



2025 Annual Report

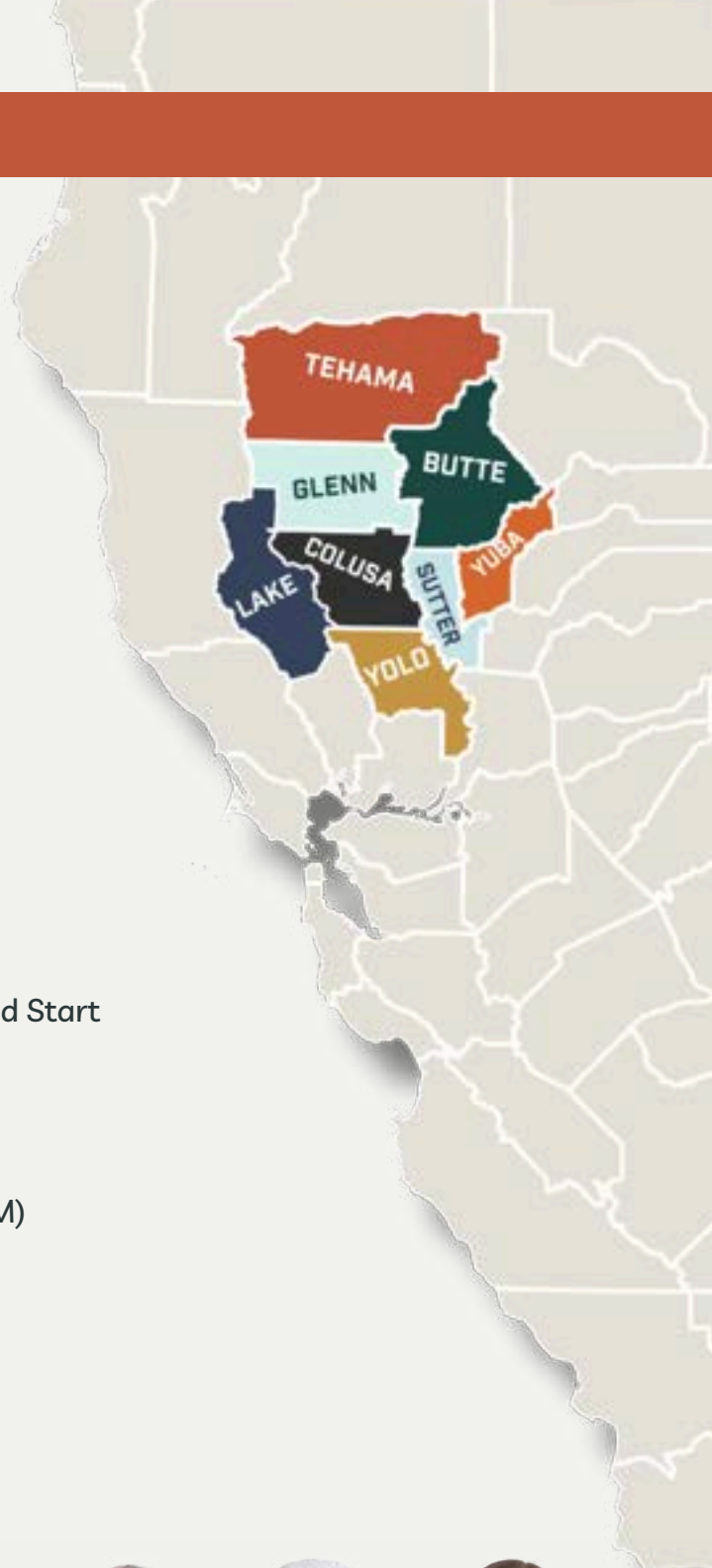
Building Healthy Communities

About Us

E Center is a nonprofit agency that has served communities since 1973. The organization operates across eight Northern California counties, providing comprehensive services to children, individuals, and families.

E Center's mission is to build healthy communities through education, employment, and environmental awareness. The organization envisions strong, healthy communities for all.

E Center proudly serves the counties of Butte, Glenn, Lake, Sutter, Colusa, Tehama, Yolo, and Yuba.



