

CENTER FOR EARLY HEAD START

TEXAS TECH College of Health & Human Sciences



2023-2024 Annual Report

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Texas Tech University Center for Early Head Start (CEHS) makes available an annual report published at least once in each fiscal year that discloses the following information from the most recently concluded fiscal year. Reporting such information shall not reveal personally identifiable information about an individual child or parent. The Annual Report is made available to the public on the CEHS website; printed copies are distributed to staff, Policy Council, Governing Board, and available in the Center office, and upon request.

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From the Executive Director

Texas Tech University Center for Early Head Start (CEHS) is part of the College of Health and Human Sciences which is celebrating its new name with a focus on health as a key part of the human condition. The developmental, nutritional, physical, social and emotional well-being of young children and their families has always been a central part of our mission.

In July 2023, we successfully completed a Focus Area Two Review by the Administration for Children and Families. Our report included these summaries for each area:

<u>Program Management and Quality Improvement</u>: CEHS promoted the delivery of quality services through ongoing monitoring.

<u>Education Services</u>: TTU CEHS engaged teachers in practice-based coaching and established peer learning communities to improve instructional practices and outcomes for children.

<u>Family and Community Engagement Services</u>: TTU CEHS helped families make progress toward goals and supported families as they improved their well-being.

<u>Fiscal Infrastructure</u>: TTU CEHS used program and community data to inform the budget development process, which supported continuous improvement of program services, promoting better outcomes for children and families.

<u>Eligibility</u>, <u>Recruitment</u>, <u>Selection</u>, <u>Enrollment</u>, <u>Attendance</u>: TTU CEHS prioritized the enrollment of families with the greatest need through targeted recruitment of homeless families, children with disabilities, and children in foster care.

<u>Health Services</u>: TTU CEHS prioritized the mental health and well-being of children, families, and staff with an on-site mental health consultant who provided wellness training to staff and parents, conducted classroom observations, and offered feedback and strategies.

We continued fruitful collaborations with the Practicum class in Human Development & Family Sciences which focuses on community engaged learning. The student project included a wage comparability study of childcare providers in Lubbock.

During a collaboration with the South Plains Food Bank, The Mobile Food Pantry came to the Center so that parents could select healthy fresh foods for their families. We are grateful for the SPFB and those who support its mission!

The <u>CH</u> Foundation provided funding for our Outdoor Learning Environment to enrich outdoor play. The Helen Jones Foundation provided funding for hot water in our infant-toddler classrooms to ensure best practices.

We have continued our focus on collecting, analyzing, and disseminating data in consultation with ChildPlus to refine our data management system.

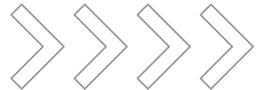
We have added the position of Professional Development Specialist to focus on the hiring and training of staff to sustain high quality services and to maintain a consistent workforce.

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Stephanie Shine, PhD Executive Director

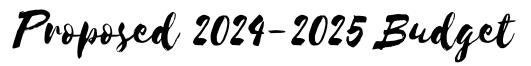
Funding

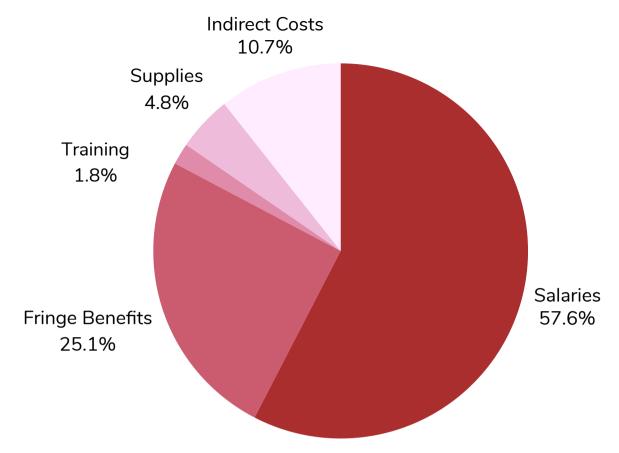






Source of Funds	Amount of Funds
Department of Health and Human Services Base Funding	\$1,651,301
Department of Health and Human Services T&TA Funding	\$29,499
Non Federal Share, Texas Tech University	\$119,763
Non Federal Share, Talkington Endowment	\$205,310
Non Federal Share, Davidson Endowment	\$5,000
Non Federal Share, Donations and Volunteers	\$52,129
<u>CH</u> Foundation, Outdoor Learning Project	\$32,993
US Department of Agriculture, CACFP	\$100,321
DHHS Supplemental Emergency Funding	\$69,600
TWC Child Care Relief Funding	\$295,154
TTU HDFS Special Instruction Fees	\$3,906





