

Morgan County Head Start/Early Head Start

Community Assessment

2006 - 2007

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- I. **Introduction & Overview**

Morgan County was formed in 1817 from portions of Anderson and Roane counties.

It was named in honor of Daniel Morgan (1736-1802), American Revolutionary War officer who commanded the troops that defeated the British at the Battle of Cowpens and who later served as a U.S. congressman from Virginia.

The Head Start program was first implemented in Morgan County with a summer program in 1965. This program was operated by the school system. The program provided a summer program and a full program for four and one half months in 1966. In 1967 the program was provided in the school year for eight months with no summer program.

A Community Action Agency named North Cumberland lost their funding around 1969 and the first part of 1970, this left the school system without a sponsoring agency, and no Head Start services were provided for Morgan County for a period of time.

In 1971 Morgan County became a part of Mountain Valley Agency, made up of five counties. The superintendent of schools in Morgan County applied for a grant through this agency and a program for Head Start was implemented in the classroom of schools for eight and one half months. Morgan County operated under the name of Mountain Valley Head Start serving 130 children until 1979. At that time dissatisfaction erupted in Mountain Valley and Morgan County withdrew from Mountain Valley and became an independent agency with the established governing board "Community Action Services of Morgan County". The sole purpose of this board was to administrate a Head Start program for Morgan County.

Morgan County Head Start received a grant in 2000 to start providing EHS services to infant, toddlers and pregnant women. In July 2001 we started to provide center and home services to 40 families in EHS. The agency currently serves 187 children and families.

II. Identification of Service Area

Morgan County, the Head Start's service area, is a rural county in Tennessee located on the eastern edge of the Cumberland Plateau. Most of the land is owned by the State of Tennessee. According to the 2000 Census, Morgan County has a population of 19,575. The 2004 People Quickfacts has an estimate of the population at 20,132. The growth rate in population from 1990 to 2000 in Morgan County was 14.2% or ranged 58th out of 95 counties in the state of Tennessee.

Morgan County School system has eight schools. Schools that are located in the communities of Coalfield, Oakdale, and Sunbright are K thru 12 schools. Wartburg has separate facilities that house a K thru 5 elementary school, a 6 thru 8 middle school, and a separate 9 thru 12 high school. The Petros-Joyner school is a K thru 8 facility that serves as a feeder school for both Coalfield and Wartburg Central High. The Career and Technical Center, located on the eastern edge of Warburg, serves all of the high school students in Morgan County. According to Morgan County Schools, there are 2,275 K-8 grade students and 1010 high school students. Currently Morgan County Schools is operating 6 Pre-K classrooms with a funded

enrollment of 120 four year old children.

The tourist attraction for our county is our "scenery". We are home to the Catossa Wildlife Management areas and neighbors to the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. During spring and fall, the beauty is breathtaking. We also have historic Rugby, Frozen Head State Park and Obed River.

Morgan County has two state prisons, Morgan County Regional Prison and Brushy Mountain Prison. Brushy Mountain and Petros have been the scenes for many movies. The prison system is also our largest employer in the county with Head Start in the top three. The state is currently making plans to renovate Brushy Mountain. Most of the retail businesses are located in Wartburg.

The Head Start facility in Wartburg has eight(8) preschool classrooms, one(1) preschool home base class, two(2) Early Head Start classroom and two(2) home base classes for EHS. We offer full day/full year services in three of our classrooms. Our facility is NAEYC accredited and maintains a "Three Star" rating (three stars is the highest) from the Tennessee Department of Human Services.

Residences of Morgan County enjoy a quiet country life but they must travel long distances for health care that requires a visit in the hospital. The nearest hospital is located in Harriman (Roane County). Most retail services are also outside of the county and residence must travel over two lane roads.

III. Collection and Analysis of Data

A comprehensive Community Assessment(CA) or analysis of county demographic and service/resource data is conducted every three years to help assure that the Head Start program design and services continue to be responsive and appropriate to the target population. The other two years an update is made to the CA to determine if an update in program options needs to be made. The CA is also an assessment of the community strengths and needs. Program decisions for basic grant applications and expansion will be made based upon the CA, as well as Program Information Report(PIR), self-assessment reports and reviews by the Regional office.

(A) *Demographic makeup of Head Start eligible Population*

Estimated number of Eligible Head Start children

When compared to other counties (or parishes) across the United States, Morgan County can be recognized as having a medium-high rate of poverty among the people. The population that is aged five years and under are experiencing most percent of people in poverty in Morgan County, with 33 percent of the population in this age category. According to the economic characteristics compiled by the U. S. Census of 2000, total population was 19,757 individuals or 5,237 families.

