



Akron UMC Head Start



2025-2026

Annual Report



901 E 1st Street, Akron, CO 80720

970-345-2695

www.aumcheadstart.org

"We Educate, Empower and Impact our Children and Families"

"Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children, play is serious learning."

—Mr. Rogers

Parent Quotes

"I have enjoyed my child going this year. He has learned so much and always talks highly about his teachers."

"You all are amazing! Great program"

Akron UMC Head Start Strengths:

"How the teachers know each child's strengths or weaknesses, and help push the student to be better."

"The great communication and the willingness to help potty train."

"Always giving the kiddos something to smile about! :)"

Teachers and other adults take the time to work with kids who need the extra support to learn."

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Our Team



Policy Council Members

<u>Chair</u>	<u>Samantha Crumley</u>
<u>Vice Chair</u>	<u>Tamera Marini</u>
<u>Secretary</u>	<u>Shae Smith</u>
<u>Parent</u>	<u>Jayci Taylor</u>
<u>Parent</u>	<u>Jr Patterson</u>
<u>Community Member</u>	<u>Karalea Marston</u>
<u>Community Member</u>	<u>Shane Lavernz</u>
<u>Ad Litem</u>	<u>Decan Ro Fesser</u>
<u>Ad Litem</u>	<u>Debra Gallippo</u>

Board Members

<u>Chairman</u>	<u>Debra Gallippo</u>
<u>Secretary</u>	<u>Jennie Bowin</u>
<u>Treasurer</u>	<u>Melanie Krening</u>
<u>Lay Leader</u>	<u>Vacant</u>
<u>United Methodist Women</u>	<u>Vacant</u>
<u>Trustee Chairman</u>	<u>Melanie Krening</u>
<u>Finance Chairman</u>	<u>Melanie Krening</u>
<u>Staff/Pastor Parish Chairman</u>	<u>Richard Lewton</u>
<u>Financial Secretary</u>	<u>Wilma Hoyer</u>
<u>Memorial Committee Chairman</u>	<u>Pat Lewton</u>
<u>Worship Chairman</u>	<u>Bernice Cosner</u>
<u>Pastor</u>	<u>Roe Fesser</u>

The History of Head Start

The Head Start program, established in 1965 as part of President Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty, aimed to provide comprehensive early childhood education, health, nutrition, and parent involvement services to low-income children and families. Initially launched as an eight-week summer program, Head Start rapidly expanded its reach, enrolling over half a million children within its first year. Over the years, the program evolved into a year-round initiative, emphasizing preschool education and holistic support services. Central to Head Start's philosophy is the involvement of parents in their children's education and program activities. Congress has repeatedly reauthorized Head Start, adjusting program requirements and funding levels. While research generally shows positive impacts on children's cognitive and social development, ongoing evaluation informs efforts to enhance the program's effectiveness. Today, Head Start continues to evolve to meet the changing needs of families, offering center-based, home-based, and infant/toddler programs to support early childhood development for disadvantaged populations across the United States. Most recently in 2025 the governing policies, Head Start Program Performance Standards, got an overhaul to promote pay equity, increase the promotion of physical and mental health of students, staff, and families, and ensure all Head Start facilities and transportation are maintained and possess no safety concerns.

"We Educate,
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Families"

Our Story

Akron United Methodist Church Head Start (AUMCHS) is an outreach program of the Akron United Methodist Church that received initial grant approval in November 1991 and became funded in February 1992. Classes began in the fall of 1992, with 34 funded slots in Washington County designated as the program's service area. Within the Washington County service area are the towns of Akron, Anton, Cope, Last Chance, Lindon, Messex, Otis, Platner & Woodrow. Service area school districts include Akron School District R-1, Otis School District R-3, Lone Star School District 101, Arickaree School District R-2 & Woodlin School District R-104.

By 1995, the program secured funding for 37 slots. In the fall of 2017, AUMCHS initiated full-day enrollment for 15 children, totaling 1,020 hours per school year, through a duration grant provided by the Office of Head Start, prioritizing children transitioning to kindergarten. The following school year, the program extended full-day enrollment to a complete classroom of 20 students.

