

## 2017 Head Start Community Needs Assessment (CNA) Update

This updated information is being added to the 2016 CNA. This data summarizes the information requested in 1302.11(b) of the Head Start regulations.

1. *Demographic make-up of Head Start eligible children, including number, location, and racial composition.*

### Population under age 5 by County

County	Population	2010 Census Data
Audubon	280	335
Calhoun	565	550
Carroll	1,346	1,464
Dallas	6,223	5,772
Greene	486	520
Guthrie	568	615
Sac	527	596

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Fact Finder, ACS Demographic and Household Estimates. 2015 Population Estimates.

### Poverty Status

County	Children 0-5 in Poverty	% of children in Poverty 0-5
Audubon	51	19.2%
Calhoun	167	29.9%
Carroll	164	12.4%
Dallas	442	7.1%
Greene	107	22.5%
Guthrie	97	17.7%
Sac	32	6.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Poverty Status in the past 12 Months by Sex and Age. 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

### Race of Children 0-4 by County

County	White	Black/African American	American Indian/Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	Other Race	Two or more races
Audubon	268	0	0	0	0	0	12
Calhoun	517	10	0	0	0	7	12
Carroll	1,272	36	0	0	0	14	24
Dallas	5,510	87	0	341	0	15	270

<b>Greene</b>	466	0	0	0	0	0	20
<b>Guthrie</b>	556	8	0	0	0	4	0
<b>Sac</b>	515	0	0	0	0	6	6

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015 Estimates.

<b>County</b>	<b>Number 0-4 Hispanic</b>
<b>Audubon</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Calhoun</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Carroll</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>Dallas</b>	<b>510</b>
<b>Greene</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Guthrie</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Sac</b>	<b>6</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015 Estimates.

According to the 2015 population estimates released by the U.S. Census Bureau, five of the seven counties served by New Opportunities Head Start have continued to decline in 0-5 population.

Interestingly, Calhoun County has for the past several years, seen increases in 0-5 and overall population. Additionally, Calhoun County has also seen increases in the percentage of individuals living in poverty, from 16.7% based upon 2014 data to nearly 30% based upon most recent data.

As is evident, the vast majority of children living in the seven county area served by New Opportunities programs are white, however, it is noted that the exceptionally high number of Hispanic 0-5 children in Dallas County represents a different need within that county than any of the others. Dallas County is home to the community of Perry which is home to a large Hispanic or Latino population. The U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2011-2015 data showed that 6.2% of all Dallas County residents are estimated to be of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity; however, data from City-Data.com reflects the city of Perry as 33.7% Hispanic or Latino population. The high concentration of Hispanic or Latino population is a unique challenge to the Head Start program as it works to provide services and support to those families.

## Confirmed and Founded Cases of Child Neglect and Abuse

County	Confirmed or Founded abuse total children	Number of children 5 or younger with confirmed or founded abuse
Audubon	13	2
Calhoun	35	19
Carroll	67	26
Dallas	122	62
Greene	38	17
Guthrie	34	15
Sac	25	13

Source: Iowa Department of Human Services; Assessed Reports of Child Neglect and Abuse by level of finding for CY2016.

**Opportunity:** Given the increases in numbers of potentially Head Start eligible children in Calhoun County based upon 0-5 population and 0-5 children living in poverty, this is a great area of opportunity for Head Start and Early Head Start. Presently, the program services less than 15 children in Calhoun County.

### 2. Other child development programs serving Head Start eligible children.

The New Opportunities, Inc. Head Start program partners with six school districts (Panora, Coon Rapids, Audubon, Schaller, Rockwell City/Lake City & Jefferson) in our seven counties to provide services to Head Start eligible children in the elementary school. In four (all except Lake City/Rockwell City and Coon Rapids) out of the six districts, New Opportunities and the district blend Head Start and Iowa Statewide voluntary Preschool Program (SVPP) funds to provide full day services to Head Start eligible children. In two additional districts (Carroll & Sac City), the New Opportunities, Inc. Head Start program collaborates to provide full day services, ½ day Head Start and ½ day SVPP for eligible four year olds.

