

2017

Hancock County Head Start Program Community Assessment

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Hancock County Head Start & Early Head Start Mission Statement

The Hancock County Head Start/Early Head Start Program will create and facilitate a healthy, safe and nurturing environment conducive to learning by bridging families, communities and providing comprehensive quality services for participating families and eligible children.

Our Vision:

The Hancock County Head Start & Early Head Start programs vision is to educate families and children by providing diverse learning experiences.

Our Philosophy:

Hancock County Head Start Program is based on the premise that all children share certain needs and can benefit from a comprehensive developmental program focusing on promoting school readiness through positive social and education skills. This program is tailored to fit the needs of the local community and families involved as well as to maximize the unique experiences of each child's desire to become lifelong learners. Head Start supports and encourages parental involvement and provides comprehensive services to enhance family development in the following areas: Health, Mental Health, Disabilities, Literacy, Nutrition, Education, Transportation, Family Support, Community Partnerships, and Parent Involvement.

Our Goal:

Early Head Start, Head Start & Pre-K serves infants, toddlers, and pregnant women in Sparta, Hancock County, Georgia. Its goal is to promote healthy prenatal outcomes for pregnant women, enhance the development of young children, and promote healthy family functioning.

Our Beliefs:

We believe healthy children are better prepared to learn.

We believe in empowering parents and helping them to become self-sufficient.

We believe in the cultural diversity of the children and families we serve.

We believe in providing comprehensive services to children and families.

We believe in collaborating with local community agencies interested in the well-being of Head Start & Early Head Start enrolled children and families.

We believe in providing positive leadership to our staff by supporting them in providing quality services to both children and their families.

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Section 1: General Description/Introduction

Program Option

The Hancock County Head Start & Early Head Start Program provides comprehensive child development services to two hundred and twenty seven (227) eligible children, expectant mothers, and their families. The “core” Head Start program expects to enroll approximately 125 toddlers and will operate as a center-based option for 6.5 hours per day, five days per week, August through late May, and children will attend classes for 180 days per year, aligning with the local school system’s approved school calendar. Similarly, the Early Head Start Program will operate five days per week for 6.5 hours per day but will provide year round programming for 220 days per year.

The Hancock County Board of Education is the grantee for the Head Start & Early Head Start Programs. These programs are located in Hancock County, Sparta, Georgia. Hancock County, Georgia is located approximately 120 miles east of Atlanta, Georgia. The county is primarily agricultural with a very low population density of only 20.0 people per square mile. Hancock County is located between Greene, Taliaferro, Baldwin, Warren, Washington, Glascock and Putman counties. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the county has a total area of 471.84 square miles, of which 466.34 square miles is land and 5.5 square miles is water. Hancock County is divided into six geographical tracts of land. The city of Sparta is the county seat: however, the residents also live in the smaller communities of Beulah, Devereux, Linton, Springfield, and Mayfield. Hancock County is comprised of both County and City government. The County government consists of four (4) commissioners, one representing each district and a commission chairperson. The City of Sparta has a Mayor and four (4) city council members.

Hancock County was created in 1793 as Georgia's 15th County, and the City of Sparta was chartered in 1805. Hancock County was originally part of Greene and Washington Counties, and was named for John Hancock, the first signer of the Declaration of Independence. Major Charles Abercrombie, a Revolutionary War soldier was granted extensive land grants and from his land grant in Hancock County, he "laid out the lots" for the City of Sparta, including the "public lots" for the courthouse and the square. Four Georgia governors have hailed from Hancock County: William Rabun, James McDonald, Nathaniel Harris, and William Northern.

Hancock County is one of the most historic counties in Georgia, with over 600 historic sites and structures. It has been noted that Hancock County has "a concentration of historic architecture you will not see anywhere else in the State of Georgia."



Purpose

This 2016-17 community assessment provides updated demographic data and relevant community information to identify the strengths, needs, and trends that will impact the design and implementation of the Head Start & Early Head Start Programs. The information from the assessment will be used in accordance with the Head Start Performance Standards to determine the program's philosophy, set long range and short range program goals, and identify service

areas that are most needed. The data gathered in this assessment will be used to determine program options, areas for targeted recruitment, appropriate locations for centers, establish the selection criteria for children and families, and to determine the number of pregnant women to be served by the grantee.

Section 2: Hancock County Racial/Ethnicity Composition & Other Childcare Providers

According to Hancock County Census 2012 estimates results, the population of the area was approximately 8,996 people (38% urban and 62% rural). Between 2000 and 2010, the population in Hancock County decreased by 6.2%. From 2000 to 2013, the Hancock County population growth percentage was -9.5%. The U.S. Census data for 2012 estimates for Hancock County include the racial breakdown percentages of 74.1% African American, 0.5% Asian, White 24.4%, Hispanic 1.5%, American Indian 0.4 %, 0.1% from other races, and 0.6% from two or more races.

