



TEXAS HEAD START STATE COLLABORATION OFFICE

Updated Needs Assessment Report & Strategic Plan 2017 - 2018

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The goal of Head Start/Early Head Start is to increase the social competence of children in low-income families and children with disabilities, and to improve their chances for school success.



Texas Head Start
State Collaboration Office

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The Needs Assessment Results and Strategic Plan Report for Program Year 2016-2017 consists of contributions and guidance from the Texas Head Start State Collaboration Office (THSSCO), Advisory Board, Texas Head Start Association Board (THSA), Director and Assistant Director of State Initiatives at the Children's Learning Institute, Region VI Training/Technical Assistance Specialist, Texas Oral Health Partners, other collaborative partners, and the Head Start community. Thank you for your commitment and support.

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THE HEAD START PROGRAM

Head Start is a “national program that promotes the school readiness of young children from low-income families through agencies in their local community. Head Start and Early Head Start programs support the comprehensive development of children from birth to age 5, pregnant mothers and families. Head Start services takes place in centers, child care partner locations, and in homes. (<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ohs/about/>).

The Office of Head Start (OHS) administers grant funding and oversight to the agencies that provide Head Start services. OHS also provides federal policy direction and a training and technical assistance (T/TA) system to assist grantees in providing comprehensive services to eligible young children and their families.

TEXAS HEAD START COLLABORATION OFFICE

Section 642B of the Head Start Act authorizes the creation of State and National Collaboration Offices. The Head Start State and National Collaboration Offices Framework guides the work of all collaboration offices. Since 1990, the Administration of Children and Families (ACF) has awarded Head Start collaboration grants to support the development of multi-agency and public and private partnerships at the state and national levels.

On December 12, 2007, Public Law 110-134 "Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007" was signed, reauthorizing the Head Start Program. The law requires Head Start Collaboration Offices to conduct a needs assessment of the Head Start and Early Head Start that addresses the needs of Head Start agencies in the State with respect to collaboration, coordination and alignment of services, and alignment of curricula and assessments used in Head Start programs with the Head Start Child Outcomes Framework and, as appropriate, State early learning standards. The needs assessment aids in the development of the THSSCO Strategic Plan that is used as a tool to support programs in Texas.

The Texas Head Start State Collaboration Office (THSSCO), is part of the Texas State Center for Early Childhood Development within the Children’s Learning Institute (CLI), at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston.

Under the administration of Dr. Alferma Giles, The THSSCO plays an important role in helping our state make progress to improve the lives of young children and families. The Collaboration Office assists with relevant state initiatives, and brings the support and perspective of Head Start to the development of a comprehensive early childhood system in Texas.

TEXAS HEAD START PROGRAM

Texas has operated Head Start programs since 1965, when the national program began. The Early Head Start Program, which began in 1995, focuses on expectant mothers and children from birth to age 3. The Texas Head Start State Collaboration Office (THSSCO) is charged with the priority areas noted below:

- **Priority 1.** Partner with State child care systems, emphasizing EHS-CC Partnerships
- **Priority 2.** Work with state efforts to collect data regarding ECE programs and child outcomes
- **Priority 3.** Support the expansion and access of high quality, workforce and career development opportunities for staff
- **Priority 4.** Collaborate with State Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS)
- **Priority 5.** Work with the state school systems to ensure continuity between Head Start and Kindergarten Entrance Assessment (KEA)
- **Priority 6.** Regional/State Priorities

SUMMARY OF TEXAS HEAD START/ EARLY HEAD START PROGRAMS

According to the 2016 Program Information Report (PIR), Texas has a total funded enrollment of 79,134 children. A summary of program type and demographic data is below:

Funded Enrollment by Funding Source	
Total Funded Enrollment	79,134
ACF Funded Enrollment	79,101
Non ACF Funded Enrollment	13
MIECHV Funded Enrollment	20
Funded Enrollment by Type	
Center-based Option Full Day (5 days per week)	59,331
Center-based Option Full Day (5 days per week, full-working-day)	21,905
Center-based Option Full Day (5 days per week, full-working day, full -year)	18,308
Center-based Option Part Day (5 days per week)	16,603
Center-based Option Part Day (5 days per week, double session)	2,325
Center-based Option Full Day (4 days per week)	232
Center-based Option Part Day (4 days per week)	86
Center-based Option Part Day (4 days per week, double session)	86
Home-based Option	2,129
Combination Option	19
Family Child Care Option	136
Family Child Care Option (full-working-day)	136
Family Child Care Option (Full-working-day, full year)	136
Locally designed option	181
Funded Enrollment of Pregnant Women (EHS Program)	
Total number of pregnant women positions in funded enrollment	417
Funded Enrollment at Child Care Partner	
Funded enrollment positions at center-based child care partners/Contractual arrangements	1,950
Funded enrollment at child care partners (center base partner and family child care option)	2,086
Total Classes	
Total number of classes operated	5,253
Number of double session classes	402
Cumulative Enrollment	
Under 1 year	4,887
1 year old	5,306
2 years old	6,386
3 years old	32,603
4 years old	38,997
5 years and older	381
Type of Eligibility	
Income below 100% of federal poverty line	72,027
Receipt of public assistance such as TANF, SSI	5,453
Status as a foster child - # of children only	1,712

Status as homeless	3,259	
Over income	3,945	
Enrollees exceeding the allowed over income enrollment with family incomes between 100% and 130% of the federal poverty line	3,170	
Enrollment by Race and Ethnicity	# of Children/Pregnant Women	
	Hispanic or Latino Origin	Non-Hispanic or Non-Latino Origin
American Indian/Alaska Native	419	137
Asian	51	515
Black or African American	749	15,038
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	22	60
White	50,811	7,836
Biracial or Multi-Racial	1,799	1,792
Other Race	7,732	373
Unspecified Race	2,052	153

TEXAS MAP OF HEAD START COUNTIES

The state of Texas has **254** counties, more than any other U.S. State. Head Start/Early Head Start Grantees and Delegate Agencies operate in **213** counties. There are currently **41** counties in Texas that does not operate a Head Start Program. Early Head Start/Child Care Partnerships Grantees are located in **20** counties.

The map on the next page represents the breakdown of counties which have Head Start/Early Head Start programs, counties with Early Head Start/Child Care Partnership Grantees, and counties without Head Start programs. As indicated on the map legends:

- Counties identified in **BLUE** have Head Start Programs in operation
- Counties identified in **RED** are Early Head Start/Child Care Partnership Grantees
- Counties identified in **GREY**, represents non-Head Start Counties

Map of Counties Served by Head Start (2016-2017)



Collaboration on behalf of children and families is one of Head Start's highest priorities. Since 1990, the Administration on Children and Families (ACF) has awarded Head Start State collaboration grants to support the development of multi-agency and public/private partnerships at the State level.

