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Greater East Texas
Community Action Program
Head Start (SmithCounty)
Annual Report
August 2020 – July 2021

"Improving Lives Through Community Involvement"

What is GETCAP Head Start

GETCAP Head Start is a federally funded comprehensive child development program serving low-income children age birth to 5 and their families. This program addresses children and their families with the overall goal of improving school readiness, foster healthy development, and preparing young children for future success in life and school.

GETCAP Head Start provides a range of individualized services in the areas of education and early childhood development; medical, dental, and mental health; nutrition; parent involvement; and family development. The entire range of Head Start services is responsive and appropriate to each child and family’s development, ethnic, cultural, and linguistic heritage and experience.

GETCAP Head Start has a long tradition (since 1968) of delivering comprehensive, high quality services in areas that include: pre-reading, pre-writing, vocabulary, parent reports of children’s literacy skills, access to health care, and higher use of educational activities by parents.



Funding

Financial Summary for Head Start Activities per Audit of Fiscal Year Ended 11/30/2017.

GETCAP Head Start provides educational opportunities to children and services to their families made possible by a yearly grant provided by the Federal Government and USDA meal reimbursements.

Head Start Families and Community Volunteers generated the non-federal match to the federal grant dollars through volunteer time and donations.

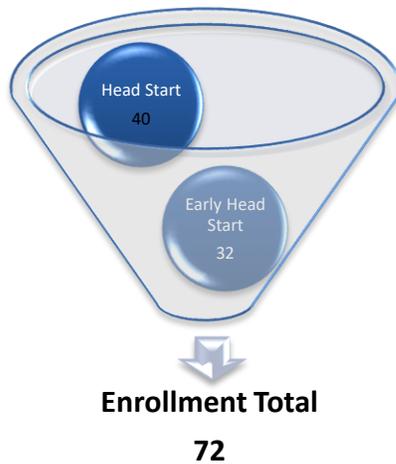
Category	Head Start	Early Head Start	Total
Personnel	26,145	3,230	29,375
PR Tax & Fringe	4,702	581	5,283
Travel	-	-	-
Training	-	-	-
Contractual	19,362	4,542	23,904
Supplies	43,649	10,239	53,887
Insurance	-	-	-
Occupancy	5,873	1,378	7,251
Communications	-	-	-
Food	-	-	-
Equipment	162,732	6,315	169,047
Vehicle Expense	4,660	1,093	5,754
Other	-	-	-
Total Federal Dollars	267,124	27,377	294,501
Non-Federal	-	-	-
Total Budget	267,124	27,377	294,501

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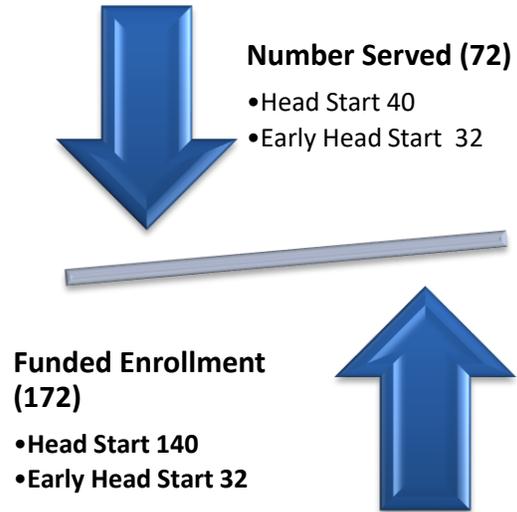
Head Start Families and Community Volunteers generated the non-federal match to the federal grant dollars through volunteer time and donations. Waiver Granted Due To COVID -19

Enrollment

Total Number of Families Served



Total Number of Children Served



Percentage of Eligible Children Served

Program	Applications Received	Eligible Children Served	Percentage
Head Start	72	40	55.56%
Early Head Start	60	32	53.33%
Total	132	72	54.55%

Preparing Children for School

Efforts to prepare children for kindergarten begin as soon as a child is enrolled in one of our Head Start programs. The center staff, along with the parents, reviews the child’s health and nutrition history, as well as completes the required developmental screenings within the first 45 days of enrollment. Our programs encourage parent participation in the screening process by using the Ages and Stage Questionnaires as our developmental screener, and the Age and Stages Social/Emotional Questionnaires as our behavioral screener.

Curriculum

Throughout the program year, our teaching staff implements the researched-based early childhood curriculum of Let’s Begin with the Letter People for children ages 3 years to 5 years and Creative Curriculum for Infants, Toddlers, and Twos for children ages 6 weeks to 36 months. These curricula promote school readiness in the areas of language and cognitive development, early reading and math skills, social emotional development, physical development and approaches to learning. Both curricula are based on scientifically valid research and have standardized training procedures and curriculum materials to support implementation. These curricula are aligned with the Head Start Outcomes Framework and Texas Pre-K Guidelines.

The curriculum is governed by a process of planning, implementing, and evaluating. It is individualized and ever changing. By observing and interacting with the children, teachers develop the use of materials, resources and opportunities to foster the learning of each unique individual in their class. The strategies to support children's learning are developed through ongoing observations and assessment of each child. Ongoing observations and assessments provide an overall picture of each child from entry to transition from the program. GETCAP Head Start uses the data from these assessments to analyze the program's effectiveness towards meeting child outcomes.