The majority of the population is within the working age group of 18-64 years of age and Black/African American is the most prevalent races.

**2012 ESTIMATED POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS: Hancock County- Total
Population: 8,996**

RACE/ ETHNICITY	NUMBER OF RESIDENTS	PERCENT OF TOTAL POPULATION
White	2,195	24.4 %
African-Americans	6,666	74.1 %
Asian	45	0.5%
American Indian and Alaska Native	35	0.4 %

Hispanic or Latino origin	134	1.5 %
Identified by two or more	53	0.6 %

According to the ESRI Business Analyst Report, the following population charts can be used to assist the Hancock County Head Start and Early Head Start Programs in recruitment of children in the six geographical tracks identified in the county, and provide a foundational basis to plan program needs for the next 4-5 years:

2015 Population by Age

Population by Age	2010 Numbers	2010 Percentage
0-4 years old	403	4.49 %

Expected 2019 Population by Age

Population by Age	2016 Numbers	2016 Percentage
0-4 years old	262	3.21 %

Other Child Development and Child Care Resources

Aside from those offered by the Hancock County School District and one program offered to four year olds at John Hancock Academy, a private school located in Hancock County, there are six (6) privately owned day care facilities currently operating within Hancock County. Within the county, there are two (2) State Pre-K Programs. One of the Pre-K Programs is housed within the school district – M. E. Lewis Elementary School. At M. E. Lewis Elementary School there are four (4) classes serving sixteen students each with a total of sixty four (64) students. The second program is housed at John Hancock County Academy, where the total

enrollment is approximately (10) ten students. The Head Start Program is also housed at M. E. Lewis Elementary School. This site has four classes with seventeen (17) students in each class with a total of sixty-eight (68) students. Currently, the Hancock County Head Start and Pre-K Programs provide braided services to one hundred and thirty nine children. In December of 2009, the grantee of the Head Start program was awarded the Early Head Start Grant resulting in an additional 72 slots for infants, toddlers and expectant families.

The Hancock County Head Start and Pre-K Programs operates a full one hundred and eighty (180) days as a center-based option. This program option allows parents the opportunity to pursue educational and employment goals they desire to obtain. The Early Head Start program is currently operating as center-based as well.

The following table shows the number of child care pre-school programs in the county with an approximate number of Early Head Start/Head Start & Pre-K eligible children being served by them:

CURRENT PROGRAM OFFERINGS IN HANCOCK COUNTY	ENROLLMENT
Hancock County Head Start Program (3 & 4 year olds)	139
Hancock County Early Head Start Program (6 wks to 2 years old)	72
John Hancock Academy – (4 year olds)	10
Watkins Day Care Center	6
Yolanda’s Day Care Center	6
Maxine Evans Day Care	2
Gloria Stephens Day Care	2
Walker Day Care	4
Gloria McDonald Day Care	3

Total	243
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In spite of the number of privately owned and operated businesses currently in practice, the Georgia County Guide provides that there are no licensed child care facilities in the community of Hancock County for the FY2016. This population reduction affects every aspect of local government and student enrollment. Table 1.1 shows the total enrollment for the Hancock County School District over the last 5 years.

Table 1.1: Five Year Public School Enrollment for the Hancock County School District

Public School	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
M. E. Lewis Elementary School	555	539	410	406	494
Hancock Central Middle School	234	237	226	200	221
Hancock Central High School	355	341	280	244	284
TOTAL	1144	1107	910	850	999

The Hancock County Head Start/ Early Head Start and State Pre-K Programs serve as feeders for the Hancock County School District. Table 1.2 shows the current FTE enrollment by grade level.

Grade levels	Total Number Students in School District 2016-2017
Pre-K	64
KK	78
First Grade	55
Second Grade	73
Third Grade	62
Fourth Grade	74
Fifth Grade	89
Sixth Grade	95
Seventh Grade	54
Eighth Grade	72
Ninth Grade	79
Tenth Grade	77
Eleventh Grade	48
Twelfth Grade	80
Total for the District	999

Table 1.2 : 2013-2014 FTE Enrollment of Hancock County School District (public schools only)														
Grade	Pre-K	KK	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th
Enrollment	64	78	55	73	62	74	89	95	54	72	79	77	48	80
TOTAL	999													

There is a significant impact of Hancock County's dwindling population on the Head Start/Early Head Start Program enrollment to help determine an accurate projection of possible program participants. Because of the lack of industry in Hancock County, its economic growth has declined considerably since 2007. With only four (4) key employers located in the county, many residents have elected to travel outside of Hancock County to seek employment in an effort to continue providing for their families. According to the *2013 Georgia County Guide*, Hancock County's July 2013 unemployment rate was 12.0%, which was the highest unemployment rate of all 159 Georgia counties.

