



Jeff Davis Louisiana **HEAD START** ANNUAL REPORT

2020-2021 School Year Results

Head Start Annual Report

Reflections from Our Director

Dear Friends,

The Save the Children Head Start Program has been serving low income children and their families in Jefferson Davis Parish since 2012. We are committed to making a difference in the lives of children and strive to serve the most vulnerable and at-risk children and their families in our community – including children who are experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, and those with special needs.

Our Head Start community has always known we are much stronger when we act together. This past year has probably been one of the most challenging years we've faced, in the mist of the COVID-19 pandemic we were hit with two hurricanes and an ice storm. 2020-2021 program year brought many challenges to what we knew as our "norm". None the less, Save the Children Head Start in Jefferson Davis faced the obstacles by involving families with innovation and perseverance. We began our year with formatting the forms that are necessary for family services and education to be able to be completed and signed electronically. We also prepared for closures with virtual classroom packages and at home supplies for our families. Facebook, Zoom, Skype, and other means were used to provide communication about centers updates, activities, parent groups, Policy Council, and community resources to restructure the way we conduct business.

Jefferson Davis Head Start implemented a "hybrid service-delivery model" that will include both center-based and remote services. We enroll our classrooms with a maximum group size of 10 children (with two adults) to facilitate our ability to honor social-distancing recommendations and to comply with State group-size limits. We prioritize returning children for these center-based slots, but added new enrollees based on need, as space allows. We offered full-day center-based services Monday – Thursday, with Fridays designated as "Teacher Workdays" for planning and cleaning /sanitizing. All other children were served remotely, which includes live virtual classroom instruction via video conferencing; remote parent/family engagement services; and limited daily/weekly food distribution for children. Virtual services were provided through weekly lessons, learning packets and the new *Teaching Strategies Creative Curriculum CLOUD*.

The program received extra COVID funds which were used to purchase masks, gloves, and other materials needed to keep children, staff and all centers and classrooms clean and healthy. Disinfecting mist foggers and hand-held misters were purchased to use in maintaining clean environments and toys. Extra supplies were purchased to allow each child to have an individual box of art and fine motor supplies and learning packets.

Staff worked really hard work to plan and implement both individualized classroom activities and virtual lessons for children who learned at home. Additional training and support was provided to staff throughout the year. Additional mindfulness training for staff was also a focus during this difficult year of supporting and helping to meet the needs of families.

As we begin another year, we are taking extra precaution to ensure everyone remains safe. We are, and always have been, in this together; and it is our privilege to continue to bring Head Start and Early Head Start services to our communities. We will continue to build relationships that motivate people to create and sustain positive changes in their own lives. We are proud of our accomplishments and want to share them with you. Please take time to learn about the great work we are doing for children and families in Jefferson Davis Parish.

Sincerely,

Johnnie Belle Chavis

Johnnie Belle Chavis
Save the Children Head Start Program Director
Jeff Davis, LA
jchavis@savechildren.org

Head Start Annual Report



Management Team

- Johnnie Belle Chavis, Program Director
- Cynthia Arceneaux, CACFP & Health Specialist
- Gwennette Bellard, Education Manager
- Patricia Dufrene, Disabilities & Inclusion Manager
- Susan Forman, HR Specialist
- Kimberly Beverly, Data Specialist
- Joni McZeal, Facilities/Transportation Manager
- Terry Fontenot, PFCE Manager

About Louisiana Head Start

In July 2012, Save the Children was awarded \$1,287,345 in base grant and technical assistance funds to serve 182 children in a Head Start center-based program in the parish of Jefferson Davis in Southwestern Louisiana. Area demographics show that there are about 802 children five-years-old and under living at or below poverty level in the parish. There are high rates of poverty, (especially child poverty) lack of education, teen births, obesity and infant mortality.

Program highlights:

- 90% of Head Start Teachers has B.S. degrees or higher
- 10% of Head Start Teachers has an Associate's degree
- 100% of Head Start Assistant Teachers has a Child Development Associates or higher
- 90% of Early Head Start Teachers has an Infant/Toddler Child Development Associates
- 10% of Early Head Start Teachers has an Associates' degree
- 100% of our Teachers and Teacher Assistants have the LA state ancillary teaching certificate
- 100% of our Family Services Coordinators has a Family Services Credential or higher
- An average of 58 volunteers helped achieve Non-Federal Match

Service Area Map showing both Jennings and Elton Centers within our Louisiana Jefferson Davis Head Start program



