**EMANUEL COUNTY EARLY HEAD START**

**2022-2023 Annual Program Report**

The federally funded grant program, awarded to the Emanuel County Board of Education, provides comprehensive year-round center-based services to 48 infants and toddlers up to age three and 7 pregnant women. Six mixed-age classrooms comprised of eight infants and toddlers are supervised by two trained caregivers. Full-day services are provided 220 days per year, from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., at the new Early Learning Center adjoining Swainsboro Primary School utilizing the Creative Curriculum, Ages and Stages-3, and Ages and Stages: Social-Emotional, and The OUNCE Scale assessment instrument.

Service Area--Emanuel County-Swainsboro, Twin City, Adrian, Oak Park, Summertown, Garfield, Lexsy, and Stillmore.

Services to Pregnant Women-Pregnant teens at local high schools and middle schools are target groups.

**Financial Award for 2022-2023 Budget Program Year- $853,543 Budgetary Expenditures-$836,343 (Salaries, fringe benefits) $37,568 supplies (operating expenses) and $17,200.00 Staff Training & Technical Assistance.**

**Funding Period- September 1st to August 31st**

**Proposed 2023-2024 Budget Program Year - $923,569 Budgetary Expenditures – $906,369(Salaries, fringe benefits) $12,868 supplies (operating expenses) and $17,200.00 Staff Training & Technical Assistance.**

**Family Eligibility**-Head Start Income Guidelines Weighted Application to insure children and families most in need are served (parents in school or working). Ten percent of funded enrollment slots (6) must be made available to children with disabilities each program year.

**Governance-**Emanuel County Board of Education-Fiscal Agent and Governing Body

**Policy Council**-3 Community Representatives and 4 Parents-Quarterly Meetings

**Staff-**

Director-Maria Daniels

Early Childhood/Disabilities-Christy Ellington

Family Services Manager-Wendi Ricks

Mental Health Consultant and Coach-Leslie Rowland

Health Services Manager-Courtney Dowd

12 Classroom Caregivers and 3 Support Staff-Total staff-19

**Classroom Staff Credentials**

AA Degree-6 Child Development Associate Credential-6 No Degee-1 (Enrolled in CDA Program)

Staff Turnover-1

**Community Partnerships**

Approximately twenty-eight partnership agreements between Emanuel County Early Head Start and local community resource providers help insure enrolled at-risk families have access to needed resources and services to help them become more self-sufficient.

**Program Facts**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Funded Enrollment | 55 | Meals Served by School Nutrition Program (Breakfast and Lunch) | 14,872 |
| Average Monthly Enrollment | 48 | Snacks Served | 7,436 |
| Infants and Toddlers Served | 84 | Number on Wait List | 82 |
| Children w/ Disabilities | 8 | Number of children with health insurance | 70 |
| Pregnant Women Served | 14 | Health Checks for Children | 51 |
| Total Families Served | 60 | Dental Exams for Children | 27 |
| Volunteer hours | 1,652.57 | Family Engagement Activities | 17 |
| Family Engagement Activity Attendance | 132 | Fathers Attending Activities | 16 |
| Newborns/Infants of Pregnant Women Enrolled | 7 | Enrollment Turnover Withdrew | 29 |
| Number of Children Exceeding 85% Attendance | 19 |  |  |

\*\*Decrease in numbers due to COVID-19.

**Transitions**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 3 year old transition | 15 |
| Number who entered Head Start Program | 11 |
| Number who entered another Early Childhood Program | 3 |
| Number who did NOT enter another Early Childhood Program | 1 |

**2020 Successful Federal Monitoring of program with no findings in the Focus Area One Monitoring Protocol in February.**

**2015-2016 SUCCESSFUL FEDERAL MONITORINGS OF PROGRAM with No Findings in the Head Start Key Indicator- Compliant (HSKI-C) review in January and Environmental Health and Safety review in March, and No Findings in 2018 Financial Audit.**

**Community Assessment**

1. **Service and Recruitment Area**

There is no change in the service area for Emanuel County Early Head Start.

