



# **Region 9 Education Service Center Head Start**

## **2009 Community Assessment Update**

*“Committed to serving the educational  
needs of our communities”*

*Prepared for  
Region 9 Education Service Center  
By Training and Technical Assistance Services  
Western Kentucky University  
January 2009*

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# 1 Introduction

***1305.3 (c) Each Head Start Agency must conduct a community assessment within its service area once every three years, and (e) In each of the two years following completion of the Community Assessment the grantee agency must conduct a review to determine whether there have been significant changes in the information.***

Head Start services are provided in the Texas counties of Cooke, Clay, Montague, and Wichita by the Region 9 Education Service Center (ESC). The mission of the ESC is to provide consulting services to North Texas area school districts to help improve student performance and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of local school operations. Region 9 ESC:

- Includes 38 school districts and 1 charter school
- Covers 10,634.5 square miles and 12 counties
- Provides service to over 39,718 students and 5,718 staff members located on 129 campuses.
- Provides Head Start services in four counties, and is funded for 560 children and their families.

Region 9 ESC Head Start completed the Community Assessment update in stages. The initial stage was to engage the community through discussions held by the Head Start Director and representatives from various providers such as the Wichita County Public Health Department, School Nurses, School Health Specialist, Daycare Centers Owners/Operators, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of North Texas, Texas Department of State Health Services, Wichita County Alliance on Mental Health, Board of Commerce and Industry, United Way, Even Start, Early Head Start, and representatives of the ISDs. The information sought focused upon what changes had been observed since the last update. The last stage was the review of previous Community Assessments in order to determine what needed to be included in this update.

Region 9 Schools January 31, 2009 (Source: Program Data)\*Indicates districts with Head Start Program

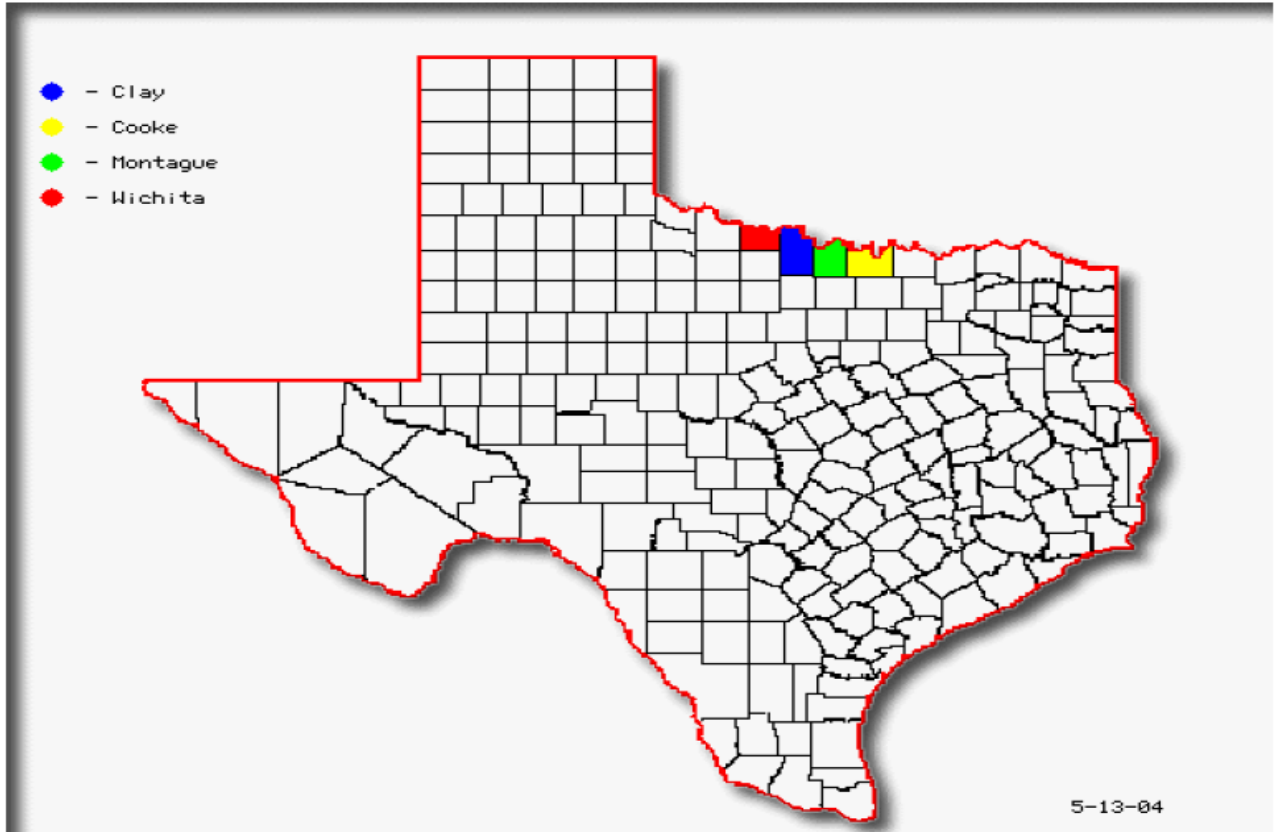
Archer City Archer City, TX	Bellevue Bellevue, TX	Benjamin Benjamin, TX	Bowie* Bowie, TX	Bright Ideas Charter School Wichita Falls, TX
Bryson Bryson, TX	Burkburnett* Burkburnett, TX	Byers Byers, TX	Chillicothe Chillicothe, TX	City View* Wichita Falls, TX
Crowell Crowell, TX	Electra* Electra, TX	Forestburg Forestburg, TX	Gainesville* Gainesville, TX <small>Head Start only location</small>	Goldberg Bowie, TX
Graham Graham, TX	Harrold Harrold, TX	Henrietta* Henrietta, TX	Holliday Holliday, TX	Iowa Park Iowa Park, TX
Jacksboro Jacksboro, TX	Knox City Knox City, TX	Midway Henrietta, TX	Montague Montague, TX	Munday Munday, TX
Newcastle Newcastle, TX	Nocona* Nocona, TX	Northside Vernon, TX	Olney Olney, TX	Perrin-Whitt Perrin, TX
Petrolia* Petrolia, TX	Prairie Valley Nocona, TX	Quanah Quanah, TX	Seymour Seymour, TX	Throckmorton Throckmorton, TX
Vernon Vernon, TX	Saint Jo Saint Jo, TX	Wichita Falls* Wichita Falls, TX	Windthorst Windthorst, TX	Woodson Woodson, TX

