

**Rock Island/Milan School District #41**



**Head Start Preschool**

# **COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT**

**2024-2025**



***Determining Community Strengths and Needs for***

***Head Start Preschool Services***

***Including the City of Rock Island & the Village of Milan***

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## Executive Summary

The Rock Island Milan School District #41 Head Start Preschool Program is a federally funded program that promotes the school readiness of young children from low-income families through local programs. Through relationships with adults, play, and planned instruction, children grow in many aspects of development with a strong emphasis on social-emotional growth. All children receive health and developmental screenings, nutritious meals, oral health, and mental health support. Parents and families are supported in achieving their goals, such as housing stability, continued education, and financial security. The Head Start Preschool program engages families around children's learning and development.

### **About the Community Assessment**

Every five years, the Rock Island Milan School District Head Start Preschool program conducts a Community Assessment (CA) to identify issues and trends within the service area that directly impact families with young children. This document specifies the needs of families in the Rock Island Milan School District Head Start Preschool service area, which includes the city of Rock Island and the Village of Milan, providing information to establish community-wide priorities.

The CA update was completed in the late fall/winter of 2024. Data was collected from various community resources, community partners, and current Head Start Preschool parents.

#### Data Sources Include:

*U.S. Census Bureau, Washington DC*  
*Rock Island County Census*  
*Rock Island County Statistics*  
*Rock Island/Milan School District*  
*Rock Island County Health Department*  
*Rock Island Housing Authority*  
*IECAM Data for Rock Island County, IL, Service Area*

*Rock Island Milan School District #41 ChildPlus Database*  
*2024 Quad Cities Community Health Assessment*  
*2024-2025 Community Partners Survey*  
*Community Partners – complete list attached*



# Overview of the State of the Grantee

## Program Description

Head Start Preschool’s commitment to wellness embraces a comprehensive vision of health for children, families, and staff. Family partnerships support parents as they identify and meet their own goals, nurture the development of their children in the context of their family and culture, and advocate for communities supporting children and families of all cultures. Comprehensive services are delivered with the support of five family service workers, three program assistants, three managers, and a director.

The program grant allows 255 children ages three to five years old to receive services and maintains a waiting list of approximately 55 children. Of those children on the waiting list, 19% have completed applications and are waiting for placement at their preferred location, with families preferring part-day placement. Over the 2023-2024 program year, demand for part-day placements surpassed the need for full-day placements, illustrating a trend shift in our community needs.

## Grantee Type

The Rock Island/Milan School District #41 has been the grantee for Head Start Preschool since 1965, operating a single-purpose agency through a center-based option. The Rock Island/Milan School District’s School Board members act as the Head Start Preschool program’s governing body.

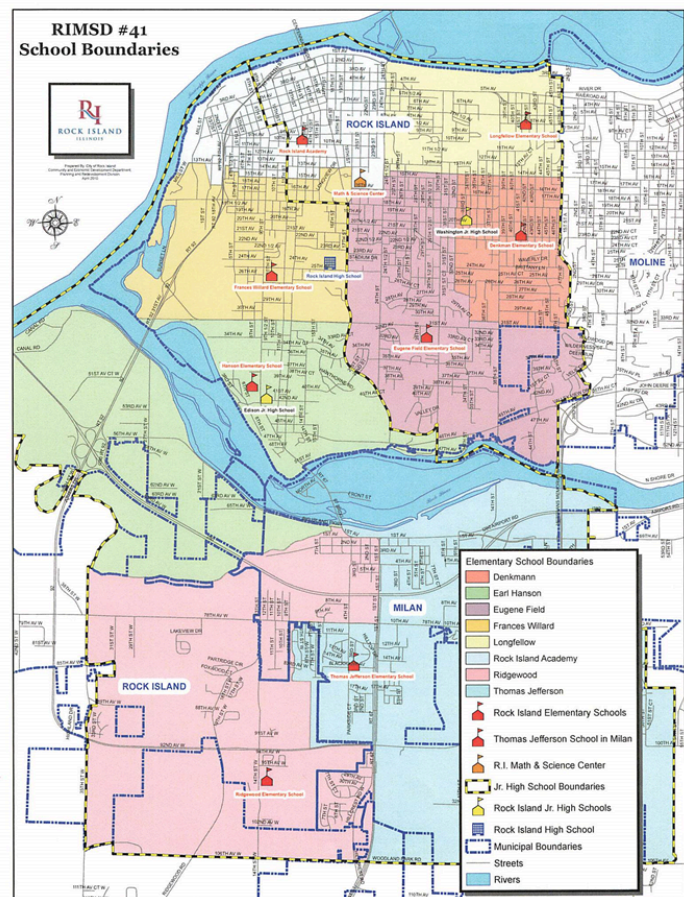
## Service Area

The program’s service area encompasses Rock Island and Milan, Illinois, consistent with the school district boundaries.

## Locations of Centers

The Head Start Preschool program has 17 classrooms located in eight school district buildings, which the grantee determines:

- Rock Island Academy (1)
- Center for Math and Science (1)
- Earl Hanson (1)
- Horace Mann Early Learning Center (7)
- Thomas Jefferson (1)
- Longfellow (1)
- Thurgood Marshall (4)
- Ridgewood (1)





## Program Options Offered

The Rock Island Milan School District Head Start Preschool program operates two service options with full-day programming for at least 45% of Head Start Preschool students by Head Start Program Performance Standards (HSPPS). Based on first-quarter enrollment, Rock Island/Milan families on the waiting list need part-day services, leaving openings in full-day classrooms.

One hundred thirty-five slots are included in the part-day program option, which typically operates five days a week, four hours per day, 168 days a year, totaling 672 hours of class operations. Part-day classrooms have two teaching staff who work seven hours per day.

One hundred twenty slots are included in the full-day program option, which typically operates five days a week, 6.5 hours per day (with an early dismissal on Thursdays for professional development), 168 days a year, totaling 1022 hours of class operations. Full-day classrooms have three teaching staff. Lead teachers work eight hours per day, and assistant teachers work seven hours per day.



The inclusion initiative from the state may require modifications to planned operations, but the current program options are projected to continue for the 2025-2026 program year.

