

Community Action, Inc. of Central Texas

Head Start Program (ZERO-TO-FIVE)

Community Needs Assessment 2015



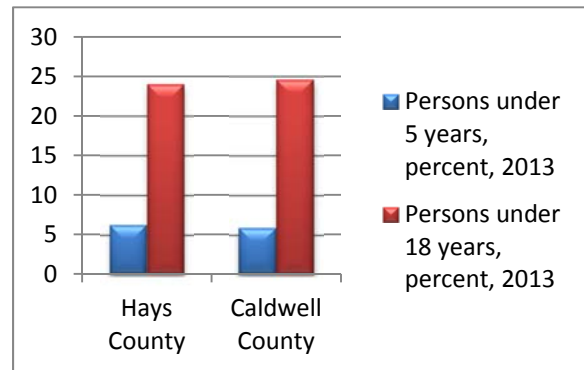
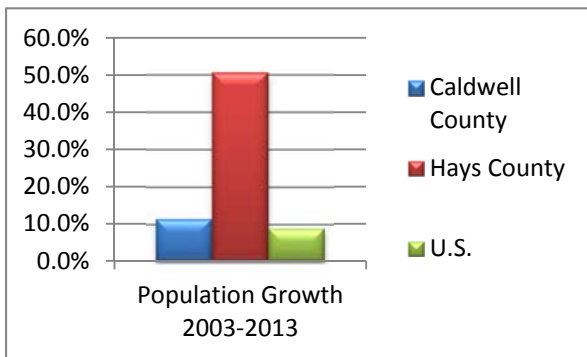
Presented to the Board of Directors 1/15/15
Presented to Policy Council 1/17/15

The service area of the Community Action, Inc. of Central Texas – Head Start Program (zero-to-five) encompasses Hays and Caldwell Counties. In order to understand the dynamics of these counties and the communities within them, an examination of the demographics follows. Data from the U.S. Census American Community Survey as well as data generated from the Rural Capital Area Workforce Headlight Tool are utilized below.

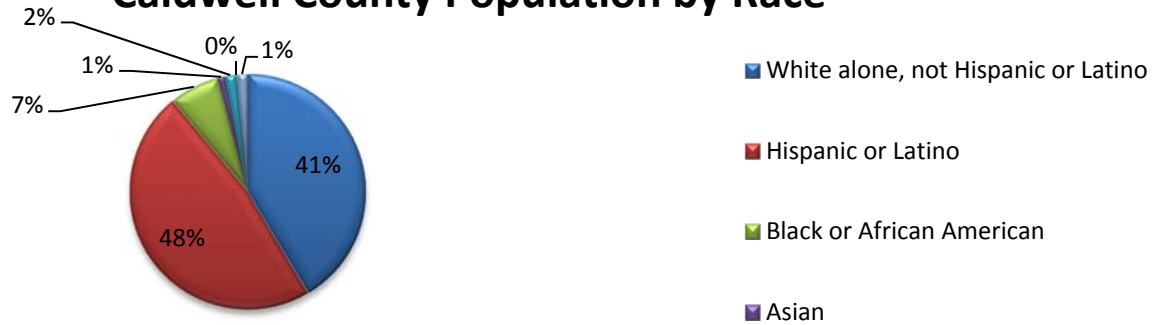
Basic Information/Demographics

Hays County is a suburban county located within the Austin Metropolitan area. The 2013 population estimate according to the Census Bureau Quickfacts was 176,026, a 12% increase from 2010. According to its county profile created by the Rural Capital Area Workforce Headlight tool which also uses data from the U. S. Census, Hays County has grown faster than the metro and the U.S. with its population growth of 51% from 2003 – 2013. The profile also states that the county’s population growth is primarily due to the migration of people into the county (from 2003-2013, 77% of the new population was due to domestic migration) and that the county has a younger population with a high concentration of families and college students. Hays County’s population is 57% White, 37% Hispanic, 3% Black, and 1% Asian. The percentage of homes where a language other than English is spoken is 23%.

In comparison, Caldwell County is a much smaller county in central Texas with a 2013 population estimate of 39,232, a 3.1% increase from 2010 (Census Quickfacts). According to its county profile created by the Rural Capital Area Workforce Headlight tool, the county’s population growth from 2003 – 2013 was 12%, 56% of which was due to natural increase (births minus deaths). It also has a slightly younger population with a higher concentration of families. Caldwell County’s population is 43% White, 49% Hispanic, 6% Black, and 1% Asian. The percentage of homes where a language other than English is spoken is 29.3%.



