To The Citizens of Southern Illinois:

Southern Seven Health Department has been the grantee since 1993 for the federal award from the Department of Health and Human Services to operate the Early / Head Start program in the Southern Seven counties of Illinois which includes Alexander, Hardin, Johnson, Massac, Pope, Pulaski, and Union. Each year, continuation grants have been funded to provide comprehensive preschool program to children and families.

The program operates under and is evaluated on approximately 2000 Performance Standards (CFR 1304, 1306,1308,1310) and administrative requirements (Section 644 of the Head Start Act) as indicated in the following categories:

- Education & Early Childhood Development
- Child Health & Safety
- Child Nutrition
- Child Mental Health
- Children with Special Needs
- Family & Community Partnerships
- Program Governance
- Record Keeping & Reporting
- Finance
- Self Assessment
- Planning, Communication
- Facilities, Materials & Equip.

Early / Head Start is a great asset to the communities served as well as to the children and families who benefit daily from the quality programs that are offered.

I am proud to provide this snapshot of Southern Seven Health Department’s Early / Head Start comprehensive program for children and families.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Parks
Early Childhood Administrator
Locations and Demographics for Head Start

*Numbers of students reflect a cumulative total for the school year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anna Early Learning Center</td>
<td>Union County</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cairo Early Learning Center</td>
<td>Alexander County</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cobden Early Learning Center</td>
<td>Union County</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dongola Early Learning Center</td>
<td>Union County</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Egyptian Early Learning Center</td>
<td>Alexander County</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goreville Early Learning Center</td>
<td>Johnson County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hardin County Early Learning</td>
<td>Hardin County</td>
<td>23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jonesboro Early Learning Center</td>
<td>Union County</td>
<td>23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Metropolis Early Learning Center</td>
<td>Massac County</td>
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<td>Mounds Early Learning Center</td>
<td>Pulaski County</td>
<td>28</td>
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<td>Pope County Early Learning</td>
<td>Pope County</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vienna Early Learning Center</td>
<td>Johnson County</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Mission of Southern Seven Health Department is to promote a safe and healthy environment by providing preventive health care, family support services, and child development programs.
The Performance Standards requires all Early/Head Start programs to meet specific standards:

- Required to meet funded enrollment at all times.
- Required to meet 20% of grants funds through In-Kind match.
- Required to serve 10% of enrollment with children with Special Needs.
- Assure 90% eligible children are served.

**Total Number of Early / Head Start Staff:**

- 169

**Total Number of Current/Former Parents who are Paid Staff:**

- 169

**Average Monthly Enrollment:**

- Head Start—81%
- Early Head Start—100%

**Eligible Children Served:**

- Head Start — 91%
- Early Head Start — 100%

**Number of Children Served:**

- Head Start — 465
- Early Head Start — 124

**Number of Families Served:**

- Head Start — 432
- Early Head Start — 103

**Percentage of Children Served with Special Needs:**

- Head Start — 17%
- Early Head Start — 12%

**Total Number of Volunteers who Provided Services for the Children and Families:**

- 942
**Health Information**

The Performance Standards requires all Early/Head Start programs to provide comprehensive health care services. This includes working with each family to assure they receive medical needs for their children. All children receive medical assessments as part of the program to determine if follow up care is needed. Children receive a hearing and vision screening as well as dental services.

**Health Goals**

- Establish a Medical and Dental Home.
- Complete all physical and dental examinations.
- All children up to date with immunizations.

**Educational Goals & Objectives**

- A focus on school readiness assures that children are ready for kindergarten.
- Children will develop a holistic mastery of skills that will enable them to attain academic success.
- Children will be physically, socially, and emotionally prepared to learn.
- Early and Head Start Staff will develop partnerships with parents that will allow them to participate as an active member in their child’s education.

**Curriculum & Assessment Tools Used by the Early/Head Start Program**

- Creative Curriculum for Pre-School
- Creative Curriculum for Infants, Toddlers and Two’s
- Teaching Strategies GOLD
- Dial-4 Development Assessment
- Ages & Stages Questionnaire: Social/Emotional
- Ages & Stages 3
- Partners for a Healthy Baby
- I AM Moving I AM Learning — Physical Development Curriculum
- CATCH — Nutrition Curriculum
- Second Step Social Emotional Skills for Early Learning
The Early Head Start program which serves children ages Birth—3 years and the Head Start program which serves children ages 3—5 years of age and track educational outcomes to assure program effectiveness. Southern Seven uses Teaching Strategies Gold a Web Based Assessment tool that allows teachers and administrators to monitor each child’s progress. Teaching Strategies Gold is the assessment piece of the Creative Curriculum which teachers use to develop lesson plans and guide classroom activities. Outcomes are monitored in the Fall, Winter, and Spring. The data gathered is analyzed and aggregated to determine classroom and individual needs or concerns. The growth is documented and the information is used to assure children receive the most effective classroom learning environment.

The outcomes are measured in the categories of below, meeting, or exceeding expectations. The developmental areas include: Social Emotional; Physical; Language; Cognitive; Literacy; and Mathematics.

There are 38 indicators that teachers monitor on children during the three collection periods. Parents are provided with updates on their child’s progress during Home Visits or Parent/Teacher Conferences.