In one district served by New Opportunities, Inc. Head Start, there is no free preschool programming other than Head Start (Waukee). The Head Start program provides a full day of Head Start preschool and fills a gap within the community for families who do not have the means to pay for preschool for their children.

In the communities of Perry, Panora, Jefferson, Carroll, Coon Rapids, Audubon, Schaller, Sac, Rockwell City, and Lake City, 3 year old children have limited preschool options. Some of the school districts (Jefferson, Schaller, Rockwell City, and Lake City) offer three year old tuition based preschool within the district. Other communities rely on private preschool for three year olds. In 2017-2018, New Opportunities, Inc. Head Start expanded to offer three year olds in Perry, Waukee, and Carroll full day preschool alongside their four year old peers. This also meets a need within the community for quality early childhood programming.

**Opportunity:** After seeing a greater margin of achievement with children attending full day preschool, the opportunity and challenge to the Head Start program would be to continue to expand the Head Start program to provide full day services in the districts where this is not currently taking place. Within the past year we have seen potential opportunity for blending funding in Lake City and Rockwell City and will continue to pursue that option.

**3. The education, health, nutrition, and social service needs of eligible children.**

**Actual Number of Documented Disabilities, Age 0-5**

County	Children Birth to 5
Audubon	31
Calhoun	27
Carroll	62
Dallas	266
Greene	23
Guthrie	44
Sac	26

*Source: Heartland and Prairie Lakes Area Education Agency, as reported in 2017.*

In the New Opportunities, Inc. Head Start/Early Head Start area, 479 children are identified with disabilities age 5 and under. Children identified receive services from the Area Education Agency (AEA). During the 2016-2017 program year the program served 36 Head Start children and 5 Early Head Start children with a documented disability. The continuing school district partnerships between local school

districts and New Opportunities, Inc. Head Start provide the opportunity for children to receive educational services as outlined on their Individual Education Plan (IEP) by teachers with Special Education endorsements. For children within the Head Start non-partnership locations, the educational services outlined by the IEP are fulfilled by the area school districts while the Head Start classroom teachers work to individualize for the child in an effort to assist with meeting IEP goals and objectives.

The New Opportunities, Inc. Head Start & Early Head Start programs have a longstanding working relationship with two local Area Education Agencies. These working relationships provide the access to services for families and children with disabilities in both classrooms with or without Special Education endorsed teachers.

**Opportunity:** Continue to work with local AEA and school district partnerships to build relationships and to ensure children with disabilities are receiving the services needed while enabling them to continue to be a part of Head Start/Early Head Start. Additionally, continue to refine the program internal referral process to ensure children with suspected disabilities are recognized as early as possible.

**Adult Education Information**

<b>County</b>	<b>% with No High School Diploma</b>	<b>% Lacking Literacy Skills (based upon population over age 16)</b>
<b>Audubon</b>	10.9%	9.0%
<b>Calhoun</b>	8.8%	7.0%
<b>Carroll</b>	8.4%	7.0%
<b>Dallas</b>	6.2%	7.0%
<b>Greene</b>	9.4%	8.0%
<b>Guthrie</b>	7.9%	8.0%
<b>Sac</b>	8.8%	8.0%

*\*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015. National Center for Education Statistics, NCES – Estimates of Low Literacy, 2003.*

Of the families of children enrolled in the New Opportunities, Inc. Head Start program in 2016-2017, 16.99% had no high school diploma or equivalent. This percentage is substantially higher than the overall percentage in any of the counties being served as represented in the Adult Education Information table.

The 2016-2017 New Opportunities, Inc. data showed that out of a total of 278 children served, 40% were either overweight or obese (overweight: BMI at or above 85<sup>th</sup> percentile to 95<sup>th</sup> percentile, obese: BMI at or above 95<sup>th</sup> percentile. High rates of overweight and obese children indicate further need for nutritional education of children and parents. The program continues to implement ‘I am Moving, I am Learning’ in the Head Start classrooms and place added emphasis on outdoor time and overall physical movement.