Current Programs

- * Head Start / Early Head Start
- * Migrant & Seasonal Head Start / Migrant Early Head Start
- * General Childcare & Development (CCTR)
- * Women, Infants and Children (WIC) of Lake County
- * California Advancing & Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM)
 - * Community Support
 - * Enhanced Care Management

E Center Board of Directors

Pictured from top left to right:

Marie Vue, Director

Stacie Gandy, Secretary/Treasurer

Randy Fletcher, Director

Desiree Lutzweiler, HS/EHS Policy
Council Representative

Pictured from bottom left to right:

Jennifer LaBadie, Vice-Chairperson

Eric Paredes, Director

Cristal Aguilera, MSHS/MEHS Policy
Council Representative

Sharron Zoller, Chairperson

Sarah Higgins, Director



CEO Letter

Dear Stakeholders and Supporters,

Over the past year, E Center has expanded its impact through strong partnerships, strategic planning, and a continued commitment to the communities we serve.

We strengthened collaborations with financial institutions, healthcare providers, and community leaders to expand financial literacy and community-focused initiatives. Support from partners like InterWest Insurance helped make our Seeds to Grapes event a success, raising \$27,500 for our programs.

In healthcare, we are working with regional partners to explore mobile resource services for rural communities. This aligns with the expansion of our CaAIM program, supported by nearly \$1 million in funding, allowing us to enhance care management and deliver critical services across the eight counties we serve.

We also remained committed to advocacy and leadership development, with clients participating in national policy efforts and continued investment in organizational leadership.

Community engagement remains central to our mission. We supported literacy programs, family events, and cultural celebrations, while also participating in regional initiatives that promote sustainable agriculture and community well-being.

Internally, we strengthened our organization by expanding our leadership team, enhancing operations, and transitioning into a new headquarters. We also advanced key infrastructure efforts, including facility planning and transportation improvements through a new vehicle lease program.

Our partnerships with schools, colleges, nonprofits, and public agencies continue to support education, workforce development, and family services, ensuring our programs remain responsive to community needs.

Looking ahead, we are exploring new opportunities, including potential CDFI certification and additional funding to expand services, particularly in underserved rural areas.

None of this work would be possible without your support. Together, we will continue building stronger, healthier communities.

Sincerely,



President & Chief Executive Officer



Corporate Office

Human Resources

E Center remained steadfast in its commitment to strengthening wellness communication across mind, body, and financial well-being for our employees. Throughout the year, we provided practical tips, strategies, and educational resources designed to support healthier lifestyles and informed decision-making. Employees were encouraged to take full advantage of the comprehensive benefits available through our benefits brokers, ensuring they had access to the tools and guidance needed to thrive both personally and professionally.

To further promote safety and accessibility, we enhanced our Safety Book, making it more user-friendly and easier to navigate. We also streamlined the work injury process by introducing Nurse Triage — an innovative service that empowers employees with immediate access to care guidance. By simplifying the process, we made it easier for employees to focus on recovery and return to work safely and confidently.

Our September All Staff Day was a tremendous success, delivering valuable information and meaningful engagement opportunities that positively impacted the lives of our employees. The event reinforced our culture of connection, communication, and shared purpose.

As we look ahead, our motivated and determined HR team is committed to elevating the employee experience to new levels — building a workplace where every individual feels supported, valued, and empowered to succeed.

Information Technology

The Information and Technology Team at E Center demonstrated exceptional dedication and efficiency in 2025 by successfully completing a full upgrade of all agency computers to Windows 11 ahead of the critical deadline. This proactive modernization ensured continued security, compatibility, and performance across the organization's widespread Northern California locations.

Building on this momentum, the team advanced toward the goal of unified communication by cabling multiple sites to support reliable VoIP phone systems—enhancing connectivity and collaboration for staff serving children and families through Head Start and related programs.

Throughout these initiatives, the IT team maintained a strong focus on cybersecurity, delivering comprehensive KnowBe4 security awareness trainings to the entire agency. These efforts empowered employees with the knowledge to recognize and resist phishing and other threats, reinforcing E Center's secure network infrastructure and protecting sensitive community data.

Through skillful project management, technical expertise, and a commitment to excellence, the IT Team not only met but exceeded key operational goals—helping E Center continue building healthy communities with reliable, modern technology.



Meet the Team

E Center ends 2025 on a high note by establishing a dedicated Business Development department. This initiative marks a major step toward financial independence and scaled growth. Our new Business Development Manager will focus on building high-level partnerships with government agencies and national foundations. By aggressively pursuing six-and seven-figure funding opportunities, E Center is securing the diversified revenue needed to drive our long-term objectives.

