

## 2022 Head Start Community Needs Assessment (CNA) Update

This updated information is being added to the 2021 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 0-4 by County

County	2015-2019 American Community Survey Estimates	2020 Census Data
<b>Audubon</b>	330	345
<b>Calhoun</b>	567	565
<b>Carroll</b>	1,306	1,236
<b>Dallas</b>	6,760	6,865
<b>Greene</b>	517	514
<b>Guthrie</b>	564	547
<b>Sac</b>	580	578

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2015-2019 5 Year Estimates & U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census Data.*

### Poverty Status

County	Children 0-5 in Poverty	% of children in Poverty 0-5
<b>Audubon</b>	94	27.20%
<b>Calhoun</b>	98	17.30%
<b>Carroll</b>	73	5.90%
<b>Dallas</b>	426	6.20%
<b>Greene</b>	93	18.00%
<b>Guthrie</b>	129	23.50%
<b>Sac</b>	141	24.40%

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Poverty Status in the past 12 Months by Sex and Age. 2016-2020 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	Multiple Race
<b>Audubon</b>	320	0	0	1	0	4	21
<b>Calhoun</b>	538	9	0	1	0	4	13
<b>Carroll</b>	1,178	0	4	1	0	23	30
<b>Dallas</b>	5,828	145	9	314	13	63	493
<b>Greene</b>	493	0	0	1	0	6	15
<b>Guthrie</b>	500	5	0	2	0	6	34
<b>Sac</b>	556	7	0	5	0	3	7

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2016-2020 Estimates.

### Ethnicity of Children 0-4 by County

County	Number 0-4 Hispanic
<b>Audubon</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Calhoun</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Carroll</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>Dallas</b>	<b>568</b>
<b>Greene</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Guthrie</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Sac</b>	<b>41</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2016-2020 Estimates.

According to the 2020 population estimates released by the U.S. Census Bureau, only two of the seven counties within the New Opportunities, Inc. Head Start service area declined in overall population in the past year. The county with continued significant 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 age 0-5 living in poverty shows to have decreased. (based upon 2015-2019 American Community Survey data and 2016-2020 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 non-Hispanic, however, it is noted that the exceptionally high number of Hispanic 0-5 children in Dallas County represents a very specific need within that county.

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 2016-2020 data showed that 6.2% 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, 2019 reflects the city of Perry as 34.9% 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 2021-2022 school year shows approximately 14% 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 Vietnamese).

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

<b>County</b>	<b>Number of EHS/ Head Start Slots</b>	<b>Number of Children 0-5 living in Poverty</b>	<b>Percentage of Children Living in Poverty Receiving EHS/Head Start</b>
<b>Audubon</b>	15	94	15.98%
<b>Calhoun</b>	12	98	12.28%
<b>Carroll</b>	84	73	115.19%
<b>Dallas</b>	135	426	31.72%
<b>Greene</b>	53	93	57.28%
<b>Guthrie</b>	19	129	14.78%
<b>Sac</b>	20	141	14.18%

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Poverty Status in the past 12 Months by Sex and Age. 2016-2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.*

**Opportunity:** Data taken from the State of Childhood Obesity website shows that in 2019, only 36% of eligible children in the state were receiving Head Start. Looking at the data by county provided above, the opportunity exists to reach a greater number of children with Early Head Start and Head Start services in nearly every county, many of which are lower than the state percentage. It is important to

note that the centers in Carroll County are full and specifically the Early Head Start center is available to serve children from other surrounding counties as parents commute into Carroll (the regional economic hub) for work daily. The counties that present the greatest opportunity, as represented by the data, are Audubon, Calhoun, Guthrie, and Sac. The challenge in these four counties is their rural nature. The program will continue to assess the locations of the program in these counties and consider opportunities for expansion. While Dallas County is better served, as shown by the data, potential opportunity still exists for both Early Head Start and Head Start growth (data reflects 31.72% of children in poverty are served by the program). This will be an area the program continues to monitor.

An ongoing opportunity for the program is to continue to strengthen the services being provided to dual language learners and families who speak languages other than English. It will be imperative, as diversity increases, to determine creative ways to communicate with and provide services to those of languages other than English. 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 two (Panora & 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 the Carroll Community School District 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 limited 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. It is important to note that the Waukee Community School District has experienced significant growth and has been challenged by the ever increasing numbers of children into the district.

