

Bear River
**Head Start/ Childcare Connection/ Early Head Start
Program Overview**

Bear River Head Start (BRHS), Childcare Connection (CCC), and Early Head start (EHS), operates across 12,000 square miles in northern Utah and southeastern Idaho. Eight counties are included in the service area, within the two states. Headquarters for the grantee is located in Logan Utah. The grantee is a single purpose agency operating three different programs and all three program options. The grantee is managed through an agreement between Region VIII and Region X allowing Region VIII sole management of the grantee.

Program options are available to Head Start/ Early Head Start/ and Childcare Connection enrolled children (1306.30), depending upon service location, individualized need, and program options available. The Community Assessment assists in defining need, recruitment and enrollment within the service areas, and availability of program options.

Enrollment of children into available program options is dependent upon factors such as;

- Age of the child and developmental needs.
- The community in which they live.
- Previous pre-school experiences and
- Family situation and need.

Changes to program options are presented to the Board of Trustees and Policy Council for prior approval, as well as to the Regional Office to ensure full compliance with all funding regulations. The following narrative documents options that are available for program services, and the populations that they serve. These numbers include 17 children funded through Idaho TANF dollars, and 8 Title I children in Utah funded through non- Head Start funding.

EARLY HEAD START

HOME BASED OPTION

This option is available for birth through age three infants and toddlers and pregnant women. It is available through all service areas, in all counties in Utah and Idaho. The goal of EHS is development of secure relationships and positive attachment parenting which fits with the philosophy of the home based option. Weekly home visits are provided in the child's home environment for 90 minutes per visit. The parent is the primary educator of their child, and therefore the visits are parent driven with staff supporting the interaction. Bi-monthly socialization experiences are available to promote social and emotional development. The configuration is as follows:

Enrollment	95
Age	Birth through age 3 & pregnant women
Home Visits	Weekly Lasting 90 minutes per visit (minimum)
Socializations	Minimum 2 per month 24 per year
Length of services	12 months 50 visits per year (minimum)
Counties Available	Utah- Cache, Box Elder, Rich Idaho- Franklin, Caribou, Bear Lake, Oneida, Bannock (south)

Interesting Program Features
Wave I funded EHS, National Research Evaluation Site, Served as a training site for newly funded EHS programs, Early Implementation of Male Involvement, ARRA funding, Special Quest & Story Quest.

EARLY HEAD START

CENTER BASED OPTION

32 infants/ toddlers and pregnant women have enrollment opportunities for center based services in the Logan, Utah service area. The goal of this option is for infants/ toddlers to receive consistent care in a safe, healthy, nurturing and developmentally appropriate environment. Parents and secondary caregivers work together with the enrolled infant/toddler while in Foster Care, or parents are incarcerated, in school, at work, in rehab, or otherwise unable to directly care for their very young child. A secure environment with nurturing caregivers helps this population develop secure relationships and positive attachments with secondary caregivers and then their primary caregivers.

Enrollment	32
Age	Birth through age 3 and pregnant women
Class Sessions	6 hours per day 4 days per week 188 days per year (minimum)
Home Visits	2 per child per year
Length of Services	12 month program 188 days per year (minimum)
Counties Available	Utah- Cache

Interesting Program Features
Newly funded 2010 through Expansion funding.

Head Start

Home Based Option

The majority of our service area is large in size and geographically isolated throughout Utah and southeastern Idaho. The rural nature and low populations cannot sustain classrooms for center based operations in all areas. Home Based program options allow access to Head Start services delivered directly to enrolled children and their families in their own homes.

Enrollment	51
Age	3 through age 5
Home Visits	Weekly Lasting 90 minutes per visit (minimum)
Socializations	2 per month 16 per year (minimum)
Length of Services	9 months 36 visits or 32 visits minimum
Counties Available	Utah- Cache, Box Elder, Rich Idaho- Franklin, Caribou, Bear Lake, Oneida, Bannock (south)

Interesting Program Features
Home Based services were the first offered through the grantee in the 1960's.

Head Start

Center Based Option

This option is available for Head Start children allowing participation in a classroom educational setting. This option is most commonly available in our more populated service areas, with greater enrollment demand and greater waiting lists. The option meets the indicator on our Community Assessment showing need in populated areas for a different educational experience in order to achieve School Readiness.

Logan, Utah is our most populated service area and we have greater numbers of Early Head Start children transitioning into Head Start services in Logan. Therefore, we have three year old classrooms in the Logan area for children transitioning from EHS into Head Start, allowing them a different educational experience, as enrollment space permits. Some children and their families do not choose center based program services, they may feel home based services is a better fit for their need.

Three Year Old Classrooms	
Enrollment	34
Age	3
Class Sessions	3.5 hours per day 4 sessions per week
Home Visits	3 per year by Teacher and Teacher Assistant
Length of Services	9 months 134 days (minimum)
Counties Available	Utah- Cache

Four Year old Classrooms	
Enrollment	268 Head Start funded 17 TANF funded in Idaho 8 Title I funded in Utah Total- 293
Age	3 through age 5
Class Sessions	4 hours per session 4 sessions per week
Home Visits	2 per year by Teacher and Teacher Assistant
Length of Services	9 months 134 days (minimum)
Counties Available	Utah- Cache, Box Elder Idaho- Franklin, Bear Lake, Caribou, Oneida

Interesting Program Features
30 plus years in operation, early implementation Male Involvement, Mentor Coaching, received ARRA funding, participant in Head Start Impact Study, program options in Utah & Idaho.

Head Start

Child Care Partnership Option

Childcare Connection was developed as a program option meeting Child Care Partnership requirements in 1998. This option was developed for meeting an under-served need in the area of availability of quality child care. Original funding was received in 1998 and expansion funding followed in 1999. Childcare Connection is a unique blend of Head Start services and family home child care that meets the needs of our children and families while they are at work or attending school. The child care partners are not Head Start employees but rather sub-contracted partners that provide child care while implementing Head Start Performance Standards, and meet all licensing requirements. A monthly stipend is available to child care providers; they may use our Lending Library and joint participation in training opportunities. Head Start staff visit the providers on a regular basis to ensure high quality services, offer mentoring opportunities, share resources, and ensure compliance to licensing and standard requirements. The goal of this program option is to ensure availability of high quality child care to Head Start eligible children while having a positive impact on the communities in which we serve.

Enrollment	50
Age	3 through age 5
Class Sessions	6 hours per day 4 days per week 200 sessions per year (minimum)
Home Visits	12 per year per child By CCC Case Manager
Length of Services	12 month program
Counties Available	Utah- Cache, Box Elder

Interesting Program Features
Child Care Partnership funding for 16 years, provides training and technical assistance to community child care providers, established partnership with CCR&R, Community Assessment proves increase in quality child care because of CCC in communities, Lending Library available to providers.