The Region 9 ESC clearly covers more counties than are served in Head Start. For the purposes of this assessment, the information will be limited to the counties of Clay, Cooke, Montague and Wichita. These counties are located northwest of Dallas/Fort Worth and on the state border with Oklahoma.

A factor that makes Region 9 ESC unique is the fact that while the program serves its four counties it does so through the auspices of the Independent School Districts (ISDs). Each ISD functions in an autonomous manner with the ESC serving as a grant clearinghouse and Technical Assistance provider for Texas required services plus the provision of Head Start.

The area received several families from Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and then Hurricane Ike that hit south Texas in 9/08. Also, Wichita County was hit hard in 2007 and 2008 with local flooding. Other counties also suffered from this flooding.

## REGION 9 EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER HEAD START SERVICE AREA



### County Information

(Source: 2007 Head Start Community Assessment: <http://www2.esc9.net/2007CommAssessCompressed2.pdf>)

#### Clay County

Clay County is the 160th largest of the 254 counties in Texas. According to the 2000 Census, Clay County's population increased 10% from 1990 to 2000. The county's population was 11,006 in 2000 and estimated to be 11,274 in 2006. This shows a growth of 1.9%.

The county seat of Clay is Henrietta, which is the location of one Head Start program. Another site is located in Petrolia. The Henrietta hospital and the dentist there can provide some treatment for Head Start children. Most families use dentists and doctors in Wichita Falls or at the Public Health Department. Petrolia no longer has a grocery store, so even grocery shopping must be done in Henrietta (15 miles away) or Wichita Falls. The schools are the hub of these communities. There are GED classes offered in Henrietta. However, due to depressed economic conditions, many people are commuting into Wichita Falls or into Oklahoma for jobs with a mean travel time of 26.6 minutes.

### **Cooke County**

Cooke County is the 76th largest of the 254 counties in Texas, with an estimated population of 38,843 in 2005. According to the 2000 census, Cooke County had a population of 36,363. Census figures indicate that Cooke County's population increased by 18% from 1990 to 2000. This growth continued as an estimated 7.1% increase occurred from 2000-2006.

The county seat of Cooke is Gainesville. Gainesville sits along the Interstate 35 corridor which allows for access to areas in the Dallas-Ft. Worth metroplex and cities in Oklahoma. . The mean travel time to work is 25.7 minutes. North Central Texas Community College is located in Gainesville, as well as an outlet mall, several industries and the Frank Buck Zoo.

### **Montague County**

Montague County is the 119th largest of the 254 counties in Texas, with an estimated population of 19,677 in 2005. According to the census, Montague County's population changed 11% from 1990 to 2000. The county continued to show a 3.2% increase in projections from 2000-2006. The county's population was 17,274 in 1990 and 19,725 in 2006, an increase of 2,451.