Morgan County Families	5,237
Morgan County Families in Poverty	715
With children under five.....	175

The number of Head Start eligible children can be found by multiplying the number of children under 5 years by the poverty rate:

$$1,220 \times 20.2\% = 246$$

Then divide that number 246, by the number of age groups in your Head Start program. When we divide 246 by 5, we have approximately 49 children eligible children by each age group in poverty.

We know that our population has changed since the 2000 Census. The growth in population in Morgan County from 2000 to 2006 is estimated to be 1.9%. If we assume that the number children under 5 years has also increase by the rate of 1.9%, the number Head Start eligible children might be found by multiplying 1243 (1220 X 1.9%) by 20.2%. That number would give us 251.

So the number of Head Start eligible children is 246 but eligible is not the same as *available*. To calculate the number of children *available* of Head Start, you must remove the number of children being served by other providers. If you subtract the number of pre-K children being served, currently serving 97, the service area is saturated or that leaves 149 children or possible 154 children. available for Head Start services. Our funded enrollment for Head Start is 147 and 40 for EHS.

We also used the number for free or reduced lunch students in kindergarten, 142, and first grade, 153 as an indicator of potential eligible Head Start children. Based on the average daily attendance of Morgan County School students, 49.7% participated in free or reduced lunches.

There were 6,990 household out of which 33.50% had children under the age of 19 living with them, 60.70% were married couples living together, 10.30% had a female householder with no husband present, and 25.10% were non-families. The average household size was 2.58 and the average family size 3.01.

The median income for a *household* in the county was \$27, 712 and the median income for a *family* was \$31,901. Males had a median income of \$25,683 versus \$18,606 for females. The per capita income for the county was \$12, 925. About 13, 50% of families and 16% of the population were below the poverty line, including 18.50% of those under age 18 and 15.80 % of those age 65 or over. (See Attachment E for a collection of Community Assessment Data)

The number of families in poverty has remained in the low twenties for the last ten years. However, 27.5 % of families with a female head of household with no husband present live below the poverty level. Families headed by female heads of household with children under age 18 make up 35.8% of the population in poverty and 47.5% include children under age five. Moreover, figures released by the Census Bureau in August 2005 are not encouraging. Nationally, the percentage of children in poverty had risen to 18% by the end of 2004 when more than one in six of America's children living in poverty. Many parts of the south, including Morgan County, experience poverty rates higher than the rest of the nation. Morgan County has experienced a negative change by moving down in economic status and remains a Distressed County according to the Appalachian Regional Commission. Distressed Counties have poverty and unemployment rates that are at least 150 of the national averages and per capita market incomes that are no more than two-thirds of the national average. (See attachment C for additional information on distressed counties.)

Despite the enormous wealth in the United States, our child poverty rate is among the highest in the developed world. The gap is partly a product of differences in private-sector income, but difference in governmental efforts to alleviate child poverty greatly accentuate the disparities. The lack of investment in our children will probably put us at a competitive disadvantage in the international marketplace of the 21st century.

Geographic Location

Morgan County is a county located in the eastern part of the state of Tennessee. In terms of total land area, Morgan spans a total area of 522 square miles. The county is known for its rugged mountain terrain, and cold mountain streams and rivers. The Crab Orchard Mountains comprise a large area of the county, including many wilderness areas and Frozen Head State Park. The land area has a low population density of 39 persons per square mile.

Adjacent counties (Attachment D) include:

- Scott County, northeast
- Anderson County, east
- Roane County, south
- Cumberland County, southwest
- Fentress County, northwest

Below is a map of Tennessee with Morgan County in black:

See Attachment A for census tract information of the larger communities and cities in Morgan County. Attachment B is an enlarged map of Morgan County.

Transportation is a concern for many individuals in Morgan County. Only two major two lane state roads cut thru Morgan County, Highway 27 and 62. The majority of families only own one car and that car is used for transportation to work. Sixty five percent of the people employed in Morgan work outside the county and travel at least 50 minutes one way to their place of employment. Public transportation is not an option for residents of Morgan County. The agency will continue to provide the home base option because of continued rising gas prices, a lack of major metropolitan areas in the county - isolation of families, and approximately half of the families have one parent at home - culturally appropriate.

Racial/ethnic and Gender Composition

Morgan County has a population that is comprised of 96 % White, 2.5 % African American, 0.2 % Asian and 0.8 % Hispanic. The area population base can be described as having a very modest amount of racial and ethnic diversity, with 3.5% minorities. This is less than the State of Tennessee percent of 20.9, however, Morgan County has increased the percent of minority population from 3.2% to 3.5%.

Morgan County has an estimated population of 20,157 for the year 2005 with 53.1% male and 46.9 % female. This growth show an increase of 1.9 % since 2000. Morgan County ranks 63 of 95 counties when calculating total change in population for Tennessee. Over the last ten years, the greatest percent of growth has occurred in ages 45 - 64.