## Head Start Preschool Staff

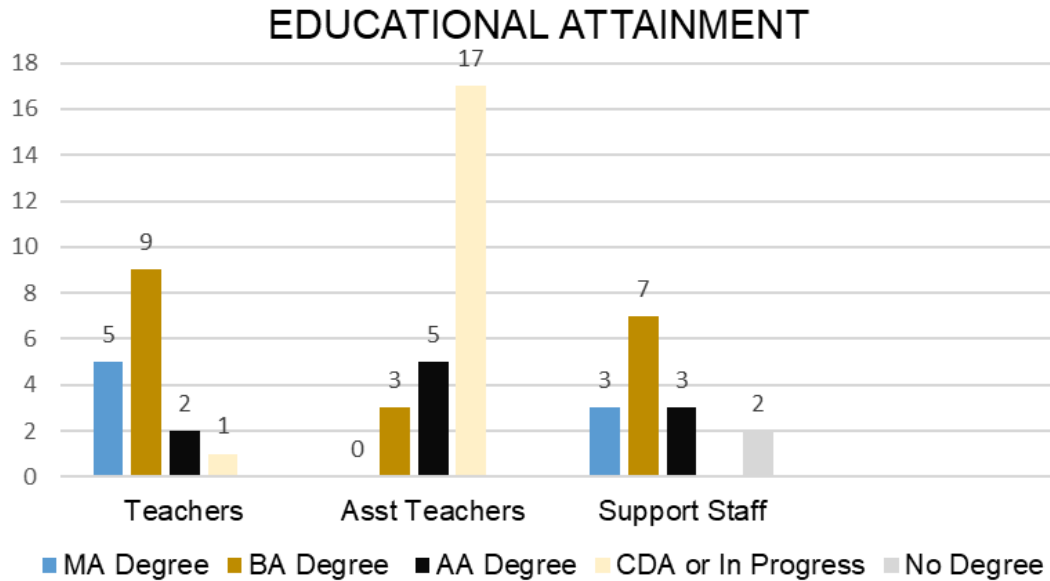
The racial and ethnic composition of the staff is 73.7% White, 14% Black, 8.8% Hispanic, 1.7% Asian and 1.7% biracial. There are four Spanish-speaking staff members and two staff members who speak an African language.

During the 2024/2025 PY, there are 67 Head Start Preschool staff:

Director	1
Managers	3
Classroom Teachers	17
Classroom Assistant Teachers	25
Support Staff – Family Services Workers	5
Support Staff – Program Assistants	3
Support Staff – Translation Services	1
Bus Monitors	3
Classroom Substitutes	8



## Educational Attainment for Regular Head Start Preschool Staff:



## Recruitment Area

The recruitment area is consistent with the service area. The program agrees with the Department of Human Services, which lists eligible children in Rock Island and Milan. All of these families receive program information in the mail. Additionally, the Department of Children and Family Services provides a list of eligible foster care children in the area that may benefit from Head Start Preschool services.

Ongoing Recruiting Practices Include:

- Yard signs
- Door-to-door recruitment
- Door hangers
- Community postings
- Presence at community events
- Recruitment postcards
- Social media
- Billboard marketing
- Mail marketing



## Methodology

The 2023-2024 assessment includes a comprehensive analysis of data and information regarding the needs, strengths, and characteristics of Head Start Preschool-eligible children and families in the service area to drive decisions regarding the most appropriate Head Start Preschool services delivery. Staff, parents, and community partners contribute information to measure the impact of population shifts, shortages of services, and needs of emerging populations to improve service delivery, optimize resources, and expand and create new services.

Community partners are integral to program leadership teams through representation on the Policy Council, Building Leadership Team, Health Services Advisory Committee, and the Education Collaboration Committee.

The Rock Island Milan School District Head Start Preschool Program performs a comprehensive Self-Assessment annually to measure effectiveness and drive continued growth. In addition to the cited sources, data is collected regularly through staff, parent, community surveys, and ongoing monitoring tools. Staff, Policy Council, and Governing Board are involved in data sharing and discussions throughout the year.

## Service Area Data

### Rock Island County Demographics

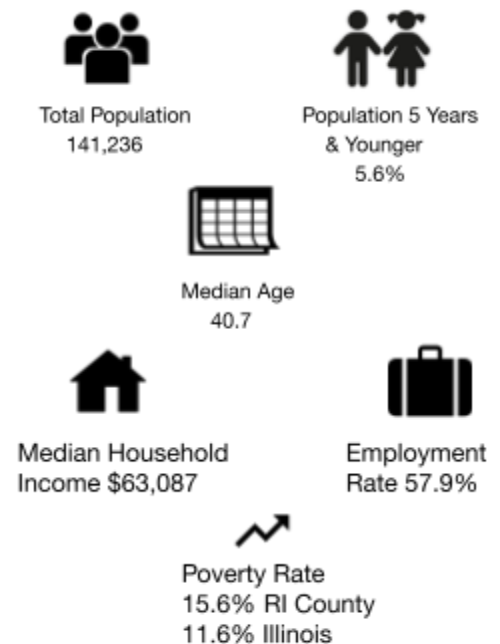
Total Households in RI County	62,396
With Supplemental Security Income	2,026
With cash public assistance income or SNAP benefits	10,549

Information is based on the United Census Bureau 2023: ACS 1-Year Estimates Data

### The Demographics of Head Start Preschool Eligible Children and Families

Based on the 2022 Census provided by Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map (IECAM), approximately 1,403 children in Rock Island and Milan, Illinois, are three and four-year-olds.

About 45.7% of these children’s families live at or below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) and are eligible for Head Start Preschool services.





