

## 2019 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)(2) 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	2013-2017 American Community Survey Estimates	2010 Census Data
Audubon	302	335
Calhoun	587	550
Carroll	1,267	1,464
Dallas	6,489	5,772
Greene	480	520
Guthrie	554	615
Sac	552	596

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2013-2017 5 Year Estimates & U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census Data.

### Poverty Status

County	Children 0-5 in Poverty	% of children in Poverty 0-5
Audubon	62	22.5%
Calhoun	157	27% ↑
Carroll	160	12.7% ↑
Dallas	330	5.1%
Greene	61	12.8%
Guthrie	92	16.8%
Sac	77	14.1% ↑

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Poverty Status in the past 12 Months by Sex and Age. 2013-2017 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	292	0	0	0	0	0	10

<b>Calhoun</b>	546	18	0	0	0	0	23
<b>Carroll</b>	1,254	8	0	0	0	0	5
<b>Dallas</b>	5,813	60	0	363	0	21	232
<b>Greene</b>	476	0	0	0	0	0	4
<b>Guthrie</b>	547	0	0	0	0	6	1
<b>Sac</b>	546	0	0	0	0	2	4

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013-2017 Estimates.

<b>County</b>	<b>Number 0-4 Hispanic</b>
<b>Audubon</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Calhoun</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Carroll</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>Dallas</b>	<b>511</b>
<b>Greene</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Guthrie</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Sac</b>	<b>25</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013-2017 Estimates.

According to the 2017 population estimates released by the U.S. Census Bureau, six of the seven counties within the New Opportunities, Inc. Head Start service area have continued to decline in overall population in the past year. The one county with continued increases in population remains Dallas County. Consistent with past years, Dallas County continues to see a fair amount of growth year over year; however, despite these increases, the overall number of children living in poverty has remained fairly steady. (based upon 2012-2016 American Community Survey data and 2013-2017 American Community Survey data).

The data gathered reflects the vast majority of children living in the seven county area served by New Opportunities programs are white and are English speaking, 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 2013-2017 data showed that 6.1% of all Dallas County residents are estimated to be of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity; however, data from U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts for Perry, Iowa reflects the city of Perry as 37.1%

Hispanic or Latino population. The high concentration of Hispanic or Latino population is a unique opportunity to the Head Start program as it works to provide services and support to those families.

The ever increasing number of children speaking a language other than English also provides a unique opportunity to the Head Start program. While past years have seen a multitude of Spanish speaking children and families enroll into Head Start/Early Head Start, the past several years have brought about increased diversity. The Head Start 2019-2020 school year already shows approximately 15% Spanish speaking families/children as well as a small segment (4%) of families and children who speak Arabic and other languages (Korean, Burmese, French, and Vietmanese).

**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	24	9
Calhoun	28	16
Carroll	85	37
Dallas	125	53
Greene	56	25
Guthrie	58	27
Sac	31	13

Source: Iowa Department of Human Services; Assessed Reports of Child Neglect and Abuse by level of finding for CY2018.

**Percentage of Children in Poverty Receiving Head Start Services**

County	Number of EHS/ Head Start Slots	Number of Children 0-5 living in Poverty	Percentage of Children Living in Poverty Receiving EHS/Head Start
Audubon	16	62	25.81%
Calhoun	13	157	8.28%
Carroll	48	160	30%
Dallas	98	330	29.7%
Greene	50	61	81.97%
Guthrie	20	92	21.74%
Sac	30	77	38.96%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Poverty Status in the past 12 Months by Sex and Age. 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

**Opportunity:** Looking at the data provided above, the opportunity exists to reach a greater number of children with Early Head Start and Head Start services in every county. The county that presents the greatest opportunity is Calhoun. The program offers only Head Start in Calhoun County. Based upon this data it will be necessary to continue to look at opportunities to grow the Early Head Start and Head Start programs in this area with the intention of serving more children in need.

An additional opportunity for the program is to strengthen the services being provided to dual language learners and families who speak languages other than English.

