



Tennessee State University

Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences

The Center's mission is to design and conduct research and services that promote the educational, social, physical, and psychological well-being of children and families; and interpret and disseminate research findings to improve public policies that impact educational organizations and institutions in Tennessee and across the nation.

TENNESSEE CAREs Early Head Start Annual Public Report



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TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Tennessee CAREs

Early Head Start

Annual Public Report 2010

Information is designed to fulfill requirements of the Head Start Act reports to the general public

Tennessee State University Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences is the grantee for the Tennessee CAREs (Comprehensive Area Resource Efforts) Early Head Start Program. The program serves children and families in three counties, Gibson, Henry and Weakley of Northwest Tennessee. In 1995, Tennessee CAREs received funds to become one of the first Early Head Start programs in the country. Prior to becoming an Early Head Start Program, Tennessee CAREs operated a Comprehensive Child Development Program in partnership with the local Head Start Program. The program offers high quality, comprehensive, developmentally appropriate services, to children from birth through three years of age, and expectant families. The service delivery options available to families are prenatal, center based, and home based. A hallmark of Tennessee CAREs is the partnership and link with parents and the community, as evidenced in home visits, Parent Committee meetings, Policy Council meetings and other opportunities related to the program.

Tennessee State University Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences has a strong history and commitment to families and the community. The goals of Tennessee CAREs Early Head Start Program are consistent with the mission and vision of the Center of Excellence. In addition, Tennessee CAREs is backed and supported by the expertise and commitment of the entire University. The following projects are examples of successful outreach and community partnerships that enhance the early childhood community along with the Early Head Start Program.

Tennessee Early Childhood Training Alliance (TECTA)



The TECTA program provides management and technical assistance to Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) institutions, which serve as subcontractors to implement a statewide system for certificate and degree training programs for early childhood education teachers and administrators. The TECTA statewide training system is based on the belief that early childhood personnel need professional knowledge and skills to provide appropriate care for children.

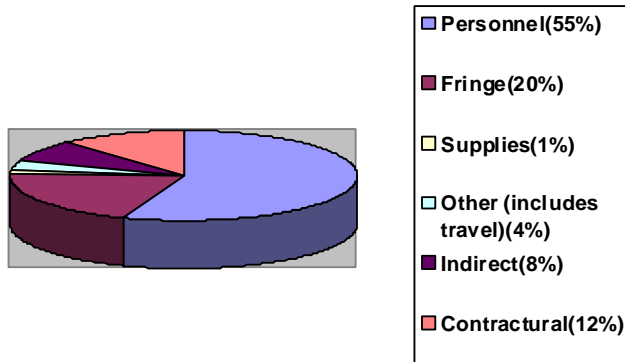
Social Service Competency Based Training (SSCBT)

The Social Service Competency Based Training (SSCBT) Program is a national training program developed by the Center of Excellence for Learning Science/BERS at Tennessee State University. The training is used extensively by Head Start grantees. SSCBT is a one year competency-based program to improve the knowledge and skills of human service workers. In conjunction with the Tennessee Conference on Social Welfare, a Social Service Practitioner's credential is awarded to interns enrolled in the SSCBT program. BERS has implemented the program throughout the Southeast United States and also has program adopters in nine other states.

2009- 2010 Overall Funding

Office of Head Start federal funds	\$ 1,528,013
Child and Adult care Food Program (USDA- CACFP Program)	\$ 50,105
Local Matching Funds	\$ 424,276
Other Funds (One Time Supplement)	\$ 169,092

2010- 2011 Budget



Early Head Start Statistics for 2009- 2010

Number of children served including drops and replacements	163
Number of prenatals served including drops and replacements	15
Funded enrollment	108
Percentage of eligible children served	99%
Percentage of average monthly enrollment	100%
Percentage of children receiving medical and dental exams	100%
Number of children up to date on a schedule of age appropriate preventive and primary care	139
Number of children receiving TennCare	155
Number of children with private health insurance	6

Most Recent Federal Program Review

Based on the 2010 Federal review of the program there were 2 findings in Financial and Program management, 2 in Program Performance Standards For Operations of Head Start Programs by Grantees and Delegate Agencies, 5 findings in Powers and Functions of Head Start Agencies and 2 findings in Head Start Act. The program did not have the appropriate pieces of information from Tennessee State University at the time of the review to present to reviewers. The items have since been compiled in our response to the Regional Office.

Annual Audit

Tennessee CAREs Early Head Start had no audit findings in the last audit. To view more details go to <http://www.comptroller1.state.tn.us/repository/SA/cu10065.pdf>

Developmentally Appropriate Practices that Lead to School Readiness

Tennessee CAREs Early Head Start focuses on prevention and early intervention with families. The goals encompass comprehensive health, economic and educational outcomes, and long-term academic success for children and families. Starting with the expectant family in the prenatal phase, and ending when the child is three years of age, Tennessee CAREs ensures appropriate continuity of care, and continuous support for school success. Current research affirms that the first three years of life has a direct correlation to school readiness, which is why Tennessee CAREs is so valuable to the children and families served.

Partners for a Healthy Baby is the curriculum used for expectant families, the prenatal depression screen is conducted every 2 months during the pregnancy. In addition, a postpartum screen is conducted once within a six weeks after the baby is born. The Creative Curriculum for Infants, Toddlers and Twos is used in center based and home based options. The Denver Developmental Screening Test (Denver II) is a research based, valid and reliable tool used for developmental assessments of the infants and toddlers. Assessment is the formal and informal, on-going process to determine the strengths and needs of each child. The Early Learning Accomplishment Profile (E-LAP) is used for infants and toddlers. The Learning Accomplishment Profile Diagnostic (LAP-D) is used for children three years and older.

Parent and Community Involvement Activities

Families are an integral part of the program in an on going way. Tennessee CAREs believes that parents are the first and most important teacher of the child. Some examples are Parent Committee meetings, Week of the Young Child celebrations, home visits, daily experience sheets, group socialization periods, and fatherhood activities. Community Involvement is evident in the Policy Council, and Health and Education Advisory Committee meetings. All parents are encouraged to sign up and participate in the Dolly Parton Imagination Library early literacy project.

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