

**OVERVIEW**

AWARE Early Head Start is a federally funded, comprehensive child development program for low-income children and their families. The program began in Butte in 1995 with the Early Head Start program (EHS) serving 36 children ages 0-3. In 2015, the program expanded to create the Early Head Start Child Care Partnership (EHS-CCP). The EHS partners with local child care providers to allow more high quality learning opportunities for children. As of 2017, EHS-CCP now serves Silver Bow, Lewis and Clark, Gallatin, Park, Broadwater, Jefferson and Yellowstone counties. AWARE services help children develop school readiness and social-emotional skills, promote resiliency, and allow children and parents to build on their strengths and become more independent.

**Advancing Social and  
Emotional Skills**

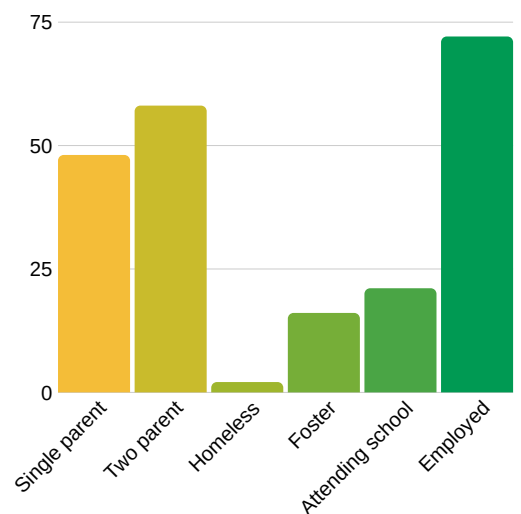
**PROGRAM COMPONENTS**

- EHS-CCP serves children who meet income eligibility requirements and whose parents work or attend school. This program is full-time (10 hrs/week) from Mon-Fri.
- EHS serves children who meet income eligibility requirements. This program is part-time (6.5 hrs/week) from Mon-Fri.
- Children with challenging behaviors receive support to help the child achieve success in the classroom
- Interventions focus on building strengths, promoting self-sufficiency, developing schools readiness skills, and breaking out of the cycle of poverty
- Teachers are trained in quality practice, curriculum, and social-emotional strategies
- Licensed mental health consultants assist teachers and parents on child's social-emotional development and offer Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT), if needed/desired
- Assessments (ASQ, DECA) are used to gauge development and promote resiliency by focusing interventions on protective factors, i.e. attachment, relationships, initiative, self-regulation
- Materials are translated for non-English speakers (i.e. Spanish). Staff include Crow and Spanish speakers; Special materials and sign language specialists provided for hearing impaired students

**NUMBERS, QUALIFICATIONS,  
and IMPACTED POPULATION**

- 212 children served across Montana
- General eligibility criteria: at or below federal income poverty guidelines
- Foster care and homeless children qualify automatically
- Income guidelines waived for children with disabilities
- All teachers have a Child Development Associate degree (CDA); Therapists or Consultants have a Master's degree

**EXPANSION POPULATION**



*For more information, please contact:*

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