

Annual Report

2023



ABOUT US

E Center is a private nonprofit agency that celebrated their 50th anniversary July 2023. E Center is located in eight northern California counties delivering comprehensive services to children, individuals and families. E Center's mission is to build healthy communities through education, employment and environment awareness. Envisioning strong, healthy communities that are inclusive of all.



Serving
Butte, Glenn, Lake,
Sutter, Colusa,
Tehama, Yolo, Yuba

Current Programs

- Head Start / Early Head Start
- Migrant and Seasonal Head Start / Migrant Early Head Start
- General Childcare and Development (CCTR)
- Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
- Farm and Food Worker Relief Program



E Center Board of Directors

Sharron Zoller, Board Chairperson; Jennifer LaBadie, Vice-Chairperson; Stacie Gandy, Secretary/Treasurer; Jason Salis, Director; Melissa Loeb, Director; Eric Parades, Director; Desiree Lutzweiler, HS/EHS Policy Council Rep; Cristal Aguilera, MSHS/MEHS Policy Council Rep(not pictured)

Letter from our Chief Executive Officer

Dear Stakeholders,

In the face of unprecedented challenges, our unwavering dedication and steadfast focus on meeting the needs of our community's most vulnerable members fill me with hope. I am confident as we continue to provide services through WIC and Head Start programs, we look for ways to enhance the quality of services to our clientele.

As we navigate these extraordinary times, our team swiftly devised and executed a comprehensive plan to ensure that our staff continues to provide high-quality learning environments and nutritional sustenance for our children. E Center has facilitated meaningful interactions with children, caretakers, and program participants, underscoring our commitment to their well-being.

The needs of our eight county service area residents are greater than ever, underscoring the immense potential for positive change. Each day, we witness the profound impact of our investments, laying the foundation for lasting transformation that requires time and dedication. Supported by federal and state funding, community partners, and individual donors, we are empowered to carry out this vital work that will shape the future for generations to come. Our enduring dedication to fostering healthy communities will create a legacy of change that transcends time.

I extend my deepest gratitude to all our donors, nonprofit partners, advisors, and supporters who have generously allowed us to be part of their philanthropic endeavors. On behalf of our committed Board and talented staff, I express heartfelt appreciation for inspiring us and standing alongside us in our mission to cultivate healthy communities through education, employment, and environmental consciousness.

With profound gratitude and sincere appreciation,

Steve Ly
Chief Executive Officer
E Center



Human Resources

Human Resources continues to evolve with the changing times, with the continued focus on prioritizing the well-being of our workforce. This encompasses the development of practices, policies, and procedures that acknowledge the personal journeys of our employees, providing support not only within their roles but also in their daily lives whenever feasible.

- E Center maintains our commitment to providing an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) in partnership with Uprise Health, ensuring that employees could access these resources even during periods of layoff.
- Through our partnership with Blue Zones, we have successfully certified our WIC offices in Lake County, and soon, our General Agency Administration (GAA) will also achieve Blue Zones certification. This initiative aims to promote well-being and encourage healthy living practices among our valued staff members.
- We persist in leveraging insights from the UCLA Wellness Program to foster a healthy work-life balance among our employees.
- E Center has enhanced our retirement contribution to an industry-leading 5%

People-Centric Work Culture
Competitive Compensation
Strategies



Information Technology

E Center, a forward-thinking company committed to safeguarding its **digital infrastructure**, prioritizes cybersecurity through robust measures. E Center reinforces its defense strategy with multifactor authentication, adding an extra layer of protection to its systems and data. This multi-pronged approach demonstrates E Center's dedication to maintaining the **integrity** and security of its operations in an increasingly complex digital landscape.

E Center Child Development Programs

Welcome...

E Center receives funding from the Office of Head Start to operate four (4) Head Start grants including: Migrant Seasonal Head Start, Migrant Early Head Start, Head Start, and Early Head Start. In addition, E Center receives funding for a state funded infant and toddler childcare program (CCTR) funded through the Department of Social Services.

Service for the Head Start Programs are provided for children ages 0-5 including pregnant woman in the Early Head Start program. Our operational season varies based on community need and funding availability. Services for the state funded childcare program (CCTR) operate year-round.