In the fall of 2008, two businesses, Rheem Manufacturing and Shaw Industries closed their doors in neighboring Baldwin County. During the fiscal year 2009; four (4) major industries that provided employment to Hancock residents were: Baldwin Youth Development Center (YDC), Baldwin State Prison System, Central State Hospital, and Baldwin Veteran Home. Many Hancock County residents and Head Start/Pre-K families felt the impact of these industries closing their doors. These families have been given a choice to file for unemployment benefits, while either searching for other job opportunities and/or enrolling in an education program via college or technical school to continue to receive unemployment benefits.

Section 2: General Description/Introduction

Program Option

The Hancock County Head Start & Early Head Start Program provides comprehensive child development services to two hundred and twenty seven (227) eligible children, expectant mothers, and their families. The “core” Head Start program expects to enroll approximately 139 toddlers and will operate as a center-based option for 6.5 hours per day, five days per week, August through late May, and children will attend classes for 180 days per year, aligning with the local school system’s approved school calendar. Similarly, the Early Head Start Program will operate five days per week for 6.5 hours per day but will provide year round programming for 220 days per year.

The Hancock County Board of Education is the grantee for the Head Start & Early Head Start Programs. These programs are located in Hancock County, Sparta, Georgia. Hancock County, Georgia is located approximately 120 miles east of Atlanta, Georgia. The county is primarily agricultural with a very low population density of only 20.0 people per square mile. Hancock County is located between Greene, Taliaferro, Baldwin, Warren, Washington, Glascock and Putman counties. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the county has a total area of 471.84 square miles, of which 466.34 square miles is land and 5.5 square miles is water. Hancock County is divided into six geographical tracts of land. The city of Sparta is the county seat: however, the residents also live in the smaller communities of Beulah, Devereux, Linton, Springfield, and Mayfield. Hancock County is comprised of both County and City government. The County government consists of four (4) commissioners, one representing each district and a commission chairperson. The City of Sparta has a Mayor and four (4) city council members.

Section 3: Information on Children with Disabilities

During the 2015-2016 school years, the Head Start, Early Head Start, and Pre-K Program served and met the Head Start Performance Standard's ten percent disability requirement. The program served twenty Head Start & Pre-K students and two Early Head Start students who had diagnosed disabilities. Of the students with diagnosed disabilities, one student was diagnosed with speech or language impairments, one with hearing impairment, nine students were diagnosed as health impaired, and nine had non-categorical/developmental delays. All eleven students received special education services and had an Individual Education Plan (IEP). In preparation for the 2016-2017 school year, three students in the Head Start, Early Head Start, and Pre- K Program will continue to receive services for speech or language impairment. Other students will be identified for participation in Special Education Program services after they have participated in psychological evaluations and other required testing.

The following table shows the types and incidence of disability identified by the Hancock County School District and the Hancock County Head Start, Early Head Start, and Pre-K Programs.

Hancock County Disability Areas for 2015-2016 Program Year

Disability Areas	# of Children
Hearing Impairment	1
Emotional Disturbance	1
Visual Impairment	0
Cognitive Impairment	0
Physically Impairment	0
Speech & Language Impairment	1

Early Childhood Developmental Delay	8
Multiple Impairments	0
Autism Spectrum	0
Other: Health Impairment	9
Early Head Start (IFSP)	2

The Hancock Head Start/ Pre-K & Early Head Programs and the Local Education Agency (LEA) utilize and develop partnerships with Babies Can't Wait (Georgia Pines), Georgia Learning Resource Agency, and contract with Oconee Mental Health for mental health services. Speech services are provided by a state licensed, nationally certified speech language pathologist (SLP), who is currently employed by the Hancock County Board of Education, and a speech language pathologist aide (SLPA), who is contracted by Sunbelt Staffing. GRLS –Georgia Resource Learning Center to recruit and provide services to students with diagnosed disability.

