

A photograph of a child sliding down a green slide at a playground. The child is wearing a colorful patterned shirt and light blue pants. The slide is set on a bed of dark mulch. In the background, there is a wooden fence and a building with a blue roof. Another child in a purple jacket is visible running on a path in the distance.

ANNUAL REPORT

CEN-TEX FAMILY SERVICES, INC.

2022



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.

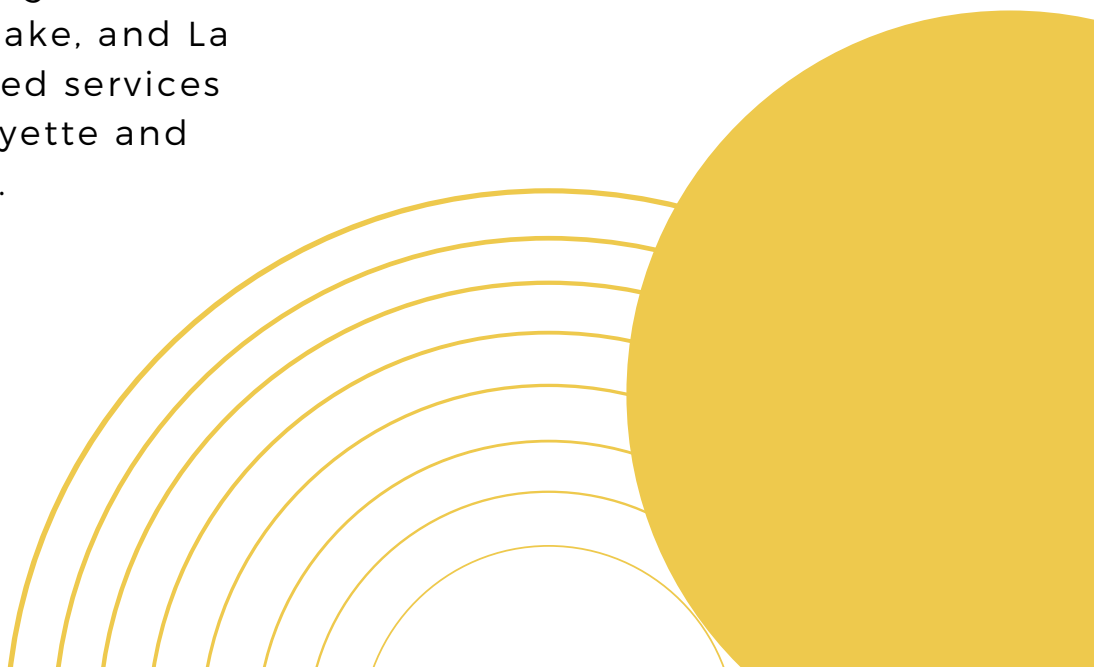
Programs build goal-oriented relationships with families that support positive parent-child relationships, family well-being, and connections to peers and community.

SERVICE AREA



The program service area includes the four counties of 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 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.



ANNUAL UPDATE

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

The 2022 update to Cen-Tex Family Services' 2018 Community Wide Strategic Planning and Needs Assessment data shows no significant year-to-year changes to demographics in the service area other than the continued population surge throughout Bastrop County, particularly in Elgin and the city of Bastrop and surrounding areas. All LEA's continue to provide full day pre-k that meets the needs of children and families served.

There has been a decrease in use of Federal Assistance in all counties. This could be due to COVID protections ending and families needing to reapply. Also, it could be due to immigration rhetoric discouraging families to apply for assistance such as SNAP.

Some parents in the Bastrop area have reported that it is difficult to get dental appointments for their children. Some offices are not accepting new Medicaid patients. Colorado County doesn't currently have a pediatrician. Some of the General Practitioners do not see children and some are not taking new patients.

The lack of human resources to staff classrooms continues to impact the area.

POPULATION GROWTH

	2020 Estimate	Estimated Population Change From 2016
Bastrop County	86,839	11%
Colorado County	20,557	-2%
Fayette County	24,435	-2%
Lee County	17,174	2.5%

POVERTY BY COUNTY

	% Living in Poverty- 2020	% Under 5 in Poverty 2020
Bastrop County	23.1%	19%
Colorado County	13.3%	8.4%
Fayette County	13.8%	18.6%
Lee County	28.9%	8.3%

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

	2020 Estimate
Bastrop County	5.1%
Colorado County	3.9%
Fayette County	4.1%
Lee County	2.5%

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE (# OF CASES IN JUNE 2022)

	TANF	SNAP
Bastrop County	12	1538
Colorado County	3	275
Fayette County	2	246
Lee County	3	218

HOUSEHOLD INCOME

	Median Household Income	Per Capita Income
Bastrop County	\$71,820	\$28,473
Colorado County	\$52,663	\$28,868
Fayette County	\$56,696	\$27,216
Lee County	\$62,872	\$30,236