Caldwell County Population by Race

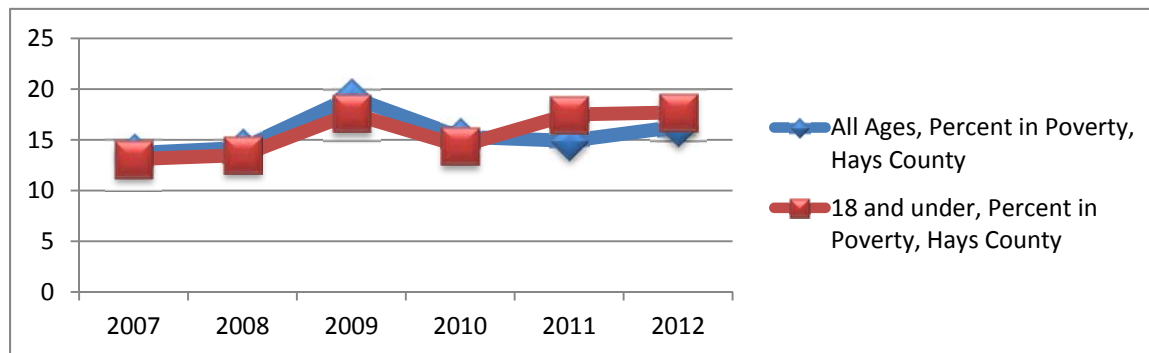
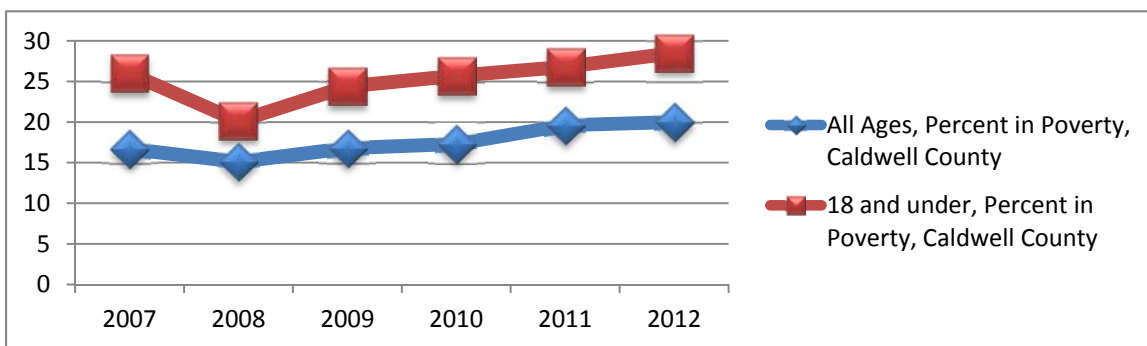


Hays County Population by Race

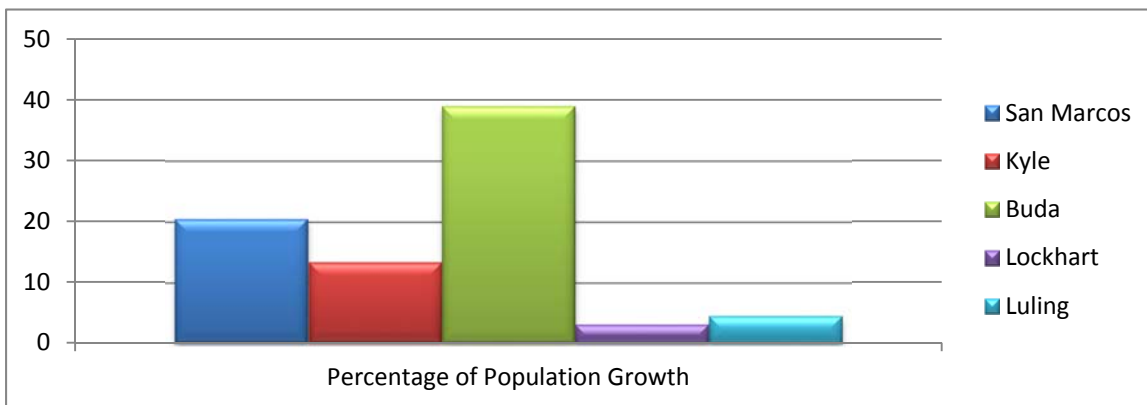


Overall, the population in poverty in Hays County rose from 13.7% to 16.3% between 2007 and 2012. The percentage of children grew even faster, rising from 12.5% in 2007 to 17.7% in 2012. For children under the age of 5 living in single female headed households, the likelihood that they will live in poverty is even higher (51.6% of those households live in poverty). The population in poverty for Caldwell County also rose between 2007 and 2012, rising from 16.7% to 20%. The percentage for children grew as well going from 26% in 2007 to 28.5% in 2012. Again, the population most likely to be in poverty are those children living in single female headed households (37.1% of which live in poverty). Trends for the Rural Capital Area (of which Hays and Caldwell Counties are a part) as identified by the Rural Capital Area Workforce include that children have the highest poverty rate of all age groups, and poverty rates are growing fastest for the working-age population (residents 18-64 years of age).

