

# **SOUTHERN KENNEBEC CHILD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

## **2023 ANNUAL REPORT**









Dear Friends,

We are pleased to provide our Annual Report for 2023.

This year, SKCDC marks 57 years of service to the children and families of Southern Kennebec County. We are proud of SKCDC's long history of early care and education along with comprehensive family services. We are honored to partner with families and recognize the daily efforts of our staff, volunteers and community partners to provide the highest quality services to children and families participating in SKCDC programs.

Over the past year, early care and education programs were provided in nine centers, including seven public preschool collaboration classrooms. Families participating in the home-based option received HS/EHS from skilled home visitors right at home. In addition, SKCDC supports Family Child Care Homes in the USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program and serves as an authorized Car Seat Distribution Center.

While the pandemic continued to impact programs and participants throughout the school year, services continued. The end of the public health emergency is a relief!

Over the last year, playgrounds have been upgraded, and centers have been enhanced to better serve children. We look forward to the upcoming program year and rededicate ourselves to offering quality programs, in partnership with families and the community, to improve opportunities for children and to support their school readiness.

Onward!

Sincerely,

Staci Fortunato  
President, Board of Directors

Cristina Salois  
Agency Director



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Staci Fortunato, President
- Angela Hamlin, Vice President
- Brent Hall, Treasurer
- Theresa Violette, Secretary
- Laurie Glidden
- Sandy Niles
- Amy Abbott
- Nancy Hale
- Nancy Provost
- Pat Clark
- Nan Bell



## POLICY COUNCIL

- Danielle Lane #
- Carla Dionne
- Erin Pellerin
- Chelsey Holmes #
- Allison Kibbin #
- Maggie Arbour
- Melissa Knox
- Amy Benham\*
- Brookes Smith\*

\* = Community Partner Representative

# = PC Representative to the Board of Directors

*"I like how comfortable I feel with all the staff and how much they enjoy my child. They have been supportive to our situation, and my child has thrived attending school here."*  
Annual Family Survey 2023





## Program Descriptions

### Head Start and Early Head Start

Head Start programs support children's growth from birth to age 5 through services that support early learning and development, health, and family well-being. Head Start staff actively engage parents, recognizing family participation throughout the program as key to strong child outcomes.

Head Start services are available at no cost to children ages birth to 5 in eligible families. Head Start preschool services work with families with children ages 3 to 5. Early Head Start services work with families with children ages birth to 3, and many also serve expectant families. Many programs operate both Head Start preschool and Early Head Start services. Programs deliver child development services in center-based and home-based settings. All Head Start programs continually work toward our mission for eligible children and families to receive high-quality services in safe and healthy settings that prepare children for school and life.

### Child Care

Full day full year early care and education programs are available for children ages 6 weeks to 5 years old.

Full day, full year programs were available at the Magic Years center located in Augusta and the Plummer Street Center in Gardiner.



*"The program my kiddo is in has been amazing! He has had so much interaction with other kids, and he really seems to enjoy going. I am beyond grateful to the amazingly wonderful staff."*  
– Annual Family Survey 2023



### Services for Expectant Families

Expectant families participate in the home visiting program. The program is designed to offer education and support for expectant parents and to help their children develop optimally during the crucial early years of life.

Enhancing parent/child relationships, ensuring healthy outcomes for children, promoting child growth and development, teaching problem solving skills, improving the family's support system, and establishing trusting and nurturing relationships are some of the goals of the program. Families have access to SKCDC's full year, center based or home-based program options for their babies, following the birth of their children.



## EARLY CARE & EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS

### Public Prekindergarten Programs

We collaborate with RSU 2 (Monmouth), RSU 12 (Somerville, Windsor, Palermo and Chelsea), and Winthrop Schools to offer Department of Education approved public Pre-K programs.

### Child and Adult Care Food Program

Early care and education centers and family childcare homes, sponsored by SKCDC, participated in the USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program, providing nutritious meals for all children at no cost to families. SKCDC sponsored 24 Family Child Care Homes across our service area.

### CAR SEAT DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

In partnership with the Bureau of Highway Safety, SKCDC acts as an authorized Car Seat Distribution Center with two Certified Car Seat Technicians on our staff. Forty-eight families received car seats and child passenger safety information over the past year.



### EARLY CARE & EDUCATION CENTERS

- **Chelsea Pre-K Partnership**  
Chelsea Elementary School  
566 Togus Road, Chelsea
- **Gardiner Center**  
12 Plummer Street, Gardiner
- **Lake Region Center**  
165 Lakeview Drive, China
- **Magic Years Center**  
25 Industrial Drive, Augusta
- **Monmouth Pre-K Partnership**  
Monmouth Memorial School  
130 Academy Road, Monmouth
- **Somerville Pre-K Partnership**  
Somerville Elementary School  
71 Patricktown Rd, Somerville
- **South Gardiner Center**  
721 River Road, South Gardiner
- **Webster Center**  
34 Franklin Street, Augusta
- **Winthrop Pre-K Partnership**  
Winthrop Grade School  
23 Highland Ave., Winthrop



*"I love that she's made new friends. She loves school already. She's much more prepared for Pre-K. She's also learned and come a long way this year developmentally."*