FAMILIES BELOW POVERTY LEVEL

	% of All Families
Bastrop County	9.2%
Colorado County	6.1%
Fayette County	6.6%
Lee County	9.7%





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. Comprehensive services are provided 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 21-22

	Head Start	Early Head Start	Total
Enrollment Slots	238	247	485
# of Children Served	249	244 children 5 pregnant women	498
Income or Categorically Eligible	79%	90%	90%

INCOME STATUS OF ENROLLED PARTICIPANTS

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

AVERAGE MONTHLY ENROLLMENT

August 21	88%	February 22	79%
September 21	78%	March 22	84%
October 21	83%	April 22	83%
November 21	83%	May 22	81%
December 21	84%	June 22	76%
January 22	75%	July 22	73%

85

% OF ENROLLED CHILDREN
WITH A DENTAL EXAM

90

% OF ENROLLED CHILDREN
WITH A MEDICAL EXAM

11

% OF CHILDREN
WITH A DISABILITY



SCHOOL READINESS

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 solution for social-emotional learning, discipline, and self-regulation.

At the core is the School Family. This concept helps builds 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 2021-2022 school year, 11% 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.



TEACHING PRACTICES



CLASSROOM ASSESSMENT SCORING SYSTEM(CLASS)

Spring 2022 CLASS Data			
	Cen-Tex Average	Re-competition Level	Quality Thresholds
Emotional Support	6.39	5	6
Classroom Organization	6.04	5	6
Instructional Support	2.98	2.3	3

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 2022, the CLASS scores of our average Head Start classroom were higher in all three domains than the re-competition level, and are 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.

CHILDREN'S ASSESSMENTS

Teaching Strategies GOLD Assessment 2021-2022 Percentage of Children Meeting or Above Growth Range

	Below	Meeting	Exceeding
Social Emotional	13.02%	68.23%	18.75%
Physical	7.33%	71.73%	20.94%
Language	23.04%	65.97%	10.99%
Cognitive	13.61%	71.2%	15.18%
Literacy	18.72%	75.94%	5.35%
Mathematics	21.58%	70%	8.42%

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 INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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.

FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

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 REPORTS AND AUDIT

FUNDING

February 1, 2021-January 31, 2022 Head Start and Early Head Start Grant	
Head Start Program Operations	\$2,667,127
Head Start Training and Technical Assistance	\$27,140
Early Head Start Program Operations	\$3,044,378
Early Head Start Training and Technical Assistance	\$82,023
Total	\$5,820,668

THE PROPOSED BUDGET

February 1, 2021-January 31, 2022 Head Start and Early Head Start Grant				
Categories	Head Start	Early Head Start	Total	Percentage
Payroll and Fringe	\$1,974,840	\$2,374,951	\$4,349,791	76%
Supplies	\$213,565	\$101,801	\$315,366	6%
Contractual	\$56,876	\$390,822	\$447,698	8%
Other	\$421,846	\$176,804	\$598,650	10%

February 1, 2021-January 31, 2022 Head Start and Early Head Start Grant Training and Technical Assistance				
Categories	Head Start	Early Head Start	Total	% of Funding
Payroll and Fringe	\$17,820	\$34,463	\$52,283	48%
Supplies	\$600	\$1,116	\$1,716	2%
Contractual	\$3,000	\$8,105	\$11,105	10%
Other	\$5,720	\$38,339	\$44,059	40%



THE EXPENDITURES

February 1, 2021-January 31, 2022
Head Start and Early Head Start Grant

Categories	Head Start	Early Head Start	Total	% of Funding
Payroll and Fringe	\$1,612,214	\$1,791,170	\$3,403,383	60%
Supplies	\$207,321	\$64,796	\$272,117	5%
Contractual	\$55,457	\$387,790	\$443,247	8%
Other	\$421,737	\$172,989	\$594,726	10%
Total	\$2,296,729	\$2,416,745	\$4,713,473	83%

February 1, 2021-January 31, 2022
Head Start and Early Head Start Grant
Training and Technical Assistance Expenditures

Categories	Head Start	Early Head Start	Total	% of Funding
Payroll and Fringe	\$14,999	\$20,125	\$37,073	64%
Supplies	\$573	\$0	\$0	0%
Contractual	\$4,809	\$6,602	\$11,765	20%
Other	\$5,772	\$3,334	\$9,649	16%
Total	\$2,296,729	\$2,416,745	\$4,713,473	83%

CACFP BUDGET, EXPENDITURES, AND REIMBURSEMENT OCTOBER 1, 2021-SEPTEMBER 31, 2022

Categories	Budget	Expenditures	Reimbursement
Payroll and Fringe	\$102,882.75	\$102,688.40	
Supplies	\$19,580.00	\$21,141.52	
Other-Food	\$188,250	\$161,162.75	
Total	\$310,518.40	\$284,992.67	
Total Reimbursement			\$222,631.62