



ARKANSAS

HEAD START

ANNUAL REPORT



Save the Children®



Head Start

20-21 School Year Results

Head Start Annual Report

Reflections from Our Director

Our Head Start community has always known we are much stronger when we act together. This past year has probably been one of the most challenging years we've faced in my thirty-five years in Head Start. However, regardless of the COVID-19 pandemic we continue to face, Save the Children Head Start in Eastern Arkansas continues to remain committed to the children and families in our communities.

Our 2020-2021 program year got off to a shaky start when during our first week of Pre-Service, all staff were exposed to COVID and had to quarantine for 14 days. In spite of having to work from home, the staff worked with families virtually through Skype meetings and phone calls to complete pre-enrollment family and education home visits. Even though services to children were delayed a week, we were fortunate that we didn't have to close the centers due to COVID again for the remainder of the program year.

During this program year our services looked a lot different than in previous "normal" years. Classrooms at our Forrest City and Patterson Centers were re-arranged to allow smaller spaces for groups of 4-5 children and one teacher and were limited to no more than 10 children in a classroom. Thankfully, we also had some families who asked for virtual services provided through weekly lessons, learning packets and the new *Teaching Strategies Creative Curriculum CLOUD*. So, up to 10 Head Start children at each center and five EHS children received services in the classrooms. The remaining nine Head Start and four EHS children received virtual learning. The ARcare Center was able to maintain all ABC/HS children in classroom learning because they had enough extra space to add additional learning areas and spread children out throughout the day.

The program received extra COVID funds which were used to purchase masks, gloves, and other materials needed to keep children, staff, and all centers and classrooms clean and healthy. Air purifiers were added to classrooms and offices. Special disinfecting mist foggers and hand-held misters were purchased to use in maintaining clean environments and toys. Extra supplies were purchased to allow each child to have an individual box of art and fine motor supplies and learning packets. Two weeks of learning materials

were sent home bi-weekly so children could learn at home. Through-out the year, special donations of supplies and food were sorted by staff and delivered to families' homes as needed.

Staff worked really hard work to plan and implement both individualized classroom activities and virtual lessons for children who learned at home. Additional training and support was provided to staff throughout the year through REACH, providing mental health support in working with children with difficult behaviors. Additional mindfulness training for staff was also a focus during this difficult year of supporting and helping to meet the needs of families.

As we begin another year, we continue to take extra precautions to ensure everyone remains safe. We are, and always have been in this together, and it is our privilege to continue to bring Head Start and EHS services to our communities in Eastern Arkansas.

Sincerely,



Jana Bays
SCUS HS Program Director
jbays@savechildren.org



About Arkansas Head Start

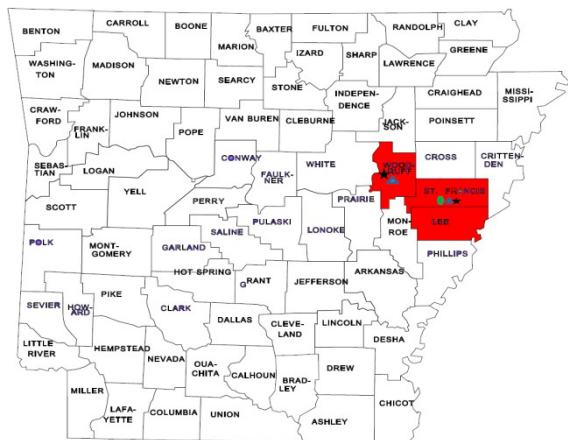
Save the Children has been operating the E-AR Head Start Program in three counties (St. Francis, Lee and Woodruff) since 2011. Head Start services have been provided in two Head Start Centers, one in Forrest City in St. Francis County and the other in Patterson in Woodruff County. In 2018, we developed a new partnership with ARcare Center for Education and Wellness in Augusta, located in Woodruff County. ARcare serves 30 children in two dual enrolled Head Start and state-funded Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) classrooms. In 2019, we opened the first EHS program for pregnant women and children from birth-to-three in our three county service area. In the summer of 2021, we were awarded a new Head Start/EHS grant in Southeastern Arkansas to serve Ashley, Bradley, Chicot, Desha and Drew Counties. This program will serve 153 Head Start and 60 EHS children and families.

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Program highlights:

- ❑ 100% of children had some form of health insurance.
- ❑ 100% of children were fully immunized.
- ❑ 27% of children had an Individual Education Plan (IEP) or Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) and received services for their disability.

