

Early Childhood Education Program Update



January 20, 2026

Marla Stuart, MSW, PhD, EHSD Director and Head Start Executive Director
MJ Robb, Community Services Bureau Interim Director, Head Start Director

info@ehsd.cccounty.us | (925) 608-4800

Outline

Topic	Federal Head Start	State Child Care
Federal Environment Updates	To date	
Child Care Center Services	Nov 2025	Nov 2025
Policy Council Actions	Dec 2025	
Budget	Nov 2025	Nov 2025
Monitoring	Nov 2025	Nov 2025
Official Funder Communication	Dec 2025	Dec 2025
Appendices	For Information	
Recommendation	✓	

Building Brighter Futures Together

- Federal Environment Updates
- Child Care Center Services
- Policy Council Actions
- Budget
- Monitoring
- Official Funder Communication
- Appendices
- Recommendation

Building Brighter Futures Together



Federal Environment Updates

Sources of Information

1. Project 2025
2. Executive Orders
3. Federal Department Actions
4. Congressional Actions

Categories of Impact

1. Potential Funding Reduction
2. Potential Funding Increase
3. Changes to Program Regulations
4. Change that may Impact Customers
5. Change that may Impact Contracts with Partners

Building Brighter Futures Together

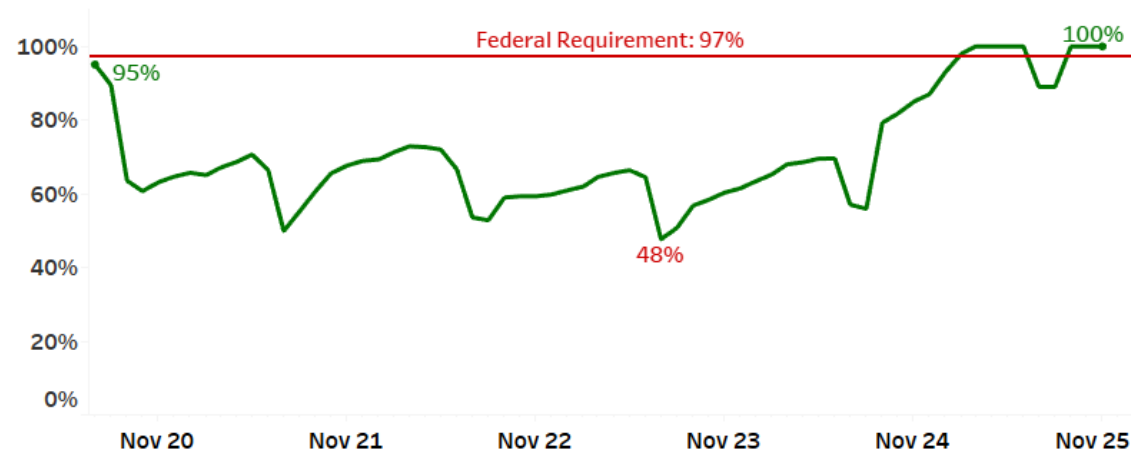
- Federal Environment Updates
- **Child Care Center Services**
- Policy Council Actions
- Budget
- Monitoring
- Official Funder Communication
- Appendices
- Recommendation