In examining the racial make-up of the 187 children and families receiving Head Start services, the following was determined:

	<u>Head Start</u>	<u>Early Head Start</u>
White	142	39
Black or African American	2	0
American Indian and Alaska Native	0	0
Asian	0	0
Some other race	3	1

All of the above children has English as their primary language and the primary

language of Morgan County is English.

(B) Other Child Development/Child Care Services

Current Head Family demographic statistics indicates that around half of Head Start families need some kind of extended day child care services. Child care is a growing need for families attempting to obtain and maintain employment, especially in relation to meeting Families First requirements (welfare reform in Tennessee).

DHS licensed more than 3500 child care agencies across Tennessee last year. These include child care centers, group homes, family homes and drop in centers. Morgan County has the following licensed child care providers:

<i>Group Home s Care for 8-12 Children</i>	Price	Star Quality Rating	# of Children	Head Start eligible Children enrolled	Ages	Hours Open	Trans. Provided
Humpty Dumpty Day Care School	\$70/w k	Yes	12	0	3 yrs-8yrs.	6:30 to 5:30	No

<i>Center Care for 13 or more children</i>	Price	Star Quality Rating	# of Children	Head Start eligible Children enrolled	Ages	Hours Open	Trans. Provided
Morgan County Head Start	free except for Ext. Hours	Yes	187	187	6 wk to 5 Yrs	6:30 to 5:30	Yes
Pre-K at Central Elementary	free	No	40	5	4 Yr to 5 Yr	8:00 to 3:30	No
Pre-K at Coalfield Elementary	free	No	20	2	4 Yr to 5 Yr	8:00 to 3:30	No
Pre-K at Oakdale Elementary	free	No	20	3	4 Yr to 5 Yr	8:00 to 3:30	No
Pre-K at Petros Joyner	free	No	20	2	4 Yr to 5 Yr	8:00 to 3:30	No
Pre-K at Sunbright	free	No	20	3	4 Yr to 5 Yr	8:00 to 3:30	No

Elementary							
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The Star Quality Child Care Program is a voluntary program that recognizes child care agencies who exceed minimum licensing standards. These agencies can receive a rating of one, two or three stars. Morgan County Head Start and Humpty Dumpty are three star program. The quality of child care has a direct impact on a child’s ability to learn, to build healthy relationships, and to become the best they can be.

Many education and early childhood programs in our county are not licensed. The institutions below support development and help children to grow cognitively, emotionally, physically and socially:

- Lutheran Preschool program
- Community public libraries
- Boys & Girls Club
- Public parks and recreational area
- Various church activities

It is very hard to estimate the number of children being served by non-licensed child care. This would include care provided by family members as well non-registered child care. Another issue is the fact that child care, when available in the county, is priced above the fiscal reach of Head Start families and impacts the services planned or delivered by the Head Start program because in that it makes for fewer child options for Head Start families. Morgan County Head Start is the only licensed child care facility serving infants or toddlers and is the only comprehensive child care for preschoolers in the county.

(C) *Estimated number of children with disabilities*

Number/type

The 2005 American Community Survey reports a population of 841,256 between 5 to 15 years in Tennessee. Of those, 62,810 are reported with a disability. The 2000 Census reports that 252 children from birth to age five are suspected with a disability and 458 children ages five to 20 years are suspected with a disability in Morgan County. Morgan County Schools reported for 2005 - 2006 that they served 589 students with a disability or 18.2 % of the school population. This year Morgan County Schools preschool serves 16 - 18 children where more than half have disabilities ranging from speech to children in wheel chairs.

Excluding Head Start children, Morgan County Schools serves approximately

10% of its preschool population identified with one or more disabilities. Head Start serves an average of 13% with diagnosed disabilities. Many of the children served have learning problems and IEPs which address learning problems with the primary diagnosis used is language impairment.

<u>Condition</u>	<u>Pre-School Potential Disabilities</u>	<u>Number Served by</u>
<u>Head Start</u>		
Mentally retarded	3	0
Speech/Language	45	15
Physical Impairment	1	1
Dev. Impairment	2	0
Multi	5	0

Tennessee Early Intervention Systems (TEIS), the Part C provider, provided services to 3600 children birth to 3 in 2000. According to Early Head Start records, we currently serve 4 children with IFSP: 1 is Down's, 1 is hearing lost, and the other two are developmental delays.

Relevant Services (for children with disabilities)

Children, birth to three, with disabilities are served through TEIS. When a child is enrolled in Early Head Start and a disability is suspected as a result of screening and assessment or if the parent is concerned regarding the child's development, the child is referred, with parental consent to TEIS. If special services are necessary, such as speech/language therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, etc., they are provided at the Head Start center if possible. Other support services as Tennessee Infant Parent Services (TIPS) are provided in the home with the parent.