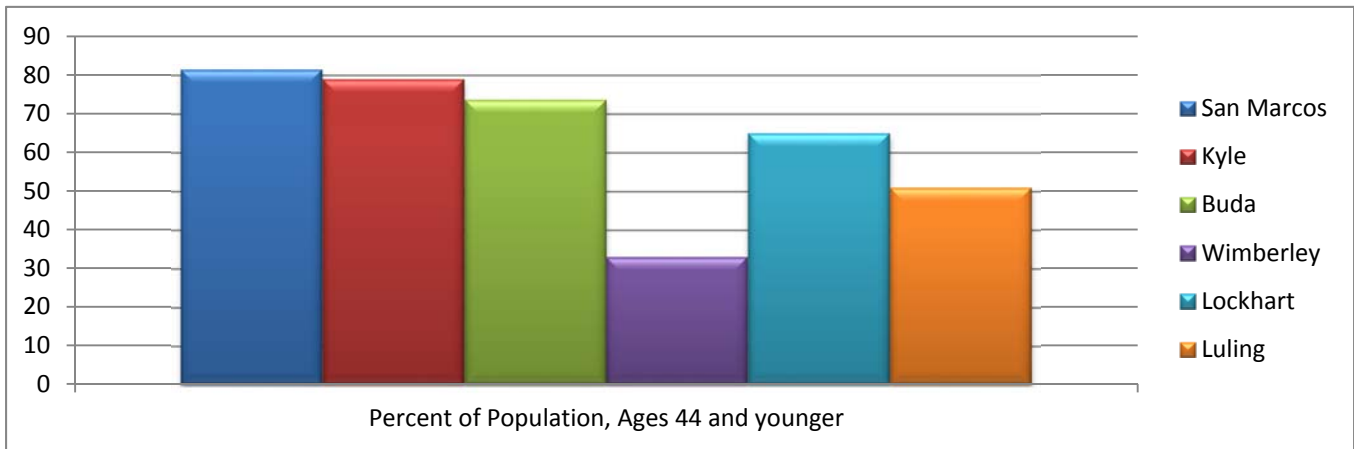
In addition to rising rates of poverty in these counties that families must deal with, a separate article recently posted online by the Rural Capital Area Workforce in its Headlight Newsletter, also points out that there is a trend in the area of a slight worsening of affordability, a complex issue influenced by many variables including cost of living, access to jobs etc. According to this article, rental costs are rising (65% of Hays County residents now spend above 30% or more of their income on housing) and longer commute times represent a hidden cost of affordability (47% of Hays County workers commute 30 minutes or more each day).



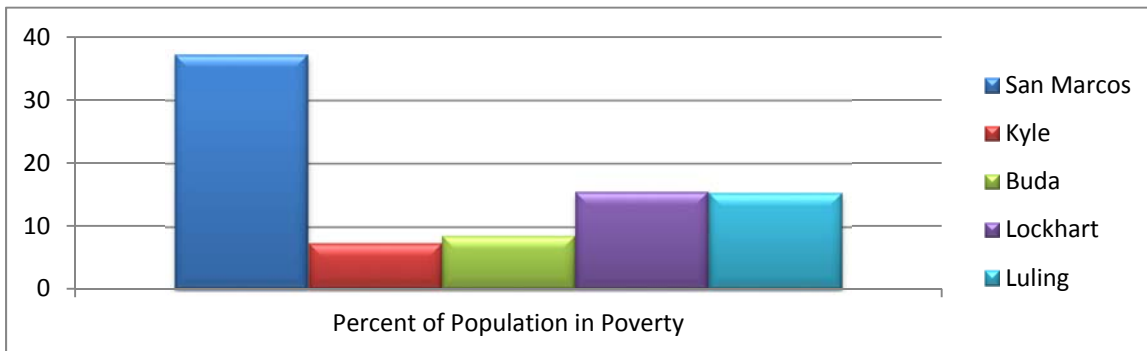
Within Hays County, the fastest growing community is that of Buda which has experienced an estimated 39% change in population between 2010 (population estimate 7,343) and 2013 (population estimate 10,209). The cities of San Marcos and Kyle have also experienced a large amount of estimated growth between 2010 and 2013 with San Marcos at 20.5% and Kyle at 13.4% (statistics for the city of Wimberley were unavailable on Quickfacts). Within Caldwell County, the cities of Lockhart and Luling have smaller estimates of growth, 4.6% for Luling and 3.2% for Lockhart between 2010 and 2013.



