

**EAGLE COUNTY SCHOOLS
EARLY CHILDHOOD DEPARTMENT
HEAD START COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT
FEBRUARY, 2020**

Presented by Beth Reilly MPH



HEAD START COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT 2020

Acknowledgements: Special thanks to Jill Hunsaker Ryan & Silver Street Consulting. Portions of the Program Service Area description in this report were replicated courtesy of the 2012 Head Start Community Assessment.

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*Standard numbers refer to citations in the Head Start Performance Standards.

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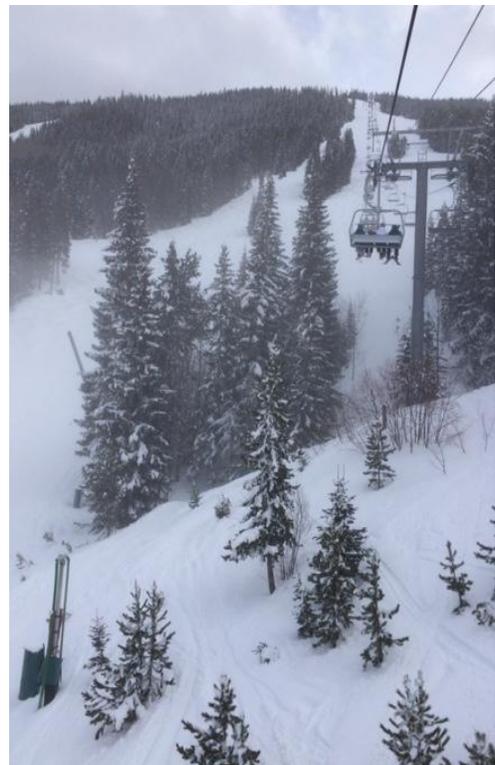
Introduction:

The Federal Head Start Performance Standards requires the grantee agency to conduct a Community Assessment every five years and annually review and update. The Head Start Community Assessment includes the collection of specifically required information in order to promote thoughtful analysis to improve services and address the needs of Head Start eligible children and their families. The Head Start Community Assessment requires both the review of data and the input of families as they self-identify their education, health, nutrition and social service needs.

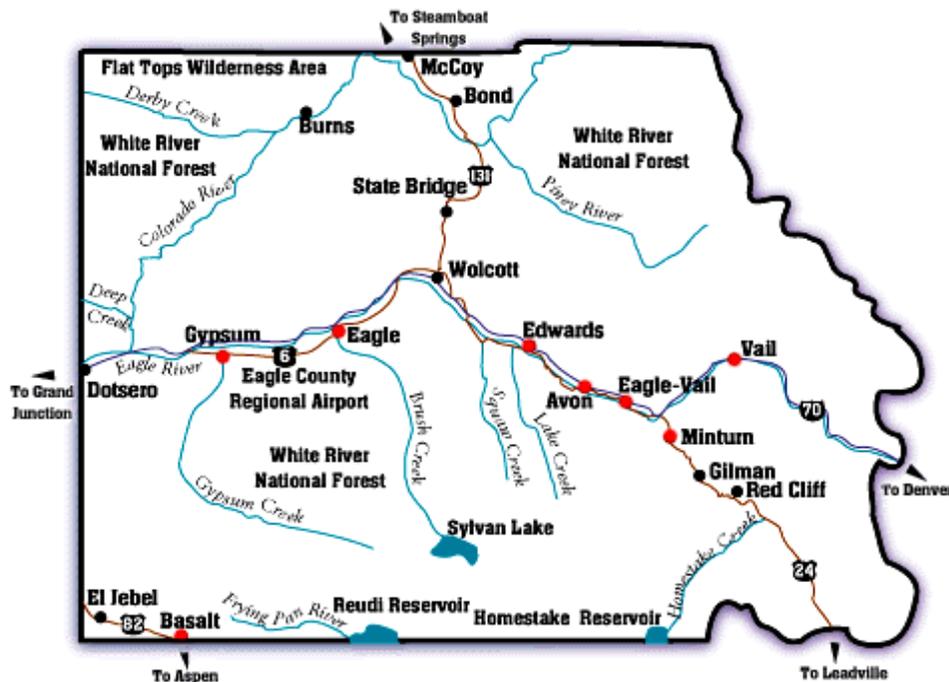
Other Eagle County organizations also conduct community assessments that include a broader array of information such as specific workforce data, community-wide health information, occupied housing information, etc. Some of these assessments are referenced at the end of this document for those looking for a larger picture of community-wide strengths and needs. This document is meant to complement, not duplicate, these other efforts.

Program Service Area 1302.11 a

Eagle County is a mountainous, rural community known for the world-class resorts of Vail and Beaver Creek. The county is located in the heart of the Rocky Mountains on Colorado's Western Slope, almost equidistant from the two major metropolitan centers of Denver and Grand Junction. Denver is approximately two hours and two mountain passes east. Grand Junction is two hours west, through the Glenwood Canyon in Garfield County. Eagle County has an elevation high of 10,603 ft. at the top of Vail Pass, which drops to a low of 6,150 ft. at the west end of the county. More than 80 percent of Eagle County is public land, including 930 square miles of the White River National Forest.



Most of the county's population resides along the I-70 corridor. The county seat is the town of Eagle, which is also located along I-70. Eagle County does have two towns in its southwest corner, El Jebel and Basalt, which are approximately a one-hour drive from the county seat and are also significant population centers. These towns border Garfield County to the west and Pitkin County to the south; in fact, the town of Basalt is partially located in Pitkin County. This geographic separation creates unique service challenges for the southwest corner of the county. The county does have a Health & Human Services satellite office that serves this area.



Prevalent Economic Factors 1302.11b1ii

Tourism is one of the county's main industries with visitors attracted to the area's snow sports, rivers, golfing, hiking, biking and other outdoor activities. Second homes are another unique feature and are also an economic driver. These industries create the demand for a large workforce in the areas of service, maintenance and construction.

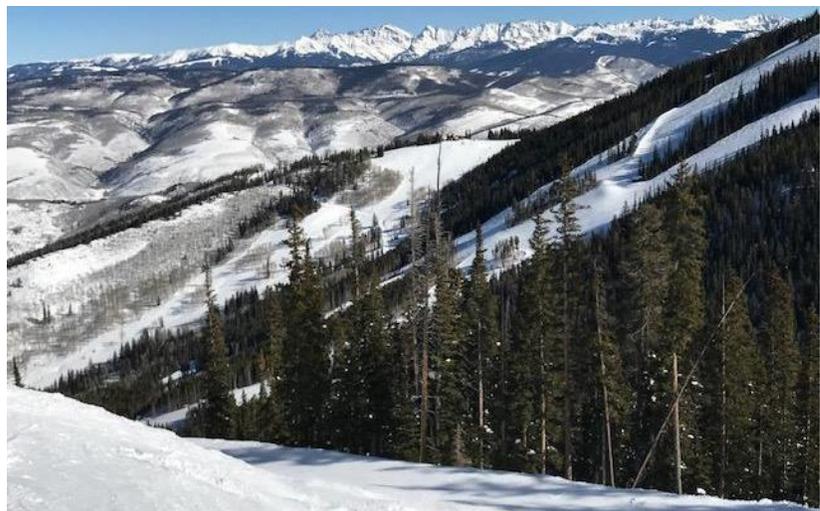
The top employment sector in Eagle County is in the area of Tourism and Outdoor Recreation at 44%. (Northwest Colorado Council of Governments Quarterly Economic Update December 2019) In 2018 the top employment sectors for employees were Accommodations and Food Service (31%; 11,434 jobs); Retail Trade (10%; 3,521 jobs); Real Estate and Rentals (8%;

2997 jobs) and Health Care and Social Services (8%; 2,984 jobs). Approximately 37% are employed in blue collar work and 62% are employed in white collar work. The average commute time to work is 20 minutes. (<http://vailvalleymeansbusiness.com/data-center>)

Eagle County Government's sale tax collection data is an indicator for both reviewing consumer spending and predicting revenue for government agencies. Eagle County Government's sales tax collections were at a low in 2010 at \$9,916,522 and in 2018 reached at high of \$15,565,781. Through November 2019 sales tax revenue was 15.8 million, 15% over budget and \$2 million higher than November 2018. Voters approved sales and excise taxes for marijuana in November 2017 in order to support mental health and substance abuse prevention and intervention services. In 2018, \$398,169 was raised for this purpose. Through November 2019 sales and excise taxes for marijuana, raised \$541,169, 21% over budget and \$186,000 more than by November of 2018. ([https://www.eaglecounty.us/Finance/Documents/ECG Monthly Sales Tax Report 11/2019/](https://www.eaglecounty.us/Finance/Documents/ECG%20Monthly%20Sales%20Tax%20Report%2011/2019/))

The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment posts economic information on their Labor Market Gateway system. (www.colmigateway.com) They report that the top growing occupations in Eagle County are for waiters and waitresses with a median annual wage of \$23,850; retail salespersons with a median annual wage of \$32,933; food preparation including fast food with a median annual wage of \$29,046; cashiers with a median annual wage of \$28,728; and maids and housekeepers with a median annual wage of \$30,175. The average hourly wage is \$22.25 and the average weekly wage is \$890. The unemployment rate is 1.8%.

The economic data shows that although there is full employment, the largest and growing employment sectors are in middle to low paying jobs.



Demographic Make-up of Head Start Eligible Children and Families 1302.11bii Number

The Head Start program is operated through the Eagle County RE-50 School District, which serves the Eagle River Valley, from Vail west to Dotsero. The Head Start program provides comprehensive child development services to economically disadvantaged children and their families, from age three to five. The program follows a center-based model and each child receives four days of center-based early education services. In addition, a Family Services Coordinator serves each family, assuring all ancillary and support services are received.

During the 2019/2020 school year, the program over-enrolled by 1 at 70; with 21 Head Start eligible children with complete applications currently unserved by Head Start and on the wait list. Of the 21 unserved, thirteen on the waitlist are below Federal Poverty guidelines. Three live west of Wolcott and ten live east of Wolcott. Ten of the unserved are eligible due to a housing crisis, and three of these ten also meet income guidelines. (*In addition, there are 44 incomplete or unprocessed applications received with not enough information to contribute to this report.)

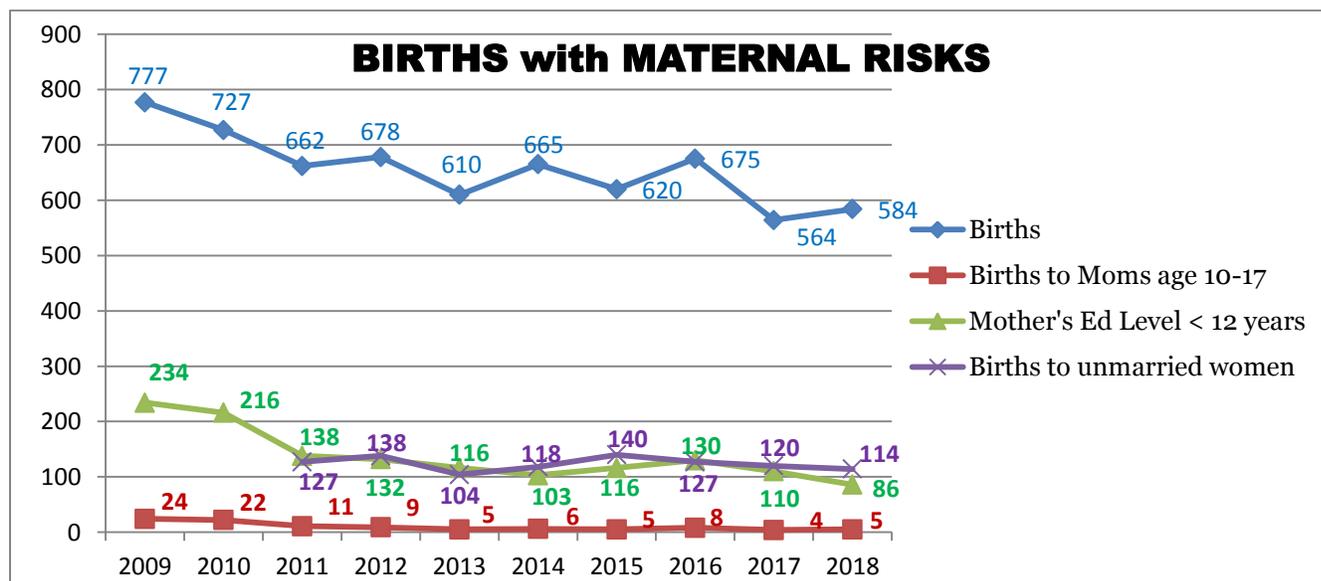
	East of Wolcott	West of Wolcott
Total Applications	63	70
Applications missing information	15	10
New unprocessed applications	9	10
Completed applications ineligible for Head Start	25	43
Completed applications eligible for Head Start based on income	10	3
Applicants eligible for Head Start based on homeless status	6	4
Applicants eligible for Head Start based on both homeless status and income	2	1
Applicant eligible for Head Start based on child enrolled in Foster Care	0	1
Total Head Start eligible applicants	14	7
Total Head Start eligible currently <u>unserved</u> by other ECE programs	11	4
Head Start eligible applicants on the waitlist that are already served through other ECE programming (IEP or Tuition)	3	3

According to the US Census Bureau “American Community Survey 5 Year Estimates” for 2018, Eagle County’s population was 54,357, with 5.8% (3153) under the age of 5.