In 2019, AUMCHS collaborated with the Akron School District to serve ten Colorado Preschool slots through E-Care funding. AUMCHS assesses the needs of families requiring full-day services each year and applies for additional Colorado Preschool Program (CPP) slots to meet those needs. These slots originate from allocations returned by other school districts across the state and are only valid for the school year they were applied for. In the 2022/2024 school year, CPP transitioned to Universal Preschool (UPK)I. AUMCHS applied to be a UPK Provider successfully and uses the State of Colorado UPK funding to fund the afternoon session for all Transitioning (4-year-old) students, IEP students, and 3-year-olds with Qualifying Factor students. This has allowed AUMCHS to offer all 37 students full-day enrollment for the past four years.

Facility and Program

Akron UMC Head Start's facility is located at 902 E. 1st St., in Akron, CO 80720. Three classrooms are licensed to serve thirty-seven children Monday through Thursday. All thirty-seven slots receive extended-day services, and attend school from 7:45 am to 3:30 pm for a total of 1,020 hours per year. The three classrooms are organized based on age and developmental level. In the three-year-old classroom, students focus on social-emotional skills and basic academic skills. The other two classrooms are a combination of transition children and children who have one more year of preschool before kindergarten. In these classrooms, children focus on continued social-emotional skills, preacademic skills, and school readiness skills. Breakfast, lunch, and a snack are prepared onsite following USDA guidelines. The meals are delivered to the classrooms where family-style meal service is provided to children, teaching staff and volunteers.

Vision:

Akron UMC Head Start prepares and enhances diverse early learners to achieve personal growth through whole child development and well-being. We also engage families and communities as partners by using respect, integrity, and responsibility.

Our Five-Year Goals 2025-2030

Goal #1	Akron UMC Head Start will ensure that all eligible children and families benefit from Head Start services.
Goal #2	Akron UMC Head Start will Recruit, Hire, and Retain qualified staff.
Goal #3	Akron UMC Head Start will collaborate with community partners to ensure all Head Start staff are able to support children to meet their individual needs.

Health, Mental Health, and Nutrition Services

We partner with Centennial Mental Health and Salud at Akron UMC Head Start.

Salud conducts dental screening on-site at no additional cost. At registration, we provide, by Salud, a doctor and dentist and hearing & vision screenings by BOCES.

Akron UMC Head Start

- 100% of children received medical insurance
- 97% of children found a medical home
- 95% of children found a dental home
- 92% of children were up to date on their physical exams
- 97% of children were either up to date, received all possible immunizations, or were exempt
- 92% of children completed dental exams



Head Start Eligibility

To qualify for our Head Start program you need to fit into one of the following criteria:

- Federal Poverty Guidelines
- Special Needs
- Status of Foster Care
- Homelessness
- Recipient of Public assistance
- Housing Cost Adjustment

A criteria questionnaire is gone over at the time an application is received.

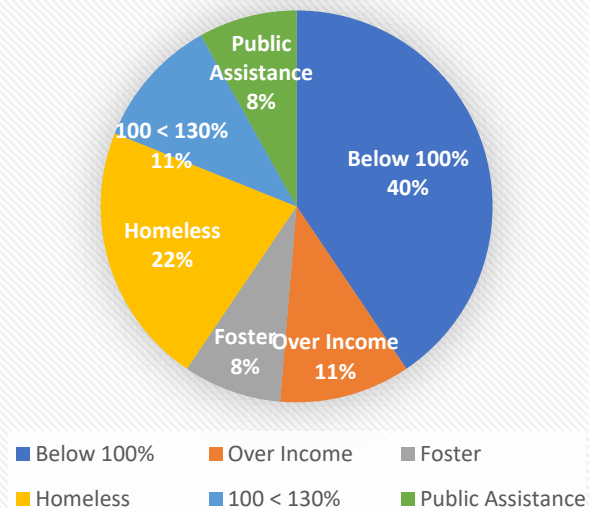
Enrollment and Attendance for Akron UMC Head Start

Our program is funded for 37 students. We service 10 students in the three-year-old classroom, 14 students in the pre-transition classroom, and 13 in the transition room.

32% of children served had an IEP.