Service Area Map showing E-AR programs



As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, services to children were very different during this program year. Strong COVID protocols were implemented from the beginning of the program year to ensure children, staff and families remained safe and healthy. Some of the new protocols implemented were:

- ❖ Staff received training on COVID-19 symptoms, safe practices and procedures during pre-service.
- ❖ Drop-off and pick-up stations were developed outside the front door of the center so that staff and families could complete the COVID-19 health questionnaires and health check prior to staff and children entering the center.
- ❖ Head Start services were provided using both center-based and home-based services. Families who chose to keep their children at home received HS lessons two times per week with their teachers. 12 children received virtual lessons, nine in Head Start and three in EHS.
- ❖ Parent conferences and home visits were completed virtually to limit possible COVID exposure.
- ❖ Every classroom was equipped with air purifying systems to maintain clean air throughout the day.
- ❖ Special foggers and sanitizing spray was used to disinfect classrooms and children's toys.
- ❖ Both children and staff wore masks while indoors.

ARKANSAS HEAD START BY THE NUMBERS

Number of Centers	03
Children Served by Head Start/EHS	73
Families Served by Head Start/EHS	62
Children identified as American Indian	1
Children identified as African American	35
Children identified as Caucasian	27
Children identified as Multi-Racial	8
Children experiencing homelessness	6
Children in Foster Care	5
Number of Local Head Start Staff	16
Number of Local ABC/HS Partnership Staff	6

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Save the Children prides itself of leading Head Start programs that are two-generational, serving children and parents alike. During the 2020-2021 school year, we:

- ❑ Completed family assessments with all families and helped families with resources to meet family goals.
- ❑ Held parent-training opportunities using Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (CSEFEL) curriculum.
- ❑ 100% of families had a Family Partnership Agreement.



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KINDERGARTEN READINESS

The transition to kindergarten is a major milestone in the lives of children and their families. In addition, when transitions are well planned, children have fewer adjustment problems and more continuous developmental success. This year, twenty-nine children graduated from Head Start and are beginning their elementary school years this fall in kindergarten.

Here are just some of the ways we helped both children and families prepare for kindergarten:

- **TS GOLD shows children meeting or exceeding expectations across domains.** Data showed that at the end of the year children met expectations in the following areas:
 - 96.3% in Social & Emotional Development
 - 92.6% in Physical Development
 - 88.9% in Cognitive Development
 - 92.6% in Literacy Development
 - 92.6% in Mathematics
- **Twenty children received special needs services during the year.** The local LEA staff screened children within 45-days of enrollment and then provided one-on-one therapy services in each center to promote learning and development. Teachers helped to continue learning throughout the week in the classroom or through virtual lessons and sent activities to parents to do at home to support their child's learning.
- **Parents are involved in helping develop their child's developmental goals.** Head Start teachers began using Teaching Strategies Creative Curriculum CLOUD with families. This digital curriculum supported the teachers in partnering with families to promote learning at home.
- **Head Start and EHS children checked a book out every day through our Reading One-on-One program to take for reading at home with parents and/or other family members.** Books were included in the learning packets sent home for virtual learners.

LOOKING AHEAD

Building upon a successful but challenging 2020-2021 school year, Save the Children Head Start in Arkansas remains dedicated to making School Readiness our primary goal to ensure that children are ready for kindergarten.

As we move into the new program year in 2021-2022 we will continue making changes as needed to our services to ensure children, families and staff stay healthy and safe as they participate in Head Start services during a pandemic. Although there continues to be a need to maintain our COVID safety protocols, all children are expected to return to classroom learning this program year. Teachers will individualize learning activities for each child using the Cloud curriculum to promote readiness skills and the teachers can share the same activities with parents to extend classroom learning into the home. In this way, we will still promote parents as their child's first and most important teacher. Parents will also be able to support their child's on-going assessment by submitting observations and/or photos to the teacher to upload as part of the child's assessment portfolio.

We will partner with families to support their progress toward improved well-being and self-sufficiency. Parents will be able to participate in CSEFEL (Center on the Social Emotional Foundations of Early Learning) training during the year. Additional training will also be provided to parents based on family needs and trends learned from the Family Needs Assessment completed by families during the year.

Over the summer of 2021, SCUS Head Start Programs was awarded five new Head Start grants in four states – North Carolina, Tennessee, Arkansas and Oklahoma. The Arkansas grant in five southeastern counties (Ashley, Bradley, Chicot, Desha and Drew) will be consolidated with the EAR program. Through this consolidation several new staff, an Assistant Program Director, PFCE Manager, Fiscal Coordinator and Data and Reporting Specialist were added to the management team to oversee both Eastern and Southeastern AR. In addition, a new Administrative Assistant position was added in the EAR office to help with non-federal match and general office responsibilities. We look forward to the new ideas and opportunities these staff will bring to our program.

