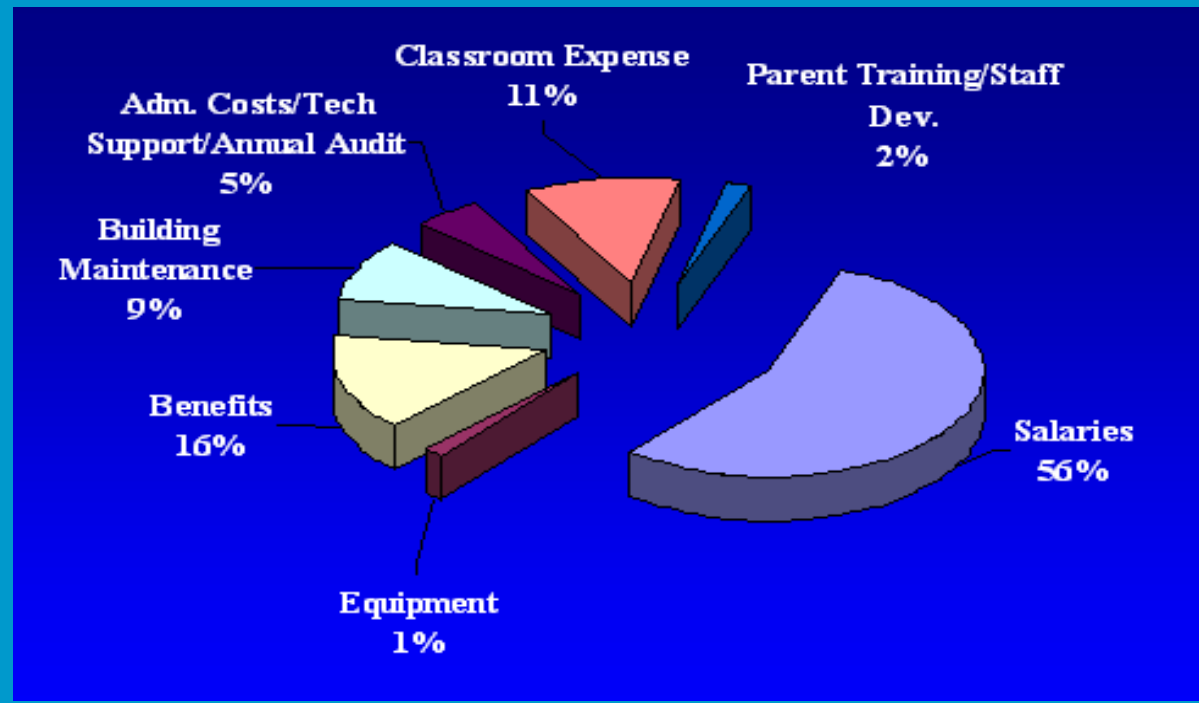


Where the Money Comes From - And Where It Goes



All directly-operated centers are nationally accredited and hold the state's highest 3-star rating.



Family Resource Agency, Inc. / TN Head Start

...Serving Home, School and Community

Family Resource Agency's Head Start program operates 32 centers in the four counties of Southeast Tennessee: Bradley, McMinn, Meigs and Polk. Additionally, FRA operates the State Pre-K programs for Bradley County and Cleveland City Schools and a portion of McMinn County School's program.

These unique collaborations and the quality services rendered have caused Family Resource Agency's Head Start to be recognized as a Federal Model. Each Federal Review and audit has ended with no deficiencies but with congratulations to the staff, parents and collaborative partners for the agency's excellent quality and delivery of services.

It is also recognized as a State Model by the Tennessee Department of Education, due to the unique collaborations with the local school systems. One of the many reasons for this is because it is the only program in Tennessee that pays the BEP match through Federal funds, since it blends the classes with Head Start and State Pre-K children.

This is a cost-savings of over 1.2 million dollars per year to the Bradley County taxpayers, while providing certified teachers and more locations to Head Start at NO cost!

Family Resource Agency's Most Unique Feature - Creative Programming

- Family Support Center**
Head Start has received numerous awards and recognition for very creative approaches to service delivery. For example, Head Start renovated the old Blythe Elementary School to form a One Stop Shop, called the Family Support Center!

Seeking a better way to move at-risk families from welfare to work, Head Start located all of its full/day-full/year classes there. These classes provide day care before and after the regular Head Start day, and only parents who are going to school or work are allowed slots for their children. This allows a quality education for their children and additional child-care during their hours of work.

