

2020 Head Start Community Needs Assessment (CNA) Update

This updated information is being added to the 2016 CNA. This data summarizes the information requested in 1302.11(b)(2) of the Head Start regulations.

1. *Demographic make-up of Head Start eligible children, including number, location, and racial composition.*

Population under age 5 by County

County	2014-2018 American Community Survey Estimates	2010 Census Data
Audubon	294	335
Calhoun	560	550
Carroll	1,349	1,464
Dallas	6,666	5,772
Greene	504	520
Guthrie	563	615
Sac	558	596

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2014-2018 5 Year Estimates & U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census Data.

Poverty Status

County	Children 0-5 in Poverty	% of children in Poverty 0-5
Audubon	44	15.03%
Calhoun	92	16.38%
Carroll	119	8.85%
Dallas	424	6.36%
Greene	41	8.22%
Guthrie	78	14.01%
Sac	75	13.41%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Poverty Status in the past 12 Months by Sex and Age. 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

Race of Children 0-4 by County

County	White	Black/African American	American Indian/Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	Other Race	Multiple Race
Audubon	294	0	0	0	0	0	0

Calhoun	549	2	0	0	0	0	9
Carroll	1,337	0	0	0	0	0	12
Dallas	5,911	69	25	288	0	20	353
Greene	486	0	0	0	0	0	18
Guthrie	559	0	0	0	0	0	4
Sac	555	0	0	0	0	0	3

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014-2018 Estimates.

County	Number 0-4 Hispanic
Audubon	1
Calhoun	12
Carroll	9
Dallas	516
Greene	24
Guthrie	33
Sac	26

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014-2018 Estimates.

According to the 2018 population estimates released by the U.S. Census Bureau, six of the seven counties within the New Opportunities, Inc. Head Start service area have continued to decline in overall population in the past year. The one county with continued increases in population remains Dallas County. Consistent with past years, Dallas County continues to see a fair amount of growth year over year; however, despite these increases, the overall number of children living in poverty has remained fairly steady, rising only slightly. (based upon 2013-2017 American Community Survey data and 2014-2018 American Community Survey data).

The data gathered reflects the vast majority of children living in the seven county area served by New Opportunities programs are white and are English speaking, however, it is noted that the exceptionally high number of Hispanic 0-5 children in Dallas County represents a very specific need within that county. Dallas County is home to the community of Perry which is home to a large Hispanic or Latino population. The U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2014-2018 data showed that 6.1% of all Dallas County residents are estimated to be of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity; however, data from U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts for Perry, Iowa reflects the city of Perry as 36.3% Hispanic or Latino population. The

high concentration of Hispanic or Latino population is a unique opportunity to the Head Start program as it works to provide services and support to those families.

The ever increasing number of children speaking a language other than English also provides a unique opportunity to the Head Start program. While past years have seen a multitude of Spanish speaking children and families enroll into Head Start/Early Head Start, the past several years have brought about increased diversity. The Head Start 2020-202 school year shows approximately 16% Spanish speaking families/children as well as a small segment (5%) of families and children who speak Arabic and other languages (Korean, Burmese, French, and Vietnamese).

Confirmed and Founded Cases of Child Neglect and Abuse

County	Confirmed or Founded abuse total children	Number of children 5 or younger with confirmed or founded abuse
Audubon	24	15
Calhoun	47	22
Carroll	91	44
Dallas	131	61
Greene	46	23
Guthrie	31	17
Sac	34	16

Source: Iowa Department of Human Services; Assessed Reports of Child Neglect and Abuse by level of finding for CY2019.

