



Community Action, Inc. of Central Texas Head Start Program (zero-to-five) Community Assessment

Update
2015-2016

§ 1305.3 Determining community strengths and needs.

c) Each Early Head Start and Head Start grantee must conduct a Community Assessment within its service area once every three years. The Community Assessment must include the collection and analysis of the following information about the grantee's Early Head Start or Head Start area.



Disclaimer

The purpose of this Assessment is to maintain a data-driven, theoretically sound, and objective program planning process. The information presented in this Community Assessment was acquired and analyzed according to the most recent and relevant data available.

Executive Summary

The service area of the Community Action, Inc. of Central Texas – Head Start Program (zero-to-five) encompasses Hays and Caldwell Counties. This Community Assessment Update examines trends within these counties regarding services for children and families from low socio-economic backgrounds. Examination of any changes within these counties in terms of demographics including an examination of poverty statistics, racial demographics, family composition demographics and language proficiency demographics.

Additionally, this assessment examines community resources in Hays and Caldwell Counties available to families with children ages zero to five.

Current Head Start capacity is able to accommodate 40 % of children who meet all age and income eligibility requirements in Hays County, and 70 % of children in Caldwell County.

In 2015-2015, nearly _____ eligible children were not served because of limited program capacity.

Demographics

Basic demographics for both Hays and Caldwell Counties reflect little change from figures reported in the 2015 Community Needs Assessment; however, an update is reported below. One note is that the percentage of children in poverty continues to grow in Hays and Caldwell Counties although at a slower rate than the counties as a whole (Rural Capital Area Headlight Newsletter). Also, Hays County continues to be one of the fastest growing counties in the country as a whole.

Resources in the Community to Address the Needs of Head Start Eligible Children and their Families

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, 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).

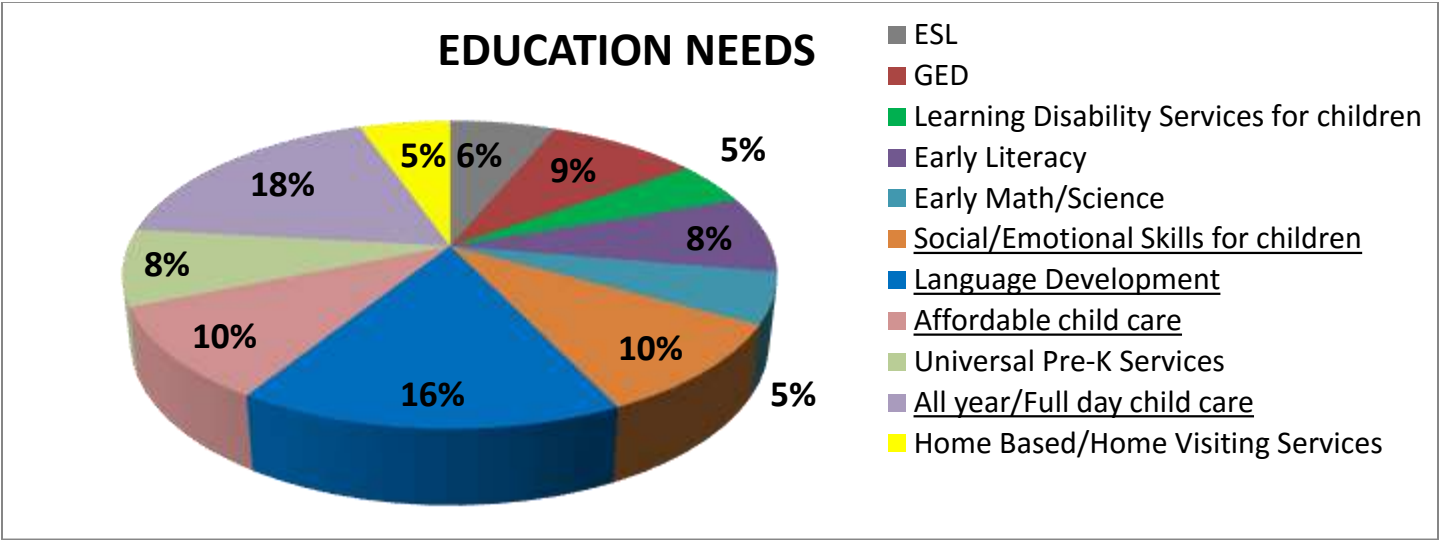
Hays County

According to the Rural Capital Area Headlight, a website offered through Rural Capital Area Workforce Solutions, which pulled data from the United States Census American Community Survey, Hays County with a population of 185,000 people has grown faster than the metro area and even the United States as a whole. From 2004-2014, the county's population grew 53%, growth that is primarily due to the migration of people into the county, accounting for 82% of the population in 2014 (Profile: Hays County). Also, while the overall population in poverty in Hays County has fluctuated, it was higher than average in 2014, rising from 12.6% to 17.5% between 2004 and 2014. The percentage of children in poverty was 17.4% in 2014. Hays County's population is 56% White, of which 37% Hispanic, 4% Black, and 1% Asian. These numbers reflect very little change from the makeup of the county in 2013. The percentage of homes where a language other than English is spoken is 28.2%, 25.8% of which the language spoken is Spanish.