Children ages three through five are served through Morgan County Schools. Children are typically served on site at the Head Start center. Children may be served in dual placement where the child attends Head Start part of the day for the inclusive environment, and attends a special Morgan County Schools placement part of the day for more specialized services. The IEP will determine where the children receive their special services.

(D) Needs of Head Start Families

The typical Head Start family is:

- A English speaking;
- white married couple;

- between the ages of 20 - 25;
- living in a household of 4 in a trailer.

In sixty-one HS families and 13 EHS families, a female is the head of the family. In 8 HS families the grandparent is the primary caregiver and 2 EHS families the grandparent is the primary caregiver. Eighty four preschool families and 22 EHS out of 134, report a family income of \$10,000 or less.

Educational Characteristics

About 25% of the families have not obtained a GED or high school diploma. However, 13.4% have some college or advanced training. About 45 percent of the fathers living in the household with Head Start children have attained a GED or high school diploma. We will continue to encourage parents to obtain their GED or High School diploma thru the Career Center in Morgan County.

Head Start families must travel to neighboring counties to continue their education past high school. In the next five year, Roane State Community College is planning on opening a branch in Wartburg.

Employment Characteristics

In about half of the families, one parent was employed either full or part time. Fifty four percent of families reported an income between \$6,000 and \$14,999. Nearly 20 percent of household reported a yearly income of less than \$8,999. The median income for Tennessee in 2000 was \$36,360. The median income for Morgan County was \$27,712; ranked 16th in the lowest of 95 counties. Seventy-five percent of our Head Start families receive less that \$15,000 in wages.

Seventy five percent of our Head Start households reported receiving some financial assistance. They might receive food stamps, WIC, SSI or various other services.

The January unemployment rate for Morgan County is 4.3% compared to 4.8% for Tennessee. Many of the jobs available are low-skill, low-wage, jobs that do not provide a salary above the poverty threshold. Fifteen households participate in the Families First program or receive welfare payments. We will continue to assist families with child care so that those who choose to work will have available and affordable child care.

Health Characteristics

There is a strong association between family income and perceived health as reported by the Morgan County Health Department. For families earning less than \$15,000 a year, adults were three times more likely to report that their health is fair or poor than those with an annual income of \$50,000 or more.

Primary care in a family medical setting is provided at the Morgan County Medical Center in Wartburg, the Coalfield Medical Clinic in Coalfield or the Wartburg Family Medical Center in Wartburg. If a family needs specialty care, hospitalization or mental health services, they must normally travel to neighboring counties in East Tennessee. The travel time will range from 30 minutes to 90 minutes, depending on where in the county the family resides.

The 2006 Kids Count Report ranks Tennessee as 46th in the health of its residents. As changes in TennCare (the state's Medicaid program) occur due to state budget restrictions, more Head Start parents may be terminated from TennCare, leaving them with no health insurance and limited access to medical services. We will continue to help families find a "medical home" so that quality health care will continue after Head Start or restrictions in TennCare.

Nutrition Characteristics

Obesity is a nutrition issue for Head Start families.

- Working families often eat "fast food" which is usually higher in calories and lower in nutrition values.
- Families often have limited physical activity - busy schedules, television and video games, etc.
- Choosing higher fat/calorie content foods rather than more nutritional fresh fruits and vegetables due to cost, habit, and lack of education regarding healthier food choices.

Head Start saw a decrease in obesity over last year but staff must continue to educate parents regarding healthy food choices and the need for increased physical activity in relation to overall good health and the development of healthy habits for children. We will model healthy habits at parent meetings and educate parents on the risk associated with obesity.

Social Services

By virtue of being low-income with limited resources, Head Start families typically have multiple social service needs. The goal of the program is to inform families of the resources available to connect families to agencies and service providers and to provide advocacy and follow-up services as needed. (The Resource Book given to parents is Attachment F)

Indicative of the needs of Head Start families are the numbers of families receiving direct services and referrals documented during the 2005-2006 school year:

- Emergency/crisis intervention

- ▭ Housing assistance(subsidies, utilities, repairs, etc.)
- ▭ Adult Education
- ▭ Health education
- ▭ Parenting education
- ▭ Mental Health services
- ▭ Job training
- ▭ Child Support Assistance
- ▭ Marriage education services

We will continue to assist families with direct services or referrals in this ever changing economy.

(E) Need of Head Start Children

Education

Head Start children, whose parents have lower literacy rates than the general population, generally enter the program without some of the readiness skills exhibited by their middle income peers. For example, at the beginning of the 2005 - 2006 school year, Morgan County Head Start children were able to identify(on average) 5 letters of the alphabet. Similarly, Morgan County Head Start children scored in the low levels on early literacy which measures children's book/print awareness, linguistic awareness, and emergent writing skills.

