

# CEN-TEX FAMILY SERVICES, ANNUAL REPO 2021



# Mission

To provide learning experiences in a safe and healthy environment. We promote school readiness and seek to improve the quality of life for the children and families we serve to empower them to become self-sufficient, contributing members of society.

# Vision

To educate and support children and families through program excellence.

# Head Start

Head Start and Early Head Start promote the school readiness of young children from low-income families. The programs support the mental, social, and emotional development of children from birth to age 5.

In addition, the program provides children and their families with health, nutrition, social, and other services.

Programs build goal-oriented relationships with families that support positive parent-child relationships, family well-being, and connections to peers and community.

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# Service Area



The program service area covers four counties that includes Bastrop, Lee, Fayette, and Colorado. There are centers in 9 different communities: Bastrop, Lost Pines, Cedar Creek, Stoney Point, Elgin, Giddings, Smithville, Eagle Lake, and a new site in La Grange. Home based services are available in Fayette and Colorado counties. The agency also partners with 6 different school districts: Bastrop ISD, Elgin ISD, Smithville ISD, Giddings ISD, La Grange ISD, and Rice Consolidated ISD.

HEARTS OF TEXAS HEAD START  
PROGRAM COMBINES  
CURRICULUM  
IMPLEMENTATION, BEST  
TEACHING PRACTICES, AND  
FAMILY PARTICIPATION AND  
ENGAGEMENT TO PROVIDE  
HIGH QUALITY EARLY  
CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES TO  
FOSTER SCHOOL READINESS

# ANNUAL UPDATE OF THE 2018 COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

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Cen-Tex continues to work with the Bastrop County Early Childhood Coalition and follow the Bastrop Early Childhood Roadmap. Cen-Tex is now able to understand all of their communities on a better level by using the Maltreatment Risk maps developed by the University of Texas' Population Health initiative. These maps assess the maltreatment risk for a community across different age groups. Data from these maps provides us with information about our community's maltreatment risk and provides insight as to which factors are associated with that risk. The 2016 maps showed several of our communities at above average maltreatment risk for infants including Bastrop and Giddings. The La Grange community was considered among the highest maltreatment risks. However, newly released 2019 maps show that these communities' risks have improved. There continue to be a lack of protective factors and risk factors of concern.



Bastrop County's overall safety risk level is above average and assaults resulting in medical care is comparatively high. The protective factors of 3- and 4-year-old children enrolled in daycare and 18- and 19-year-olds in formal education are below average and comparatively low, respectively. Fayette county has a comparatively low protective factor for 3- and 4-year-olds enrolled in childcare.

In addition to these maltreatment risk factors, the service area struggles with food insecurity and uninsured children. According to Every Texan, Texas has one of the highest rates in the nation for food insecurity in children at 22 percent. Across the service area child food insecurity ranges from almost 18% in Bastrop County to almost 21% in Lee County.

Texas also has the worst child uninsured rate in the United States at 12.7%, more than two times the country's average. Across the service area the child uninsured rate ranges from 12% in Lee County to almost 15% in Colorado County. Three of the four counties have higher rates of uninsured children than the state average.

At the beginning of each program year Cen-Tex conducts a family needs assessment on all new families. The data from the beginning of the 20-21 program year showed a shift in family needs. In previous years, Nurturing Family Routines had the highest level of concerns. However, Meeting Basic Needs and Self-Sufficiency and Parent Support and Involvement with Friends and Others have moved ahead as areas having higher concerns, most likely due to the pandemic. The top areas of concerns were: 1) Meeting Basic Needs and Self-Sufficiency, 2) Parent Support and Involvement with Friends and Others, 3) Nurturing and Family Routines, 4) Promoting School Readiness. Cen-Tex continues to assess family's needs and work with families to learn of needs that guide agency planning.







# Program Options

## THE PROGRAM OFFERS THREE DIFFERENT PROGRAM OPTIONS TO FAMILIES

### HEAD START OR EARLY HEAD START CENTER BASED PROGRAM

Teachers provide a learning environment that supports children's growth and prepares them for school success later in life. They write lesson plans and goals for each child and share assessment reports with parents at Home Visits. Provide comprehensive services that support the whole child and family with an emphasis on child health and family well-being.

### EARLY HEAD START HOME BASED PROGRAM

A Family Educator works with families in their homes, nurtures parent-child relationships, and offers families information, support, and connections to community resources. Twice a month, families are invited to group experiences. Families are provided with comprehensive services that support the whole child and family with an emphasis on child health and family well-being.

### PREGNANT WOMEN

The program supports pregnant women in preparing for birth and becoming a parent. A parenting curriculum is offered that supports healthy pregnancies and deliveries as well as post-natal services. Mothers and families are supported as they transition to child development programs.