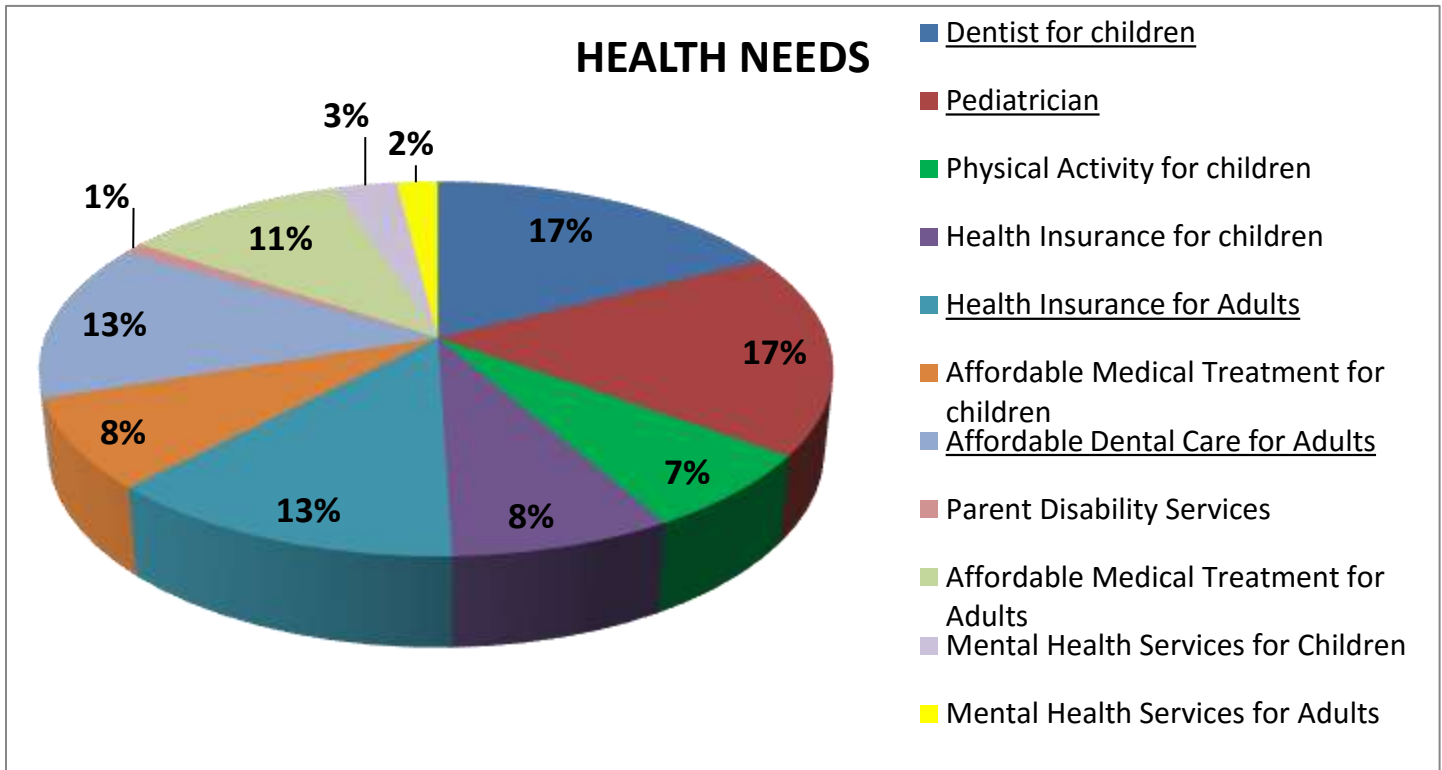
Mirroring the increase in growth reflective of Hays County as a whole, the three largest communities of San Marcos, Buda, and Kyle, have also experienced tremendous growth. The fastest of these communities is Buda which has experienced an estimated 56.1% change in population between 2010 (population estimate 7,343) and 2014 (population estimate 11,461). The cities of San Marcos and Kyle have also experienced a large amount of estimated growth between 2010 and 2014 with San Marcos at 30.7% and Kyle at 17.4% (statistics for the city of Wimberley were unavailable on Quickfacts). Persons living in poverty as reported by the Census Quickfacts are highest for the city of San Marcos at 37.1% of its population. Buda's rate is second at 8.9%, followed by Kyle at 6.4%.