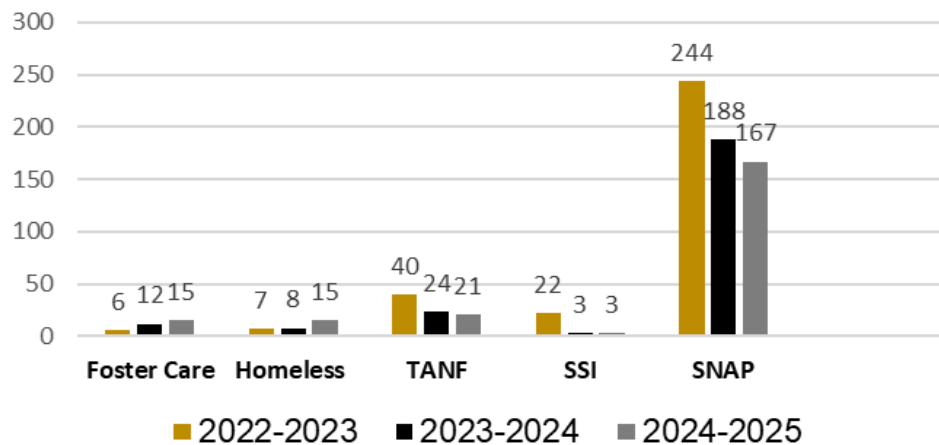
	Rock Island and Milan Population by Age	Head Start Preschool Eligible (0-130% Federal Poverty Level)	% of the Population Eligible for Head Start Preschool by Age
Children 1 and younger	948	428	45.2%
Children 2 yrs	715	324	45.3%
Children 3 yrs	760	349	45.9%
Children 4 yrs	643	292	45.4%
Children 5 yrs	446	202	45.2%

Information is based on 2022 Census estimates provided by the Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map (IECAM).

### Eligible Children

Foster care, homelessness, enrollment in public assistance such as SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) are all criteria that can impact a child's eligibility for Head Start Preschool enrollment.

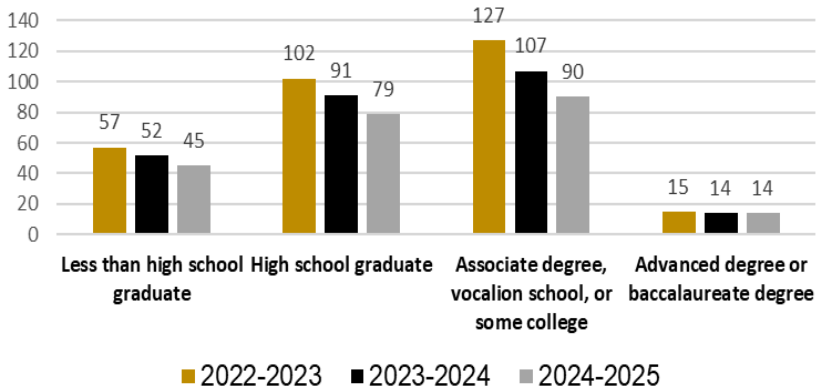
### ELIGIBLE CHILDREN SERVED BY HEAD START



### Education

An indicator of educational attainment in children is their own parents' attainment. A parent who does not complete high school is more likely to have a child who does not, perpetuating the cycle. Adults who complete higher education levels are more likely to achieve economic success than those who do not, creating greater access to resources.

## HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION OBTAINED BY HEAD START PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN(S)



RI County Educational Attainment	
Population 25 years and over	96,929
Less than a high school graduate	8,740
High school graduate	29,674
Some college or associate's degree	34,235
Bachelor's degree	15,355
Graduate or professional degree	8,925

Information is based on the United Census Bureau 2023: ACS 1-Year Estimates Data

## Race and Ethnicity

	White	African American	American Indian and Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander	Other	Two or More Races	Hispanic or Latino (of any race)
2023: ACS 1-Year Estimates Data Rock Island County	99,462 70.4%	14,625 10.4%	801 .6%	4,202 3%	64 <.01%	6,238 4.4%	15,844 11.2%	20,408 14.4%
IECAM 2022 Estimates (Children age four and under) Rock Island and Milan	1,521 49.5%	649 21.1%	0	308 10.0%	0	2 <.01%	106 3.4%	490 15.9%
2023-2024 Rock Island Milan School District Head Start Preschool	50 20.1%	108 43.4%	0	18 7.2%	0	0	21 8.4%	52 20.9%

Information is based on 2022 Census estimates provided by Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map (IECAM)

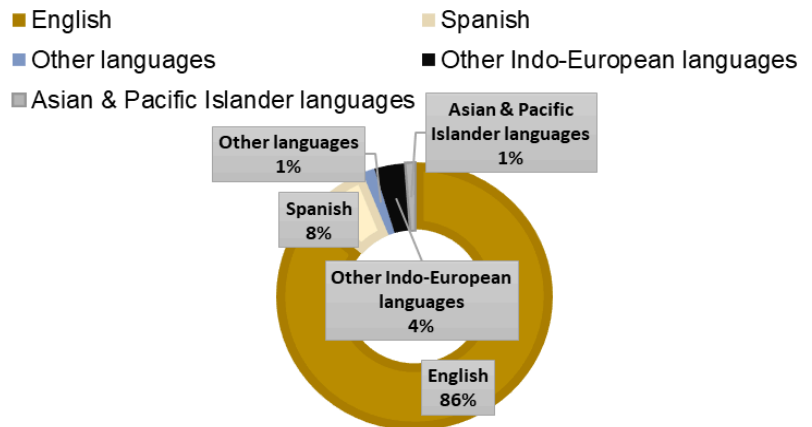
Information is based on United Census Bureau 2023: ACS 5-Year Estimates Data

## Immigrant Populations and Languages Spoken

We work with district and community interpreters to provide services and resources for these families. Attempts to communicate with refugee families from certain areas have revealed that many parents cannot read or write in English or their home language. This adds to the number of illiterate families and further complicates consistent communication with families.

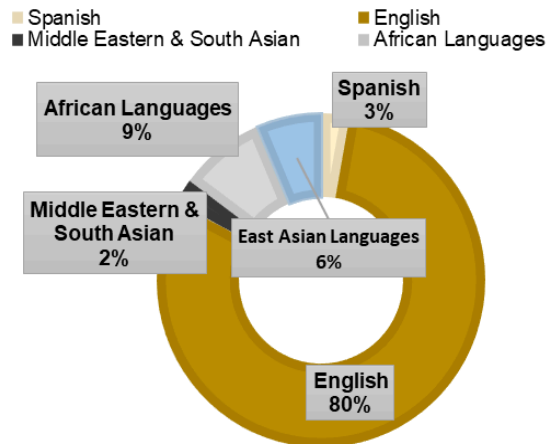


## RI COUNTY PRIMARY LANGUAGES SPOKEN AT HOME



Information is based on United Census Bureau 2023: ACS 1-Year Estimates Data, RI County population five years and over.