A graphic of three stacked blocks. The top block is yellow with a white outline of the state of Texas. The middle block is blue with a white upward-pointing arrow. The bottom block is red and white with vertical stripes, resembling the American flag.

Texas Head Start
State Collaboration Office

NEEDS ASSESSMENT STUDY DESIGN

Study Objectives

In compliance with the requirements of the Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007, the Texas Head Start State Collaboration Office (THSSCO) annually assess the needs for collaboration of Head Start Grantees and Delegates in Texas, to better address the issues faced by young children (birth to school entry) and their families with low income. The goal was to conduct a site-based assessment of Head Start/Early Head Start programs with a specific focus on cooperation, coordination, and collaboration within five (5) key activity areas identified for the 2016-2017 program year.

The purpose of gathering this program information is to support the direction and inform the activities of the annually updated strategic plan for the Texas Head Start State Collaboration Office. Our shared goal is to support and promote the success in serving Texas children and families.

Distribution

The survey was distributed electronically using the online survey tool Qualtrics. Grantee and Delegate Agency Directors received a survey link via email on February 9, 2017, with a reply date of March 3, 2017. **The 2016-2017 Needs Assessment is an annual updated version that focuses on the five (5) Federal Priority Areas below, indicated in Bold Font.** The selections were based on identified programs and state needs that occurred during the program year. The purpose of gathering this information is to identify Head Start Program needs in the areas specified and to inform the activities of the annually updated strategic plan for the THSSCO.

Survey Question Development

The survey was developed around the five (5) key activity areas below in bold font:

- 1) **Health Care**
- 2) **Children Experiencing Homelessness**
- 3) Welfare/Child Welfare
- 4) **Child Care**
- 5) Family Literacy Services
- 6) **Children with Disabilities and Their Families**
- 7) Community Services
- 8) **Education (School Readiness, Head Start-K Partnership Development)**
- 9) Head Start Transition and Alignment with K-12 (Education)
- 10) Professional Development
- 11) Early Childhood Systems

Study Planning Process

A survey was developed representing the five (5) key activity areas noted in **bold font** above. This was designed to include the collaboration with representatives from the Office of Head Start, Texas Head Start Association, Children's Learning Institute, State and Regional Training and Technical Assistance (T/TA) Specialists, Collaborative partners, and the Texas Head Start State Collaboration Office staff.

RESPONSE RATE AND AGENCY INFORMATION

The THSSCO 2016 Needs Assessment was sent via Qualtrics Survey link to a total of ninety seven (97) Head Start/Early Head Start Grantee and Delegate Agencies. Of the ninety seven (97) surveys sent, there were fifty-five (55) respondents and forty two (42) non respondents. Of the responding grantees, fifty two (52) attested that they were the Agency Executive Director or Director, and had full knowledge of the operations of their program. Grantee Directors from eight (8) programs operated an Early Head Start and twenty six (26) operated both a Head Start and Early Head Start Program. Twenty nine (29) of the respondents operated a licensed child care program and twenty six (26) did not. Ten (10) respondents indicated they participate in an Early Head Start/Child Care Partnership and nineteen (19) indicated that they did not.

The list of responding agencies are highlighted in blue by the number of responses. Non responding agencies are not highlighted in the report and indicates 0 responses:

Grantee/Delegate Agency Name	Number of Responses
Abilene Independent School District	0
Alabama-Coushatta Reservation Tribal Council	0
Avance - Corporate Headquarters	1
Avance Houston, Inc.	1
Avance-San Antonio, Inc.	1
BCFS Education Services	1
Beaumont Independent School District	1
Bonham Independent School District	0
Brazos Valley Community Action Agency Inc.	0
Center for New Communities	0
Cen-Tex Family Services, Inc.	1
Central Texas 4C, Inc.	1
Child Care Associates	1
Child Care Group	1
Child Development Council of Brazoria County	0
Child Inc	0
Child Care Group	0
City of San Antonio	0
College Station Independent School District	1
Community Action Corporation of South Texas	1
Community Action Inc. of Central Texas	1
Community Services of Northeast Texas, Inc.	1
Concho Valley Council of Governments	1
Cooper ISD	1
County of Webb	0
Denton Independent School District	0
Detroit ISD Head Start	1

Economic Opportunities Advancement Corp of Planning Region XI	0
Education Service Center Region 7	0
Education Service Center Region 9	1
Education Service Center Region 11	0
Education Service Center Region 14	2
Education Service Center Region 16	1
Education Service Center Region 19	1
Education Service Center Region 20	1
Family Service Association of San Antonio, Inc.	1
Galena Park Independent School District	0
Galveston County Community Action Council, Inc.	0
Greater East Texas Community Action Program	1
Greater Opportunities of Permian Basin	0
Greenville Independent School District	0
Gulf Coast Community Services Association	0
Harris County Department of Education	0
Head Start of Greater Dallas	0
Hidalgo County Head Start Program	0
Hill Country Community Action Association	0
Hitchcock Independent School District	1
Kaufman ISD Head Start	0
Kerrville Independent School District	0
Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas	1
Lubbock ISD Head Start	1
Lumin Education	1
Mi Escuelita Preschools, Inc.	1
Midland ISD	0
Motivation Education & Training, Inc.	0
Mt Pleasant Independent School District	1
Neighborhood Centers Inc.	1
Neighbors In Need of Services, Inc.	1
North Texas Parent & Child Development, Inc.	0
Northeast Texas Opportunities, Inc.	0
Nueces County Community Action Agency	1
Parent Child Inc.	1
Paris Independent School District	0
Pecos County Community Action Agency	1
Plano ISD Head Start	0
Port Arthur Independent School District	1
Rollings Plains Management Corporation of Baylor Cottle Foard Hardem	1

San Angelo Independent School District	0
San Felipe Del Rio Consolidated Independent School Dist	0
Scurry Community Services	0
South Plains Community Action Association, Inc.	0
South San Antonio Independent School District	0
Stonewall Head Start, Inc.	0
Sulphur Springs Independent School District	1
Swisher County Head Start	0
Teaching & Mentoring Communities	0
Terrell ISD Head Start	1
Texarkana Special Education Ctr Inc.	1
Texas City Independent School District	1
Texas Migrant Council	2
Texas Neighborhood Services	0
Texas Tech University, Early Head Start	0
Tri-County Community Action, Inc.	1
Tyler Independent School District	1
United Migrant Opportunity Services Inc.	0
Webb County Commissioners	1
West Orange-Cove Consolidated I.S.D.	1
West Texas Opportunities	1
William Smith Sr., Tri-County CDC Inc.	0
Williamson Burnett Counties Opportunities, Inc.	1
OTHER- My agency is not listed here	5
Education Service Center Region 10	1
Total Responses	55

For Other: What is your agency name?

UTRGV

Galveston County Community Action Council, Inc.

PSJA Early Head Start Program

SER Jobs for Progress National, Inc.