Grant 06CH012573 funds 96 children: 24 Home Based pregnant women and children and 72 Center Based children. The chart above breaks down the total annual federal funding budget of **\$1,590,801** anticipated for the 2024-2025 program year.

CEHS will receive funding from USDA's Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), with a budget of **\$111,220.**

CEHS will also receive matching funds from Texas Tech University, funds from our Talkington Endowment, and other donations for a total **\$397,700**, which will be used to meet our 20% Non Federal Share obligation.



Family and Health Services

TTU CEHS strives to engage each member of the family as an active participant in the child's education and believes that making parents the child's primary educators is extremely important to sustain the work that we accomplish. Upon enrollment, teachers and support staff work toward developing relationships based on trust and open communication with families in order to engage them in the Family Partnership Agreement. Families are made to feel comfortable, welcome, and empowered to get involved in the program and their child's education. Staff actively encourage families to take advocacy and leadership roles within the community.

CEHS provides different activities during Family Engagement Events at a variety of times so that families can participate in activities that both interest them and work with their personal schedule. Each year, the Policy Council provides input and approves the schedule of planned events, and is encouraged to volunteer at each one.

Family Engagement Activities

Parent Committee Meetings: Offered in a variety of forums, including Parent Information Sessions.

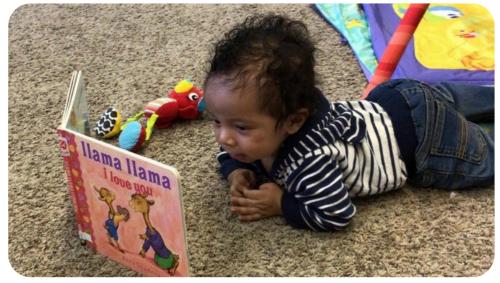
Active Policy Council: During the monthly meeting, childcare and meals are provided to encourage consistent attendance and active participation in decision making.



Socialization: The Home Based program provides socialization opportunities twice each month, both at the center and at community functions.

Family and Health Services

Family Support: Assistance with higher education, job placement, and social service connections in the community.



Annual Self-Assessment: Parents help facilitate the data collection for this annual process.

Family Literacy Program: Regularly provides each family with a book and activity to be done at home. We also provide a Little Free Library for children and adults, and partner with others in the community to offer family literacy events, both at CEHS and in the community.



ReadyRosie: a research-based parenting curriculum that features both online and in-person opportunities for families to learn how to create meaningful home-learning environments.



Volunteer Opportunities: Family members, TTU students, and community members are encouraged to volunteer in the classroom, at special events, and as assistants to support staff.