The county seat of Montague is Montague. Two Head Start sites are located in Montague County, one in Bowie and one in Nocona. Both Bowie and Nocona have hospitals. Medical access for Medicaid patients is limited. Bowie also has a branch of the North Central Texas Community College (located in Gainesville). Both cities have libraries. GED classes are provided in both locations. A partnership with the Region 9 Even Start program also provides ESL classes in Bowie. The mean travel time to work is 30.2 minutes.

## **Wichita County**

Wichita County is the 24th largest of the 254 counties in Texas, with an estimated population of 128,711 in 2005. Wichita County's population increased 8% from 1990 to 2000, growing from 122,378 in 1990 to 131,664 in 2000, an increase of 9,286. However, due to economic changes within the community—major industries relocating or closing, the population has shown a downturn as people have moved to follow the job market. From 2000-2006 a decrease in population of 2,595 or a 2.0% loss was reflected due to these economic conditions.

The county seat of Wichita is Wichita Falls. Other Head Starts located in this county are in the cities of Burkburnett, City View and Electra. Wichita Falls has three hospitals as well as two facilities for treatment of drugs and alcohol abuse. Electra has a hospital as well. Many of the families in Head Start make use of the Public Health Department's services as few physicians and dentists will accept Medicaid. Midwestern State University, Wayland Baptist extension and Vernon College are all located in Wichita Falls as well as American Business College and Aladdin Beauty College. Wichita Falls and Burkburnett both have libraries. Sheppard Air Force Base is located in both the Wichita Falls and Burkburnett school districts. It also has a NATO pilot training unit on site. The Allred Unit, which is a part of the state penal system, is located between City View and Burkburnett. The mean driving time is 17.0 minutes.

# 2

***1305(c)1 The demographic make-up of Head Start eligible children and families, including their estimated number, geographic location, and racial and ethnic composition;***

***Estimated Number of Children***

The Region 9 ESC Head Start's main focus is the provision of services and programs that impact the low-income community. In order to plan effectively for the low-income community, it is imperative that the characteristics of that community be identified.

The Texas Kids Count figures have been reviewed for number of children and the poverty rates and the following estimate has been produced.

Estimated Number of Children in Poverty					
	Clay	Cooke	Montague	Wichita	Area
Number of Children under 5	608	3,063	1462	10,910	16,043
Children's Poverty Rate	15%	19.7%	19.7%	21.2%	NA
Number under 5 in Poverty	92	604	288	2,312	3,296
Estimates of HS age children in poverty	38	406	116	1,040	1,322
Children in Public Pre K	46	215	194	1,055	1,510
Children in Head Start	20	70	58	412	560
2007 CA Estimate of children/poverty	71	711	276	NA	NA

Source: The Texas Kids Count Project- CPPP 2008 County Information

What this means for the program is that there is a considerable population not being served. This could indicate the need for possible expansion while maintaining wait lists. The total number on the waitlist for this Community Assessment Update was 140 children.

To further illustrate the numbers in poverty, the Texas Kids Count figures provide additional information.

Child Centered Resources					
	Clay	Cooke	Montague	Wichita	Area
Children receiving food stamps	253	1,610	603	6,897	9,363
Children in WIC (0-4)	105	816	546	3,366	4,833
Children in Free/Reduced Lunch #	867	2,814	1,631	11,298	16,610
Percentage of Children in TX Medicaid	15.9%	22.6%	24.5%	24.8%	NA
Percentage of Children in Chip	4.4%	4%	6.7%	2.7%	NA

Source: The Texas Kids Count Project- CPPP 2008 County Information

When viewed against the backdrop of all children in the counties over half are eligible for free/reduced lunch.

### *Racial Breakdown*

Racial Makeup of Parents			
	2007-08	2006-07	2005-06
Hispanic of any origin	225	196	179
Non Hispanic	429	466	459
African American	159	185	181
White	217	245	259
All others	278	174	198

Source: PIR Data

The racial breakdown of the Region 9 ESC Head Start program, shown above, is similar to the racial melting pot that calls the Region 9 service area home. One item that is observable from the updated numbers and the previous Community Assessments is that each county could benefit from bilingual staff. The following table is from the 2007 Community Assessment.

Racial Makeup of the Counties				
County	White	Hispanic of any race	Black/African American	Other Race
Clay	95.3%	3.7%	0.4%	1.7%
Cooke	88.8%	10.0%	3.1%	5.2%
Montague	96%	5.4%	0.2%	2.0%
Wichita	79.8%	13.7%	9.1%	6.0%

Source: 2007 Community Assessment: <http://www2.esc9.net/2007CommAssessCompressed2.pdf>

With Hispanics making up the second largest group, it appears that bilingual staff would be in great demand especially in Wichita and Cooke counties. At the time of this Community Assessment, 9.4% of the teaching staff is considered bilingual.