Enrollment in the Head Start program with its emphasis on literacy development in particular, exposure to print, daily reading during class time, distribution of books into the home, and encouragement to parents provides children with the tools need to reach the goal of school readiness. At the end of the 2005 - 2006 school year, kindergarten-bound children were able to identify (on the average) 13 letter of the alphabet. While much progress has been made, this and math/science continues to be a major area of need and emphasis.

Health

Upon entering Head Start, many children need dental treatment, medical treatment, vision exams or vision care/treatments. The majority of Head Start children are covered by TennCare (91%), making them eligible for EPSDT screening and medical treatment as needed/determined by their primary care provider.

Many families, however, do not recognize the importance of preventive care. At least 50% of Head Start children do not have their physical examinations before entering the program. Many children require immunizations before enrollment in Head Start can be offered. Health education in classrooms and through parent newsletters will continue so that parents can understand the importance of well child checks, a medical home, immunizations, and medical treatment for

identified problems.

Nutrition

WIC(Women, Infants, and Children) food program has provided much needed nutrition and health benefits to low-income women, infants, and children in Tennessee. WIC is not an entitlement program, but its benefits are targeted for the disadvantaged population. The benefits of WIC are nutrient-dense food packages, nutritional education, and access to health services.

In Morgan County Schools, almost half of the children were eligible for free or reduced meals in the 2005 - 2006 school year. This number has continued to rise over the last five years. This means that school aged children ate school lunches at either no cost or a reduced rate each day. Since Head Start typically serves children who meet USDA income guidelines for free meals (174 of currently enrolled children), provision of meals at Head Start continues to be a need and a requirement.

Children receive breakfast and lunch and some classrooms receive snacks. Children in the full day option are given breakfast, lunch and snack. These nutritious meals are critical in providing a sound, nutritious meal pattern and avoid the impact of hunger on children's performance in school.

Head Start implemented some healthy initiatives this year as a results of the growing number of at risk or overweight children as identified by growth measurements. The healthy initiatives included:

- Offering healthy food in portion sizes that are developmental and age appropriate,
- Increase classroom opportunities for physical activities that are fun and teach new skills,
- Provided behavior-focused nutritional education for children, families and staff
- Ask parents to bring only healthy foods into the classroom.

Head Start saw a decrease in children at risk for obesity this year but we will continue to model healthy eating habits in the classrooms and encourage daily activity for general good health.

Social Service

Head Start children and families have a number of family/social service needs which may interfere with full participation in the program. Children with

inadequate clothing may have poor attendance during cold and/or rainy weather. A child living in a variety of home/houses with no regular address may not be able to ride the Head Start bus to school because the address is changing and the parent(s) is not sure where they will be “staying” for pick up and drop off routes. If the utilities are disconnected, the family may have to stay temporarily with other family members or friends. Parents may be fighting over the custody of the children which creates tension in the household.

In order to involve the child and family in Head Start, these issues (and others like them) must be addressed. Head Start staff work to address social service needs through direct services (such as clothing) and through referral to other agencies in relation to utilities, housing, employment, etc. Since Head Start is mandated to serve the “neediest” families, these social service needs and interventions should continue.

(F) *Community Resources*

Morgan County is a rural county with limited resources. The Community Resource book (Attachment F) provides resource information to families and other members of the community:

- ▭ Abuse/Neglect
- ▭ Alcohol/Drug/Substance Abuse
- ▭ Adult Education/Literacy
- ▭ Child Care
- ▭ Emergency needs-Food, Clothing, Household items
- ▭ Employment/job Training
- ▭ Energy Assistance
- ▭ Family Support Services
- ▭ Housing
- ▭ Libraries
- ▭ Medical
- ▭ Mental Health
- ▭ Parenting
- ▭ Schools
- ▭ Violence Prevention

Parents receive the Resource book when their child is enrolled in Head Start and use the information to contact agencies and find needed services.

Accessibility

Morgan County covers 522 square miles with mountains, streams, state owed facilities and farm land. Two major state highway (Highway 62 and 27) run thru the county. Public transportation is not available except for EHTRA. This agency

has limited resources and riders must sign up in advance for transportation. Therefore, transportation remains a major barrier for many families. Most families only own one car and when it works the average time spent in traveling to a job is 50 minutes one way.

Head Start provides transportation for preschool children which eliminates a major barrier to participation in the program for approximately 130 children. Extended care children and EHS children are transported by their parents since most of them work or go to school. We are exploring bus stops in the county to reduce the amount of time children spend riding the bus.