(<https://factfinder.census.gov>) In 2018, 584 children were born in the county. The 5-year average of births is 622 with a range of 564-675. (<http://www.cohid.dphe.state.co.us/>)

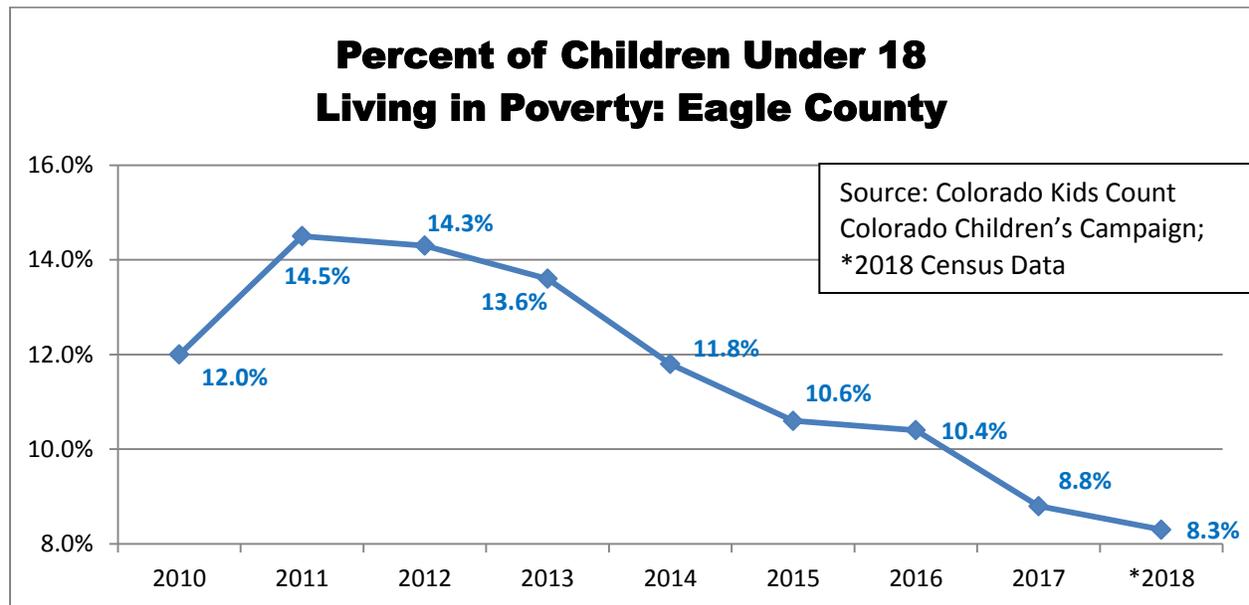
Head Start enrollment eligibility is based primarily on income levels. Since there are more applications than enrollment spaces, other risk factor criteria are also considered for weighting applicants, such as parental educational level, age of the parent at the time of birth, and being a single parent. (See Appendix A: Selection Criteria) Teen births to moms at 17 years or younger remain low at 5 in 2018. 2018 saw a decrease of 14.7% of births to women with a lower educational level. The percent of births to unmarried women decreased from 21% in 2017 to 19.5% in 2018. Eagle County births to foreign-born women decreased from 43% in 2017 to 27.8% in 2018. Although births to foreign-born women is not noted specifically on the selection criteria as a risk, foreign-born parents do have additional challenges accessing resources and supports for their families due to eligibility barriers associated with many programs.

(<http://www.cohid.dphe.state.co.us>)



Beginning in 2015, the percent of children under 18 living in poverty has returned to the pre-recession levels prior to 2010. 2018 Census Bureau American Community Survey data identifies 8.3% of children under the age of 18 living in poverty in Eagle County and

6.9% of school age children (5-17) within the Eagle County School District boundaries living in poverty. Although higher than desired, Eagle County School’s children living in poverty is lower than both the U.S. (17%) and Colorado (11.5%) ([Census.gov/ Our Surveys & Programs/ SAIPE Program/ Data/ SAIPE Data Tools/ SAIPE Interactive Tool](#)).



One can estimate the numbers of those Head Start eligible based solely on poverty in Eagle County by adding the births in 2015 and 2016 and multiplying by 8.3%. This results in an estimate of 107 eligible children. The communities of El Jebel and Basalt in Eagle County are outside of the service area of the Eagle County School’s Head Start grant. About 11% of children under the age of five lived in the El Jebel/Basalt area according to the Census’s American Community Survey 2013-2018 5 year estimates. Thus, we can further estimate the number of Head Start eligible children within the Eagle County Schools service area to be 95 (107 x 89%). In the 2019-2020 school year, the Eagle County Schools Head Start grant serves 69 Head Start children, and the program is overenrolled by 1, totaling 70 children. Forty-one (59%) Head Start children live below 100% of poverty (\$25,750 for a family of 4 in 2019). Thirty-four (49%) of Head Start children met the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness. Some children (24%) are eligible in both income and housing crisis categories.

([Google Doc 2019-2020 HSCPP Enrollment](#))

Eagle County Schools also serves at-risk children through the Colorado Preschool Program (CPP) and Early Childhood At-Risk Enhancement (ECARE). Seventeen CPP/ECARE children live below 100% of poverty. [\(Cap60 ECS database\)](#) Thus, a total of 58 children living below 100% of poverty are served by Eagle County Schools early childhood programs, 61% of the estimated need. Considering those income-eligible on the waitlist, the program is either serving, or has on the program’s radar, 75% of the estimated number of income eligible children in Eagle County. There are 24 potentially income eligible children in the community that are either “not found” or are part of the group of applicants that have incomplete applications. Between the CPP/ECARE and the Head Start program, 155 at-risk children currently receive services in 2019-2020 at the time of this writing.

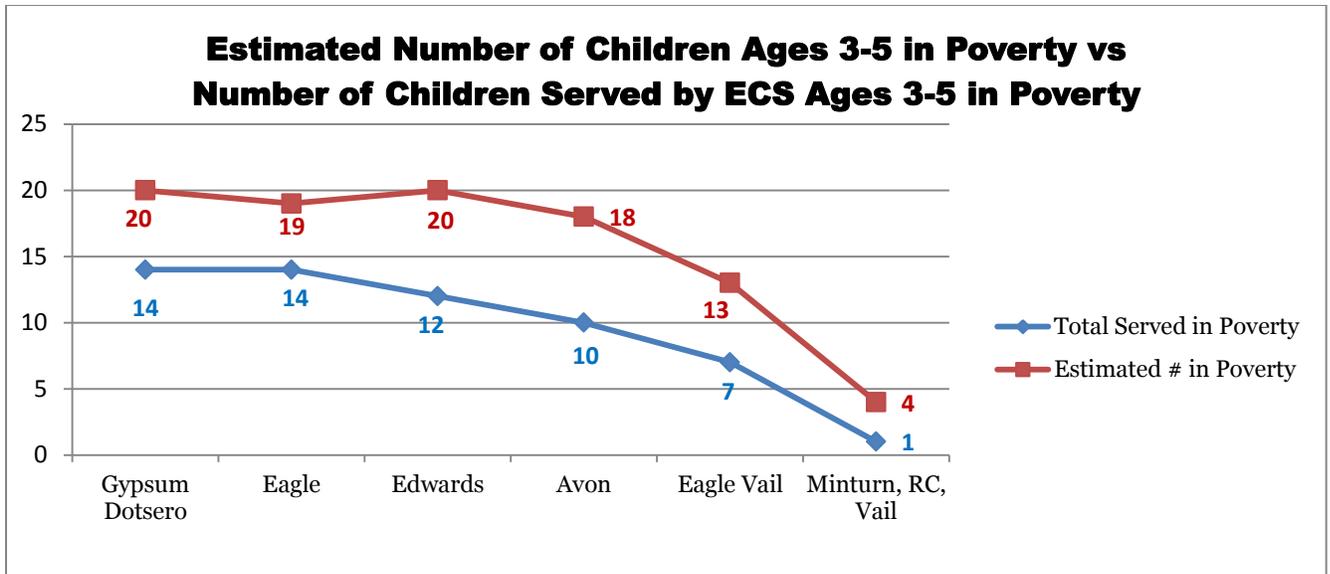
The Colorado Center on Law and Policy’s report, “The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Eagle County 2018,” notes that an adult with an infant and preschooler in the household requires an annual income of \$81,801 to make ends meet. Thus, although there are few that fall below the Federal Poverty guidelines, many more are struggling economically in Eagle County. [\(cclponline.org/pub_library/\)](http://cclponline.org/pub_library/)

Geographic Location

The Census’s American Community Survey 2013-2018 population estimates for children under the age of five are identified by census tract and are combined here into commonly referred to geographic locations within the boundaries of Eagle County Schools.

Population Estimates of Children Under Age 5 in 2018					
Gypsum/Dotsero	Eagle	Edwards	Avon	Eagle-Vail	Minturn/ RedCliff/Vail
593	563	587	542	391	122

The following graphs roughly identify the estimated numbers of pre-school aged children in poverty in each geographical area compared to the number of Head Start and Colorado Preschool enrolled children living below poverty in the 19-20 school year.



The following table presents the above information in a different format.

ESTIMATED PERCENT OF PRESCHOOL AGE CHILDREN IN POVERTY SERVED BASED ON ESTIMATED NEED		ESTIMATED NUMBER UNSERVED IN POVERTY
GYPSUM/DOTSERO	70%	6
EAGLE	74%	5
EDWARDS	60%	8
AVON	56%	8
EAGLE VAIL	54%	5
VAIL/REDCLIFF/MINTURN	25%	3

There are only thirteen complete Head Start applications that are below federal poverty levels and are unserved. Some children are not attending their home school.

Although there have not been program Head Start or Colorado Preschool Program vacancies since October 2019 expediting the need for application processing, there are significantly more unprocessed applications in February 2020 than there were in

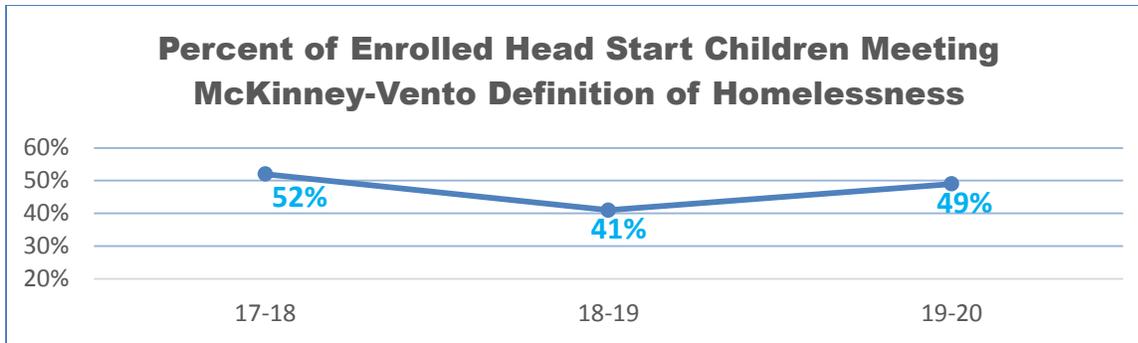
February 2019. In February 2019 there were 18 incomplete or unprocessed applications compared to 44 in February 2020.