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Section 4: Head Start & Early Head Start Related Information Household Data

Almost a third of the households have children under the age of 18 living in the house, 42% are married couples and 58% are single mothers. A quarter of the population is under the age of 18 according to the recent Census Report. The median household income for 2015 is \$25,000, in Hancock Co. it ranges to 30,675.00, compared to Georgia's median household income of \$48,750. The household count has changed in the community from 3,019 in 2013 to 2,800 in 2015, a change of -2.19 percent annually. The five year projection of household is 2,880, a change of -0.94 percent annually from the 2013 total. The average household size is currently 2.00, compared to 2.66 in the year of 2013. The number of families in 2015 is 2,101 in the market area.

In most recent data of 2013, 46.7 percent of the 5,360 housing units in the market area are owner occupied; 16.0 percent renter occupied, and 37.3 percent are vacant. In 2013, there were 4,287 housing units, 57.7 percent were owner occupied, 17.8 percent renter occupied and 24.5 percent vacant. The rate of change in housing units since 2010 is 1.68 percent. Median home value in the market area is \$58,818 compared to a median home value of \$157,913 for the United States. In five years, median home value is project to change by 0.99 percent annually to \$61,775. In Hancock County, from 2010 to 2015 the median home value has changed by 2.3 percent annually.

Household Dwelling Make-Up

Housing in Hancock County is gradually grown over the years. Presently, there are four low-income apartment complexes. There are (2) two low-income housing projects located in the Sparta area and another low-income housing project is located in the Mayfield community. Also, there is a Senior Citizen apartment complex, which houses approximately 80 senior citizens or

persons with disabilities. These housing projects and apartments are offered to the community at no cost or an affordable price. Many of residents who live in these dwellings are older adults or young single families who are seeking better living conditions. The Georgia County Guide (2013) provided that 36.0 % total housing units were mobile homes compared to the state level of 12.0%. Total number of homeowners was 77.2 % compared to the States 67.5%. Below is a table of Hancock County’s family dwelling make-up.

HANCOCK COUNTY: Total Household Dwelling Make-up

% of Dwelling Make-up	Hancock County	State of Georgia
% with own children less than 18	43.9 %	49.8%
% married couples	53.3%	73.3%
% female householder, no husband present	39.5%	20.6%
% female householder, no husband w/children less than 18	21.4%	12.2%

In 2013, the following household types were reported: there were a total of 8,617 households in Hancock County. The Hancock County Early Head Start and Head Start/Pre-K program provides services to 150 of these households. Within these family household: 7,702; (128 males householders, 1,233 females householders) 1,299 spouses, 2, 973 children (2,736 natural, 93 adopted, 144 stepchildren); 491 grandchildren, 188 brothers or sisters, 75 parents, 210 other relatives, 105 non-relatives. In non-family household: 915; 421 male householders (406 living alone), 464 female householders (445 living alone), 30 non-relatives. In group quarters: 1,495(1,416 institutionalized population).

In the Internet search www.city-data.com/county/Hancock shows that average household size for Hancock County is 2.7 people compare to Georgia 2.6 people.

Size of Family	Total People
2 person household	949
3 person household	413
4 person household	486
5 person household	229
6 person household	123
7 or more persons household	61

The need for housing is still a major issue for this community. Homeowners and renters are paying most of their income to remain in their current dwelling. Therefore, many of the families served in the Head Start and Pre-K programs reside in this service area rely upon subsidized programs such as HUD Section 8 program to assist them in paying their rental fee.

The Hancock County School District supports the need for additional services as required by homeless youth and their families. As of September 2016, the Hancock County School District reported two hundred and thirty-eight (238) students were served by the district's Homeless Education Program. Of those identified, approximately five percent of these students were enrolled in the Hancock County Head Start/ Early Head, and Pre-K Program. The Hancock County School District adopted a policy for the identification and provision of services for homeless youth in 2008 and updates this plan annually.

In Hancock County 98.6% of the resident speaks English at home, 1.1% of residents speaks Spanish at home, 0.3% of resident speak other Indo-European languages at home and

0.1% of residents speak other languages at home. The Hancock County Head Start/ Early Head Start Program currently have no students that speak any other language than English. Although not necessary for fluently bilingual students, the Hancock County Special Education Department within the LEA has an agreement in place to provide tutorial assistance to the families and children who require assistance due to limited English proficiency.

Employment According to Hancock County's economic statistics in 2013- 2014, its economic growth has dwindled considerably since 2007. Hancock County has little or no major industries. The key employers are: Hancock State Prison, Saint Gobain Desjonqueres Perfume Bottling Company, the Hancock County Board of Education, and the Hancock County Board of Commissioners. In addition to these major industries, we do have smaller businesses that employ at least twenty people. These businesses are Subway, Curry Organic Garden, Aggregate Gravel Company, Value Mart Restaurant, Bank of Hancock (one private bank), Palm Tree Restaurant , Wing Deli C Restaurant, and the Dollar General Discount Store. These employers do not satisfy Hancock's growing needs for jobs. According to the *2013 Georgia County Guide*, the average annual unemployment rate for November 2015 was 13.90% compare to Georgia's total of unemployment rate of 6.9%. Hancock County's unemployment growth according to the Department of Community Affairs is at 14.0% compared to the State of Georgia 12.7%. The unemployment rate in Hancock County has consistently stayed above the state unemployment rate. The per capita income recorded for Hancock County is \$11, 225 compared to Georgia's \$28, 051.