Center for Transforming Lives

Agency Type:

#	Answer	Count
1	Grantee	48
2	Delegate	3
3	Both	4
	Total	55

How many Early Head Start/Childcare partnerships does grantee have?

Field	Minimum	Maximum	Count
How many Early Head Start/Childcare partnerships does responding grantee have	1.00	3.00	9
Avance Houston, Inc.		2	1
Avance-San Antonio, Inc.		1	1
Avance Houston, Inc.		2	1
Avance-San Antonio, Inc.		1	1
Neighborhood Centers Inc.		1	1
Webb County Commissioners		2	1
OTHER- My agency is not listed here		3	4

Respondents were asked to indicate the number of years staff served in their current position:

#	Question	Less than 1 year		1-3 years		3-5 years		5 or more years		Total
1	Agency Director (you)	13.79%	4	37.93%	11	3.45%	1	44.83%	13	29
2	Health Services	25.00%	7	7.14%	2	7.14%	2	60.71%	17	28
3	Family Services	10.34%	3	24.14%	7	10.34%	3	55.17%	16	29
4	Nutrition Services	27.59%	8	10.34%	3	10.34%	3	51.72%	15	29
5	Disabilities Services	20.69%	6	20.69%	6	13.79%	4	44.83%	13	29
6	Education Services	10.34%	3	24.14%	7	10.34%	3	55.17%	16	29

NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY RESULTS

Respondents were asked to indicate whether they feel that the activities, relationships, and/or resources of their program during the program year 2016-2017 provided adequate support to complete the tasks/objectives in each of the five (5) key areas identified. **Activities** refer to the activities of the program such as parent nights, health fairs, visits to children's homes by staff. **Relationships** refer to partnerships or collaboration with other organizations or service providers. **Resources** refer to all of the materials, knowledge, staff, money and other assets used to deliver program services.

KEY ACTIVITY AREA 1: HEALTH CARE SERVICES

#	Question	There was no need for this in our program		More support was needed to complete objective		Had adequate support to complete objective		Total
1	Helping families establish medical homes for their children	0.0%	0	7.5%	4	92.5%	49	53
2	Helping families establish dental homes for their children	0.0%	0	17.0%	9	83.0%	44	53
3	Helping pregnant women access medical care	30.2%	16	5.7%	3	64.2%	34	53
4	Accessing mental health screening, prevention and treatment services for children and their families	0.0%	0	39.6%	21	60.4%	32	53
5	Getting children enrolled in CHIP or Medicaid	1.9%	1	11.3%	6	86.8%	46	53
6	Helping families access nutritional services (e.g. WIC, SNAP, summer meal programs)	1.9%	1	7.5%	4	90.6%	48	53
7	Assisting parents to communicate effectively with healthcare providers (e.g. medical, dental)	1.9%	1	24.5%	13	73.6%	39	53
11	Assisting families with programs/services related to physical fitness/and obesity prevention of children	0.0%	0	26.9%	14	73.1%	38	52

8	Assisting families to get transportation to appointments	11.3%	6	39.6%	21	49.1%	26	53
9	Assisting eligible families with enrollment in Home Visiting Programs (e.g. Nurse family partnership, Parents as Teachers, HIPPY)	40.4%	21	23.1%	12	36.5%	19	52
10	Getting full representation and active commitment on your Health Advisory Committee	1.9%	1	19.2%	10	78.8%	41	52

Key Findings: Health

- **Across all health-related objectives: The majority of directors indicated they had adequate support to complete the overall health needs of their community in the following areas:**

Helping families to establish medical homes - 92.5%. Helping families establish dental homes for their children - 83.0%. Helping pregnant women access medical care - 64.2%. Accessing mental health screening, prevention and treatment services for children and their families - 60.4%. Getting children enrolled in Children's Health Insurance Plan (CHIP) or Medicaid - 86.8%. Helping family's access nutritional services - 90.6%. Assisting parents to communicate effectively with healthcare providers – 73.6%. Families with programs/services related to physical fitness/and obesity prevention of children – 73.1%. Getting representation on the Health Advisory Committee - 78.8%.

- **Across all health-related objectives:**

Of the responses from program directors, 21 (39.6%) needed more support to complete the objective - assisting families to get transportation to appointments. There were 26 directors, (49.1%) who indicated they had adequate support to complete objective. There were 21 directors, (39.6%) who indicated they needed more support to complete the objective - accessing mental health screening, prevention and treatment services for children and their families. Only 32 directors, (60.4%) indicated they had adequate support to complete objective.

- **Program Directors were asked: “Identify key partnerships you have made to support your efforts to help children and families in your program access medical and dental services (for example: MOU with XYZ mobile dental unit to provide services at your center once a month).”**

An overwhelming number of respondents indicated they have a variety of partners to support their program needs. Partnerships included, but were not limited to some of the following: Local Dental and medical providers, Health Departments, health clinics, pediatric providers, mental health services, programs supporting vision screening &

care, programs providing counseling, local colleges, WIC, MOU's with various doctors, dentist and medical providers.

- **Program Directors were asked: To what extent do you feel like you have enough coordination (working together on projects or activities) with other agencies/ service providers to meet the health and dental care needs of the children and families in your program?**

Of the responses from program directors, (66.7%) indicated they coordinate one or more activities with health or dental agencies/ service providers, and enough are in place to meet the health and dental care needs of the children and families in our program. There were (31.4%) who indicated they coordinate one or more activities with health or dental agencies/ service providers, but more is needed.

- **Program Directors were asked: To what extent do you feel like you have enough formal written agreements (e.g. resource sharing agreements, MOUs) to meet the health and dental care needs of the children and families in your program?**

Of the responses from program directors, (60.8%) indicated they have one or more formal written agreements with health or dental agencies/ service providers, and enough are in place to meet the health and dental care needs of the children and families in our program. There were (31.4%) who indicated they have one or more formal written agreements with health or dental agencies/ service providers, but more is needed. Only (7.8%) indicated they do not have any formal written agreements in place with health or dental agencies/ service providers.

Recommendations: Health

- Determine methods to connect programs with providers to meet transportation needs to attend to health appointments and to access health related services (re-occurring).
- Provide programs with information on resources: Universal list of available resources, both local and nationwide, to support local and mobile families, including medical and dental providers. Resource Hotline for needy families. Literature on family wellness for families. Resources in Spanish.