## PRIMARY LANGUAGE OF THE FAMILY AT HOME HEAD START 2024-2025



## School District Demographics

According to the Rock Island Milan School District Head Start Preschool program data for the 24-25 PY, the chart below reflects the number of Head Start Preschool children who will transition to Kindergarten in the fall, sorted by receiving school:

- |                       |    |                    |    |
|-----------------------|----|--------------------|----|
| ● Rock Island Academy | 31 | ● Thomas Jefferson | 11 |
| ● Denkmann            | 14 | ● Longfellow       | 17 |
| ● Eugene Field        | 20 | ● Ridgewood        | 14 |
| ● Earl Hanson         | 11 | ● Frances Willard  | 23 |



The program will continue to track families' movement within the boundaries and design classroom placement to serve the maximum number of low-income families in the service area.

The Rock Island/Milan School District does not provide transportation for students. However, bussing is available for a fee. Our Head Start Preschool program allocates funding for eight of our preschool classrooms to have bussing, enabling children who may otherwise not have access to early childhood education to attend. Bussing also allows our program to serve children at a center other than their district-receiving school.

Other childcare and child development programs in the community that include Head Start Preschool eligible children include the Rock Island/Milan School District State-Funded Preschool for All program, Rock Island/Milan School District Special Education Program, Skip-A-Long, KinderCare and In a Kid's World. The Rock Island Milan School District #41 Head Start Preschool program provides bussing to and from these programs, as needed.

Wrap-around services are supplied by transporting to and from KinderCare, Skip-A-Long, and In A Kid's World. Approximately seventeen children have been involved in this wrap-around arrangement.

Subsidized programs provide daycare services for low-income families, but their eligibility guidelines exclude low-income families in which the primary caregiver is unemployed or not in employment training. For these families, the only educational opportunity for children is the Head Start Preschool Program.



### **Childcare and Early Childhood Education Data for the Grantee Service Area**

	# of sites	Capacity
Childcare centers (licensed & license-exempt)	13	1,050
Family child care homes (licensed)	40	374
Preschool for All program sites	8	340
Head Start Preschool program sites	8	255

Information is based on 2023 Census estimates provided by Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map (IECAM)

### **Work, School, and Training Schedules of Eligible Parents**

Typical work, school, and training schedules of parents with currently enrolled students for the 24-25 school year are as follows:

- Parents reporting full-time work: 120
- Parents reporting part-time work: 44
- Parents reporting full-time work and in school: 6
- Parents reporting part-time work and in school: 11
- Parents reporting in school only: 12
- Parents reporting being seasonally employed: 0
- Parents reporting retired/disabled: 10
- Parents reporting unemployed status: 96

Of the parents that reported working either full-time, part-time, a combination of those, and in school or training:

- 35.9% of work schedules varied
- 38.8% work first shift
- 15.3% work second shift
- 10% work third shift

## Identified Needs and Comprehensive Services

According to community partner surveys, low-income families struggle most to access services in the community related to:

- Mental Health
- Dental Care
- Child Care
- Housing Support

According to community partner surveys, the greatest strengths of our community are:

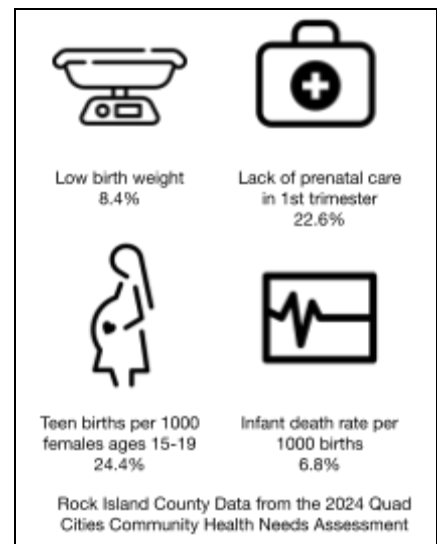
- Diversity
- Immigrant-Friendly
- Services Offered by Community Agencies

In addition to providing community resource referrals, management uses information to drive plans for parent training opportunities.

### Health Services

Head Start Preschool ensures that all children and their families in the program are connected to developmentally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate services supporting their growth and school readiness.

Within 30 days of enrollment, the staff helps connect families to health insurance and ongoing sources of accessible, continuous medical and dental care. Each child in the Head Start Preschool program must be up-to-date on an appropriate preventive medical and oral health care schedule based on the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT). These requirements include ensuring a child has had a lead and hemoglobin screening, up-to-date immunizations, and annual dental and physical exams. Head Start Preschool staff assist parents in making arrangements to bring their child up-to-date as quickly as possible, if necessary.



During the 24-25 school year, 98% of Head Start Preschool students had health insurance. At enrollment, over 95% of Rock Island Milan School District Head Start Preschool students had both a medical and dental home. In contrast, according to the 2024 Quad Cities Health Assessment, just over 80% of children ages 0-17 have a medical and dental home. Sixty-seven percent of the program's students receive medical care, and 83% receive dental care at Community Health Care, a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC).

Head Start Preschool requires all students to receive an evidence-based vision and hearing screening within the first 45 days of enrollment. The program partners with the Rock Island County Health Department and the audiologist with the Black Hawk Area Special Education District (BHASED) for these screenings. Impaired vision or hearing in children can seriously impede learning and contribute to developing educational, emotional, and behavioral problems. Early discovery and treatment can prevent or alleviate many of these problems. As of October 2024, 7 students were referred to an optometrist for follow-up, and 12 wore glasses. Currently, two vision providers in the area provide services to children under age 5 with Illinois medical insurance, and neither accepts Aetna Illinois Medicaid.



All children in the Head Start Preschool program also receive annual growth assessments. The 2024 Community Health Needs Assessment reports that almost 40% of children in Rock Island County, ages 5-17, are considered overweight, and approximately 30% are considered obese. As of October 2024, the RIMSD Head Start Program has approximately 15% of students with a BMI in the overweight range and 26% considered obese.