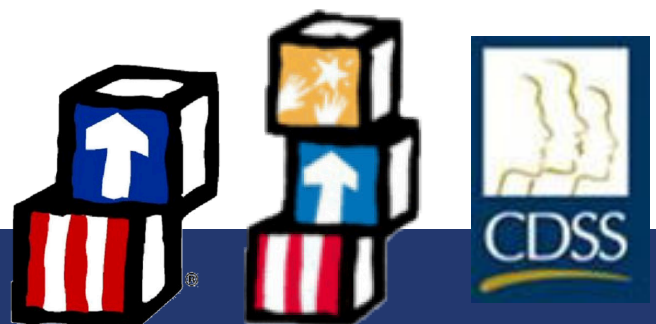
This past season has been challenging as we recovered from the pandemic. E Center continues to work diligently with local public health officials to ensure safety measures remain in place to continue services to families. We are proud of our ability to navigate the barriers presented by the pandemic and the role we played in ensuring the health and safety for E Center families and staff.

We grew as a program and as an agency through this time period by learning more efficient ways to utilize technology and new methods for communicating while working in a virtual environment. E Center continues to take advantage of virtual opportunities both as a cost saving measure and for time efficiency.

I welcome and encourage readers of this report to really look at the information provided and to understand the quality teaching that is happening in all of our classrooms across all counties even during the most challenging times. Children are supervised at all times by qualified teaching staff throughout their time in our classrooms.

If interested, request a tour of a site or classroom. We also have opportunities for community volunteers. Check us out on Facebook, "like" us to receive updates about activities we are involved in throughout the communities we serve.

Sincerely,
Jodie Keller
Program Director



General Childcare and Development -CCTR-



E Center received funding in July 2021 from the California Department of Social Services to operate a childcare program for infants and toddlers ages 4 weeks to 3 years of age. That program continues to operate today. Services are provided in Sutter County, Yuba County and in Butte County. In Butte County, we have a center located in the City of Oroville and in Chico and in Yuba County, our center is located in Olivehurst. Both the Olivehurst and the Chico locations opened for services to families in November 2021. The center located in Oroville opened to families July 2023. Additional CCTR state funded childcare slots opened in July 2023 in the communities of Chico, Yuba City, and Marysville.

Our services are provided in center base settings for working families that require care for at least 6 hour per day, 5 days per week. Fees for services are based on family income; due to the pandemic all family fees were waived.

E Center's focus is on providing high quality care while preparing the children for their educational journey through nurturing adult/child interaction and age-appropriate learning environments. We firmly believe that children learn best through play with teachers that support social and emotional well-being while providing developmentally appropriate activities for child engagement.

Children are supervised at all times by qualified teaching staff throughout their time in our classrooms. If interested, request a tour of a site or classroom. We also have plenty of opportunity for community volunteer activities.



Nutrition

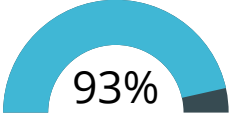
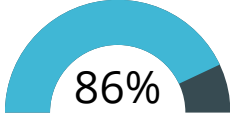


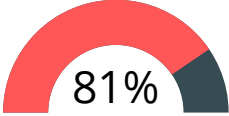
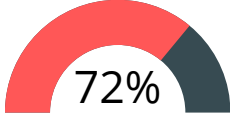


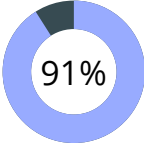
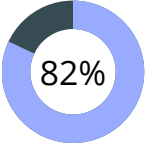
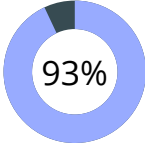
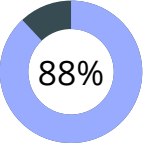
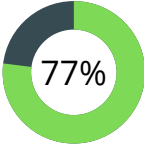
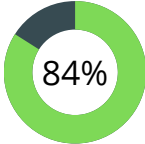
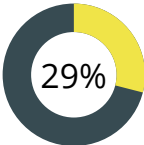
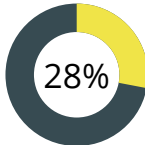
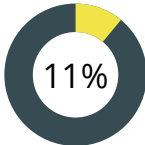
- Encourages healthy eating
- Enhances language, social and small motor skills
- Models proper table manners
- Promotes mathematical skills



213,525 Meals Served to Enrolled Children

MEALS	Head Start	Early Head Start	Migrant Seasonal Head Start	Migrant Early Head Start
Breakfast	38,748	8,138	22,614	1,897
Lunch	43,611	9,145	23,354	2,018
Snack	32,986	7,948	21,226	1,840
Total	115,345	25,231	67,194	5,755

