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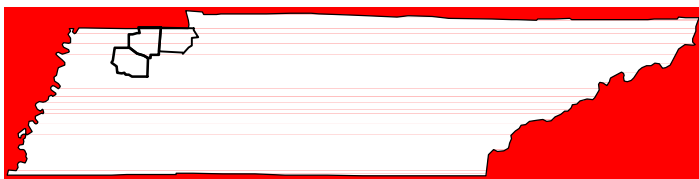
Tennessee Comprehensive Area Resource Efforts (TN-CAREs) Early Head Start is operated by the Tennessee State University Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences. The Center's mission is to design and conduct research and services that promote the educational, social, physical and psychological well-being 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. In which valuable research data was obtained and used to inform policy in the creation of Early Head Start.

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 112 children. The service delivery options available to families are prenatal, and center-based.



The program consists of six center-based child care centers. The program is administratively located on the campus of TSU in Nashville, TN (Davidson County) within the Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences. The EHS Program Director, Assistant Director, Fiscal Analyst, and Education Manager have offices at the Nashville location while the program's operations office is located in the Paris Housing Authority in Paris, TN. The Paris Operations Office houses the local management staff which includes the Administrative Assistant, ERSEA/Family and Community Partnership, Mental Health/ Disabilities, and Health/Nutrition content area managers.

Funding

Funding Sources	2019-2020 Funding Received	2020-2021 Projected Funding
Office of Head Start Grant Funds	\$2,289,651	\$2,487,841
Child and Adult Care Food Program (U.S. Department of Agriculture)	\$196,894	\$196,894
Local Match Funding	\$572,413	\$597,354

Budget

Budget Category	2019-2020 Approved Budget	2020-2021 Projected Budget
Personnel	\$1,258,586	\$1,286,347
Fringe Benefits	\$580,959	\$594,048
Travel	\$10,000	\$10,000
Supplies	\$91,528	\$191,727
Contractual	\$13,600	\$22,600
Indirect	\$191,488	\$206,160
Other	\$143,490	\$176,959

Early Head Start Statistics

Number of children funded	112
Percentage of eligible children/ pregnant women served	94%
Number of children/pregnant women served throughout the year	166
Percentage of average monthly enrollment	84%
Percentage of children who are up-to-date on a schedule of age appropriate preventive and primary health care	98%
Number of children up-to-date on immunizations or have received all immunizations possible at this time.	162
Number of children receiving TennCare	162
Number of children with private health insurance	0
Percentage of children served who had a disability	21%
Percentage of children with disability who received special services	100%
Number of families served	144
Percentage of single-parent families	82%
Percentage of single-parent families in which the parent is not working	47%
Percentage of families without a high school education	7%
Percentage of families participation in family goal planning	90%

Most Recent Federal Program Review

The Program's federal program review was conducted May 2018; the program had no findings.

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>

Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

Tennessee State University TN CAREs Early Head Start is a recipient of the Child and Adult Care Food Program. Meals will be made available to all enrolled participants at no separate charge without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. The Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007 allows all children who are enrolled in Head Start and Early Head Start Program categorical eligibility to receive free meals.

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 Ages and Stages Questionnaire – 3 (ASQ-3) 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. Approaches to Learning

- a) The children will demonstrate interest, curiosity, and eagerness in exploring the world around them.

2. Social & Emotional Development

- a) The children will develop and engage in positive relationships and interactions with adults.
- b) The children will begin to develop and demonstrate control over their feelings and behaviors (self-regulation).

3. Language & Communication

- a) The children will understand and begin to use oral language for conversation and communication.
- b) The children will hear and distinguish the sounds and rhythms of language.

4. Cognition

- a) The children will begin to develop and demonstrate the ability to remember and connect new and known experiences and information.

5. Perceptual, Motor, and Physical Development

- a) The children will develop control of large muscle for movement, navigation, and balance.
- b) The children will develop control of small muscles for manipulation and exploration.

2019-2020 School Readiness Improvement

School Readiness Goals	% Growth during Program Year*
Physical Development and Health	8%
Social and Emotional Development	9%
Approaches to Learning	9%
Language and Literacy	9%
Cognition/General Knowledge	10%

*Percentage of growth demonstrated by children based on data from three documented assessments conducted during the 2018-2019 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 are 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.

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.

Contact Information

Tennessee State University
Tennessee CAREs Early Head Start

1001 Reynolds Street

Paris, TN 38242

731-644-3470

731-644-2186 (fax)

Tamara Barnhill,
Early Head Start Program Director
tbarnhil@tnstate.edu

Dr. Kimberly Smith, Executive Director
Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences
Ksmith81@tnstate.edu