

# Douglas-Cherokee Economic Authority, Inc.



## **Head Start & Early Head Start**

### *About Our Program*

In 1965, Douglas-Cherokee Economic Authority Head Start Program began providing comprehensive child development services to economically disadvantaged children and their families with a focus on assisting preschoolers to develop the social, early literacy and math skills to be successful in school. Early Head Start was added in 2003 and we began serving pregnant women, infants, and toddlers.

We provide services in eight counties in East Tennessee in 41 locations and 59 classrooms. Children receive comprehensive services including health, dental, nutritional, and mental health screenings & follow-up, plus classroom educational services. Transportation services may be available for some preschool classrooms.

As parents are their child's primary teachers, our program partners with parents to ensure they have the tools necessary to help prepare their children for public school and beyond. The Head Start approach involves supporting the child, parent, and family. Parents have opportunities to volunteer in the classroom and are part of their center parent committee, and several serve on Policy Council.

DCEA Head Start/Early Head Start is a federal program primarily funded by the Dept. of Health & Human Services. Our program does not discriminate due to race, creed, color, national origin, religion, sex, family status, handicap, veteran status, political affiliation, or beliefs.

#### **Douglas-Cherokee Head Start/Early Head Start**

**127 Cedar Street Morristown, TN 37814**

**Curt Amos—Program Director**

[www.dceaheadstart.org](http://www.dceaheadstart.org)

### *Parent, Family & Community Engagement*

Creating a quality Head Start/Early Head Start Program requires staff and parents working together, sharing their talents, knowledge, and energy so children can receive the greatest benefit. Our goal is to work with families to help build connections that will support children and families with the skills and tools necessary for learning. Parents are part of their center parent committee, and several serve on Policy Council.

### *Involvement & Volunteering*

Our program recognizes family and community engagement is needed to build relationships that can positively impact children and their families for a lifetime. We believe the partnership with parents is essential to providing quality early childhood services. Our staff also work to engage fathers as advocates, lifelong educators, and first teachers of their children. Family members and father figures serve key roles in the healthy development of their children and families, and have much to add to their Head Start communities. Our program provides a variety of ways for parents to support their child in their journey toward School Readiness. We logged 80,128 volunteer hours this program year.

#### *Enrollment & Exams*

- 959 children and families served
- 61% were below federal poverty guidelines
- 34% were categorically eligible (homeless, foster, etc.)
- 80% average monthly enrollment
- 93% of our children received medical exams
- 73% of our preschool children received dental exams
- 100% of our infants and toddlers were up-to-date on schedule of preventive primary oral health care

Our program serves 892 preschoolers in eight counties and 72 pregnant mommies, infants, and toddlers in one county.

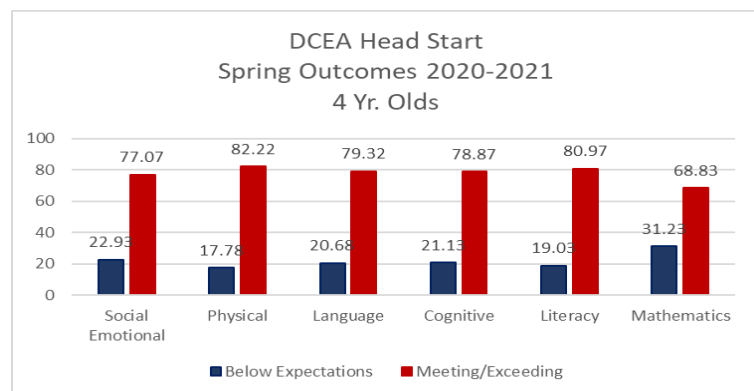
- Blount: 9 rooms, 173 slots
- Cocke : 6 rooms, 103 slots
- Grainger: 3 rooms, 54 slots
- Hamblen: 12 rooms, 207 slots
- Jefferson: 4 rooms, 71 slots
- Monroe: 4 rooms, 71 slots
- Sevier: 9 rooms, 162 slots
- Union: 3 rooms, 51 slots
- EHS: 9 rooms, 72 slots

## School Readiness

Our school readiness goals address the five central domains from the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework and are aligned with the Tennessee State Early Learning Developmental Standards and local standards. Goals are also aligned with the programs curriculum assessment tool (and CLASS domains for preschool children).

Goals are measured using the Teaching Strategies Gold Assessment. Data on children's progress is collected throughout the school year and assessment checkpoints are completed three times per year to identify current developmental level. TSG reports are generated and analyzed to determine individual, classroom, and program level progress toward school readiness goals. This information is utilized in the Community Assessment and to develop program goals and training plans.

The graph shows Spring outcomes for our four- year-olds. Data show a significant increase in the number of children who are meeting their developmental milestones and are on track for a successful transition to Kindergarten.



## Services to Children with Special Needs

A total of 9 infants and toddlers in Early Head Start had an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP). Tennessee Early Intervention Services (TEIS) provided and arranged for needed therapy with EHS staff assisting in classrooms. Two EHS children with IFSP's turned 3 before transitioning to regular HS they were assessed and qualified for IEP's. Head Start had 112 children with IEP's (Individual Education Plan) therapy services were provided by local school systems and supplemented in the classroom. For our program, a total of 13.1% of enrolled children received special services, exceeding the mandated 10% of enrollment.