- Al Bonnenfant** - Human Resources Director
- Candace Iwasaki** - Assistant Director of Child & Family Support Services
- Jodie Keller** - Child Development Programs Director
- Karen Peters** - Fiscal Services Director
- David Avalos** - Information Technology Director
- Gabriel Moreno** - CalAIM Program Director
- Pedro Valencia** - Assistant Human Resources Director
- Krystal Garcia** - Operations Manager
- Steve Ly** - Chief Executive Officer
- Lisa Maytorena** - Assistant Director of Direct Services for Child Development
- Not pictured** - WIC Programs Director

CaAIM (California Advancing & Innovating Medi-Cal)



The CaAIM program at E Center is committed to improving the health and well-being of individuals with complex medical and social needs. Our team works to ensure that vulnerable members of the community receive coordinated care, access to essential services, and support that promotes long term stability and improved health outcomes. Through a person-centered approach, the program focuses on addressing the social and environmental factors that impact health including housing stability, access to food, transportation, and connection to health care services.

E Center provides CaAIM services across the eight counties the agency serves which include Sutter County, Yuba County, Butte County, Yolo County, Tehama County, Glenn County, Lake County, and Colusa County. The CaAIM team works closely with health care providers, community organizations, and local partners to ensure that individuals receive the support they need to live healthier and more stable lives. By building strong partnerships and providing compassionate care coordination, E Center continues to strengthen access to services throughout the region.



Community Supports Program Growth

The year 2025 marked the first full year of operations for E Center's Community Supports program. Through this program, E Center provides housing related services designed to assist individuals experiencing homelessness or housing instability in obtaining and maintaining stable housing. A significant milestone during the year was the successful placement of the program's first member into permanent housing. In recognition of the program's strong development and early achievements, Partnership HealthPlan of California awarded E Center a grant of ten thousand dollars to support the continued growth of the Community Supports program.

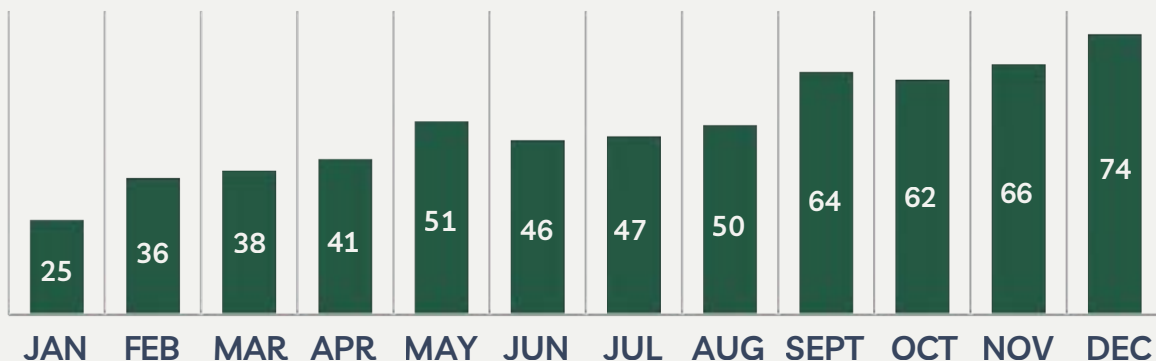
The Community Supports program offers three housing focused services that help members obtain and maintain stable housing.



* Housing Transition Navigation Services

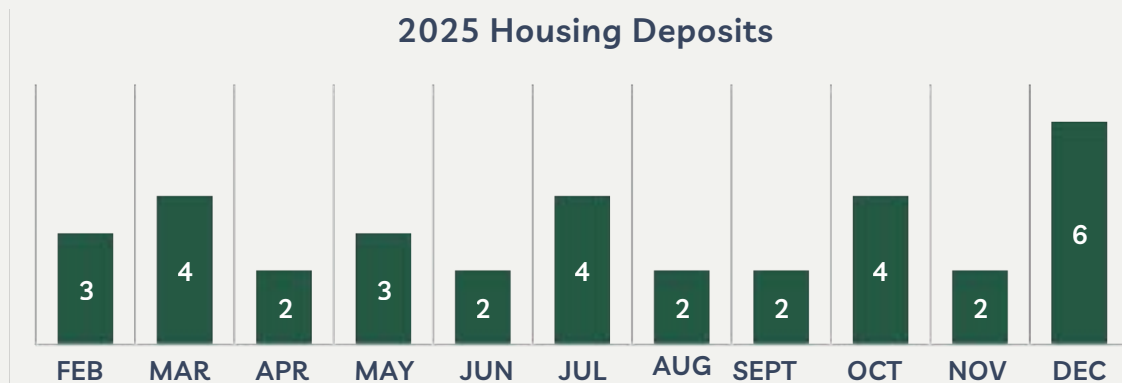
Housing Transition Navigation Services help individuals experiencing homelessness or housing instability locate and secure safe housing by assessing needs, developing housing plans, and connecting them with community housing opportunities while assisting with applications, landlord communication, and coordination with housing agencies. The goal of these services is to guide members through the housing search process and support their successful transition into permanent housing.