Racial and Ethnic Composition

According to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Vital Statistics, in 2018 83% of maternal race of children born in Eagle County identified as White. Forty-two percent identified as White and Hispanic, 2% identified as Asian American or Pacific Islander, 7% identified, as black/African American and 14% were "unknown /other." The "unknown/other" category may represent challenges in data collection, difficulty of respondents in understanding the differences between race and ethnicity categories, and the rigidity of the reporting system. The US Census 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate identifies Eagle County's overall population in 2018 by race as 88.8% White. Non-Hispanic White and Hispanic/Latino (29.7%) represent the two dominant ethnicities in the county. The foreign-born population is 18.3%. Just over twenty-eight percent of residents speak a language other than English at home with 24.8% speaking Spanish at home (5 year averages 2014-2018- Census <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/profile?q=Eagle%20County,%20Colorado&g=0500000US08037>)

Housing Crisis

Thirty-four (49%) of Head Start enrolled children in 2019/2020 meet the Federal definition of homelessness in the McKinney-Vento Act. Most are experiencing a housing crisis by living in shared housing due to economic crisis. There are many whole families living in just one bedroom. High levels of Head Start eligibility based on homelessness are not surprising. The American Community Survey 2014-2018 identifies that the medium cost of rent is \$1507, \$137 more than the prior year. There is a rental vacancy rate of 17.6%. In addition, 42.4% of renters are paying more than 35% of their income on rent and 26.7% of mortgage holders pay more than 35% of their income on housing costs. (<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table>)



The 2018 Eagle Valley Housing Needs and Solutions study (Rees Consulting, Inc. /Williford, LLC) describes the needs and challenges, and potential housing solutions for Eagle County. The study notes that the Area Median Income (AMI) for a 3 person household is \$80,600. For this income, the maximum affordable purchase price for a home would be \$316,000 or the maximum affordable rent would be \$2420 (page 3). Yet the medium sale price in 2018 was \$621,000 (page 18). The study reviewed listings for sale and found that in 2017 there were only 13 units for sale at price range affordable for those with incomes at or below AMI (page 19). For renters, the study notes “employees in a household need to work about 120 hours a week, or three fulltime jobs, at minimum wage for the average rent and utility payment to be considered ‘affordable.’” (page 21) (https://www.eaglecounty.us/uploadedFiles/ECG_Website/Housing_and_Development/Documents/2018)

Foster Care

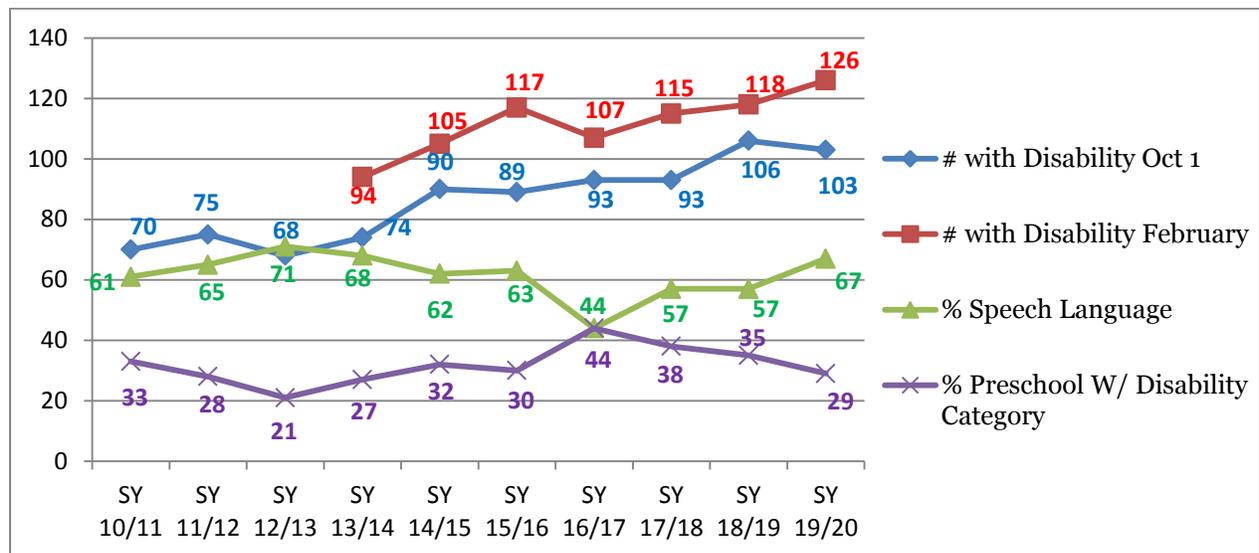
There currently is no Head Start enrolled child involved in the local Foster Care system.

Children with Disabilities

Eagle County Schools is the Local Education Agency (LEA) for children with disabilities. Services are provided in inclusive classrooms. Each school district preschool site is served by an Early Childhood professional with a Master’s Degree in Early Childhood Special Education. Additional services are provided through Eagle County Schools’ Exceptional Student Services Department (Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Audiology, etc).

Data is collected by October 1st each year regarding the number of preschool children served and their type of disability. The number of children served by the preschools with disabilities doubled between 2008 and 2018, which is attributed to increased

outreach efforts. Speech and language is the most common area of special needs among preschoolers, representing 77% of disability-enrolled children by October 1st in 2019/2020. The next largest category is the broad and somewhat vague category of “preschooler with a disability.” This category represented 29% of enrolled children with a disability in the fall of 2019/2020. In the fall of 2019/2020, four additional children were identified; one with autism, one with a traumatic brain injury and two others with health related disabilities.



The “official” count of children with disabilities occurs in October, but children enter the preschool program as they are identified, or in conjunction with a Part C child’s third birthday and transition. Thus, the October count under-reports the number of children with disabilities actually served annually through the Early Childhood Department. In February 2020, children with disabilities represented 40% of total ECS preschool enrollment (126/312). Twelve percent (15 children) of all preschool children with disabilities use transportation to access their special education services. Head Start currently has nineteen children enrolled with disabilities, with 17 identified at application and two qualifying after enrollment.

Mountain Valley Developmental Services (MVDS) is the local Part C provider. In fiscal year 2018-2019, they provided services to over 200 children with disabilities under age three in the Eagle County School’s area. The number of children they serve through the

Early Intervention program in the Eagle River Valley grows each year. MVDS is also an important partner regarding Child Find and Child Find referrals. During the last fiscal year, 150 children were referred, screened and/or evaluated for these services. In addition, they are the fiscal agent for the Rocky Mountain Early Childhood Council (RMECC), employing the Council's director and managing grant funding.

Data Regarding the Needs of Head Start Eligible Families 1302.11b1ii Education:

Eagle County Schools measures educational progress on a variety of educational domains on all enrolled children, including children with disabilities, three times a year using the Teaching Strategies Gold Assessment. The domains are: social-emotional development, cognitive development, physical skills, language, literacy, mathematics, social studies, the arts, science and technology, and Spanish language and literacy. In 2017-2018, Teaching Strategies Gold combined the categories of Fine and Gross Motor Skills into one Physical Skills category.

All of the domains showed substantial educational growth during the course of the 2018-2019 school year, comparing the Fall Checkpoint measurements to the Spring Checkpoint measurements. At the Fall Checkpoint, the lowest areas for all children were in the domains of Spanish Literacy (18% at widely held expectations), Spanish Language (27% at widely held expectations), and Mathematics (33% at widely held expectations); demonstrating the greatest educational needs entering the program. Native Spanish and native English speakers are assessed in both English and Spanish language and literacy domains.

More than 80% of preschoolers age-eligible for kindergarten in the coming school year meet widely held expectations when they leave the program in the spring in the domains of Physical Skills, Social Emotional, Cognitive Skills, and English Literacy. The domain of English language had 77% meeting widely held expectations. The domain of Mathematics had 73% meeting widely held expectations. The domains of Spanish Literacy had 45% meeting widely held expectations and Spanish Language had 39% meeting widely held expectations. Children age-eligible for Kindergarten in the coming

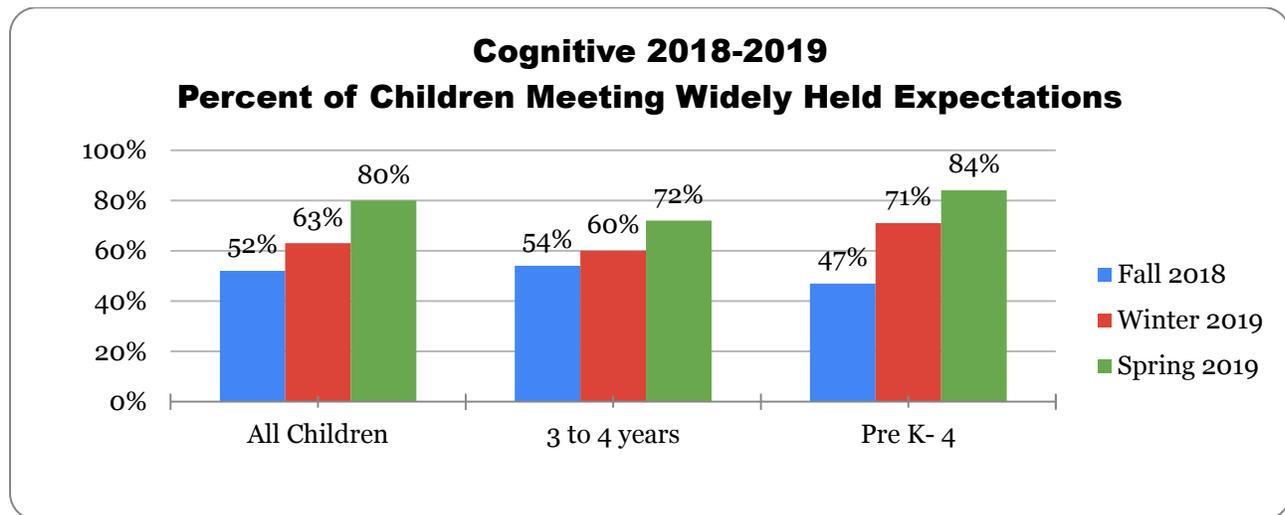
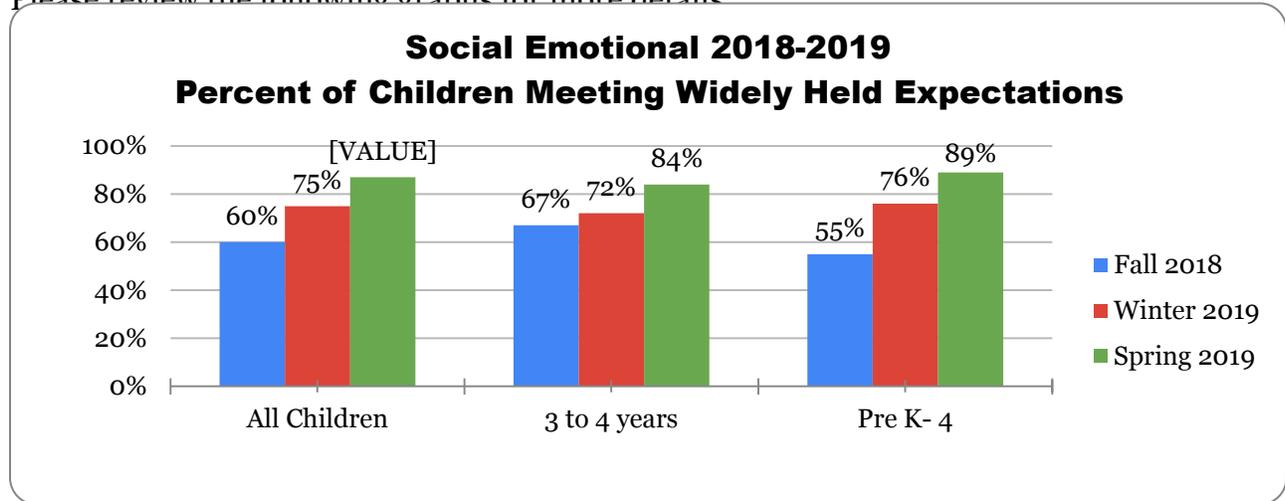
school year show the greatest growth from fall to spring in the area of Mathematics (51% growth).

The areas that stayed the same or improved from the prior year at the spring checkpoint for preschoolers age-eligible for kindergarten in the coming school year were in Social Emotional (+5%), English Literature (+3%), Physical Skills (+2%), Cognitive Skills (+1%), and Spanish Language (+1%). Areas of measurement at the spring checkpoint lower than the prior year's results include Spanish Literacy (-8%), English Language (-1%), and Math (-1%).

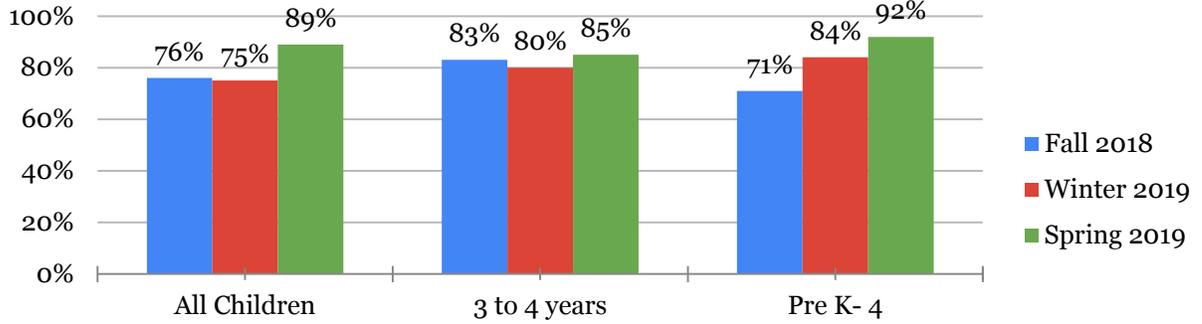


New in 2014-2015 were measurements in Gold regarding Spanish Language and Literacy. All district sites, beginning in 2015-2016, provide dual language learning opportunities. All sites, except three, are moving toward the implementation of dual language using evidence-based strategies and are committed to moving towards a 50-50 model. The three schools that haven't moved to a 50-50 model have smaller populations of English Language Learners in their community but are offering specific areas of Spanish instruction including the social and emotional curriculum, Dinosaur School, and language and literacy instruction using storybook circles and the curriculum Estrellita.