*Annual Family Survey, 2023*



## HEAD START – BY THE NUMBERS

### SKCDC Families and Staff - Partners in Quality

- 162 parents were involved in their children's programs through family goal setting, home visits, program planning, training, and workshops throughout the year, including 48 fathers.
- 61 children received early intervention or special education services.
- SKCDC facilitated 33 referrals for community mental health services.
- 328 hours of Mental Health Consultation support, training, coaching and technical assistance were provided to families and staff.
- 24,620 healthy meals and snacks were served to children from June 2022 - May 2023
- 100% of Early Head Start and 94.7% of Head Start children had health insurance.
- 96% of enrolled children are up to date on a schedule of preventive and primary health care per the state's EPSDT schedule at the end of enrollment year.
- At year end, 98% of Early Head Start and 80.5% of Head Start children had continuous, accessible dental care provided by an oral health care professional.



*"My child is very shy, and she has opened up a lot since starting the program. This program has been such a positive experience for her and will definitely help in her transition to kindergarten. We are very thankful for the staff and this program"*

**Annual Family Survey, 2023**

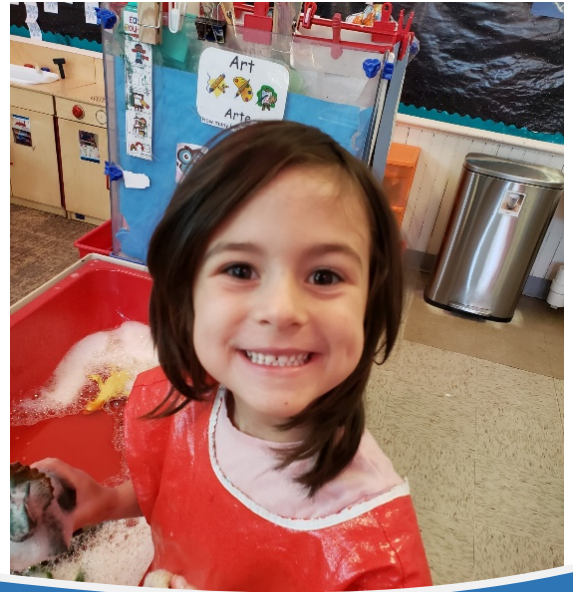


### Enrollment

Over the 2022-23 program year, SKCDC served a total of 179 children and expectant parents. With the impact of the public health emergency continuing until May of 2023, enrollment in Head Start averaged 59%, and in Early Head Start averaged 40%.

### The Need for Head Start and Early Head Start

Nationally, approximately 36% of eligible children receive Head Start services. Using data from the *Maine Kids Count Data Book, 2023*, it is estimated that the number of potentially eligible children ages birth through five years in our service area is 768. SKCDC served 179 children during the 2022-23 program year-23%



*"Kind staff. Great with the kids. Very organized. Great communication. All inclusive. Good energy. Staff work with individual needs in a respectful and caring manner."*  
– Annual Family Survey 2023

### Federal Head Start On-Site Review results

Throughout our Federal Project Period, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Office of Head Start (OHS) has conducted a *Focus area One* and *Focus Area Two* and monitoring reviews. SKCDC was found to be performing in compliance with the requirements of the Head Start Program Performance Standards, Public Law 110-134, Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007, and other applicable regulations.



*"I'm very happy with the program my child is attending. It's been a great place for my child to start his learning."*  
Annual Family Survey 2023



## SCHOOL READINESS

During the 2022-23 program year, SKCDC Head Start classrooms provided instruction using the *Pre-K for ME* curriculum. This research-based, whole child curriculum meets the requirements of Chapter 124: Public Preschool Program Standards.

Early Head Start classrooms and home-based programs implemented the *Creative Curriculum for Infants, Toddlers and Twos*. This is a comprehensive curriculum that offers daily support, guidance, and inspiration to teachers and caregivers of the youngest learners.

All classrooms implemented the research-based Pyramid Model for supporting social and emotional development in young children.

<https://www.pyramidmodel.org/>



**2022-2023 School Readiness Results:** Teaching staff monitor children's developmental progress through the use of the research-based *Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP)* assessment system. The purpose of the DRDP assessment system is to support staff and families in reflecting on children's learning and growth, in order to inform program planning and individualization for all children.

### DRDP Developmental Levels Continuum

Responding Earlier	Responding Later	Exploring Earlier	Exploring Middle	Exploring Later	Building Earlier	Building Middle	Building Later	Integrating Earlier
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Early Infancy

K Entry

**Early Head Start:** By the end of the year, all median scores were within the Exploring Later developmental level. The most notable progressions were in the areas of Approaches to Learning and Language and Literacy Development.

**Head Start:** Throughout the year, the median scores and percentages increased in all domains. The median scores in every domain were in the Building Middle or Building Later developmental level. In addition, all domains had a percentage of children in the Integrating Earlier developmental level by the end of the spring assessment cycle. The most notable progression was in the Approaches to Learning – Self-Regulation domain.