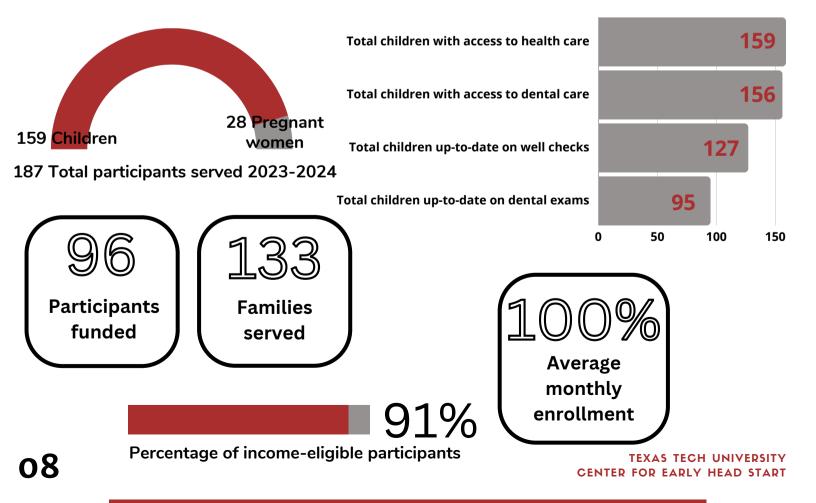
Family and Health Services



Baby Bucks Store: An incentive program in which parents earn participation points for a variety of engagement activities. Families are then able to shop in the store for clothes and other items needed for their child.

Caring Closet: A resource for health, hygiene and home safety supplies that families can access monthly or when in crisis. This closet is supported through donations or TTU student service projects. **Resources:** Texas Tech University and TTU Health Sciences Center resources are available for staff wellness, mental health services, and translation services for families who speak a language other than English.

2023-2024 Program Information Report (PIR) Data



Family Engagement Events

TTU Center for Early Head Start offers regular opportunities for families to participate in special events with other families.



Fall Festival





Winter Wonderland



Donuts with Grownups



Community Week

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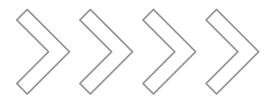


Mother's Day Art TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR EARLY HEAD START

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Spring Fling

School Readiness Goals





Approaches to Learning

Children will develop their natural curiosity and independence. Children will develop persistence and problem-solving.

Social and Emotional

Children will develop positive relationships with friends and family. Children will develop the ability to understand and manage their emotions.

Physical Development and Health

Children will demonstrate control of their large and small muscles. Children will begin to express their needs and do simple personal care tasks.

Language and Literacy

Children will use and understand spoken language. Children will interact with pictures, books, and writing materials. Children will develop listening skills and new vocabulary through interaction with rhymes, stories, and songs.

Cognition and General Knowledge

Children will gain new knowledge through daily routines and interaction with engaging materials and activities. Children will develop creativity and use their imagination in play.

School Readiness Report

RESEARCH BASED CURRICULA

- Center Based Program: HighScope Curriculum
- Home Based Program: Partners for a Healthy Baby
- Assessment Tool: Child Observation Record (COR)







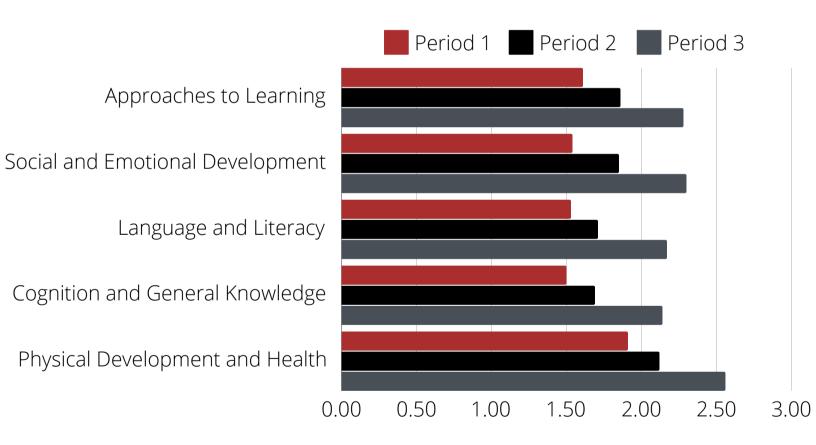
Classroom teachers, using the **HighScope** curriculum, focus on setting up an engaging environment for children, then spend time observing the children to determine their skill levels and interests. Teachers plan activities for the classroom designed to meet every child at their developmental level. These activities encourage children to progress to the next skill level in all developmental domains. Home Visitors utilize **Partners for a Healthy Baby** curriculum to support parents in creating appropriate learning experiences at home.

Teachers and home visitors use the **Child Observation Record (COR)**, which is developmentally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate and based on daily authentic observations of children's naturally occurring behaviors. Results are used to determine the interests and needs of individual children, assess developmental progress, and make modifications to lesson plans, teaching practices, and the classroom environment. Results are discussed with the families during home visits and parent conferences, as well as inform program goals.