Percentage of Children in Poverty Receiving Head Start Services

County	Number of EHS/ Head Start Slots	Number of Children 0-5 living in Poverty	Percentage of Children Living in Poverty Receiving EHS/Head Start
Audubon	14	44	31.68%
Calhoun	17	92	18.53%
Carroll	64	119	53.61%%
Dallas	103	424	24.29%
Greene	48	41	100%
Guthrie	20	78	25.58%
Sac	30	75	40.09%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Poverty Status in the past 12 Months by Sex and Age. 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

Opportunity: Looking at the data provided above, the opportunity exists to reach a greater number of children with Early Head Start and Head Start services in nearly every county. The counties that present the greatest opportunity are Calhoun, Dallas, and Guthrie. Based upon this data in all three counties, and the ever increasing population of children in poverty in Dallas County specifically, it will be necessary to continue to assess opportunities to grow the Early Head Start and Head Start programs in this area with the intention of serving more children in need.

An additional opportunity for the program is to continue to strengthen the services being provided to dual language learners and families who speak languages other than English. It will be imperative, as diversity increases, to determine creative ways to communicate with those of languages other than English. The program has adapted well to the Hispanic population in the program; though other languages have presented a bit more of a challenge.

2. Other child development programs serving Head Start eligible children.

The New Opportunities, Inc. Head Start program partners with six school districts (Panora, Coon Rapids, Audubon, Schaller, Rockwell City/Lake City & Jefferson) in its seven county service area to provide services to Head Start eligible children in the elementary school. In three (Panora, Schaller, & Jefferson-4 year olds only) out of the six districts, New Opportunities and the district blend Head Start and Iowa Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program (SVPP) funds to provide full day services to Head Start eligible four year old children. In two districts (Audubon & Jefferson-3 year olds only), Head Start and the school district blend funding to provide enrolled children with a minimum of 1,020 hours of instruction per year. In two additional districts (Carroll & Sac City), the New Opportunities, Inc. Head Start program collaborates to provide full day services, ½ day Head Start and ½ day SVPP for eligible four year olds.

In one district served by New Opportunities, Inc. Head Start, there is no free preschool programming other than Head Start (Waukee). The Head Start program provides a full day of Head Start preschool and

fills a gap within the community for families who do not have the means to pay for preschool for their children. It is important to note that the Waukee Community School District has begun having discussions within the community regarding their plans to apply for the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program grant. At this stage, the school district has building work that must be completed before they could consider taking this step.

In the communities of Perry, Panora, Jefferson, Carroll, Coon Rapids, Audubon, Schaller, Sac, Rockwell City, and Lake City, 3 year old children have limited preschool options. Some school districts offer three year old tuition based preschool within the district. Other communities rely on private preschool for three year olds. In 2017-2018, New Opportunities, Inc. Head Start expanded to offer three year olds in Perry, Waukee, and Carroll full day preschool alongside their four year old peers. In 2019-2020, Jefferson and Audubon were added to this list. These full day programs fill a gap within the community for quality early childhood programming.

Opportunity: After seeing a greater margin of achievement with children attending full day preschool, the opportunity and challenge to the Head Start program would be to continue to expand the Head Start program to provide full day services in the districts where this is not currently taking place. The program has engaged in conversations with Rockwell City/Lake City and Coon Rapids about these options; however, space limitations have caused barriers. Additionally, because of these space limitations in some district partnerships limited three year olds may receive Head Start services. The opportunity for the program is to continue working with districts where full day services are not available to eligible four year olds and build a full day option in these locations. Another opportunity exists to continue working towards serving more three year old children in districts where this is limited due to capacity reasons.

3. *The education, health, nutrition, and social service needs of eligible children.*

Actual Number of Documented Disabilities, Age 0-5

County	Children Birth to 5
Audubon	22
Calhoun	43
Carroll	63
Dallas	288
Greene	37
Guthrie	18
Sac	35

Source: Heartland and Prairie Lakes Area Education Agency, as reported in 2020.

In the New Opportunities, Inc. Head Start/Early Head Start area, 506 children are identified with disabilities age 5 and under. Children identified receive services from the Area Education Agency (AEA). During the 2019-2020 program year the program served 45 Head Start children and 3 Early Head Start children with a documented disability. The continuing school district partnerships between local school districts and New Opportunities, Inc. Head Start provide the opportunity for children to receive educational services as outlined on their Individual Education Plan (IEP) by teachers with Special Education endorsements. For children within the Head Start non-partnership locations, the educational services outlined by the IEP are fulfilled by the area school districts while the Head Start classroom teachers work to individualize for the child in an effort to assist with meeting IEP goals and objectives.