Collaborations, contracts, referrals

In an effort to expand services to children and families, Head Start established and maintains collaborative agreement/partnerships with public and private service agencies/organizations/providers. Some examples include:

- Head Start Advisory Groups
- Head Start Policy Council
- County Health Department
- Morgan County Schools
- Other Head Start programs
- Rescue Squad
- Workforce Network
- Literacy Council
- Advantage Center
- Families First
- Unicorn Fund
- Tennessee Early Intervention Services (TEIS)

III. Use of Community Assessment Information

(A) Philosophy, Goals and Objectives

The overall mission of CAS/Morgan County Head Start is to partner with our community to encourage and support children and families for life long growth and enrichment.

Our Head Start goals are:

- To bring about a greater degree of social competence in the children we serve by working to enhance their cognitive and intellectual development, their social skills and their physical and mental health.
- To empower parents to achieve long-term, economic self-sufficiency.
- To deliver quality services efficiently.
- To strengthen community partnerships for children and families.

- To promote the physical and mental well-being of staff through a safe and healthy work environment and opportunities for professional growth/development to facilitate their work with children and families.

Head Start has also adopted a motto that supports our mission: **Shaping our future, one child at a time.**

The information from the Community Assessment is used to assure that program plans support long range program goals and short-term program and financial objectives. Goal setting assist staff, parents, and members of the community to understand the direction in which the program is headed. Short-term objectives assure that the program stays on track, is able to measure progress, and makes adjustments when necessary, and assures that resources are utilized effectively. Below are the goals for 2006 - 2007:

Short Term Objectives for 2006- 2007

1. Conduct a cost analysis for a child care classroom.
2. Offer healthy food in portion sizes that are developmental and age appropriate for child and staff.
3. Increase classroom opportunities for physical activities that are fun and teach new skills.
4. Provide behavior-focused nutritional education for children, families and staff.
5. Explore bus stops in the county to reduce the amount of time children spend riding the bus.
6. Increase Pre-K collaborative efforts with Morgan County Schools.

Long Term Goals for 2006 - 2007

1. Participate in EHS expansion whenever available.
2. Prepare teaching staff for the changing age population in Preschool Head Start due to Pre-K program.
3. Increase budget for salaries for B.S. degree teachers & staff.

Written plans are one tool that facilitates a common understanding of the program's mission, philosophy, goals and objectives. The written plans are the culmination of an ongoing process. The planning process begins with planning and continues with monitoring, record-keeping, reporting, communication, and self assessment and external evaluation. All planning activities revolve around the children and families served.

Policy Council, Board of Directors and advisory groups work with program staff throughout the year to implement the plans that were developed during the previous year and must approve revisions and changes for the upcoming year. In other words, the program conducts self-assessment activities and uses that information, along with the Community Assessment information, to plan for the next school year.

(B) Content Area Services & Program Options Needed

Content Area Services

Head Start was initially designed and continues to operate as a comprehensive program, meaning services extend beyond education. For children and families in poverty, other family needs must be met in order to maximize participation in education services.

A child who is sick or does not feel well, tired due to lack of proper rest, understanding, and/or feeling the effects of the family's stress, is less likely to perform well in school. A parent concerned about paying the utility bill, unemployed, and/or unable to obtain reliable transportation is less likely to send their child to school on a regular basis.

Families unable to transport their child to school due to the rising cost of fuel or because the family car has broken down, could not send their child to school without transportation support. Parents sometimes do not enroll their child in a program because the child is not toilet trained or has developmental delays and the parent believe the child will not be accepted. These barriers, and others, are minimized when child is enrolled in Head Start. The program's content area services (i.e., health, dental, nutrition, mental health, disabilities, transportation, social services) are necessary support to ensure that children participate in the program to the maximum extend possible and work toward the overall goals of school readiness and success for each child.

In addition, Head Start's Parent Involvement content area separates this program from others in the community. Head Start's involvement of each parent in every aspect of the program, in planning for and providing services pertinent to their child and their family, strengthens the program. Services are relevant because parents have indicated their needs and the program adjusted and adapted to meet those needs whenever possible. Parents leave Head Start with improved skills in advocating for their child and family, and with the confidence to participate in school and community beyond Head Start . Parent meetings are used for parent training, information sharing, networking, and relationship building.

Program Options Needed

In its over 40 year history, Head Start has provided a variety of program options. With changing eligible populations, state programs, and welfare reform initiatives (with mandatory training and work requirements), Head Start families' needs related to children's program and services have changed. Head Start's enrollment and attendance patterns and community assessments in recent years reflect these changes and support the current center based program and home base options in preschool Head Start and center based and home base option for full day/year services.