The greatest opportunity exists in attempting to determine creative ways to communicate with those of languages other than Spanish. The program has adapted well to the Hispanic population in the program; though other languages have presented a bit more of a challenge.

*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 its seven county service area to provide services to Head Start eligible children in the elementary school. In three (Panora, Schaller, & Jefferson-4 year olds only) 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 four year old children. In two districts (Audubon & Jefferson-3 year olds only), Head Start and the school district blend funding to provide enrolled children with a minimum of 1,020 hours of instruction per year. 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 school districts 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. In 2019-2020, Jefferson and Audubon were added to this list. These full day programs fill a gap 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. Additionally, because of space limitations in some district partnership classrooms limited three year olds may receive Head Start services. The opportunity for the program is to continue working with districts where full day services are not available to eligible four year olds and build a full day option in these locations. Another opportunity exists to continue working towards serving more three year old children in districts where this is limited due to capacity reasons.

**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	19
Calhoun	46
Carroll	47
Dallas	349
Greene	31

Guthrie	46
Sac	33

Source: Heartland and Prairie Lakes Area Education Agency, as reported in 2019.

In the New Opportunities, Inc. Head Start/Early Head Start area, 571 children are identified with disabilities age 5 and under. This is nearly 200 children more than in 2018. Children identified receive services from the Area Education Agency (AEA). During the 2018-2019 program year the program served 37 Head Start children and 4 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:** The opportunities in this area include continuing 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, continuing to reach out within the communities served by Early Head Start and Head Start to recruit children with disabilities. Finally, refining and providing education on the program internal referral process to ensure children with suspected disabilities are recognized as early as possible.

**Adult Education Information**

County	Adults 18-24, % with No High School Diploma	% Lacking Literacy Skills (based upon population over age 16)
Audubon	19.3%	9.0%
Calhoun	15.5%	7.0%
Carroll	11.6%	7.0%
Dallas	13.6%	7.0%
Greene	12.3%	8.0%
Guthrie	9.9%	8.0%
Sac	12.8%	8.0%

*\*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013-2017. 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 2018-2019, approximately 15% had no high school diploma or equivalent. This percentage aligns with the data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau for the New Opportunities, Inc. Head Start service area.

The 2018-2019 New Opportunities, Inc. data showed that out of a total of 291 children served, 39% 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	40.4%	9.3%
Calhoun	36.3%	9.0%
Carroll	38%	8.7%
Dallas	22.4%	4.1%
Perry	74.4%	
Greene	46.6%	13.5%
Guthrie	36.5%	9.2%
Sac	40.7%	8.4%

*\*Source: Kids Count Data Reports 2018.*

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 74.4% of all students who are eligible. Aside from Perry, Greene County is higher than the state average of 41.3% with Audubon and Sac very close under the state average. The number of students eligible for free and reduced meals shows need for programs such as Head Start that provide nutritious meals to enrolled children.

### County Unemployment Rates

County	Percentage Unemployed -2017
Audubon	3.1%
Calhoun	3.1%
Carroll	2.3%
Dallas	2.1%
Greene	2.8%
Guthrie	3.2%
Sac	2.8%

*\*Source: Kids Count Data Reports, 2017 Data.*

The 2018-2019 New Opportunities, Inc. Head Start program report indicated 22.87% of Head Start/Early Head Start parents 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

County	Confirmed or Founded abuse total children	Number of children 5 or younger with confirmed or founded abuse	Children in Foster Care
Audubon	24	9	19
Calhoun	28	16	47
Carroll	85	37	59
Dallas	125	53	133
Greene	56	25	48
Guthrie	58	27	34
Sac	31	13	16



Source: Iowa Department of Human Services; Assessed Reports of Child Neglect and Abuse by level of finding for CY2018 & Iowa Data Center, Number of Children in Foster Care, 2018.

