

Early Childhood Education Program Update



August 25, 2026

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Outline

Topic	Federal Head Start	State Child Care
Federal Environment Updates	To date	
Child Care Center Services	June 2026	June 2026
Policy Council Actions	No meeting scheduled	
Budget	June 2026	June 2026
Monitoring	June 2026	June 2026
Official Funder Communication	July 2026	July 2026
Board Policy	✓	
Recommendation	✓	
Appendices	For information	

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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

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FY26-27 ECE Service Expansion

OHS Priorities	Related County Governing Body Priorities / Program Goals	FY26-27 Program Objectives	FY26-27 Program Update
II. Partnerships with State Systems: Expand Head Start programs' capacity to coordinate services with state systems and national programs.	• Use state funding to extend hours to support commuting parents working varied shifts. • Maximize receipt of state funding by matching more than the required 20%	• Objective 2: Expand availability of full-day child care and development services by transitioning 6 part-day classrooms into 3 full-day classrooms.	• Shifted 6 part-day classrooms into 3 full-day classrooms effective July 1, 2026.
III. Reaching Children and Families: Ensuring that Head Start resources are targeted to children, families, and communities of greatest need.	• Distribute slots equitably throughout the county based on economic need. • Increase the number of slots to serve closer to 100% of eligible children and families. • Shift slots from Head Start to Early Head Start given that California public schools now offer free Transitional Kindergarten for children aged 4	• Objective 3: Open and fill 2 new Early Head Start classrooms. Assess need for additional slot conversions based on updated community assessment findings.	• Opened 70 new state funded slots effective July 1, 2026. • Anticipate opening 2 infant/toddler classrooms in directly operated centers in Districts 3 and 5 following license approvals.

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FY26-27 ECE Slots by District

	% of County's 0-5 Income Eligible Population*	Sep 2024 (Start of Grant)		Jul 2026 (Current Fiscal Year)		Difference in # Slots
		# Slots	% Slots	# Slots	% Slots	
District 1	31%	469	39%	499	39%	+30
District 2	9%	48	4%	48	4%	-
District 3	18%	264	22%	252	20%	-12
District 4	13%	20	2%	20	2%	-
District 5	29%	395	33%	447	35%	+52
District Total	100%	1,196	100%	1,266	100%	+70
County-wide	N/A	149	N/A	149	N/A	-
COUNTY TOTAL**	100%	1,345	100%	1,415	100%	+70

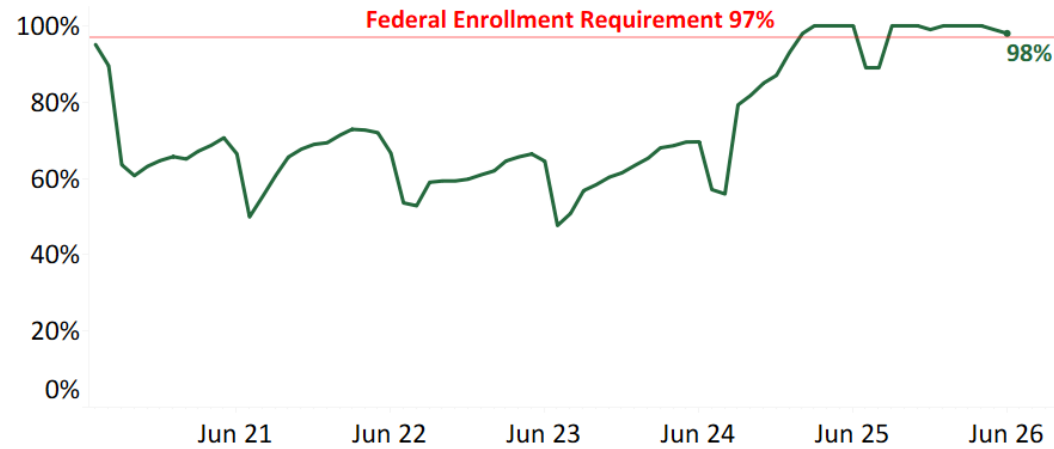
*Income eligible population defined as at or below 100% federal poverty level, as of 2024 US Census Bureau American Community Survey.

**Planned EHS classrooms opening later this year not included until licensing has fully approved them.

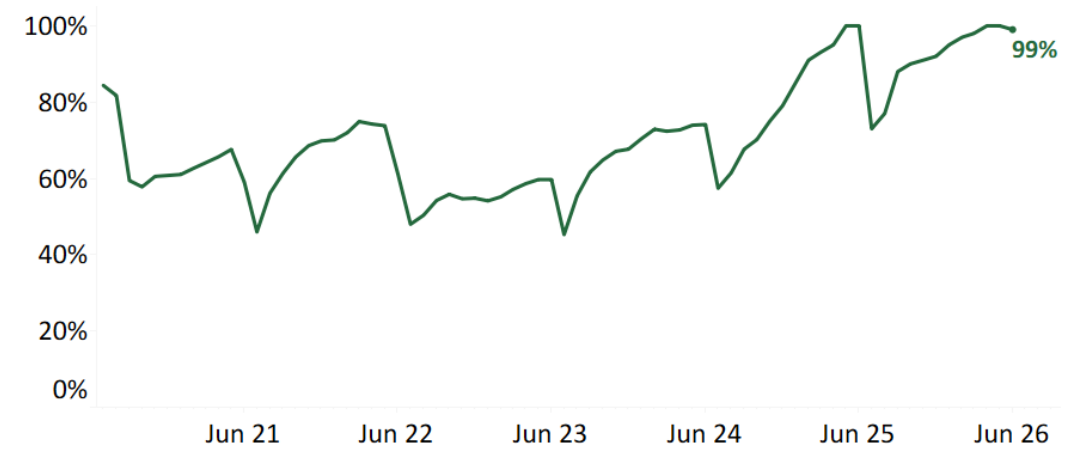
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Center Enrollment Rates