KEY ACTIVITY AREA 2: SERVICES FOR CHILDREN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

#	Question	There was no need for this in our program		More support was needed to complete objective		Had adequate support to complete objective		Total
1	Identifying and enrolling children experiencing homelessness	5.9%	3	15.7%	8	78.4%	40	51
2	Obtaining sufficient data on the needs of children experiencing homelessness to assist in program planning	5.9%	3	25.5%	13	68.6%	35	51
3	Assisting families experiencing homelessness locate needed community services (e.g. shelters, housing, food, clothing, etc.)	9.8%	5	21.6%	11	68.6%	35	51
4	Assisting children experiencing homelessness transition to kindergarten	13.7%	7	11.8%	6	74.5%	38	51

Key Findings: Services for Children Experiencing Homelessness

Across all Homeless Objectives: The majority of directors indicated they had adequate support to complete the overall homeless needs of their community in the following areas:

Identifying and enrolling children experiencing homelessness - 78.4 %. Assisting children experiencing homelessness transition to kindergarten - 74.5 %. Obtaining sufficient data on the needs of children experiencing homelessness to assist in program planning - 68.6%. Assisting families experiencing homelessness locate needed community services (e.g. shelters, housing, food, clothing, etc.) - 68.6%.

Across all Homeless-related objectives:

Of the responses from program directors, 13 (25.5%) indicated they needed more support to complete the objective - Obtaining sufficient data on the needs of children experiencing homelessness to assist in program planning. Eleven (11) directors, (21.6%) needed assistance assisting families experiencing homelessness locate needed community services (e.g. shelters, housing, food, clothing, etc.).

Program Directors were asked: Identify key partnerships you have made to support children experiencing homelessness (for example: agreements and cross referrals with homeless shelters)

Program Directors indicated they have MOU's with school districts, Housing Authority, Homeless Shelters, Shared Service Agreements, joined the Homeless Coalition, Local LEA, Local ISD's, CPS, Haven for Hope, Domestic Violence Shelter, Crisis Centers, Hope Alliance, Catholic Charities, Salvation Army, Social Services, Community Service Organizations, and Easter Seals and others.

Program Directors were asked: To what extent do you feel like you have enough coordination (working together on projects or activities) with other agencies/service providers to help you identify and support families in your program experiencing homelessness?

Of the responses from program directors, (58.0%) indicated; that they coordinate one or more activities with other agencies/service providers to help us identify and support families in your program experiencing homelessness, and enough are in place to meet the needs of the children and families in their program. There were (32.0%) who indicated that they coordinate one or more activities with other agencies/ service providers to help us identify and support families in our program experiencing homelessness, but more is needed. Only (10.0%) indicated that they do not have any coordinated activities with other agencies/ service providers to help us identify and support families in our program experiencing homelessness.

Program Directors were asked: To what extent do you feel like you have enough formal written agreements (e.g. resource sharing agreements, MOUs) with other agencies/service providers to help you identify and support families in your program experiencing homelessness?

Of the responses from program directors, 26 indicated that they have one or more formal written agreements with other agencies/service providers to help us identify and support families in their program experiencing homelessness, and enough are in place to meet the needs of the children and families in their program. There were 14 who indicated they have one or more formal written agreements with other agencies/ service providers to help us identify and support families in their program experiencing homelessness, but more is needed. There were 11 who indicated that they do not have any formal written agreements with other agencies/ service providers to help identify and support families in their program experiencing homelessness.

Recommendations: Children Experiencing Homelessness

- Additional partnerships with the local school districts and larger shelters
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and drafts from other Head Start Programs
- Sharing data/tracking/identification methods across the state
- List of strategies to assist Homeless families, including those in rural areas
- Provide a list of resources to support families

KEY ACTIVITY AREA 4: CHILD CARE

#	Question	There was no need for this in our program		More support was needed to complete objective		Had adequate support to complete objective		Total
1	Blending or braiding Head Start and childcare funds to provide full day, full year services	57.1%	28	26.5%	13	16.3%	8	49
2	Assisting families with connections to access other childcare opportunities	16.7%	8	25.0%	12	58.3%	28	48
3	Aligning the quality and or quantity of highlighted and non-highlighted issues, as well as staffing and facilities across all providers	29.2%	14	35.4%	17	35.4%	17	48

Key Findings: Child Care Objectives

Across all Child Care Objectives: The majority of directors indicated they had adequate support to complete the overall child care needs of their community in the following areas:

Assisting families with connections to access other childcare opportunities – 58.3 %. Aligning the quality and or quantity of highlighted and non-highlighted issues, as well as staffing and facilities across all providers – 35.4%. Blending or braiding Head Start and childcare funds to provide full day, full year services – 16.3%.

Across all Child Care Objectives:

Of the responses from program directors, 17 (35.4%) indicated that more support was needed to complete the objective, Aligning the quality and or quantity of highlighted and non-highlighted issues, as well as staffing and facilities across all providers. There were 13 program directors, (26.5%) who indicated that more support was needed for blending or braiding Head Start and childcare funds to provide full day, full year services. There were 12 program directors, (25.0%) who indicated that more support was needed to complete the objective, assisting families with connections to access other childcare opportunities. Surprisingly, 28 Program Directors, (57.1%) indicated that there was no need for this in their program

Program Directors were asked: Identify key partnerships you have made to support families with their childcare needs (for example: partnering with community childcare resource center to present to families during orientation)

The responses included some of the following: Child Care/Day Care Facilities, MOU with Child Care Services, Child Care Licensing, local ISD's, local Workforce Solutions, and Resource and Referral Agencies.

Program Directors were asked: To what extent do you feel like you have enough coordination (working together on projects or activities) with other agencies/service providers to help you support families with their childcare needs?

Of the responses from program directors, 21 indicated they coordinate one or more activities with other agencies/service providers to help support families with their childcare needs, and enough are in place to meet the needs of the children and families in their program. There were 20 who indicated that they coordinate one or more activities with other agencies/service providers to help support families with their childcare needs, but more is needed. Only 7 indicated that they do not have any coordinated activities with other agencies/service providers to help support families with their childcare needs

Program Directors were asked: To what extent do you feel like you have enough formal written agreements (e.g. resource sharing agreements, MOUs) with other agencies/service providers to help you support families with their childcare needs?

Of the responses from program directors, 18 indicated they do not have any formal written agreements with other agencies/service providers to help support families with their childcare needs. There were 16 who indicated they have one or more formal written agreements with other agencies/service providers to help support families with their childcare needs, and enough are in place to meet the needs of the children and families in their program. There were 13 programs that have one or more formal written agreements with other agencies/service providers to help support families with their childcare needs, but more is needed

Recommendations: Child Care:

- Access to sample programs, referrals and resources used by other programs that support services
- Listing of child care resources
- MOU with Workforce Solutions to ease the process for families applying for child care
- Work with Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) to: Include information on the website for Early Head Start (EHS) families to apply for child care services. Support the understanding of EHS-Child Care (CC) Grant requirement to enroll 25% of children with a third-party funder. Support priority for children enrolling in the EHS/CC Partner with no copay. Support with blending, braiding funding, providing for an extended services & layered funding. Support with Child Care subsidy.