The Early Head Start numbers show a decrease in some areas due to the age of the children that are being compared. As the older children transition into Head Start, younger children may replace them and are not as advanced.
**Nutrition**

At Southern Seven, the meals are nutritious and served family style. Each meal children receive meets 2/3 of the daily nutritional requirements for vitamins and minerals. Children sit at the table with their teacher and are able to serve their own food and have meaningful conversations with each other while they eat. Meals are reimbursed through USDA.

![Number of Meals Served for the School Year:](image)

- Breakfast - 50,419
- Lunch - 52,051
- Snack - 45,853

**Special Needs/Mental Health**

Children with Special Needs are involved with regular classroom and center activities. Individual plans are developed that assure all needs are met and that teaching staff are prepared to deliver quality services to the child and the family. The Special Needs Specialist works with the three Special Education Cooperatives in our counties to help develop IEP’s and assure smooth transition from Head Start to Kindergarten. Close relationships with Child and Family Connections assures that infants and toddlers with IFSP’s are served and that all needs are met accordingly.

**Transportation**

Transportation is not offered program wide, however, Egyptian, Goreville, Hardin, and Pope provides transportation coordinated with the School District. Coordination with transportation for children to attend Pre-K dual enrollment classes also occurs at New Simpson Hill School District. Transportation also occurs for field trips and special events. Safety is the first priority for all children. Each child is secure in a “car seat” type system. The drivers are thoroughly trained and no child is ever left alone at any time. Parents are provided with bus safety information upon enrolling their child and all children are provided with safety lessons about the bus and practice safety drills on the bus.

**School Readiness**

One of the main educational goals is to assure children are ready for Kindergarten. To accomplish this task, Site Supervisors and teachers review the Kindergarten expectations from each child’s future school district and incorporate those items into daily lesson plans. Individual educational goals are set that helps each child succeed at their own pace. This information is shared with parents and is sent to the school district before the child enters Kindergarten.

![Children Transitioning to Kindergarten:](image)

- 36% of Enrollment
- 167 Children
Parent Involvement Opportunities

- Parent Community Meetings
- Parent Orientation
- Family Fun Night
- Center Volunteers
- Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Health Advisory & Education/Special Needs Committee Meetings
- Parent Talks
- ERSEA Committee Meetings
- Policy Council Meetings
- Field Trips
- Family Partnership Agreements
- Male Involvement
- Community Involvement Events

Family Support

The services that Early / Head Start provides is far more than just a classroom setting. The whole Family is our concern. Each Family is important and we strive to meet the needs on an individual basis. Parent meetings are held, officers are elected and events are planned that are both fun and educational. The support for the Family or individuals is provided in the good times and during those difficult times as well. Educational opportunities are provided to give parents the “edge” when it comes to nutrition, parenting skills, job training and support. Parent Coordinators are located at each site to assist parents with their needs.

Memorandums of Understanding, Interagency and Joint Cooperative Agreements

Head Start’s comprehensive approach to services is achieved through partnering with local agencies and public schools. The list of organizations and agencies have agreements and/or memorandums of understanding with our program.

Special Education Cooperatives

- JAMP Special Education
- Tri–County Special Education
- Wabash Ohio Valley Special Education
- Massac County Schools—Metropolis

Community / Other

- Child and Family Connections
- CHESI
- Bethany Village
- Cairo Women’s Shelter
- Dental Safari
- Rural Health
- WIC/Family Case Management
- Prairie Farms
- Lewis Bakeries
- Reppert’s
- Supply Works
- US Foods
- Local Businesses
- University of Illinois Extension
- Mental Health Agencies
- DCFFS
- Shawnee Community College

School Districts

- Anna
- Buncombe
- Cairo
- Century
- Cobden
- Cypress
- Dongola
- Egyptian
- Goreville
- Hardin
- Jonesboro
- Joppa
- Lick Creek
- Massac
- Meridian
- New Simpson Hill
- Pope
- Shawnee
- Vienna

Training Opportunities

- University of Illinois Extension Nutrition/Cooking
- Bus Safety
- Heart Health
- Literacy
- Financial Literacy/Money Management
- Mental Health
- Transition to Kindergarten
- Family Fun Nights
- Fire Safety
- Child Guidance
- CPR & First Aid Certification
**Fiscal Information — Fiscal Year 2019**

Total: $4,866,396

Total In-Kind: $1,296,079

Grand Total: $6,162,475

**Average Salaries**

- Administrators — $71,674 (12 Month)
- Teachers — $18,843 (9 Month)
- Teacher’s Aides — $14,545 (9 Month)
- Directors/Specialists — $41,824 (12 Month)

**Audit**

Beussink, Hey, Roe, & Stroder, L.L.C. will conduct the annual financial audit for the year ending June 30, 2019 in October, 2019. Southern Seven Health Department strives to remain in compliance with the requirements described in the U.S. Office of Management Budget (OMB) Circular A-133.
Federal Review

The last monitoring review found the program to be in compliance with Head Start Performance Standards. The Federal Monitoring includes a series of events that will take place during the five year grant cycle. These include a Focus Area 1, Focus Area 2, and CLASS.

A Focus Area 1 took place in December, 2018. Interviews took place with parents, Head Start Service Team and Administrators, the Head Start Policy Council, and the Southern Seven Health Department Board of Health. There were no issues identified.