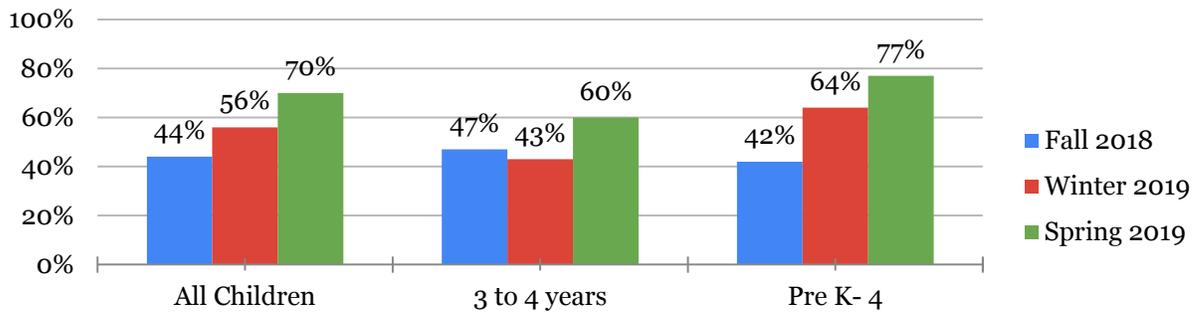
Please review the following graphs for more details



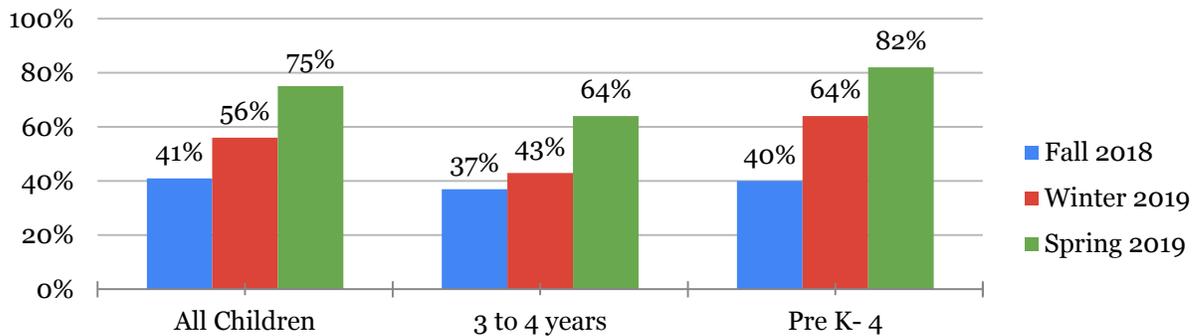
Physical 2018-2019
Percent of Children Meeting Widely Held Expectations



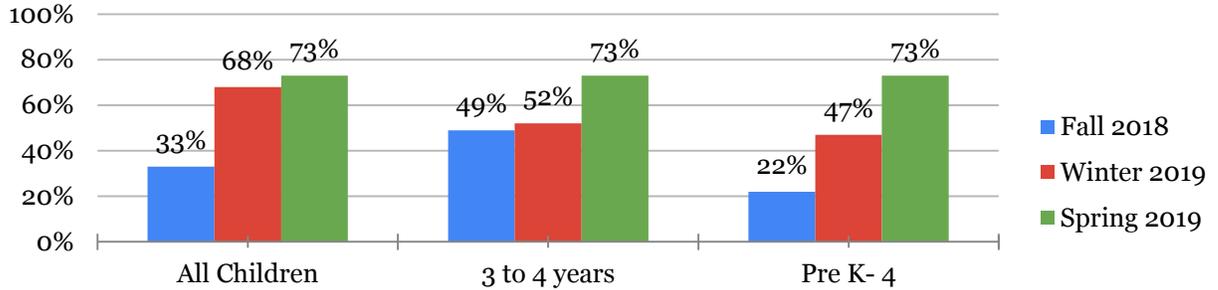
English Language 2018-2019
Percent of Children Meeting Widely Held Expectations



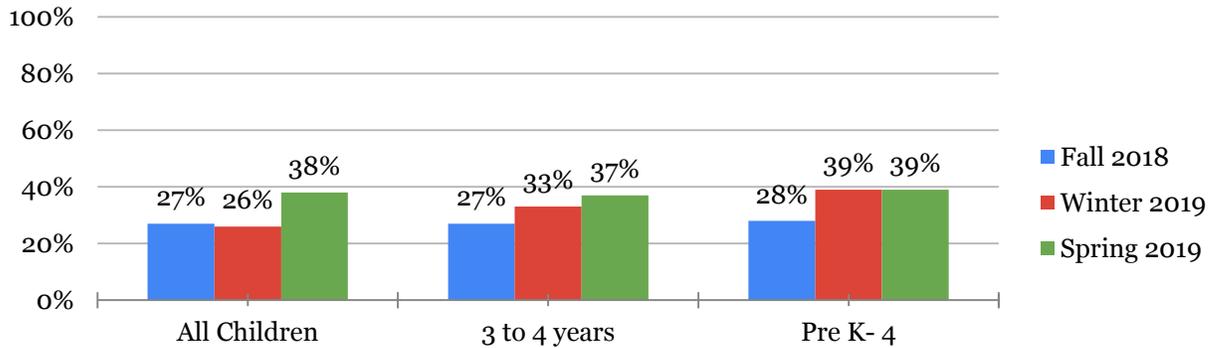
English Literacy 2018-2019
Percent of Children Meeting Widely Held Expectations



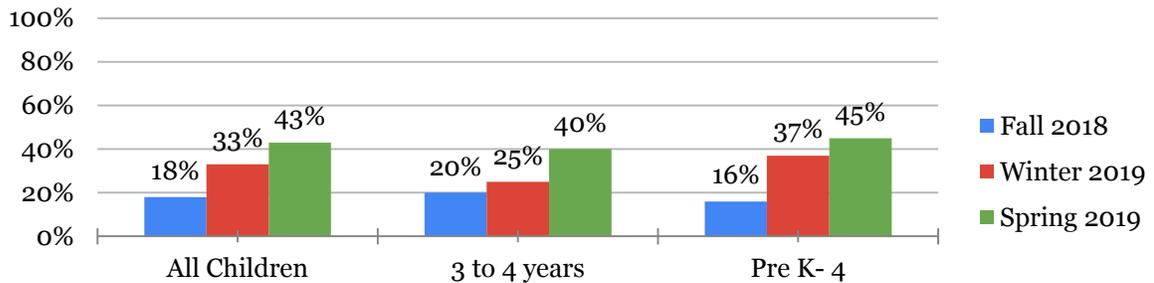
Mathematics 2018-2019
Percent of Children Meeting Widely Held Expectations



Spanish Language 2018-2019
Percent of Children Meeting Widely Held Expectations



Spanish Literacy 2018-2019
Percent of Children Meeting Widely Held Expectations



Education needs as defined by families:

Parents were asked at the year-end Satisfaction Survey, “In your opinion, what are the most important **education** needs in our community?” Thirty-four parents responded with comments in the spring of 2019. For a complete list of comments and results, please see the Parent Satisfaction Survey results (Appendix C). A summary of parent-identified educational needs is noted here:

- General: Education, early childhood education. (5)
- Bilingual education. (3)
- Reading and reading to children. (3)
- Social-Emotional Development. (2)
 - Learning values. (Honesty, responsibility, etc). (3)
- More educational programs, including options for children who don't qualify for special education. (2)
- Health and nutrition. (2)
- A school where children can communicate in the language they best understand.
- A quality learning environment.
- Skill-Building for drug prevention.
- Better classroom ratios.
- Understanding technology
- Home-school Connection:
 - Opportunities to reinforce learning at home (including parental understanding of what children are being taught). (4)
 - Good communication between parents and kids. (2)
 - Family Engagement (including in school activities, meetings, events). (2)
 - Parents spending time with their children.

Health

In 2019, Eagle County ranked 3rd out of 60 Colorado counties in health outcomes. Areas where Eagle County shines in the health behavior rankings are the low percentages of people physically inactive, the high access to exercise activities, the good ratio of residents to primary care doctors, low numbers of preventable hospital stays, and low levels of air pollution. The areas where Eagle County are lower in the health rankings is in the area of overall percentage of uninsured, excessive drinking, and the percentage of ninth-graders that graduates high school in four years (79%).

(<http://www.countyhealthrankings.org>)

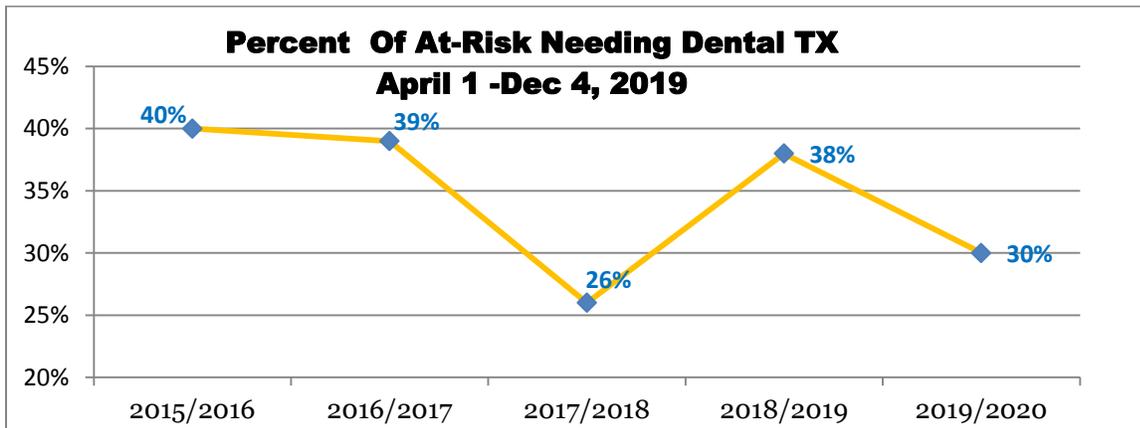
In 2018, there were 131 deaths in Eagle County. Most were due to health related conditions, including 29 cancer deaths and 27 related to cardiovascular disease. There were 15 deaths due to accidents, 14 deaths due to suicide, including 6 deaths due to discharge of firearms, 4 deaths due to drug overdose and 8 deaths due to alcohol overdose. (Vital Statistics Program, CDPHE)

The health needs of Head Start enrolled children are documented annually through the Ninety Day Report and presented to the staff and community through the Health Services Advisory Committee, the Policy Council, and through the self-assessment process. Primary health needs are presented here. Please see the Ninety Day Report (Appendix B) for full and detailed information. The top health needs, based on data, of Head Start enrolled children are oral health, social-emotional health, vision care, nutrition and insurance status.

Oral Health: A large percentage of children at-risk (30%) required treatment for tooth decay in the past year. One challenge in oral health is lack of access to fluoridated water for many low-income children. Water is not fluoridated in Red Cliff, Minturn, Gypsum and Dotsero. In addition, none of the mobile home parks (except the Aspens in Avon) have fluoridated water. Many of the enrolled children live in these areas. It is an Eagle County Schools Head Start goal to increase

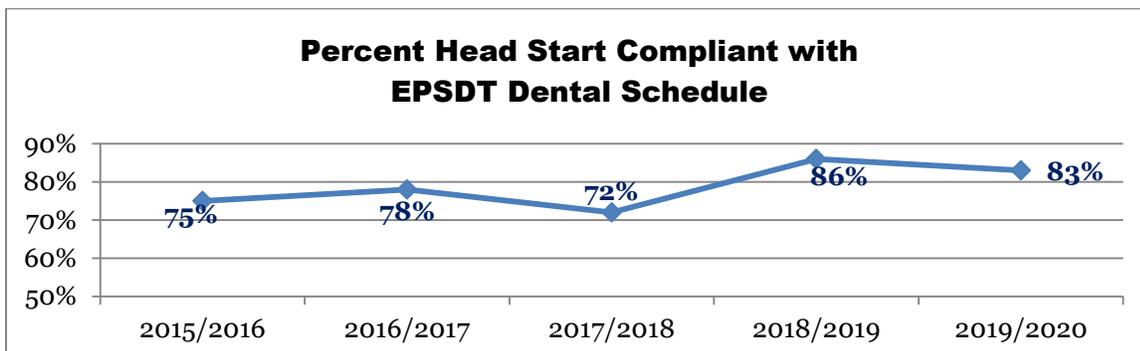


access to fluoridated water in the community. There have been significant efforts to bring fluoridated water to the large mobile home park in Edwards in 2019. Negotiations are ongoing between Eagle County Public Health, the mobile home park owners, the Water and Sanitation District, and the Edwards Metro District. The high costs to convert the current system are a challenge in the negotiation process. In addition, there are concerns that costs will be transferred to low-income renters in the park.



Currently there are five Medicaid Dental Providers in Eagle County: Image Dental, Comfort Dental, All About Smiles, Mountain Family Health Center (MFHC), Mountain Valley Kids Dental and All Kids Dental. Image Dental, All About Smiles and MFHC refer any restorative needs to pediatric dental specialists, usually All Kids Dental. Comfort Dental will also provide restorative care, as long as sedation is not required. Mountain Valley Kids Dental (MVKD) is also a pediatric dental specialist located in Edwards. MVKD, newly opened in May 2018, will likely see more pediatric referrals as their marketing and community presence becomes known.