The well-being of all children is a major concern within the Head Start program. When surveyed in the spring of 2019, of all respondents within the Head Start program, 23% indicated challenging child behaviors as a primary concern their family most often faces. The program provides parent education in an array of topics including safe ways to discipline children. The program has adopted the Love and Logic parenting curriculum to assist with providing parents effective parenting skills. Especially concerning is the increase of confirmed or founded child abuse or neglect cases in four of the seven counties served by New Opportunities Head Start. This increase illustrates the need for additional parenting skills training for families within these communities.

**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	82.5%	83.5%	87.6%	89.6%	79.8%	87.6%	86.7%
Teen Births	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.8%	2.5%	N/A	N/A
Low Birthweight	N/A	7.1%	N/A	7.6%	6.4%	N/A	8.0%

\*Source: Annie E Casey Foundation, Kids Count Data Center, 2017 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.

An opportunity for the program continues to be finding ways to get parents to attend and engage in parenting skills classes within the rural New Opportunities Head Start service area. The number of founded and confirmed child abuse cases has seen an increase within the counties served by the program. A challenge of the program is to find ways to help curb this trend.

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**

<b>County</b>	<b>Total Registered Child Care Homes</b>	<b>Total Registered Child Care spaces</b>	<b>Total 0-5 population</b>	<b>% of families where all parents work and there are children under 6</b>	<b>Estimated number of children needing child care</b>	<b>Number of children without a registered child care spot</b>	<b>Percent of children without a registered child care spot</b>
Audubon	11	170	359	83%	298	128	42.95%
Calhoun	10	203	743	74%	550	347	63.08%
Carroll	46	871	1,642	83%	1,363	492	36.09%
Dallas	76	6,458	8,304	72%	5,979		0%
Greene	9	260	629	83%	522	262	50.20%

Guthrie	12	221	722	78%	563	342	60.76%
Sac	5	191	723	86%	622	431	69.28%

*Source: 2018 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 concerning. 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 has very limited numbers of registered providers that offer child care under the age of two years. Further, the annual parent survey distributed and completed by 141 families in the spring of 2019 reflected 29.79% of respondents have their child(ren) being cared for by friends or family (this is similar to the survey of 2018). Additionally, 77.40% of respondents indicated they would use a Head Start child care program if it were available and nearly 20% of all respondents listed lack of quality child care as a concern their family faces. Presently, approximately 29% 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 be adding Early Head Start Center Based programming to its suite of programs in 2020. The program looks to start these centers in Perry and Carroll. Based upon the data in other communities, an opportunity exists to continue to seek out opportunities to add Early Head Start Center Based programming or consider conversion of slots from Head Start to Early Head Start center based to meet this need within the communities being served.

- 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 in a home visitation option; however, many of those programs focus on the parent as opposed to also 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. An additional concern with statewide voluntary preschool program is the ever increasing financial concerns of small, rural districts. Despite these limitations, it would appear that most four year olds in the counties served by Head Start are receiving at least some preschool at age four. The following table shows the preschool attendance percentages by ECI (Early Childhood Iowa) area.

## Preschool Attendance

Counties	Percentage of four year old children receiving preschool
Adair, Dallas, Madison & Warren	84%
Audubon, Carroll, Greene & Guthrie	96%
Buena Vista, Crawford & Sac	93%
Calhoun, Pocahontas & Webster	80%

When considering three year old preschool, Early Childhood Iowa does provide scholarships for three year old preschool in select counties within the New Opportunities Head Start area; however, these preschools are not always regulated nor are the services as comprehensive or as long in duration as those of Head Start. The following represents the number of three year old (non-Head Start) preschool programs available in the counties served by the Head Start program. The Head Start program provides preschool for three year olds in Audubon, Calhoun, Carroll, Dallas, Greene, Guthrie, and Sac Counties.

## Three Year Old Preschool Programs

County	Number of Three Year Old Preschool Programs	Notes (Numbers do not include Head Start program in the county)
Audubon	1	
Calhoun	1	
Carroll	3	One program is in Manning (others in Carroll)
Dallas	18	
Greene	2	
Guthrie	2	This program is in Guthrie Center
Sac	2	

*\*Data provided by Early Childhood Iowa, 2019.*

***Opportunity:***

Continue working 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, specifically three year olds.

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.