### Nutritional Information

County	% of students eligible for free and reduced lunch program	% of individuals receiving Food Assistance
Audubon	40.44%	9.2%
Calhoun	39.03%	9.1%
Carroll	45.3%	9.1%
Dallas	23.2%	5.0%
Perry	67.38%	
Greene	46.74%	14.9%
Guthrie	33.4%	10.2%
Sac	42.79%	9.0%

*\*Source: Iowa Department of Education, 2016-2017 Iowa Public School K-12 Students Eligible for Free and Reduced Price Lunches by District. Kids Count Data Reports, 2015.*

The percentage of students eligible for the free and reduced lunch program within each county eludes to low income families who may not have the resources present to provide healthy meals for their children while out of school. The most glaring concern exists within the Perry Community School District as is evident by the 67.38% of all students who are eligible. Aside from Perry, Audubon, Carroll, Greene,

and Sac Counties are higher than the state average of 41.3%. The 40-50% of all students shows need for programs such as Head Start that provide nutritious meals to enrolled children.

**County Unemployment Rates**

<b>County</b>	<b>Percentage Unemployed - June 2015</b>
Audubon	3.7%
Calhoun	4.0%
Carroll	2.7%
Dallas	2.9%
Greene	3.8%
Guthrie	3.3%
Sac	3.2%

*\*Source: Iowa Workforce Development, Labor Force Data, <http://iwin.iwd.state.ia.us/iowa/labforce?key=startregion&year=2014&areacode=1904000009&stat=unemprate&adjusted=n&periodtype=03>*

The 2016-2017 New Opportunities, Inc. Head Start program report indicated 21.57% of Head Start families were not working. This percentage is well above the unemployment percentage within each of the counties served by the program.

**Confirmed or Founded Cases of Child Abuse**

<b>County</b>	<b>Number of Confirmed or Founded Cases</b>
Audubon	13
Calhoun	35
Carroll	67
Dallas	122
Greene	38
Guthrie	34
Sac	25

*Source: Iowa Department of Human Services; Confirmed or Founded Child Abuse for CY2016.*

The well-being of all children is a major concern within the Head Start program. The program provides parent education in an array of topics including safe ways to discipline their children. Especially concerning is the increase of confirmed or founded cases from 2015-2016 in Calhoun County (2015: 17 cases, 2016: 35 cases).

### Data on Expectant Mothers

	<b>Audubon</b>	<b>Calhoun</b>	<b>Carroll</b>	<b>Dallas</b>	<b>Greene</b>	<b>Guthrie</b>	<b>Sac</b>
Prenatal Care	71.2%	82.5%	85.0%	90.0%	84.9%	88.8%	77.5%
Teen Births	N/A	2.6%	1.2%	0.7%	N/A	2.8%	1.9%
Low Birthweight	N/A	6.1%	4.5%	6.1%	11.3%	9.5%	N/A

*\*Source: Annie E Casey Foundation, Kids Count Data Center, 2015 Data.*

The above table shows the percentage of mothers receiving prenatal care within the first trimester of their pregnancy. The teen births category reflects the number of infants born to teen mothers, age 15-19, and the Low Birthweight category shows the percentage of infants determined to have low birthweight.

A target population for Early Head Start remains teen expectant mothers and those low income expectant mothers who are at higher risk for not obtaining proper prenatal care during the pregnancy and also at increased risk for low birthweight babies.

#### ***Opportunity:***

The communities served by New Opportunities, Inc. Head Start & Early Head Start programs have an array of programs and services that can be offered to families, many of which are offered through the umbrella of services offered by New Opportunities, Inc. Such programs include LIHEAP, Weatherization, Toys for Tots, Food Pantry, WIC, Maternal Health, Substance Abuse Treatment, Back to School supplies, etc. The ability to provide such services to Head Start & Early Head Start families with ease enables the program to meet many of the immediate needs of the families served.