The Hays County communities of San Marcos, Kyle, and Buda closely mirror the overall county racial demographic with some slight variations, the greatest of which is that the city of Kyle's White and Hispanic population are closer in number to each other (White 45.4%; Hispanic 46.3%). In Kyle, the percentage of homes where a language other than English is spoken is also slightly higher at 26.7%. The community of Wimberley shows the greatest difference from the county demographic (White 88.7%; Hispanic 9.6%; Black .2%; American Indian or Alaska Native 1.5%). These communities also mirror the county make up of a younger demographic with the exception of Wimberley.



In Caldwell County, the cities of Lockhart and Luling vary slightly from the overall county racial demographic, but they closely mirror one another both hovering right above 50% in terms of their Hispanic population and just under 40% for its White population whereas the overall county demographic for these populations is more evenly balanced. In terms of poverty rates in these communities, the city of San Marcos has a higher rate of poverty than the overall Hays county rate whereas both cities of Kyle and Buda have a lower rate. In Caldwell County, both cities of Lockhart and Luling have a lower poverty rate than the overall county rate, but again closely mirror one another.



Using the demographic information referenced previously including the overall population of each community, determining what percentage of that population is under the age of 5, then multiplying that number times the poverty rate in that community, a number of Head Start children may be determined (see chart below).

Community	Population	Percent of Population under the age of 5	Poverty Rate	Estimated number of Head Start eligible children
San Marcos(C.D. 15)	54,076	5.0	37.3	1,020
Kyle (C.D. 21)	31,760	10.4	17.6	245
Buda(C.D. 21)	10,209	10.1	17.6	89
Lockhart	13,098	5.2	15.4	105
Luling	5,659	5.4	15.6	48

Wimberley(C.D. 21)	2,582	4.3	24.2	27
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The funded enrollment for the Community Action, Inc. of Central Texas Head Start Program (ZERO-TO-FIVE) is 539 children (376 Head Start slots; 163 Early Head Start slots including 5 pregnancies. Of these slots, 228 are allotted to the San Marcos community; 144 are allotted to Kyle; 84 to Lockhart; 74 to Luling; and 9 to Wimberley.

Community	Early Head Start Funded Enrollment	Head Start Funded Enrollment	Total Funded Enrollment	Proposed Home-Visiting Slots Ages zero-to-five
San Marcos	60	168	228	36
Kyle	36	74	110	33
Buda	14	20	34	12
Lockhart	16	68	84	NA
Luling	28	46	74	NA
Wimberley	9 Home-Based	0	9	15

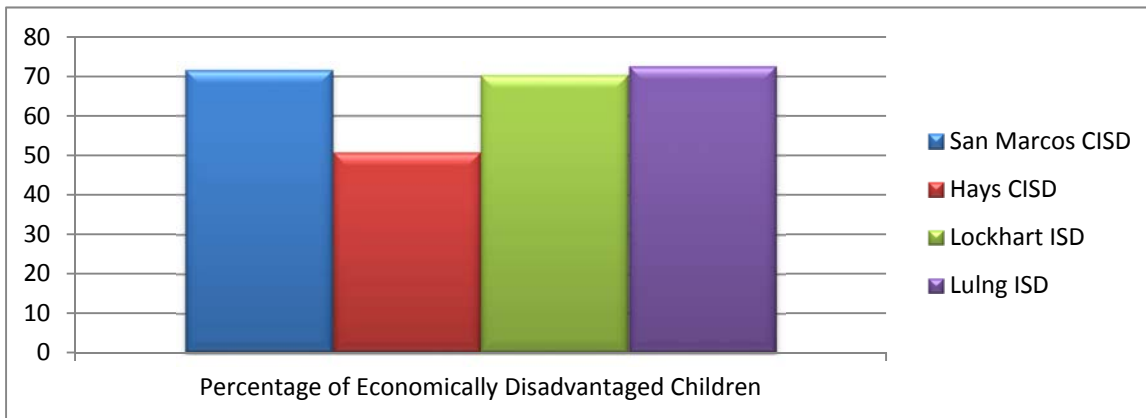
According

to the Program Information Report (PIR) for the 2013-14 school year, the Community Action, Inc. of Central Texas Head Start Program (ZERO-TO-FIVE) enrolled 655 children cumulatively (407 in the Head Start Program and 248 in the Early Head Start Program including 9 pregnant women), 94.2% (617) of which had income below 100% of the federal poverty line or were categorically eligible (foster children, homeless children, or families receiving public assistance – TANF or SSI). Out of all enrollees, 80.9% were Hispanic, 8.5% White, 2.1% Black, 7% Biracial or Multiracial, .9% American Indian or Alaska Native, and .3% Asian. Spanish was the primary language at home for 26% of enrollees.

