



ADMINISTRATION FOR  
**CHILDREN & FAMILIES**

Office of Head Start | 4th Floor – Switzer Memorial Building, 330 C Street SW, Washington DC 20024 [eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov](http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov)

## Program Performance Summary Report

**To: Authorizing Official/Board Chairperson**

*Ms. Rachel Boudreau*

*Kids' Corps Inc*

*101 Davis St*

*Anchorage, AK 99508 - 2431*

**From: Responsible HHS Official**

**Date: 08/11/2023**

**Mr. Khari M. Garvin**

**Director, Office of Head Start**

From July 17, 2023 to July 19, 2023, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) conducted a Focus Area One (FA1) monitoring review of Kids' Corps Inc Head Start and Early Head Start programs. This report contains information about the grant recipient's performance and compliance with the requirements of the Head Start Program Performance Standards (HSPPS) or Public Law 110-134, *Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007*.

The Office of Head Start (OHS) would like to thank your governing body, policy council, parents, and staff for their engagement in the review process. The FA1 review allows the OHS to understand how programs are progressing in providing services in the 5-year grant cycle. The report includes the performance measures used to understand recipient progress towards program goals. You can use this report to identify where your program was able to describe progress toward implementing program services that promote quality outcomes for children and families. Please contact your Regional Office for guidance should you have any questions or concerns. Your Regional Office will follow up on the content of this report and can work with you to identify resources to support your program's continuous improvement.

### **DISTRIBUTION OF THE REPORT**

Copies of this report will be distributed to the following:

Mr. Robert Colombini, Regional Program Manager

Ms. Katrina Ahlfield, Chief Executive Officer/Executive Director

Ms. Katrina Ahlfield, Head Start Director

Ms. Katrina Ahlfield, Early Head Start Director

### Grant(s) included as part of this review

Grant Recipient Name	Grant Number(s)
Kids' Corps Inc	10CH012119

### Glossary of Terms

Finding Type	Definition
<b>Area of Concern (AOC)</b>	An area in which the agency needs to improve performance. These issues should be discussed with the grant recipient's Regional Office for possible technical assistance.
<b>Area of Noncompliance (ANC)</b>	An area in which the agency is out of compliance with Federal requirements (including but not limited to the Head Start Act or one or more of the regulations) in one or more areas of performance. This status requires a written timeline for correction and possible technical assistance or guidance from the grant recipient's program specialist. If not corrected within the specified timeline, this status becomes a deficiency.
<b>Deficiency</b>	<p>As defined in the Head Start Act, the term "deficiency" means:</p> <p>(A) a systemic or substantial material failure of an agency in an area of performance that the Secretary determines involves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) a threat to the health, safety, or civil rights of children or staff;</li> <li>(ii) a denial to parents of the exercise of their full roles and responsibilities related to program operations;</li> <li>(iii) a failure to comply with standards related to early childhood development and health services, family and community partnerships, or program design and management;</li> <li>(iv) the misuse of funds received under this subchapter;</li> <li>(v) loss of legal status (as determined by the Secretary) or financial viability, loss of permits, debarment from receiving Federal grants or contracts, or the improper use of Federal funds; or</li> <li>(vi) failure to meet any other Federal or State requirement that the agency has shown an unwillingness or inability to correct, after notice from the Secretary, within the period specified;</li> </ul> <p>(B) systemic or material failure of the governing body of an agency to fully exercise its legal and fiduciary responsibilities; or</p> <p>(C) an unresolved area of noncompliance.</p>

#### **Program Overview**

Kids' Corps Inc provides Early Head Start and Head Start services in Southcentral Alaska. The agency serves a diverse community and receives funds to enroll 257 children and expectant families. The program offers home-based and center-based options, with some classrooms located within Anchorage School District facilities.



## Program Design and Management

### **Program Design**

The grant recipient's program design and structure takes into account community strengths and needs.

### **Program Management**

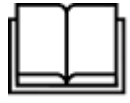
The grant recipient has an approach for providing effective management and oversight of all program areas and fiduciary responsibilities.

### **Program Governance**

The grant recipient maintains a formal structure for program governance that includes a governing body, a policy council (or policy committee for delegates), and parent committees.

