



# Red River Region **HEAD START** ANNUAL REPORT

2020-2021 School Year Results

# Head Start Annual Report

## Reflections from Our Director

Dear Friends,

The Head Start Program has been serving low income children and their families in Natchitoches Parish for over 36 years. 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 homeless, in foster care, and with exceptional needs. As of August 1, 2019, Save the Children became the new grantee for the Head Start Program in Natchitoches, Red River and Desoto Parishes. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the community, especially the Natchitoches Parish School Board, Desoto Parish School Board, Red River Parish School Board, The Mayor's Office, Northwestern State University, and The Office of Community Services for supporting our efforts in acquiring this grant and for welcoming and embracing Save the Children as a new grantee. We have embarked on a new opportunity to continue to serve the families of Natchitoches, Desoto and now Red River Parishes. Save the Children has extended the Head Start services not only to serve Head Start children but Early Head Start children as well. Now we have a true pipeline to kindergarten from 0-5 years of age to serve 270 Head Start and 40 Early Head Start Children. I would also like to thank the phenomenal group of parents and community partners who serve on the Policy Council; and our staff who continued to stay motivated through these not so certain times. Most important, we support the roles of the parents as their child's first and most important teacher. We believe in establishing a partnership with our parents so we can share a common purpose and that is the child's success in school. The staff of Save the Children Red River Region will continue to treat everyone with dignity and respect while striving to be the best Head Start/Early Head Start Program in the state. We have successfully opened and licensed our largest facility, Gold Street Head Start, which is located at 1504 Gold Street neighboring L. P. Vaughn Elementary School. Follow us on our Facebook page to stay informed on all of our latest and greatest news. Please take the time to learn about all the great opportunities Save the Children Head Start/ Early Head Start has for the children of Red River Region.

Sincerely,

*Chriscella M. Metoyer Ed. S*

**Chriscella M. Metoyer**  
**Save the Children Head Start Program Director**  
**Red River Region**  
[cmetoyer@savechildren.org](mailto:cmetoyer@savechildren.org)

### Management Team

Chriscella M. Metoyer Program Director  
Cynthia Arceneaux/Lauren Raymond, Health/Nutrition Specialist/CACFP  
Janet Powell, Education Manager  
Taylor Morgan, Education Coach  
Natalie Johnson- Education Coach  
Hillary Portiere, Human Resources Specialist  
Brandi Carpenter, Finance and Procurement Specialist  
Joni Drake, Facilities/Transportation Specialist  
Terry Fontenot, Parent, Family, Community Engagement Manager  
Patricia Telsee, Parent, Family, Community Engagement Specialist  
Tina Carter, Parent, Family, Community Engagement Specialist

## About Louisiana Head Start

In August 2019, Save the Children was awarded \$3,719,241 in base and technical assistance funds to serve 310 children in a Head Start center- based

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program in the Parishes of Natchitoches, Desoto, and Red River in Southwestern Louisiana. Area demographics show that there are about 434 children five-years-old and under living at or below poverty in Desoto Parish, 995 in Natchitoches Parish and 191 in Red River Parish. There are high rates of poverty, especially child poverty, lack of education, teen births, obesity and infant mortality.

This year we applied for \$3,158,237 for operation of the Head Start program in Red River Region from March 1, 2021 through February 28, 2022, to allow Save the Children Head Start Red River Region to serve 40 EHS and 270 Head Start children for a total of 310 children.

Designation of these funds is as follows:

- \$3,121,118 for Program Account 22, base Head Start operations
- \$37,119 for Program Account 20, Head Start training and technical assistance
- \$780,155 Non Federal Share



## Save the Children Head Start/Early Head Start Red River Region BY THE NUMBERS

<b>Number of Centers</b>	5
<b>Total Children &amp; Families Served</b>	114
<b>Children with Disabilities Served</b>	2
<b>Children who are transported by Save the Children buses</b>	0
<b>Percentage of Eligible Children Served</b>	100%
<b>Number of Local Head Start Staff</b>	52

## PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Save the Children prides itself on leading Head Start programs that are two-generational, serving children and parents alike. During the 2020-21 school year, we:

- Conducted the Family Map with all families and helped families with resources to meet family goals

- Parent teacher conferences and monthly parent meetings were held virtually.
- Due to the late start of school and the COVID-19 pandemic, all of the family events we had planned for the year were canceled.
- Family Service team attended the PFCE virtual cluster where they developed a plan for our families. In the plan the team focused on 3 key area on the continuum
  1. Positive Parent -Child Relationship
  2. Family Engagement in Transitions
  3. Family Connections to peers and Community.