KEY ACTIVITY AREA 6: Children with Disabilities and Their Families

#	Question	There was no need for this in our program		More support was needed to complete objective		Had adequate support to complete objective		Total
1	Obtaining timely Part C (early intervention) evaluations for children	6.1%	3	34.7%	17	59.2%	29	49
2	Obtaining timely Part B/619 (preschool special education) evaluations of children	8.2%	4	40.8%	20	51.0%	25	49
3	Arranging coordinated services for children with special health care needs or disabilities	0.0%	0	34.7%	17	65.3%	32	49
4	Supporting the referral process to early intervention providers/agencies for children identified under CAPTA (Child Abuse Prevention & Treatment Act)	16.3%	8	34.7%	17	49.0%	24	49

Key Findings: Children with Disabilities and Their Families

Across all Disabilities Objectives: The majority of directors indicated they had adequate support to complete the overall disability needs of their community in the following areas:

Arranging coordinated services for children with special health care needs or disabilities – 65.3%. Obtaining timely Part C (early intervention) evaluations for children - 59.2 %.
Obtaining timely Part B/619 (preschool special education) evaluations of children – 51.0%.
Supporting the referral process to early intervention providers/agencies for children identified under CAPTA (Child Abuse Prevention & Treatment Act) – 49%.

Across all Disabilities Objectives:

Of the responses from program directors, 20 (40.8%) indicated that more support was needed to complete the objective, obtaining timely Part B/619 (preschool special education) evaluations of children. There were 17 Program Directors, (34.7%) indicated that more support was needed to complete the objectives: Obtaining timely Part C (early intervention) evaluations for children; Arranging coordinated services for children with special health care needs or disabilities; Supporting the referral process to early intervention providers/agencies for children identified under CAPTA (Child Abuse Prevention & Treatment Act).

Program Directors were asked: Identify key partnerships you have made to support children with disabilities in your program (for example: agreement with ECI to prioritize evaluations for your program)

Partnerships with ISD's, local LEA's, agreements with Early Childhood Intervention (ECI), CPS, Easter Seal and a variety of local county and city programs that support children with disabilities.

Program Directors were asked: To what extent do you feel like you have enough coordination (working together on projects or activities) with other agencies/service providers to help you support children with disabilities in your program?

Of the responses from program directors, 27 indicated that they coordinate one or more activities with other agencies/service providers to help support children with disabilities, and enough are in place to meet the needs of the children and families in their program. There were 21 who indicated that they coordinate one or more activities with other agencies/service providers to help support children with disabilities, but more is needed. One program director, (1) indicated that they do not have any coordinated activities with other agencies/service providers to help us support children with disabilities in their program

Program Directors were asked: To what extent do you feel like you have enough formal written agreements (e.g. resource sharing agreements, MOUs) with other agencies/service providers to help you support children with disabilities in your program?

Of the responses from program directors, 27 indicated that they have one or more formal agreements with other agencies/service provider to help us support children with disabilities, and enough are in place to meet the needs of the children and families in our program. There were 21 who indicated that they have one or more formal agreements with other agencies/service providers to help us support children with disabilities in our program, but more is needed. One (1) program director indicated that they do not have any formal written agreements with other agencies/service providers to help us support children with disabilities in their program.

Recommendations: Children with Disabilities and Their Families

- Establish a central information depository to support staff to access available resources for children with disabilities
- Partnering with Independent School Districts (ISD's) to resolve time-line issues for completing screenings, processes and to provide assessments for children needing an Individualized Education Plan (IEP)
- MOU's with Local Education Agencies (LEA's)

KEY ACTIVITY AREA 8: EDUCATION (School Readiness, Head Start-K Partnership Development)

Head Start programs are required to have an MOU with publicly-funded Pre-K programs in their service areas. The MOUs must include a review of, and plans to coordinate, as appropriate, 10 areas/activities. Program Directors were asked to rate the level of difficulty they had in the past program year, in each of the eight (8) items identified below, as they coordinated the activities with publicly-funded Pre-K programs.

#	Question	Not difficult		Somewhat difficult		Very difficult		Total
1	Educational activities, curricular objectives and instruction	65.3%	32	30.6%	15	4.1%	2	49
2	Information, dissemination and access for families contacting Head Start or other preschool program	75.5%	37	24.5%	12	0.0%	0	49
3	Staff training, including opportunities for joint staff training	65.3%	32	30.6%	15	4.1%	2	49
4	Joint/shared technical assistance (e.g., on mutual needs; to develop partnership agreements)	71.4%	35	22.4%	11	6.1%	3	49
5	Provision of services to meet needs of working parents	59.2%	29	32.7%	16	8.2%	4	49
6	Communications and parent outreach for transition to kindergarten	77.6%	38	22.4%	11	0.0%	0	49
7	Provision and use of facilities, transportation, etc.	55.1%	27	30.6%	15	14.3%	7	49
8	Developing the MOUs with the pre-k program	77.6%	38	14.3%	7	8.2%	4	49

Key Findings: Education

Across all Education Objectives: The majority of program directors indicated that it was not difficult to coordinate activities with publicly funded pre-k programs, with the lowest percentage of difficulty being 55.1% in the area of provision and use of facilities, transportation, etc. This area also rated 14.3% as very difficult.

Recommendations: Education

- Partnering with LEA's, to allow continuity of services for children transitioning from Head Start to Kindergarten.
- MOU's with ISD's

TEXAS HEAD START STATE COLLABORATION OFFICE UPDATED STRATEGIC PLAN 2017-2018

The Head Start Act, as amended December 12, 2007, requires Head Start State Collaboration Offices to conduct a needs assessment of Head Start programs in the state that includes the national priority areas noted in the Needs Assessment. The Head Start Act also requires Head Start State Collaboration Offices to use the results of the needs assessment to develop a strategic plan outlining how they will assist and support Head Start and Early Head Start grantees in meeting the requirements of the Head Start Act for coordination, collaboration, transition to elementary school and alignment with K-12 education. Head Start State Collaboration Offices must also annually update the needs assessment and strategic plan and make the results of the needs assessment and strategic plan available to the general public.

The Texas Head Start State Collaboration Office (THSSCO) Advisory Board provided input for the strategic plan. The planning team also consisted of stakeholders from the Region VI Head Start Training and Technical Assistance Network (Health Specialist), Texas Education Agency (TEA), Texas Work Force Commission (TWC), Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), Texas Head Start Association (THSA) Board, and other key Stakeholders. The areas of the updated THSSCO 2017-2018 Strategic Plan reflects only five (5) of eleven (11) Federal Priority Areas as noted in the Needs Assessment: **Health Care, Children Experiencing Homelessness, Child Care, Children with Disabilities and Their Families, Education (School Readiness, Head Start-K Partnership Development)** The Strategic Plan will outline the work that was prioritized as a result of the 2016-2017 THSSCO Needs Assessment results, and recommendations that were included in Year 3 of the 2015-2020 Strategic Plans, along with the activities that the THSSCO participated in during the 2016-2017 program year. The Survey was developed around the five (5) key activity areas identified in **bold font** above.