School Readiness Report

Program-wide data is gathered and aggregated three times each school year, to assess program progress towards School Readiness. In the chart below, the average COR Scores are displayed for each developmental domain, comparing the three time periods. This data is compiled using matched data sets only, to give an accurate picture of growth over the course of the year. The COR is designed to assess children ages 0-8, using an eight-level scale ranging from 0 (lowest) to 7 (highest).





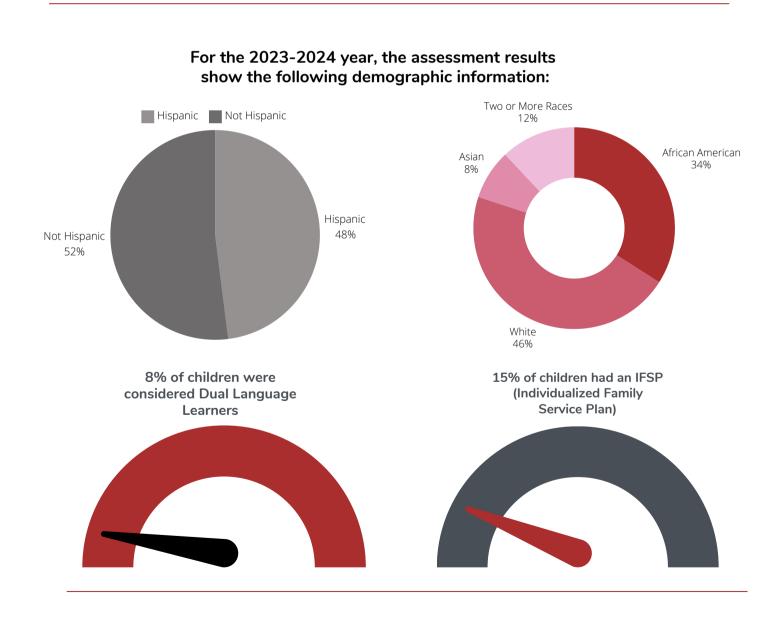
During the 2023-2024 program year, children showed progress in all areas of development, but the most significant advancement was observed in their social and emotional skills, which involves understanding and expressing emotions, forming relationships with both adults and peers, fostering a sense of community, and resolving conflicts.

School Readiness Report

84.12% of children scored with or above their peers nationwide

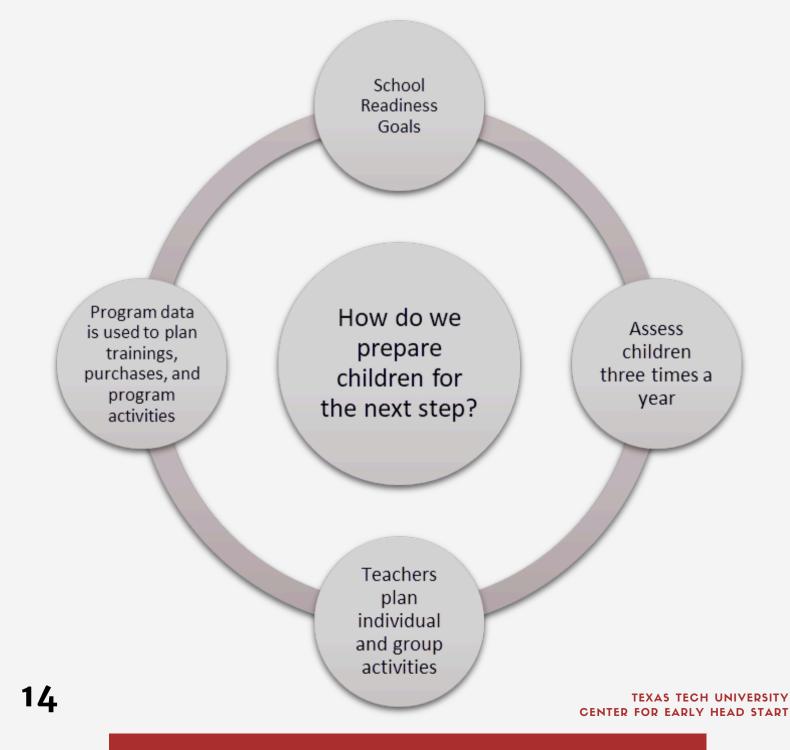


Compared to other children nationally using the same assessment during the current school year, the majority of our children were meeting or above their peers. TTU CEHS children are learning and growing every day!