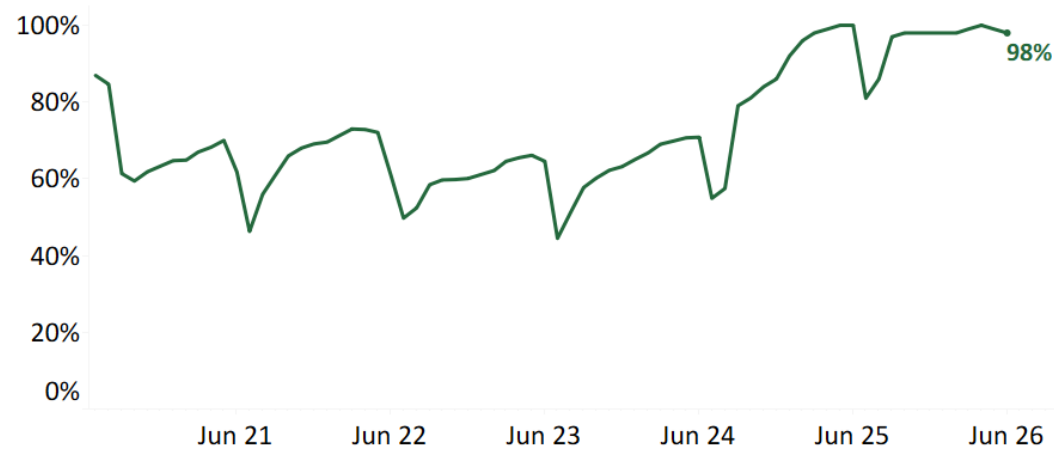
Federal Funded Slots



State Funded Slots



Total Funded Slots



Current Slot Allotments:

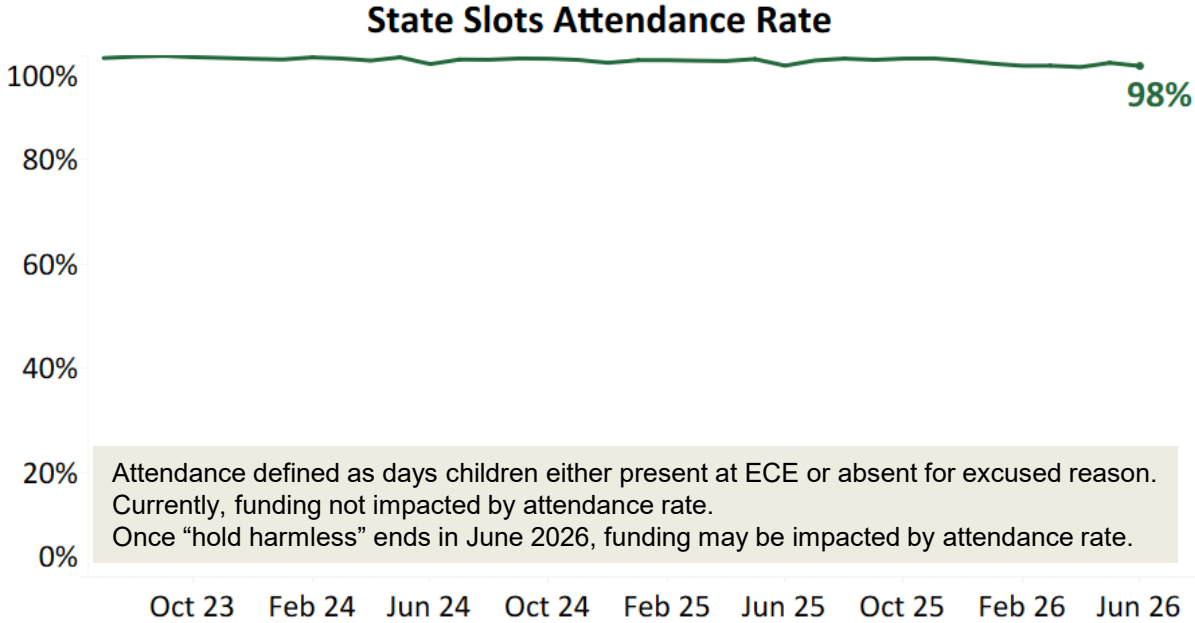
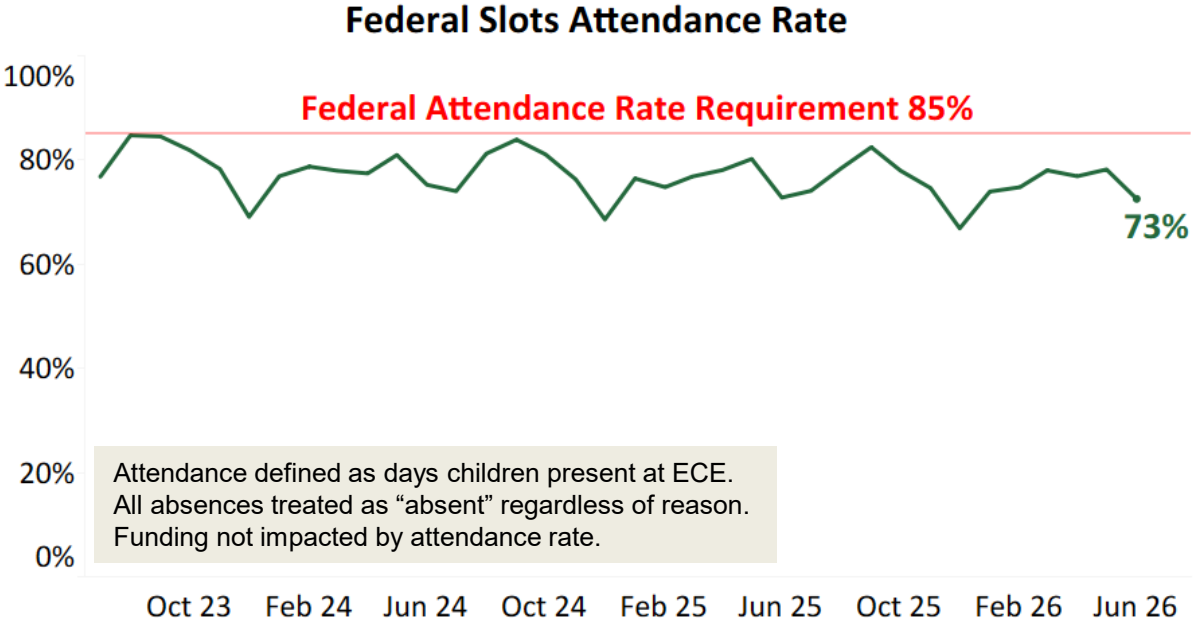
- Federal Slots (Head Start) = 1,201 (1,175 filled slots as of June 2026)
- State Slots (CDE and CDSS) = 764 (753 filled slots as of June 2026)
- Total Unique Slots = 1,345 (1,316 filled slots as of June 2026)