Income Status



Children's Services Programs

Akron United Methodist Church Head Start (AUMCHS) provides comprehensive early childhood services to preschool-aged children from low-income families. The program is licensed to serve 37 preschool students aged three, four, and five years old through a center-based option, with three classrooms, Monday through Thursday. All 37 slots receive extended-day services and attend school from 7:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for a total of 128 school days, totaling 1,020 hours per year. The classrooms are assigned by age: three-year-old, mixed age (older three-year-old, younger four-year-old, and children transitioning to kindergarten). Breakfast, lunch, and a snack are prepared onsite following USDA guidelines. The meals are delivered to the classrooms where family-style meal service is provided to children, teaching staff, and volunteers.

The Akron UMC Head Start program utilizes various programs to support the mission, purpose, and goals of the program. On-site parent involvement includes classroom volunteering, parenting and adult education classes, parent meetings, Policy Council meetings, a recipe-sharing program, and Early Childhood Development Curriculum and Education Activities. Family Home Activities include classroom extension activities, individual child goals, family take-home bags, and program projects. The program has collaborated with Food Bank of the Rockies to provide "Totes of Hope," a basket of nonperishable items to our families twice each month. In the classroom, AUMCHS uses Frog Street Curriculum, book giveaways and activities, community readers, DECA, Board of Cooperative Education Services, Teaching Strategies Gold, Conscious Discipline, and CLASS.

AUMCHS works with a variety of community partners to further our mission and purpose. The program has established partnerships with the Northeastern Colorado Board of Cooperative Services (NE BOCES); Akron School District, Washington County Connections Resource and Referral; Washington County Health and Human Services; Colorado Dentistry for Children; NE Colorado Health Department; and Centennial Mental Health.

The program's goal is to provide quality services that ensure all young children and their families realize their full potential in a safe, healthy, accepting, and learning-centered environment. The vision includes children, families, staff, community partnerships, comprehensive services, leadership, and sustainability. Through collaboration with community and educational resources, the program strives to identify and alleviate barriers that interfere with the ability of families and children to reach their full potential.

Head Start's philosophy is "parents are their child's first teacher." Parents are encouraged to participate within the classroom so teachers can model best early childhood practices. Parents are also invited to participate in curriculum and nutrition planning, and all parents are members of the program's parent committee, with ongoing virtual communication. Through their participation, parents help support and make decisions regarding their child's program. A higher level of decision-making is made possible through the policy council. The policy council is made up of at least 51% of currently enrolled parents. This is a governing

body where parents can help with decisions on program options, hiring and terminating staff, budget decisions, program policies and procedures, and other program business.

Akron UMC Head Start has a 9-month school year from August to May. Students receive 128 student contact days with educational services from Monday - Thursday 7:45 AM - 3:30 PM daily. The program provides two parent-teacher conferences and two home visits per school year.

Curriculum



Frog Street is a curriculum that contains integrated tools that support daily practice. It is designed for consistent implementation to improve outcomes and reduce workload. You do not have to supplement or patch with this curriculum. Teachers lead with clarity through a system where each component strengthens the others. The program includes weekly and daily lesson structures that simplify planning while maintaining instructional coherence. It has an embedded social-emotional development curriculum through Conscious Discipline that builds

emotional regulation and classroom community. To strengthen vocabulary and comprehension across all content there are integrated language and literacy routines. There are family engagement resources in English and Spanish that extend learning beyond the classroom. Frog Street aligns with state standards, Head Start Standards, and licensing requirements with comprehensive documentation. This comprehensive approach means you have everything needed for successful implementation without hunting for supplemental materials or creating additional components.

Results of Our Most Recent Monitoring Reviews

Akron United Methodist Church Head Start (AUMCHS) assesses the program's quality and effectiveness through various methods. These methods encompass ongoing assessments of children, annual self-assessments covering areas such as management systems, program governance, fiscal management, early childhood learning, family and community partnerships, health and nutrition, as well as parent surveys. Additionally, the evaluation includes an annual independent financial auditor review, Office of Head Start (OHS) Federal Monitoring Reviews (FA1 and FA2), CLASS assessments, annual risk assessments, Colorado Shines evaluations, annual inspections by the State of Colorado for health and sanitation, triannual inspections by the Colorado Adult and Child Food Program USDA, and annual license inspections by the State of Colorado Licensing.