Head Start Programs Indicators

	Head Start	Early Head Start	Migrant Seasonal Head Start	Migrant Early Head Start
Number of Families Served	533	291	266	26
Percentage of Families with at Least One Direct Service	 93%	 86%	 99%	 100%
Funded Enrollment	564	272	562	35
Average Daily Attendance	 81%	 72%	 86%	 88%
Percentage of Children Receiving Medical Exams	 91%	 82%	 93%	 88%
Percentage of Children Receiving Dental Exams	 77%	N/A	 84%	N/A
Families Served Experiencing Homelessness	44	33	17	2
Percentage of Children Served with IEP or IFSP	 29%	 28%	 11%	

E Center serves children and families in our communities with diverse needs, including children with diagnosed disabilities and children that have possible special needs. We strive to support an inclusive and safe environment in our general education classrooms for children diagnosed with disabilities and those in need of assessments.

Education

E Center continues to implement the Frog Street curriculum on a 0-5 continuum for our MSHS/MEHS, HS, and 0-3 child development programs. Frog Street curriculum aligns with the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework, California Learning Foundations, and the Desired Results Developmental Profile. Frog Street curriculum supports child outcomes through the scope and sequence of the implementation of Conscious Discipline, the Pyramid Model, and S.T.E.A.M.

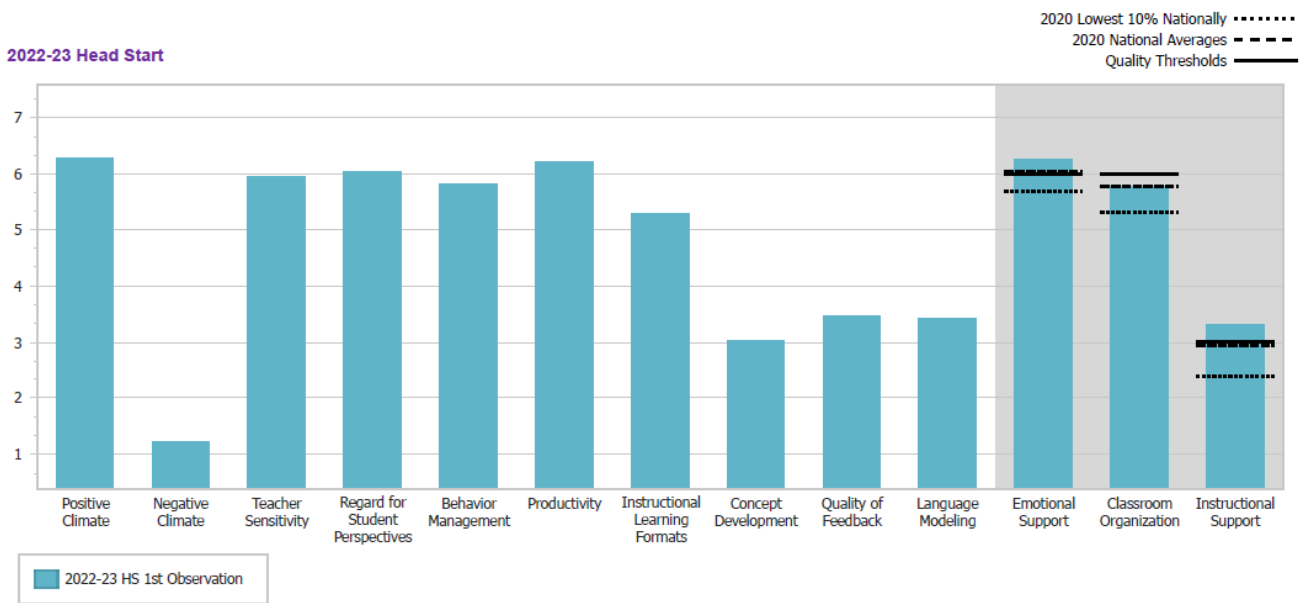


School Readiness

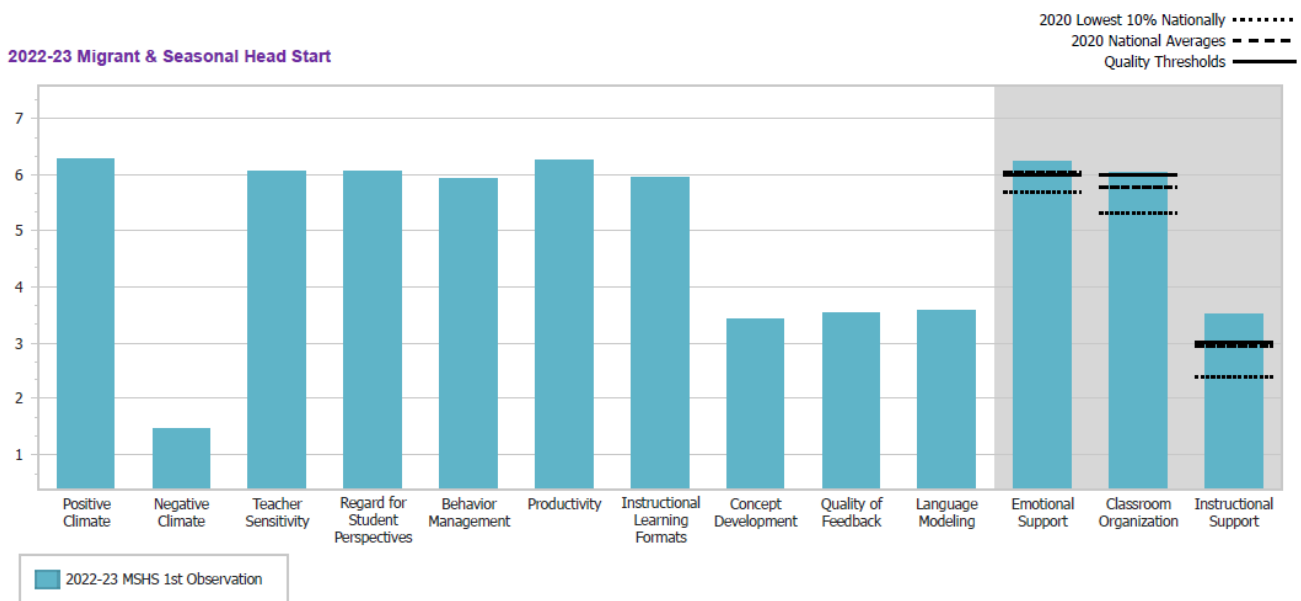
E Center continues to implement a systemic process identifying and maintaining above average school readiness results through CLASS Observations and Child Outcomes.