The New Opportunities, Inc. Head Start & Early Head Start programs have a longstanding working relationship with two local Area Education Agencies. These working relationships provide the access to services for families and children with disabilities in both classrooms with or without Special Education endorsed teachers.

Opportunity: The opportunities in this area include continuing to work with local AEA and school district partnerships to build relationships and to ensure children with disabilities are receiving the services needed while enabling them to continue to be a part of Head Start/Early Head Start. This can be especially challenging in communities with full day Head Start only centers (i.e. Waukee, Perry, Carroll

Full Day). Additionally, continuing to reach out within the communities served by Early Head Start and Head Start to recruit children with disabilities. This can be a challenge especially in the birth to three age. Finally, refining and providing education on the program internal referral process to ensure children with suspected disabilities are recognized as early as possible.

Adult Education Information

County	Adults 18-24, % with No High School Diploma	% Lacking Literacy Skills (based upon population over age 16)
Audubon	11.4%	9.0%
Calhoun	11.5%	7.0%
Carroll	12.8%	7.0%
Dallas	16.7%	7.0%
Greene	13.7%	8.0%
Guthrie	11.3%	8.0%
Sac	10.2%	8.0%

**Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014-2018. National Center for Education Statistics, NCES – Estimates of Low Literacy, 2003.*

Of the families of children enrolled in the New Opportunities, Inc. Head Start program in 2019-2020, approximately 19% had no high school diploma or equivalent. This percentage is a bit higher than the data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau for the New Opportunities, Inc. Head Start service area.

The 2019-2020 New Opportunities, Inc. data showed that out of a total of 278 children served, 41% were either overweight or obese (overweight: BMI at or above 85th percentile to 95th percentile, obese: BMI at or above 95th percentile). High rates of overweight and obese children indicate further need for nutritional education of children and parents. The program continues to implement ‘I am Moving, I am Learning’ in the Head Start classrooms and place added emphasis on outdoor time and overall physical movement.

Nutritional Information

County	% of students eligible for free and reduced lunch program	% of individuals receiving Food Assistance
Audubon	40.4%	9.4%
Calhoun	36.3%	8.7%
Carroll	38%	8.4%
Dallas	22.4%	4.0%
Perry	73.4%	
Greene	46.6%	12.4%
Guthrie	36.5%	8.7%
Sac	40.7%	7.7%

**Source: Kids Count Data Reports 2018.*

The percentage of students eligible for the free and reduced lunch program within each county eludes to low income families who may not have the resources present to provide healthy meals for their children while out of school. The most glaring concern exists within the Perry Community School District as is evident by the 73.4% of all students who are eligible. Aside from Perry, Greene County is higher than the state average of 46.6% with Audubon and Sac very close under the state average. The number of students eligible for free and reduced meals shows need for programs such as Head Start that provide nutritious meals to enrolled children.

County Unemployment Rates

County	Percentage Unemployed -2018
Audubon	2.4%
Calhoun	2.5%
Carroll	1.9%
Dallas	1.7%
Greene	2.3%
Guthrie	2.6%
Sac	2.4%

**Source: Kids Count Data Reports, 2018 Data.*

The data in the above table reflects a decrease in unemployment from 2017 to 2018. This trend is positive, suggesting that more people within each of the counties have access to work. The 2019-2020 New Opportunities, Inc. Head Start program report indicated 23.18% of Head Start/Early Head Start

parents were not working. This percentage is well above the unemployment percentage within each of the counties served by the program.

Confirmed or Founded Cases of Child Abuse

County	Confirmed or Founded abuse total children	Number of children 5 or younger with confirmed or founded abuse	Children in Foster Care
Audubon	24	15	18
Calhoun	47	22	40
Carroll	91	44	49
Dallas	131	61	116
Greene	46	23	46
Guthrie	31	17	37
Sac	34	16	13

Source: Iowa Department of Human Services; Assessed Reports of Child Neglect and Abuse by level of finding for CY2019 & Iowa Data Center, Number of Children in Foster Care, 2019.