## Health Data

	EHS	HS
<b>Number of children with an ongoing source of continuous, accessible health care</b>	90%	82%
<b>Number of children with continuous, accessible dental care provided by a dentist</b>	90%	82%
<b>Children Who Received Medical Exams</b>	.88%	53%
<b>Children Who Received Dental Exams</b>	0%	46%

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## PRE-KINDERGARTEN /KINDERGARTEN READINESS

Save the Children Head Start Red River Region approach to School Readiness means that children are ready for kindergarten, families are ready to support their children’s learning, and the kindergarten programs are ready for the children. We believe in the following:

### **We Believe:**

1. A parent is a child’s first and most important teacher.
2. Through family assessments we can identify the families’ needs and goals, connecting them with local resources that will address those needs and goals. Once the needs of the families are addressed the life of the child and family as whole is improved.
3. Our program must reflect the needs and goals of the children and families we serve in Red River Region.
4. Families that take an active role in their child’s education early on enhances the child’s learning and sets a foundation of future learning.
5. All children can reach their full potential, learn at high levels, and become successful adults regardless of background, experiences, or circumstances.
6. We must create a nurturing environment that enhances each child’s individuality, creativity, self-expression, and cognitive growth.
7. We must continue to provide high-quality; on-going, job-embedded professional development/coaching for staff to effectively accomplish goals and be successful in their specific content area.

With these beliefs students and parents were provided several opportunities to learn about and prepare for the 2020-2021 school year. The Head Start program made an effort to prepare students and their families for Kindergarten by planning to conduct transition meetings during the end of January and the beginning of February 2021. Due to the onset of COVID-19, these meetings were canceled, however parent were given packets of information and resources needed for a smooth transition to kindergarten. Families of students that enroll at the beginning of the school year or at other times during the year are provided with a packet of information about the Head Start program, including a copy of the parent handbook. In addition, parents also attended orientation, open house, school readiness meeting, curriculum trainings, parent conferences, and other trainings. Prior to COVID-19, families were given the opportunity to visit the classrooms, meet administrators, the family engagement specialists, and other staff involved with students to ask about the

program and the curriculum. The continuation of COVID-19 resulted in several challenges and changes to Head Start as a whole. We operated at 58% capacity (approximately 10 students per class for Head Start). We continued to offer virtual classes as well as face to face for the entire school year. In order for the students to receive continuous services, we issued tablets and sent home learning packets each week until the end of the school term. We conducted our transition ceremonies virtually and A “Summer Transition Packet” was sent home with each child at the end of the school year. This packet was designed to assist with the transition from Head Start to the Kindergarten classroom. It also provided information and strategies for parents to utilize with the students during the summer months. The goal of the “Summer Transition Packet” is to help parents continue assisting students with the transition to Kindergarten. Listed below are some of strategies we utilized to help both children and families prepare for kindergarten:

- **T.S Gold was utilized and three checkpoints were finalized. Listed below is the data that was gathered from last year’s checkpoints.**

### **Head Start:**

	Social Emotional	Physical	Language	Cognitive	Literacy	Mathematics
■ Baseline	67.92	78.43	56.6	52.94	49.05	49.05
■ Mid Year	68.29	68.83	74.35	62.16	67.56	52.7
■ End of Year	91.25	87.5	88.75	80	81.25	76.25

### **Early Head Start:**

	Social Emotional	Physical	Language	Cognitive	Literacy	Mathematics
■ Baseline	57.89	42.1	42.1	73.68	94.73	78.94
■ Mid Year	45	35	15	40	100	100
■ End of Year	90.47	90.47	85.71	80.95	100	90.47

- **2 children received special needs services during the year.** Two Head Start children with exceptional needs had an IEP and received therapy services in their center to promote learning and development. IEP goals are a part of the weekly lesson plan so individual learning occurs every day.