Most Common Industries in 2005-2009 (%)

- Management, Business, Finance (8.34%)
- Computer, Science (0.85%)
- Social Services (2.0%)

- Legal (1.66%)
- Education, Library (6.34%)
- Healthcare (5.36%)
- Fire Fighter, Law Enforcement (5.1%)
- Food Preparation: (5.11%)
- Building Maintenance: (5.88)
- Sales, Office Support: (16.43%)
- Farming, Forestry: (3.49%)
- Construction, Maintenance: (3.70%)
- Transportation and Warehousing: (23.07%)

Most Common Occupations (%)

- Other production occupations including supervisors (13%)
- Law enforcement workers including supervisors (10%)
- Construction trades workers except carpenters, electricians, painters, plumbers, and construction laborers (6%)
- Laborers and material movers, hand (5%)
- Vehicle and mobile equipment mechanics, installers, and repairers (4%)
- Nursing, psychiatric, and home health aides (4%)
- Construction laborers (4%)
- Nursing, psychiatric, and home health aides (17%)
- Preschool, kindergarten, elementary and middle school teachers (6%)
- Other teachers and instructors, education, training, and library occupations (5%)
- Information and record clerks except customer service representatives (5%)
- Cashiers (4%)
- Child care workers (4%)
- Other production occupations including supervisors (4%)

Read more: <http://www.city-data.com/city/Sparta-Georgia.html#ixzz1lu6JMTKz>

Research warrants that where there is a high rate of unemployment, there exist poor health habits among families and seemingly more youth involvement in unhealthy behaviors which typically result in higher rates of teen pregnancies, increased incidence of childhood health issues, higher high school drop-out rates, increased likelihood of drug use and engagement in premarital sex, and increased involvement in thefts and other negative activity.

Within Hancock County, there is a critical need for our Head Start /Pre-K & Early Head Start

Programs due to:

- Limited job opportunities in the community

- Lack of local hospital or advanced medical care services
- Illiteracy rates near 50%
- Over 85% of students meeting eligibility for free/reduced meals
- An average per capita income of less than \$11,500 per household
- Transits to and from health care providers have moved out Hancock County

This community lack of jobs and major businesses closing are the leading causes of a high percentage rate of unemployment. As a result of no industry in the community, many families are commuting thirty (30) to forty-five (45) miles or more to neighboring counties for work. In 2007, Hancock County's unemployment showed a slight decrease, due to the opening of two new businesses; a Dollar General Store and a new Family Style Restaurant. These two businesses provided employment opportunities at least twenty-five (25) individuals for employment to support their families.

In the fall of 2008, two businesses, Rheems, and Shaw Industries closed their doors in neighboring Baldwin County. During the fiscal year 2009; three (3) major industries that provided employment to Hancock residents were: Baldwin Youth Development Center (YDC), Baldwin State Prison, and Baldwin Veteran Home. Many Hancock County residents and Head Start/Pre-K families felt the impact of these industries closing their doors. These families have been given a choice to file for unemployment benefits, while search for other employment opportunities and/ or enrolling in an education program via college or technical school in order to receive or continue to receive unemployment benefits. Hancock County is in the lowest tier, a business in this community qualifies for a credit from the state, of \$3,500 per job, if it could maintain at least five net new jobs. It is difficult for people in Hancock County to obtain employment.

Hancock County is the top ten of the poorest county in Georgia and the 55th poorest in the country according to the per capita income. Studies show that families and children living in poverty are high risk and are in need of special attention, therefore families and children will need assistance from all available resources in and out of the Hancock County community.

Many of the resident families in Hancock County face overwhelming challenges as they work to establish self-sufficiency in spite of high than average unemployment rates and substandard housing. However, many children are living in families with no parents in the labor force. Therefore, many families rely heavily upon the following resources in the community for assistance:

1. Hancock County Head Start / Pre-K & Early Head Start Programs for (dental, medical, mental health & disabilities services.)
2. Local governmental programs: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Women Infants Children (WIC) and Food Stamps & Medicaid/Medicare (other health agencies).

