Enrollment

On July 14, 2023, TREC Badlands Head Start received a letter from the Office of Head Start, Region 8. This letter informed the agency that pursuant to Section 641A(h)(3) of the Head Start Act, the program is required to develop a plan in collaboration with the Office of Head Start (OHS) to address its current under-enrollment status. The program was given 12 months to achieve at least 97 percent enrollment. The 12-month period went into effect July 24, 2023, and concluded on July 23, 2024.

TREC immediately began addressing the challenge of enrollment in all service areas by increasing its community presence, attending events to help inform families about the program, and by increasing its job advertising efforts. Despite significant increases to its recruiting efforts, TREC remained under-enrolled. Throughout January 2024, TREC began digging into historical data to examine the reasons it remained under-enrolled in certain service areas. Through data analysis and assessing community demographics, TREC worked with its Board of Directors and Policy Council to draft an amendment to its current grant. The change in scope proposed reducing slots program-wide from 146 to 93 slots and was approved in June 2024. This change shifted services in some areas and discontinued services in other locations due to a lack of age eligible children and qualified staff. TREC remains dedicated to serving in the communities where services are needed the most.

Due to a careful community needs assessment, examination of TREC's historical enrollment data, and a change in scope- TREC concluded its plan and reported full enrollment for its first operating month in September 2024. TREC will continue to be monitored through February 2025, to ensure that it maintains full enrollment.

Enrollment Table below shows TREC's enrollment before change in scope approval.

Program	Minimum Enrollment	Maximum Enrollment	Average Enrollment	Funded Enrollment	Avg % of Funded Enrollment
Head Start	54	72	69	82	84%
Early Head Start	28	41	36	64	56%