**Nutrition Services**

According to 2022 data from Feeding America, in Rock Island County, there are 6,320 food-insecure children, up almost 2,000 children from the previous year's report, which is nearly 20% of the child population in the area. Additionally, according to the 2024 Quad Cities Health Assessment, almost 17% of the population in Rock Island County has low food access.



Each child in the Head Start Preschool program receives breakfast and lunch daily following the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) guidelines. Meals are provided in coordination with the Rock Island Milan School District Nutrition Services Department, with input from the program Health Manager. Menu accommodations are made based on each child's nutritional needs and feeding requirements, including children with particular dietary concerns and disabilities. Currently, 73% of the student population in the Rock Island/Milan School District meet the qualifications for free or reduced meals at school.

Therefore, the entire Rock Island/Milan School District qualifies for the Community Eligibility Provisions (CEP), which means that all K-12 students in the district receive complimentary breakfast and lunch,



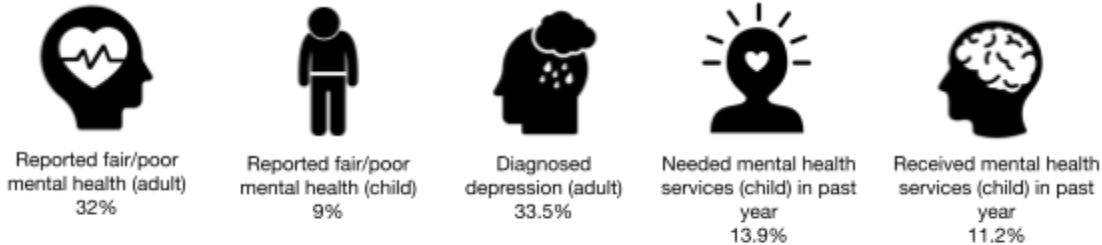
regardless of income. Additionally, most schools in the district participate in the Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Program (FFVP), including 13 Head Start classrooms, which provide a free fruit or vegetable snack twice a week. Additionally, approximately 200 students in the program receive a food bag from River Bend Food Bank weekly to provide nutritious food during the weekend.

In 2022, NEST Cafe opened in Rock Island. This restaurant ensures that everyone in the Quad Cities can access delicious and nutritious food, including those facing food insecurity. To do this, the cafe serves every meal on a pay-what-you-can basis, allowing customers to donate whatever amount they choose for their food.

**Mental Health Services**

The program supports staff and students' mental and emotional well-being through mental health consultation, Employee Assistance Program, staff training, effective classroom management, positive learning environments, and supportive teacher practices.

The program partners with EveryChild to provide mental health consultation. The consultant offers biannual observations and consultations with each classroom teaching team to assist in implementing strategies and interventions. Student referrals can be made to Safe from the Start, a program through EveryChild. Community mental health resources are available for staff, students, and families.



Rock Island County Data from the 2024 Quad Cities Community Health Needs Assessment

**Social Services**

The social service staff plans and implements the recruitment of Head Start preschool-eligible families. At the time of intake, information regarding each child and their family is obtained to plan for each family's needs. Each family receives a resource guide that briefly describes community agencies available to help them meet their needs. As the needs of families are identified, referrals to appropriate agencies are made.

Affordable housing availability in Rock Island/Milan is an ongoing challenge.

Violence continues to impact many of our families due to our proximity to areas with higher crime rates, such as Chicago. Many of our families have strong ties and existing family members in Chicago and Davenport, making violent acts relevant and impactful for our families. As a result, many of our

children feel stressed, hear the adult discussion, and miss school due to travel to support family members.

**Community Resources Data for the Grantee Service Area**

Number of Libraries	3	Homeless Shelters	6
Types of Museums	7	Food Pantries	22
Parks and Recreation	31	Agencies Providing	3
Cultural Centers	5	Literacy Education for ELLs	
Thrift Shops	7		
Services to Keep Families Intact	6		

**Communication**

According to the United Census Bureau 2023: ACS 1-Year Estimates Data, Rock Island County has 62,373 total households.

- Households with one or more computing devices 59,711 = 95.7%
- Households with an Internet subscription 56,816 = 84.6%

**Transportation**

65,550 Workers 16 Years and Over Commuting to Work	
Car, truck, or van - drove alone.	85.4%
Car, truck, or van - carpooled	9.4%
Public transportation	2%
Walked	1.7%
Other means	1%
Worked from home	10%

Information is based on United Census Bureau 2023: ACS 1-Year Estimates Data



According to the Community Partner Survey, transportation needs continue to be an obstacle when working with low-income families, which is consistent with Head Start parent-identified stressors

**Education**

The research-based curriculum facilitates play-based instruction with various materials and experiences that promote children’s development in crucial areas, emphasizing critical social-emotional skills. The learning objectives assessed include social-emotional, physical, language, cognitive, literacy, and math. Teachers serve as educators and partners with families, focusing on each child’s individual goals for development. Teaching Strategies SmartTeach documents ongoing child assessments



shared with parents to review progress and set goals. The program uses Conscious Discipline to support the development of self-regulation skills.

### **Children with Disabilities**

At age three, children are eligible to receive special education services through their local school district, as defined by Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. The Head Start Preschool program has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and collaborates with the Rock Island/Milan School District #41 Pupil Personnel Department to provide services to children ages three to five with developmental delays or diagnosed conditions.

The Rock Island/Milan School District #41 Head Start Preschool program complies with the Head Start Preschool guideline that requires 10% of enrollment for children with disabilities. The program has consistently met or exceeded this requirement.

The Rock Island Milan School District #41 Head Start Preschool particular education population has remained consistent over the past three years, serving an average of 13% of students with disabilities within the program. Most children are identified upon entry into the program through the screening process. Annually, approximately 10-15 children are identified before admission. The children are identified through the Rock Island/Milan School District Special Services Department, the Birth to Three Program serving Rock Island, the Children's Therapy Center, private physicians, or other programs in which the child has been enrolled.



The primary disabilities are identified as non-categorical developmental delay and speech and language impairments. The past years have seen an increase in students identified with autism or other health impairments as well.