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. According to its 2014-2015 District Profile on the Texas Education Agency Academic Performance Report, SMCISD's enrollment is 7,736 students (an increase from the previous year by 235 students), 71.4% of which are considered Economically Disadvantaged. The profile of SMCISD also reports that the district's percentage of English Language Learners served is 9.0%, and its Pre-Kindergarten enrollment is 4.7% of its population. Hays Consolidated Independent School District serves 17,904 students (an increase of 699 students from last year), 49.8% of which are considered Economically Disadvantaged, 15.8% are English Language Learners, and 2.7% are Pre-Kindergartners. Kindergarten and First Grade are available in all communities. The addition and expansion of Pre-Kindergarten remains the most notable change in services offered by the public education system although it is still not available to the total population, but remains income based.

Survey Results Hays County – Kyle

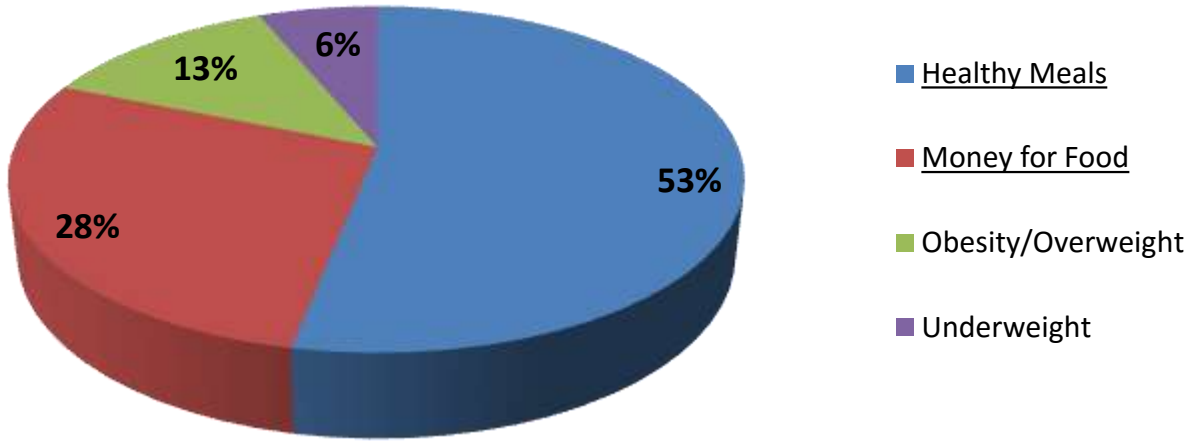


A total of 61 surveys were collected in the city of Kyle, TX. 49 parents/guardians believe there are enough Education resources in the community, with 33 stating these resources are easy to get to. 5 families believe there are not enough resources.



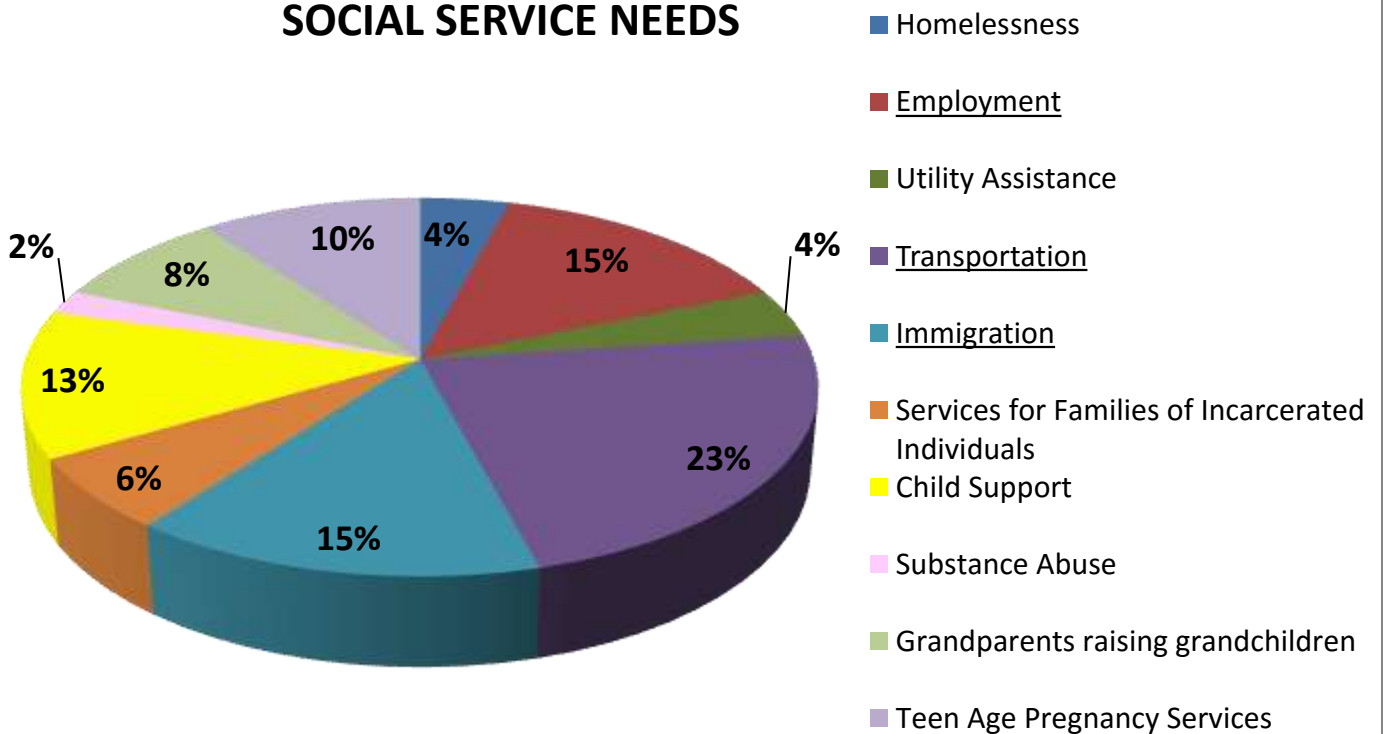
42 parents/guardians believe there are enough Health resources in the community, with 29 stating these resources are easy to get to. 11 families believe there are not enough resources.