Save the Children Head Start Jeff Davis, LA BY THE NUMBERS

Number of Centers	2
Total Children & Families Served	110
Children with Disabilities Served	12
Children who are transported by Save the Children buses	
Percentage of Eligible Children Served	100%
Number of Local Head Start Staff	40

PARENT ENGAGEMENT

Head Start Annual Report

Save the Children prides itself of leading Head Start programs that are two-generational, serving children and parents alike. During the 2020-2021 school year, we:

- Completed family assessments with all families and helped families with resources to meet family goals.
- Held parent-training opportunities using Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (CSEFEL) curriculum virtual only as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, services to children were very different during this program year.
- Out of the 26 families that were homeless, 1 families obtained affordable housing.
- 12 families engaged in a financial literacy-learning module

Strong COVID protocols were implemented from the beginning of the program year to ensure children, staff and families remained safe and healthy. Some of the new protocols implemented were:

- Staff received training on COVID-19 symptoms, safe practices and procedures during pre-service.
- Drop-off and pick-up stations were developed outside the front door of the center so that staff could complete the COVID-19 health questionnaires and health check prior to staff entering the center.
- Curbside drop off for children with temperature check and questionnaires
- For students riding the bus opening windows, weather permitting, to increase circulation of outdoor air, as long as doing so does not pose a safety or health risk (e.g., risk of falling).
- Maintaining mandatory consistent, correct use of masks by adults and children while on a school bus and at arrival/departure points (e.g., bus stops), except for individuals who cannot safely wear a mask. Bus drivers should be provided with extra masks to make available in case a student does not have one.
- Seating one student per row, alternating window and aisle seating, skipping row when possible.
- Head Start services were provided using both center-based and home-based services. Families who chose to keep their children at home received lessons two times per week with their teachers. Three children received virtual lessons, two in Head Start and one in EHS.

- Parent conferences and home visits were completed virtually to limit possible COVID exposure.
- Special foggers and sanitizing spray was used to disinfect classrooms and children's toys.
- Both children and staff wore masks while indoors.



PRE-KINDERGARTEN /KINDERGARTEN READINESS

The transition to kindergarten is a major milestone in the lives of children and their families. In addition, when transitions are well planned, children have fewer adjustment problems and more continuous developmental success. This year, twenty-nine children graduated from Head Start and are beginning their elementary school years this fall in kindergarten.

Here are just some of the ways we helped both children and families prepare for kindergarten:

- **TS GOLD shows children meeting or exceeding expectations across domains.** Data showed that at the end of the year children met expectations in the following areas:
 - 91.2% in Social & Emotional Development
 - 84.6% in Physical Development

Head Start Annual Report

- 86.8% in Language
- 79.1% in Cognitive Development
- 93.4% in Literacy Development
- 92.3% in Mathematics
- **CLASS Outcomes**
 - Emotional Support 6.4-Fall
 - Emotional Support 6.57-Spring
 - Classroom Organization 5.78-Fall
 - Classroom Organization 5.78-Spring
 - Instructional Support 4.31-Fall
 - Instructional Support 4.25-Spring
- **Twelve children received special needs services during the year.** Save the Children Head Start/Early Head Start staff screened children within 45-days of enrollment. The LEA staff then provided one-on-one and small group therapy services in each center to promote learning and development. Teachers helped to continue learning throughout the week in the classroom or through virtual lessons and sent activities to parents to do at home to support their child's learning.
- **Parents are involved in helping develop their child's developmental goals.** Head Start teachers began using Teaching Strategies Creative Curriculum CLOUD with families. This digital curriculum supported the teachers in partnering with families to promote learning at home.
- **Head Start and EHS children received two books per month** to build an at home library home and encourage reading at home with parents and/or other family members. Books were included in the learning packets sent home for virtual learners.

stay healthy and safe as they participate in Head Start/Early Head Start services during a pandemic. Although there continues to be a need to maintain our COVID safety protocols, all children are expected to return to classroom learning this program year. Teachers will individualize learning activities for each child using the Cloud curriculum to promote readiness skills and the teachers can share the same activities with parents to extend classroom learning into the home. In this way, we will still promote parents as their child's first and most important teacher. Parents will also be able to support their child's on-going assessment by submitting observations and/or photos to the teacher to upload as part of the child's assessment portfolio.

We will partner with families to support their progress toward improved well-being and self-sufficiency. Parents will be able to participate in CSEFEL (Center on the Social Emotional Foundations of Early Learning) training during the year. Additional training will also be provided to parents based on family needs and trends learned from the Family Needs Assessment completed by families during the year.