According to Hancock County Department of Families and Children Services, a monthly food subsidy is currently distributed to approximately 681 families. This increase is due in large part to the lack of job opportunities within the county. In addition, the local Department of Family and Children Services representative shared that there are also 58 families receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), 624 families receiving Family Medicaid/Medicare and 335 participants in the Aged, Blind, and Disabled Program (ABD).

The Hancock County Health Department Women Infant Children Program (WIC) also served 681 families for the 2014-2015 fiscal year. The Head Start and Pre-K Health Coordinator reported that there are 118 families who received Medicaid/Medicare as their main source of

health insurance. The Family Community Partnership Advocate Team at Head Start & Early Head Start Program shared that at least a third of the families enrolled in the program are participants of Food Stamps program and there are twenty families receiving TANF.

With the percentage of Hancock County citizens facing poverty, Head Start & Early Head Start funding provide resources and assists with families' financial stability ensuring that all Head Start & Early Head Start children are provided with the necessary dental, medical, mental health and nutritional services necessary to meet developmentally appropriate milestones. Additionally, Hancock County's Head Start and Early Head Start Family Enrichment Program provides follow-up services to assist with students' individual needs after initial treatment.

Consequently, the Head Start & Early Head Start programs have contracted with a local physician and dentist to ensure that each child undergoes initial health and dental screenings at the beginning of their enrollment. These agencies also render appropriate follow-up services in a timely manner. Our nutrition services ensure that children receive their anthropometric evaluations and provide follow-up services to families. Mental Health and Disabilities services are being provided by our Local Education Agency and through contracted services with Oconee mental Health. These services provided to families will reduce the number of children who are at risk of physical ailments, communicable diseases, and other health issues which may negatively impact child development.

HANCOCK COUNTY WATER SUPPLY

Majority of the families which reside in Hancock County utilize various types of water supplies to include wells, pumped water supplies, and/or purchased/bottled water. A large portion of the water, however, is supplied by the City of Sparta. Unfortunately, the city's water supply does not contain enough fluoride for families and children to sustain adequate levels

needed to ensure healthy teeth and gums. Therefore, the Hancock County Head Start/ Early Head Start Program is a catalyst for providing dental exams and workshops related to tooth brushing techniques to strengthen children's dental hygiene. Along with strengthening the children's dental hygiene, the Hancock County Head Start/ Early Head Start Program is a continuous source for providing other daily health and safety practices to ensure that children and families' personal hygiene and well-being is appropriately maintained.

As a result of increased efforts to improve dental hygiene for Head Start/ Early Head Start Program participants and their families, the Health Coordinator for the Hancock County Head Start/Early Head Start Program reported a slight reduction in the number of children who require dental treatment beyond bi-annual cleanings. She attributes this reduction to the agency's increase in providing trainings to parents and the Head Start/ Early Head Start teachers' daily routine of engaging students in daily tooth brushing after breakfast and lunch. The Hancock County Head Start/ Early Head Start Program also purchases individual toothbrushes for each enrolled child along with a brand of toothpaste that contains an increased amount of fluoride.

HANCOCK COUNTY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND CRIME

According to the 2015, Georgia County Guide, in 2015, 132 citizens were under probation for convictions. Of those, 10% were incarcerated for violent/sex crimes, lower than the state's annual percentage of 57.6%. The county's detention center housed approximately 62 inmates during the FY 2015, 3.4% of which were juveniles. As reported by the Detention Administrator, the crime rate for Hancock County has increased. In 2014, the three most frequent types of crime reported in the community were domestic violence, assault, and theft.

The county reported 54 cases of domestic violence. The recent crime increase in Hancock County is due to lack of jobs and unemployment.

Section 5: Strengths of Head Start Children and Families and Community Survey

EDUCATION, HEALTH, NUTRITION AND SOCIAL SERVICE NEEDS FOR HEAD START & EARLY HEAD START CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

According to the Georgia Department of Education Report Card and District FTE Coordinator, Ms. ShaQuetta Brown the following charts shows that the number of students enrolled in the District for the last five years:

School Year	District Totals number of students from PRK, KK, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 th Grades
FY 2010-2011	1188
FY 2011-2012	1144
FY 2012-2013	1107
FY 2013-2014	910
FY 2014-2015	850

(Indicate reduction in school population.) The Hancock County School District schools all meet the state requirements to obtain Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in 2013. In order to meet Adequate Yearly Progress, each school district in the state must meet the following criteria: 95% participation, academic performance (annual measurable objectives).