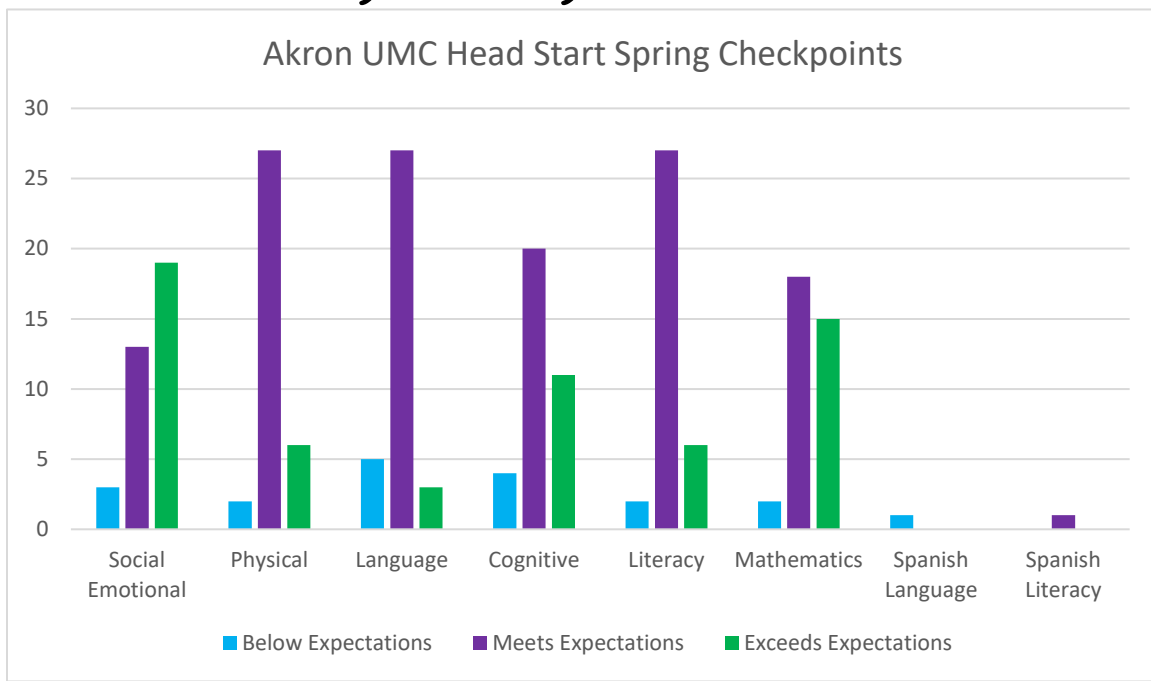
All information gathered from these different indicators of program effectiveness is shared with both the governing board and the policy council. In the event of identified areas of

concern, an action plan is formulated to implement necessary changes for more positive outcomes, involving collaboration with staff, governing board members, and Policy Council members.

In December 2025, the Office of Head Start conducted a Focused Area One monitoring review. At the time of the Annual report AUMCHS has not received the final report.

In 2024, the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) reviewed the facility to ensure AUMCHS is serving meals and using funds according to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) guidelines. The results of this review were favorable, resulting in no fines or fund repayment. The USDA will return in April 2026 for another review.

Teaching Strategies Gold Outcomes



Family Involvement and Community Engagement

Engaging families is the driving force that keeps our program going. We believe that parents are a child's first teacher and their biggest supporter. We strive to build a relationship with the children and their families. We can do this by getting the parents and community involved in opportunities during the school day, at home, and in the community.

- Home Visits & Parent Teacher Conferences
- Field Trips
- Registration Day
- Back to School Night
- Reading Logs
- Family Take Home Kits
- Activity Calendars
- School Parties
- Parent Meetings
- Policy Council Meetings