*"I love her teachers and how much she is learning. I love that she's learning structure. I couldn't be happier with the program she's in."*  
-Annual Family Survey 2023





## YEARS OF SERVICE RECOGNITION

Congratulations to the following employees for their dedicated service to improving the lives of children and families:

### 30 Years!

- Anita Lagassee

### 5 Years!

- Sherry Brown Spaulding
- Tessa Rosberg
- Tammy Spear
- Richard Wentworth
- Denise Pomerleau



## CAREER DEVELOPMENT

SKCDC celebrates the educational achievements of the following employees:

### Bachelor of Science (BS) 2022

- Gwen Farnham

### Child Development Associate Credential (CDA)

- Denise Williams, Home Visiting CDA
- Rebecca Washburn, Infant/Toddler CDA
- Rebecca Brown, Preschool CDA
- Paz Gomez, Preschool CDA
- Donna Lufkin, Infant/Toddler CDA
- Kayla Bechard, Infant/Toddler CDA

### Child Development Associate Credential (CDA) Renewal

- Lisa Veilleux, Infant/Toddler CDA
- Amber Tilley Preschool CDA
- Sarah Hickey, Infant/Toddler CDA
- Cathryn Marquis, Preschool CDA
- Tessa Rosberg, Preschool CDA
- Anita Lagasse, Preschool CDA



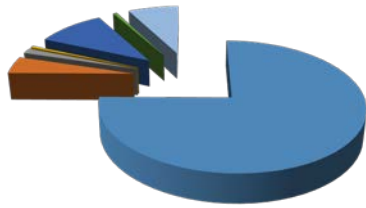
*"I am grateful for this program. I wouldn't change a thing."  
Annual Family Survey 2023*





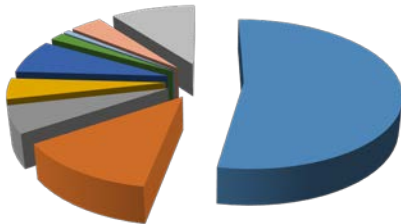
## 2022 – 2023 FINANCIAL REPORT

### Revenue



Federal Funds	75.17%	- \$4,060,505
State Funds	4.54%	- \$245,464
Client Fees	1.39%	- \$75,236
United Way	.51%	- \$27,383
In-kind Contributions	10.21%	- \$551,419
Program Income and Other	.59%	- \$32,122
COVID Relief	7.58%	- \$409,608

### Expenditures by Category



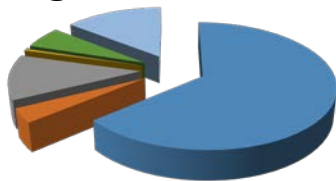
Personnel	52.93%	- \$2,843,008
Fringe	12.65%	- \$679,375
Equipment	5.86%	- \$314,620
Contractual	4.50%	- \$241,961
Occupancy	7.36%	- \$395,424
Supplies	1.74%	- \$93,226
Travel	.76%	- \$41,082
Other	3.93%	- \$211,292
In-kind Contributions	10.27%	- \$551,419

### Independent Audit Report

The Independent Audit Report was completed by Nicholson, Michaud & Nadeau, Certified Public Accountants, for the year ending May 31, 2023. The reports required by Generally Accepted Auditing Standards and Uniform Guidance contained no findings. The report required by Maine Uniform Accounting and Auditing Practices also contained no findings. Please see [SKCDC.org](https://www.skcdc.org) for the full report.

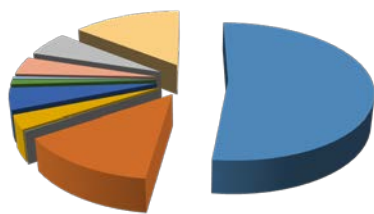
## 2023 – 2024 BUDGET

### Funding



Federal Funds	63.99%	- \$4,356,944
State Funds	3.65%	- \$248,351
Client Fees	11.68%	- \$795,046
United Way	.46%	- \$31,000
Program Income	0.15%	- \$10,000
COVID Relief	5.76%	- \$391,885
In Kind Contributions	14.33%	- \$975,914

### Expenditures by Category



Personnel	52.13%	- \$3,549,330
Fringe	13.49%	- \$918,529
Equipment	0.15%	- \$10,000
Contractual	3.16%	- \$214,995
Occupancy	5.09%	- \$346,816
Supplies	1.12%	- \$76,188
Travel	0.57%	- \$38,732
Other	4.21%	- \$286,751
Federal/State COVID expenses	5.76%	- \$391,885
In Kind Contributions	14.33%	- \$975,914



## SOUTHERN KENNEBEC CHILD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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*"Not only has my child learned an incredible amount, but she loves school and is clearly in a safe, nurturing environment."*

Annual Family Survey 2023



United Way  
of Kennebec Valley  
Community Partner

**An Equal Opportunity – Affirmative Action Employer**

Funded in part by the Maine Department of Health & Human Services, and the Federal Administration for Children & Families

In complying with the letter and spirit of applicable laws and pursuing its own goals of pluralism, the Southern Kennebec Child Development Corporation shall not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin or citizenship status, age, disability, or veterans status and shall comply with Section 504, Title IX, and the ADA in employment, education, and all other areas of the Agency.