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- **Our children had a number of books read to them at home during the program year.** Every family in the program had the opportunity to engage in at least one of the family engagement reading programs. PRIMETIME Reading and Reading to soar are third party reading initiatives aimed at teaching parents how to read and engage in activities with their children. Unfortunately, PRIMETIME reading was cancelled due to the pandemic, however we did continue with Reading to Soar. Reading to soar is a free eight week session reading program for children ages birth-to-five years and their parents or caregivers. The program helps develop and strengthen a culture of reading at home by education parents, building a child's home library and increasing awareness about community resources to help ensure the child has the tools for school. Reading to soar provided the child (ren) with up to eight books per session. Red River Region also received a large donation of books from Scholastic and the books are distributed to the children monthly and tied into the Creative Curriculum.

## LOOKING AHEAD

Despite all the challenges with facilities and the COVID-19 pandemic, overall Red River Region had a successful school year. We operated five of our seven sites STC Breda Head Start, Fairview Alpha Head Start, Natchez Head Start, Mansfield Head Start/Early Head Start and L.P. Vaughn Head Start/Early Head Start.

Save the Children Head Start/EHS teaching staff is evaluated biyearly using CLASS. However during COVID the teachers were observed at least once by a local observer. The Head Start teachers are observed and rated in three dimensions; Emotional Support, Classroom Management and Instructional Support. Engage Support for Learning. Overall in the fall of 2020 Red River Head Start teachers scored were 6.34 in Emotional Support, 5.7 in Classroom Management, and 3.95 in Instructional Support. In the spring the teachers scored 6.31 in Emotional Support, 5.56 in Classroom Management and 4.01 in Instructional Support.

Save the Children Head Start Red River Region continues to make strides toward our three program goals; preparing children for school readiness, empowering families by connecting them to a coordinated services support network, and implementing a monitoring system, analysis system and tools to ensure a robust approach to ongoing monitoring, data use, and self-assessment to provide high-quality services to children and families.

Save the Children Red River Region has developed a strategic plan to prepare children for school readiness. We have adopted a researched based curriculum. Creative Curriculum, which allows children to learn through creative and active learning. The children ultimately receive 6.5- 7 hours of center base instruction daily and we provided 2 hours of virtual learning per week during the closure of schools.

Empowering families is an essential part of the successful classroom learning. Red River Region has adopted a parent curriculum, CSEFEL, which is evidence based and focused on the social/emotional development and school readiness of young children birth through 5 years of age. The purpose is to assist the parents with understanding the development of their children in preparation for kindergarten,

Implementing a monitoring system, analysis system and tools to ensure a robust approach to ongoing monitoring, data use, and self-assessment to provide high-quality services to children and families. Proper monitoring of our Head Start program is important to keep track of all components that are required in order to maintain our funding each year. Save the Children has developed a strategic monitoring systems that uses data so we can continue to provide high quality services to the families we serve. We have trained our leadership team on the complex aspects of the monitoring systems and through weekly work groups, we are able to discuss the data as a team and ensure that the required 30, 45, and 60 day benchmarks are met. All three long-term goals are an effort to build capacity within all content areas. Streamlining procedures for data collection, unifying the curriculum and improving the application of assessment CLASS and TSG as well as ensuring each class is equipped with materials or goals set in effort to enhance assessment and instruction.

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Red River Regions emphasizes on the importance of maximizing each child's learning potential in order to become lifelong learners. This requires each child to be physically, emotionally, and socially ready to learn which this begins at birth. Red River Region has a highly qualified staff of teachers who have a background in early childhood development and years of experience in the field. They understand how to implement the strategies required to empower parents to be their child's first teacher. Children who have parents that promote and encourage their child have a higher potential of becoming life-long learners.