Building Brighter Futures Together

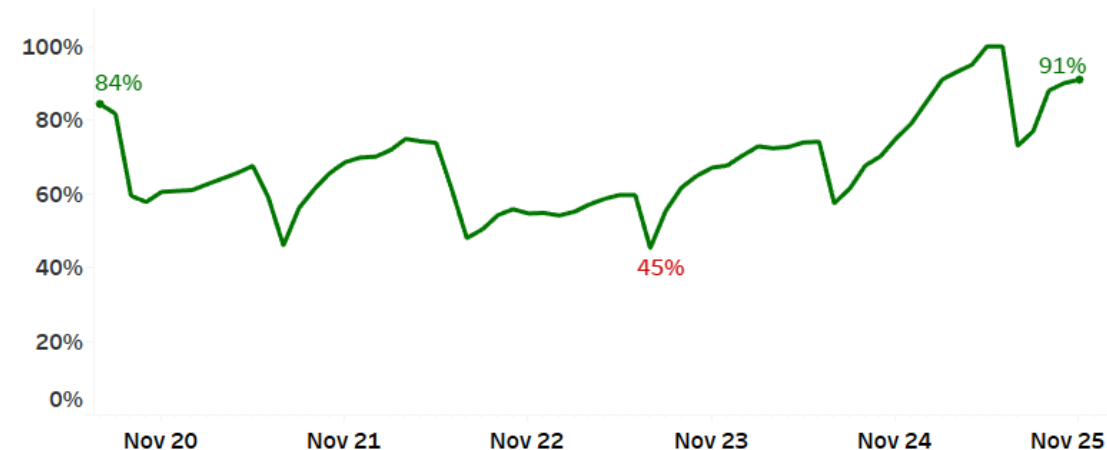


Center Enrollment Rates

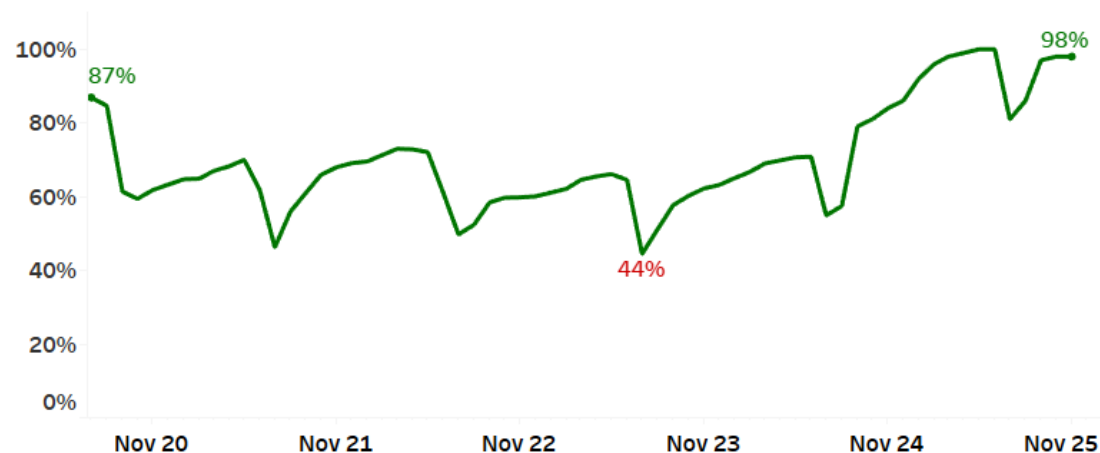
Federal Filled Slots



State Filled Slots



Total Filled Slots



Current Slot Allotments:

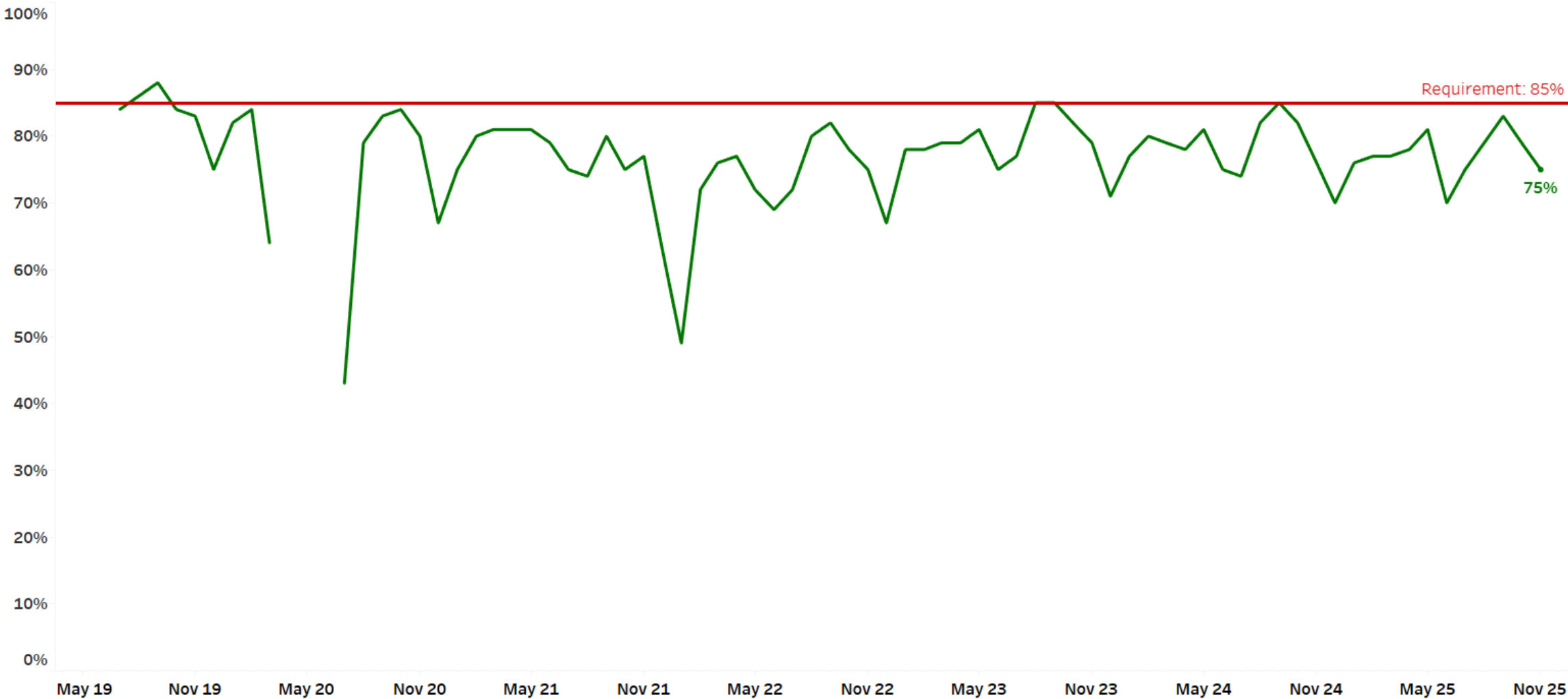
- Federal Slots (Head Start) = 1,201 (1,201 filled slots as of November 2025)
- State Slots (CDE and CDSS) = 764 (696 filled slots as of November 2025)
- Total Unique Slots = 1,345 (1,324 filled slots as of November 2025)

Current Enrollment Requirements:

- Federally Funded = 97% slots filled
- State Funded = Currently "hold harmless" meaning no penalties for not filling all slots. When "hold harmless" ends in June 2026, we will no longer be funded for unfilled slots.