Transition Efforts

Throughout a child's time in the CEHS program, child development and education services are planned to help prepare each participant for preschool and beyond. Every child is assessed on an ongoing basis, and activities are planned for their individual development. Data collected during the year contributes to the growth of the child as well as the program as a whole. At thirty months of age, teachers and families collaborate to make plans for the child to transition away from CEHS, by focusing on accomplishments and efforts to sustain learning in the future. TTU CEHS partners with local Head Start agencies to ensure a smooth transition for children as they age out of the program.



TTU Audit

Statewide Single Audit

Texas Tech University engages the Texas State Auditor's Office to conduct the annual statewide single audit in accordance with 2 CFR 200 Subpart F. Texas Tech University has adequate reporting systems and internal controls to ensure federal awards are managed in compliance with laws, regulations, and the award terms and conditions. No questioned costs were reported for the research and development cluster or the SEFA.

- The Financial Portion of the Statewide Single Audit includes an audit of the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (SEFA). The Financial Portion of the Statewide Single Audit for state of Texas for fiscal year ended August 31, 2023, is available <u>in its entirety</u>. https://sao.texas.gov/reports/main/22-555.pdf
- The Federal Portion of the Statewide Single Audit includes an audit of compliance and controls over the state's federal awards. The Federal Portion of the Statewide Single Audit report for the state of Texas for fiscal year ended August 31, 2023, is available <u>in its entirety</u>. https://sao.texas.gov/reports/main/22-320.pdf

For additional questions, please contact: Sarah Cody, Managing Director TTU Accounting Services (806) 742-2985 sarah.cody@ttu.edu





Community Assessment Summary

Number of infants, toddlers, and pregnant women eligible for Early Head Start. CEHS maintains a waiting list of up to 115 children who seek to enroll in our program annually testifying to a large number of infants, toddlers, and pregnant women in East Lubbock. According to Kids Count Texas, 20% of children (14,602) in Lubbock live below the poverty level. Other indicators reveal the high needs of young children and pregnant women in our community, including health at birth, food insecurity, vulnerable families and homelessness.

Health at Birth. According to the Texas Department of State Health Services, in Lubbock County, the incidence of infant mortality is 5%, lower than the State rate but much higher among the African American population (9.4%). Average low birth weight Lubbock was 8.8% but higher for African American families (14.3). 28.7% of mothers in Lubbock County did not receive prenatal care in the first trimester; the numbers are greater for Black mothers (40%) and Hispanic mothers (38%). African American families in Lubbock have the greatest health challenges in early life and hence, can benefit from prenatal and infant services at TTU Center for Early Head Start.

Food Insecurity. Food insecurity and inadequate nutrition reflect the need of families within our service area. According to Feeding America, Lubbock County has a rate of 22.2% of child food insecurity, meaning that 16,310 children lack access at times to enough food for an active, healthy life. The nutritional profiles of those living in our service area highlight the need for food and nutrition education services that we provide to children and their families.

Homelessness. According to the South Plains Homeless Consortium, 325 people were homeless during the Point in Time Survey in March 2024, including 74 children. This total number is up by 85 from last year. Homeless families with young children have a particularly wide range of needs that can be addressed by comprehensive Early Head Start program services.

Social Services. An indicator of need in families who could benefit from TTU Center for Early Head Start is the percentage and number of children who qualify for assistance to obtain food or healthcare. The State of Texas Children (Texas Kids Count Project) reports that 13.7% (1,026) children in Lubbock County receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) while 2,032 mothers receive assistance through the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) food program. Families who receive social services for basic needs such as food and healthcare are likely to benefit from the comprehensive educational, health, and family services provided by our Early Head Start program.