1. **Needs of Children and Families**

The Emanuel County Board of Education serves as fiscal agent for the Early Head Start Program, which is funded to serve 55 infants and toddlers and pregnant women in Emanuel County. Full day, center-based services is provided to 48 infants and toddlers and 7 pregnant women 220 days a year in the Early Learning Center located at Swainsboro Primary School. Services are provided eight hours daily with the opening and closing times adjusted to meet the varying needs of working and student parents.

Emanuel County Early Head Start serves children and families from the following racial and ethnic representation in the county: Caucasian 62.8%; African American 34.5%; Asian

0.8%; Hispanic 4.9%; American Indian 0.5%; Native Hawaiian 0.1%; and two or more races 1.4%. (US Census Bureau population estimates for July 1, 2022)

Demographic Make-Up of Children and Pregnant Women Eligible for Early Head Start Services in Emanuel County

(2021 Georgia Kids Count Data, US Census, GA Department of Labor and

Community Partners)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **EMANUEL COUNTY** | **GEORGIA** |
| Teen Pregnancies  Ages 15-17 (per 1,000) | 26.7%  (13) | 9.9%  (2,181) |
| Teen Births Ages 15-19  (per 1,000) | 40.6%  (32) | 16.5%  (6,124) |
| Low Birthweight Babies | 12.0%  (33) | 10.6%  (13,148) |
| Babies Born to Mothers with  >12 Yrs. of Education | 17.6%  (48) | 11.2%  (13,818) |
| Teen Repeat Births         Ages 15-19 | N/A  (3) | 13.8%  (841) |
| Infant Mortality | 3 | 772 |
| Population Under 5 Yrs. | 6.5% | 5.9% |
| Children Living in Poverty  (2020) | 34.3%   (1,892) | 19.5%  (479,973) |
| Individuals Living in Poverty | 24.1% | 14.0% |
| Unemployment | 4.3%  (380) | 3.1%  (164,973) |
| Median Family Income | $42,880 | $65,030 |
| Families with Children with Annual Incomes > 150% of the Federal Poverty Threshold (2016-2020) | 49.6%  (1,284) | 26.8%  (335,736) |
| Children Whose Parents Lack Secure Employment (2016-2020) | 7.7%  (408) | 7.5%  (176,954) |
| Children in Foster Care | 40 | N/A |
| Homeless Students | 62 | N/A |
| Children Living in Single- Parent Families (2016-2020) | 51.8%  (2,403) | 33.5%  (720,101) |
| Households with Children Receiving Food Stamps | 1,122 | 311,433 |
| Children Enrolled in WIC Program, Ages Birth-4 Yrs. | 755 | 209,313 |
| Students Eligible to Receive Free Meals | 98.09% | N/A |
| Children Enrolled in Medicaid or PeachCare | 4,317 | 1,359,953 |
| Children Not Attending School Ages 3-4 Yrs. (2016-2020) | 44.4%  (211) | 50.9%  (140,083) |
| Teens Who Are High School Drop-Outs (2016-2020) | 19.5%   (229) | 4.6%  (26,975) |
| Teens Not in School and Not Working, Ages 16-19 Yrs. (2016-2020) | 25.1%  (295) | 7.6%  (44,575) |
| High School Graduation Rate | 88.8%  (230) | 83.7%  (109,590) |

In addition to the above data, the Emanuel County Department of Family and Children Services reported (as of April 2023) 3,059 food stamp households, 32 active TANF cases, 7,282 Medicaid families (adults and children).  They also reported 40 children in foster care.

The Social Security Office reported 1,037 SSI cases in Emanuel County (from September 2022 until April 2023).  The Emanuel County Health Department reported they are currently providing average monthly services to 6 pregnant women. Numbers have dropped drastically since the WIC (Women and Infant Care) Program is no longer handled at the local level. Parents receive benefits on a card each month, and their contact is in the regional office. They reported 241 children from birth to 5 years received immunizations from January 2023 to present and 207 health checks were performed on children. The Sunshine House Child Advocacy Center reported 21 new cases of child abuse in Emanuel County from September 1, 2022 to February 8, 2023.