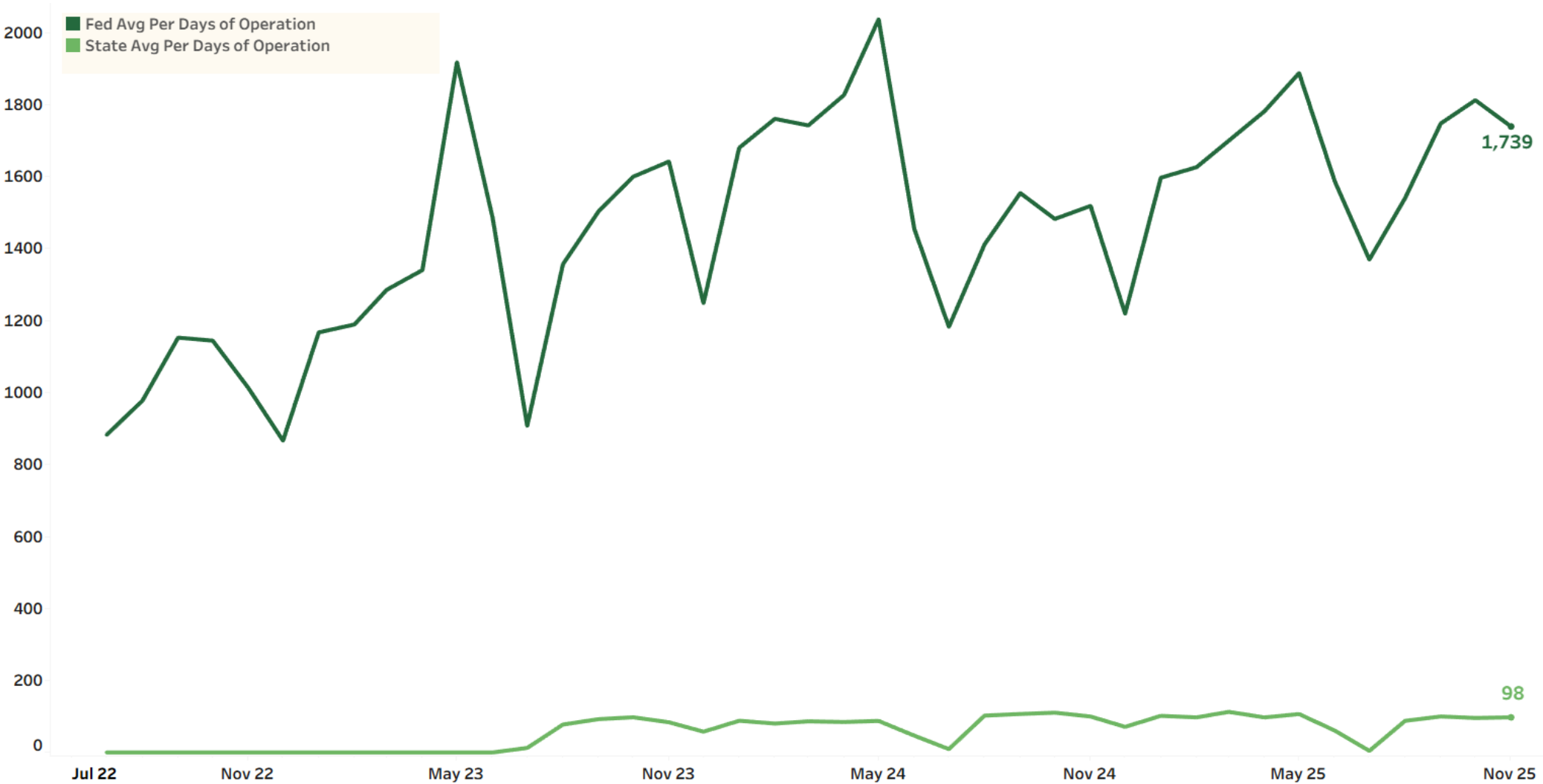
Building Brighter Futures Together

Center Attendance Rates



Building Brighter Futures Together

Average Center Meals & Snacks Per Day



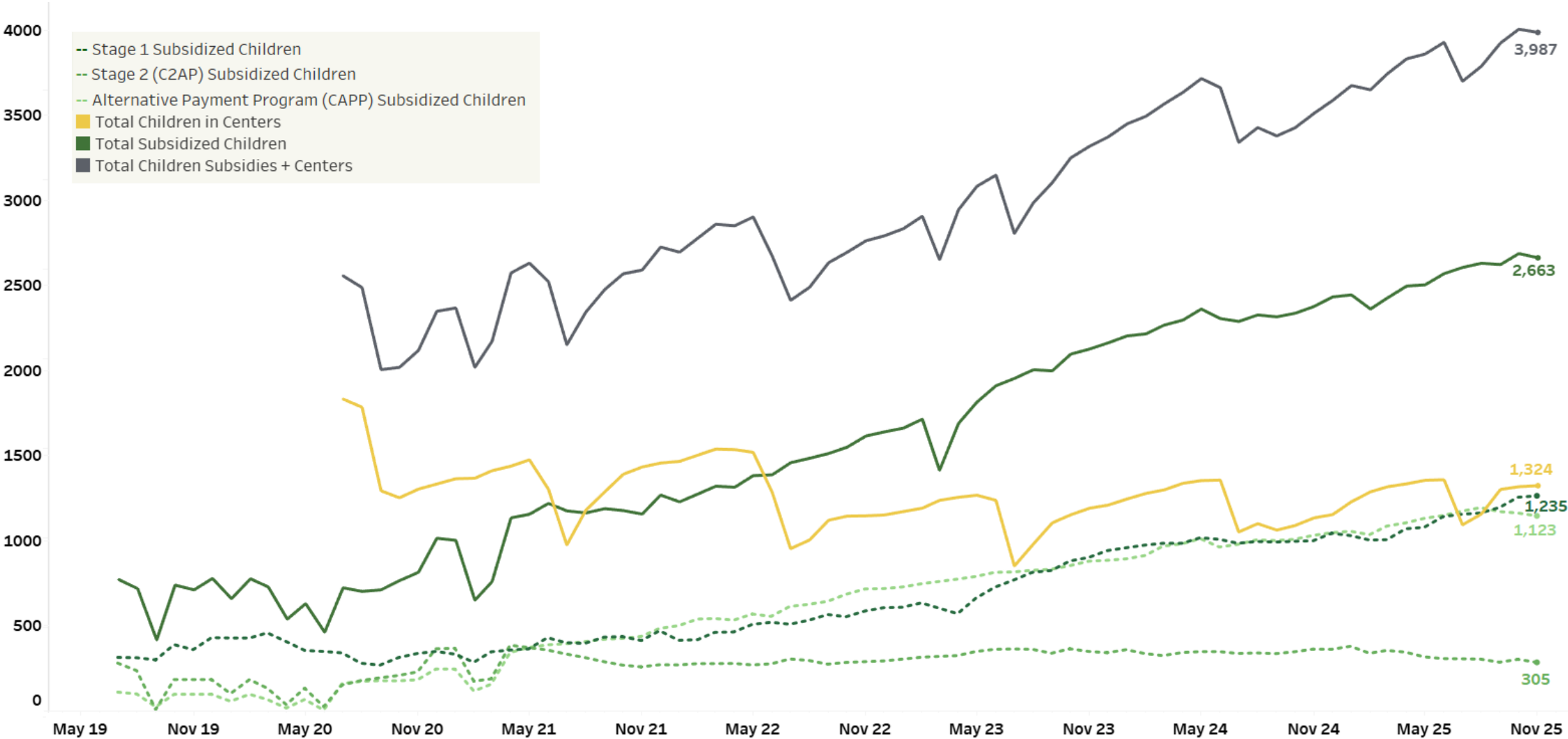
Building Brighter Futures Together

Vended Meal Services

Contract with vendor (Ordo, Inc.) began August 1, 2025 following Board approval on July 22, 2025 (C31)

Working with vendor to address initial challenges such as ensuring all meals and snacks are prepared daily, meeting federal requirements for meal components, and quality of meals

Children Served in Child Care



Building Brighter Futures Together

Head Start Annual Reports & Community Assessment Report

Federal Requirement: Head Start Act Sec. 644 (a)(2) – 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 [...].

We published the FY23-24 and FY24-25 annual reports to <https://ehsd.org/community-services/> for public access.