While all communities have options for three year olds for preschool, most of them are tuition based, which can eliminate the ability for low income families to participate. As a note: programs do exist, such as Early Childhood Iowa, that can help with tuition in some areas. The majority of these preschool programs operate 2-4 days per week for less than 4 hours per session. 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:** Given the greater margin of achievement with children attending full day preschool, the opportunity and challenge to the Head Start program is continuing to expand the Head Start program to provide full day services in the districts where this is not currently taking place. The program has engaged in conversations with Rockwell City/Lake City and Coon Rapids about these options; however, space limitations have caused barriers. Additionally, because of these space limitations in some district partnerships 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 (Coon Rapids, Lake City, Rockwell City, and Schaller). 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**

<b>County</b>	<b>Children Birth to 5</b>
Audubon	15
Calhoun	38
Carroll	60
Dallas	409
Greene	29
Guthrie	44
Sac	30

*Source: Heartland and Prairie Lakes Area Education Agency, as reported in 2022. Only includes districts served by NOI Head Start/EHS.*

In the New Opportunities, Inc. Head Start/Early Head Start area, 625 children are identified with disabilities age 5 and under. Children identified receive services from the Area Education Agency (AEA). During the 2021-2022 program year the program served 47 Head Start children and 45 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. This can be especially challenging in communities with full day Head Start only centers (i.e. Waukee, Perry, Carroll Full Day). Given the ever increasing numbers of children being evaluated and determined eligible for IDEA services, continuing to work with local school districts to ensure all children are receiving services will be important in the upcoming year. Additionally, continuing to educate staff on the program internal referral process to ensure children with suspected disabilities are recognized as early as possible.

**Adult Education Information**

<b>County</b>	<b>Adults &gt;25 years, % with No High School Diploma</b>
<b>Audubon</b>	10%
<b>Calhoun</b>	6.1%
<b>Carroll</b>	6.7%
<b>Dallas</b>	4.5%
<b>Greene</b>	6.6%
<b>Guthrie</b>	6.2%
<b>Sac</b>	7.4%

*\*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2016-2020.*

Of the families of children enrolled in the New Opportunities, Inc. Head Start program in 2021-2022, approximately 14% had no high school diploma or equivalent. This percentage is a bit higher than the data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau for the New Opportunities, Inc. Head Start service area.

The 2020-2021 New Opportunities, Inc. data showed that out of a total of 239 children served, 42% 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). Further, the State of Childhood Obesity indicates that children from low income homes are more than two times likely to be obese than their higher income peers (based upon 2020-2021 data). 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, place added emphasis on outdoor time and overall physical movement, and provide healthy, nutritious meals and snacks for all enrolled children.

### Nutritional Information

County	% of students eligible for free and reduced lunch program	% of individuals receiving Food Assistance
Audubon	41.6%	8.6%
Calhoun	41.1%	10.0%
Carroll	34.1%	7.7%
Dallas	18.7%	5.2%
Perry	54.91%	
Greene	45.3%	15.3%
Guthrie	39.9%	7.9%
Sac	50.1%	9.3%

\*Source: Kids Count Data Reports 2020, U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2016-2020.

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. Audubon, Greene, and Sac Counties are higher than the state average of 41.3% with Calhoun and Guthrie very close under the state average. Despite the low percentage of Dallas County as a whole, the high percentage in Perry indicates there are communities within the county where need is significant. 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 -2020
Audubon	3.4%
Calhoun	4.0%
Carroll	3.9%
Dallas	3.5%
Greene	4.1%
Guthrie	4.9%
Sac	3.5%

\*Source: Kids Count Data Reports, 2020 Data.



The data in the above table reflects an increase in unemployment from 2019 to 2020 in every county. This trend in the data is not surprising with the impacts of the COVID 19 Pandemic on area workforce. The 2020-2021 New Opportunities, Inc. Head Start program report indicated 24.7% of Head Start/Early Head Start children were in families where no parent was working. This percentage is well above the unemployment percentage within each of the counties served by the program.

**Confirmed and Founded Cases of Child Neglect and Abuse/Children in Foster Care**

<b>County</b>	<b>Confirmed or Founded abuse total children</b>	<b>Number of children 5 or younger with confirmed or founded abuse</b>	<b>Children in Foster Care</b>
<b>Audubon</b>	24	11	17
<b>Calhoun</b>	38	21	34
<b>Carroll</b>	68	27	60
<b>Dallas</b>	167	80	87
<b>Greene</b>	52	29	36
<b>Guthrie</b>	34	14	28
<b>Sac</b>	30	13	17

*Source: Iowa Department of Human Services; Assessed Reports of Child Neglect and Abuse by level of finding for CY2021. Children in Foster care pulled from Iowa Data Center, 2020.*

The well-being of all children is a major concern within the Head Start program. When surveyed in the spring of 2021, of all respondents within the Head Start program, 30% 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. The percentage of confirmed or founded cases of child abuse in 2021 increased in five of the seven counties over 2020. These increases indicate the continued need for education in positive parenting.

