

TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

 **Early Head Start**
Child Care Partnership

ANNUAL REPORT

2022 - 2023



 **TENNESSEE**
STATE UNIVERSITY
Center of Excellence
for Learning Sciences



Tennessee State University Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership (TSU EHS-CCP) 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 education, 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 TSU EHS-CCP are consistent with the mission and vision of the Center of Excellence. In addition, TSU EHS-CCP is backed and supported by the expertise and commitment of the entire University.

The TSU EHS-CCP combines the strengths of child care and Early Head Start. Through layered funding the partnership provides comprehensive services and high-quality learning environments for income eligible working families with infants and toddlers. Since 2015, 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.

The TSU EHS-CCP 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. TSU EHS-CCP services Davidson and Rutherford County in Middle Tennessee and is federally funded to serve an enrollment of 80 and 64 children respectively.



Davidson County Funding

Funding Sources	2022-2023 Funding Received	2023-2024 Projected Funding
Office of Head Start Grant Funds	1,740,294	1,866,653
Local Match Funding	13,187	466,664

Davidson County Budget

Funding Sources	Funding Received	Projected Funding
Budget Category	2022-2023	2023-2024
Personnel	\$248,484	\$282,992
Fringe Benefits	\$121,066	\$129,051
Travel	\$12,500	\$12,500
Supplies	\$204,462	\$148,386
Contractual	\$857,724	\$982,272
Indirect	\$144,333	\$153,859
Other	\$151,725	\$157,593

Rutherford County Funding

Funding Sources	2022-2023 Funding Received	2023-2024 Projected Funding
Office of Head Start Grant Funds	\$1,166,703	\$1,295,677
Local Match Funding	\$288,236	\$300,684

Rutherford County Budget

Funding Sources	Funding Received	Projected Funding
Budget Category	2022-2023 Approved Budget	2023-2024 Projected Funding
Personnel	\$236,055	\$257,296
Fringe Benefits	\$86,640	\$94,974
Travel	\$9,500	\$9,500
Supplies	\$87,326	\$96,009
Contractual	\$620,897	\$676,590
Indirect	\$105,931	\$104,922
Other	\$56,386	\$56,386

Early Head Start Statistics (Davidson County)

Number of children funded	80
Percentage of eligible children served	90%
Number of children served throughout the year	41
Percentage of average monthly enrollment	78%
Percentage of children who are up-to-date on a schedule of age appropriate preventive and primary health care	100%
Number of children up-to-date on immunizations or have received all immunizations possible at this time.	41
Number of children receiving TennCare	39
Number of children with private health insurance	2
Percentage of children served who had a disability	0
Percentage of children with disability who received special services	n/a
Number of families served	32
Percentage of single-parent families	91%
Percentage of single-parent families in which the parent is not working	45%
Percentage of families without a high school education	16%
Percentage of families participation in family goal planning	69%

Early Head Start Statistics (Rutherford County)

Number of children funded	64
Percentage of eligible children served	91%
Number of children served throughout the year	11
Percentage of average monthly enrollment	80%
Percentage of children who are up-to-date on a schedule of age appropriate preventive and primary health care	100%
Number of children up-to-date on immunizations or have received all immunizations possible at this time.	11
Number of children receiving TennCare	10
Number of children with private health insurance	1
Percentage of children served who had a disability	0
Percentage of children with disability who received special services	n/a
Number of families served	10
Percentage of single-parent families	100%
Percentage of single-parent families in which the parent is not working	20%
Percentage of families without a high school education	10%
Percentage of families' participation in family goal planning	70%

Most Recent Federal Program Review

The Program's federal program review was conducted June 2023; the program had no findings.

Annual Audit

TSU Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership has not had an audit finding.

Developmentally Appropriate Practice that Lead to School Readiness

TSU EHS-CCP 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 babies from birth and ending when the child is three years of age, TSU EHS-CCP 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 or toddlers.

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. Creative Curriculum for Infants, Toddlers and Twos is used in the center-based option. The Ages & Stages Questionnaire 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 State University Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership School Readiness Goals

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

1. Approaches to Learning

- a) The children will regulate own emotions and behaviors
- b) The children will demonstrate positive approaches to learning

2. Social & Emotional Development

- a) The children will establish and sustain positive relationships
- b) The children will participate cooperatively and constructively in group situations

3. Language & Literacy

- a) The children will listen to and understand increasingly complex language
- b) The children will use language to express thoughts and needs

4. Cognition

- a) The children will use classification skills
- b) The children will use symbols and images to represent something not present

5. Perceptual, Motor, and Physical Development

- a) The children will demonstrate gross-motor manipulative skills
- b) The children will demonstrate fine-motor strength and coordination

2022-2023 School Readiness Improvement (Davidson County)

School Readiness Goals	% Growth during Program Year*
Approaches to Learning	8%
Social and Emotional Development	20%
Language and Literacy	23%
Cognition and General Knowledge	12%
Motor and Physical Development	19%

2022-2023 School Readiness Improvement (Rutherford County)

School Readiness Goals	% Growth during Program Year*
Approaches to Learning	11%
Social and Emotional Development	11%
Language and Literacy	6%
Cognition and General Knowledge	11%
Motor and Physical Development	11%

*Percentage of growth demonstrated by children based on data from four documented assessments conducted during the 2022-2023 program year.

Parent and Community Engagement Activities

Families are an integral part of the program in an ongoing way. TSU EHS-CCP believes that parents are the first and most important teacher of the child. Parent engagement activities continued to be limited, to prevent the spread of COVID. Parents were provided the option to attend parent meetings via Zoom or in person. In addition, parents were provided with monthly home activity calendars to encourage learning in their home environment.

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

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