The two largest school districts serving Hays County are the San Marcos Consolidated Independent School District (SMCISD) and the Hays Consolidated Independent School District (Hays CISD). The San Marcos Consolidated Independent School District serves San Marcos and its surrounding areas including area in Hays, Caldwell, and Guadalupe Counties. It has an enrollment of 7,501 students, 71.6% of which are considered Economically Disadvantaged (according to the Texas Education Agency Texas Academic Performance Report 2013-14 District Profile). The profile of SMCISD also reports that the district’s percentage of English Language Learners served is 9.3%, and its Pre-Kindergarten enrollment is 4.8% of its population. Hays Consolidated Independent School District serves 17,205 students, 50.7% of which are considered Economically Disadvantaged, 15.7% are English Language Learners, and 3.0% are Pre-Kindergartners. Much smaller is the Wimberley Independent School District which as a total enrollment of 2,064 students, 28.3% of which are considered Economically Disadvantaged, 6.8% English Language Learners, and 1.4% Pre-Kindergartners.

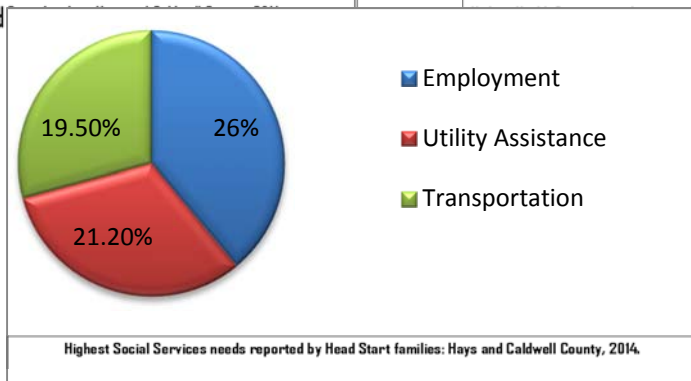
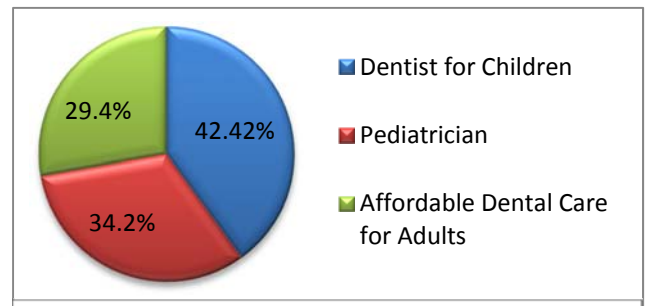
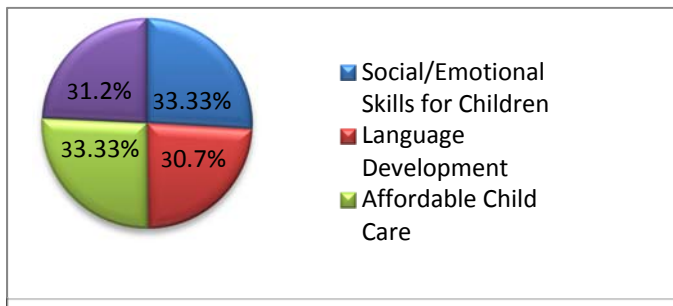
In Caldwell County, the two largest school districts are Lockhart Independent School District (Lockhart ISD) and Luling Independent School District (Luling ISD). The Lockhart Independent School District serves 5,113 children, 70.3% of which are considered Economically Disadvantaged, 13.5% are English Language Learners, and 4.7% are Pre-Kindergartners. The Luling Independent School District is much smaller than Lockhart ISD, but has similar percentages of Economically Disadvantaged children, English

Language Learners, and Pre-Kindergartners. Luling ISD serves 1,427 students, 72.5% of which are Economically Disadvantaged, 12.5% are English Language Learners, and 5.3% are Pre-Kindergartners. Kindergarten and First Grade are available in all communities.



