



Annual Report of
The Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association
Department of Family & Community Development
Head Start Program

Program Year 2025-2026



This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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Introduction

This report is prepared to comply with the reauthorized Head Start Act of 2007. This Act states: Each Head Start agency shall make available to the public a report published at least once in each fiscal year that discloses the following information from the most recently concluded fiscal year, except that reporting such information shall not reveal personally identifiable information about an individual child or parent:

- The total amount of public and private funds received, and the amount from each source.
- An explanation of budgetary expenditures and the proposed budget for the fiscal year.
- The total number of children and families served, the average monthly enrollment (as a percentage of funded enrollment), and the percentage of eligible children served.
- The results of the most recent review by the Secretary and the financial audit.
- The percentage of enrolled children who received medical and dental exams.
- Information about parent involvement activities.
- The agency's efforts to prepare children for kindergarten.
- Any other information required by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.



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Funding for Fiscal Year 2026

Program Operations FY26	\$ 1,682,112.00
Training and Technical Assistance FY26	\$ 16,651.00
Total Federal Head Start Funding FY26	\$ 1,698,763.00
State of Alaska Funding FY26	\$ 324,859.04
Child and Adult Care Food Program	\$ 27,931.26

Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2027:

Program Operations FY27	\$ 1,677,488.00
Training and Technical Assistance FY27	\$ 21,275.00
Total Federal Head Start Funding FY27	\$ 1,698,763.00
State of Alaska Funding FY27	\$ 324,909.00



Staffing/Credentialing

Child Development Associate (CDA)

Peyton Kuzakin – Sand Point Lead Teacher

Enrolled in a CDA Program

Jailynn Brandell – King Cove Teacher Aide

Shaelyn Brandell – King Cove Teacher Aide

Enrolled in Associate of Arts Program

Peyton Kuzakin—Sand Point Lead Teacher

Bachelor's Degree

Caroline Wolkoff – Head Start Division Administrator

Vivian Nguyen – Health & Nutrition Coordinator

Rayette McGlashan – Education/Disabilities Coordinator

Edith Schliebe – Unalaska Lead Teacher

High School Diploma or GED

All Staff

Professional Development Plan in place (updated at least twice a year)

All Staff

Education Partnerships

Head Start program established an MOU with Bay Mills Community College (BMCC) a tribally controlled college located in Brimley, Michigan. The partnership offers an opportunity for employees of APIA Head Start to further their education to meet the Office of Head Start requirement that at least 50% of Teachers hold a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education. This partnership supports our teachers to earn a CDA or higher education in the early childhood field.



Number of Families and Children Served

The Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association (APIA) Head Start Program, funded by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) and the Office of Head Start (OHS), fulfilled its funded enrollment of 40 children during the 2025-2026 program year.

During the program year, 41 total children were enrolled; one of whom attended fewer than 45 days. A total of 39 families were served. Two families had two children enrolled, accounting for the total of 41 children.



Attendance

Attendance is crucial to our program, as it plays a vital role in children's development and long-term success in school and life. When attendance dipped below 85%, it was often due to community-wide illness and medical travel. Our staff worked closely with families to address barriers, provide support, and ensure proper documentation.

Families

During the 2025-2026 program year, APIA Head Start served 39 families: 35 were Two-Parent Households, 4 were Single-Parent Households, 1 child was in Foster Care. 100% of the families had at least one parent employed, in job training, and/or enrolled in school.

Data Source: 2025–2026 Program Information Report (PIR)

Eligibility

Under federal income eligibility guidelines, eligibility continues to present issues for the APIA Head Start Program. APIA Head Start ensures that all eligible children meeting requirements are enrolled prior to considering enrollment of children whose families exceed income guidelines.

On March 23, 2024, President Biden signed into law provisions that allowed Head Start programs additional flexibility to serve children in tribal communities and children of farmworkers. These provisions ensure Head Start programs can more effectively serve the

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families for whom they were designed. Tribal Head Start programs will be able to prioritize enrolling children who are tribal members or whose family or household members are tribal members, regardless of family income. The Head Start program has Policies and Procedures in place as well as a rating scale to determine that children and families with the greatest need receive priority for enrollment. 100% of eligible children were served in this program year.

Monitoring Review

Our Federal Monitoring Review Focus Area 2 took place during the week of March 30, 2026. At the time of this report, we are still awaiting the official monitoring report and findings from the Office of Head Start (OHS). Once received, any recommendations or required actions will be addressed and incorporated into our program's continuous quality improvement efforts.