## Services for Children & Families

This year we served 855 three and four-year-old children. those, 87.7% had up-to-date physical exams at the end of enrollment (most had current physicals when they started, but some families wait until summer to get them updated for the following year.) .8% of newly enrolled children received all screenings (we had some challenges due to serving so many children virtually.) 99.9% of children ended the year with a medical home; 99.3% either received all immunizations possible at the time or had exemptions. one child failed to receive needed medical follow due to leaving the program prior to the appointment. 626 children received dental exams while 767 children had a dental home at year end. Most children who did not receive medical/dental services were enrolled less than 90 days or were participating in virtual services. According to BMI measurements, 311 (36.4%) were overweight or obese.

During the year, there were 104 Early Head Start participants; 99 were infants or toddlers and 5 were pregnant women. While 92.9% of children had current physical exams at the end of enrollment, most of the ones who did not were enrolled less than 90 days.95.6% of newly enrolled children received screenings, although some were late. 99% of children ended the year with a medical home. Of the 99 children, 98 received all immunizations possible at the time and 1 had an exemption. 100% of the children received a dental screening, with 62 children ending the year with a dental home.

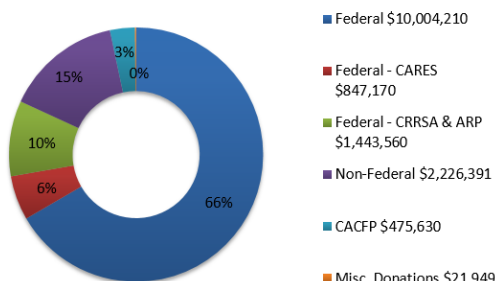
## Transition thru the Program and into Kindergarten

There are many transitions that take place at Head Start. From Pregnant mommy to the transition of the infant entering the classroom for the first time, all the way to our children and families transitioning to kindergarten. Every Head Start child has a transition plan that follows them throughout their Head Start experience no matter what age/level they begin. Each year parent trainings are held in partnership with local public school systems to ensure parents get the information they need to have a successful transition in to kindergarten. In the classrooms staff prepare children by practicing using trays, listening to stories and books about going to kindergarten, and sometimes visiting a kindergarten classroom (in person or virtually). 359 children from our program are transitioning to kindergarten in the fall of 2021. Each one received a drawstring bag with school supplies and information on making a smooth transition to Kindergarten.

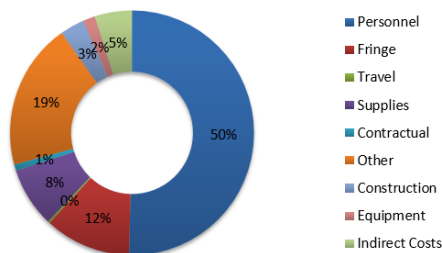
## Funding & Expenditures

### \$\$ Show Me the Money \$\$

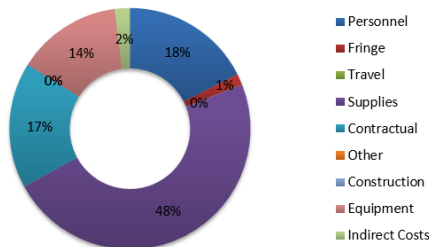
#### Program Revenue Sources



#### Program Expenditures



#### CRRSA & ARP Projected Expenditures



\*CRRSA and ARP funded from 4/1/2021 through 3/31/2023

### Audit Information

The 2020 audit was completed and the results were an unqualified opinion—no deficiencies or concerns. The 2021 audit will be scheduled for this fall.



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Douglas-Cherokee Economic Authority, Inc. is a Community Action Agency serving 30 counties in Tennessee and 2 counties in Kentucky.

The purpose of the Agency is to help families living in poverty improve their lives by providing them with assistance and services that they are not able to provide for themselves. The focus of the Agency is to help people help themselves.

### Federal Monitoring Review Information

Our latest Focus Area 2 and CLASS reviews were in January, 2018. We met the requirements of all applicable Head Start Program Performance Standards and there were no Areas of Concern, Noncompliance, or Deficiencies. The CLASS review specified that our scores were in line with national averages. The program will have a Focus Area 1 Review (also called a desktop review) during the next program year.

### Impact on Our Communities

Our program enhances the local communities we serve. In order to continue receiving federal funding, we must receive donations from the community. Donations called 'In-Kind' must equal at least 20% of the total dollar amount received from the grant. These donations may include time, space, and materials. Also, employment with benefits for current and former parents impact the community in a big way. Historically, around 36% of our staff are current or former Head Start/Early Head Start parents. The program employs over 300 staff in the eight county service area.

Also, local businesses provide food, classroom, maintenance, janitorial supplies, and program vehicles. Locally contracted services include: pest control, mowing, maintenance/repairs, HVAC, etc. It has been estimated that for every dollar spent through the Head Start program, the community benefits at a rate of five dollars.