# THE FIGURES

## CHILDREN SERVED 20-21

	Head Start	Early Head Start	Expansion	Total
Enrollment Slots	307	114	101	522
# of Children Served	183	128 children 2 pregnant women	113	424
Income or Categorically Eligible	79%	91%	83%	84%

## INCOME STATUS OF ENROLLED PARTICIPANTS

	Head Start	Early Head Start	Expansion
Below 100%	112	79	65
Homeless	24	25	23
Over Income	18	3	9
Foster Child	7	8	3
Public Assistance	2	6	3
100-130%	20	9	10

## AVERAGE MONTHLY ENROLLMENT

August 20	Closed	February 21	86%
September 20	92%	March 21	87%
October 20	90%	April 21	84%
November 20	87%	May 21	86%
December 20	84%	June 21	77%
January 20	84%	July 21	72%

79

% OF ENROLLED CHILDREN  
WITH A DENTAL EXAM

85

% OF ENROLLED CHILDREN  
WITH A MEDICAL EXAM

14

% OF CHILDREN  
WITH A DISABILITY

A background image showing the lower half of several children walking. They are wearing colorful backpacks: one is green, one is leopard print with pink hearts, and one is blue with white polka dots. The children are walking on a paved surface, possibly a sidewalk or playground path.

## **CURRICULUM**

A research-based curriculum model, The Creative Curriculum, is used in Early Head Start and Head Start classrooms to prepare children for kindergarten. The curriculum is based on 38 objectives for development and learning, which are fully aligned with the School Readiness Goals for Infants and Toddlers and with the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework.

## **CONSCIOUS DISCIPLINE**

Conscious Discipline is an evidence-based whole-school system for social-emotional learning, discipline, and self-regulation.

At the core is the School Family. This concept helps build connections between families and schools, teachers and students, and also teacher to teacher and student to student to ensure the optimal development of all.

The School Family is created through routines, rituals and structures. These connections provide the three essential ingredients for school success: a willingness to learn, impulse control, and attention.

## **DUAL LANGUAGE LEARNERS**

Hearts of Texas supports the home language and culture of children and families. Receptive and expressive language skills are developed in children's home language, as well as their second language, through the support of bilingual staff. Effective instructional practices are embedded within the context of age appropriate classroom routines, hands-on activities, and lessons.



## CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Hearts of Texas serves children with disabilities in a least-restrictive educational environment. Inclusion is promoted throughout the program. Hearts of Texas sees each child as an individual capable of learning and developing with the support of caring, loving, and qualified staff. During the 2020-2021 school year, 14% of children served had a diagnosed disability.

Hearts of Texas works closely with families of enrolled, atypically developing children. The agency also works with community partners in the medical professions and other service providers pursuant to Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to provide responsive care. Early Head Start and Head Start staff maintain close communication with ECI and ISD personnel to identify children with disabilities and provide services for them.

# The Family Map Inventories

The Family Map Inventories are researched-based and aligned with the Head Start Parent, Family, and Community Engagement Framework. The Family Map is a face-to-face interview between the Family Advocate or Family Educator and families. The interviews provide a format to discuss critical areas and identify strengths, protective factors, and risks at home in a respectful way. Specific interventions can be designed that help reduce the impact of risk factors while supporting and enhancing protective factors associated with a child's healthy development.

The Family Map covers the following areas: self-support, routines, early learning/ school readiness, monitoring, environmental safety, family outcomes, discipline, health, basic needs, home and car safety, social integration, and parent-child warmth.





## CLASSROOM ASSESSMENT SCORING SYSTEM (CLASS)

Hearts of Texas assesses teaching practices by using the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS).

This system measures Emotional Support, Classroom Organization and Instructional Support. In Spring 2021, the CLASS scores of our average Head Start classroom were higher in all three domains than the lowest 10% national average and the re-competition level, and is meeting the Quality Thresholds in Emotional Support and Instructional Support.

Falling below the re-competition threshold would require the agency re-compete for the Head Start grant. Hearts of Texas has increased professional development of classroom teachers in this area with a focus on Classroom Organization.

Spring 2021 CLASS Data		
	Cen-Tex Average	Re-competition Level
Emotional Support	6.25	5
Classroom Organization	5.53	5
Instructional Support	3.07	2.3

## Teaching Strategies GOLD Assessment 2020-2021

### Percentage of Children Meeting or Above Growth Range

	Below	Meeting	Exceeding
Social Emotional	14.64%	59.12%	26.26%
Physical	10.12%	58.03%	31.85%
Language	17.52%	59.15%	23.33%
Cognitive	11.41%	65.67%	22.92%
Literacy	15.16%	66.61%	18.23%
Mathematics	17.55%	57.30%	25.15%

Children are regularly observed and assessed over the year. All children are assessed using Teaching Strategies GOLD, an observational assessment that clearly links to our curriculum and lesson planning. Children are assessed three times during the program year. These assessment results are shared with parents and used in program planning.







### **PARENT COMMITTEE**

Each center has a Parent Committee that includes all parents or guardians of enrolled children. Members elect officers and conduct meetings bi-monthly.

These committees:

- Advise staff in developing and implementing local program policies, activities, and services to ensure they meet the needs of children and families;
- Communicate with the policy council;
- Participate in the recruitment and screening of Early Head Start and Head Start employees.