**Other Child Development Programs**

Bright from the Start Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning collect data regarding the number of child care programs in Emanuel County. They reported 6 licensed day care centers and 2 family child care learning homes.  The combined total of center-based slots in all centers is 302 (283 in child care centers and 19 in family child care learning homes). One day care center was not willing to give us the information we requested, so their information is not included in this report. Approximately 30 of the children enrolled in childcare centers attend the local Head Start. The US Census Bureau population estimations for 2021 reported 6.5% of the population is children under the age of 5 years in Emanuel County.  The Georgia’s Cross Agency Child Data System website reported 138 children were served by a CAPS scholarship during the year 2021(CACDS). This is the most updated number available to the public.

In addition to childcare providers, Emanuel County Head Start has served 85 three-year-olds and 20 four-year olds during the 2022-2023 school year. Approximately 30 of the Head Start children are transported to a local day care center after the Head Start day ends. The Emanuel County Pre-K Program has served 213 four-year-olds, 126 of whom are classified as Category I (eligible for TANF, Medicaid, Food Stamps, SSI, PeachCare for Kids, or receive Free or Reduced Price meals). Southeastern Technical College's Child Development Center, a licensed facility, provided services to 45 preschool children birth to three years of age.

**Children with Disabilities**

Babies Can't Wait, the Georgia Early Intervention Program, provides data regarding the number of children with disabilities three years of age or younger in Emanuel County. According to the state coordinator, their agency is currently serving 22 children with developmental delays in speech and motor skills. During the 2022-2023 program year Emanuel County Early Head Start has served 5 children with disabilities, 3 children are currently pending and 1 child is receiving private speech therapy. The program will exceed the requirement that 10% of funded enrollment (55) opportunities must be made available to children with disabilities. Emanuel County Early Head Start has a formal partnership agreement with Babies Can't Wait, which is renewed annually to ensure that enrolled infants and toddlers with disabilities receive all needed services on-site at the center.  Babies Can’t Wait has been on a 2 month delay for all children who have been referred from outside agencies within the state of Georgia. This has caused delays in getting children identified for services.

The Emanuel County School System Preschool Special Education program, located at the primary school, provides on-site services to all three-year-olds with diagnosed disabilities.  Services to each three-year-old continues until the child transitions from Early Head Start to the preschool special education program.

**Pregnant Teens**

During the 2022-2023 school year, the two local high schools and middle school have referred 7 pregnant teens. Five pregnant women from the community also enrolled in Early Head Start services. Pregnant teens at the local high schools and middle school have become the key target group again for Early Head Start enrollment as identified in the initial grant application and in the past annual community assessment results.  Currently our Community Assessment shows a major increase of teen pregnancy in our county.  The Kids Count Data Center reported a drastic increase in teen pregnancies among 15-17 year olds. Emanuel County had a 26.7% rate in 2021 compared to a 17.8% rate in 2019.  Georgia’s overall rate declined from 11.1% in 2019 to 9.9% in 2021.

**Teen Pregnancies, Ages 15-17 (per 1,000) in Emanuel County (Kids Count Data)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Location | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
| Georgia  Emanuel Co. | 12.3%  13.9% (6) | 12.0%  17.4% (8) | 11.1%  17.8% (7) | 10.4%  14.9% (7) | 9.9%  26.7% (13) |

**Community Resources**

Emanuel County Early Head Start has established informal partnership agreements with approximately 26 resource providers in Emanuel County to ensure that enrolled children and their families have access to needed services. Each agency is contacted by staff for annual renewal of each agreement. Formal partnership agreements are signed annually with Babies Can't Wait, Emanuel County Head Start, Southeastern Technical College, Emanuel County Health Department, Sunshine House, Emanuel County Department of Family and Children Services, Emanuel County Schools and other agencies.  Prevent Blindness offers free vision screenings on the enrolled 3 year olds once a year and the local health department conducts our annual immunization audit and flu vaccines.

1. **Chosen Program Option and Funded Enrollment Slots**

Emanuel County Early Head Start is a center-based program option that provides services to children and families.