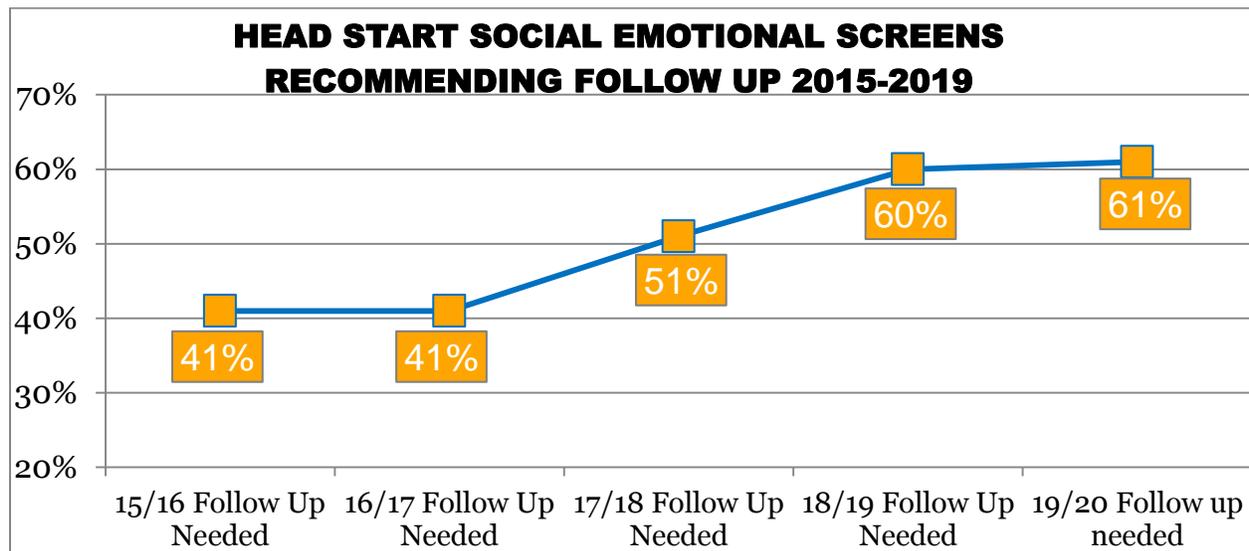
All Kids Dental is the dental home to 41% of the at-risk enrollment. MFHC’s market share as the dental home for Head Start and CPP enrolled increased from the 8% in 2016/2017 to 33% in 2019/2020. MFHC increase in dental home market share, and their local availability and affordability, likely are related to the improvement of compliance of Head Start children and EPSDT requirements.



Social-Emotional: All preschoolers receive a social emotional screen (DECA) within the first 30 days of the school year. Both parents and teachers complete the screen. Children and families are referred for follow up individual consult(s) with a mental health professional if the results meet any of the following conditions:

- The teacher results indicate concern in any of the five social-emotional domains reviewed.
- The parent results indicate concern in three or more of the five domains reviewed. (Parents are given education materials for any identified concerns).
- The family services home visit interview identifies other areas of crisis or concern.

This year 61% of Head Start enrolled indicated the need for follow up as indicated by the DECA, closely aligned with the percent identified in the application process with low social skills (63%). There is an effective system in place to assure the family meets with a mental health professional to discuss family needs and concerns. Beginning in 2017/2018, the parent consults with a mental health professional increased from 30 minutes to one hour. Each program also implements the social-emotional program of “Dinosaur School” and/or Second Step. The Incredible Years Parenting classes are offered in English and Spanish at least annually in the community.

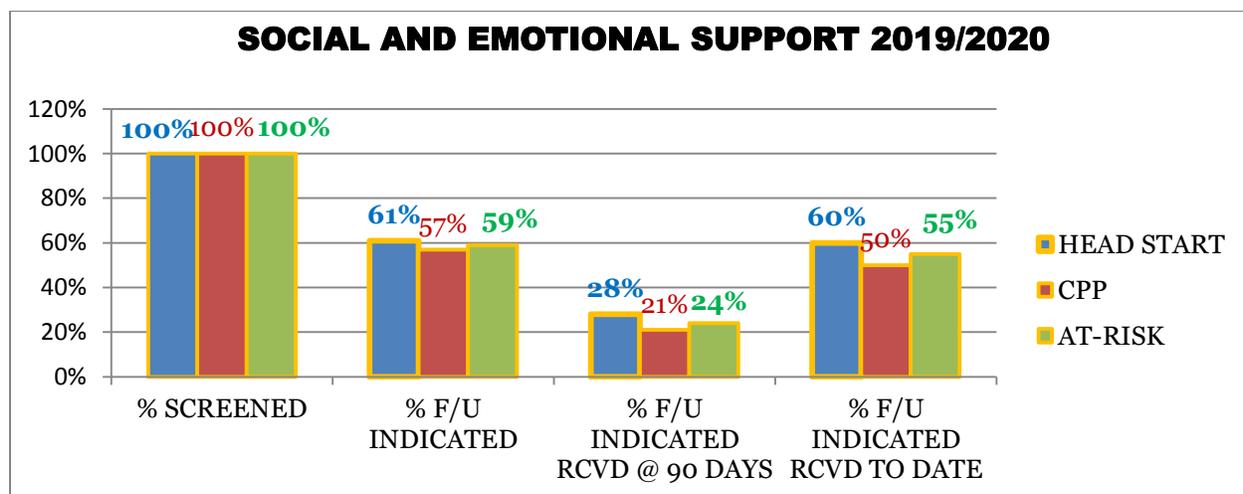


It is the goal that identified families, including CPP/ECARE enrolled, through funding from the Temple Hoyne Buell grant, will receive dedicated time with the mental health

professional within ninety days to discuss concerns and strategies. Twenty-eight percent of Head Start children with social emotional issues had met with a mental health professional within 90 days of enrollment (a decline of 50% from the prior year). Twenty-one percent of CPP/ECARE enrolled children with social emotional issues had met with a mental health professional within 90 days of enrollment (a decline of 26% from the prior year). Family Services Coordinators hypothesize that the primary causes of the decline



are due to the difficulty of scheduling appointments and a high no-show rate. In addition, they hypothesize that when parents complete the screen prior to enrollment, the results show higher levels of concern that are often resolved after the child is exposed to the routine and learning at school. Family Service Coordinators are persistent at continuing to attempt the scheduling of follow up visits throughout the school year.



Vision: All Head Start enrolled children received vision screens within forty-five days of enrollment. The program has an important partnership with the Lions Club, which conducts most of the vision screens for enrolled preschoolers. The Lions Club utilizes a photoscreener. The photoscreener is able to give immediate preliminary results,

expediting the referral process. The Lions Club partnership has been very helpful in assisting families to receive services locally through their generous voucher program. The voucher provides approximately \$200 towards a vision exam and corrective lenses for each accepted applicant.



In addition, Eagle Valley Vision and Dr. Pence began accepting Medicaid patients in 2015, further expediting the referral process for those indicating a referral through the screening process. 20 Eye Care in Glenwood Springs also is accepting Medicaid and is willing to see children under the age of four.

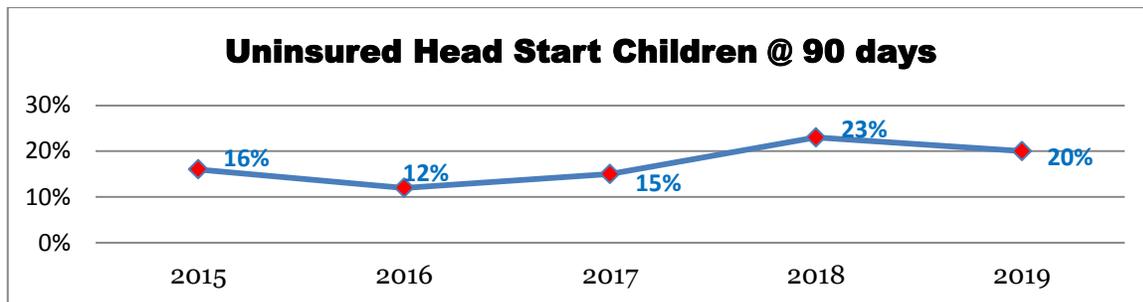
By February 2020, 56% of Head Start/Colorado Preschool Program vision referrals had been completed, resulting in 8 children receiving glasses. About 25% of those screened are referred for a professional eye exam.

VISION	SCREENED	NEW REFERRAL INDICATED	REFERRAL COMPLETE	COMMENTS RE: REFERRALS
Head Start	71/71 100%	18/71 25%	10/18 56%	RX for glasses: 3/10= 30% 3 additional were already under care prior to enrollment with glasses.
CPP	84/84 100%	21/84 25%	10/21 48%	RX for glasses: 5/10= 50%; 3 additional were already under care prior to enrollment.
All At-Risk	155/155 100%	39/155 25%	20/39 51%	RX for glasses: 8/20= 40%

Insurance

Having health insurance increases a child’s ability to access health services, especially for low-income families that cannot afford to pay out-of-pocket for care. The changing

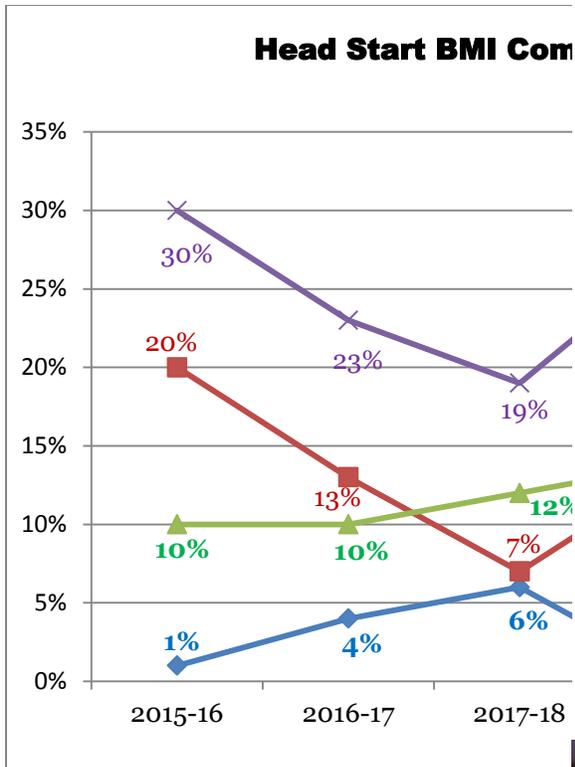
political climate has increased the anxiety of immigrant parents to apply for Medicaid for their citizen children. Family Services Coordinators relate that there are a few children that are Medicaid eligible (Five Head Start and 10 CPP children) but remain uninsured due to anxieties of accepting government assistance in the current political climate.



Nutrition

Although the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) identified Eagle County as having the lowest percentage of obesity in the country ([Vail Daily 11/24/2017](#)), data collected on Head Start enrolled children demonstrate nutritional needs. Twenty-four percent of Head Start enrolled children are overweight or obese. Fifty-one percent (25/49) of all at-risk underweight, overweight and obese children have received nutrition consults by a Registered Dietician by February 2020. Through funding from the Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation, resources are available to provide nutrition consults to all nutritionally at-risk Head Start and Colorado Preschool Program enrolled children and families.

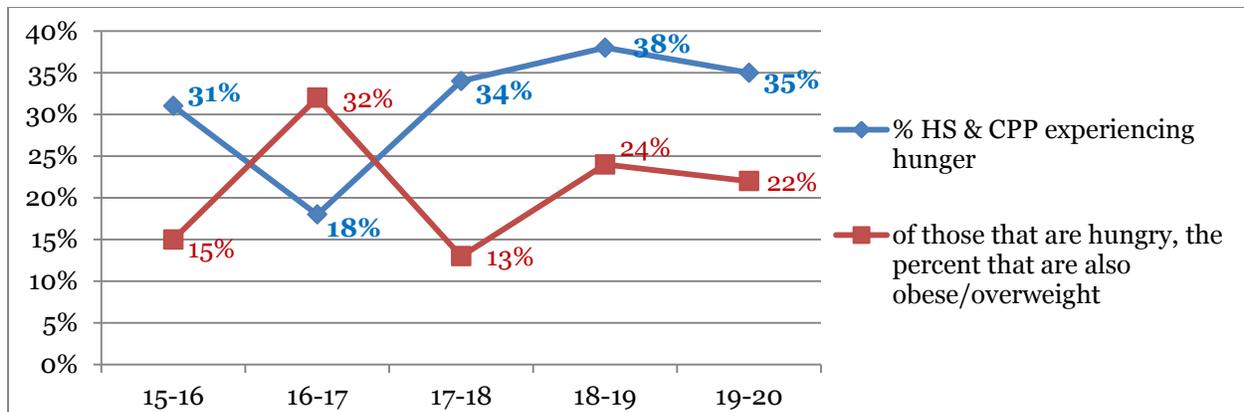
At-risk preschool enrollments with symptoms of anemia receive nutrition consultations either through WIC or the ECS's contracted RD, and additional education. The percentage of preschool children at-risk with anemia is 5% (7). Three of the seven children have received a nutritional consult and two others are monitored through WIC. The greatest number of anemia cases appears around the age of 1, when a child's diet transitions from that of an infant to that of a toddler.



Risk of hunger is identified by asking families, through interview, the scientifically reviewed questions of: “Within the past three months did you worry whether your food would run out before you had money to buy more.” Or, “Within the past three months the food we bought just didn’t last and we didn’t have money to buy more.”



Hunger levels are 35% of at-risk enrollment in 2019-2020. Children identified as at-risk for hunger receive a weekly backpack of food through the Food Rescue Express, are referred to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), receive Free and Reduced lunches, and are linked to local food banks (ie: Salvation Army, Our Community Foundation) and free community dinners.