- 4. Other child development, child care centers, and family child care programs that serve eligible children and the approximate number of children served.*



## Child Care Availability

County	Total Registered Child Care Homes	Total Registered Child Care spaces	Total 0-5 population	% of families where all parents work and there are children under 6	Estimated number of children needing child care	Number of children without a registered child care spot	Percent of children without a registered child care spot
Audubon	10	162	342	80%	273.6	111.6	40.79%
Calhoun	9	157	677	74%	500.98	343.98	68.66%
Carroll	48	718	1,608	83%	1,334.64	616.64	46.20%
Dallas	70	4,995	7,940	72%	5,716.8	721.8	12.63%
Greene	10	189	624	83%	517.92	328.92	63.51%
Guthrie	13	233	708	81%	573.48	340.48	59.37%
Sac	5	89	712	90	640.8	551.8	86.11%

Source: 2017 Child Care Resource and Referral Data Sheets.

The data regarding child care availability in the New Opportunities, Inc. Head Start seven county service area is staggering. The number of children without quality child care is substantial. Further, in many communities, quality child care for infants is virtually non-existent. Perry in Dallas County does not have any registered providers that offer child care under the age of two years. Further, the annual parent survey distributed and completed by 115 families in the spring of 2017 reflected 41.07% of respondents have their child(ren) being cared for by friends or family. Additionally, 79.28% of respondents indicated they would use a Head Start child care program if it were available; presently, approximately 34% of all respondents utilize child care for 30-40 hours per week.

***Opportunity:***

Child care is an obvious area of opportunity for New Opportunities, Inc. Head Start. The program has the infrastructure available to implement high quality early childhood programs and will continue to seek out opportunities to add Early Head Start Center Based programming.

5. *Resources available in the communities to address the needs of eligible children.*

The New Opportunities, Inc. Early Head Start program serves only 4 of the 7 counties served by the Head Start program. Currently, the following home visitation programs for birth to three are available:

Audubon: HOPES  
Calhoun: Family Foundations  
Carroll: Early Head Start & HOPES  
Dallas: Early Head Start & Parents As Teachers  
Greene: Early Head Start & HOPES  
Guthrie: Early Head Start & HOPES  
Sac: Family Steps Program

As shown, there are programs available in each county that serves the 0-3 population; however, many of those programs focus on the parent versus educating the child and each program is only able to enroll a limited number of children so the capacity is minimal.

Statewide Voluntary Preschool programs are available in all but one of the districts served by Head Start. The one district without free preschool for eligible four year olds is Waukee in Dallas County. While preschool is available to children in all except one district, the statewide voluntary preschool program offers less in the way of services than the Head Start program. Statewide Voluntary Preschool is a 10 hour per week minimum (most programs run 2.5 hours per day, four days per week). The program does not provide meals for children, does not provide preschool for three year olds (unless they are on an IEP), nor does it include the family services focus of Head Start.

***Opportunity:***

Work with local Early Childhood Iowa boards to make children's issues visible.

Collaborate with Statewide Voluntary Preschool programs to expand full day preschool to additional locations (i.e. Coon Rapids, Rockwell City, and Lake City). Continue to advocate for quality programming for young children.

Continue to research opportunities to expand the Early Head Start home visitation program into additional areas and work with existing programs to ensure the neediest of families are being served by the Early Head Start program. Simultaneously, continue to look for opportunities to expand services into Early Head Start Center Based to provide quality early childhood care for children birth to three.

Continue to watch Dallas County closely and ensure that classrooms are located in the correct communities based upon the population growth, ensuring the neediest children are served by Head Start and Early Head Start.

Ensure the Head Start program is culturally aware, being cognizant of the diverse population in Perry and the increasing diversity in other communities. Ensure teachers and staff are able to assist children in learning English as a second language while developing in their own culture and home language.