Fiscal Review

The audit fieldwork for APIA's Fiscal Year 2025 Financial Statement Audit and Single Audit was conducted in early December 2025 by Porter & Allison, Inc., a local certified public accounting (CPA) firm. The audit team was on site for two weeks, during which they reviewed the Association's financial records, interviewed key staff, examined Board of Directors meeting minutes, and performed test work on a sample of financial transactions.

Following completion of the fieldwork, the final audit report was issued on March 26, 2026. The auditors expressed an unmodified (clean) opinion on APIA's financial statements. The Single Audit identified one significant deficiency and one material weakness in internal controls over compliance, as well as a finding of noncompliance related to federal award eligibility requirements.

Management has implemented corrective actions to address these findings, and all corrective measures are expected to be fully implemented by April 30, 2026. The auditors presented the results of the audit and discussed the findings with APIA's Board of Directors during its April 2026 meeting.





Medical and Dental Screenings

APIA Head Start collaborates with the APIA Health Department, Eastern Aleutian Tribes, and other local healthcare providers to ensure children receive timely preventative and primary health care services, including physical exams, immunizations, developmental screenings, and follow-up care. The program also collaborates with the Southcentral Foundation and regional dental providers to ensure that children get dental screenings and preventive health services annually.

At enrollment, 75% of enrolled children were up to date on the State of Alaska Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) schedule for age-appropriate preventative health care. By the end of the program year, 82.5% were up to date on required preventive health services.

Health insurance coverage was high throughout the program year, with 90% of enrolled children having health insurance. At enrollment, 90% of children were current on recommended immunizations, with one child having a documented exemption. By the end of the program year, 90% of children remained up to date on immunizations, one child continued to have a documented exemption, and one child had received all immunizations available at the time but had not yet received all immunizations appropriate for their age.

Access to dental care continued to be a priority. At enrollment, 80% of children had access to an ongoing source of dental care. By the end of the program year, 95% of children had established a dental home. Children who required follow-up dental treatment were referred to local or regional dental providers, and staff worked closely with families to coordinate care.

During the program year, there were five children enrolled who were diagnosed with life-threatening allergies. Body Mass Index screenings indicated that 63% of children were in a

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healthy weight range, 20% were considered obese, 14% were overweight, and 3% were underweight.

Limited access to healthcare remains a challenge in the communities we serve. Barriers to completing recommended medical and dental services include provider shortages, limited appointment availability, and travel constraints. APIA Head Start staff worked closely with families to provide referrals and connect them with available community resources when possible.

Health and Nutrition

At APIA Head Start, we are committed to promoting lifelong healthy habits by providing nutritious meals and comprehensive health education to support children's growth, development, and overall well-being.

All meals and snacks served through the program meet the requirements of the Child and Adult Care Food Program and are planned to provide balanced nutrition while supporting healthy growth and development. Meal modifications are provided for children with documented food allergies,

medical dietary needs, or disabilities.



Health and nutrition education are incorporated into everyday classroom experiences. Children learn age-appropriate food safety, handwashing, and healthy eating habits while participating in hands-on activities such as exploring fruits and vegetables, preparing simple snacks, and learning about different food groups. These experiences encourage independence, curiosity, and positive attitudes toward healthy foods.

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Whenever possible, nutrition education highlights locally available and culturally significant foods, helping children develop an appreciation for the traditions and cultures represented within the communities served by APIA.

Families are supported through nutrition education, health resources, and referrals. Throughout the program year, APIA Head Start partners with healthcare providers, community organizations, and local agencies to increase access to preventative health services. Together, these efforts help children establish a strong foundation for their health and wellness.



Parent Involvement

Parents play the most important role in their child's developmental growth and academic achievements. As their child's first, best, and most influential teacher, parents are strongly encouraged to participate in our Head Start Program in various ways.