### *Geographic Location*

This is a feature of the program that is rather unique. Services are provided in four counties that comprise the Region 9 ESC Head Start service area. Rather than having a number of different centers, Region 9 has different independent school districts. The recruitment area is within these school districts and has been previously listed. What this means for the program is that most of the services are provided by the ISDs and as a result the program staff have to work through these structures and personnel to provide services.

# 3

## *1305c(2) Other child development and child care programs;*

### *Others Providing Service*

County	Child Population Ages 0-13	Licensed Day Care Operations	Licensed Day Care Capacity	Registered Child Care Homes	Listed Family Homes	Licensed 24-Hour Care Operations	Licensed 24-Hour Care Capacity
Clay	1,806	6	231	2	2	2	14
Cooke	7,321	19	697	16	14	0	0
Montague	3,373	10	382	6	1	4	24
Wichita	24,524	79	4,252	57	13	15	91
State Total	4,884,108	10,695	879,780	7,488	3,895	6,657*	37,154

Source: 2007 Community Assessment: <http://www2.esc9net/2007commAssessCompressed2.pdf>

\* Does not include 304 child-placing agencies, 3436 CPS-approved foster/adoptive homes and 15 maternity homes.

One of the advantages of the Region 9 Head Start program is the fact that services are provided through the public schools. A finding, however, particularly in Cooke County was after school care for children whose parents may have an extended work day. Several rural districts have expressed similar situations. Petrolia (Clay County) has no daycare facility in their city. Two neighboring communities, Byers, 5 miles away and Henrietta, 15 miles away, have daycare providers. Transportation to daycares in neighboring towns is also a concern, with the parents often working 30 minutes to an hour away from the school sites.

The table above indicates the number served in childcare; however there is little to illustrate the number that might be eligible for Head Start. It is expected that there are some, but the cost of daycare may be financially prohibitive for most families. Given the fact that the program is not facing shortages of eligible children and since it is operated by the ISDs, it is not believed that childcare providers are reducing the number available for Head Start by any significant amount.

# 4

***1305c(3) The estimated number of children with disabilities four years old or younger, including types of disabilities and relevant services and resources provided to these children by community agencies;***

*Services for Children with Disabilities*

	2007-08	2006-07	2005-06
Speech or language impairments	67	65	65
Mental Retardation	1	0	1
Orthopedic impairment	1	1	0
Visual impairment (including blindness)	4	2	0
Non-categorical/developmental delay	7	9	12
Health Impairment	0	1	2
Learning Disability	0	1	0
Emotional/Behavioral	0	0	1
Source: PIR Data	80	79	81

As indicated in previous assessments, “Collaborative efforts with district staff through the Student Support Teams have assisted in identifying techniques for staff to implement with children. These teams will also assist in making recommendations for referrals to Single Member Districts and Shared Service Agreements in the districts in which the Head Start child is located. The Student Support Teams have become a valued resource as children are not “over identified” as special education, because of the suggested interventions provided by this team. The Head Start staff is comfortable making requests to this team for assistance because of the success of the interventions. Collaborations with Early Childhood Intervention programs have assisted in transitioning children with disabilities into Head Start classrooms in order to provide the least restrictive environment for these children.” Overall, approximately 12% of the Head Start students are children with a disability.

# 5

## *1305c(4)(5) Data regarding the education, health, nutrition and social service needs of Head Start eligible children and their families;*

### *Education*

Levels of Education in the County				
	Clay	Cooke	Montague	Wichita
Less than high school graduate	19.9%	20.8%	27%	20.1%
High school graduate or GED	39.6%	31.5%	35.6%	29.8%
Some college, vocational school, or and Associate degree	26.9%	32.8%	26.2%	30.1%
Bachelor's or advanced degree	13.9%	15.7%	11.3%	20%

Source: 2009 American Factfinder, [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)

When reviewing the educational distribution of each county, the numbers are normally distributed with slightly fewer people having the higher education levels. It is difficult to compare the counties against the program as a whole, but it becomes apparent that the Head Start parents have significantly lower educational levels than the populations as a whole.

Education Levels of Head Start parents across time			
	2007-08	2006-07	2005-06
Less than high school graduate	263	221	238
High school graduate or GED	323	363	339
Some college, vocational school, or and Associate degree	18	21	13
Bachelor's or advanced degree	11	7	8
Source: PIR Data	615	612	598

What this means for the program is that a critical area for referral and follow-up would be in the area of continuing and/or returning education. It also means that it will be difficult for families in the Region 9 service area to break the cycle of poverty. Without further education, the possibility of earning a wage that covers the cost of living is remote.