Client Growth Per Month



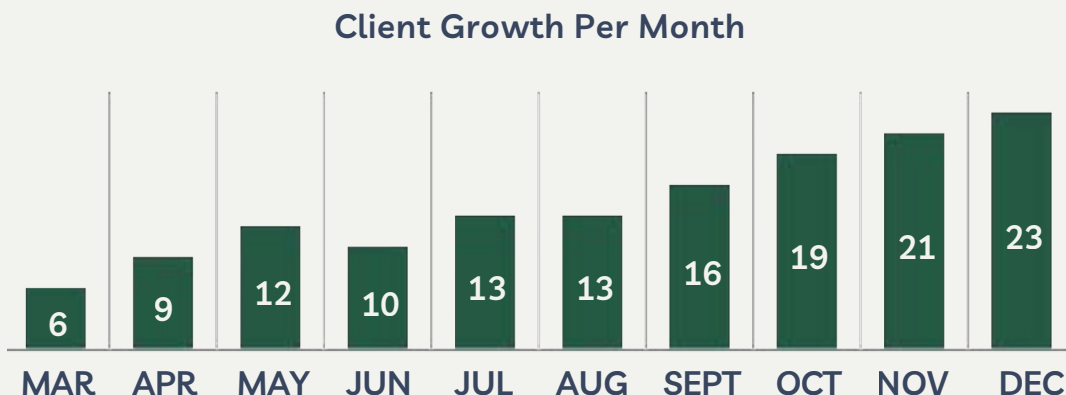
* Housing Deposit Services

Housing Deposit Services help members overcome financial barriers to securing housing by coordinating financial assistance for expenses such as security deposits, first month's rent, and utility deposits. Staff work directly with landlords, property managers, and housing providers to ensure deposits are processed properly and that members can move into their new housing as quickly as possible.



* Housing Tenancy and Sustaining Services

Housing Tenancy and Sustaining Services help members maintain stable housing by providing ongoing support such as tenant education, conflict resolution, budgeting assistance, and connections to community resources that reduce risks to their housing. Throughout the year, the Community Supports program expanded its reach across the region, strengthening partnerships and helping individuals access services that improve stability and overall wellbeing.



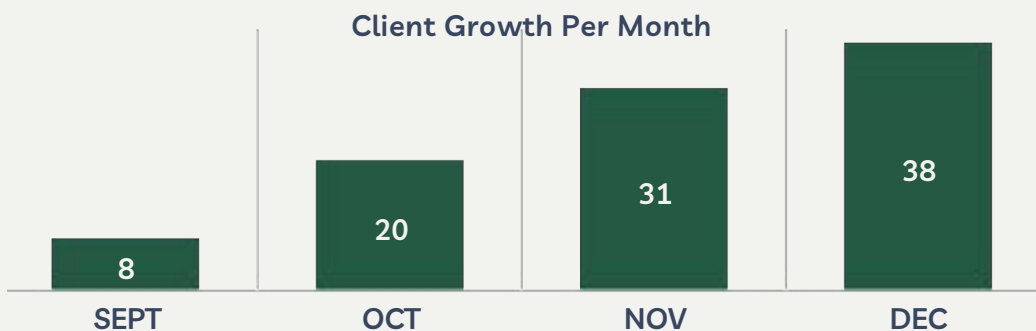
Launch of Enhanced Care Management

In August 2025 E Center launched its Enhanced Care Management program, expanding the agency’s ability to serve individuals with complex medical and social needs. The implementation of this program marked an important step forward in providing comprehensive care coordination for members who require additional support navigating health care and social services.

The Enhanced Care Management team works closely with members to develop individualized care plans that address both medical and social needs. Through direct engagement, home visits, and collaboration with community providers, the team helps members access medical care, behavioral health services, housing resources, and other essential supports.

Although the program began operations during the second half of the year, the team quickly established strong partnerships and began coordinating services for members across the region. The launch of Enhanced Care Management reflects E Center’s continued commitment to expanding access to care and improving health outcomes for vulnerable populations.