**PROGRAM OPTION – CENTER-BASED**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Center-Based | Pregnant Women | Funded Enrollment |
| EHS | 48 | 7 | 55 |

1. **Centers and Facilities**

The program has continued to follow the updated CDC COVID-19 guidelines, which includes on-going daily sanitation of the facility and increased sanitizing stations.  Through a COVID-19 grant our school system was given air purifiers to distribute in the office areas and all classrooms.

1. **Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment and Attendance**

Our program has been fully enrolled all year and has not had enrollment or recruitment issues due to COVID-19. During our school readiness aggregation we found the majority of our students are above the 85% this school year, which is something we have not had since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. All students received onsite services the entire program year.

1. **Education and Child Development**

There have been no changes in education or child development.

1. **Health**

Staff, children and families will continue to receive onsite sanitation, education, training and materials that are needed to meet the CDC guidelines for COVID-19.  A COVID-19 Mitigation Plan was created by the management staff, nurse and health services advisory committee to align with the Head Start mandate.  A full time nurse will continue to be on site for a second year to work with families to stay caught up on all health, nutrition and dental care requirements and to assist with the student’s health and safety issues.  She will be housed in the Early Learning Center wing and equipped with a fully functioning clinic. This position will be paid for by a grant that was received in the county from the East Central Health District School Health Support Funds. A new optoacoustic emissions screener was purchased and onsite hearing screenings are now being completed by the nurse. This has been an ongoing challenge for our program, but has now been resolved.

1. **Family and Community Engagement**

The Sunshine House who previously carried out our evidence based parenting curriculum, Nurturing Parenting, trained a new employee to help our program implement the parenting curriculum that we had in place. The program has been able to offer workshops and trainings on site to parents just as we did become the pandemic.

1. **Services for Children with Disabilities**

Babies Can’t Wait is still offering virtual services to our students, because they are still not doing onsite visits. At this time, only private therapists are doing onsite services.

1. **Transition**

The local Head Start program is not allowing onsite tours again this year.  The staff at Head Start shared pictures of the facility with the Early Head Start teachers. Transition picture books were made and sent home with all transitioning students who will be attending Head Start next year. The Head Start Director met with these families during a Transition Breakfast held in our conference room.

1. **Services to Enrolled Pregnant Women**

The Nurse has been allowed back into the middle and high schools to offer onsite sessions with the pregnant teens. There has been an increase of teen pregnancy in our county, so they have become our focus group once again.

1. **Transportation**

There are no changes in transportation.

**Emanuel County Early Head Start School Readiness Data Aggregation**

**June, July, and August 2023**

**Classroom Data**

\*4 out of 6 classrooms have child/children with IFSP and/or IEP

\*2 out of 6 classrooms have 0 children with IFSP/IEP

Analysis of classroom screening and assessment data, based on the Ounce Scale indicators for prescribed age levels present in each classroom, and attendance, revealed that all children were developing as expected, with the exception of children with an IFSP, IEP, delay on Ages and Stages, Ages and Stages: Social-Emotional screening tool or receiving private speech therapy. Assessment age levels are birth to 4 months, 4-8 months, 8-12 months, 12-18 months, 18-24 months, 24-30 months, 30-36 months, and 36-42 months.

**Program-Wide Data**

\*Program-level data aggregation included 12 Infants, 18 one-year-olds, 16 two-year- olds, and 18 three-year-olds

\*4 Children have IFSP and 0 child has an IEP

\*4 Children are receiving private speech therapy

\*1 child rescreening pending

\*55 children are developing as expected and 9 need development. 64 children were enrolled June through August. Two girls out of 25 need development and 7 boys out of 39 need development.

\*Program-level data aggregation reported 1 infant needs development, 2 one-year-old needs development, 5 two-year-olds need development, and 1 three-year-olds need development.

Serving children in mixed-age classrooms results in enrolling infants and toddlers throughout the program year. Therefore, date of enrollment and age of child impacts the ratings on the child’s School Readiness benchmarks.



           