The rest of the school serves as a support center for these families through other agencies who help with therapeutic services, abstinence training and pregnancy counseling, after-school activities and homework assistance for siblings, and even a credit union that offers budget training and high-risk loans to low-income people.

- East Cleveland Early Childhood Center**
Another facility, the former East Cleveland Elementary School, was renovated and turned into a State Pre-K Training and Adult Education Center. This facility houses many Pre-K and Head Start classes while training the agency's new teachers and student teachers from local colleges. It also hosts Bradley County School's Adult Education and REACH High School, which serves many of the at-risk parents of the Pre-K and Head Start children.

Key Benefits

Head Start's core belief is that disadvantaged children and their families can be helped through participation in an early childhood program. Its mission is to empower children, parents and staff to lead happier, healthier, more productive lives by realizing the full, dynamic potential that lies within all persons. This is accomplished by creating an atmosphere that encourages respect, responsiveness and nurturing toward each other in a manner that unleashes and supports the inherent right to be a unique individual.

Ready For Kindergarten

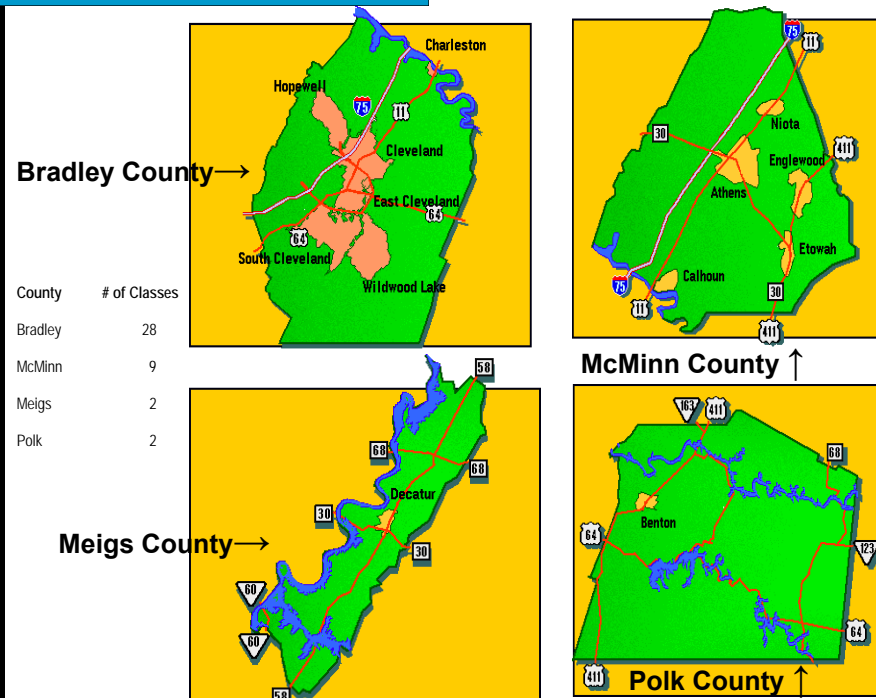
This year, most of our children will continue to kindergarten. As you can see in the chart at left, the children score well above the national norms.

During their one to two years with us, they will learn introductory reading, writing, science and math skills. They will also be introduced to emotional, social and physical development skills, in order to help them to develop well-rounded personalities.

In addition to academic and social services to children, Head Start also provides many services to families, over half of whom are single-parent families.

Typical Services Offered to Families

- Adult education
- Job counseling
- Job training
- Job search
- Marriage enrichment
- Parenting
- Fathering
- Counseling
- Child support
- Medical services
- Dental services
- Home safety
- Car seats
- ...and much more



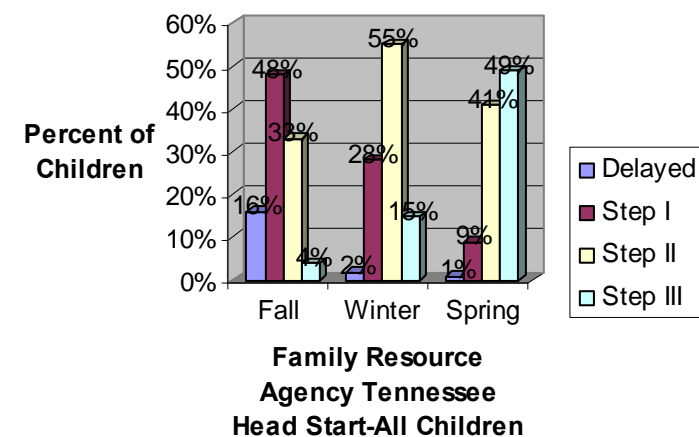
Long Term Benefits of Head Start and State Pre-K