Recommendations and Action Steps 2017-2018

Health			
Recommendations	Action Steps	Person Responsible	Timeline
Partner with medical organizations to provide resources to help families communicate effectively with healthcare providers and increase their health literacy.	<p>THSSCO will work with medical community (hospitals, pediatricians, etc.) and early care organizations to align developmental screenings as FERPA allows.</p> <p>THSSCO will work with Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) on recommendations on organizations and providers. Provide resources that have already been developed to organizations.</p>	<p>THSSCO Director</p> <p>THSSCO Advisory Board</p> <p>Technical Assistance Network (Health Specialist)</p>	9/2017–8/2018
Determine methods to connect programs with providers to meet transportation needs.	<p>THSSCO will work with the Advisory Board HHSC to provide lists of assessable resources/services available.</p> <p>THSSCO will work with Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) Advisory contact to connect communities with available local transportation resources/services available through HHSC https://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/medicaid/mt/p/ https://hhs.texas.gov/services/health/medicaid-chip/programs/texas-medicaid-chip-medical-transportation-program</p>	<p>THSSCO Director</p> <p>THSSCO Advisory Board</p> <p>THSSCO Advisory member from HHSC</p>	9/2017–8/2018
Provide programs with information on resources: Universal list of available resources local and nationwide, to support local and mobile families, including medical and dental providers. Resource Hotline for needy families. Literature on family wellness for families. Resources in Spanish.	<p>THSSCO will work with the Advisory Board and HHSC to provide lists of assessable resources/services available.</p> <p>The THSSCO Director will forward a link to the National Resource Directory to all Head Start programs</p>	<p>THSSCO Director</p> <p>THSSCO Advisory Board</p> <p>THSSCO Advisory member from HHSC</p>	9/2017–8/2018
Assist programs with finding accurate lists of Medicaid	THSSCO will provide information of Medicaid and Healthcare Partnership	THSSCO Advisory Board	9/2017–8/2018

providers in their area and explore methods to streamline enrollment.	<p>Search : http://opl.tnhp.com/ProviderManager/AdvSearch.aspx</p> <p>The THSSCO Director will forward a link to the National Resource Directory to all Head Start programs</p>	THSSCO Director	
Continue the collaborative work with Oral Health partners (OHP) to support programs to connect children with dental homes. Specific focus on rural areas, rural health clinics, available services and support through the Oral Health Partners (OHP) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).	<p>THSSCO will re-distribute Oral Health Partners (OHP)/Texas Head Start Association (THSA) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to all Head Start/Early Head Start (HS/EHS) Programs to support families with oral health needs each program year.</p> <p>THSSCO, OHP and DentaQuest has supported efforts in rural communities to access rural dental clinics in year 2 of the plans.</p> <p>THSSCO will continue to provide HHSC resource to HS/EHS Programs: https://hhs.texas.gov/</p>	<p>THSSCO Director</p> <p>Texas OHP</p> <p>THSSCO HHSC Advisory Board Member</p>	5/2017–ongoing
Work with Texas Home Visiting programs to ensure HS/EHS programs understand eligibility criteria for the various programs and availability to their families.	<p>Provide information to HS/EHS to incorporate HHSC services and resources. http://www.texashomevisiting.org/</p>	<p>THSSCO Director</p> <p>Home Visiting Consortium with the TexProtects</p>	5/2017–8/2018

CHILDREN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Recommendations	Action Steps	Person Responsible	Timeline
Inform programs of public housing and funding to support education and training programs for homeless families when knowledgeable of such information.	<p>Collaborate/partner with TexProtects for their guidance. Develop a plan to share with grantees.</p> <p>Request sample MOU's and agreements from Head Start Programs across the state to share as a resource.</p>	<p>THSSCO Director</p> <p>Project Director/THEO/THSSCO Advisory Board</p>	9/2017-On-going

Inform Head Start Programs on public housing and funding to support education and training programs for homeless families.	<p>THSSCO will work with the Texas Homeless Education Office (THEO) to access available connections, and invite THSSCO Advisory Board participation. http://www.theotx.org</p> <p>Distribute Head Start Proposed Rules: http://center.serve.org/nche/downloads/legis/hs-proposed-regs-jun2015-homeless.pdf</p> <p>Work to develop a partnership with the Texas Homeless Network for housing and funding for housing resources, and the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs. Develop a plan to share with grantees.</p>	<p>THSSCO Director</p> <p>Project Director/THEO/THSSCO Advisory Board</p> <p>THSA Board</p>	5/2017-10/2018
Provide a list of agencies (state and local) that support families experiencing homelessness as a resource for Head Start Programs.	<p>THSSCO will work to make THEO resources available to HS/EHS Programs and entities working in partnership with grantees. http://www.theotx.org/</p> <p>The THSSCO Director will forward a link to the National Resource Directory to all Head Start programs.</p>	<p>THSSCO Director</p> <p>Project Director/THEO/THSSCO Advisory Board</p>	9/2017-On-going
Provide information on new initiatives and updates that will enhance services to Head Start children and families.	Continue to provide Head Start programs with information from our office to keep them abreast of services/updates/activities related to children and families.	<p>THSSCO Director</p> <p>Texas Department of Family and Protective Services</p> <p>THSSCO Advisory Board</p> <p>THSA President</p>	On-going
Linkages to agencies/resources/contacts/coordination/information to access needed trainings, policy changes, services, etc.	<p>Collaborate/partner with TexProtects for guidance and resources available in Head Start communities across the state.</p> <p>The THSSCO Director will forward a link to the National Resource Directory to all Head Start programs.</p>	<p>THSSCO Director</p> <p>Policy Analyst/THSSCO Advisory Board</p> <p>Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS)</p>	On-going

CHILD CARE

Recommendations	Action Steps	Person Responsible	Timeline
Work to develop MOU's to support access to full day/full year services.	THSSCO, Advisory Board and the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) child care licensing will work to develop a MOU or partnership agreement template that Head Start programs can use to engage with child care providers to access full day/full year services.	THSSCO Director THSSCO Advisory Board DFPS Advisory Board Member	9/17-8/18
Identify affordable childcare options and other resources across the State for both low and middle income families.	THSSCO will work in coordination with Texas Work Force Commission (TWC) and Child Care Referral Services to provide listings of available child care options & to ease enrollment process for Head Start families, THSSCO will provide "Choosing Child Care from the Texas Early Learning Council (TELC) to Head Start" Families to use as a resource. http://littletexans.org/ChoosingCare.aspx	THSSCO Director DFPS Advisory Board Member	On-going
Assist Head Start programs to become a part of the Quality Rating Improvement System (Texas Rising Star) as they desire to participate.	CCL will retain training documentation that will continue to be measured at CCL/Licensing annual monitoring inspection. Work with TWC to: Include information on the website for EHS families to apply for child care services. Support the understanding of Early Head Start/Child Care Partnership (EHS/CCP) Grant requirement to enroll 25% of children with a third-party funder. Support priority for children enrolling in the EHS/CCP Program with no copay. Support with blending, braiding funding, providing for an extended services & layered funding. Support with Child Care subsidy.	DFPS/CCL Advisory Board Member THSSCO Director TWC Advisory Board Member	On-going 8/17-8/18