### **POLICY COUNCIL**

Policy Council members are parents and community members elected by parents of currently enrolled children to represent them and the community in program decision-making and planning. Policy Council members are important leaders that lend their voice and perspective to many decisions, including those related to parent involvement, funding applications, program personnel policies, and program recruitment, selection, and enrollment.

### **PARENTING CURRICULUM**

Hearts of Texas is currently implementing the research-based parenting curriculum ReadyRosie. Teachers send modeled moment videos to parents on a weekly basis and parents also have the opportunity to participate in Family Workshops throughout the year.

## AT HOME ACTIVITIES

Every week, teaching staff provides families with learning activities that parents can do at home with their child. These activities relate to the curriculum and enhance parent-child relationships. Teachers can use the modeled moments videos from ReadyRosie and other classroom resources to engage parents in their child's learning and development.

## VOLUNTEERING

Not only are parents always welcomed in Head Start classrooms to observe their child, but they are also welcomed as volunteers. Volunteer opportunities range from assisting in the classroom and preparing for special events to playground maintenance and clerical support. All volunteering

# Family Support Servi

Each family has the opportunity to work with a Family Advocate. The Family Advocate guides them through the enrollment process and assists with transitions between preschool programs. Another important piece is the Family Partnership Agreement. Staff build trusting relationships with families and encourage and support families to turn their dreams into reality through a goal-setting process that relies on family strengths.





# Financial Report

## Funding

February 1, 2020-January 31, 2021  
Head Start and Early Head Start Grant

August 1, 2020-July 31, 2021  
Expansion Grant

Head Start Program Operations	\$2,721,108	Expansion Program Operations	\$1,809,478
Head Start Training and Technical Assistance	\$33,057		
Early Head Start Program Operations	\$1,641,378	Expansion Training and Technical Assistance	\$40,055
Early Head Start Training and Technical Assistance	\$36,051		
Total	\$4,431,594	Total	\$1,849,533

## The Proposed budget

February 1, 2020-January 31, 2021  
Head Start and Early Head Start Grant

Categories	Head Start	Early Head Start	Total	Percentage
Payroll and Fringe	\$2,350,606	\$1,540,829	\$3,891,435	89%
Supplies	\$65,905	\$25,270	\$91,175	2%
Contractual	\$61,801	\$19,384	\$81,185	2%
Other	\$242,796	\$55,895	\$298,691	7%

February 1, 2020-January 31, 2021  
Head Start and Early Head Start Grant  
Training and Technical Assistance

Categories	Head Start	Early Head Start	Total	% of Funding
Payroll and Fringe	\$16,222	\$17,201	\$33,423	48%
Supplies	\$600	\$600	\$1,200	2%
Contractual	\$8,000	\$3,600	\$11,600	17%
Other	\$8,235	\$14,650	\$22,885	33%

August 1, 2020-July 31, 2021  
Expansion Grant

Categories	Early Head Start	% of Funding	Training/Technical Assistance	% of Funding
Payroll and Fringe	\$894,088	49%	\$14,792	38%
Supplies	\$65,657	4%	\$516	1%
Contractual	\$733,780	41%	\$1,588	4%
Other	\$115,953	6%	\$22,979	57%

# The Expenditures

February 1, 2020-January 31, 2021  
Head Start and Early Head Start Grant

Categories	Head Start	Early Head Start	Total	% of Funding
Payroll and Fringe	\$1,949,667	\$1,514,867	\$3,464,534	87%
Supplies	\$75,806	\$45,833	\$121,639	3%
Contractual	\$74,301	\$16,012	\$90,313	2%
Other	\$231,939	\$74,041	\$305,980	8%

February 1, 2020-January 31, 2021  
Head Start and Early Head Start Grant  
Training and Technical Assistance Expenditures

Categories	Head Start	Early Head Start	Total	% of Funding
Payroll and Fringe	\$16,948	\$20,125	\$37,073	64%
Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
Contractual	\$5,163	\$6,602	\$11,765	20%
Other	\$6,315	\$3,334	\$9,649	16%

August 1, 2020-July 31, 2021  
Expansion Grant Expenditures

Categories	Early Head Start Expansion	% of Funding	Training/Technical Assistance	% of Funding
Payroll and Fringe	\$778,507	48%	\$15,157	63%
Supplies	\$41,688	3%	\$334	1%
Contractual	\$712,794	45%	\$5,658	24%
Other	\$64,701	4%	\$2,863	12%

## CACFP Budget, Expenditures, and Reimbursement October 1, 2020-September 30, 2021

Categories	Budget	Expenditures	Reimbursement
Payroll and Fringe	\$123,088.15	\$95,755.16	
Supplies	\$19,580.00	\$17,186.70	
Other-Food	\$142,000.00	\$140,353.31	
COVID Relief			\$43,698.97
Total	\$284,668.15	\$253,295.17	\$197,192.21
Total Reimbursement			\$240,891.18