Vulnerable Families. Teenage parents have a particularly high constellation of needs in providing care for their children. Despite a decrease in teen births since 2007, Lubbock County teen pregnancy rate has increased by 20%: 24.7 per 1000 births with rates of 36.7 per 1000 births (Hispanic teens) and 46.7 (Black teens) (Healthy Futures of Texas). Teen parents are in particular need of high-quality, comprehensive childcare services. TTU Center for Early Head home-based and center-based programs provide interpersonal relationships and expertise to support the most vulnerable teen parents and their children.

Community Assessment Summary

Schedules of Parents with Eligible Children. Working families with young children need reliable high-quality childcare to be able to attend school, apply for jobs and seek gainful employment. Many young parents in East Lubbock need to complete their education to obtain sustainable employment. Whether determined by school, apprenticeships, job searches, or employment, parent schedules determine the need for year-round full-day childcare. Among the biggest employers in Lubbock are United Supermarkets, Covenant Health System, and Texas Tech University Health Sciences Centers- these jobs require full-time, year-round childcare for families with young children.

Available Childcare Services. TTU Center for Early Head Start is the only Early Head Start program in northeast Lubbock and the only NAEYC accredited program serving children in northeast Lubbock. Another Early Head Start program provides services in Lubbock to about 100 infants and toddlers in east and in south Lubbock. The Early Learning Centers of Lubbock offer childcare for a fee in four locations east of Interstate 27. A nearby childcare center, Lil' Precious Steps, offers childcare for a fee to infants and toddlers.

Available Home Visiting Services. Lubbock has a Nurse-Family Partnership program organized by Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center to provide services to pregnant mothers. This program provides home visits to first-time mothers and children through the age of two in Lubbock and surrounding counties. Because this program only serves first-time mothers, we collaborate to help ensure that all mothers seeking home visits obtain services that meet their needs. The Parenting Cottage, funded by United Way, provides home visits to pregnant women in Lubbock with the Parents as Teachers program; this agency is located in central Lubbock.

Resources and Strengths. Lubbock has many community resources with whom we form community partnerships. We work closely with Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) to recruit families, make referrals, and provide services to children with special needs. Another longstanding partner is the Family Therapy Clinic at Texas Tech University which provides high-quality therapeutic services to individuals, couples, and families on a sliding scale fee. StarCare Specialty Health System is a community partner we work closely with which provides services for adults children and adolescents with mental illness, intellectual disabilities and/or substance use disorder. The Combest Community Coalition is a health and wellness organization with whom we partner to share information and referrals for the Nurse-Family Partnership Program and the Larry Combest Community Health & Wellness Center.

OHS Monitoring Review Report



CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Program Performance Summary Report

To: Authorizing Official/Board Chairperson Ms. Amy Cook Texas Tech University System 3315 E Broadway Lubbock, TX 79403 - 6127

Khai M. S. Date: 08/28/2023

From: Responsible HHS Official

SW, Washington DC 20024 eclikc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov

Mr. Khari M. Garvin Director, Office of Head Start

on for Children and Families (ACF) conducted a Focus Area Two (FA2) From July 24, 2023 to July 28, 2023, the Administra i rout ray e, size for ray 36, 2021, use relationshifts of the distance is multi-lycer / construct relative relative relationshifts and the relative re Relative r

The Office of Head Start (OHS) would like to thank your governing body, policy council, parents, and staff for their engagem the review process. Based on the information gathered during this review, it has been determined that your program meets the requirements of all applicable HSPPS, laws, regulations, and policy requirements. ent in

Please contact your Regional Office for guidance should you have any questions or concerns. Your Regional Office will follow up on the content of this report and can work with you to identify resources to support your program's continuous improvement DISTRIBUTION OF THE REPORT

Copies of this report will be distributed to the following: Mr. Kenneth Gilbert, Regional Program Manager Dr. Stephanie Shine, Chief Executive Officer/Executive Director Mrs. Denise Stovall, Early Head Start Director

Grant(s) included as part of this revi

Texas Tech Uni

Grant Recipient Name

Finding Type

Area of Cor

Area of Non

(ANC)