The most famous and the only long-term examination of Pre-K. The High/Scope Perry Preschool Study, was conducted on children who were tracked in two control groups (one that participated in a quality pre-k program and one that didn't) to age 40. From this it was learned:

- Reduction in Crime - Only 7% of adults who participated in Pre-K had been arrested five or more times, compared to 35% who had not.
- Economic Status - Adults in the program were four times more likely (29%) to earn \$2,000 or more per month than were the others (7%). Almost three times as many owned their own homes, and more than two times as many owned a second car.
- Educational Attainment - Seventy-one percent of those in the program graduated from high school compared to fifty-four percent who didn't.
- Marriage and Single Parenthood - Forty percent of women in the program were married by age 27, compared to eight percent of the others. Fifty-seven percent in the control group were single parents as compared to eighty-three percent of the others.

Head Start and State Pre-K is a benefit to our society!

A Year of Progress



To address the special challenges some children present, we became a partner in the Safe Schools/Healthy Students grant awarded to Bradley County Schools. This enabled us to create supports by hiring behavior specialists, who work with the children in class, and by providing family counseling and Parent Stress Classes. Between 15 to 40 percent of our children have an identified disability.

To help ease the transition from Head Start/Pre-K to kindergarten, we also prepare the children by introducing kindergarten routines. A tour of their new school is provided, and kindergarten teachers visit our classrooms.

Every elementary school now has former Head Start/Pre-K children who are at the top of their reading groups, and many former children are now prominent in their professions!

Head Start and State Pre-K Work!



Head Start / Pre-K by the Numbers

768	Number of children funded
833	Number of children served during the year
100	Number of teaching staff
41	Number of classrooms
93	Number of children served who had a disability
1,097	Number of volunteers
790	Number of families served
304	Number of single-parent families
486	Number of two-parent families

What Does "At-Risk" Mean?

Both Head Start and State Pre-K are mandated to serve the at-risk population first. This term can mean many things, but it starts with family income. While not all low-income families are at-risk, most at-risk factors originate here, since many of the children have fewer opportunities.



Unfortunately, Tennessee has a problem with its nineteen percent of at-risk children. For example, out of a typical group of 20 children, you will find the following:

- Eleven (11) will repeat one or more grades
- Nine (9) will need special education
- Seven (7) will commit five or more crimes and will require incarceration
- Sixteen (16) will not have the skills required for post-secondary education
- Eleven (11) will not graduate from high school

Surprisingly, most of the problems begin with a poor vocabulary! As children enter school, they come with varying abilities. For example, a child from a middle class or upper class home will be exposed to 45 million words by the time s/he turns five; on the other hand, a child from an impoverished home will only be exposed to 13 million. Already there's a 32 million word gap! So when a kindergarten teacher attempts to explain something in class, some of the children are already "lost." Unfortunately, this gap can increase as time goes by, resulting in the child falling further behind, which in turn causes the child to feel helpless. Consequently, when the child becomes old enough to drop out, that'll be his/her choice.

Tennessee

Head Start

Serving Home, School and Community



EVERY YEAR
IN BRADLEY, POLK, MCMINN, &
MEIGS COUNTIES
PROVIDING

- A PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT TO MORE THAN 750 OF THE MOST VULNERABLE CHILDREN IN OUR AREA
- THE BEST PRE-SCHOOL ACADEMIC PROGRAM AVAILABLE
- PREVENTIVE HEALTH CARE FOR EACH CHILD
- FREE DENTAL EXAMS & TREATMENT
- HEALTH INSURANCE REFERRALS
- FAMILY GOAL PLANNING AND OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES
- EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE VIA REFERRALS TO LOCAL RESOURCES
- SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES
- WELL-SUPERVISED STAFF WITH DEGREES AND CDA CREDENTIALS
- SUPERIOR STAFF-TO-CHILD TEACHING RATIO
- NUTRITION SERVICES
- MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES WITH ON-SITE CONSULTATIONS
- HEARING, VISION, SPEECH, AND LANGUAGE SCREENINGS

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