The program is funded for 147 Head Start and 40 Early Head Start infants,

toddlers, and pregnant women. The current breakdown is:

- 117 center based Head Start children, Monday - Thursday
- 12 home base Head Start children, Monday - Thursday and group socialization twice a month
- 18 center based extended care Head Start children, Monday - Friday, full day/full year
- 16 center based Early Head Start children, Monday - Friday, full day/full year

- 24 home base infants, toddlers, and pregnant women, Monday - Thursday and group socialization twice a month.

The center based full year/full day care is currently being provided to Head Start and sixteen families in Early Head Start who are working in the workforce or going back to school. The following analysis from the Community Assessment demonstrates the continued need for the full year/full day center base option:

- approximately half of families have at least one parent employed either full or part time,
- only 126% of the children eligible under the Child Care and Development Block Grant receive assistance,
- double digit unemployment in Morgan County,
- work requirements of Families First, Tennessee's welfare reform program, have created a need for child care slots for low-income working, and
- Early Head Start is the only child care program that provides licensed infant/toddler care in Morgan County.

We also provide transportation services to and/from Head Start to family/friend, babysitters, etc.

The home based option is currently being provided to 12 families in Head Start and twenty-four infants, toddlers or pregnant women in Early Head Start. The following analysis demonstrates the continued need for the home base option:

- no major metropolitan areas in the county - rural communities - 37 people per square mile,
- approximately half of the families have one parent at home,
- families in poverty experience a kind of pervasive stress that make family members vulnerable to a host of other concerns. The Home Visitor possesses a broad range of knowledge and skills to meet a multitude of needs,
- the home environment is the most developmentally appropriate place for learning to take place, and
- many families have limited transportation over sub standard roads.

(C) Recruitment Area

Head Start's designated service area includes all of Morgan County. The neediest children and families of the county are the target of Head Start recruitment and

enrollment efforts. (Attachment A) Morgan County Head Start does not have any delegates.

(D) Center Locations

Since the year 2000, very few people have migrated to Morgan County. The immigration into Morgan totals 0 percent of the total migration into the State of Tennessee. Morgan County is comprised of three cities. Below is the population for each city:

- Wartburg, the county seat, has a population of 5,016,
- Sunbright has a population of 3,183 and
- Oakdale has a population of 4,449.

Other small communities compose the rest of the population. See Attachment A for a Census Tract Map. Wartburg has the highest concentration of children/families living in poverty. Based on the census data for 2000 and population estimates for 2005, the center based and home base option will remain in Wartburg.

(E) Criteria for Enrollment

The criteria is updated annually, based on community needs and program priorities. The information below shows the current Selection Criteria Summary as approved by Policy Council for Head Start and Early Head Start and utilized during 2006-2007 recruitment:

**CAS/Morgan County Head Start Eligibility Priority Criteria
2006-2007**

Child's Name:	Birth Date: / /
Application#	Teacher:
Loc. ID#	

Instructions: Choose one box in each area based on information from the enrollment application form and /or other sources. When it is appropriate, write a comment to document reason for selection. Sign form below and place in the child's folder. The "DESCR" and "PTS" for each item child should be copied onto the application lines A-13-A15.

<i>Item A13</i>	<i>Parents</i>	<i>Note: (mark X in boxes please)</i>	<i>DESCR.</i>	<i>Pts.</i>	<i>X</i>
	OU=	One parent- Unemployed	ONE-U	80	<input type="checkbox"/>
	TU=	Two parents - unemployed	TWO-U	70	<input type="checkbox"/>
	F=	Foster parent	FOSTR	60	<input type="checkbox"/>
	OE=	One-parent employed	ONE-E	50	<input type="checkbox"/>
	N=	Guardian, other than natural parents	OTHER	50	<input type="checkbox"/>
	TO=	Two parents-One employed	TWO-O	30	<input type="checkbox"/>
	TE=	Two parents-Both employed	TWO-E	20	<input type="checkbox"/>

<i>Item A13</i>	<i>Disability</i>	<i>DESCR.</i>	<i>Pts.</i>	<i>X</i>
	Z= Zero disability	NON D	00	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Diagnosed disability (confirmed DSC; IEP; or IFSP)	DD	80	<input type="checkbox"/>

<i>Item A13</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>DESCR.</i>	<i>Pts.</i>	<i>X</i>
	Low income/75% to 100% below poverty guidelines	L75%	100	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Low income/50% to 74% below poverty guidelines	L50%	90	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Low income/25% to 49% below poverty guidelines	L25%	80	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Eligible/ 0% to 24% below poverty guidelines	L00%	70	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Over-income		00	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other

Referral from DCHS or Protective Services		60	<input type="checkbox"/>
Serious child health problems		50	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family crisis(criminal, legal, death)		40	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transition from EHS		30	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has child in Head Start/EHS		20	<input type="checkbox"/>
Head Start/EHS employee		10	<input type="checkbox"/>