Health and Nutrition as defined by parents

Parents were asked in the year-end Satisfaction Survey, “In your opinion, what are the most important **health** and **nutrition** needs in our community?” Forty-three parents responded with comments in the Spring of 2019. For a complete list of comments, please see the Parent Satisfaction Survey results (Appendix C). Most of the comments focused on nutrition related topics rather than other types of health needs. A summary of parent-identified health and nutrition needs are noted here:

- Healthy Eating. (17)
 - Vegetables. (4)
 - Affordable nutritious food.
 - Accessible nutritious food.
 - Available nutritious food.
 - Fruit.
 - Fiber.
 - Protein.
 - No sugary beverages (soda) for children.
 - Increased variety of healthy food (fruits and vegetables) for school lunch.
- Nutrition education. (3)
 - Nutrition education for children. (2)
- Activities to encourage exercise. (8)
 - Exercise education.
 - Sports.
 - Field house.
- Health education. (2)
- Access to clean water. (2)
- Adopting healthy habits.
 - Hygiene.

- Hand washing.
- Keeping the family healthy.
- Children dressed appropriately when outside.
- Accessible primary care.
 - Increased access to Medicaid/ CHP+ to assure affordable care for children.
- Affordable emergency care.
- Dental care.
 - Affordable dental care for uninsured.
- Vision care.
- Communication.
- Studies.

Social Services

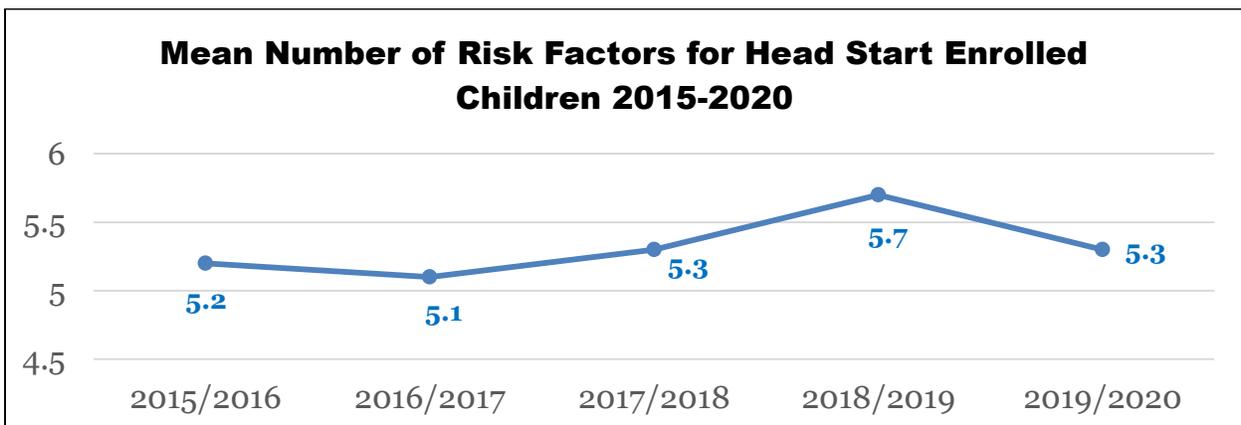
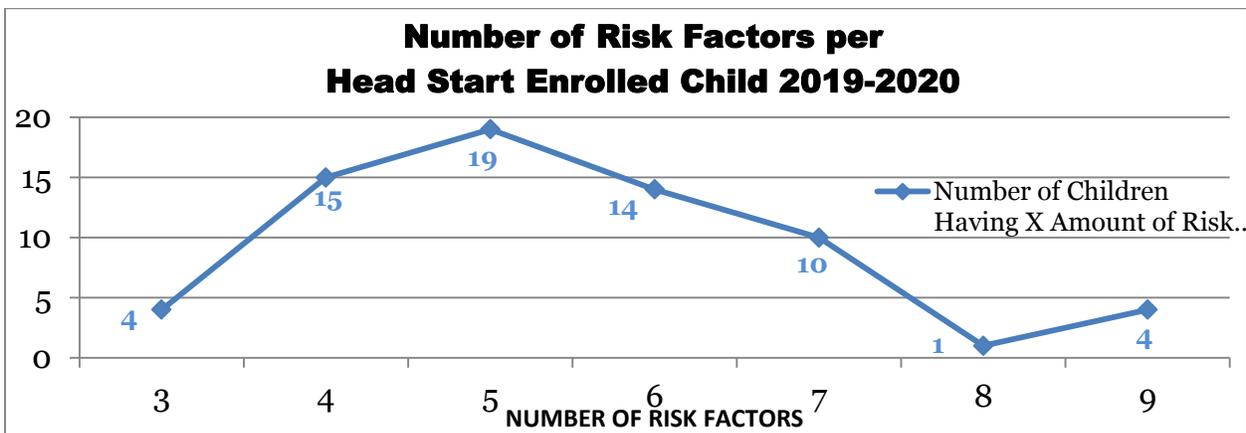
Social Service needs, for the purpose of this report, are calculated by reviewing both the risk factors identified by enrolled families in the application process, and identified by issues recognized during the home visit and documented in the annual Head Start Program Information Report (PIR).

Risk factors of 67 Head Start enrolled children were reviewed using the program database, Cap60. Risk factors that changed by 5% or more from the prior year include the categories of children with disabilities (+12%), children with poor social skills (+11%), single parent households (+7%), parents with less than a high school education (-21%), high mobility (-13%), incomes less than 100% of Federal Poverty Levels (-12%), children with a history of abuse or neglect (-6%) and teen parents (-5.5%). The categories of risk factors identified and the percentage of enrolled children's families with these risks are as follows:

- English Language Learner 81%
- Homeless 64%
- Single Parent 64%
- <100% of Federal Poverty Levels 63%
- Poor Social Skills 63%
- Parent with less than a high school education 40%
- Misc. Crisis 34%
- High Mobility (more than 2 moves in one year) 33%
- History of Abuse or Neglect 28%
- Drug or Alcohol Abuse 28%
- Disability 25%

- High Parenting Demand (4 children, or multiple births, or multiple children under age 2) 3%
- 100%-116% of Poverty 3%
- Teen Parent 1.5%
- 117%-130% of Poverty 1.5%

Head Start enrolled children face multiple and diverse challenges and require intensive intervention and case management services to assist them to overcome barriers and achieve goals. The following graph identifies the number of risk factors which each enrolled Head Start child faces. The mean number of risk factors per enrolled Head Start child in 2019/2020 is 5.31, slightly lower than prior years. The mean number of Head Start risk factors per site is fairly even ranging from a mean low of 4.8 Head Start risk factors at Gypsum Elementary to a mean high of 5.8 at Homestake Peak.



Estimates of social services needs can also be calculated by reviewing the annual Head Start Program Information Report (PIR) regarding the number of Head Start families

who needed a variety of social services during the 2018-2019 school year. These needs may have been identified through the application process or through the relationship building process with the Family Services Coordinator during the program year. The data is tracked through the Cap60/Servue data base.

Service	% of families with identified need during program year as reported on the Head Start PIR for 2019.
Mental Health Services	59%
Health Education	58%
Emergency or Crisis Intervention	55%
Parenting Education	39%
Asset Building Services (Financial education)	20%
Housing Assistance	19%
English as Second Language Training	19%
Adult Education	14%
Job Training	3%
Child Abuse and Neglect Services	3%
Relationship or Marriage Education	1%

Typical work, school, and training schedules of parents with eligible children 1302.11b1iii

Social and economic factors impact schedules and access to early childhood services. Schedules, preferred hours of service and locations of eligible families are considered in the application and enrollment process to assure that the program is best able to meet the needs of children and families. In addition, an annual population-based review of HS/CPP enrolled children’s parent/guardian’s ability to drop off and pick up their children helps determine if the programs hours of operation reflect the needs of the families the program serves. The following represents an analysis of parents of Head Start/CPP schedules from the 2019/2020 school year.

- 53% of parents are able to have schedules that allow the easy coordination of both a 7:50am drop off time and a 2:50pm pick up time.
- 14% of parents have schedules that create difficulties in dropping off children at 7:50am and/or have frequent tardy arrivals.
- 41% of parents have schedules that create difficulties in picking up children at 2:50pm. Of those, 81% (51/63) are enrolled in an extended day program. The

extended day provides continued childcare into the late afternoon from 2:50-5:00/5:30.

- 6% (4/66) of parents who have their children enrolled in extended day have difficulties picking up their children at 5:00/5:30.
- 1 child has frequent absences that are not due to illness.

Social Services Needs as defined by parents

Satisfaction Survey respondents were asked, “In your opinion, what are the most important **social service** needs in our community?” Twenty-five parents commented in the Spring 2019 survey. For a complete list of comments, please see the Parent Satisfaction Survey results (Appendix C). A summary of parent-identified social service needs are noted here. (Note: Some of the social services needs identified by families’ overlap into other categories, such as health and education.)

- Food/Food subsidies 10
- Police services 10
 - To assure safety and peace 2
- Fire Department 5
- Job training 8
 - Job training that includes financial aid
 - Job training that includes child care
 - Computer skills
- Housing 9
 - Subsidized
 - Stability and security
- Policy research
- Services towards children
- Engagement
- Mental health services for families struggling
- Established and well organized social services
- Opportunities to learn English
 - Affordable English classes
- Increased child care capacity
- Transportation
- Transportation is a big issue in the community

Needs Identified by Community Immigration Survey

In the Fall of 2019, Catholic Charities' Community Integration Services conducted a survey of immigrants. Some of the results are included here as many parents of enrolled children are immigrants. There were 144/237 survey responses from parents. Survey questions were written with a scaled response, where 1 equals strongly disagree; 2 equals disagree; 3 equals neutral; 4 equals agree and 5 equals strongly agree.

There were 28 scaled questions. The most favorable, highest level of agreement, follow:

- I feel safe in Eagle County. (4.25)
- I want to stay in Eagle County long term. (4.21)
- I can communicate with my child's teacher and or childcare provider. (4.05)
- I trust the local law enforcement officers. (4.03)

The least favorable, lowest level of agreement, follow:

- My housing costs are affordable. (2.37)
 - East of Wolcott. (1.6)
 - West of Wolcott. (2.36)
- I am able to be in the same profession as when I was in my native country. (2.37)
- I have access to mental health services that meet my needs. (2.67)
 - I feel comfortable seeking mental health care when I need it. (2.95)
- I have access to dental care that meets my needs. (2.89)
- I can access legal services and support. (2.94)

Catholic Charities also administered the same survey in 2014. Areas that changed by more than .3 since 2014 are:

- My housing costs are affordable. (2.83 in 2014, 2.37 in 2019, -0.46)
- I feel like my child is safe. (4.28 in 2014, 3.92 in 2019, -0.36)
- I am able to help my child with their homework. (4.1 in 2014, 3.75 in 2019, -0.35)
- I understand what my child's teacher expects of me. (4.14 in 2014, 3.81 in 2019, -0.33)

Community Goals Identified by Head Start/ CPP Parents

Each Head Start/ CPP family receives a home visit by a Family Services Coordinator. During these visits families are asked what their goals are for the community. The following are community goals identified by Head Start/ CPP parents in the Fall of 2019. Similar goals have been combined for reporting purposes. Head Start and Colorado Preschool Program Families are asked at their initial home visit what would make their community a better place to live. Here are the results:

Community wide goals:

- Child care
 - Affordable/free after school programs. (2)
 - More availability extended hours for childcare. (5)
 - More scholarships for preschool.
 - Have more opportunities for daycare/activities at low cost for kids.
 - Availability of childcare after 5pm.
 - Learning center for children after school. (2)
 - Summer school for all children.
- Recreation
 - Have more activities for young children at a low cost at all recreation centers.
 - Have more recreational places that have bilingual staff to help.
 - More activities for preschool aged children. (4)
 - More activities for toddlers.
 - More fun activities for children.
 - Activities for parents.
 - More family events.
 - Activities for teenagers at low cost.
 - More recreation centers.
 - More winter activities for children besides skiing. (2)
 - A park with more playgrounds and activities for children.
- Mental Health
 - Mental Health for Children.
 - Play therapy.
 - Mental Health for the whole family-available and affordable.
 - Free mental health support.
- Housing
 - Affordable rent. (2)
 - Affordable housing. (2)
- More resources for sick people.
- Parents should not work as much.
- More assistance for working moms.
- Parent involvement/ be more active in schools.
- TBIR (Trust-Based Intervention) trainings.
- Increased accessibility to everything.
- Boot camps available in the county.
- Respect for life - there is a culture of violence, teach the value of life.

Dotsero:

- Better drinking water.
- Better streets.

Gypsum:

- Reduce speeders on Riverview St. in Gypsum, heavy traffic at certain times.
- Resources and support for attending Town of Gypsum public meetings.
- More family activities in the winter time with more variety for young children at a low cost at the Gypsum Recreation Center.
- Have more family friendly events in Gypsum. (2)
- Parenting classes.
- Places for teenagers, where they can hang out or do activities with no adults.
- Affordable children’s camps.
- Babysitting classes.
- A big park to walk around with lots of trees.
- A movie theatre in Spanish.
- Rollerblade center in Gypsum.

Eagle:

- Hwy 6 between Eagle and Gypsum is very busy, needs to be better safety monitoring.
- Protect/clean the environment, take care of Eagle.

