

TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
 **Tennessee CAREs**
Early Head Start Program



2020 -2021
Annual Report

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Executive Director

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Center of Excellence
for Learning Sciences

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

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Letter from the Director

This has undeniably been an unparalleled year as we all deal with the effects of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Regardless, the staff of TSU Early Head Start remained determined to provide services to our children and families in carrying forward our *vision* “to enhance the growth and development of young children and their families in a safe and healthy learning environment.” The program proactively responded to the COVID-19 pandemic by adhering to guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), Department of Human Services (DHS), Office of Head Start (OHS), and Tennessee State University (TSU). New policies, procedures, and protocols to ensure the health and safety of children, families, and staff were created and implemented.



Tamara Barnhill
TSU Early Head Start
Program Director

The program made the hard decision to halt in-person services with some of the child care partner sites and go to a remote platform to serve the children and families of the program. During this time, services to children and families were solely provided electronically via phone and/or video conferencing. All in-person staff meetings and trainings were suspended and replaced with virtual meetings. Staff dedication to the *mission* of the program “to improve the quality of life for children, families, and communities by providing comprehensive quality education, health, and nutrition services,” was clearly demonstrated during the pandemic. Staff embraced the challenge relentlessly and the program was able to carry on.

To all the staff, community partners, and governance boards, we publicly thank you for all that you do. The success of our programs is evident because of your hard work and dedication.

Sincerely,

Tamara Barnhill

TSU Early Head Start Program Director

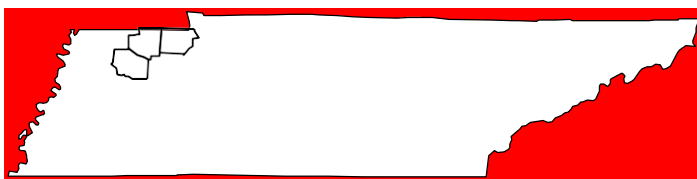
Tennessee Comprehensive Area Resource Efforts (TN-CAREs) Early Head Start is operated by the Tennessee State University Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences. The Center's mission is to design and conduct research and services that promote the educational, social, physical and psychological well-being 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 Executive Director, Program Director, Assistant Director, Fiscal Manager, 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	2020-2021 Funding Received	2021-2022 Projected Funding
Office of Head Start Grant Funds	\$2,487,841	\$2,417,938
American Rescue Plan (04/01/21 – 03/21/23)	\$306,304.00	
Additional COVID Funding (04/01/21 – 03/21/23)	\$77,049	
Child and Adult Care Food Program (U.S. Department of Agriculture)	\$196,894	\$200,832
Local Match Funding	\$572,413	\$597,354

Budget

Budget Category	2020-2021 Funding Received	2021-2022 Projected Funding
Budget Category	2020-2021 Approved Budget	2021-2022 Projected Budget
Personnel	\$1,258,586	\$1,304,143
Fringe Benefits	\$580,959	\$602,208
Travel	\$10,000	\$10,000
Supplies	\$158,962	\$123,028
Contractual	\$13,600	\$22,600
Indirect	\$197,181	\$200,600
Other	\$168,789	\$150,359

Early Head Start Statistics

Number of children funded	112
Percentage of eligible children/pregnant women served	95%
Number of children/pregnant women served throughout the year	131
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	98%
Number of children up-to-date on immunizations or have received all immunizations possible at this time.	121
Number of children receiving TennCare	125
Number of children with private health insurance	1
Percentage of children served who had a disability	18%
Percentage of children with disability who received special services	100%
Number of families served	108
Percentage of single-parent families	82%
Percentage of single-parent families in which the parent is not working	51%
Percentage of families without a high school education	8%
Percentage of family's participation in family goal planning	95%

Most Recent Federal Program Review

The Program had a FA1 Federal Monitoring Review the week of July 26, 2021 and there were 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>

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 interaction with adults.
- b. The children will begin to develop and demonstrate control over some of their feelings and behaviors (self-regulation).

3. Language Development and Literacy

- a. The children will understand and began 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. Physical Well-Being and Motor Development

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

2020-2021 School Readiness Improvement

School Readiness Goals	% Growth during Program Year*
Physical Development and Health	-13%
Social and Emotional Development	3%
Approaches to Learning	12%
Language and Literacy	1%
Cognition/General Knowledge	-13%

*Percentage of growth demonstrated by children based on data from three documented assessments conducted during the 2020-2021- p r o g r a m year. The decline in certain areas were due to the change in service delivery from in person to remote services due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the program continued to provide parent and community engagement activities but made modifications to align with COVID-19 guidelines. Some examples of engagement activities that were offered were: Drive-by literacy parade, During the Week of the Young Child the centers hosted Music Monday, Tasteful Tuesday, Wacky Wednesday, Mardi Gras Thursday, Comfy Friday and parents were provided breakfast-to- go. The parent activities were in-person and/or via Zoom. In addition, activity kits were provided to all children when remote services were provided.

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

Drive through literacy parade



Ms. Amanda Trull sitting in a tree reading the *The Gruffalo* via Zoom for her classroom.



Ms. Tiffany reading *Nobunny's Perfect* while showing her bunny via Zoom to her classroom.



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