U.S. Programs & Advocacy Fact Sheet

Save the Children®

OUR IMPACT IN LOUISIANA

Chaynsidy and Amari pick crayons from their Save the Children Head Start Teacher in Louisiana for a project to express emotions.

Save the Children believes every child deserves a future. Since 2012, we have been on the ground in rural Louisiana providing critical early childhood education opportunities by operating **Head Start** and **Early Head Start** programs.

Our years of experience – and numerous evidence-based studies – illustrate that high-quality early childhood education, starting in the earliest days of pregnancy and continuing through the end of third grade, is the key to breaking the cycle of child poverty that affects 1 in 5 children nationwide. We currently operate 10 Head Start Centers, dual-enrollment programs in conjunction with the Jefferson Davis and Rapides Parish School Boards, plus Early Head Start home-based programs in two parishes, delivering services to more than 1,000 children.

The Importance of Head Start & Early Head Start

Head Start and Early Head Start are federally funded programs that provides early learning opportunities to children birth through age 5 growing up in poverty, during their most critical stages of development. Education components help children develop socially and emotionally and overcome the large gaps in school preparedness that are linked to family income. Comprehensive social service offerings help entire families improve their situation and better support their youngest members.

But communities where children need these programs sometimes struggle to maintain high-quality Head Start programs that meet national standards. This problem is particularly acute in isolated, rural communities where alternative programs for young children are limited or non-existent. As a result, the most vulnerable of our nation's children are left without early interventions that could change the course of their entire lives.

Save the Children's Solution

Since 2011, Save the Children has applied for and been awarded grants to lead Head Start and Early Head Start programs in four states, including Louisiana. To provide the children and families we serve with comprehensive services, we hire qualified candidates, provide intensive training, refurbish classrooms and playgrounds and equip our teachers with research-based curriculums that help stimulate young minds and activate little hands and bodies.

We also use our innovative and highly successful home visiting program, Early Steps to School Success, and incorporate learnings into Early Head Start programs to serve expectant mothers and their young children.

As one of a few multi-state Head Start providers in the country, we are able to achieve cost savings through scale. We draw on the rich early childhood expertise of our staff and lead training and mentoring opportunities. Plus, as a Head Start provider that focuses exclusively on rural America, we are proud to build early childhood development capacity in communities that need it most.

Louisiana Results

Together, we are making a difference for Louisiana's children. 79 percent of Head Start Children are meeting or exceeding growth expectations in language and literacy, and 90 percent of children are meeting or exceeding cognitive development expectations.

Where We Work: 2018-19 School Year

SITES	Children Served	Head Start	Early Head Start
JEFFERSON DAVIS PARISH	**183**		
Elton Head Start Center		•	
Jennings Head Start Center		•	
RAPIDES PARISH	**832**		
Carter C. Raymond Elementary School Head Start		•	
Jackson Head Start Center		•	•
Lakeview Head Start Center		•	
Lee Head Start Center		•	•
McKeithen Head Start Center		•	•
Summerwood Head Start Center		•	
The Bayou Head Start Center		•	•
The Pines Head Start Center		•	•
TOTAL	**1,015**		