Edwards:

- Music.
- Art activities.
- Recreation Center.
- Soccer field at Lake Creek.
- Affordable housing.
- Eagle River Village Mobile home park
 - Clean drinking water. (3)
 - Access to water every day, all day.
 - Street lights. (2)
 - Improved streets/Street repair. (4)
 - Trash clean up/cleaner. (2)
 - Affordable rent.
 - Finish the park. (4)
 - Free activities in the community room.

Avon:

- Playground on the Eagle Bend apartment second phase.



Eagle-Vail:

- Playground at Kayak apartments.
- More cleaning at Kayak apartments.

Additional Prevalent Social Factors

Additional social factors impact the well-being of eligible children and their families. In many ways, the data from the Community Assessment from CARES Engagement Network compliments the social factors identified by parents. The following social factors show differences from state or national data. The CARES Engagement Network gets most of its data from the US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2014-2018, but puts the data in an easy-to-navigate format. (www.engagementnetwork.org)

- Eagle County's linguistically isolated population is double the percent of the state. Eagle County's linguistically isolated population is 6.38% while the state's is 2.82%. In addition, 28.1% speak a language other than English at home. This data helps determine the need for potential English language assistance and risk for reduced access to health care communication and literacy.
- The foreign-born population in Eagle County is 18.3% compared to 13.5% in the United States.
- The percent of housing burdened households (housing costs above 30% of income) is 35.48% compared to 31.83% in Colorado.
- Eagle County has 36.27% occupied housing units with one or more substandard conditions compared to Colorado's 32.25%. (To be considered substandard the unit must have one of the following conditions: 1) Lacking complete plumbing facilities; 2) lacking complete kitchen facilities; 3) with 1.01 or more occupants per room; 4) monthly owner costs as % of household income greater than 30%; and 5) gross rent as a % of household income greater than 30%.)
- The resort economy attracts many second homeowners. 44.80% of Eagle County's housing units remain vacant compared to Colorado's 10.15%.
- There is significant income disparity by ethnicity. The median family income for Non-Hispanic whites is \$95,726 while the median family income for Hispanic/Latinos is \$61,194.
- Eagle County's population of uninsured adults (18.3%) exceeds that of the state (11.06%) and nation (13.16%). Eagle County's population of uninsured children

(11.79%) exceeds that of the state (4.65%) and nation (5.22%). There is an ethnic disparity in insurance coverage, with 9.39% Non-Hispanic whites being uninsured compared to 28.62% of Hispanic/Latino being uninsured.

- The ratio of mental health providers to Eagle County’s population is 1 provider to every 652 persons. Colorado’s ratio is 1 provider to every 303 persons.
- Eagle County’s population that is living more than ½ mile from the nearest supermarket, supercenter or large grocery store is 17.48%, better than Colorado’s 22.64%. This data highlights populations and geographies facing food insecurity.
- In Eagle County, 21.2% of adults drink excessively compared to 17.6% in Colorado.

As noted in the Immigration Integration Survey, most feel safe in our community. Indeed, Eagle County is a relatively safe place to live and visit. However, Eagle County is not crime-free. Cases of assaults, sex offences, drug/narcotics, and burglary increased significantly over the prior year. On the other hand, cases of DUI, theft, and fraud declined from the prior year. The following table describes crimes in Eagle County in 2018.

2018 Cases	Eagle County Sheriff	Vail	Avon	Eagle	TOTALS
Assaults	84	17	32	22	155
Sex Offenses	35	3	15	9	62
DUI	68	32	103	39	242
Drug/Narcotics	43	42	27	27	139
Theft	200	201	103	74	578
Burglary	41	23	14	6	84
Fraud	36	77	21	14	146
Motor Vehicle Theft	21	9	5	7	42
Robbery	0	1	0	0	1
Hate Crimes	0	0	0	0	0

*Basalt’s crime statistics are not included as Basalt is not in the Eagle River Valley Head Start Service area. Eagle County’s cases may include the town of El Jebel, not in Head Start’s service area, as they do not have their own police department.

(www.coloradocrimestats.state.co.us)

Child Development and Child-Care Programs Serving Head Start Eligible 1302.11b1iv

Eagle County Schools administers nine preschools within nine elementary schools. In addition, Eagle County Schools contracts with the private child care, the Family Learning Center, to offer 8 additional CPP/ECARE slots. Eagle County Schools is the primary child-care provider serving Head Start eligible children in Eagle County. Head Start children are served in blended classrooms at Homestake Peak, Avon, June Creek, Edwards, Eagle Valley, Gypsum, and Red Hill elementary schools.

Many Head Start eligible children who are not served through the Head Start grant are served by the state-funded CPP/ECARE and/or Eagle County School's special education program. All Head Start enrolled children are able to receive full day/four day a week services due to blended funding from CPP/ECARE, unless they are three years old with less than three risk factors. An additional 84 children with multiple risk factors are served through CPP/ECARE funding. Of the 84, 8 are currently served through a contracted arrangement with a private provider, the Family Learning Center.

Additional Colorado Preschool Program (ECARE) slots were awarded to the school district in 2013, 2014, and 2019. This both increased the quality of services and quantity of children at-risk served. Beginning in the 2016/2017 school year, the Colorado Department of Education began to allow children enrolled in special education services to also be enrolled in Colorado Preschool Program. This change has allowed many special education students to benefit from full day services.

Decisions regarding which Head Start children are served through the Head Start grant, which are served through the CPP (or ECARE) program, and which are put on a waitlist are based on a point system approved annually by the Head Start Policy Council and the Governing Body, the Board of Education for Eagle County Schools. Colorado Preschool Program's eligibility criteria, although in many ways similar to Head Start's, is based on state legislation. See Appendix A for the 2019/2020 Selection Criteria Worksheet.

Through an important partnership with the Vail Valley Foundation's YouthPower365, additional at-risk children are served. YouthPower365 has a licensed program called the Magic Bus that provides approximately four hours a week of child development

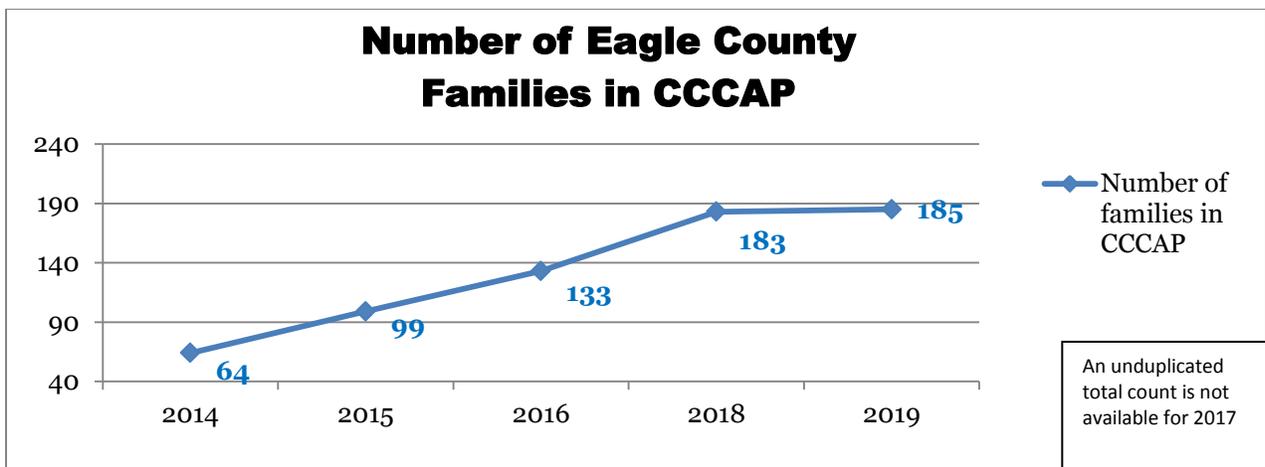
services to preschool-age children. This program is delivered directly to the child's neighborhood through their mobile classroom. The Magic Bus utilizes Storybook Journey Curriculum, to expose under resourced youth to the love of books and create familiarity with popular children's books that are utilized in kindergarten classrooms. Similarly to ECS, the Magic Bus utilizes Teaching Strategies GOLD as an authentic assessment tool to guide instruction, support individual student growth and involve parents. The Magic Bus program offers families three home visits a year to engage and support parents in becoming true educational partners. The program also offers three parent workshops annually, covering important topics including: emergent literacy and math, nutrition, growth mindset, social/emotional learning and safety. Referrals to the Magic Bus of waitlisted children are intentional and deliberate, and occur at least annually in the fall. The partnership is strong and reciprocal, where Magic Bus staff will also refer children to the school district's preschool programs. The program has the capacity to serve 96 children.

In addition to educational services being provided by other organizations, the services provided by Eagle County Schools were able to expand to Head Start eligible children through the passage of a mill levy increase in November 2016. The mill levy increase allowed Eagle County Schools to begin an extended year and extended day program in the summer of 2017. The summer program, Preschool Plus, served approximately 94 students, 70% of capacity in 2019. Sixty-two low-income children at-risk were served in the summer program without cost to the family. The children received seven weeks of services in five preschools. The program was successful at improving kindergarten readiness with a higher percentage of children who attended the summer program meeting or exceeding "widely held expectations" in 7/8 domains at the fall measurement checkpoints compared to peers who did not attend the summer program.

The extended day preschool program, also subsidized by the November 2016 mill levy, allows children to receive services after the traditional school day until 5:00 or 5:30. In the 2019/2020 school year, the program served 118 children, 87% of capacity, with 74 low-income children at-risk receiving subsidized no-cost extended day services.

Colorado initiated tuition-free full day kindergarten in the fall of 2019 after passing new legislation for this in April 2019. Due to this positive change, Youth Power 365 no longer offers their Success at Six program, which allowed kindergarteners access to full-day, full-week kindergarten. That program had helped subsidize the cost of kindergarten based on family income. This legislative change has allowed the Vail Valley Foundation to reallocate some of their resources to other child/youth priorities. The monthly tuition for full day kindergarten had previously been \$270 per month.

The Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) assists low income families with the cost of child care so the parents are able to work or attend school. CCAP served 185 unique families in Eagle County in 2019, nearly tripling enrollment since 2014. (Burch, Eagle County, Feb 2020) As of February 2020, Eagle County School’s preschools serve 18 CCAP enrolled children.



There are other programs that serve low-income children ages 0-3 in the county including Early Head Start (74), and the Nurse Family Partnership (64). Infant and Toddler Care has been identified as a critical need in the community. Eagle County Schools has helped to address this need by adding an infant/toddler and teen parent program in Eagle in 2018/2019. Eagle County has 32 child care centers and 12 child care homes.

Community Resources, Availability and Accessibility 1302.11biv
Community Strengths 1302.11bvi

Eagle County has many strengths and resources. The Mountain Youth (formerly the Eagle River Youth Coalition) has been compiling and printing a full Resource Directory since 2012, in partnership with the Eagle County Schools Head Start and Colorado Preschool Program. The Resource Directory is printed in English and Spanish at least annually. The Resource Directory is also available online at www.mountainyouth.org. This Resource Directory is distributed to all at-risk families during the fall home visit.

Resources available to the community are abundant. Emergency Services are plentiful and coordinated. There is strong collaboration between Fire, Ambulance, Hospital, Police, Sheriff, State Patrol, and Private Security organizations. These are coordinated through a Public Safety Council and an EMS Prevention Committee.

The Eagle County Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health and Economic Services house the following programs: Medicaid, Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+), Food Stamps, TANF, WIC, Title X Family Planning, Foster Care, Public Health Nursing (including immunizations), Nurse Family Partnership, CCAP, Child Support, Child and Adult Protective Services, Early Head Start, and LEAP. They also are able to qualify low-income women for discounted prenatal care and Emergency Medicaid. Eagle County also has a Housing and Development Department, which coordinates some low income housing projects, deed restricted housing projects, home buying classes, and mortgage down payment programs.

Eagle County Government, Our Community Foundation, and Vail Health partnered in 2018 in the creation of the Mobile Intercultural Resource Alliance (MIRA). MIRA is a bus that travels across Eagle County to bring a wide variety of services directly to neighborhoods, schools, workplaces, community centers and more. Many additional community partners work with the MIRA bus to bring services directly to those who need it.

The Eagle River Valley is served by three primary recreation districts: Vail Recreation District, the Avon Recreation District, and Mountain Recreation (formerly the Western Eagle County Metropolitan Recreation District). Together these districts manage ice rinks, swimming pools, indoor and several outdoor soccer fields, baseball fields, and multiple child, youth and adult programs.

Adult educational opportunities are abundant with Colorado Mountain College's campus in Edwards. They offer a full range of educational opportunities including vocational development, two-year degree programs, English as a Second Language (ESL) and General Equivalency Diploma (GED) education services. Some courses offer child care to participants. Colorado Mountain College recently implemented limited four-year degree programming and hopes to further expand four-year degree options in the future. Colorado Mountain College partners with Eagle County Schools to provide 5 educational credits to Eagle County Schools' employees annually. Colorado Mountain College works closely with the Colorado Workforce Center to identify job training needs for emerging sectors. The Colorado Workforce Center is located in Edwards.

