



Information is designed to fulfill the requirements of the Head Start Act reports to the general public.

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Tennessee Comprehensive Area Efforts (TN-CAREs) Early Head Start is operated by the Tennessee State University Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences. The Center’s mission is to design and conduct research and services that promote the educational, social, physical and psychological well-being of children and families; and interpret and disseminate research findings to improve public policies that impact educational and organizations and institutions in Tennessee and across the nation.

Tennessee State University Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences has a strong history and commitment to families and the community. The goals of Tennessee State University-Tennessee CAREs Early Head Start (TSU-TN CAREs EHS) Program are consistent with the mission and vision of the Center of Excellence. In addition, TSU-TN CAREs EHS is backed and supported by the expertise and commitment of the entire University. The following projects are examples of successful outreach and community partnerships that enhance the early childhood community along with the Early Head Start Program.

The TSU-TN CAREs EHS is a program focusing on prevention and early intervention with low-income families. Since 1995, this unique project has provided coordinated comprehensive, intensive, and continuous support services to enable families to attain self-sufficiency, while recognizing the integrity and unique needs of these families and children. Prior to becoming an Early Head Start program, TSU-TN CAREs EHS operated a Comprehensive Child Development Program (CCDP) in partnership with the local Head Start program.

The TSU-TN CAREs EHS Project is funded by the Office of Head Start under the direction of the Administration for Children and Families of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The program’s goals encompass successful health, economic and educational outcomes and long-term academic success for children. The goals of the program are consistent with the mission and vision of the Center by supporting the needs of children and their families.

TSU-TN CAREs EHS services Gibson, Henry and Weakley counties in Northwest Tennessee and is federally funded to serve an enrollment of 148 children. The service delivery options available to families are prenatal, center-based, and home-based. Of the 148 children served, 36 children (12 in each county) are in the home-based option and 112 children are in the center-based option.



The program consists of six center-based child care centers. The Central Office is located in Paris, Tennessee and houses the Program Director, Administrative Assistant, Education and Disabilities Coordinator, Family and Community Partnership Coordinator, and the Health and Nutrition Coordinator.

2012-2013 Funding

Funding Sources	Funding for 2012-2013	Projected Funding for 2013-2014
Office of Head Start Grant Funds	\$2,058,037	\$1,949,578
Child and Adult Care Food Program (U.S. Department of Agriculture)	78,924	158,510
Local Match Funding	527,3721	500,257

2012-2013 Budget

Budget Category	2012-2013 Approved Budget	2013-2014 Projected Budget
Personnel	\$1,167,242	\$1,108,224
Fringe Benefits	550,355	432,208
Travel	25,400	20,000
Supplies	39,385	65,271
Contractual	43,050	49,460
Indirect	168,759	174,882
Other	115,297	150,984

Early Head Start Statistics

Number of children funded	148
Percentage of eligible children/ pregnant women served	97%
Number of children/pregnant women served throughout the year	232
Percentage of average monthly enrollment	99%
Percentage of children who are up-to-date on a schedule of age appropriate preventive and primary health care	77%
Number of children up-to-date on immunizations or have received all immunizations possible at this time.	205
Number of children receiving TennCare	215
Number of children with private health insurance	9
Percentage of children served who had a disability	12%
Percentage of children with disability who received special services	100%
Number of families served	180
Percentage of single-parent families	79%
Percentage of single-parent families in which the parent is not working	55%
Percentage of families without a high school education	17%
Percentage of families participation in family goal planning	87%
Number of children funded	148

Most Recent Federal Program Review

Based on the 2010 Federal review of the program there were 2 findings in Financial and Program management, 2 in Program Performance Standards for Operations of Head Start Programs by Grantees and Delegate Agencies, 5 findings in Powers and Functions of Head Start Agencies and 2 findings in Head Start Act. The program did not have the appropriate documentation available at the time of the review to present to reviewers. The items have since been compiled in the response to the Regional Office and all areas of noncompliance cited have been corrected following Head Start Program Performance Standards, regulations, and policy requirements.