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.

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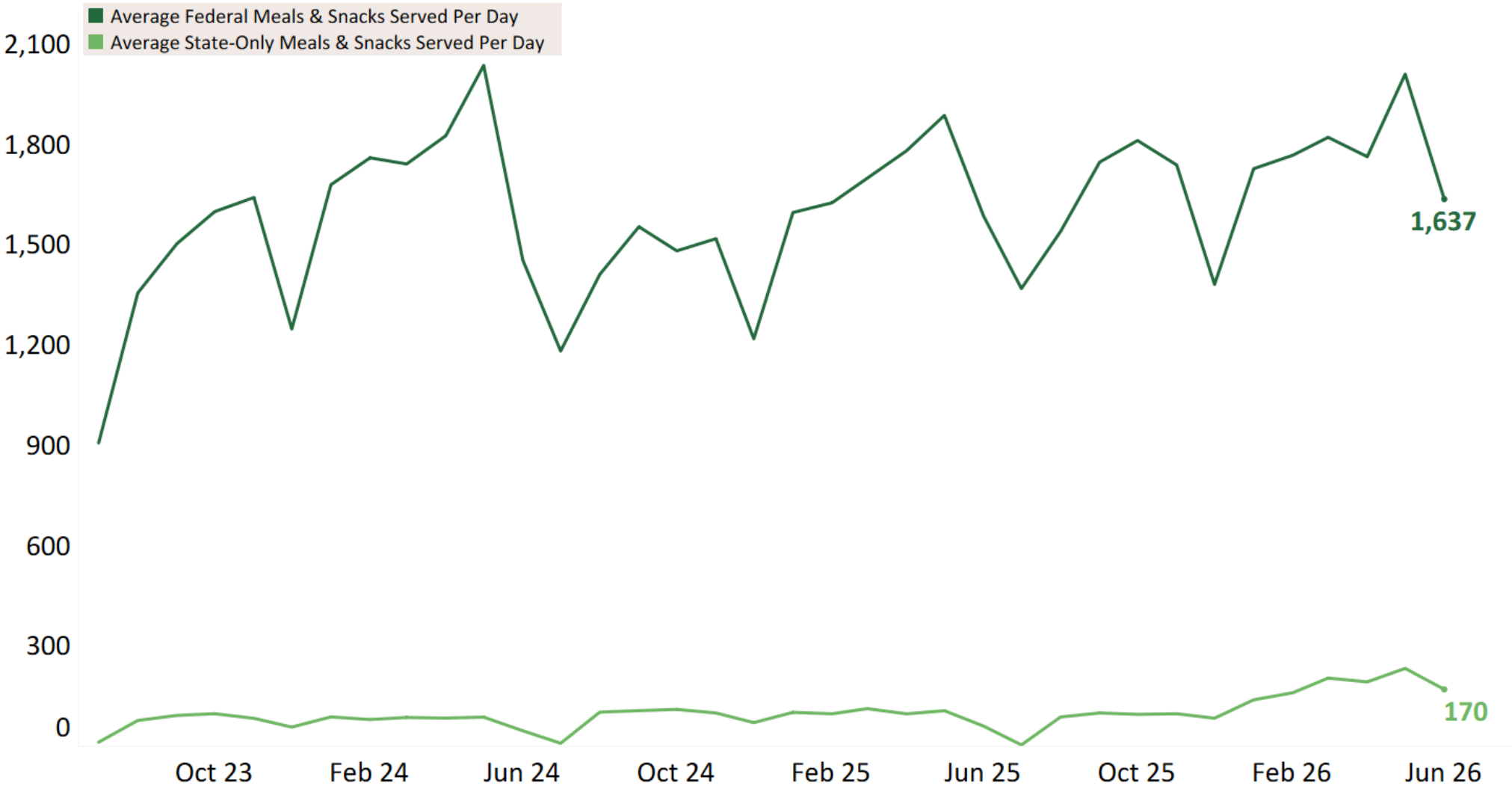
Center Attendance Rates