A listing of agencies providing direct or indirect services is included in the Appendix. However, all three and four-year-olds with identified disabilities are evaluated, serviced, and monitored by the Rock Island/Milan School District.

As of November 2024, 57 students are in the Early Childhood Special Education self-contained setting within five classrooms, each consisting of a morning and afternoon session. Five students are dually enrolled, attending a Head Start Preschool classroom in the morning session and then transported to Horace Mann Early Learning Center for a self-contained afternoon session. In addition, 29 students receive inclusion services within nine Head Start Preschool program classrooms. The inclusion model has Early Childhood Special Education staff offering itinerant services by going into the Head Start Preschool classrooms to provide modeling, interventions, and accommodations for the students with IEPs in the general education setting.

## Community Resources and Strengths



The Rock Island/Milan Head Start Preschool program partners with many community organizations that assist our program and its families.

One of our most vital partnerships is with the Rock Island Milan School District. This partnership allows all three of our early childhood programs to work together to provide the best services for all our early childhood students and their families.

The district acts as the grantee for the Head Start Preschool program. It allows us to use classroom space within the district and utilize district resources for interpretation and translation for our EL families, case study evaluations, speech and language services, and nutrition services providing meals.

Students in the Rock Island Milan School District area can access various nutrition services through community partners and government programs. Since 2015, Rock Island Milan School District has qualified for the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). CEP allows the nation's highest poverty schools and districts to serve breakfast and lunch at no cost to all enrolled students, regardless of income, including the Rock Island Milan School District Head Start Preschool program. Community eligibility data from CEP for the 2021-2022 school year indicates that 62% of Rock Island/Milan School District families qualify for free or reduced school meals. Rock Island Milan School District also participates in the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP). FFVP is a federally assisted program providing free fresh fruits and vegetables to children at eligible elementary schools during the school day. The program aims to introduce children to fresh fruits and vegetables, include new and different varieties, and increase overall acceptance and consumption of fresh, unprocessed produce among children. The FFVP also encourages healthier school environments by promoting nutrition education. For the past five years, several of our Head Start Preschool classrooms have received a snack twice a week as part of this program. Head Start Preschool participation in the FFVP is school-building dependent. River Bend Food Bank provides weekly food bags to many low-income students in the Rock Island/Milan School District as part of the Backpack Program to sustain students who may not otherwise have access to food on weekends. About 65% of Rock Island Milan School District Head Start Preschool students receive these food bags weekly.

Community Health Care (CHC) is a federally qualified health center (FQHC). FQHCs are community-based healthcare providers that receive funds from the United States Health Resources and Services Administration to provide primary care services in underserved areas. Annually, CHC serves approximately 40,000 patients, or roughly 10% of the Quad City population. Over 55% of Rock Island Milan School District Head Start Preschool students receive primary medical and dental care at CHC.

World Relief Quad Cities is a non-profit agency providing services to refugees and immigrants in Western Illinois and Eastern Iowa. The majority of families in our area found refuge in our country to avoid war and unsafe living environments, with the majority being from African and Asian countries. World Relief supports families through resettlement, legal, and employment services.



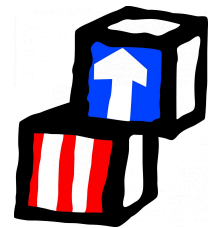
# Observations and Recommendations

## Summary of Major Findings

Through solid and long-time ties to the community and the school district, the Head Start Preschool program continues to provide access to high-quality early childhood education and comprehensive services to at-risk families. Through the Community Assessment process, it has been determined that the services being offered align with community needs, and the program is offering appropriate delivery of Head Start Preschool services.

## Recommendations

Based on information collected through community partnerships and parent surveys, the Head Start Preschool program will continue to provide full-day and part-day service options. The program will continue to support family needs, focusing on resources for job placement, housing, and transportation by community trends. The program will continue to collaborate with community partners to provide a screening day before the beginning of the school year to support the early identification of developmental and speech concerns in children while also allowing parents to learn and speak with community health agencies regarding the services available.



## Program Five-Year Goals 2020-2025

The Rock Island Milan School District #41 Head Start Preschool program has five broad goals for our five-year grant period:

**Program Goal 1:** Prioritize teaching self-regulation skills through social-emotional strategies and resources to support school readiness.

**Program Goal 2:** Support the mental health of families and staff through trauma-informed care.

**Program Goal 3:** Evaluate transportation and program options annually according to the needs of families.

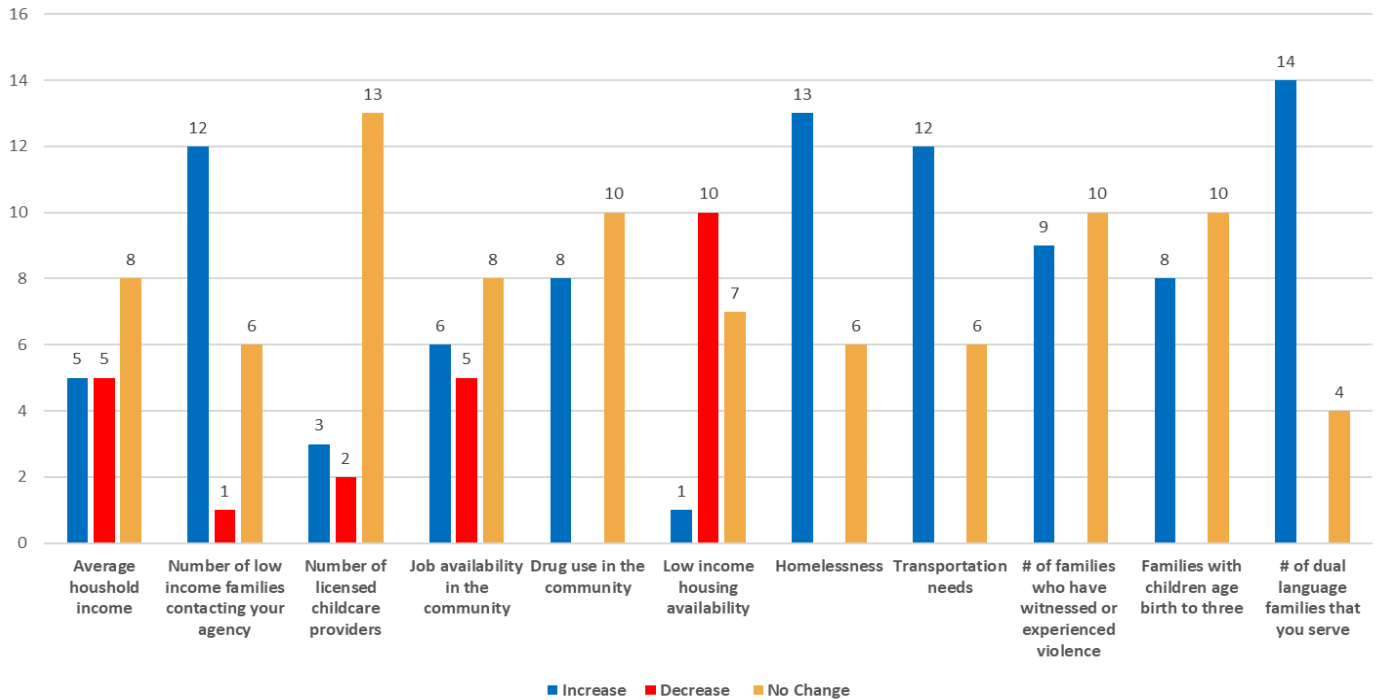
**Program Goal 4:** Collaborate with local childcare agencies to provide opportunities for birth to three services within the community.