Over the summer of 2021, SCUS Head Start Programs was awarded five new Head Start grants in the following states – Louisiana, North Carolina, Tennessee, Arkansas and Oklahoma. The Louisiana grant in Evangeline Parish will be consolidated with the Jefferson Davis program. Through this consolidation the following new staff have been added to our management team

Health Data

Number of children with an ongoing source of continuous, accessible health care	107
Number of children with continuous, accessible dental care provided by a dentist	105
Children Who Received Medical Exams	105
Children Who Received Dental Exams	105

to oversee both Jefferson Davis and Evangeline Parishes, an Area Manager, Fiscal Coordinator, Health Manager and Specialist who are both

LOOKING

Building school year 2021-2022 we will continue making changes as needed to our services to ensure children, families and staff



As we move into the new program year in 2021-2022 we will continue making changes as needed to our services to ensure children, families and staff

Head Start Annual Report

licensed nurses. In addition we have moved our Administrative Office to Eunice, LA to be centralized between both programs. We look forward to the new ideas and opportunities these staff will bring to our program.



Head Start Annual Report

FINANCIALS

In 2020, the Jefferson Davis Head Start program received \$1.899 million, mostly in public funds and gift-in-kind donations. The majority of funds in 2020 – approximately \$1.49M, or 79 percent – were used for Personnel costs, with the remainder of funds used for facilities, supplies, or other program implementation costs.

SOURCES OF FUNDING

Program		Jeff Davis
Cost Category		2020 Spend
Personnel		\$ 1,491,331
Supplies, Transportation and Implementation		\$ 274,581
Office and Facilities		\$ 129,637
All Other		\$ 4,040
Grand Total		\$ 1,899,590

FY20 BUDGETARY EXPENDITURES

Program		Jeff Davis
Funding Type		2020 Spend
Gift In Kind		\$ 119,381
Private		\$ 14,147
Public		\$ 1,715,120
Undesignated		\$ 50,943
Grand Total		\$ 1,899,590

SECRETARY REVIEW & FINANCIAL AUDIT RESULTS

Save the Children's Head Start programs are included in the annual Save the Children A-133 Audit. There were no findings related to Head Start in the audit for fiscal year ending 2020.

FY21 BUDGET

Our FY21 budget is \$2.235 million, an increase due to increased funding opportunities related to COVID. Below is the allocation breakdown for the type of funding on the left and the cost category on the right.

SOURCES OF FUNDING

Program		Jeff Davis
Cost Category		2021 Budget
Office and Facilities		\$ 71,233
Personnel		\$ 1,560,490
Supplies, Transportation, and Implementation		\$ 603,053
Grand Total		\$ 2,234,776

FY21 BUDGET

Program		Jeff Davis
Funding Type		2021 Budget
Gift In Kind		\$ 327,179
Private		\$ 100,714
Public		\$ 1,797,703
Undesignated		\$ 9,180
Grand Total		\$ 2,234,776

Head Start Annual Report

Save the Children Head Start Jeff Davis Parish Sites

SITE	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	PHONE
Administration Office/Jennings Center	306 South Lake Arthur Ave.	Jennings	LA	70546	(337) 616-9556
Elton Center	209 Al Woods Street	Elton	LA	70532	(337) 584-3015

Save the Children's Commitment to Head Start

Every child deserves the best chance for a bright future. That is why, for 100 years, Save the Children has been working in the United States and around the world to keep children healthy, educated, and safe. We deliver lasting results for millions of children, including those hardest to reach. Here at home, that means focusing our efforts on serving children in rural America. From our earliest days in Appalachia to the present, Save the Children is committed to meeting children's needs, going where others cannot, filling critical gaps in services and delivering scalable solutions to the challenges children face.

In 2012, Save the Children identified a failing Head Start program in Jefferson Davis Parish with no viable local providers. In the absence, Save the Children applied for and was awarded our second Head Start grant. Since then, we have been awarded additional grants and currently operate Head Start and Early Head Start programs in rural communities in five states: Arkansas, Louisiana, North Carolina, Oklahoma and Tennessee.

Questions about Save the Children's work in Louisiana may be directed to Johnnie Belle Chavis by email at jchavis@savechildren.org or phone (337)275-9044. Arvelis Byrd serves as the Executive Director of Save the Children's Head Start/Early Head Start Programs and can be reached at arbyrd@savechildren.org



Save the Children®



Head Start