CLASS outcomes are utilized to create current and relevant professional development opportunities for staff in support of Kindergarten readiness.

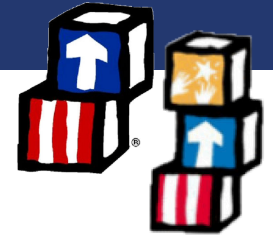
2022-23 Head Start



2022-23 Migrant & Seasonal Head Start



Head Start Highlights



Our services are provided in center base settings, home base settings and in Family Child Care environments.

Services



Our Head Start and Early Head Start both provide services to high-risk children, with priority given to children with disabilities, families that fall below the poverty guidelines, and those experiencing homelessness.



E Center prides itself on its learning environments both indoors, outdoors, and on our buses. We firmly believe that children learn best through play and through rich learning environments utilizing Frog Street Curriculum and Partners for Healthy Babies. Our environments provide opportunities for engaged, fun, inquisitive learning for the children, stretching their imaginations and expanding their math, science, language skills and social and emotional growth. E Center welcomes student teachers looking for work experience while in pursuit of the Early Childhood Education degree.

Our Migrant and Seasonal Program provide services to agricultural families.

HS

EHS

MSHS

MEHS

3-5
Year-olds

0-3
Year-olds

0-5
Year-olds

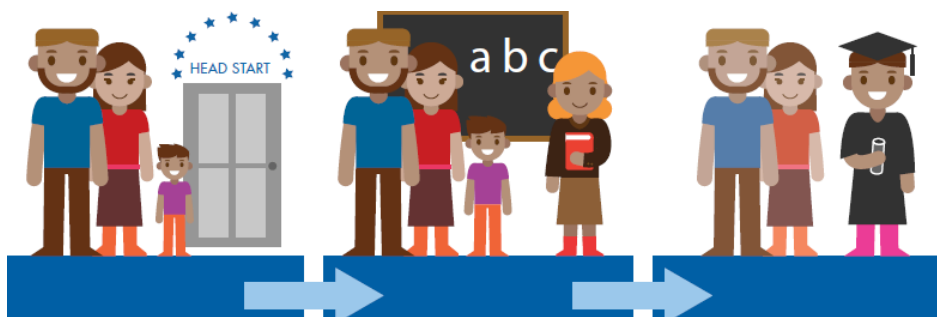
0-3
Year-olds



Head Start Prepares Young Children & Families to Succeed in Classrooms, and in Life

When Head Start and schools partner, children succeed!