GETCAP Head Start's school readiness plan is designed to meet the standards outlined in Head Start Performance Standards as well as our program goals for Head Start and Early Head Start children and their families. The program is based on the sound principles and philosophy of developmentally appropriate practices that children develop best when the total development of each child is promoted through an integrated approach using a variety of educational opportunities provided by staff and parents. The opportunities provided by competent education staff will develop behaviors that facilitate autonomy, openness, problem-solving ability and personal integrity at each child's own individual rate of development. Emphasis is placed on the development of the whole child and addresses all aspects of development and learning, including physical, emotional, cognitive, and language.

GETCAP Head Start and Early Head Start provides each child with a learning environment and the varied experiences to help them develop socially, intellectually, physically and emotionally in a manner appropriate to their age and stage of development. The environment is safe and nurturing allowing children to explore and experience the environment based on their developmental level, abilities, and interests.

School Readiness Goals

GETCAP Head Start has established the following school readiness goals:

1. Physical Development and Health – *Goal – Head Start Children will be healthy and increase their knowledge and skills to make healthy choices.*
2. Social and Emotional Development – *Goal – Head Start children will possess a confident self – identity, the ability to regulate their own behavior and the ability to establish and maintain positive relationships.*
3. Approaches to Learning – *Goal – Head Start children will develop the curiosity and confidence to identify, address and solve problems in a variety of developmentally appropriate ways.*
4. Language and Literacy – *Goal – Head Start children will develop the ability to express their ideas, observations and feelings and understand the ideas, observations and feelings of others.*
5. Cognition and General Knowledge – *Goal – Head Start children will develop skills and abilities to use reasoning and problem solving to understand, classify, and assimilate information, situations, and concepts.*

Analysis of our school readiness goals have indicated that our goals are valid and our children are leaving us school ready. We will focus training and coaching for teachers to collect, assign and score data correctly and gather and input data in a timely manner. We will work with ISD classrooms and administrators to gather the required data and get it into the assessment system. Additionally, we will train classroom staff to gather anecdotal recordings of children's behavior to better determine the impact of behaviors on development

Partnerships

In order to better prepare GETCAP Head Start students for kindergarten, it is important to establish partnerships with the school districts in which children will be entering. This helps Head Start and the ISD's join resources and coordinate approaches to teaching including curriculum and classroom practices.

Health Services are Educational Services

GETCAP's commitment to wellness embraces a comprehensive vision of health for children and their families. GETCAP, through collaboration among families, staff and health professionals, assure all child health and developmental concerns are identified. Children and their families are linked to a continuous, accessible health care so that a relationship may develop between the provider and the family that will continue after the child leaves the Head Start program. Each child visits a health care provider, on a schedule of preventive and primary health care, to ensure that problems are quickly identified and addressed. Early identification and treatment of health problems reduce complications and improve health outcomes

With increased awareness of the long-term effects of childhood obesity, emphasis is placed on healthy meal, snacks and cooking experiences throughout school activities and in communication with families. Staff Wellness Program is offered as an educational and recreational opportunity to staff. This program is also available to Head Start parents. The Staff Wellness Program is designed to motivate healthy choices among parents and staff to change lives, enhance health awareness, and to create a working environment that supports good health practices

Nutrition

A child's nutrition is important to their physical and mental development. GETCAP Head Start's child nutrition services assist families in meeting each child's nutrition needs and in establishing good eating habits that nurture health development and promote life-long wellbeing. Through participation in the Child and Adult Feeding Program (CACFP), children attending a Head Start center receive a nutritious breakfast, lunch, and snack that provides at least 2/3 of the daily nutritional requirement.

GETCAP Head Start nutrition consultant works with our program about 40 hours per month. Nutrition assessment are reviewed and completed for each child. Nutrition workshops, training, and cooking activities are available throughout the year.

Children with Special Needs

Disabilities Services

GETCAP Head Start has been a pioneering meeting the needs of preschool children with special needs in a mainstream setting. Children with physical, emotional and learning disabilities, and their non-disabled peers, learn from one another and from teachers, therapists and parents. The program works collaboratively with the Local Education Agencies and Early Childhood Intervention Agency to develop and implement individual education plans for children diagnosed with a disability.

Head Start also has an impressive history of providing services to children with disabilities by supporting their inclusion in all classroom and program experiences. Since 1972, Head Start has operated under a mandate to make available, at a minimum, ten percent of its enrollment

opportunities to children with disabilities. Head Start and Early Head Start programs partner with Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and Early Childhood Intervention Agency to design individual education plans for children with disabilities and provide services to promote each child's development.

Mental Health

A child's mental health is just as important as his or her physical health. GETCAP Head Start makes mental health a priority by providing screenings and treatment services. Given the sensitivity of mental health issues, GETCAP Head Start strives to build trusting relationships between children, parents, staff, mental health professionals and the larger community. Mental health professionals visit on-site to assess children's needs; conduct parent workshops; train staff in making referrals to needed services; and act as a liaison between the families and community mental health resources.

Professional Development

GETCAP Head Start implemented the Conscious Discipline system as a comprehensive self-regulation program that integrates social-emotional learning and discipline. This program has helped us to better address the needs and concerns of parents, teachers, and community regarding children's behavior and ability to self-regulate.