Deficiency

inversity system		00CH011492
	Glossary	of Terms
,	Definition	
ern (AOC)	An area in which the agency needs to improve performance. These issues should be discusse with the grant recipient's Regional Office for possible technical assistance.	
ompliance	limited to the Head Start Act or performance. This status require	out of compliance with Federal requirements (including but no one or more of the regulations) in one or more areas of es a written timeline for correction and possible technical grant recipier's program specialist. If not corrected within th comes a deficiency.
	Secretary determines involves: (i) a threat to the health, s	t, the term "deficiency" means: terial failure of an agency in an area of performance that the afety, or civil rights of children or staff; the exercise of their full roles and responsibilities related to

Grant Numbe

program operations, (iii) a failure to comply with standards related to early childhood development and health services, family and community partnerships, or program design and management; (iv) the misuse of funds received under this subchapter; (v) loss of legal status (as determined by the Secretary) or financial viability, loss of

(v) ross of regar status (as determined by the secretary) of matrix visionity, ross of permits, debarment from receiving Federal grants or contracts, or the improper use of Federal funds; or (vi) failure to meet any other Federal or State requirement that the agency has shown an unwillingness or inability to correct, after notice from the Secretary, within the period

specified; (B) systemic or material failure of the governing body of an agency to fully exercise its legal and

fiduciary responsibilities; or (C) an unresolved area of noncompliance

Program Overview Treas TeoL University System is a state university system headquartered in Lubbock. Texas. In 1998, the university partnered with the local housing authority and other community organizations to assess the needs of finalities in the city. After analyzing the data, grant recipient recognized the need to necross services for infinition and toddiers and designed in program to meet that need. The recipient is funded to provide Early Head Start services to 96 children and expectant families through center- and home-based orthogen

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Texas Tech University System

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Texas Tech University System

8

Program Management and Ouality Improvement

Program Management The grant recipient establishes a management structure consisting of staff, consultants, or contractors who ensure high-quality service delivery, have sufficient knowledge, training, experience, and competencies to fulfill the roles and responsibilities of their positions; and provide regular supervision and support to staff.

Ongoing Monitoring and Continuous Improvement The grant recipient uses data to identify program strengths, needs, and areas needing improvement; to evaluate progress to achieving program goals and compliance with program performance standards; and to assess the effectiveness of profession development

Program Governance The grant recipient maintains a formal structure of program governance to oversee the quality of services for children and families and to make decisions related to program design and implementation.

The grant recipient's policy council is engaged in the direction of the program, including program design and planning of goals and

Program Management and Quality Improvement Summary

Texas Tech University System used data for continuous program improvement. The management team regularly reviewed child and fmulty statistics to determine program needs and priorities. This statysis informed staff professional development opportunities and helped the management neumodertand the greatfic resources that would benefit families the most. Through engoing monitoring, the recipient promoted the delivery of quality services.

Monitoring and Implementing Quality Education and Child Development Services

Alignment with School Readiness The grant recipient's school readiness efforts align with the expectations of receiving schools, the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework (HSELOP), and state early learning standards.

Effective and Intentional Teaching Practices The grant recipient's teaching practices intentionally promote progress toward school readiness and provide quality learning nces for children.

Supporting Teachers in Promoting School Readiness The grant recipient ensures teachers are prepared to implement the curriculum and support children's progress toward school

Home-Based Program Services The grant recipient ensures home-based program services provide quality learning experiences through home visits and group socialization activities.

Education Services Summary

Texas Tech University System supported the staff members who provided education services. The grant recipient engaged teachers in practice-based coaching based on their length of service, education level, and individual aseds. In addition, the recipient stabilished per learning communities to improve instructional precisies. The learning communities included discussion cohorts where teachers could review and analyze school readiness data and compare strategies. Emphasizing staff professional development supported improved outcomes for children.

OHS Monitoring Review Report

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Program Management and Quality Improvement

Program Management a regime incompetence The grant receipture is addressed and a structure consisting of staff, consultants, or contractors who ensure high-quality service delivery; have sufficient knowledge, training, experimente, and competencies to fulfill the roles and responsibilities of their positions; and provide registing supervision and upport to staff.