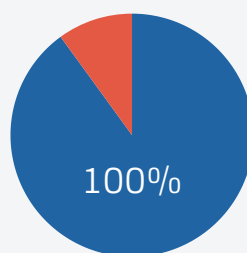
Compared to their peers, Head Start children are more likely to graduate high school, attend college, have a job and enjoy good health.



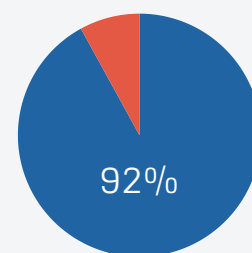
HEAD START IN YOUR COMMUNITY

- 1261 children in 93 locally-run classrooms
- 54% entering kindergarten in next 2 years
- Most children speak English at home; 55% are dual language learners
- 12 collaboration agreements between programs and schools
- 18% of enrolled children receive services under IDEA

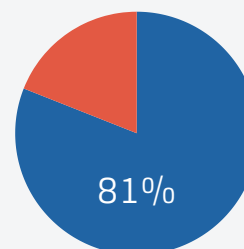
CHILDREN ARE HEALTHIER



100%
are vaccinated



92% have
health insurance

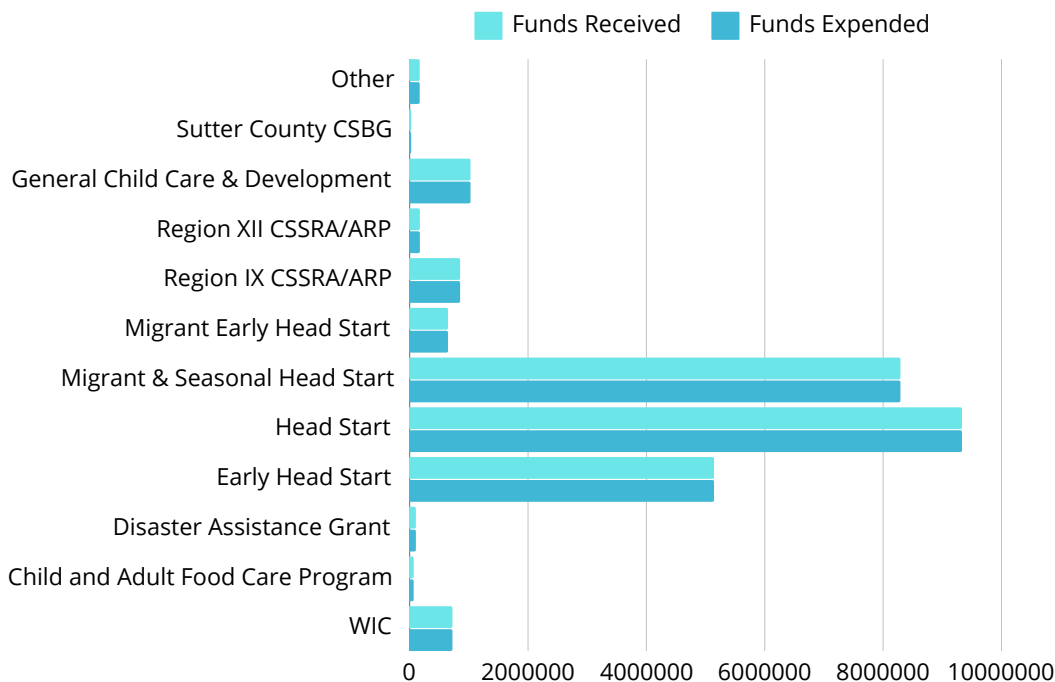


81%
have dental care

6% projected population increase of 0–5-year-olds over the next decade. There continues to be an increased need for center-based services for 0–3-year-olds across all counties.