### ***Social Services***

In terms of referrals made over the past three years, it is interesting to note that by far the largest area of services delivered or referred is in the area of parenting education.

Region 9 ESC Head Start assists family with a range of social service issues as indicated by the table below. What this means for the program is that staff performing this role will need to remain current in their knowledge of emergency and crisis intervention resources.

Social Service Referrals			
	2007-08	2006-07	2005-06
Emergency/crisis intervention (food, clothing, or shelter)	200	175	265
Housing assistance (subsidies, utilities, repairs, etc.)	39	52	42
Transportation assistance (subsidizing public transportation, driving parents to Policy Council meetings)	96	27	35
Mental health services	126	247	152
English as a Second Language (ESL) training	23	28	20
Adult education (GED programs, college selection)	63	116	104
Job training	70	65	68
Substance abuse prevention or treatment	2	1	4
Child abuse and neglect services	27	50	20
Domestic violence services	7	3	1
Child support assistance	2	7	7
Health education	98	99	117
Assistance to families of incarcerated individuals	7	1	3
Parenting education	520	590	484
Marriage education services	3	1	2
Number of families that received at least one of the services listed above	548	597	538
Source: PIR Data			

## *Unemployment*

Unemployment Figures by County			
	2008	2007	2006
Clay	4.7%	3.5%	3.8%
Cooke	4.1%	3.7%	4.1%
Montague	4.0%	3.6%	4.1%
Wichita	5.7%	4.2%	4.4%
State of Texas	5.7%	4.3%	4.9%
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics			

Unemployment has been steadily rising in the Region 9 service area. The most recent figures released in Wichita County show 6.7% unemployment. This is generally mirroring the declining employment situation in the country. The trend may impact the Head Start families especially hard since these families tend to have fewer skills and lower levels of formal education.

Family Employment Situation	2007-08	2006-07	2005-06
Two Parent Households: Both Working	83	82	50
Two Parent Households: One Working	175	173	177
Two Parent Households: Both Not Working	16	25	22
One Parent Household: One Working	227	226	241
One Parent Household: Not Working	114	106	108
Source: PIR			

The review of employment figures for the program shows that the majority of the families being served have someone employed. This means that the program may need to find alternative ways for parents to be involved in their children's development which may include potlucks, varied meeting times, weekend events and family nights. It also means that the program may have to rely heavily on notes, in the home language, going home as a primary way to inform parents about what is going on in the program.

## ***Transportation***

Transportation resources are limited for the low income population of the Region 9 ESC Head Start service area. The trend for the overall population is to drive themselves to work or anyplace they need to go.

**Clay** - The mean travel time to work was 26.6 minutes compared to a state average of 25.4 minutes. The commuting to work breakdown was as follows:

Drove Alone..4,173

Public Transportation..13

Other Means..56

Carpooled..684,

Walked..111

**Cooke** - The mean travel time to work was 25.7 minutes compared to a state average of 25.4 minutes. The commuting to work breakdown was as follows:

Drove Alone..12,539

Public Transportation..137

Other Means..35

Carpooled..2,588,

Walked..191

**Montague** - The mean travel time to work was 30.2 minutes compared to a state average of 25.4 minutes. The commuting to work breakdown was as follows:

Drove Alone...6,124

Public Transportation...45

Other Means...60

Carpooled...1,266

Walked...155

**Wichita** -The mean travel time to work was 17.0 minutes compared to a state average of 25.4 minutes. The commuting to work breakdown was as follows:

Drove Alone...47,643

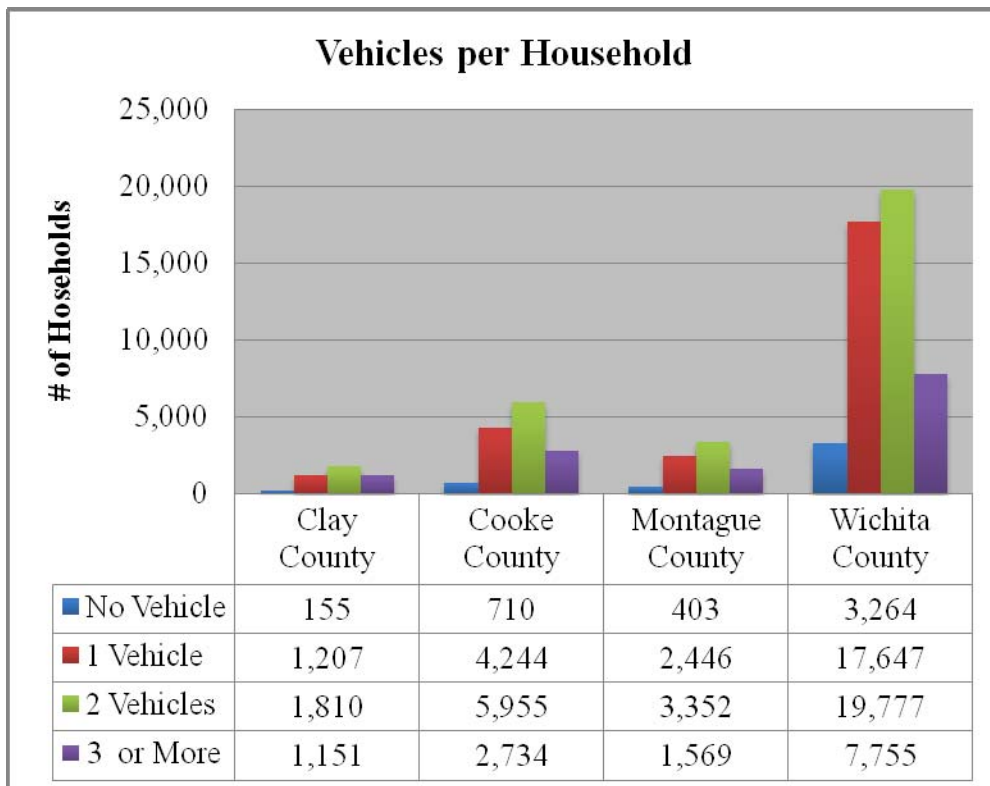
Public Transportation...272

Other Means...21

Carpooled...6,856

Walked...4,512

Transportation issues are often a part of the package of critical issues that face families in poverty. Many of these families do not have private transportation and the public transportation is limited in the rural areas of Electra and Petrolia. There are taxicab services and shuttle services (Skylark) from Wichita Falls and Gainesville serving neighboring cities to the Dallas-Ft. Worth area. The city of Wichita Falls has recently expanded city bus service within Wichita Falls.



2007 Community Assessment: <http://www2.esc9.net/2007CommAssessCompressed2.pdf>

## ***Homelessness and Housing***

The National Alliance to End Homelessness states that the Estimated Rate of Homeless is approximately 0.17% for Texas. Using this rate and the population figures from the U.S. Census, it is believed that the number of homeless is approximately 19 in Clay County, 62 in Cooke County, 33 in Montague County and in Wichita County the number is approximately 224 . These numbers are for the entire population and do not represent the number of families with children of Head Start age. In terms of homeless being served by Region 9 ESC Head Start, the services are often provided to the "hidden homeless" who are staying with one set of family or friends for a period and then moving on to other family and friends after a while. These “hidden homeless” require that the staff assisting them have a solid understanding of the availability of resources that might be employed to aid these families and have a firm knowledge of how to work around the mental health issues that can arise from these situations.

Clay County (Source: 2009 American Factfinder, [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov))

<b>GROSS RENT AS A PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME IN 1999</b>	Numbers	Percent
Less than 15 percent	173	27.3
15 to 19 percent	73	11.5
20 to 24 percent	73	11.5
25 to 29 percent	38	6.0
30 to 34 percent	37	5.8
35 percent or more	81	12.8
Not computed	158	25.0

Cooke County (Source: 2009 American Factfinder, [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov))

<b>GROSS RENT AS A PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME IN 1999</b>	Numbers	Percent
Less than 15 percent	979	27.5
15 to 19 percent	461	12.9
20 to 24 percent	442	12.4
25 to 29 percent	313	8.8
30 to 34 percent	171	4.8
35 percent or more	800	22.5
Not computed	395	11.1

Montague County (Source: 2009 American Factfinder, www.census.gov)

<b>GROSS RENT AS A PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME IN 1999</b>	Numbers	Percent
Less than 15 percent	307	20.1
15 to 19 percent	192	12.5
20 to 24 percent	173	11.3
25 to 29 percent	135	8.8
30 to 34 percent	56	3.7
35 percent or more	326	21.3
Not computed	341	22.3

Wichita County (Source: 2009 American Factfinder, www.census.gov)

<b>GROSS RENT AS A PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME IN 1999</b>	Numbers	Percent
Less than 15 percent	3,025	16.7
15 to 19 percent	2,719	15.0
20 to 24 percent	2,341	12.9
25 to 29 percent	1,842	10.1
30 to 34 percent	1,140	6.3
35 percent or more	4,657	25.6
Not computed	2,443	13.4

The four tables listed above indicate the level of gross rent as a percentage of income. At 35% or more the household is having difficulty making their rent payments and are considered “housing burdened”. In three of the four counties, Cooke, Montague, and Wichita, this is roughly one quarter of the total population.