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FINANCIALS

In 2020, the Eastern Arkansas Head Start program received \$1,075,044, mostly in public funds and gift-in-kind donations. This is an increase from 2019 due to the program getting more funding related to COVID and an increase in Gifts in Kind. The majority of funds in 2020 – approximately \$677K, or 63 percent – were used for Personnel costs, with the remainder of funds used for facilities, supplies, or other program implementation costs.

SOURCES OF FUNDING

Program		Eastern Arkansas
Funding Type		2020 Spend
Gift In Kind		\$ 199,391
Private		\$ 17,618
Public		\$ 834,670
Undesignated		\$ 23,366
Grand Total		\$ 1,075,044

FY20 BUDGETARY EXPENDITURES

Program		Eastern Arkansas
Cost Category		2020 Spend
All Other		\$ 2,446
Office and Facilities		\$ 124,349
Personnel		\$ 676,990
Supplies, Transportation and Implementation		\$ 271,259
Grand Total		\$ 1,075,044

SECRETARY REVIEW & FINANCIAL AUDIT RESULTS

Save the Children's Head Start programs are included in the annual Save the Children A-133 Audit. There were no findings related to Head Start in the audit for fiscal year ending 2020.

FY20 BUDGET

Our FY21 budget is \$1.1 million, a slight increase due to increased funding opportunities related to COVID. The Below is the allocation breakdown for the type of funding on the left and the cost category on the right.

SOURCES OF FUNDING

Program		Eastern Arkansas
Funding Type		2021 Budget
Gift In Kind		\$ 152,242
Private		\$ 113,086
Public		\$ 839,122
Undesignated		\$ 4,516
Grand Total		\$ 1,108,966

FY21 BUDGET

Program		Eastern Arkansas
Cost Category		2021 Budget
Office and Facilities		\$ 42,803
Personnel		\$ 740,308
Supplies, Transportation, and Implementation		\$ 325,855
Grand Total		\$ 1,108,966

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Arkansas Head Start Sites

SITE	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	PHONE
EAR Administration Office	224 N. Rosser Street	Forrest City	AR	72335	(870) 494-4010
ARCare Center For Education & Wellness (ABC/HS)	800 Main Street	Augusta	AR	72006	(870) 347-3400
Forrest City Head Start	954 Rice Street	Forrest City	AR	72335	(870) 633-2821
Patterson Head Start	113 N Main	Patterson	AR	72123	(870) 731-2005
SEAR Administration Office	516 West Gaines Street	Monticello	AR	71655	(870) 224-8071
Crossett Head Start	500 Main Street	Crossett	AR	71635	(870) 364-5582
Dermott EHS Home Base	524 East Speedway	Dermott	AR	71648	(870) 538-0015
Dumas Head Start/EHS	244 S. Main Street	Dumas	AR	71639	(870) 382-0688
Hamburg Head Start/EHS	613 S. Main Street	Hamburg	AR	71646	(870) 831-5003
McGehee Head Start	800 South First Street	McGehee	AR	71654	(870) 501-8005
Monticello Head Start	175 Henley Street	Monticello	AR	71657	(870) 224-8045
Warren Head Start/EHS	1312 West Pine Street	Warren	AR	71671	(870) 466-5025



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Save the Children's Commitment to Head Start

Every child deserves the best chance for a bright future. That is why, for 100 years, Save the Children has been working in the United States and around the world to keep children healthy, educated and safe. We deliver lasting results for millions of children, including those hardest to reach. Here at home, that means focusing our efforts on serving children in rural America. From our earliest days in Appalachia to the present, Save the Children is committed to meeting children's needs, going where others cannot, filling critical gaps in services and delivering scalable solutions to the challenges children face.

In 2011, Save the Children identified a failing Head Start program in Eastern Arkansas with no viable local providers. In the absence, Save the Children applied for and was awarded our first Head Start grant. Since then, we have been awarded additional grants and currently operate Head Start and Early Head Start programs in rural communities in five states: Arkansas, Louisiana, North Carolina, Oklahoma and Tennessee.

Questions about Save the Children's work in Arkansas may be directed to Jana Bays by email at jbays@savechildren.org or by phone at (479) 970-6136. Arvelis Byrd serves as the Executive Director of Save the Children's Head Start Programs and can be reached at arbyrd@savechildren.org.



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