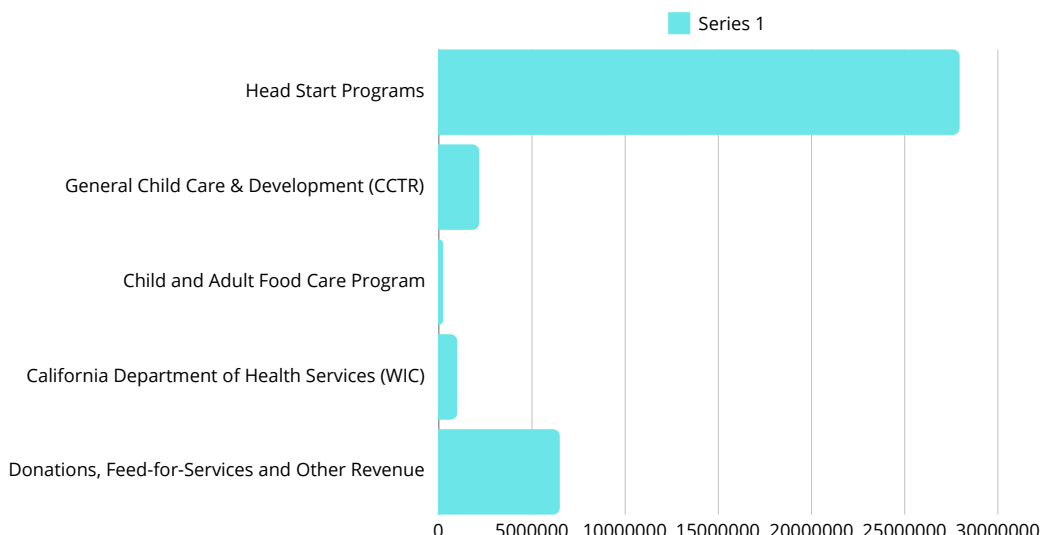
Budget Expenditures and Proposed Budget

E Center Funds, Received and Expended July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023



In accordance with Government Auditing, WIPFLI, an Independent Auditor, issued a report dated December 14, 2023, on their consideration of E Center's internal control over financial reporting and its test of our compliance with appropriate laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. It is the opinion of WIPFLI, that E Center complied, in all material respects, with the compliance requirements described in the U.S. Office of Management and Budget Compliance Supplement that could have direct and material effect on its major federal program for the year ended June 30, 2023

E Center Operating Budget 2022-2023





Head Start California
Advocacy Day



Cinco De mayo Parade
Gridley, CA



Congressman LaMalfa's
Office Visit



National Migrant Seasonal Head
Start Association Advocacy



National Head Start
Association Advocacy



Assemblyman Gallagher
Visit



Region IX Office of Head Start
Leadership Visit



Butte County Kiddie Parade
(Bird St. Location)

Women, Infants & Children WIC (Lake County)

E Center WIC in Lake County has been actively involved in supporting families by providing resources and information to ensure their well-being and connectivity within the community. In the past year, the program participated in various community events such as the Children's Advocacy Festivals, Mental Health Matters Festivals, and the Hero's of Health Fair, recognizing the importance of families in building a resilient community.

With nearly 980,000 participants served by California WIC in 2023, E Center WIC is optimistic about the full recovery of services following the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and workforce shortages. The program highlights that every dollar invested in WIC results in an average return of \$2.48 in medical, educational, and productivity costs, with a 16% reduction in infant mortality rates.

E Center WIC has seen a 9% increase in the number of participants benefiting from its services compared to the previous year, emphasizing the program's commitment to promoting healthy growth and development among families. The program actively advocates for families by collaborating with National and California WIC Associations, supporting initiatives to enhance fruit and vegetable benefits to promote healthier eating habits and reduce childhood obesity rates.

Participants of the program have the opportunity to utilize their fruit and vegetable benefits at WIC-approved Farmers Markets, with E Center WIC ranking among the top 5 for Farmers Market benefit redemption in California. By supporting local farmers and encouraging healthy food choices, E Center WIC continues to empower families to lead healthy and fulfilling lives.

Sincerely,
Kim Schott, RD
WIC Program Director



Women, Infants & Children WIC (Lake County)



E Center WIC maintains fully credentialed and certified:

- Dietitians
- Degreed Nutritionists
- WIC Nutrition Aides
- Certified Lactation Counselors and Educators.

64%
Average
Breastfeeding
Rate
54% State Average

2073
Individuals
on Average
Served Monthly



93%
Average Monthly
Participation

9%
Increased Services
from 2022

E Center WIC supports the increased fruit and vegetable benefit



**RANKED
TOP 5**

92.8%
Farmer's Market
Participation



74,732
Miles walked with
CA WIC
Associations



Farm and Food Worker Relief Program

E Center was awarded a contract by the National Migrant Seasonal Head Start Association to provide USDA Farmworker Relief Grant funds to local farmworkers. The relief benefits provided families involved in migrant seasonal agricultural work \$600 to each individual who worked. This program was vital for families in recovering from the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic.



NMSHSA
NATIONAL MIGRANT AND SEASONAL HEAD START ASSOCIATION



building healthy communities

EDUCATION EMPLOYMENT ENVIRONMENT



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