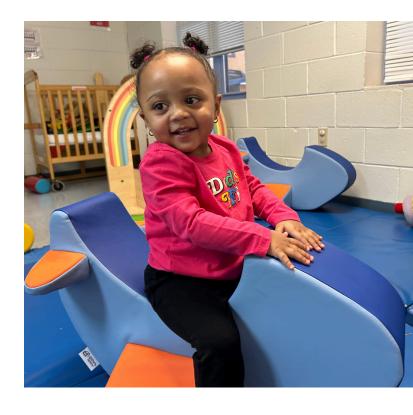
of Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation was provided to staff

100%

Pregnant mothers received pre- and post-natal health care and education

In program year 2024-2025, The Dimock Center Head Start collaborated with community partners to engage in several initiatives to support holistic physical and mental health. This includes

- contracting with the Child & Adult Care Food Program to provide nutritious snacks and meals to all children daily
- partnering with our Health Center team to host on-site influenza vaccine clinics for all staff
- partnering with our organization's food pantry to offer fresh produce and groceries to families
- leveraging the collaborative relationship with our internal Pediatrics department to facilitate access for families to essential medical services.



Developmental Outcomes

Readiness for school and life

Preparing Children for Kindergarten and Beyond

The agency's efforts to prepare children and families for Kindergarten are centered around supporting each child to develop the interests, abilities, and key skills necessary for success in school and life. This includes utilizing the research-based framework of the *Pyramid Model for Promoting Social-Emotional Competence in Infants and Young Children* to

- · Partner with families
- Support an effective workforce
- · Build responsive relationships
- · Foster high-quality supportive environments where all children, families, and staff can thrive

We use Teaching Strategies GOLD® assessment tool to observe and assess children's progress towards identified School Readiness Outcomes. The results of these assessments guide individualized lesson planning for each child in key areas of development. The following chart shows the percentage of children who met or exceeded widely held expectations in these areas at the conclusion of the 2024-2025 school year.

School Readiness Outcomes			
Developmental Domain	% Children Meeting Widely-Held Expectations		
Social Emotional	85%		
Physical	81%		
Language	78%		
Cognitive	95%		
Literacy	90%		







Funding & Budget Summary

FY24 Federal Expenditures

Category	Description	Expenditure (\$)
Personnel	Salaries, wages, and fringe benefits for 82 employees	\$4,096,893.91
Supplies and Travel	Program, office supplies and staff travel	\$114,280.93
Contractual	Vendor-purchased services for food and cleaning	\$20,796.71
Other Direct Expenses	Occupancy, building, faciltiies, advertising, staff development, postage	\$375,021.10
Indirect expenses @ 14.91%	Indirect rate for admin costs	\$579,093.56
Total Federal Funds	Total FY24 expenditures	\$5,186,086.21

FY24 Non-Federal Expenditures

Category	Description	Expenditure (\$)
Personnel	Salaries, wages, and fringe benefits for 82 employees	\$520,799.56
Supplies and Travel	Program, office supplies and staff travel	\$4,148.52
Contractual	Vendor-purchased services for food and cleaning	\$1,300.00
Other Direct Expenses	Occupancy, building, facilities, advertising, staff development	\$71,588.79
Indirect expenses @ 14.91%	Indirect rate for admin costs	\$46,003.75
Total NFS Funds	Total FY24 expenditures	\$643,840.62

Funding and Budget Summary				
Funding Source	Туре	Amount (\$)		
Office of Head Start EHS	Federal	\$3,455,358.92		
Office of Head Start Federal HS	Federal	\$1,730,727.29		
Non-Federal Funds	Non-Federal	\$643,840.62		
Total Funds Received		\$5,829,926.83		



The Dimock Center is an equal opportunity employer.