Absence Reasons for Federal Slots (% of Enrollment Days)	Dec 25	Jan 26	Feb 26	Mar 26	Apr 26	May 26	Jun 26
1. Sick (e.g., Hand Foot Mouth, Flu, COVID, cold, ear infection)	13%	13%	13%	11%	11%	11%	11%
2. Family Emergency (e.g., parent sick, no transportation)	6%	6%	6%	6%	7%	6%	7%
3. Best Interest Day (e.g., home with family, vacation)	8%	3%	1%	1%	2%	2%	5%
4. Appointment (e.g., doctor, dentist, social services)	2%	1%	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%
5. Other (e.g., no details provided)	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%

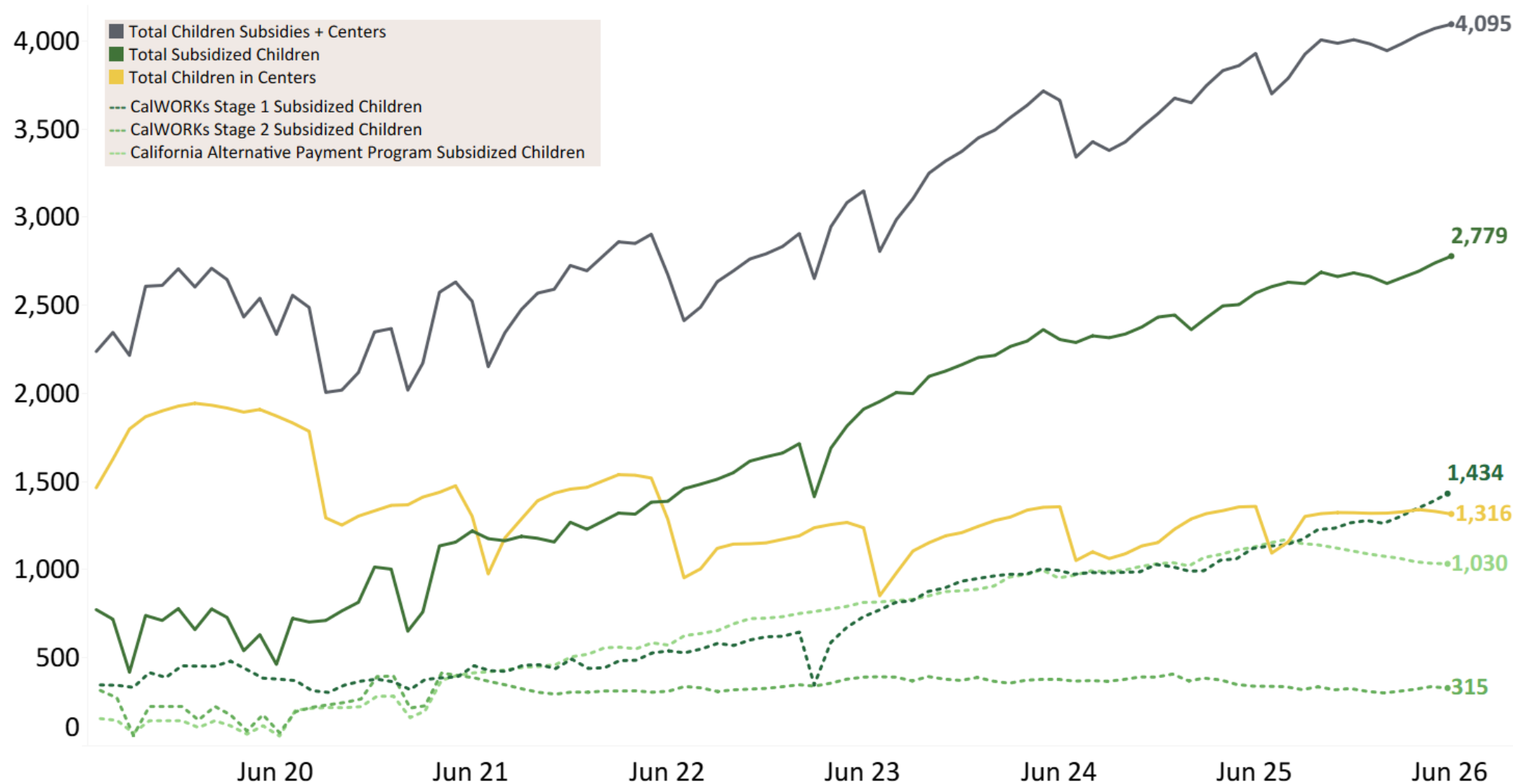
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Average Center Meals & Snacks Per Day



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Children Served in Child Care



"Total Children in Centers" includes children enrolled with federal (Head Start/Early Head Start) and state (CCTR, CSPP) funding sources.