In addition, Colorado State University (CSU) has an Extension Office in Eagle County. CSU offers adult education in food safety and consumer sciences, financial education, horticulture and master gardening, nutrition classes and more. They coordinate the 4 H program and the County Fair and Rodeo. CSU acts as the Site Coordinator for the parent leadership development program, The Family Leadership Training Institute. CSU is also the fiscal agent and coordinating group implementing the Cooking Matters curriculum in Eagle County.

The Eagle River Valley has four large libraries located in Vail, Avon, Eagle, and Gypsum. Each library hosts an extensive children's collection and provides regularly scheduled "story hours" and activities. Their "One Book" program provides all four year olds with a book. They also share community space for speakers, presentations, movies, art displays, and meetings. In addition, some librarians come to Eagle County Schools' preschools to read to children. The libraries in Avon, Eagle, and Gypsum are part of the Eagle Valley Library District.

Several medical centers are available in the community. Vail Health is a full service hospital located in Vail. Vail Health offers urgent care in Avon, Beaver Creek and Gypsum. Centura Health offers emergency and urgent care in Avon at the Buck Creek Medical Center. Primary care physician offices include Colorado Mountain Medical (Vail, Avon, Eagle), Drs. on Call (Avon), Mountain Family Federally Qualified Health Center in Edwards and Avon Elementary, and Eagle Valley Family Practice in Eagle. In

addition, medical specialty care is available. In December 2019, Kaiser Permanente closed their Eagle County location in Edwards.

There is a strong collaborative spirit in Eagle County, and there are many coalitions addressing community needs: Mountain Youth, Colorado Gives Day Coalition, The Health Services Advisory Committee, The Immigration Integration Coalition, The EMS Prevention Committee, The Rocky Mountain Early Childhood Council, Speak up Reach out (suicide prevention) Coalition, Community that Cares, Our Community Foundation, the Eagle Valley Outdoor Movement, and more.

The community has a large and vibrant non-profit sector. The community has more than 150 registered non-profits. Organizations receiving the most referrals from Head Start eligible families are noted here:

- The Bright Future Foundation serves victims of domestic violence and hosts a Buddy Mentor Program.
- Catholic Charities assists with immigration related services, and provides victim's assistance at multiple levels. They also host an annual coat drive and have an Eagle location supporting the needs of families with babies.
- Eagle Valley Behavioral Health (EVBH), an outreach of Vail Health, started in 2019 to lead the community collaboration ensuring access to superior behavioral health services for everyone in the Eagle River Valley. EVBH initiatives include the development of a cross-functional behavioral health facility, increasing provider access and capacity, system coordination and transformation, prevention and education, crisis response and transition services, school based services, and outcome based research and evaluation.
- The Eagle Valley Family Assistance Fund provides no interest loans and financial counseling to working families.
- Early Childhood Partners provides parenting classes, coaching and consultations for early childhood programs, and provides mental health support to identified children. Early Childhood Partners increased their services in 2018 and 2019 added the Family Connect Family Resource Center and Healthy Families Home Visitation Program. Early Childhood Partners is the fiscal agent and provides facilitation for the Family Leadership Training Institute.

- The Food Rescue Express provides emergency food weekly to preschool aged children identified as at-risk of hunger.
- Habitat for Humanity has built several homes in the Eagle River Valley over the last several years. In addition, they have a home store, which provides low cost building/home improvement supplies and provides funds for build projects.
- The Literacy Project supports the Raising the Reader Program, youth tutoring, adult literacy, and ESL education.
- The Lions Club provides vision screens and vouchers for eyeglasses and vision exams.
- Mind Springs is the community mental health agency in Eagle County, providing a wide range of mental health support services. Mind Springs accepts Medicaid.
- The Mountain Youth (formerly Eagle River Youth Coalition) coordinates the activities of multiple youth serving organizations and facilitates a Youth Leaders Council, the educational series “Eat, Chat, Parent” and offers the parenting class, Active Parents of Teens. The organization facilitates, analyzes, and disseminates the results of the high school attitude and behavior survey to identify challenges facing local youth and collaborates in finding solutions. Mountain Youth is the fiscal agent and umbrella organization for the Community that Cares grant.
- Northwest Colorado Legal Services provides free 15 minute legal consults for low-income persons.
- Our Community Foundation focuses on reducing hunger, early childhood programs and wellness. They host the Eagle River Valley Food Bank, eliminated school lunch debt, provide scholarships to early childhood educators and facilities, and support military veterans.
- The Public Safety Council provides CO and Smoke Detectors to families in need.
- The Red Ribbon Project provides education and support regarding sexual health, in addition to free HIV testing and condom distribution.
- The Salvation Army provides emergency food, community gardening, emergency financial assistance, and the annual holiday Adopt-a-Family Program.
- SOS Outreach provides life skills education through recreational programming.

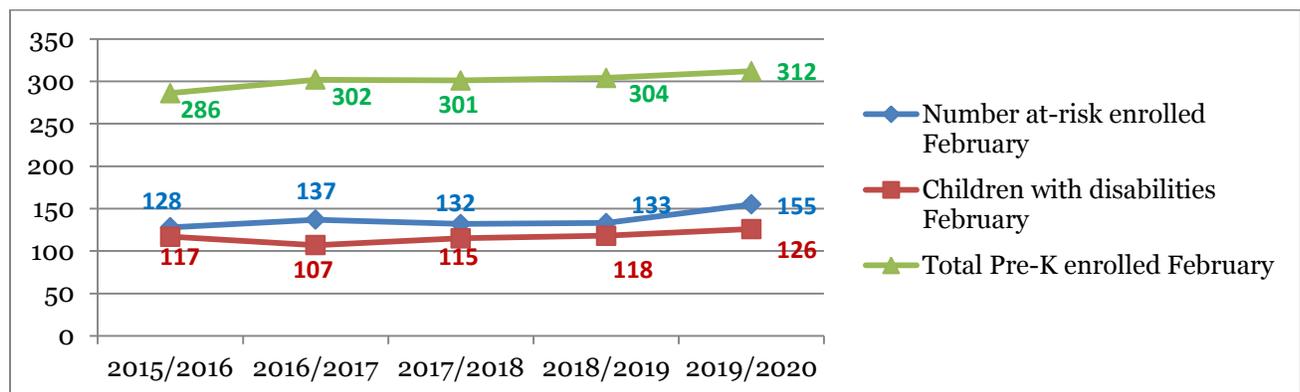
- Starting Hearts is a mobile CPR/AED education service.
- Speak Up Reach Out provides Suicide Prevention Education.
- The Swift Eagle Foundation provides emergency assistance to families in crisis.
- Vail Valley Cares Thrifty Shoppes provide low cost clothes and household items. They also use their profits to fund the work of multiple non-profits in the community.
- The Vail Valley Charitable Fund provides financial support to those facing medical crisis, they also are the fiscal agent for the Eagle Smiles program which helps uninsured children access dental care.
- Vail Valley Foundation's YouthPower365 provides multiple programs in the community including Power Hours after school programs, early childhood programs and funding, the Parent Mentor Program and more.
 - Parent Mentors are parents of children enrolled in Eagle County Schools that have applied to become regularly scheduled volunteers in a classroom in their child's school for the course of one school year. Training includes a three-day intensive course, and two hours of professional development weekly on topics of literacy and math instruction, financial literacy, English language instruction and digital literacy.
- Vail Health's Think First program provides head injury prevention resources and education to the community, including bicycle helmets. Think First also partners with Emergency Services to provide and properly install car seats to those in need.
- The Walking Mountains Science Center collaborates with schools to provide place-based education and environmental science education programs. This science education extends to preschools where they come to each preschool every other month to deliver lessons and science resources. They have a natural science center in Avon. Walking Mountains facilitates the Alliance for Sustainability, and the Climate Action Collaborative. In addition, Walking Mountains facilitated the Eagle Valley Outdoor Movement which coordinated and facilitated a successful GOCO grant application bringing 1.4 million dollars to improve access, facilities and supports to the west Edwards Community.

Most resources are accessible to Head Start eligible families. The Early Childhood Program's Family Services Coordinators help families navigate programs and applications. Eligibility barriers remain for families without legal documentation for

some government programs. Families in poverty may find some programs inaccessible even with subsidies and scholarships due to ancillary costs. Families living in Dotsero and/or Red Cliff may find more difficulties accessing services, as transportation can be limited in these outlying communities. Health insurance premiums for the Affordable Care Act are higher in the mountain region of Colorado than all other locations in the state, creating continued barriers in accessing health services, although premiums have dropped some in late 2014 due to legislative changes.

Significant Changes 1302.11b2
Availability of publicly funded preschool services

Due to the passage of mill levies in November 2016, ECS preschools have been expanded and updated. Eagle County School’s currently has 24 preschool classrooms, two toddler rooms, two infant rooms, and one contracted preschool classroom. Avon Elementary, Gypsum Elementary, Eagle Valley Elementary now host four preschool classrooms each. In 1920/2021 JCES will add two additional preschool classrooms. Red Sandstone completed a remodel in March 2019. The private site, The Family Learning Center, is contacted to serve 8 CPP children. Both Gypsum Elementary preschool and Edwards Elementary received new preschool playgrounds for the 2018-2019 school year.



Discussion of demographic shifts and availability of resources

Demographic shifts were discussed beginning on page 5. Low unemployment, higher wages, and lower birth rates increase the likelihood that many of the working poor may find themselves over-income for Head Start. However, housing data indicates that more will be eligible due to meeting the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness. There

are many resources available to low-income families in the community. However, with a change in policy goals at the Federal level, anxiety and fear among the large foreign born population in Eagle County may reduce the likelihood of families in need attempting to access these resources. Indeed, the program is aware of 15 Medicaid eligible children that are not enrolling due to concerns regarding receiving government services.

Opportunities to serve diverse economic backgrounds 1302.11b3

Eagle County Schools' preschool programs serve families with diverse economic backgrounds. The Head Start program subsidizes services to very low income and/or homeless families. The Colorado Preschool Program sees income as a risk, but not an eligibility factor, and provides preschool opportunities for the working poor with additional risks. Eagle County Schools' partnership with Eagle County Economic Services allows the preschool program to serve families eligible for CCCAP, providing additional subsidies for working families. Finally, the school district accepts many families from the community with the ability to pay tuition. Tuition is very reasonable compared to other private providers at \$40 per day for services from 7:50-2:50. In 2019/2020, tuition for full day and extended day together (7:50-5:00) is \$50. Summer tuition is \$50 per day and includes lunch.

Review of Grantees Long Term Philosophy, Short and Long Range Program Objectives

The program uses the community assessment and other resources to determine long term program philosophy, short and long range objectives. The program reviews the updated community assessment annually with the Policy Council and Governing Body, Eagle County School's Board of Education. In addition, the review of the community assessment occurs as part of the annual self-assessment. Portions of the assessment are shared with community groups as appropriate. For example, the Health Section is shared with the Health Services Advisory Committee annually.

The results of the community assessment are used as part of the process for continuous improvement. For example, the section on Education identifies mathematics as an area for continued growth. This information prompted more teacher trainings in in this area. A review of the demographic data prompted the addition of new classrooms at Red Hill

Elementary school in 2014 and the expansion of Head Start into Red Hill and Edwards Elementary in 2017/2018.

Please see Appendix D for a copy of the Early Childhood Strategic Plan.

Conclusion and Additional Community Assessment Resources:

This Community Assessment meets compliance requirements for the Head Start program as identified in sections 1302 in the Head Start Performance Standards. The Performance Standards include requirements for the collection and dissemination of specific types of data for the program. Other resources are also available to enhance understanding of community strengths and needs. For additional and complementary information regarding our community please see:

- The CARES Engagement Network is a National Data and Reporting Platform for communities. With only a few clicks the website can create a comprehensive community needs assessment. www.Engagementnetwork.org
- The Mountain Youth's high school attitude and behavior survey. Healthy Kids Colorado, provides information on local youth's attitudes and behaviors and is administered every-other year. www.mountainyouth.org
- The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT, is the premier source for data on child and family well-being in the United States. This document is produced annually and provides county level data. www.datacenter.kidscount.org/data
- The National Center for Health Statistics helps to measure the CDC's Health Protection goals. www.cdc.gov/nchs
- The Economic Council of Eagle County/Vail Valley Partnership produces a monthly snapshot of economic indicators within the county. <http://vailvalleymeansbusiness.com/data-center/demographics/> and <http://vailvalleymeansbusiness.com/data-center/eagle-county-economic-profile/>
- The Eagle County Health Improvement Plan for 2017 is available at <http://www.eaglecounty.us/flipbook/chip/index.html> and includes community health indicators and strategic plans for addressing community health needs.
- America's Health Rankings from the United Health Foundation provides a benchmark report that is the longest-running, comprehensive state-by-state study of our nation's health. <http://www.americashealthrankings.org/>

- Eagle County Schools created a Facility Master Plan in the winter of the 2015-2016 school year, which not only identifies and prioritizes ECS facility needs, but also includes a comprehensive demographic study with future enrollment projections. This study is located here: <https://www.eagleschools.net/facility-master-plan/>
- The Eagle County Department of Human Services and the Eagle County School District jointly retained Public Works LLC to develop an Early Childhood System Roadmap – this report – to identify principles and best practices essential to a comprehensive early childhood system, to present strategies for building such a system, and to make recommendations specific to Eagle County in pursuing this objective. This report is available here: www.eaglecounty.us/EarlyChildhoodRoadmap/