Hancock County’s Educational Attainment Level: Georgia County Guide (2013) Public School

Percentage of Educational Level	Hancock County Percentage	State of Georgia Total Percentage
Students retained in grade	7.4%	4.3%
Students in gifted program	3.9%	8.7%
Students with disabilities	18.1%	11.7%
Number High School dropout 9-12	2.8%	4.1%
High School graduates	62.2%	78.6%
Bachelor degree or higher	9.8%	24.3%
Number of grades with college prep diplomas	42.2%	74.5%
Class of 2015 completion rate	78.8%	72.3%
Percentage of teacher with advanced	50.5%	56.3%
FY 2015 HOPE Scholarship Recipient	393	FYI 2015- Total dollars awarded to Hancock County \$348,991.

Section 5: Strengths of Head Start Children and Families and Community Survey

EDUCATION, HEALTH, NUTRITION AND SOCIAL SERVICE NEEDS FOR HEAD START & EARLY HEAD START CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

According to the Georgia Department of Education Report Card and District FTE Coordinator, Ms. ShaQuetta Brown the following charts shows that the number of students enrolled in the District for the last five years:

School Year	District Totals number of students from PRK, KK, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 th Grades
FY 2011-2012	1144
FY 2012-2013	1107
FY 2013-2014	910
FY 2014-2015	850
FY 2015-2016	970
FY 2016-2017	953

(Indicate reduction in school population.) The Hancock County School District schools all meet the state requirements to obtain Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in 2013. In order to meet Adequate Yearly Progress, each school district in the state must meet the following criteria: 95% participation, academic performance (annual measurable objectives).

The highest level of educational attainment has improved slightly in Hancock County due to special programs and community efforts to improve literacy in the community. The Individual profile for 2013 shows that 62.2% of the adults in Hancock County with at least a high school diploma, compared to the State's with 78.6%. Hancock County high school dropout rate is 28%.

Section 6: Information Sources

HANCOCK COUNTY HEAD START COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY AGENCIES

It is important to take a look at the resources in Hancock's community to assess all available public and private resources that would accommodate our families and children individualized needs.

The Hancock County Head Start/Pre-K & Early Head Start Programs have maintained an excellent rapport and utilization process of the resources within its community. Head Start and Pre-K Program resources have grown in strength and dedication: therefore, allowing the program to establish informal and formal agreements to maximize benefits to the children and families which each agency serves. The Head Start/ Pre-K & Early Head Start Programs are working with the following agencies to provide appropriate services and follow-up services for families and children:

- Hancock County Board of Education
- Oconee Fall Line Technical College
- Hancock County Health Department
- Sparta/Hancock Public Library
- Helping Hands Crisis Relief Center
- Dr. Robert Morgan
- Leroy Justice, D.D.S.
- Community Health Services
- Baymon's Nutritional Services
- Oconee Mental Health Center
- Hancock County Department of Families and Children Services (DFCS)
- Hancock County Correctional Fire Fighters
- City of Sparta
- Hancock County Board of Commissioners
- Family Connection and WIA Program
- Overview, Inc. (Sponsoring Agency for Foster Grandparents)

- Grady Ambulatory Services
- Babies Can't Wait
- Faith-Based Organizations
- IGA Supermarket
- Carson's Bee Hive and Vineyard
- The Sparta Ishmaelite
- Fort Valley State University
- Georgia College and State University (including Continuing Education Department)
- First Call Pregnancy Center
- Local Area Businesses
- Local Area Churches
- Stacy & Stace Murals on the Wall
- Curry's Organic Farm
- Chic-fil-A
- SWAH Fitness

Program Summary

The Hancock County Head Start /Pre-K & Early Head Start Programs serve 227 children and families and pregnant women throughout the county. According to our program survey, 55% of our families are attempting to raise their families on less than 19,000 dollars a year. Ninety-seven of our children are living in single parent homes, where the majority of these homes are headed by women. Also, 17% of the Head Start/Pre-K Program families that are

heads of household do not have a high school diploma or GED and 16% of the families have less than a 9th grade education.

The challenge facing a single parent who is under-educated and under-employed causes hardship to live a balanced life without stress of finances and employment issues. If a parent has a child with special needs or health issues, the struggle can be overwhelming. Single parents must make a decision on whether to pay rent, buy food, pay utilities, buy medicine, and pay for child care. Many families find their needs to nurture their children and themselves is to enroll their child or children into the Head Start/Pre-K & Early Head Start Program.

The Hancock County Head Start/Pre-K & Early Head Start Program provides services in the following areas: Early Childhood Development, Health, Nutrition, Disabilities, Mental Health, Social Service, and transportation.