We incorporate results from our annual Community Assessment in the annual reports to provide context for the results. Community Assessment findings also inform our annual grant planning and non-competitive application.



1. Annual Report FY23-24
2. Annual Report FY24-25

Building Brighter Futures Together

- Federal Environment Updates
- Child Care Center Services
- **Policy Council Actions**
- Budget
- Monitoring
- Official Funder Communication
- Appendices
- Recommendation

Building Brighter Futures Together



December 2025 Policy Council Actions

The Head Start Policy Council did not convene in December 2025, as per their annual calendar.

Members of the Policy Council Executive Team participated in the Head Start Federal Review January 6-8, 2026.

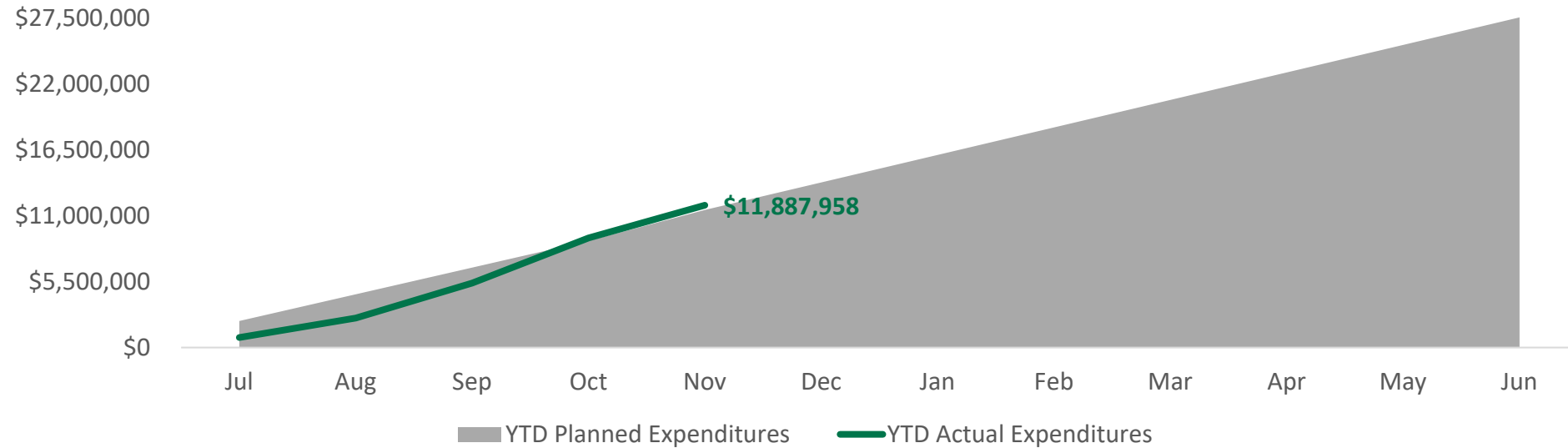
Building Brighter Futures Together

- Federal Environment Updates
- Child Care Center Services
- Policy Council Actions
- **Budget**
- Monitoring
- Official Funder Communication
- Appendices
- Recommendation