**Program Goal 5:** Expand resources for English Learners (EL) to support growth in understanding and speaking English.

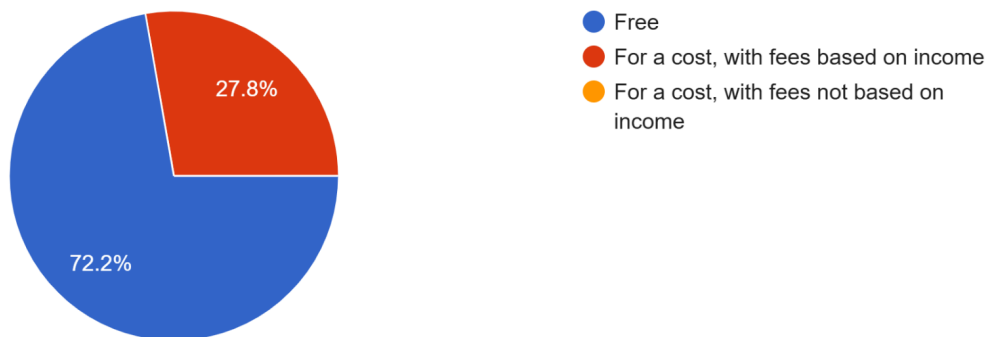
# Appendices

## 2024-2025 Community Partners Survey Results 18 Responses

In the last year, has your agency seen changes in the following:

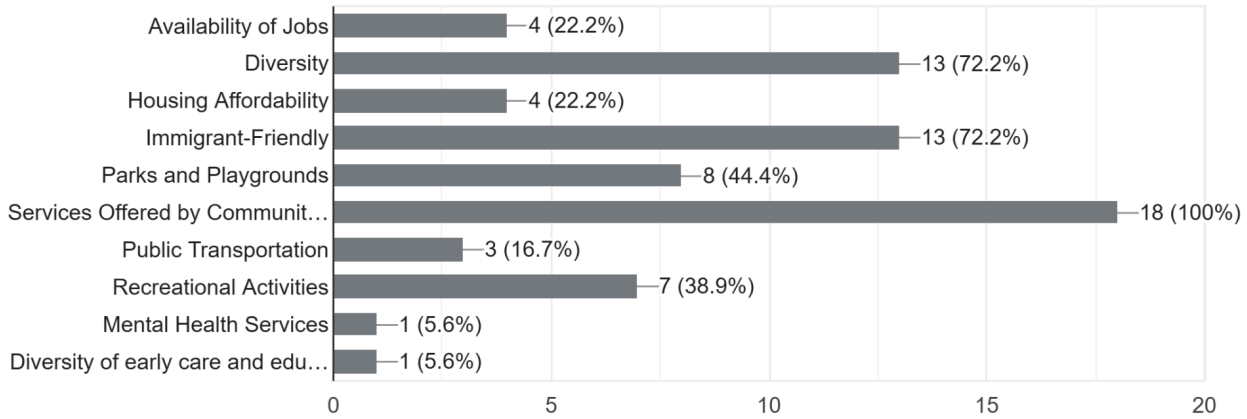


What is the cost of services provided by your agency?  
18 responses



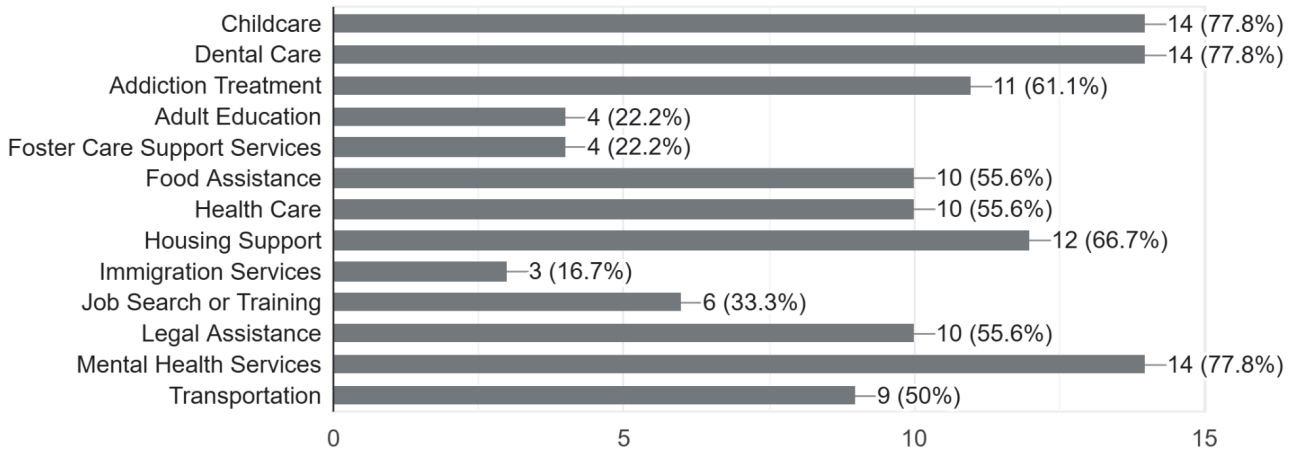
### What do you consider strengths of our community?