Education, Health, Nutrition, and Social Service Needs

To identify the Educational, Health, Nutrition, and Social Services needs of Head Start eligible children and families, the Community Action, Inc. of Central Texas – Head Start Program (ZERO-TO-FIVE) conducted a written survey of its currently enrolled parents, conducted focus groups with agency staff, and sent out an online survey to its community partners. Staff focus groups included staff from throughout the agency including staff from the Adult Education Programs, Community Service Programs such as Utility Assistance, and Health Programs such as Community Health Clinics. Survey results showed some parallels in needs identified with some slight variations as well. Both the parent surveys and those surveys completed by community partners identified affordable child care and social/emotional skills for children as high needs in the areas of Education and Social Services. Both also identified Transportation as a high need, a need also identified by staff focus groups. In the area of Nutrition, all groups identified healthy meals and food resources as a high need. Positive Parenting and Discipline was also a high need in the area of Mental Health identified by both the parent surveys and the community partner surveys.



Additional high needs identified by the community partner online surveys included the need for English as a Second Language Classes, General Equivalency Diploma (GED) classes and health insurance for children and adults, needs also identified by the agency staff focus groups. Parent surveys also identified the need for finding dentists and pediatricians for their children in addition to finding affordable dental care for themselves. Agency staff focus groups additionally identified more affordable housing opportunities/rental assistance as a high need (a need echoed by previous data mentioned from the Rural Capital Area Workforce).

Again, several of the needs identified can also be supported in looking at the U.S. Census Data in the American Community Survey (2009-2013). For example, the percentage of working adults ages 18 to 64 in Hays County that were not insured was 20.6%. In Caldwell County, this percentage was even greater at 25.6%. In Hays County, of the 3,694 grandparents living with their own grandchildren under the age of 18 years, 32.8% were responsible for their grandchildren. In Caldwell County, this percentage was 38.1%. In terms of single parent households, according to the County Health Rankings, 25% of children in Hays County lived in single parent households, while 40% of children in Caldwell County lived in single parent households.

Lastly, a number of needs can be identified through reviewing recent research which highlights the importance of a child's environment in their early years. A recent presentation by TexProtects (a child advocacy group) entitled, "Child Abuse & Neglect in Texas: Changing the Trajectory with Home Visiting & Prevention Investments) presented information from the landmark ACES study which has linked the health issues of adults back to adverse experiences in their childhood. Adverse experiences for at-risk children such as household dysfunction (ie. household substance abuse, incarcerated household member, household mental illness, etc.) lead to a greater likelihood of dropping out of school, becoming involved with drugs, teen pregnancy, etc. This and other research emphasizes how critical the first five years of the life of a child are critical for brain development.

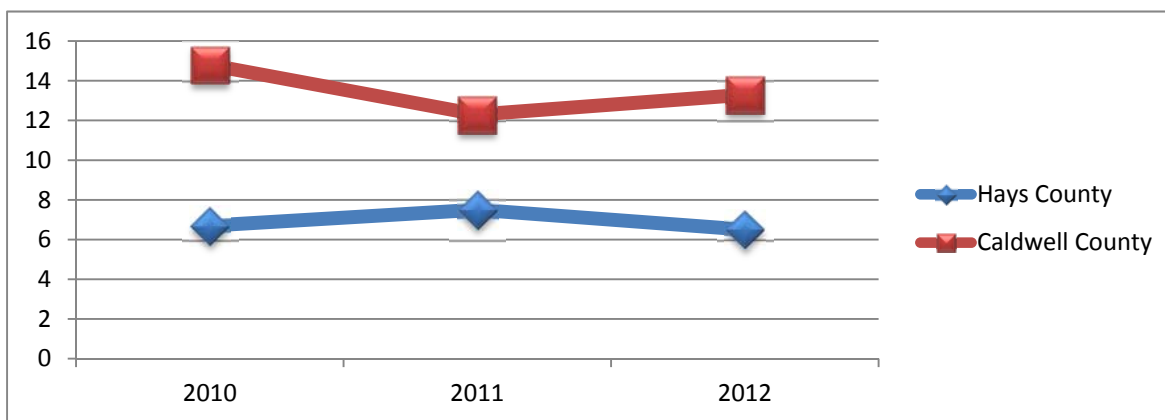
Other Child Development and Child Care Programs for Low-Income Children

The Community Action, Inc. of Central Texas – Head Start Program (ZERO-TO-FIVE) collaborates with SMCISD, Hays ISD, Lockhart ISD, and Luling ISD to serve four year old children in their Pre-Kindergarten programs. Because of the makeup of the San Marcos CISD, which includes some portions of Guadalupe County, the Community Action, Inc. of Central Texas – Head Start Program (ZERO-TO-FIVE) continues to recruit in the Rancho Vista neighborhood and the Redwood Community so that those children can benefit from preschool services within the community where they will be attending public school when they reach school age. These areas are otherwise not served by the Community Council of South Central Texas which serves other areas of Guadalupe County. As noted by results from both the parent survey and the community partner surveys, affordable child care continues to be a need within both Hays and Caldwell Counties. The parent survey also identified a need for Universal Pre-Kindergarten services. In a search using the search engine on the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services website of licensed child care centers, the numbers of available licensed child care centers continues to be small (Hays County – 59; Caldwell County – 14).