The well-being of all children is a major concern within the Head Start program. When surveyed in the spring of 2020, of all respondents within the Head Start program, 40% indicated challenging child behaviors as a primary concern their family most often faces. The program provides parent education in an array of topics including safe ways to discipline children. The program has adopted the Love and Logic parenting curriculum to assist with providing parents effective parenting skills. Especially concerning is the continuing increase of confirmed or founded child abuse or neglect cases in four of the seven counties served by New Opportunities Head Start. This increase illustrates the need for additional parenting skills training for families within these communities.

Data on Expectant Mothers

	Audubon	Calhoun	Carroll	Dallas	Greene	Guthrie	Sac
Prenatal Care	71.7%	82.6%	84.6%	87.4%	85.7%	78.8%	84.1%
Teen Births	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.8%	2.5%	N/A	N/A
Low Birthweight	N/A	7.1%	N/A	7.6%	6.4%	N/A	8.0%

**Source: Annie E Casey Foundation, Kids Count Data Center, 2017 Data (low birthweight & teen births), 2018 Data (prenatal care).*

The above table shows the percentage of mothers receiving prenatal care within the first trimester of their pregnancy. The teen births category reflects the number of infants born to teen mothers, age 15-19, and the Low Birthweight category shows the percentage of infants determined to have low birthweight.

A target population for Early Head Start remains teen expectant mothers and those low income expectant mothers who are at higher risk for not obtaining proper prenatal care during the pregnancy and also at increased risk for low birthweight babies.

Opportunity:

The communities served by New Opportunities, Inc. Head Start & Early Head Start programs have an array of programs and services that can be offered to families, many of which are offered through the umbrella of services offered by New Opportunities, Inc. Such programs include LIHEAP, Weatherization, Toys for Tots, Food Pantry, WIC, Maternal Health, Substance Abuse Treatment, Back to School supplies, etc. The ability to provide such services to Head Start & Early Head Start families with ease enables the program to meet many of the immediate needs of the families served.

An opportunity for the program includes finding ways to get parents to attend and engage in parenting skills classes within the rural New Opportunities Head Start service area. The number of founded and confirmed child abuse cases has seen an increase within the counties served by the program. A challenge of the program is to find ways to support families and assist in reversing this trend.

A second opportunity that exists for the New Opportunities, Inc. Early Head Start program is finding ways to reach high risk pregnant mothers. With the addition of 32 center based Early Head Start slots in Perry and in Carroll, the program will be looking to recruit more expectant mothers into Early Head Start home visitation.

4. *Other child development, child care centers, and family child care programs that serve eligible children and the approximate number of children served.*

Child Care Availability

County	Total Registered Child Care Homes	Total Registered Child Care spaces	Total 0-5 population	% of families where all parents work and there are children under 6	Estimated number of children needing child care	Number of children without a registered child care spot	Percent of children without a registered child care spot
Audubon	11	166	379	80%	303	137	45.25%
Calhoun	9	187	710	74%	525	338	64.41%
Carroll	38	769	1,564	88%	1,376	607	44.13%
Dallas	77	6,248	8,453	71%	6,002	0	0%
Greene	10	333	659	86%	567	234	41.24%
Guthrie	11	213	694	83%	576	363	63.02%
Sac	4	170	706	83%	586	416	70.99%

Source: 2019 Child Care Resource and Referral Data Sheets.

The data regarding child care availability in the New Opportunities, Inc. Head Start seven county service area is concerning and unfortunately, the availability of quality child care in many of the communities shown continues to decrease. As an example of this trend, the number of registered spaces in Carroll County decreased by 102 from 2018 to 2019. The number of children without quality child care is substantial as demonstrated by the preceding table. The annual program parent survey distributed and completed by 104 families in the spring of 2020 reflected 48% of respondents have their child(ren) being cared for by friends or family (this is considerably higher than past years). Additionally, 81% of respondents indicated they would use a Head Start child care program if it were available and

approximately 21% of all respondents listed lack of quality child care as a concern their family faces. Presently, approximately 28% of all respondents utilize child care for 30-40 hours per week.