Support Early Head Start Grantees participating in the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS)/ Texas Rising Star.	Continue to support EHS/CCP Grantees with communication, problem solving and program implementation needs. Continue to work with the DFPS and Texas Early Childhood Professional Development System (TECPDS) Advisory Board Member to support programs with child care partners participating in Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS). https://qrisguide.acf.hhs.gov/index.cfm?do=qrisstateinfo&stateId=94	DFPS/CCL Advisory Board Member THSSCO Director TECPDS Advisory Board	On-going
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CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES AND THEIR FAMILIES

Recommendations	Action Steps	Person Responsible	Timeline
Provide/alert programs of training opportunities specific to children with disabilities.	THSSCO will Provide the Texas Education Agency (TEA) Parent and Family Resources to Head Start Programs to use to inform families of children with disabilities. http://tea.texas.gov/Academics/Special_Student_Populations/Special_Education/Parent_and_Family_Resources/	THSSCO Director TEA Advisory Board Member	On-going
Promote and assist in strengthening partnership with school districts to provide additional wraparound Head Start services.	THSSCO will provide Head Start Programs with Sustainable Collaborations to use as a resource: http://texasschoolready.org/media/1359/PromotingSustainableCollaborations.pdf	THSSCO Director THSSCO Advisory Board	9/17-8/18
Partnering with Independent School Districts (ISD's) to resolve time-line issues for completing screening process, and to assess children needing an Individualized Education Plan (IEP).	Re-distribute the MOU with the Texas HHSC to support Head Start programs. Distribute the HHSC/Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) Information to Head Start Programs & provide a copy of the Model Local MOU template. Parent Companion–Guide for Texas Parents and caregivers of children with diagnosed or suspected disabilities from birth through 5. http://www.parentcompanion.org/	THSSCO Director Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) Advisory Committee Member	9/17-8/18

EDUCATION (School Readiness, Head Start-K Partnership Development)

Recommendations	Action Steps	Person Responsible	Timeline
Provide guidance on best practices around communication between Head Start and public programs, particularly around joint training, technical assistance, and additional services and needs of families participating.	<p>THSSCO and Advisory Board will work to develop Case Studies as appropriate to determine cross training needs that will address entities involved.</p> <p>THSSCO, Advisory Board and TEA will identify a successful Education Service Center (ESC) or Independent School Districts (ISD's) that is implementing this well. Provide a "Highlight" on implementation successes.</p> <p>Work with TEA to change the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) Data to reflect specifically Head Start children in public schools, to support access to longitudinal data.</p>	<p>THSSCO Director</p> <p>THSSCO Advisory Board</p> <p>THSSCO Director, THSSCO Advisory Board, TEA Advisory Board Member</p>	<p>9/17-8/18</p> <p>9/17-On-going</p>
Promote and assist in strengthening partnership with school districts to provide additional wraparound Head Start services.	<p>THSSCO will provide Head Start Programs with Sustainable Collaborations to use as a resource:</p> <p>http://texasschoolready.org/media/1359/PromotingSustainableCollaborations.pdf</p>	THSSCO Director	9/17-8/18
Work with Head Start Administrators to support Staff to participate in the various options of Texas School Ready (TSR)	<p>Encourage Head Start Programs to continue to participate in the various TSR models offered.</p> <p>Encourage participation of Head Start Programs and share information about Children's Learning Institute (CLI)- Engage, a comprehensive professional development platform, providing free access to Texas School Ready (TSR) tools and resources: https://cliengage.org/</p>	<p>THSSCO Director</p> <p>Director State Initiatives at the Children's Learning Institute (CLI)</p>	On-going
Work to develop MOU's to support Head Start Programs to partner with ISD's	THSSCO Director will provide a copy of the Model Local MOU to support Head Start Programs to develop an MOU with local ISD's.	THSSCO Director	9/17-8/18

THSSCO ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF YEAR 2: 2016-2017

Activities for Health Care:

- THSSCO has developed a fully executed MOU with the Department of State Health Services, to improve the oral health of pregnant women and infants in Texas through coordinated statewide efforts to integrate oral health care within perinatal care.
- The THSSCO in partnership with the Department of State Health Service, developed a Data Use Agreement (DUA) to facilitate creation, receipt, maintenance, use, disclosure or access to Confidential Information with Contractor, and describe Contractor's rights and obligations with respect to the Confidential Information and the limited purposes for which the Contractor may create, receive, maintain, use, disclose or have access to Confidential Information.
- THSSCO is in a new partnership with Smile Connect to provide free online resource designed to help educators easily connect their students with oral health resources and services in their community.
- Continues to participate in monthly conference calls with the Region VI Health Specialist to discuss the health needs of Head Start Programs across the state and to determine areas of needed support and guidance.
- Continues to serve on the Texas Oral Health Coalition and attended the Oral Health Coalition
- Continues to participate with the Texas Oral Health Partners in quarterly conference calls to support Head Start Programs on-going dental needs.
- Resources were provided to Head Start/Early Head Start Programs to support sustainable collaborations: [Community Based School Readiness Integration Partnerships: Promoting Sustainable Collaborations](#)
- The Region VI Dental Hygienist Liaison Coordinator and Texas Oral Health Partner distributes monthly oral health newsletters to Head Start Programs; "Brush up on Oral Health"
<http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/health/oral-health/PDFs/brushup-news-201604.pdf>

Activities Children Experiencing Homelessness:

- THSSCO is in collaboration with the Senior Project Director for Texas Homeless Education Office (THEO) to access available resources and to form a partnership with other programs that support homeless children and families to access housing and funding for housing resources.
- Provides the Texas Annual State Report to the Senior Project Director for THEO to inform them of the nature of the families affected in Texas programs.
- The THSSCO will work with the Chief Executive Office at the Center for Transforming Lives to access information to support homeless families.
- The Project Director for THEO provided the THEO Fact Sheet to Head Start Programs.
http://www.theotx.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/HB1559_Factsheet.pdf

Activities for Welfare/Child Welfare

- Participated in the Healthy Minds/Healthy Families Conference planning in 2015, 2016 and again this program year for the 2017 conference, serving as the chairperson of the Call for Proposals Committee.
- Serve as a member of the Texas Project Launch Expansion Workgroup to support Head Start programs. The Texas Launch Grant focuses on both promotion of mental health wellness, strengthening of family systems, and building the capacity of providers of early childhood services to support the social and emotional health of young children. [Texas Launch](#).