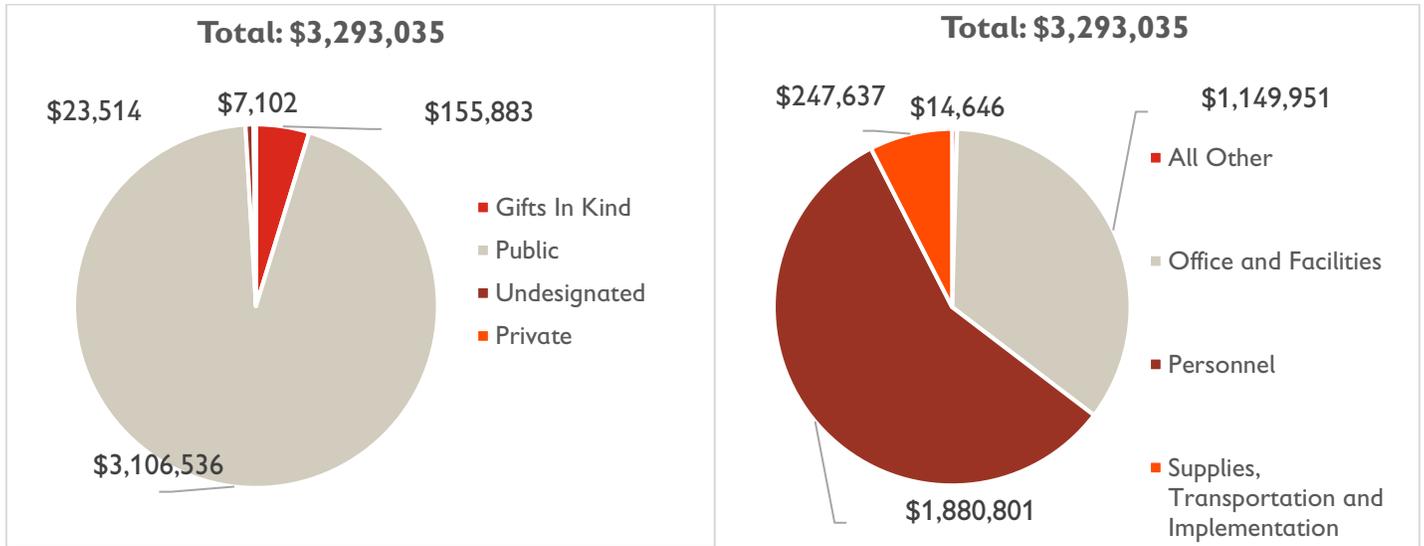
## High-Quality Care begins with Highly Qualified Staff

- 100% of our teachers are degreed
  - 55% Bachelor's degree
  - 26% Associate's degree
  - 19% CDA
- 50% of our teacher assistants possess a Child Development Associate (CDA)
- 91% of our Family Service Workers possess the Family Service Credential