## Program Design and Management Summary

Kids' Corps Inc aligned services to meet the needs of its community. Data analysis indicated a reduced demand for home-based programming and an increased need for center-based services. The grant recipient converted slots from home-based to center-based to address waiting lists and working families' schedules. Program design responded to community change to maintain quality and ensure the implementation of strategic improvements.



## Designing Quality Education and Child Development Program Services

### **Alignment with School Readiness**

The grant recipient's approach to school readiness aligns with the expectations of receiving schools, the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework (HSELOF), and state early learning standards.

### **Effective and Intentional Teaching Practices**

The grant recipient has strategies to ensure teaching practices promote progress toward school readiness.

### **Supporting Teachers in Promoting School Readiness**

The grant recipient has an approach for ensuring teachers are prepared to implement the curriculum and support children's progress toward school readiness.

### **Home-based Program Services**

The grant recipient has strategies to ensure home-based program services help parents to provide high-quality learning experiences.

## Education and Child Development Services Summary

Kids' Corps Inc analyzed child outcomes data to guide ongoing improvements. For example, education staff used the data to plan lessons and activities that supported children's progress on individualized learning goals. In addition, teachers received support from coaches and supervisors. These efforts helped staff promote positive outcomes for children.



## Designing Quality Health Program Services

### Child Health Status and Care

The grant recipient has an approach for ensuring the delivery of high-quality health services.

### Safety Practices

The grant recipient implements a process for monitoring and maintaining healthy and safe environments and ensuring all staff have complete background checks.

## Health Services Summary

Kids' Corps Inc implemented a strategy to enhance mental health services and support. In response to data collected during classroom observations, the grant recipient provided staff with feedback, tools, and strategies to use with children. Additionally, the program offered parenting classes using a supplemental social-emotional curriculum to help families understand their children's social-emotional development. These efforts helped the program create nurturing and responsive environments that fostered the social-emotional well-being of children and families.



## Designing Quality Family and Community Engagement Services

### **Family Well-being**

The grant recipient has an approach for collaborating with families to support family well-being.

### **Strengthening Parenting and Parent-Child Supports**

The grant recipient has an approach for providing services that strengthen parenting skills.

## **Family and Community Engagement Services Summary**

Kids' Corps Inc executed various strategies to support and strengthen parenting skills. Principles from the program's social-emotional curriculum were integrated into home visits, parent-child activities, and classroom volunteer days. Parents also had opportunities to observe and practice positive child-adult interactions during home visits and classroom observations. Finally, the program's mental health consultant provided personalized guidance and tailored support to help parents address their children's challenging behaviors. Families received various opportunities to learn and apply positive parenting practices.



## Developing Effective Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment, and Attendance (ERSEA) Strategies and Fiscal Infrastructure

### Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment, and Attendance

The grant recipient enrolls children or expectant mothers who are categorically eligible or who meet defined income-eligibility requirements.

### Enrollment Verification

The grant recipient maintains and tracks enrollment for all enrolled participants.

### Fiscal Infrastructure, Capacity, and Responsiveness

The grant recipient's fiscal staff have the qualifications needed to provide oversight of the grant.

The grant recipient has a budget development and revision process that includes stakeholders and appropriate approvals, and ensures continuous alignment with program design, goals, and objectives.

## ERSEA and Fiscal Summary

Kids' Corps Inc administered strategies to improve its enrollment process. To accommodate families' preferences, the program created options for submitting applications. For example, the program developed an online application system that allowed parents to submit applications and documents electronically. Multiple staff members were trained on the process to ensure uniformity across locations. These strategies helped streamline the enrollment process and ensured consistency in verifying eligibility.

Kids' Corps Inc ensured its budget development process supported program needs and goals. Data analysis, stakeholder input, and financial statements informed decision-making and resource allocation. The budget performance was tracked, and deviations were communicated to ensure policy compliance. The staff proactively planned for funding challenges and evaluated the effectiveness of incentives and benefits changes along with the limits of one-time funding. The grant recipient ensured compliance with Federal regulations and alignment with program goals.

----- End of Report -----