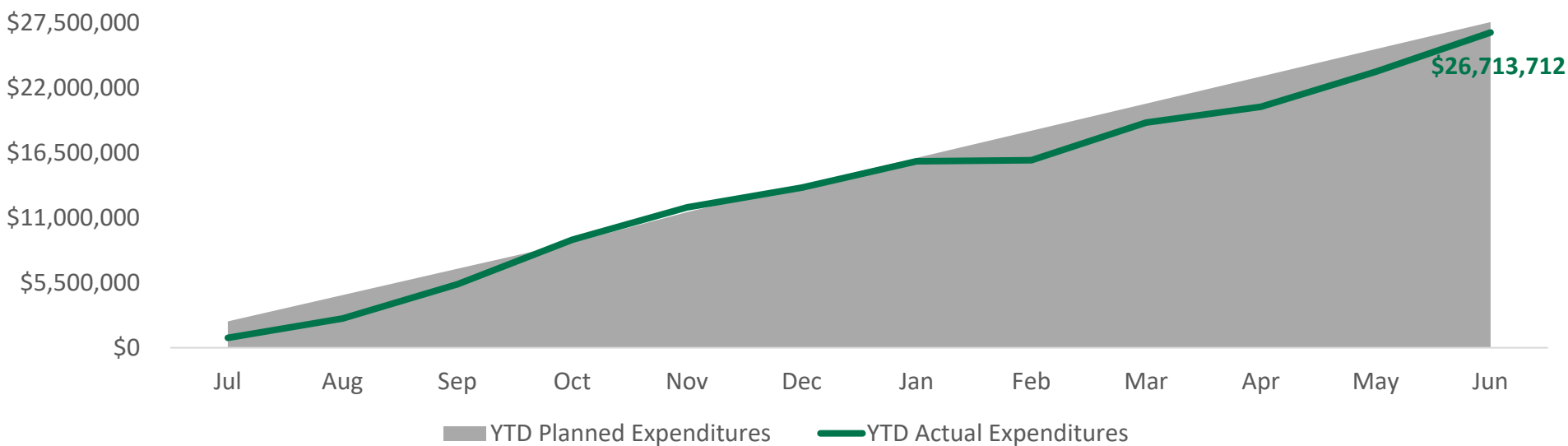
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Head Start Budget Expenditures



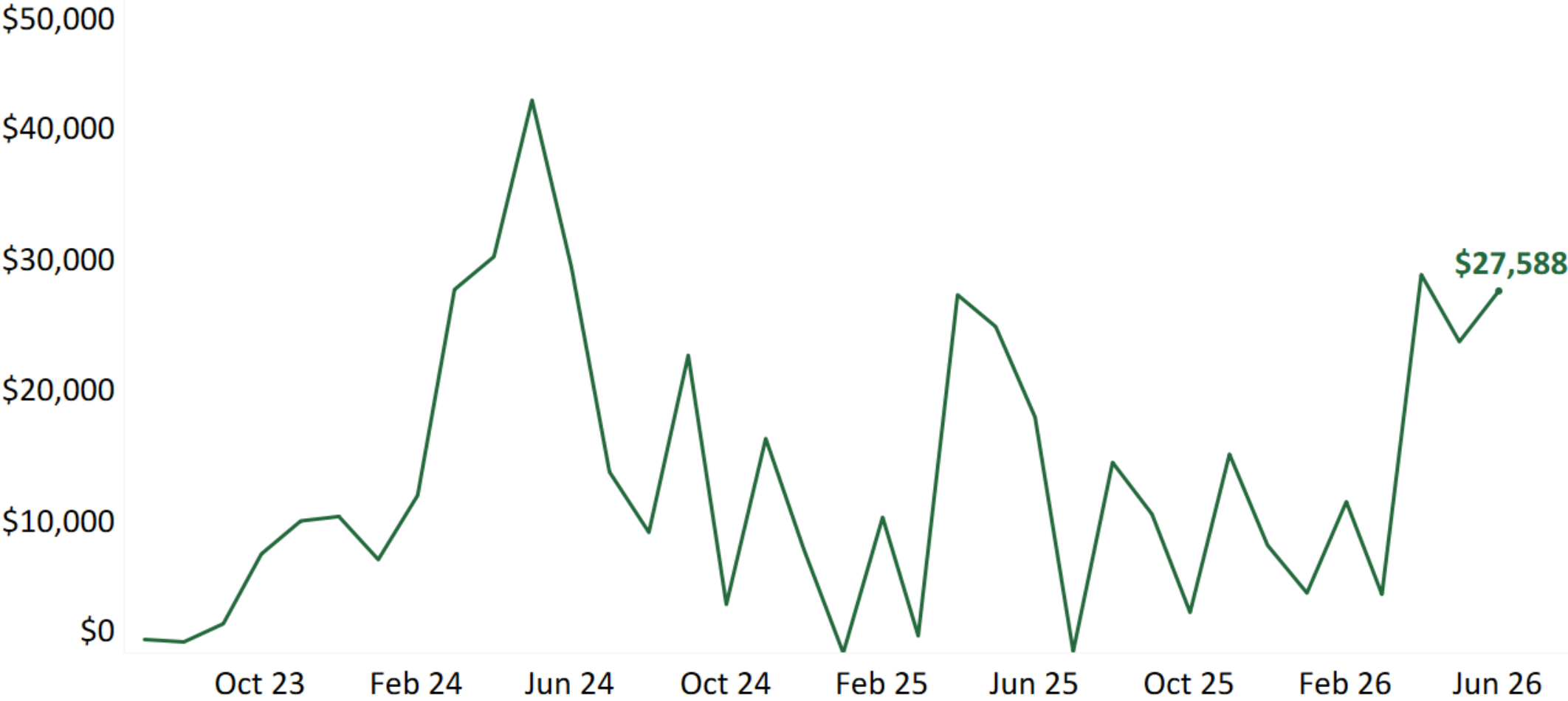
Category	FY25-26 Funding	June 2026 Expenditures	YTD Expenditures	Remaining Balance
Total Federal Funding	\$20,577,342	\$2,299,410	\$20,577,342	\$0
Required Non-Federal Share	\$5,144,336	\$574,853	\$5,144,336	\$0
Measure X Overmatch ¹	\$1,873,029	\$459,369	\$992,034	\$880,995
Total Federal and Non-Federal	\$27,594,707	\$3,333,632	\$26,713,712	\$880,995

1. Includes roll over funds as of 1/20/26; updated 4/14/26 to reflect BDA-25-00156.

Fiscal Data Sources: General Ledger “CCC 1102 Expenditure details report”; General Ledger and Budget Formulation Management system; and Claims submitted as drawdowns through PMS system on monthly basis.