Annual Audit

Tennessee State University-Tennessee CAREs Early Head Start had no audit findings in the last audit. To view more details go to:

<http://www.comptroller1.state.tn.us/repository/SA/cu10065.pdf>

Developmentally Appropriate Practice that Lead to School Readiness

TSU-TN CAREs EHS focuses on prevention and early intervention with families. The goals encompass comprehensive health, economic and educational outcomes, and long-term academic success for children and families. Starting with the expectant family in the prenatal phase and ending when the child is three years of age, Tennessee CAREs ensures appropriate continuity of care, and continuous support for school success. Current research affirms that the first three years of life has a direct correlation to school readiness, although Early Head Start children do not transition directly into Kindergarten, we recognize that preparing children for success in school remains our overall goal whether we are serving infants, toddlers or pregnant mothers.

In order to establish school readiness goals for this age group that are inclusive of the domains of language and literacy, cognition and general knowledge, physical well-being and motor development, social and emotional development, and approaches toward learning we have relied on a variety of sources. Partners for a Healthy Baby is the curriculum used for expectant families, the prenatal depression screen is conducted every 2 months during pregnancy. In addition, a postpartum screen is conducted once within six weeks after the baby is born. The Creative Curriculum for Infants, Toddlers and Twos is used in center-based and home-based options. The Denver Developmental Screening Test (Denver II) is a researched based, valid and reliable tool used for developmental screenings of the infants and toddlers. Assessment is the formal and informal, on-going process to determine the strengths and needs of each child. The Teaching Strategies GOLD Assessment Tool is used for all children in the program.

Tennessee CAREs Early Head Start School Readiness Goals

Goals are aligned with The Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework, The Creative Curriculum, and the Tennessee Early Learning Developmental Standards. Goals are tracked utilizing Teaching Strategies Gold Online Assessment System.

1. Physical Development and Health
 - a. The children will demonstrate traveling skills
 - b. The children will demonstrate fine motor strength and coordination
2. Social and Emotional Development
 - a. The children will regulate own emotions and behaviors
 - b. The children will establish and sustain positive relationships

3. Approaches to Learning
 - a. The children will demonstrate positive approaches to learning
 - b. The children will participate cooperatively and constructively in group situations

4. Language and Literacy
 - a. The children will listen to and understand increasingly complex language
 - b. The children will use language to express thoughts and needs

5. Cognition/General Knowledge
 - a. The children will remember and connect experiences
 - b. The children will use symbols and images to represent something not present

2012-2013 School Readiness Improvement

School Readiness Goals	% Growth during Program Year*
Physical Development and Health	18%
Social and Emotional Development	5%
Approaches to Learning	23%
Language and Literacy	17%
Cognition/General Knowledge	16%

*Percentage of growth demonstrated by children based on data from three documented assessments conducted during the 2012-2013 program year

Parent and Community Engagement Activities

Families are an integral part of the program in an ongoing way. TSU-TN CAREs EHS believes that parents are the first and most important teacher of the child. Some examples of parent engagement activities are: Open house, parent meetings, classroom volunteering, Week of the Young Child celebrations, home visits, daily experience sheets, group socialization periods, and fatherhood activities.

Fathers and male family members play an important role in the lives of their children, families, and Head Start and Early Head Start communities. The week of June 3 – June 7 is Father Engagement Week. At TSU-TN CAREs Early Head Start we celebrate father engagement all month.



One of our fathers playing with his daughters



One of our grandfathers spent some time hanging out with the children

Several fatherhood activities take place during the month of June. We have a “Desserts for Dad” where desserts are brought in or baked for the fathers to enjoy throughout the day. Some of our centers host “Father Fun Day” for fathers to interact with their child(ren) at the centers.

During the Week of the Young Child, our program hosts several events and activities. During this week many community leaders and partners visit and share their time with the children at our centers.



Dresden Police Chief Randal Walker reading to children



The Cat in the Hat stopped by to read a book to the children

Community involvement is evident in the Policy Council, and Health and Education Advisory Committee meetings. All parents are encouraged to sign up and participate in the Dolly Parton Imagination Library early literacy project.



Trenton, Tennessee Mayor, Tony Buriss and Shelby Kee of the Greater Gibson County Chamber of Commerce visiting the Trenton Center



Imagination Library

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