Building Brighter Futures Together



Head Start Budget Expenditures

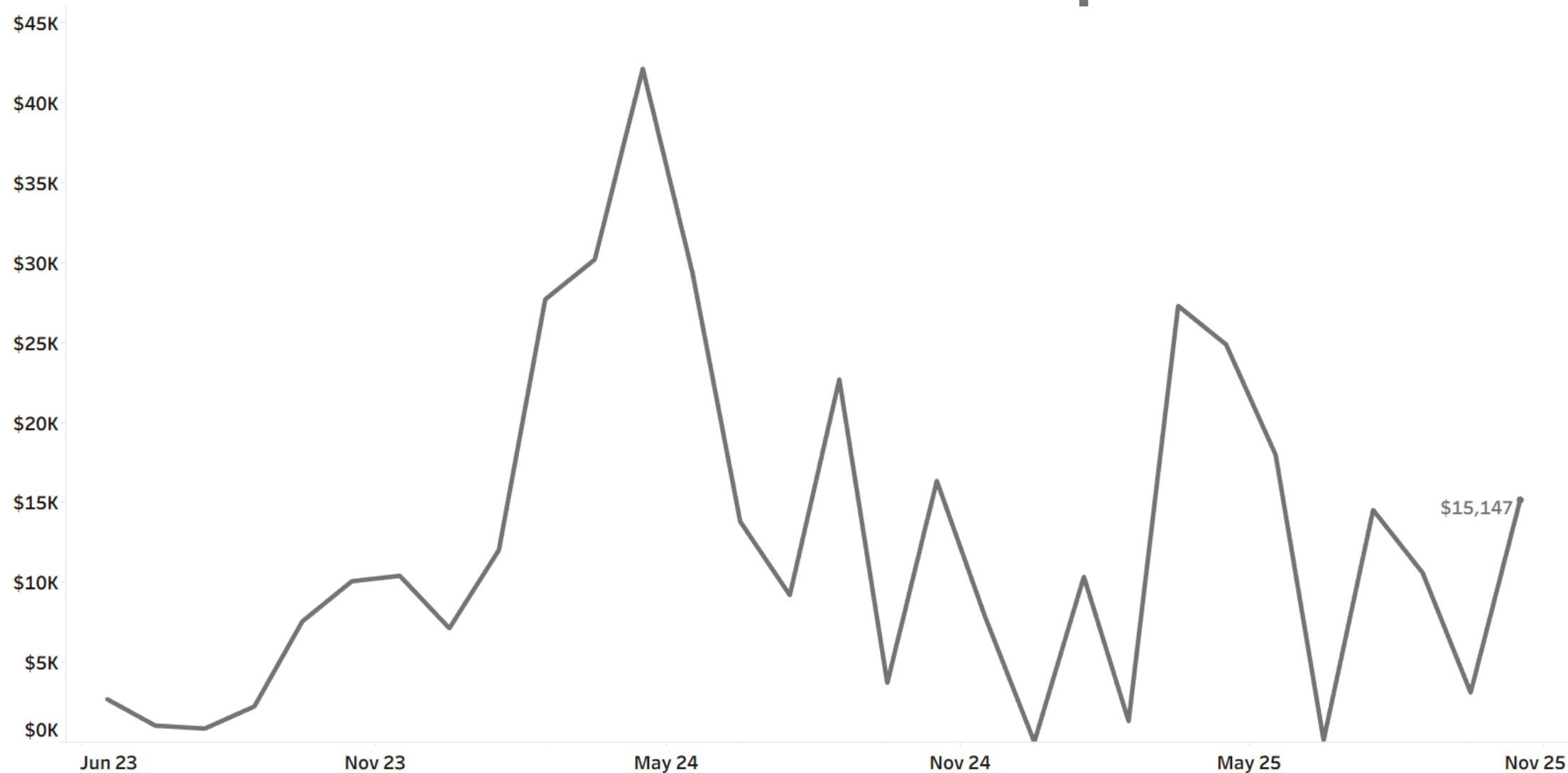


Category	FY25-26 Funding	Nov 2025 Expenditures	YTD Expenditures	Remaining Balance
Total Federal Funding	\$20,577,342	\$2,168,091	\$9,338,553	\$11,238,789
Required Non-Federal Share	\$5,144,336	\$542,023	\$2,334,638	\$2,809,698
Measure X Overmatch*	\$1,859,690	\$29,542	\$214,767	\$1,644,923
Total Federal and Non-Federal	\$27,581,368	\$2,739,655	\$11,887,958	\$15,693,410

*Measure X Overmatch includes roll over funds as of 1/20/26.

Building Brighter Futures Together

Head Start Credit Card Expenditures



All credit card expenditures are made by authorized staff for budgeted purchases to support reasonable program expenditures.

Building Brighter Futures Together

- Federal Environment Updates
- Child Care Center Services
- Policy Council Actions
- Budget
- **Monitoring**
- Official Funder Communication
- Appendices
- Recommendation

Building Brighter Futures Together



OHS FY26 Federal Monitoring Review

Notified on November 21, 2025 of our scheduled Focus Area 1 (FA1) review. Review conducted January 6-8, 2026.

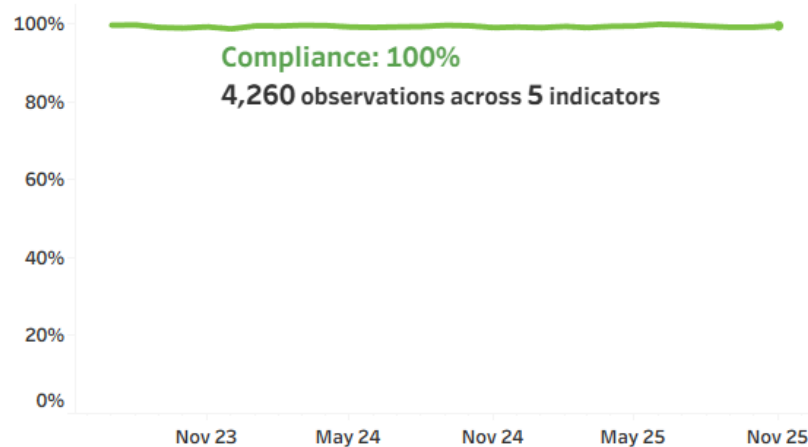
Overview of Key Activities

- Discussions with Board of Supervisor members (governing body), Policy Council members, program management staff, fiscal and teaching staff
- Observations of classrooms and centers – 23 centers
- Review of eligibility files – 86 files
- Review of data, documentation, and systems related to fiscal and human resources policies and procedures