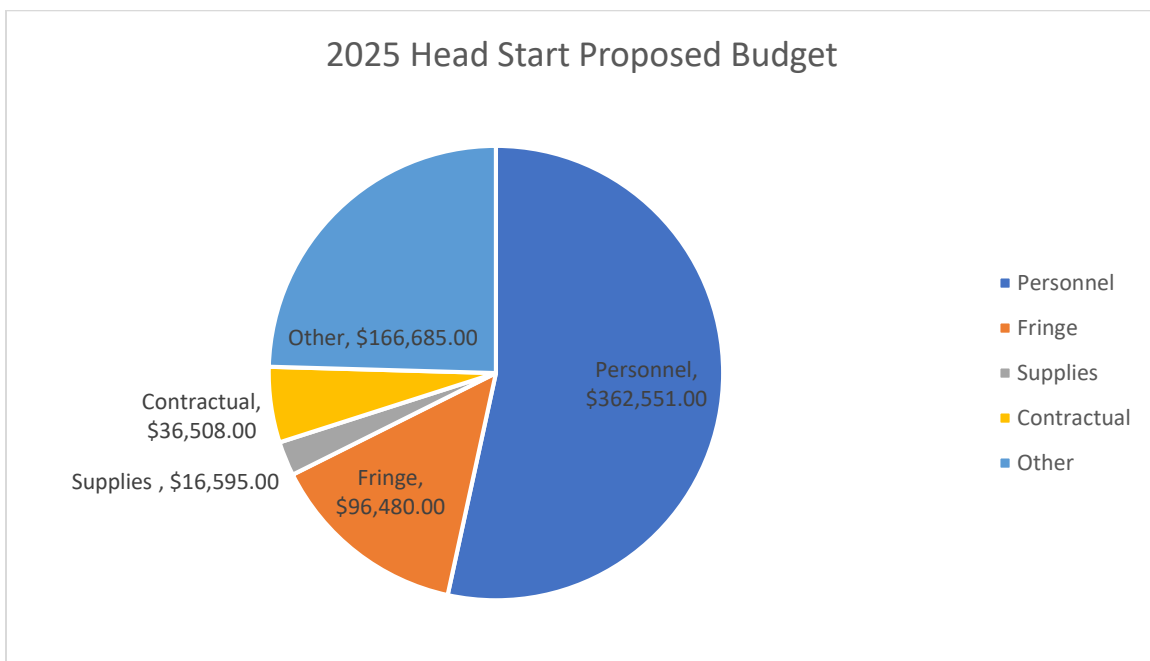


Fiscal Responsibility

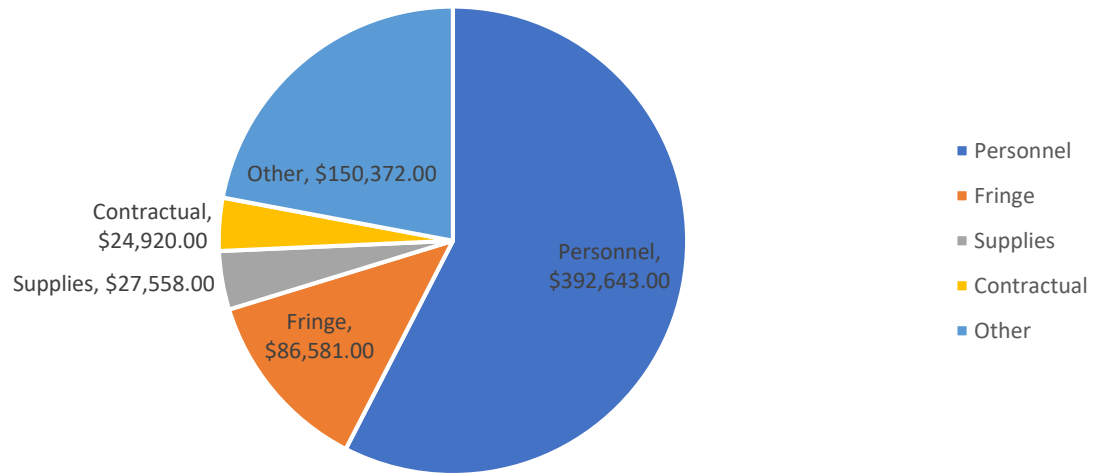
2025 Financial Review

Akron UMC Head Start participated in the FA-1 review in December of 2025. On site visits went well and we are patiently waiting for the final report.

*Akron UMC Head Start does not qualify for a Single Financial Audit due to federal funding levels are below \$750,000.



2025 Head Start Actual Spending



Akron UMC Head Start 2025 Funding Sources

Head Start	\$655,605
CPP/UPK (State of Colorado)	\$62,996
Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation	\$26,400
CACFP (USDA) Food Service	\$36,469
Total:	\$781,470