### Data on Expectant Mothers

	Audubon	Calhoun	Carroll	Dallas	Greene	Guthrie	Sac
Prenatal Care	95.8%	86%	86.2%	89.5%	88.9%	86.1%	87.7%
Teen Unmarried Births	N/A	N/A	3.4%	1.4%	7.4%	N/A	N/A
Low Birthweight	N/A	15.5%	5.6%	5.4%	N/A	5.9%	N/A

*\*Source: Annie E Casey Foundation, Kids Count Data Center, 2019 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. The program does offer home based Early Head Start visitation services that serve expectant mothers in Carroll, Dallas, Greene, and Guthrie Counties.

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 includes 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 support families and assist in reversing this trend.

A second opportunity that exists for the New Opportunities, Inc. Early Head Start program is finding ways to reach high risk pregnant mothers. With the 32 center based Early Head Start slots in Perry and in Carroll, the program has been recruiting more expectant mothers into Early Head Start home visitation.

4. *Other child development, childcare centers, and family childcare 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 childcare</b>	<b>Number of children without a registered childcare spot</b>	<b>Percent of children without a <u>registered</u> childcare spot</b>
Audubon	12	197	385	93%	358	161	44.98%
Calhoun	5	105	677	76%	515	410	79.59%
Carroll	37	867	1,521	87%	1,323	456	34.48%
Dallas	90	7,063	8,422	71%	5,980	0	0%
Greene	10	331	649	86%	558	227	40.70%
Guthrie	11	264	704	78%	549	285	51.92%
Sac	5	198	703	76%	534	336	62.94%

Source: 2021 Child Care Resource and Referral Data Sheets.

The data regarding childcare availability in the New Opportunities, Inc. Head Start seven county service area is concerning and unfortunately, the availability of quality childcare continues to decrease in some of the communities served. As an example of this trend, the number of registered spaces in Calhoun County has decreased steadily from 2018 to 2020 (203 spaces to 105 spaces). The number of children without quality childcare is substantial as demonstrated by the preceding table. The program has attempted to meet the need for high quality childcare by opening Early Head Start centers in both Carroll and Dallas Counties. While this has assisted low-income families in these areas, it is evident that families in other counties have significant need as well.

***Opportunity:***

Childcare continues to be a significant area of opportunity for New Opportunities, Inc. Head Start. The program has the infrastructure available to implement high quality early childhood programs and has added Early Head Start Center Based programming to its suite of programs in two communities. Based upon the data in other communities, an opportunity exists to continue to explore opportunities to add Early Head Start Center Based programming, to work with area child care centers as partners, or to 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 home based 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

These programs work together closely to ensure as many families as possible are served through home based visitation.

Statewide Voluntary Preschool programs (Universal PreK) are available in all districts served by Head Start. Statewide Voluntary Preschool in Iowa is a 10 hour per week minimum (most programs run 2.5 hours per day, four days per week). The program generally does not provide meals for children and does not include three year olds (unless they are on an IEP). While there are definite differences between Head Start and Statewide Voluntary Preschool programs, 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 enrollment percentages by ECI (Early Childhood Iowa) area.

**Preschool Enrollment**

<b>Counties</b>	<b>Percentage of four year old children receiving preschool</b>
Audubon	97%
Calhoun	86%
Carroll	77%
Dallas	91%
Greene	94%
Guthrie	95%
Sac	N/A (School Districts did not have this information)

*\*As reported by area School Districts and ECI Areas, 2023.*

When considering three year old preschool, Early Childhood Iowa can provide scholarships for three year old preschool in select counties within the New Opportunities Head Start area. In the Head Start service area, three year old 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**

<b>County</b>	<b>Number of Three Year Old Preschool Programs</b>	<b>Notes (Numbers do not include Head Start program in the county)</b>
Audubon	1	
Calhoun	1	In the school district
Carroll	5	One program is in Manning (others in Carroll)
Dallas	17	
Greene	1	In the school district
Guthrie	0	
Sac	2	

*\*Data provided by Early Childhood Iowa, 2023.*

**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. Continue to advocate for quality programming for young children, specifically three year olds.

Continue to monitor the need for services to children 0-3, specifically monitoring the need for center based care, in all counties served by New Opportunities, Inc.

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.

Reassess all Head Start classroom locations to determine best placement. Some locations have seen shifts in eligible children and enrollment may need to be shifted to other areas.

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.

The past two years have presented the program with some challenges in staffing as well. To serve the children and families in the New Opportunities, Inc. service area, the program needs to be fully staffed with high quality staff. This will be a continued area of focus for the program in the 2022-2023 program year. Recruitment and retention, including staff wages, are areas of opportunity.