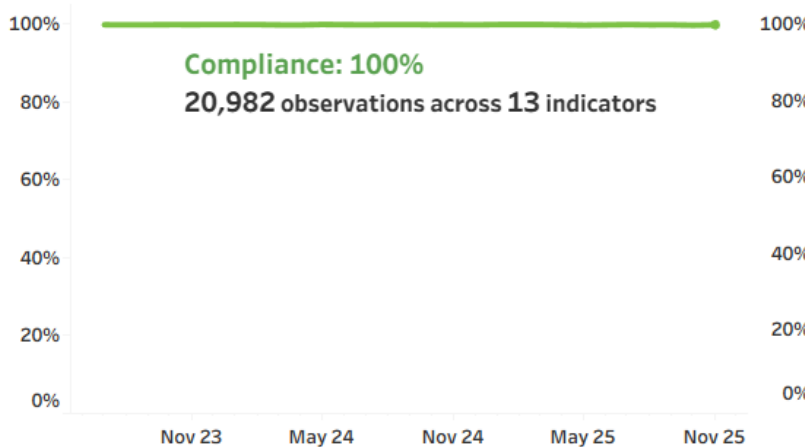
Building Brighter Futures Together

Health and Safety Compliance

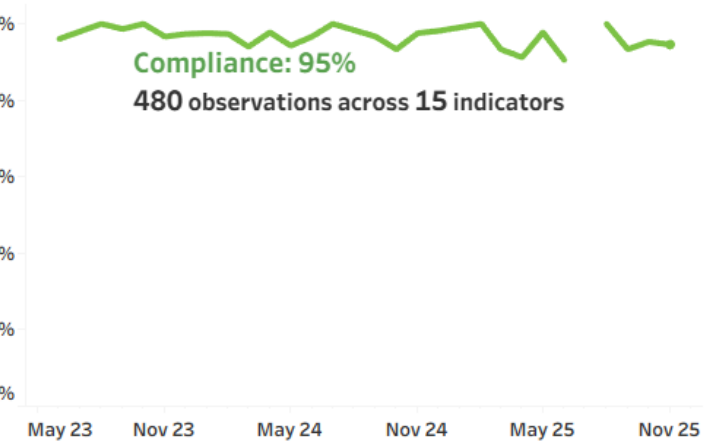
Daily Playground Safety



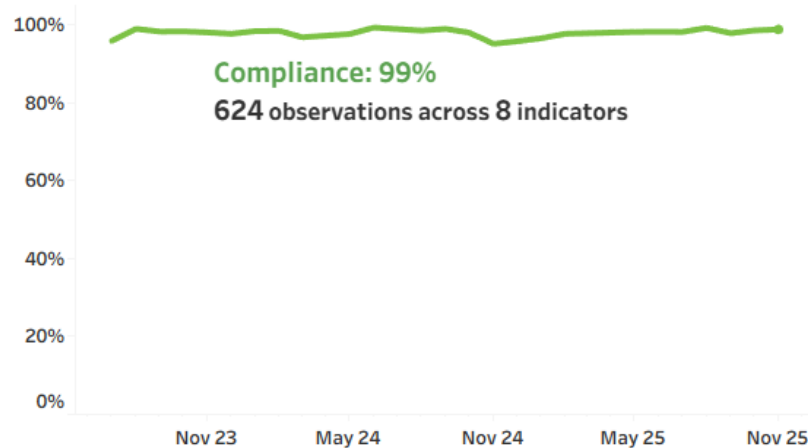
Daily Classroom Health & Safety



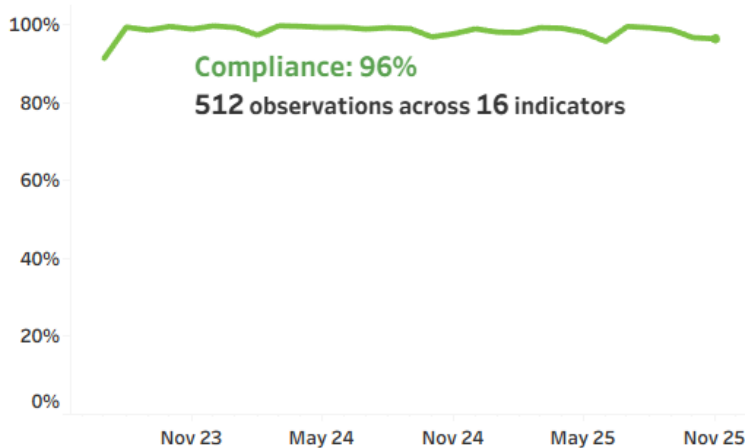
Child Transition & Safety



Weekly Facility Safety



Monthly Playground Safety

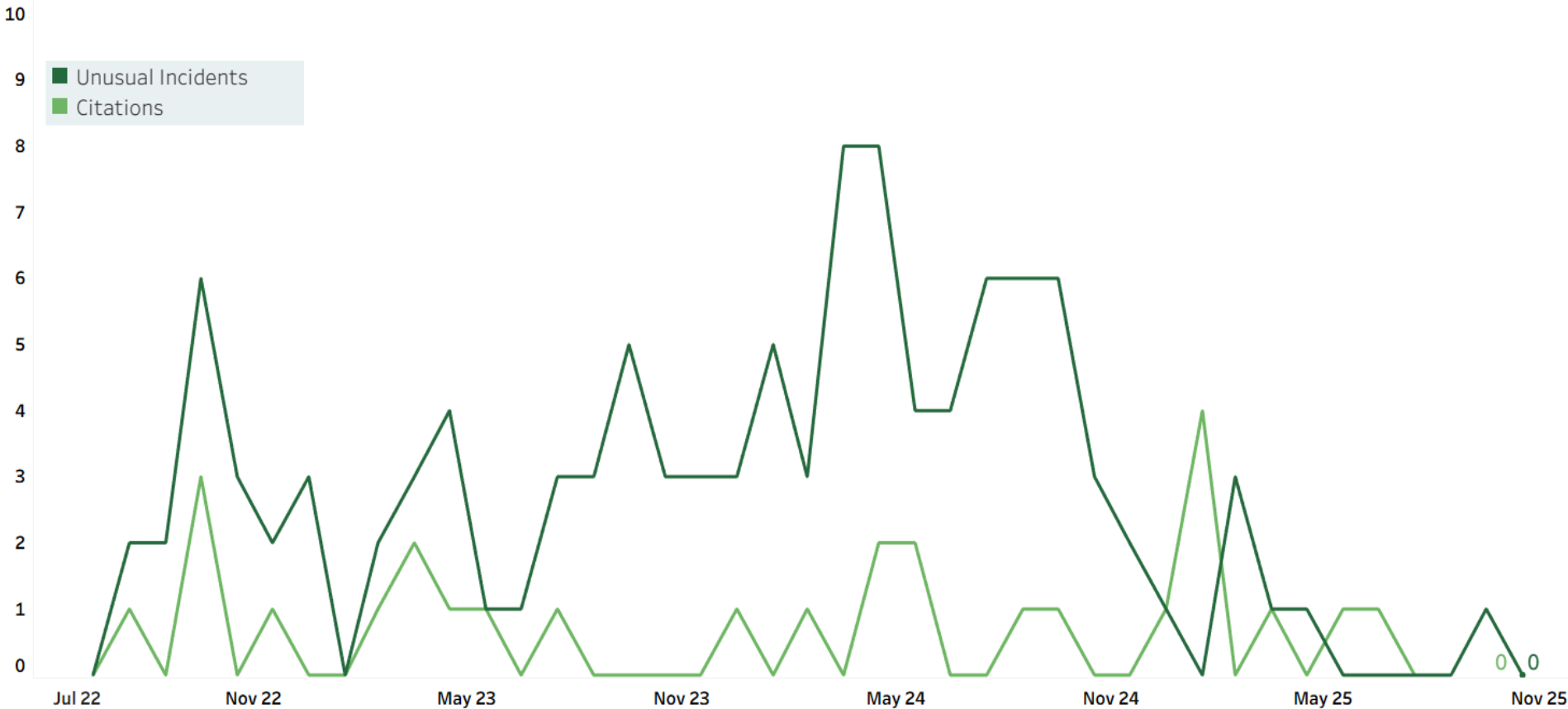


Indicators with non-compliance rates over 10% in November 2025:

1. Safe Environments are evident and promote active supervision of all children. (6/32 = 19%)
2. Wood on playground equipment: There are no splinters, cracks, rotting, or sharp ends. (5/32 = 16%)
3. Classroom Headcount White Board accurately reflects the number of children and staff in room. (4/31 = 13%)
4. Current lesson plan is posted and includes individualization activities and at least 1 Health & Safety component. (4/31 = 13%)

Building Brighter Futures Together

Unusual Incidents & Citations



Reportable incidents as defined by the Office of Head Start (OHS)

OHS considers a “significant incident” to be any incident that results in serious injury or harm to a child, violates Head Start standards of conduct at [45 CFR §1302.90\(c\)](#), or results in a child being left alone, unsupervised, or released to an unauthorized adult. A program must report all significant incidents affecting the health and safety of children with 7 days.

California Department of Social Services Community Care Licensing Citations

Type A: An immediate risk to the health, safety or personal rights of children in care.

Type B: If not corrected right away, may be a risk to the health, safety, and personal rights of the children in care.

Building Brighter Futures Together

- Federal Environment Updates
- Child Care Center Services
- Policy Council Actions
- Budget
- Monitoring
- **Official Funder Communication**
- Appendices
- Recommendation

Building Brighter Futures Together



CDSS Child Care Bulletin 25-33

Child Care Bulletin 25-33 issued: December 3, 2025

Subject: Collection of Social Security Numbers