Opportunity:

Child care is a significant area of opportunity for New Opportunities, Inc. Head Start. The program has the infrastructure available to implement high quality early childhood programs and will be adding Early Head Start Center Based programming to its suite of programs in 2020. The program will start these centers in Perry and Carroll. Based upon the data in other communities, an opportunity exists to continue to explore opportunities to add Early Head Start Center Based programming, to work with area child care centers as partners, or to consider conversion of slots from Head Start to Early Head Start center based to meet this need within the communities being served.

5. *Resources available in the communities to address the needs of eligible children.*

The New Opportunities, Inc. Early Head Start home based program serves only 4 of the 7 counties served by the Head Start program. Currently, the following home visitation programs for birth to three are available:

Audubon: HOPES
Calhoun: Family Foundations
Carroll: Early Head Start & HOPES
Dallas: Early Head Start & Parents As Teachers
Greene: Early Head Start & HOPES
Guthrie: Early Head Start & HOPES
Sac: Family Steps Program

These programs work together closely to ensure as many families as possible are served through home based visitation.

Statewide Voluntary Preschool programs (Universal PreK) are available in all but one of the districts served by Head Start. The one district without free preschool for eligible four year olds is Waukee in Dallas County; however, this district has begun discussions regarding expanding their preschool program to include Universal PreK. Statewide Voluntary Preschool in Iowa is a 10 hour per week minimum (most programs run 2.5 hours per day, four days per week). The program generally does not provide meals for children and does not include three year olds (unless they are on an IEP). While there are definite differences between Head Start and Statewide Voluntary Preschool programs, it would appear that most four year olds in the counties served by Head Start are receiving at least some preschool at age four. The following table shows the preschool enrollment percentages by ECI (Early Childhood Iowa) area.

Preschool Enrollment

Counties	Percentage of four year old children receiving preschool
Adair, Dallas , Madison & Warren	84%
Audubon, Carroll, Greene & Guthrie	92%
Buena Vista, Crawford & Sac	93%
Calhoun , Pocahontas & Webster	80%

When considering three year old preschool, Early Childhood Iowa can provide scholarships for three year old preschool in select counties within the New Opportunities Head Start area. In the Head Start service area, three year old preschools are not always regulated nor are the services as comprehensive or as long in duration as those of Head Start. The following represents the number of three year old (non-Head Start) preschool programs available in the counties served by the Head Start program. The

Head Start program provides preschool for three year olds in Audubon, Calhoun, Carroll, Dallas, Greene, Guthrie, and Sac Counties.

Three Year Old Preschool Programs

County	Number of Three Year Old Preschool Programs	Notes (Numbers do not include Head Start program in the county)
Audubon	1	
Calhoun	1	
Carroll	3	One program is in Manning (others in Carroll)
Dallas	18	
Greene	2	
Guthrie	2	This program is in Guthrie Center
Sac	2	

**Data provided by Early Childhood Iowa, 2019.*

Opportunity:

Continue working with local Early Childhood Iowa boards to make children’s issues visible.

Collaborate with Statewide Voluntary Preschool programs to expand full day preschool to additional locations (i.e. Coon Rapids, Rockwell City, and Lake City). Continue to advocate for quality programming for young children, specifically three year olds.

Continue to monitor the need for services to children 0-3, specifically monitoring the need for center based care, in all counties served by New Opportunities, Inc.

Continue to watch Dallas County closely and ensure that classrooms are located in the correct communities based upon the population growth, ensuring the neediest children are served by Head Start and Early Head Start.

Ensure the Head Start program is culturally aware, being cognizant of the diverse population in Perry and the increasing diversity in other communities. Ensure teachers and staff are able to assist children in learning English as a second language while developing in their own culture and home language.