Wimberley ISD serves 4 year old children in a Pre-Kindergarten program; however, a gap in exists in that community for children under three and turning three. In order to help meet this need, for the school year 2013-2014, the Community Action, Inc. of Central Texas Head Start Program (ZERO-TO-FIVE)

implemented (based upon community support and a survey of the need in the community) a Early Head Start Home Based Program serving children until three. This program has been successful, with a very high monthly attendance and participation from its participants. In its first year, Wimberley ISD supported this effort in providing office space for the Community Action, Inc. Home Based Teacher. However, for the school year 2014-2015, this office space was withdrawn. Therefore, challenges occurred for the school year 2014-2015 in securing office space and other resources for the Home Based Teacher. A new collaboration with the First United Methodist Church in Wimberley is in progress. However, for children in the Wimberley Home Based program, challenges still occur in identifying next steps for those children turning three and thus exiting the Early Head Start Program.

The Community Action, Inc. of Central Texas – Head Start Program (ZERO-TO-FIVE) also collaborates with the Hays ISD School Age Parenting Education Program to serve the needs of pregnant teen and teen parents in the communities of Kyle and Buda. These programs are located at Lehman High School and Hays High School respectively. Issues of maintaining full enrollment in this program have arisen throughout the 2014-2015 school year which may be reflective of the a slight decrease in the percentage of births to single teens for Hays County (Kids Data Count 2014). In Caldwell County, Lockhart ISD maintains its own School Age Parenting Education Program; however, in Luling, the school district does not have its own School Age Parenting Education Program, therefore, the Community Action, Inc. of Central Texas Head Start Program (ZERO-TO-FIVE) works to serve those pregnant and teen parents.



Children with Disabilities Four Years or Younger

In terms of children with disabilities, community partners identified speech as the most commonly identified special need which echoes the need for more language development identified by the parent survey. The Community Action, Inc. of Central Texas – Head Start Program (ZERO-TO-FIVE) maintains partnerships to provide services to children with disabilities for speech services as well as other special needs. These partnerships include collaborations with local school districts, local Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) programs, and private therapy companies who provide services to children with disabilities who may not otherwise qualify for services offered through the local school district or ECI program. According to the Head Start 2013-14 Program Information Report (PIR), the Community Action, Inc of Central Texas – Head Start Program (ZERO-TO-FIVE) served 18 children who had an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) through a local ECI program, and 58 children who had an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) through a local school district.

Selection Criteria Worksheet

Selection Criteria	Possible Points		Points Awarded
Homeless	10		
Foster Child	10		
Receives SSI/TANF	10		
Domestic Violence	7		
CPS Involvement	7		
Teen Parent	7		
Grandparent raising grandchild	7		
High School Drop Out (Either parent-award points just once)	7		
Parent Incarceration (Either parent-award points just once)	7		
Language spoken in the home is usually non-English	7		
Diagnosed Disability of Child (points awarded by Disability Coordinator)			
Child Health Insurance	Medicaid/CHIP: 3	None: 5	
Mental Health	5		
Sibling in Head Start/Early Head Start or current EHS/HS (points awarded just once)	5		
Parent (s) Working (Either full-time or part-time)	Two Parents: 5	One parent: 3	
Parent (s) Unemployed (if indication that the person has had a history of being employed)	5		
Parent (s) In School (Either parent-award points just once)	5		

Substance Abuse	5		
Parent (s) in the Military (Either parent-award points just once)	3	If deployed: 5	
Pregnant Women* (only if applying for pregnancy)	5		
Parent Status (Single, Divorced, Separated, Widowed-award points only if no other person in household providing support)	3		
Public Housing/Section 8	3		
Ongoing Medical Condition	3		
Death of child's parent/guardian/sibling	3		
Participant in CAI programs (3pts each -max 6 points)	3		
Parent (s) has GED (Either parent-award points just once)	3		
WIC	3		
Housing (if have moved more than twice in the last year) *	3		
Transportation	3		
	Points Total		

The Community Action, Inc. of Central Texas – Head Start Program (ZERO-TO-FIVE) is a division of Community Action, Inc. of Central Texas which acts an umbrella organization that also includes programs that offer Health Services, Social Services, and Adult Education Services. Thus, a strength of the program in terms of resources available to Head Start families lies in the ability of the program to refer clients to other social service programs within the same agency. Health Services include family planning clinics, breast cancer awareness and outreach program, prescription assistance, and the Rural Aids Services Program. Social Services include utility assistance, case management, and senior citizens centers. Adult Education services include both ESL and GED classes as well as college preparation and career counseling services. Head Start families have access to all of these programs should they need these services, and staff work to ensure that the process of referral is smooth by communicating and coordinating with one another.