Information: Reminds child care and development contractors that Social Security Numbers (SSNs) shall not be required to be collected from families receiving Child Care and Development (CCD) subsidized services. Accordingly, child care and development contractors shall not collect and report this information.

Action: No action needed as we are already in compliance.



- Federal Environment Updates
- Child Care Center Services
- Policy Council Actions
- Budget
- Monitoring
- Official Funder Communication
- **Appendices**
- Recommendation

Building Brighter Futures Together



2026 Head Start Governance Updates Calendar

	Federal Requirement*	1/20/26	2/10/26	3/17/26	4/14/26	5/19/26	6/23/26	7/14/26	8/25/26	9/15/26	10/20/26	11/17/26	12/15/26
1. Monthly Program Updates	HSA 642(d)(2) HSPPS 1301.2(b)(2)	Nov '25	Dec '25	Jan '26	Feb '26	Mar '26	Apr '26	May '26	Jun '26	Jul '26	Aug '26	Sep '26	Oct '26
2. Monthly Financial Updates	HSA 642(d)(2) HSPPS 1301.2(b)(2)	Nov '25	Dec '25	Jan '26	Feb '26	Mar '26	Apr '26	May '26	Jun '26	Jul '26	Aug '26	Sep '26	Oct '26
3. Funder Communications	HSA 642(d)(2) HSPPS 1301.2(b)(2)	Dec '25	Jan '26	Feb '26	Mar '26	Apr '26	May '26	Jun '26	Jul '26	Aug '26	Sep '26	Oct '26	Nov '26
4. Annual HS Governance and Eligibility Training	HSA 642(d)(3) HSPPS 1301.5, 1302.12(m)		Training										
5. Annual Goals and Objectives (included in Grant application)	HSPPS 1302.102(a)			Approval Item									
6. Annual Non-Competitive Grant Renewal Application	HSA 642(c)(1)(E) HSPSS 1301.2(b)(1)			Approval Item									
7. Annual Community Needs Assessment	HSA 640(g)(1)(C) HSPPS 1302.11(b), 1302.102(d)(2)			Share Results									
8. Annual Self-Assessment	HSA 642(d)(2) HSPPS 1302.102(b)(2)			Approval Item									
9. Annual Selection Criteria and Recruitment Plan	HSA 642(c)(1)(E) HSPPS 1302.13, 1302.14(a)						Approval Item						
10. FY26-27 Planning Calendar	HSA 640(g)(1)(D) HSPPS 1302.11(b), 1302.102(d)(2)						Approval Item						
11. Annual County Single Financial Audit	HSA 642(d)(2) HSPPS 1301.2(b)(2)						Approval Item*						
12. Annual Program Information Report	45 CFR Part 75											Share Results	