- THSSCO continues to provide Head Start Programs with [Community Based School Readiness Integration Partnerships: Promoting Sustainable Collaborations](#) to use as a resource to establish collaboration and partnerships

Activities for Community Services:

- THSSCO continues to provide Head Start Programs with [Community Based School Readiness Integration Partnerships: Promoting Sustainable Collaborations](#) to use as a resource to establish collaboration and partnerships.
- The THSSCO with the support of the advisory board, provided a sample template for programs to use as a sample to engage in collaborative partnerships to develop an MOU.
- Distributed information from TexProtects to Head Start Programs, and included information in the THSSCO News Letter.
- Continues to provide resourceful information that is made available to our office.
- Provided data reports to Head Start Programs from Children at Risk.

Activities for Early Childhood Systems Development:

- The THSSCO Continues to be the home of the Texas Early Childhood Professional Development System (TECPDS). www.tecpds.org .
- The TECPDS has made new enhancements to the professional development system this program year, which includes "Find My Career Lattice. It is a new resource tool for Workforce Registry participants.
- Continue to include on-line professional development training modules on the Texas Core Competencies, Texas Early Childhood Professional Development System (TECPDS) and the Texas Workforce Registry. The competencies are not linked to CLI-Engage.
- Continue to participate with the Texas School Ready! Project and the promote use of CLI-Engage, CLI-Engage CDA and Texas Rising Start. <https://cliengage.org/onlinecourse> .
- Continue to maintain the Texas Trainer Registry online database of state approved registered trainers to provide quality training to professionals working with children from birth to school age (with the emphasis on birth-5 years of age).
- THSSCO provides opportunities for Head Start Programs and CC Partners to sign up for e-news letters: <http://thssco.uth.tmc.edu>.
- Through a partnership with Workforce Solutions Tarrant County and the Early Learning Alliance, TECPDS has been able to launch exciting new features in 2017, including a new "Find My Career Lattice Tool" on the Texas Workforce Registry (TWR). Through this tool, early childhood professionals can enter information about their education, training, and work experience to learn their career lattice level. After entering information, professionals will be able to print out a custom report that shows their self-reported career lattice level and offers resources to support continued advancement in the early childhood profession.
- Core Competency Online Training Modules for Early Childhood Practitioners and Administrators were moved to the Children's Learning Institute Engage website. Participants can complete up to 15 hours of training for Practitioners and Administrators through CLI Engage. <https://cliengage.org/public/>
- To further support Early Childhood Systems, The THSSCO with the support of the THSSCO Advisory Board, will seek to obtain a list of Texas Education Committee Members, engage Texas Head Start program personnel in the Texas Early

Education Group that meets in Austin, engage Texas Head Start personnel to volunteer to attend/speak at committee meetings to become acquainted with staff and legislators.

Activities for State, Local Policies, Planning and Processes:

- Continues to participate with the Kids Count Data Center to receive annual Kids Count Data Handbooks to share with Head Start Programs and the Texas Head Start State Collaboration Office reports to work together to making data available on children in Texas.
<http://forabettertexas.org/> .
- The THSSCO participates in and supports the Children’s Learning Institute to inform Head Start Programs and to encourage engagement in Webinars and training on the [Texas Kindergarten Entry Assessment](#). [Texas Kindergarten Entry Assessment](#).
- Continues to participate in HHSC/ECI Governor Appointed Advisory Committee meetings.
- The THSSCO worked with the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)
- Participates in the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) Sub-Committee planning.
- Member of the Home Visiting Consortium with the TexProtects, to bring together Texas Home Visitation program to increase the awareness of home visitation in Texas, and to coordinate legislative efforts.
- The THSSCO and TECPDS Advisory Board developed CORE Competencies for trainers. The work should be completed and ready for distribution by 12/17.
- THSSCO/TECPDS worked to engage in a partnership with TWC to offer the TECPDS/Texas Workforce Registry participants the opportunity to register their professional development and career development with the Texas Workforce Registry at no charge, through a grant funding opportunity.

RESOURCES AND REFERENCES

- Office of Head Start Website- <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ohs/about/>
- Texas Head Start State Collaboration Office Website: <http://thssco.uth.tmc.edu>
- Texas Early Childhood Professional Development System: www.tecpds.org
- The Program Information Report data referenced in this report is based on the information that was extracted in 2016 Texas State Report. PIR data can be located on the Early Childhood Learning Center Website: <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/mr/pir> .
- Qualtrics Survey, Dr. Bethanie Van Horn, Assistant Director, State Initiatives/Children's Learning Institute: bethanie.s.carr@uth.tmc.edu
- Cover design and Head Start Site Map - Bang Pham, Web Master: bang.n.pham@uth.tmc.edu
- Brush up on Oral Health: <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/health/oral-health/pdfs>
- Texas Project Launch Expansion Workgroup: <http://sites.utexas.edu/mental-health-institute/texas-launch/>
- Community Based School Readiness Integration Partnerships: Promoting Sustainable Collaborations: <https://texasschoolready.org/media/1359/PromotingSustainableCollaborations.pdf>
- Texas Medicaid and Healthcare: <http://opl.tmhp.com/ProviderManager/help.aspx>
- Texas Provider Manager Help: <https://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/medicaid/mtp/>
- Texas Medicaid & Healthcare Partnership: Provide Search: http://www.tmhp.com/Pages/default.aspx?sd_upgwelredir=1
- Texas Medicaid and CHIP-Medical Transportation Program: <https://hhs.texas.gov/services/health/medicaid-chip/programs/texas-medicaid-chip-medical-transportation-program>
- Texas Health and Human Services: <https://hhs.texas.gov/>
& <http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/medicaid/quality-review/Dental-Performance.shtml>
- Texas Home Visiting: <http://www.texashomevisiting.org/>
- Texas Education Agency: <http://tea.texas.gov/>
- TEA's Parent and Family Resources. http://tea.texas.gov/Curriculum_and_Instructional_Programs/Special_Education/Parent_and_Family_Resources/Parent_and_Family_Resources/
- Parent Companion Resource: <http://www.parentcompanion.org/>
- TEA's State Guidance: <http://tea.texas.gov/earlychildhoodeducation.aspx>
- Texas Reach Out and Read: <http://rortx.uth.tmc.edu/>
- Texas Kindergarten Entry Assessment (TX-KEA) <http://www.texaskea.org/>
- Children's Learning Institute-CLI-Engage: <https://cliengage.org/>
- First3Years: <http://first3yearstx.org/endorsement>
- The Texas Association for the Protection of Children: www.TexProtects.org/
- Texas Homeless Education Office (THEO): <http://www.theotx.org/>
- National Resource Directory: <https://www.nrd.gov/>

NETWORKING RESOURCES

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