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Head Start Credit Card Expenditures



All credit card expenditures are made by authorized staff for budgeted purchases to support reasonable program expenditures.
Fiscal Data Source: Head Start and Early Head Start monthly credit card report.

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FY24-25 Single Audit

The Finance Committee approved the FY24-25 Contra Costa County Single Audit on July 13, 2026.

There were no findings for the Head Start grant.

Seeking full Board approval on August 25, 2026 of the FY24-25 Single Audit findings related to the Head Start grant per Federal requirements:

- Head Start Act 642(d)(2)
- Head Start Program Performance Standards 1301.2(b)(2)

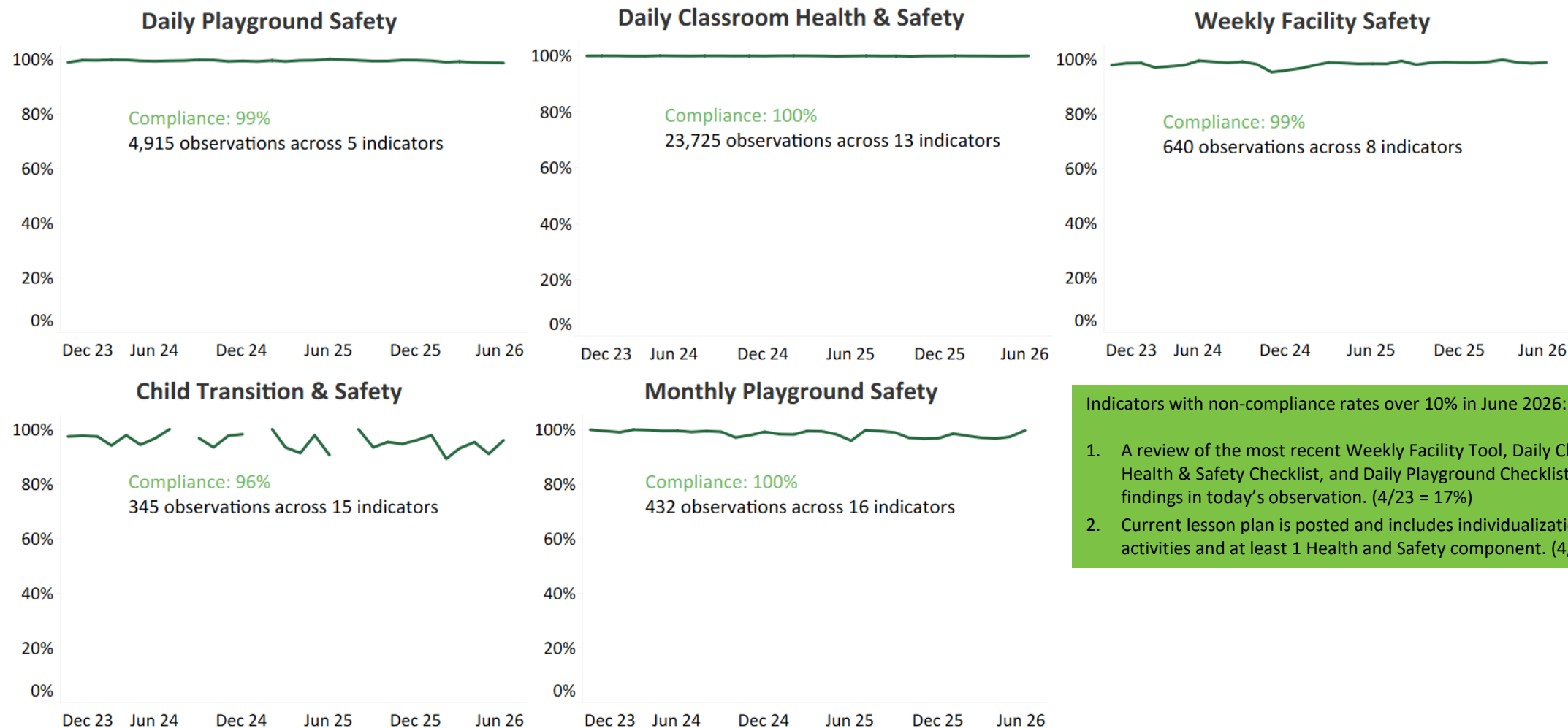


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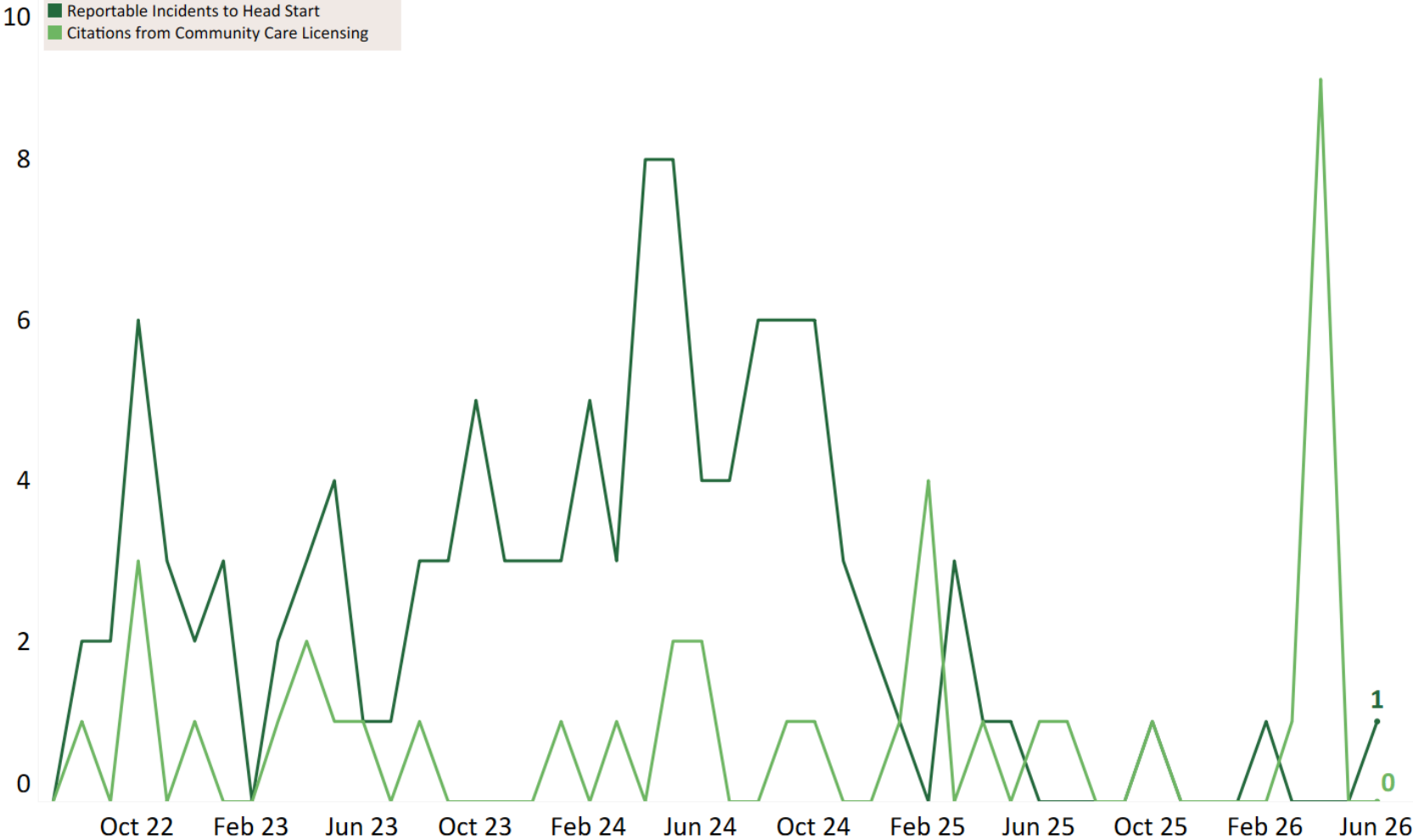


Health and Safety Compliance



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Reportable Incidents & Citations



Office of Head Start (OHS) Reportable Incidents

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.

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AB 495 – Family Preparedness Act of 2025

Background

- October 12, 2025: Signed into law. Intended to help child care providers develop practical plans to protect the rights of immigrants and their families to safely access facilities by limiting support for immigration enforcement activities.
- April 1, 2026: Attorney General issued guidance and model policies for child care facilities and preschool programs.
- July 1, 2026: Deadline for all California state preschool programs to adopt model immigration policies.

Program Actions

- Completed comprehensive review of all relevant County, department, bureau, and program policies and procedures.
- Determined current program policies are substantially compliant with AB 495 requirements. Changes made include:
 - Revised CSB Procedures Manual and CSB Family Handbook to explicitly state that staff are not to ask for citizenship or immigration status unless required by law and to use the Caregivers Authorization Affidavit.
 - Revised CSB Procedures Manual to include reporting requirements to CDSS and Attorney General and requirement to confirm emergency cards are updated twice annually.
 - Affixed signage to the outside of CSB's child care centers stating that facilities are nonpublic spaces.



CDSS Child Care Bulletin 26-16

Child Care Bulletin 26-16 issued: June 22, 2026

Subject: Revised Family Fee Schedule for Fiscal Year 2026-27

Information: Updates the Family Fee Schedule effective July 1, 2026. This applies to the County's California Alternative Payment Program (CAPP), CalWORKs Stages 1 and 2 subsidies programs, and General Child Care and Development Program (CCTR).

Action: Staff updated family fee schedule for FY26-27 to align with the new guidance. Staff notified families who pay fees of the changes and their opportunity to re-submit documents for re-assessing their fees.



CDSS Child Care Bulletin 26-17

Child Care Bulletin 26-17 issued: June 29, 2026

Subject: Revised State Median Income (SMI) Ceilings and Income Ranking Table for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-27

Information: Updates the Schedule of Income Ceilings for determining families' income eligibility and Income Ranking Table for determining a family's income ranking for enrollment priorities for FY26-27. This applies to the County's California Alternative Payment Program (CAPP), CalWORKs Stages 1 and 2 subsidies programs, and General Child Care and Development Program (CCTR).

For example, the annual income ceiling for a family of 4 increased from \$108,237 to \$115,367.

Action: Staff updated income guidelines for FY26-27 to align with new guidance.