As Needed

CSB Agency Policies (HSA 642(c)(1)(E)). Results from Head Start Monitoring Activities (HSA 641(A)(c)).

Contra Costa County Resolution 2023/274 includes all of these requirements.

*Pending approval by Finance Committee of FY24-25 Single Audit.

Building Brighter Futures Together

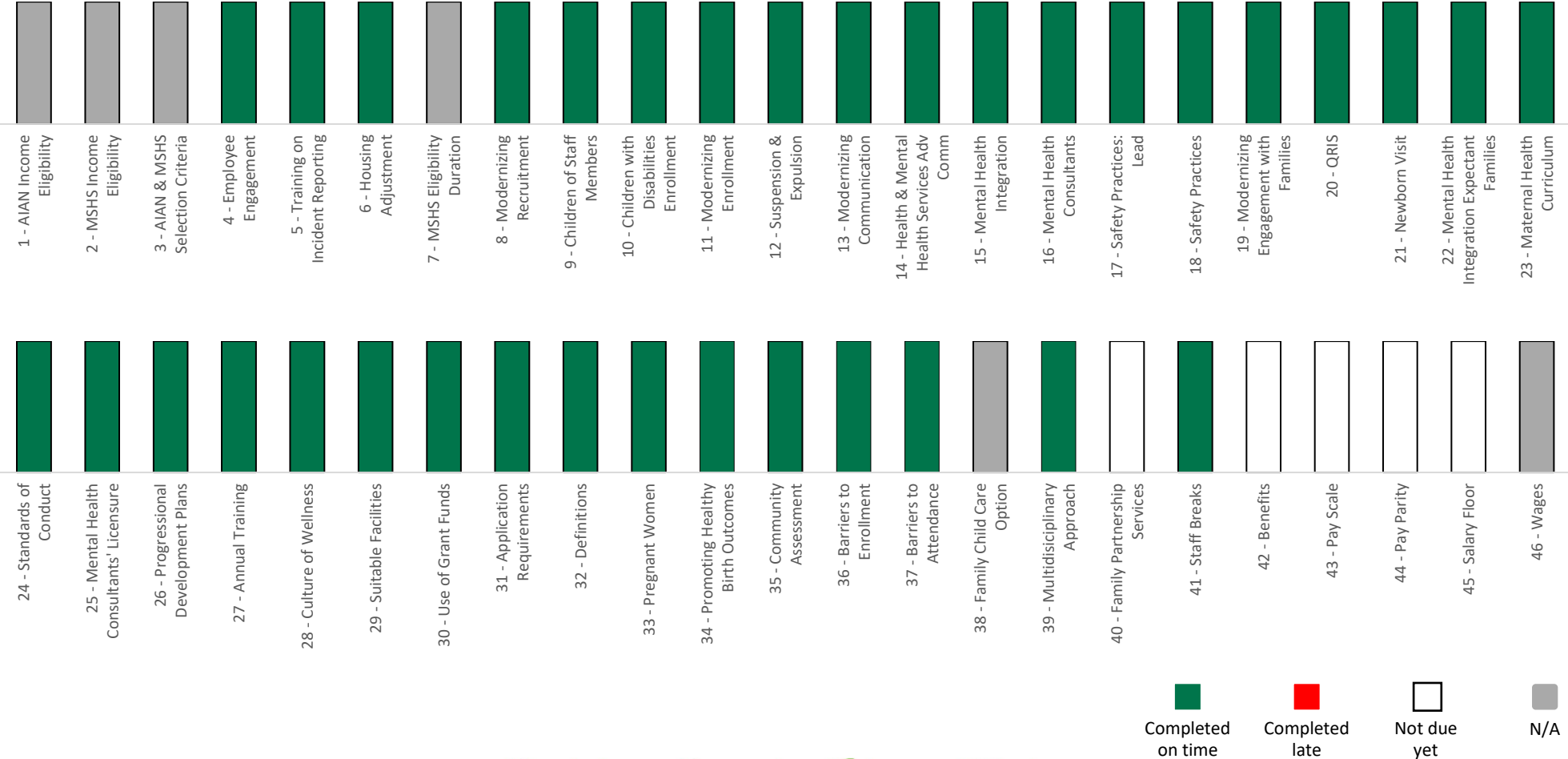


Planned



Completed

HSPPS Compliance Timeline Progress Chart



4. New HSPPS Compliance Timeline and Analysis

Building Brighter Futures Together

- Federal Environment Updates
- Child Care Center Services
- Policy Council Actions
- Budget
- Monitoring
- Official Funder Communication
- Appendices
- Recommendation

Building Brighter Futures Together



Recommendation

CONSIDER accepting the monthly update on the activities and oversight of the County's Head Start Program and provide guidance, as recommended by the Employment and Human Services Director.