As the program continues to grow, the CalAIM team remains focused on strengthening partnerships, increasing member enrollment, and providing coordinated support that helps individuals achieve greater health and stability.



General Childcare & Development CCTR

Welcome E Center received funding from the California Department of Social Services in July 2021 to operate a childcare program serving infants and toddlers ages 4 weeks to 3 years, and this program continues to operate today.

Services are offered in Yuba, Sutter, and Butte Counties, with centers located in Gridley, Oroville, and Chico in Butte County; Marysville and Olivehurst in Yuba County; and two locations in Yuba City within Sutter County.

Program Highlights

The program provides centerbased services designed for working families who need at least six hours of childcare per day, five days a week. Fees are based on family income, and all fees were waived during the reporting period. E Center is committed to delivering high quality care that prepares children for their educational journey through nurturing adult-child interactions and age appropriate learning environments. The program is grounded in the belief that children learn best through play supported by teachers who foster social and emotional wellbeing while providing developmentally appropriate activities that encourage engagement.

Qualified teaching staff supervise children at all times while they are in the classroom and on the playground. Individuals interested in learning more are welcome to request a site or classroom tour, and there are also opportunities available for community volunteer participation.



Child Development Head Start



Welcome E Center receives funding from the Office of Head Start to operate four Head Start grants:

Migrant & Seasonal Head Start, Migrant Early Head Start, Head Start, and Early Head Start.

Program Highlights

Services are delivered in seven Northern California counties for children ages 0–5, with pregnant women served through the Early Head Start program in Yuba, Sutter, and Butte Counties. The operating season varies by location based on community needs and available funding.

E Center provides services through both centerbased and homebased program options, and many locations offer bus transportation to ensure access. Throughout this report, you will find data related to school readiness, family engagement, child health, mental health, and adult-child interactions. E Center places strong emphasis on supporting children’s mental health and wellness, as well as school readiness, working closely with local school districts to facilitate smooth kindergarten transitions.

E Center takes pride in its rich indoor and outdoor learning environments, including its buses, and believes that children learn best through play and meaningful exploration. Classrooms utilize the Frog Street Curriculum and Partners for Healthy Babies to create engaging, developmentally appropriate learning experiences that foster curiosity and support growth in math, science, language, and social-emotional development. Staff participate in ongoing professional development to strengthen their skills, and E Center welcomes student teachers seeking hands-on experience while pursuing Early Childhood Education degrees.

Children are supervised at all times by qualified teaching staff, whether in classrooms, on playgrounds, or during transportation. Those interested in learning more are encouraged to request a site or classroom tour, and E Center offers numerous opportunities for community volunteer involvement.



Nutrition



246,922 Meals Served to Children Enrolled



Breakfast



Lunch











Snack

Total

	Head Start	Early Head Start	Migrant Seasonal Head Start	Migrant Early Head Start
Breakfast	39,691	16,139	23,551	2,693
Lunch	44,021	18,607	24,735	2,799
Snack	33,109	15,768	23,160	2,649
Total	116,821	50,514	71,446	8,141

Head Start Programs Indicators

		Head Start	Early Head Start	Migrant Seasonal Head Start	Migrant Early Head Start
	Number of Families Served	429	323	364	38
	% Families with at Least One Direct Service	90%	82%	92%	
	Funded Enrollment	358	240	332	31
	% Average Daily Attendance	82%	89%	90%	88%
	% Children Receiving Medical Exams	96%	87%	96%	100%
	% Children Receiving Dental Exams	83%	NA	83%	NA
	Families Experiencing Homelessness	26	35	26	3
	% Children Served with IEP or IFSP	23%	26%	13%	