Item A13 Age (This is the child's age as of Sept. 30 of this year)

Returnee		70	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 years 0 months to 3 years 5 months	3-4+	60	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 years 6 months to 3 years 11 months	3-10+	50	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 years 0 months to 4 years 5 months	4-3+	40	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 years 6 months and older	4-6+	30	<input type="checkbox"/>

CAS/Morgan County EHS/Pre Natal/Extended Care Eligibility Priority Criteria 2006-2007

Child's Name:	Birth Date: / /
Application#	Loc. ID#
	Teacher:

Instructions: Choose one box in each area based on information from the enrollment application form and /or other sources. When it is appropriate, write a comment to document reason for selection. Sign form below and place in the child's folder. The "DESCR" and "PTS" for each item child should be copied onto the application lines A-13-A15.

Item A13	Parents	Note: (mark X in boxes please)	DESCR.	Pts.	X
	F=	Foster Parent	FOSTR	80	<input type="checkbox"/>
	OE=	One Parent - Employed	ONE-E	70	<input type="checkbox"/>
	TE=	Two Parents - Both employed	T-E	60	<input type="checkbox"/>
	TO=	Two Parents - One employed	TOE	50	<input type="checkbox"/>
	N=	Guardian (other than parent)	OTHER	40	<input type="checkbox"/>
	OU=	One parent - Unemployed	ONE-U	30	<input type="checkbox"/>
	TU=	Two Parents - Unemployed	TWO-U	20	<input type="checkbox"/>

Item A13	Disability	DESCR.	Pts.	X
	Z= Zero disability	NON D	00	<input type="checkbox"/>
	A-W= Other diagnosed disability (confirmed DSC or IFSP)	D-TEIS	80	<input type="checkbox"/>

Item A13	Income	DESCR.	Pts.	X
	Low income/75% to 100% below poverty guidelines	L75%	100	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Low income/50% to 74% below poverty guidelines	L50%	90	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Low income/25% to 49% below poverty guidelines	L25%	80	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Eligible/ 0% to 24% below poverty guidelines	L00%	70	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Over Income		00	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other Circumstances

Referral from DCHS/TEIS OR Protective Services	REF	60	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child with a serious health issue (Asthma, Diabetes, etc.)		50	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family crisis (legal/death/separation etc.)	CRI	40	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has child in Early Head Start or Head Start		20	<input type="checkbox"/>
HS/EHS employee		10	<input type="checkbox"/>

Item A13 Mother's Status

Teen parent 13-18 yrs. old		70	<input type="checkbox"/>
TANF recipient		60	<input type="checkbox"/>
High risk pregnancy		50	<input type="checkbox"/>
Homeless (living with family)		40	<input type="checkbox"/>
First Pregnancy		30	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other children		20	<input type="checkbox"/>

Item A13 Age

0 months tp 11 months		70	<input type="checkbox"/>
12 months to 23 months		50	<input type="checkbox"/>
24 months to 29 months		70	<input type="checkbox"/>

IV. **Issues For Future Planning**

What conditions do we anticipate encountering over the next three to five years?

Tennessee has a voluntary pre-kindergarten program for all 4 year old children. In 2005 - 2006, pre-kindergarten classrooms received 10 million state dollars and 25 million lottery dollars. There are no unfunded mandates. In the last year alone, we lost between ten to fifteen *income eligible* children to pre-K. . An additional concern is that some pilot programs in Tennessee are serving three year children in addition to four year old children. Children under the age of 5 has not been our fastest growing population in Morgan County over the last ten years. We will continue to recruit and expand our PR efforts but pre-K will impact the availability of income eligible children in our county and our ability to maintain our funded enrollment. Our future in Head Start is to expand our funded enrollment in Early Head Start because infants and toddlers are not being fully served in our county.

The rising cost of transportation will continue to be a budget issue. Most of our parents could not afford to transport their child to Head Start, therefore, eliminating transportation is not an option if we hope to maintain full enrollment. We will continue to explore the possibility of bus stops in a more heavily populated area.

Many of the children across Morgan County and the state of Tennessee face a grim future clouded by predictably lousy outcomes. For generations, education has been the vehicle for advancing the social and economic status of children and families. Today, the importance of education is greater than ever. Because of changes in our economy and the demands of the workplace, literacy, computational skills, computer-literacy, and problem solving skills are even more powerful predictors of a child's future success. Research show that school completion and academic success increase a child's ability to escape poverty, form strong families, and raise successful kids of their own. People debate the strategies and approaches for improving the life chances of disadvantaged children but everyone agrees that a high quality education is at least part of the solution. Our goal now and in the future will be to provide comprehensive education services to children and families or perhaps our motto says it all - "**Shaping our future, one child at a time**".