As a result of the Community Assessment, it is evident that a great deal of emphasis should be placed on education, job readiness, employment and housing. The arena of education includes providing services for adults to receive a high school/GED and education in health and nutrition. It was determined that the Head Start/Pre-K & Early Head Start Program is needed in this community due to the many disparities. Hancock will continue to make strives to remove the barriers and facilitate both existing and future service to the families and children who are in need and deserved our services. Based on the information from the Community Assessment the following issues were identified and prioritized as issues and problems to be addressed by the Head Start/Pre-K & Head Start Programs:

1. Many of the families' head of household are employed outside community and a vast majority of the population is unemployed due to two major industries in Baldwin County closing their doors. Head Start/Pre-K & Early Head Start

Programs will address this issue by providing our parents with data from the Georgia Department Labor on job openings, information on how to secure unemployment benefits and offer referrals to those who are willing travel out of town for employment.

2. The Head Start/Pre-K & Early Head Start Programs will offer transportation assistance to all parents upon request in a timely manner. Also, referrals will be made to parents to local transit service for those who receive Medicaid/Medicare benefits.
3. The Community Assessment results indicated that Hancock County residents travel outside of the county for health care services for some 30 to 50 miles distance. The following seven (7) health problems were identified: diabetes, high blood pressure, cancer, adult and pre-school obesity, cardiovascular disease, asthma, and smoking as health issues in the community. In the 2016 update, statistics shows that there is an increase in pre-school and adult obesity. The Head Start/Pre-K & Early Head Start Program will work with families to offer them opportunities to participate in community health fairs and workshops that address the issues of high-blood pressures, heart attacks, and diabetes. The program has joined forces with local fitness and wellness program and health ministry sponsored by Self-Wealth-and Health (SWAH), to help combat adult and childhood obesity. The program has a school garden to teach parents the importance of healthy food choices and nutrition education. Management staff has attended workshops and promoted heart healthy activities and information to parents and staff that relates to these issues.

4. Some of the parents indicated in the survey that they would like to see more activities that involve education advancement, employment opportunities, housing, and health improvement in the program. The Head Start/Pre-K & Early Head Start Programs offer resources such as transportation to enroll in local technical college programs and assistance with completing enrollment and financial documents. As well as offer assistance to parents who are interested in obtaining their GED's through partnership with Oconee Fall Line Technical College for enrollment in the GED. The program offers employment opportunities by Department of Labor booths (Annual Health Fair) coming on location to assist with resume building, mock interviews, completing applications on-site. Also, transportation is provided to families to complete job applications, interviews, and follow-up procedures for employment.
5. The Community Assessment identified factual data from the WIC Coordinator that there are enough children from birth to two years old and prenatal mothers in this community to maintain enrollment for the Early Head Start program.

Despite what might be considered by some to be a dismal picture, Hancock County has some easily identifiable strength. The county is rich in history and proud of its culture and heritage. The people are spiritual, talented and ready to assist those who are in need. Though not highly educated, the workforce population is willing and wants to acquire the skills needed to better their lives and their family's lives.

After compiling the "Community Assessment" data, the Hancock County Head Start/Pre-K & Early Head Start program shall operate a standard Head Start model- center based program, full day, 5 days, 6.5 hours a day, 180 days per school year and Early Head Start operates as a

center based model program, full day, 5 days, 6.5 hours a day, 220 days per school year. The Community Assessment plays an important part in the program’s planning process. The assessment assists Head Start/Pre-K & Early Head Start Program staff in defining the changing needs of families we serve and our role in community service delivery systems. It also gives the program and its collaborative partners an opportunity to explore the special strengths and weakness that community has to offer. Also, it allows the grantee, (the Hancock County Board of Education) and the Policy Council Members to play an active role in decisions making that will affect the program planning, staffing of personnel and funding for the upcoming year.

From all reviewed statistics and valuable resources previously identified, there are eligible children and families who will benefit from Head Start/Pre-K & Early Head Start Programs services and resource. The proposed staff and community shall share a sense of improved self-worth, accomplishments, and self-sufficiency through Head Start/Pre-K & Early Programs services and resources.

To focus on recruiting for Early Head Start /Head Start & Pre-K age eligible children and to ensure a waiting list, Early Head Start /Head Start & Pre-K Program tracked the average percentage of age eligible children in households. According to Early Head Start/ Head Start & Pre-K recent community assessment surveys completed during the 2015-2016 school year, 150 surveys were received after staff members canvassed the community and surveys collected from community partners.

POVERTY LEVEL POPULATION-ELIGIBLE FOR HEAD START:

Hancock County

Families below poverty level	178
Females head of household	155

Males head of household	9
Grandparents responsible for grandchildren	9