1,154 Families Served

Education



Frog Street

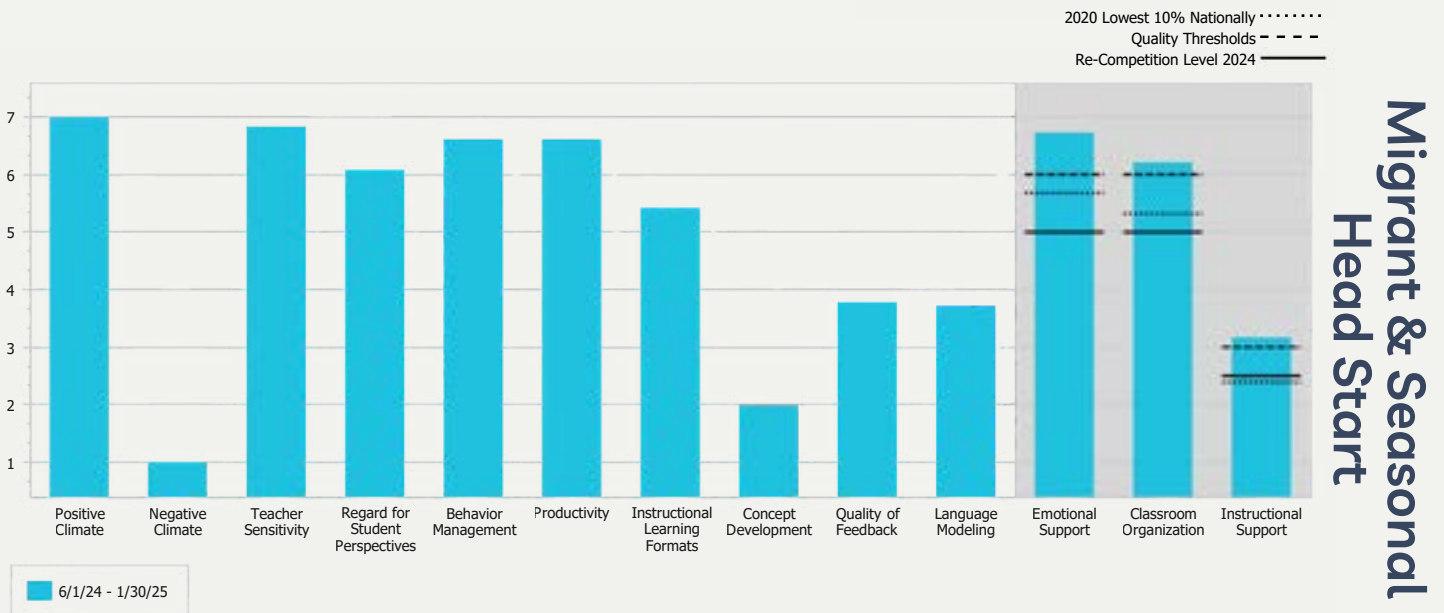
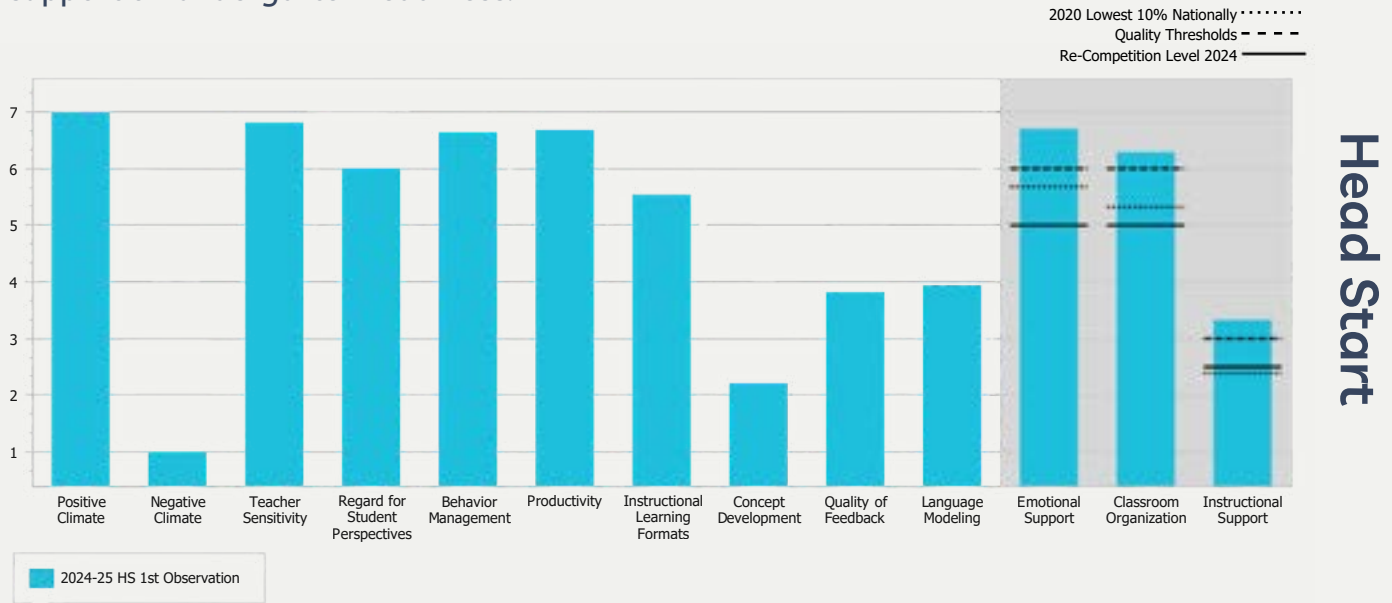
E Center continues to implement the Frog Street curriculum on a 0-5 continuum for our MSHS/MEHS, HS, and 0-3 child development programs. Frog Street curriculum aligns with the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework, California Learning Foundations, and the Desired Results Developmental Profile. 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