**Child Abuse** (Source: 2007 Community Assessment: <http://www2.esc9.net/2007CommAssessCompressed2.pdf>)

### Confirmed CPS Victims and Investigations

The following information was obtained the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services 2006 Data Book.

County	Child Population	Confirmed Victims of Child Abuse/ Neglect	Confirmed victims per 1,000 Children	Total CPS Completed Investigations	Confirmed CPS Investigations	Percent Investigations Confirmed
Clay	2,503	27	10.8	80	18	22.5%
Cooke	9,812	157	16.0	318	100	31.4%
Montague	4,442	122	27.5	258	72	27.9%
Wichita	31,895	769	24.1	1,350	490	36.3%
State Total	6,300,598	67,737	10.8	163,795	41,406	25.3%

What this means is that Region 9 Head Start staff must continue to be aware of child abuse and neglect and the impact it has on families. Percentages in three of four counties, Cooke, Montague, and Wichita, exceed the state percentage of confirmed child abuse investigations. Staff will need to be ready to assist families as they rebuild in identifying resources to assist the families.

**Health** (Source: 2007 Community Assessment: <http://www2.esc9.net/2007CommAssessCompressed2.pdf>)

The following information was obtained from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission:

Texas CHIP Enrollment, Renewal and Dis-Enrollment Rates by County (May 2007)

	Total Enrollment	New Enrollment	Renewals	Completed Renewals	Total Dis-enrollment	Non-Renewals	Actual Renewal Rate	Attempted Renewal Rate	Total Dis-enrollment Rate
Clay	84	3	9	4	5	0	100%	100%	6.0%
Cooke	427	50	47	11	52	22	68.1%	72.5%	12.2%
Montague	251	14	25	6	31	19	56.8%	62.0%	12.4%
Wichita	778	55	75	23	100	40	65.2%	71%	12.9%

Point in Time Count-Medicaid Enrollment by County- March 2007

	Total Enrollment	Total Enrollment in Children's Medicaid	Children Ages 1-5 yrs	TANF Children	Foster Care Children
Clay	617	345	88	41	12
Cooke	3,400	2,203	923	133	25
Montague	1,869	971	102	35	307
Wichita	13,040	7,331	2,345	954	123

## **Health**

Family Service workers and nurses must continue to assist parents in keeping their CHIP accounts and Medicaid current. The Health Services Advisory committee can assist in helping to identify methods to assist staff with this problem. In addition, the Health Services Advisory Committee will also be a resource to assist in identifying providers that will accept Medicaid and CHIP payments. In January, 2008, the Public Health Department initiated a mobile dental clinic that can assist parents in meeting dental concerns in Wichita County. It is hoped that this can be expanded to other counties as funding becomes available.

Agape Health Services have contracted with several of the sites to provide health services. A pediatrician from Dallas comes to the Wichita Falls sites 4 days per month to provide services onsite.

In discussions with school nurses, it has been observed that the trends in health concerns tend to run toward:

- Obesity
- Lack of immunizations
- Lack of parent involvement in getting immunizations, dentals, medicals, etc.
- Lack of preventive dental care
- Lack of insurance

What this means for the program is that the teacher will need to strongly emphasize physical development as part of their curriculum and family services will have to assist parents in getting immunizations, signing up for CHIP and insurance programs, and emphasize the need for parents to be involved in their child's health development. The program will also need to ensure that on a regular basis that the staff is implementing the "I Am Moving, I Am Learning" curriculum as part of their regular fine and gross motor activities to assist the children in their physical development and nutrition needs.

**Mental Health** (Source: 2007 Community Assessment: <http://www2.esc9.net/2007CommAssessCompressed2.pdf>)

Mental Health services are available for children and families through the program and through referrals to various agencies. The Helen Farabee Center serves Clay, Montague and Wichita Counties. Cooke County is served by MHMR of North Texas.

The Helen Farabee Centers and the MHMR of North Texas offer the following child and adult mental health services:

- Psychiatric Evaluation
- Supportive Counseling
- Psychoactive Medication & Monitoring
- Supportive Employment
- Rehabilitative Skills Training
- Supported Housing
- Community-based Crisis Intervention
- In-Home Family Support
- Respite
- Hotline Services
- Mobile Crisis Intervention Response and Follow-Up

Both centers accept Medicare, Medicaid and most forms of private health insurance. For persons who are not eligible for health coverage, fees are assessed on the basis of proof of the individual's (or, in some cases the family's) complete income, with no one being denied services due to an inability to pay. Assistance is available at these centers to assist in applying for benefits for families who may qualify for Medicaid. Family Service Workers and Mental Health Coordinators collaborate with various agencies to help families access appropriate mental health services.

