



Douglas-Cherokee Economic Authority, Inc.

Head Start/Early Head Start

Blount • Cocke • Grainger • Hamblen • Jefferson • Monroe • Sevier • Union
2022-2023

About Our Program



www.dceaheadstart.org

In 1965, Douglas-Cherokee Economic Authority Head Start Program began providing comprehensive child development services to economically disadvantaged children and their families with a focus on assisting preschoolers to develop the social, early literacy, and math skills to be successful in school. Early Head Start was added in 2003 and we began serving pregnant women, infants, and toddlers.

We provide services in 8 counties in East Tennessee in 41 locations and 59 classrooms. Children receive comprehensive services including health, dental, nutritional, and mental health screenings and follow up, plus classroom education series. Transportation services may be available for some preschool classrooms.

As parents are their child's primary teachers, our program partners with parents to ensure they have the tools necessary to help prepare their children for public school and beyond. The Head Start approach involves supporting the child, parent, and family. Parents have opportunities to volunteer in the classroom and are part of their center parent committee, and several serve on Policy Council.

About Our Agency



Douglas-Cherokee Economic Authority, Inc. is a Community Action Agency serving 30 counties in Tennessee and 2 counties in Kentucky.

The purpose of the Agency is to help families living in poverty improve their lives by providing them with assistance and services that they are not able to provide for themselves. The focus of the Agency is to help people help themselves.

DCEA Head Start/Early Head Start is a federal program primarily funded by the Dept. of Health & Human Services. Our program does not discriminate due to race, creed, color, national origin, religion, sex, family status, handicap, veteran status, political affiliation, or beliefs.

127 Cedar Street
Morristown, TN 37814

Program Director
Curt Amos

County Break Down

Blount: 9 rooms, 173 slots

Cocke: 6 rooms, 103 slots

Grainger: 3 rooms, 54 slots

Hamblen: 12 rooms, 207 slots

Jefferson: 4 rooms, 71 slots

Monroe: 4 rooms, 71 slots

Sevier: 9 rooms, 162 slots

Union: 3 rooms, 51 slots

EHS: 9 rooms, 72 slots

Our program serves 892 preschoolers across eight counties and 72 pregnant mommies, infants, and toddlers in one county.



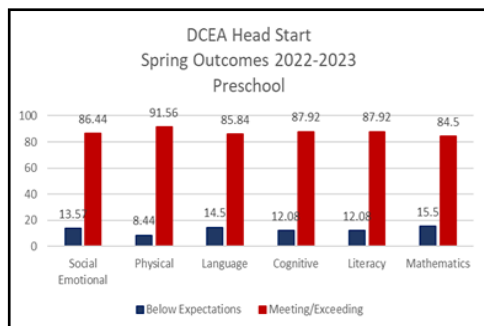
534 East 1st North Street
Morristown, TN 37814

Megan Barnard
Executive Director

www.douglascherokee.org

School Readiness

Our school readiness goals address the five central domains from the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework and are aligned with the Tennessee State Early Learning Developmental Standards and local standards. Goals are also aligned with the programs curriculum assessment tool (and CLASS domains for preschool children).



This graph shows Spring 2023 outcomes for our four-year-olds.

Goals are measured using the Teaching Strategies Gold Assessment (TSG). Data on children's progress is collected throughout the school year and assessment checkpoints are completed three times per year to identify current developmental level. TSG reports are generated and analyzed to determine individual, classroom, and program level progress toward school readiness goals. This information is utilized in the Community Assessment and to develop program goals and training plans.

Services for Children and Families

Head Start

- ♦ 1,014 three and four-year-old children were served.
- ♦ 100% of children ended the year with a medical home.
- ♦ 100% either received all immunizations or had exemptions.
- ♦ 901 children ended the year with a dental home.

Early Head Start

- ♦ 108 Early Head Start participants were served.
- ♦ 103 were infants or toddlers.
- ♦ 5 were pregnant women.
- ♦ 100% of children ended the year with a medical home.
- ♦ 100% of the 103 children served received all immunizations or had exemptions.



HS/EHS receives funding from the Child Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) to provide nutritious foods for our children.

Services to Children with Special Needs

Head Start

- ♦ 128 Children had an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and therapy services were provided by local school systems and supplemented in the classroom.
- ♦ 2 children continued their IFSPs through age 4.

Early Head Start

- ♦ 13 infants and toddlers had an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP)
- ♦ Tennessee Early Intervention Services (TEIS) provided the therapy needed on site.
- ♦ 2 children with IFSPs turned 3 and transitioned to Head Start and through assessment, qualified for IEPs.



A total of 13% of enrolled children received special services, exceeding the mandated 10% of enrollment.

Transition within the Program and into Kindergarten

There are many transitions that take place at Head Start. From pregnant mommy, to the transition of the infant entering the classroom for the first time, all the way to our children and families transitioning to kindergarten.



430 children from our program transition to kindergarten in the fall of 2023.