CLASS (Classroom Assessment Scoring System)

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.



Focus Area Review

E Center received no non-compliant ratings during the FA II review event in March 2025. Based on the information gathered during this review, it has been determined that your program meets the requirements of the all applicable HSPPS, laws, regulations and policy requirements.

Head Start Services



E Center Programs Offered:

- * Center Based - Classroom Setting
- * Home Based - Home Visitation
- * Migrant and Seasonal Program - Services to families working in agriculture

Head Start	Early Head Start	Migrant Seasonal Head Start	Migrant Early Head Start
3-5 year-olds	0-3 year-olds	0-5 year-olds	0-3 year-olds

Head Start Facts

Head Start In Our Communities

Head Start Prepares Young Children & Families to Succeed in Classrooms, and in Life!
When Head Start and School 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.



1,167 Children Enrolled In Head Start



53 Locally-Run Classrooms



32% Entering Kindergarten in 2 Years



62% Are Dual Language Learners



12 Collaborations with Programs & Schools



11% Enrolled Children Receive Services From IDEA
(Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)

Partnerships

Health Advisory Committee

The Mental Health & Health Advisory Committee (HAC) in Head Start programs is a group of health professionals, program staff, and community representatives who provide guidance on health-related services for enrolled children and families. Its main role is to help ensure the program meets health, nutrition, mental health, and safety standards. The committee advises on policies, reviews health practices, and connects the program with local healthcare resources to support children's overall well-being and school readiness.



Farmers Coalition

This year, we successfully hosted our 4th Annual Farmer's Coalition across multiple counties, reaching strong turnouts at each location. The Farmer Coalition is intended to identify the needs of families working in agriculture such as housing, employment and education. The events helped strengthen community partnerships and expand support for agricultural families through shared resources and services.

Wipfli, Independent Auditors Opinion

“We have audited the accompanying financial statements of E Center, a nonprofit organization, which comprise the statement of financial position as of June 30, 2025, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of E Center as of June 30, 2025, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with GAAP ("GAAP").”



E Center Funds (July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025)

	Funds Received	Funds Expensed
Women, Infants & Children	\$902,453	\$902,453
Migrant Seasonal Head Start	\$10,370,032	\$10,370,032
Migrant Early Head Start	\$818,079	\$818,079
Head Start	\$10,208,266	\$10,208,266
Early Head Start	\$6,915,358	\$6,915,358
Child & Adult Care Food Program	\$797,240	\$797,240
CA General Child Care & Development (CCTR)	\$1,871,507	\$1,871,507
Cal-AIM	\$288,530.54	\$221,107



E Center Operating Budget (2024 - 2025)

Head Start Programs	\$29,574,955
General Child Care & Development (CCTR)	\$2,185,764
Child & Adult Care Food Program	\$999,272
Women, Infants & Children	\$1,005,932
Cal-AIM	\$150,000
Donations, Fee-for-Services, Other Revenue	\$110,000

Accomplishments & Community

E Center is pleased to announce the successful execution of a lease for its corporate office located in Yuba City. This location will house General Agency Administration, Child Development Leadership, and CalAIM Leadership, strengthening cross-functional collaboration and operational alignment.



Open House, October 2025



E Center Seeds to Grapes Fundraiser, March 2025



Pinktober, 2025



NMSHSA Staff Professional Development, 2025



Representative Doug Lamalfa Office Visit



CalAIM Make a Difference Award, 2025



Congressman Mike Thompson at Cooper, 2025



Alliance for Hispanic Advancement, September 2025



Head Start California Advocacy Day Policy Council Parents, March 2025



NHSA Fall leadership Public Policy, 2025



Head Start Awareness Month October Lake County



NMSHSA Public Policy, 2025

Accomplishments & Community



**E Center Turkey Give-away
2025**



We provided more than **200** turkeys to our participating families in our Head Start and CalAIM program.