At APIA Head Start, we encourage and value parent engagement and offer many opportunities for families to participate, including:

- Volunteering in the Classroom and Field Trips
- Sharing a Skill/Recipe in the Classroom
- Cooking and Sharing a Meal
- Sharing their Culture and Traditions
- Parent Committee Meetings
- Policy Council
- Parent Education & Trainings
- Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Home Visits
- Event Preparation and Cleanup
- Community Assessments
- Fatherhood Involvement
- Graduation Planning
- End-of-Year Surveys



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It is a priority of our program to work with families to set individualized goals that support school readiness, family well-being, and economic mobility. We also engage parents in shared governance, helping to shape our program through active participation in monthly Parent Center Committee and Policy Council meetings. We know that none of our work would be possible without the voices, dedication, and involvement of our families. Their participation through decision-making and volunteering, both in and out of the classroom, forms the heart of our program. As a program, we are committed to supporting our families, ensuring their voices are heard, and helping them feel that Head Start is here for them.



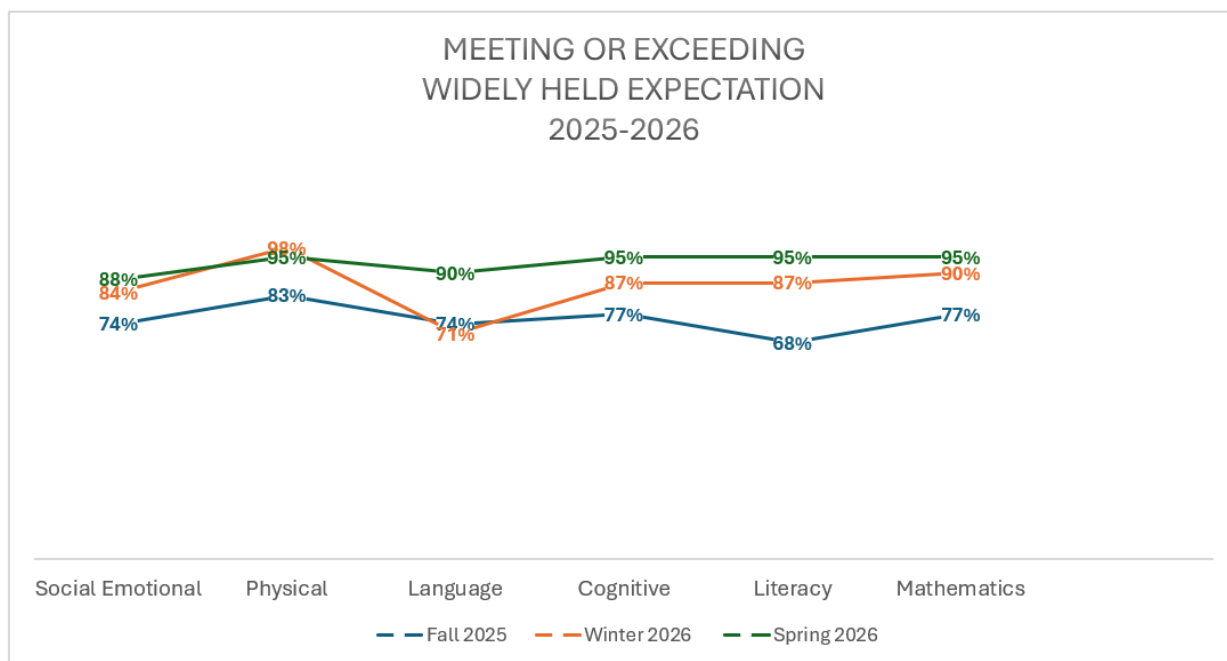
Preparing Children for Kindergarten

Children receive a developmental screening within 45 days of enrollment. If concerns arise, teachers collaborate with parents and may refer the child to the Local Education Agency (LEA). Children who qualify for special education services receive support either at Head Start or through the local school district.

Teachers assess each child's learning progress three times a year—fall, winter, and spring—using developmental checkpoints. This data is then analyzed to tailor lesson plans to meet each child's individual needs. By the winter checkpoint, lesson plans are further refined to help children achieve the learning goals known as "Widely Held Expectations" (WHE). The percentages shown represent the percentage of students who are meeting or exceeding these expectations. A slight dip in winter scores is common and typically reflects the adjustment period for newly enrolled children who join the program on their third birthday.

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This chart provides a year-end snapshot of the learning progress made during the school year:



Kindergarten transition activities begin in late winter and early spring. APIA Head Start staff coordinate with kindergarten and the district preschool teachers to support a smooth transition. Students visit kindergarten classrooms, meet teachers, and join current students for lunch and other routine activities. Parents are encouraged to participate, as strong collaboration and communication supports a successful transition.