CDSS Child Care Bulletin 26-18

Child Care Bulletin 26-18 issued: July 13, 2026

Subject: Emergency Closure Request

Information: Provides guidance on the process for submitting an Emergency Closure Request Form.

Contractors who close any sites or classrooms due to circumstances beyond their control must complete the Emergency Closure Request form to receive credit for reduced days of operation and child days of attendance.

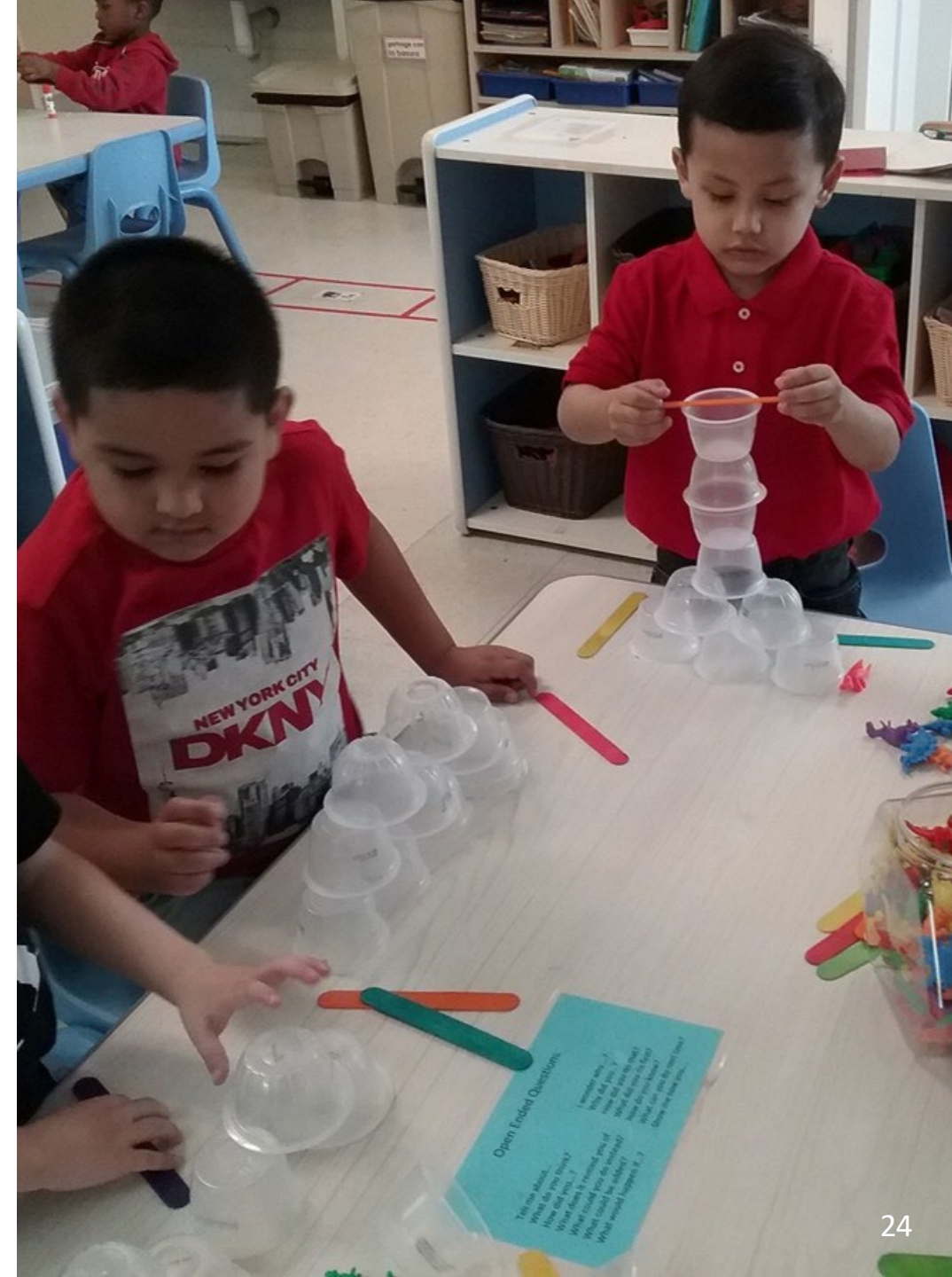
This applies to the County's General Child Care and Development Program (CCTR).

Action: No action needed. We are already in compliance.



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Revised County Head Start Governance Policies

Background

- Current County Head Start Governance policies adopted July 13, 2023 to establish the formal governance structure (Resolution No. 2023/274), formal process for resolving complaints (Resolution No. 2023/498), and internal controls applicable to the program's funds, assets, and equipment (Resolution No. 2023/499).
- The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) phased out 45 CFR Part 75 and officially transitioned to the government-wide 2 CFR Part 200 (Uniform Guidance) on October 1, 2025.

Summary of Changes

- Resolution No. 2023/274
 - Adjust meeting frequency from every other month to 6 times per year.
- Resolution No. 2023/499
 - Updated federal regulations to reference 2 CFR Part 200 guidance.



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Recommendation

CONSIDER accepting the monthly update on the activities and oversight of the County's Head Start Program;

APPROVE the FY24-25 Single Audit findings related to Head Start;

APPROVE the revised Head Start Governance Policies, Resolution No. 2023/274 and Resolution No. 2023/499,; and

provide guidance, as recommended by the Employment and Human Services Director.

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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.

*#7 and #8 moved 1 month to align with Head Start Committee schedule.

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Planned



Completed

HSPPS Compliance Timeline Progress Chart