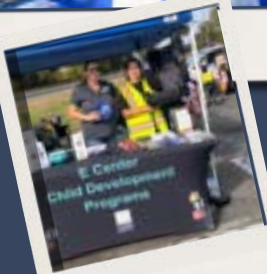
**E Center CalAIM Sock
Give-Away, 2025**



E Center's CalAIM Program handed out **80+** packages of socks to children in Yolo County. Building community relationships has allowed us the opportunity to give back.



Outreach



Toys for Tots, 2025

WIC Women, Infants & Children of Lake County



WIC In Our Communities

We are proud to report E Center WIC participates in the Farmers Market Nutrition Program, to support our local farmers and provide families with fresh local fruit and vegetable options. During our Farmers Market we were able to complete 100% issuance of all our vouchers/funds.

WIC participates can use their cards at local farmer's market



2,210 Families on Average Served Monthly



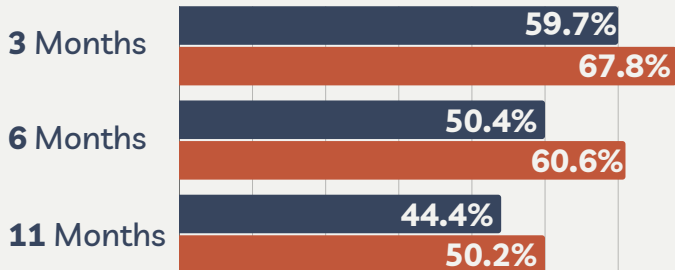
2,179 Monthly Average Participation



97% Certified to Caseload Reflecting strong local operational performance.

Participants Breastfeeding

Across the 12-month reporting window, E-Center outperformed the Statewide average at every time point (3, 6, and 11 months) for Any BF %. The advantage ranged from +5.88 to +10.24 percentage points, indicating consistently stronger breastfeeding continuation among E-Center infants relative to the statewide benchmark.



● CA State Avg. ● E Center WIC Avg.

WIC Women, Infants & Children of Lake County

In 2025, the E Center WIC Program continued to provide reliable, high-quality services to families across the community. Throughout the year, the program maintained strong participation, efficient service delivery, and meaningful community presence, ensuring that eligible women, infants, and children received consistent nutritional and breastfeeding support.

The program maintained a steady monthly caseload of 2,210 participants for most of the year, with an average monthly participation count of 2,179. Certification rates remained high, with an annual average of 97.22 percent of the authorized caseload certified at the local level. Beginning October 1, 2025, E Center WIC's authorized caseload increased to 2,240, allowing the program to serve even more families moving forward.

Breastfeeding support continued to be a key strength for E Center WIC. During the January through December 2025 reporting period, E Center consistently exceeded statewide averages for infants receiving any breastfeeding at 3-, 6-, and 11-month milestones. Local breastfeeding rates were higher than the statewide benchmark by approximately 6 to 10 percentage points across all time points. These results demonstrate the effectiveness of breastfeeding education, peer counseling, and lactation support services provided to families enrolled at E Center WIC.

Access to healthy foods was further strengthened in 2025 through the expansion of WIC Cash Value Benefit redemption. WIC families are now able to use their monthly fruit and vegetable benefits at WIC-authorized farmers' markets using a QR code-enabled WIC card. This enhancement improves access to fresh, locally grown produce and supports healthy eating choices throughout the year, particularly during peak farmers' market seasons.

Community outreach was another area of significant impact. In 2025, E Center WIC increased its visibility across the county by participating in numerous community events. These outreach efforts helped raise awareness of WIC services, welcomed new participants, and strengthened trust between the program and the communities it serves.

E Center WIC also demonstrated leadership in breastfeeding advocacy by collaborating with the Lake County Breastfeeding Coalition in August 2025. This collaboration supported the presentation of proclamations designating August as Breastfeeding Awareness Month in the cities of Lakeport and Clearlake, as well as recognition by the Lake County Board of Supervisors. These efforts highlighted the importance of breastfeeding support and reinforced community commitment to maternal and infant health.

Overall, 2025 was a successful year for the E Center WIC Program. Strong participation and certification rates, outstanding breastfeeding outcomes, expanded access to fresh foods, and impactful outreach efforts ensured that families continued to receive essential nutrition and health support.



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