# 6

***1305.3 (c)(6) Resources in the community that could be used to address the needs of Head Start eligible children and their families, including assessments of their availability and accessibility.***

For a comprehensive listing of resources and services available, please refer to Region 9 ESC's Community Resources Guide found in each Head Start classroom or on the Region 9 ESC website [www.esc9.net](http://www.esc9.net) .

# 7

## ***1305.3(d)(2) Determine the type of component services that are most needed and the program option or options that will be implemented;***

The program provides services through the participating ISDs. In total, there are 39 classrooms at 19 sites that provide service for 180 days. As stated previously, the program is unique in that the ISD's agree to participate in the grant, yet still remain autonomous units. The fact that the services are provided at school on the school calendar means that transition will be fairly easy. This Community Assessment, coupled with those of the past years, clearly indicates the need for Head Start's range of comprehensive services. Provision of services in the center based model is congruent with school operations and hours of service delivery match up with the programs administered by the ISDs.

Region 9 ESC Head Start is funded for 560 children. Each site maintains a wait list, with the total being 140 children at the time of this report. A budget committee meets annually to determine slot allocations and uses the Community Assessment to look at trends in the counties. The recruitment area is within the 4 counties specified in the funding grant. With such an extensive wait list, Region 9 ESC Head Start is continually hopeful expansion money will be available to help the program serve more children and families.

# 8

## ***1305.3(d)(1) Help determine the grantee's philosophy, and its long-range and short-range program objectives;***

The primary goal of this Head Start program is to provide the opportunity for children and families to obtain success developmentally, academically, economically, and socially. This goal will be addressed by the following program objectives:

- Enhance children's growth and development.
- Strengthen families as the primary nurturers of their children.
- Provide children and families with educational, health and nutritional services.
- Link children and their families to needed community services.
- Ensure well-managed programs that involve parents in decision-making.
- Ensure our approach to education is developmentally and linguistically appropriate in order to prepare children for school readiness.
- Ensure the Grantee and Head Start sites spend funds in an allocable, reasonable, and allowable method according to Head Start Standards.

**Need:** Programs that address the low income population

The families served by the Region 9 ESC Head Start appear to be somewhat self reliant, and have a strong sense of community; however, structural poverty still exists because of lack of options for employment in relatively high paying jobs as well continued limited resources in rural areas.

## **Strategies**

- Region 9 ESC Head Start should continue to provide services to the Head Start families to create self-reliant families, involve parents in decision-making, and help parents to be the primary nurturers and advocates for their children.
- Continued collaboration with other community organizations, both public and private, will ensure that the provision of services is comprehensive, non-duplicated and community based, and will provide the link families need to access services.
- Continued focus on children's appropriate growth and development will ensure children have a foundation for school success.

**Need:** Available, accessible health care services for the entire family

Despite Medicaid coverage and children's health coverage, there is an obvious lack of doctors and dentists who participate in the programs.

## **Strategies**

- Region 9 ESC Head Start staff and Health Service Advisory Committee will make every effort to identify physicians and dentists who accept Medicaid in the service area and make this information available to families.
- Region 9 ESC Head Start staff will use the Head Start Health Advisory Committee to advocate for physicians and dentists to accept Medicaid.
- Region 9 ESC Head Start will identify sources of health care that are low cost or no-cost in the communities (free clinics, health fairs, etc.) and publicize this information to the Region 9 ESC Head Start families.

## Conclusions

The national political climate and more locally, the state budget concerns are impacting the funding and focus of programs throughout the state of Texas. The rise in unemployment, businesses closing, cuts in social programs, state budget reduction strategies and continued welfare reform will directly impact the population Region 9 ESC Head Start serves.

Like many in the education and human service sectors, Region 9 ESC Head Start will be faced with declining resources and expanding needs. Only by continuous improvement of services and coordination of efforts with other service providers in the area will Region 9 ESC Head Start be able to provide high quality services to its target population. In turn, Region 9 ESC Head Start will continue to work collaboratively with other service providers to ensure that duplication of services does not occur and that scarce resources are most efficiently allocated.

Partnership opportunities with others in the service area exist in the following areas:

- Support of and from the ISDs serving Head Start children in order to ensure that Head Start families continue to receive high quality comprehensive child development services;
- Support of and from local business and industry to identify labor requirements and provide job readiness and training to develop an employable work force;
- Collaboration with health and social services agencies to provide adequate, available and accessible health, nutrition, transportation, and mental health care services;
- Further cooperation with secondary, vocational, and post secondary education institutions to continue the support for drop-out prevention and educational readiness for workforce entry members of the low income community; and
- Work with area community agencies in developing capacity to serve the expanding non-English speaking population.