18 responses



### Are there services you think low-income families struggle to find or access?

18 responses



**Do you have suggestions for how the Rock Island Milan School District Head Start Preschool program could collaborate or partner with your agency better to meet the needs of low-income children and families?**

Transportation to and from services; potential for space for therapy to take place at Head Start but would want/ require parental involvement

Increase our services to low-income families for mutual collaboration

FYI: The Library is rolling out Comfort Carts at our three buildings starting Monday. Each cart will have items for anyone in the community to take. Items include snack items, sanitary supplies, hygiene supplies, fidget & journaling items, and more.

Also included is a listing of resources from mental health partners in the community. We are also putting together a mental health programming rollout in 2025.

More libraries of things are being processed addressing mental health, such as yoga mats, weighted blankets, light therapy, and more.

Yes, I would like to see our program (Project NOW Head Start) serving families in the Rock Island area.

SAL would love to partner to offer families continuity of care from birth through age five (so from our Early Head Start program and your Head Start-funded slots in our Skip-a-Long campuses)

Continued dialogue across program administration is of great value as we can share challenges, successes, and ways to collaborate further to support our community's families.

None at this time

You're a great partner with EveryChild as a referral source for mental health services and in providing your teachers and parents with information to increase confidence and knowledge.

Provide Ready by Five parent workshops.

Continue to collaborate with service providers.

We are always happy to partner!

Provide referrals to our program for those you are not able to serve.

I am glad to be a part of the policy council, as I have insight into the excellent services you provide to families. We are excited about having direct education available for classrooms again starting in January. We would love to expand our partnership with education and policy, systems, and environmental work.



## Community Resources

A comprehensive printed Resource Directory is provided annually for all Head Start Preschool families, including descriptions of each resource's services.

*All Our Kids Network*  
*All Saints Episcopal Church*  
*American Jobs*  
*American Red Cross*  
*Augustana College*  
*Bethany for Children & Families*  
*Bethel Assembly of God*  
*Big Brothers Big Sisters*  
*Bi-State Literacy Council*  
*Black Hawk Area Special Education*  
*Black Hawk College*  
*Black Hawk College Adult Learning Center*  
*Black Hawk College Outreach Center*  
*Black Hawk Township*  
*Boys and Girls Club of Mississippi Valley*  
*Broadway Presbyterian Church*  
*Center for Alcohol & Drug Services*  
*Century Woods Apartments*  
*Children's Therapy Center of the Quad Cities*  
*Christ Child Society*  
*Christian Care Center*  
*Churches United Food Pantries*  
*City Housing Rehabilitation Programs*  
*City of Rock Island*  
*City of Rock Island - 1st Ward Alderman*  
*City of Rock Island - 2nd Ward Alderman*  
*City of Rock Island - 3rd Ward Alderman*  
*City of Rock Island - 4th Ward Alderman*  
*City of Rock Island - 5th Ward Alderman*  
*City of Rock Island - 6th Ward Alderman*  
*City of Rock Island - 7th Ward Alderman*  
*Community Caring Conference*  
*Community Child Care Resource & Referral*  
*Community Health Care - Moline, Rock Island, East Moline & Davenport*  
*Dental Emergency First Aid Plan*  
*Dept. of Children & Family Services*  
*Esperanza Legal Assistance Center*

*EveryChild*  
*EveryChild - Healthy Families*  
*EveryChild - Safe from the Start*  
*Family Museum*  
*Family Resources, Inc.*  
*Franklin Pediatrics*  
*Hartman Pediatrics*  
*Heather Ridge Apartment Complex*  
*Hope UCC/Churches United-Hot Meals*  
*IDHS University of IL Chicago*  
*Specialized Care for Children*  
*IL Department of Human Services*  
*IL Employment & Training Center*  
*IL State Dept. of Employment Security*  
*Illinois Worknet Center*  
*Illinois/Iowa Center for Independent Living*  
*In a Kid's World Early Learning Center*  
*KinderCare Learning Centers*  
*Lincoln Residences*  
*Lion's Club*  
*Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program*  
*Lutheran Social Services*  
*Lynden Lane Housing*  
*Maple Ridge Apartments*  
*Marriage and Family Counseling*  
*Martin Luther King Center*  
*MetroLink*  
*Milan Manor Apartments*  
*One Eighty*  
*Open Door Crisis Center*  
*Prairie State Legal Services, Inc.*  
*Pregnancy Resources*  
*Project NOW*  
*Putnam Museum*  
*Quad City Area Labor Management*  
*Rick's House of Hope*  
*River Bend Food Bank*  
*Robert Young Mental Health Center*  
*Rock Island County Health Department*

*Rock Island County Health Department - WIC Program*  
*Rock Island County Children's Advocacy Center*  
*Rock Island County Regional Office of Education*  
*Rock Island County Youth Service Bureau*  
*Rock Island County Council on Addictions*  
*Rock Island Economic Growth Corporation*  
*Rock Island Fitness Center*  
*Rock Island Housing Authority*  
*Rock Island Park Board*  
*Rock Island Public Library*  
*Rock Island Township*  
*Sacred Heart Catholic Church*  
*SAL Community Services*  
*Salvation Army*  
*School Health Link*  
*Secure Dental*  
*Skip-a-Long Child Development Services*  
*Social Security Administration*  
*South Rock Island Township*  
*Spencer Towers*  
*The ARC Quad Cities Area*  
*The Center for Youth & Family Solutions*  
*The Floreciente Center*  
*Two Rivers Pediatric Dentistry*  
*Two Rivers Point*  
*United Way of the Quad City Area*  
*University of Illinois Extension*  
*Village of Milan*  
*Western Illinois University, Moline Campus*  
*World Relief*  
*Youth Hope*  
*YMCA*  
*YWCA of the Quad Cities*  
*3rd & 11th Townhomes*