Every Head Start child has a transition plan that follows them throughout their Head Start experience no matter what age/level they begin. Each year parent trainings are held in partnership with local public school systems to ensure parents get the information they need to have a successful transition into kindergarten. In the classrooms, staff prepare children by practicing the use of trays at meal time and listening to stories and books about going to kindergarten. Each child received a pencil box filled with pencils, a pencil sharpener, crayons, glue sticks, scissors, and pamphlet on kindergarten.

Parent, Family, and Community Engagement

Creating a quality Head Start/Early Head Start Program requires staff and parents working together, sharing their talents, knowledge, and energy so children can receive the greatest benefit.

Our goal is to work with families to help build connections that will support children and families with the skills and tools necessary for learning.



Parents are part of their center parent committee, and several serve on Policy Council.

Involvement and Volunteering



Male Involvement opportunities are celebrated throughout our program.

Our program recognizes that family and community engagement is needed to build relationships that can positively impact children and their families for a lifetime. We believe that partnership with parents is essential to providing quality early childhood services. Our staff also work to engage fathers as advocates, lifelong educators, and first teachers of their children. Family members and father figures serve key roles in the healthy development of their children and families. They also have much to add to their Head Start communities. Our program provides a variety of ways for

parents to support their children in their journey toward School Readiness. We logged 29,260.50 volunteer hours this program year.

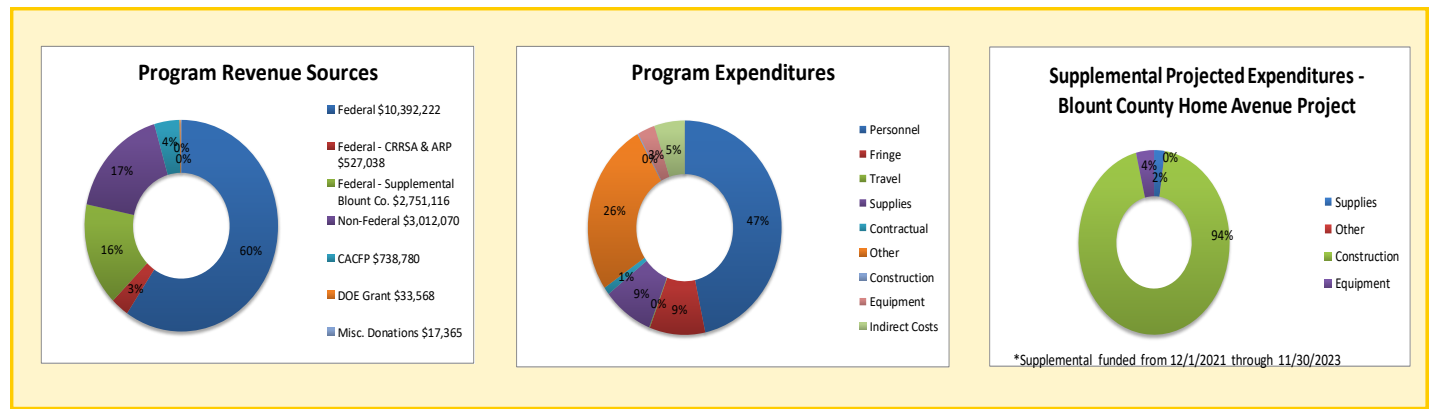
Mission Statement

To be a quality-focused organization in order to bring about a greater degree of social competency in children and self-sufficiency of families.

Philosophy

To be respectful of all, empower children and their families, and to be a positive influence in the community we serve.

Lets Talk Money



Our Program at a Glance

- ⇒ 1,122 children and families served
- ⇒ 93% of families served were below federal poverty guidelines or categorically eligible (homeless, foster care, other public assistance).
- ⇒ 91% average monthly enrollment
- ⇒ 100% received medical exams
- ⇒ 92% of our children received dental exams

Impact on Our Communities



Epilepsy Foundation of East Tennessee donated helmets to all Head Start children in our program.

Our program enhances the local communities we serve. In order to continue receiving federal funding, we must receive donations from the community. Donations called 'In-Kind' must equal at least 20% of the total dollar amount received from the grant. These donations may include time, space, and materials. Also, employment with benefits for current and former parents impact the community in a big way. Historically, around 36% of our staff are current or former Head Start/Early Head Start parents. The program employs over 300 staff in the eight county service area.

Also, local businesses provide food, classroom, maintenance, janitorial supplies, and program vehicles. Locally contracted services include: pest control, mowing, maintenance/repairs, HVAC, etc. It has been estimated that for every dollar spent through the Head Start program, the community benefits at a rate of five dollars.



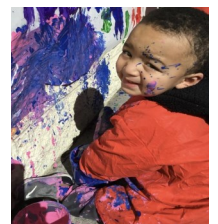
Local First Responders visit Head Start classrooms to provide a hands on experience.

Federal Monitoring Review Information

Our program will have a Focus Area 2 review and CLASS review in the 2023-2024 program year. Previously, in October 2021 we had our Focus Area 1 review. We had no findings during this review.

Audit Information

The 2022 audit was completed and the results were an unqualified opinion-no deficiencies or concerns. The 2023 Audit will be scheduled for this fall.



Early Head Start children experience art outdoors.