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The grant recipient's policy council is engaged in the direction of the program, including program design and planning of goals and objectives.

Program Management and Quality Improvement Summary

Texas Tech University System used data for continuous program improvement. The management team regularly reviewed child and family statistics to determine program needs and priorities. This analysis informed staff professional development opportunities and helped the management team understand the specific resources that would benefit families the most. Through anging mounting, the reviewing priority delivery of quality services.

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Monitoring and Implementing Fiscal Infrastructure

Budget Planning and Development The grant recipient develops and implements its budget to sustain management, staffing structures, and the delivery of services that support the needs of enrolled children and finalise.

Organize Fiscal Capacity The grant recipient plans and implements a fiscal management system that supports the organization's ongoing capacity to execute its budget over time and meet the needs of its organization.

Budget Execution The grant recipient's financial management system provides for effective control over and accountability for all funds, property, and other assets.

Facilities and Equipment The grant receiptent complies with application, prior approval, and reporting requirements for facilities purchased, constructed, or removated with Head Stark funds.

Fiscal Infrastructure Summary

Texas Tech University System ensured oversight of its Federal award. The structure of the fiscal department ensured daties were segregated. Further, the grant recipient used program and community data to inform the budget development process, which supported commons improvement of program services. Finally, the grant recipient used additional fluxing enhance its offerings. This approach to facia management promoted better outcomes for chalders and families.

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Texas Tech University System

Monitoring and Implementing Quality Health Services

Child Health Status and Care

The grant recipient effectively monitors and maintains timely information on children's health statuses and care including ongoing sources of health care, preventive care, and follow-up.

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Mental Health The grant recipient supports a program-wide culture that promotes mental health and social and emotional well-being, and uses mental health consultation to support staff and families.

Oral Health and Nutrition The grant recipient maintains and monitors for effective oral health practices and mutrition services that meet the mutritional needs and accommodate holdbarks' feeding requirements and allergies.

Safety Practices

The grant recipient implements a process for monitoring and maintaining healthy and safe environments

Services to Expectant Families The grant recipient provides and monitors for quality services that facilitate expectant mothers' access to health care and provide information to moport presental, postpartum, and maternal health as well as inflati health and emotional well-being.

Health Services Summary

Texas Tech University System prioritized the mental health and well-being of children, families, and staff. An on-site men-health commutant provided wellness training to staff and parents, conducted classroom observations, and offered feedback strategies. To support aff well-being, the grant recipient contracted with an employee assistance program and created wellness plans. These efforts addressed the mental health of participants and staff. red feedback and

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Texas Tech University System

Texas Tech University System

Monitoring ERSEA: Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment, and Attendance

termining, Verifying, and Documenting Eligibility e grant recipient enrolls children or expectant mothers who are categorically eligible or who meet defined income-eligibility

Enrollment Verification

ERSEA Summary

Texas Tech University System prioritized the euroliment of families with the greatest need through targeted recruitment. The grant recipient regularly communicated with local organizations that served homeless families, children with disabilities, and children in foster cure to solicit referents. Relationships with these patterns helped the recipient reach children most diagnosed with a dashibity. Through collaboration, the recipient reached children not in aed of Early Head Start services diagnosed with a dashibity. Through collaboration, the recipient reached children not in aed of Early Head Start services.

----- End of Report -----



Governing Board Members

Ann Mastergeorge, *Chair* Stephanie Deering Tim Dodd Emily Everette Rachel Johnston Gary McCoy Victor Mellinger Andrea Parker Margaret Randle Bryan Sessom Kellee Smith

Policy Council Members

lasdmere Barnes, President Dianne Burnett, Vice President Dominique Lorng-Nibaud, Secretary Bailey Faerber, Parliamentarian Jessica Blume Maria Casias Henry Duru Krystal Foster Casey Garcia Michelle Hunter Chinomso Ihenagwam Cory Jenkins Sophia Jenkins Desiree Johnson Renee Morales Pierre Nibaud



Texas Tech University Center for Early Head Start 🔹 3315 East Broadway 🍨 Lubbock, TX 79403 🍨 (806) 765-2737