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## FINANCIALS

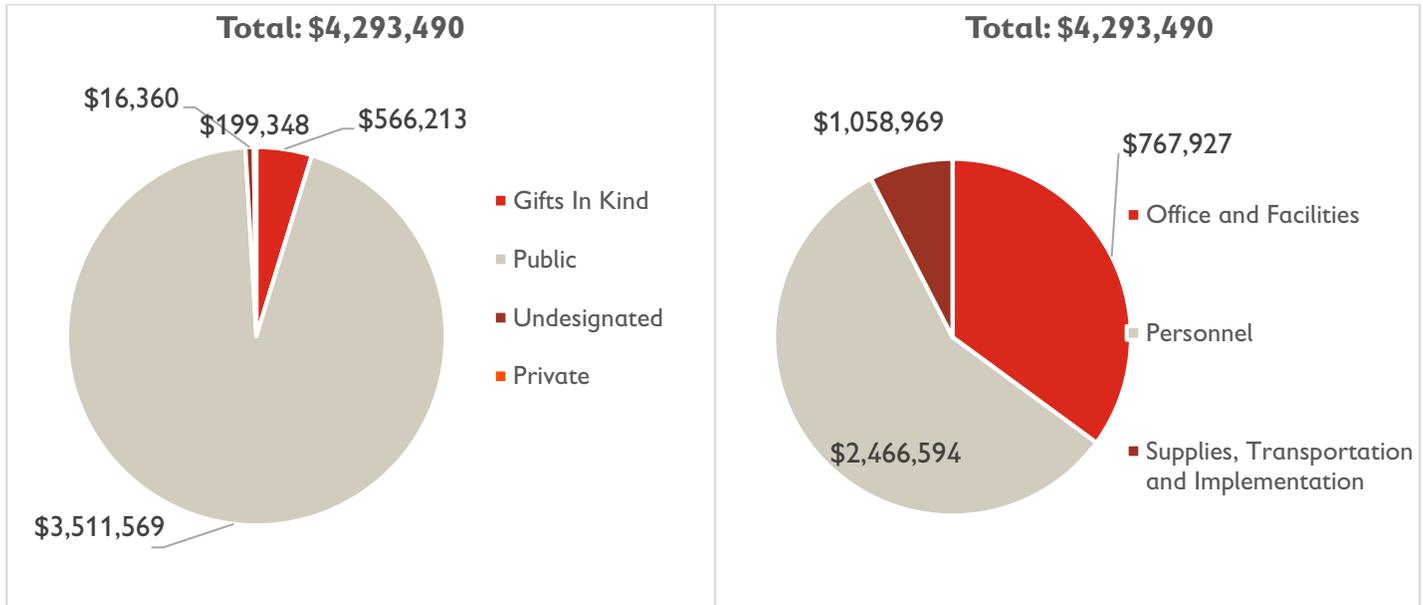
In 2020, the Red River Region Head Start program expensed \$3.2 million mostly in public funds and gift-in-kind donations. This program was in year two of funding and you will find the allocation breakdown below.



## FY20 BUDGET

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Our Fiscal year 2021 budget is \$4.29 million, which is an increase from 2020 due to a more funds offered due to COVID and an increase in Gift-In-Kind donations. Below is the allocation breakdown for the type of funding on the left and the cost category on the right.



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Save the Children Head Start Red River Region had no Office of Head Start reviews during the program year of 2020-2021.

## Save the Children Head Start Red River Regions Sites

SITE	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	PHONE
Administration Office	319 North Street	Natchitoches	LA	71547	(318) 357-2213
L.P. Vaughn Head Start/Early Start	1500 Gold Street	Natchitoches	LA	71457	(318) 238-3655
Fairview Alpha Head Start	1439 US-71	Campiti	LA	71411	(318) 476-3696
Breda Head Start	1204 Ash Street	Natchitoches	LA	71457	(318) 352-9008
Natchez Head Start	9166 Hwy 1 South	Natchez	LA	71456	(318) 357-2240
Red River Early Head Start	550 Jim Moore Road	Coushatta	LA	71019	(318) 271-2351
Mansfield Head Start/Early Head Start	115 Richards Street	Mansfield	LA	71052	(318) 575-1055
Gold Street Head Start	1504 Gold Street	Natchitoches	LA	71457	(318) 354-4142

## Save the Children's Commitment to Head Start

Every child deserves the best chance for a bright future. That is why, for over 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.

Save the Children has been awarded nine grants and currently operates Head Start and Early Head Start programs in rural communities in five states: Arkansas (2), Louisiana (3), North Carolina (2), Oklahoma, and Tennessee.

Questions about Save the Children's work in Red River Region should be directed to Program Director Chriscella Metoyer by email at [cmetoyer@savechildren.org](mailto:cmetoyer@savechildren.org) or by phone at (318) 354-4145 ext. 1001. Arvelis Byrd serves as the Executive Director of Save the Children's Head Start Programs, who can be reached at [abyrd@savechildren.org](mailto:abyrd@savechildren.org).