Community Action, Inc. of Central Texas

Head Start Services

Community Services

Adult Education

Health Services

Community Action, Inc. of Central Texas continues to maintain partnerships with many Community Organizations in order to best serve its clients. These partnerships include organizations/programs that offer child education and developmental care, health services, social services, disability services, mental health services, and nutrition services. Examples include community food banks, health clinics, shelters, etc (for a more complete listing of other Community Resources see also attached Community Resource Lists for each community).

Recommendations for Selection Criteria

Based upon the data presented within this report, it is recommended that the Selection Criteria remain in effect for the 2015-2016 school year. The largest numbers of points are assigned to those special categories identified by the Office of Head Start as priorities for eligibility. Program priorities to enroll working parents are considered as well as points added to those families enrolled in programs with similar priorities and income guidelines such as the Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC), Medicaid, and Section 8/Public Housing. Points are also assigned based upon needs identified by Head Start Parents, Staff, and Community Partners such as points assigned for GED and language dominance. Additionally, points are assigned based upon data from sources such as that of the U.S. census data on measures of poverty, grandparents raising grandchildren, etc. Lastly, points are assigned to reflect adverse experiences which affect the outcomes for children in their future (ie. household mental illness, substance abuse, incarcerated parents, etc) as indicated in the research of the field of early childhood.

Selection Criteria for Teen Parenting Program

Because of the dynamics at the teen parenting site which include an emphasis on ensuring that teens graduate on time, the selection criteria for these sites differ than that of the greater community. This selection criteria adds in the date of the prospective graduation of the students and assigns a higher number of points the closer a student is to graduation ie. a senior gets more points than a freshman. Also, special programs designated by the school as well as attendance are also given points (as designated by the PEP Program Coordinator).

HCISD PREGNANCY, EDUCATION & PARENTING PROGRAM

Supplement page / Needs Assessment

Student Name: _____ ID # _____ Due date/D.O.B. of child: _____

Please check the appropriate boxes:

1. I am a: Senior Junior Sophomore Freshman Other _____

5 pts 4 pts 3 pts 3 pts

2. I will graduate: Dec 2015 (5pts) May 2015 (5pts) Summer school 2015 (5pts)

May 2016 (4 pts) May 2017 (3 pts) May 2018 (3pts)

3. Do you have reliable transportation, other than the school bus? Yes No = 2pts

4. Someone in my house receives: Medicaid WIC Food Stamps TANF SSI
2pts 2pts 2pts 5pts 5pts

5. Does your child have a diagnosed disability? No Yes- If Yes provide documentation and describe the disability: These are given by the Disabilities & Mental Health Coordinator.

6. Are you currently or in the past 24 months experienced any of the following listed below?
 Yes No **5 pts**

- Child abuse investigation mental illness death of a parent, child, guardian,
- alcohol or substance abuse parent incarceration illness medical crises in home
- sensitive issue (other) disabled parent requiring medical ongoing care
- protective orders on file family violence 5th year recovery graduation plan
- not on target for 4 yr graduation failing grade (required courses) sensitive home issue

7. Is the primary and/or secondary caregiver enrolled and participating in an alternative high school, Odyssey, Academy, XLR8, education program, special training?
 1 parent full-time 2 parents full-time No
3 pts 6 pts

8. Have you and your children been homeless at any point in the past 12 months? Yes= 5pts No

10. Are you currently in foster care or kinship care? Yes= 5 pts No

11. Do you have other child care options if your child is not in the PEP center? No = 2pts Yes
Who is available? _____ How long? _____

For office use only 90= 9 pts 80= 8 pts 70= 7 pts 60=6pts 50=5 pts 40= 4 pts 30=3 pts 20=2 pts 10= 1 pt

Enrollment: **(2 each)** Attendance: _____ out of _____ =
_____ %

Codes on back of points _____ See attached list **TOTAL: If needed attendance will**
be used

Sheet _____ Status: Child = 5 pts Pregnancy= 3 pts

Total Selection pts + + =

Supp + Enr + Status