NUTRITION NEEDS



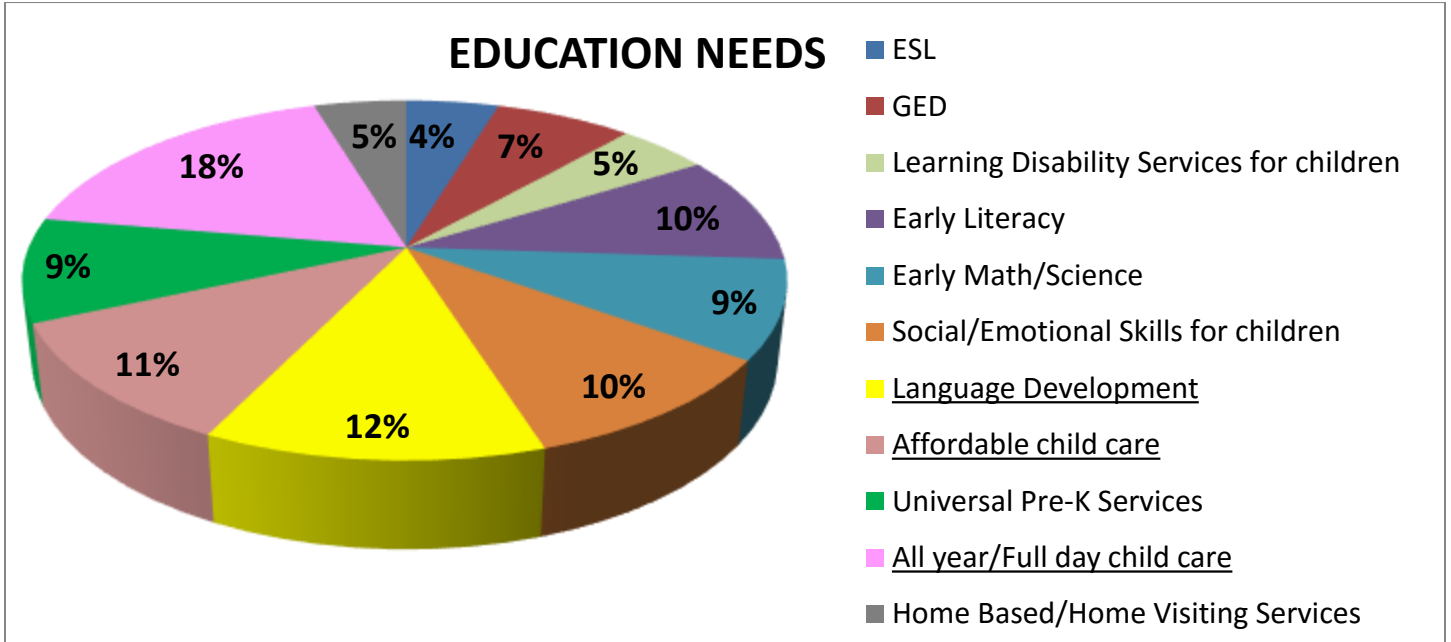
44 parents/guardians believe there are enough Nutrition resources in the community, with 26 stating these resources are easy to get to. 6 Families believe there are not enough resources.

SOCIAL SERVICE NEEDS

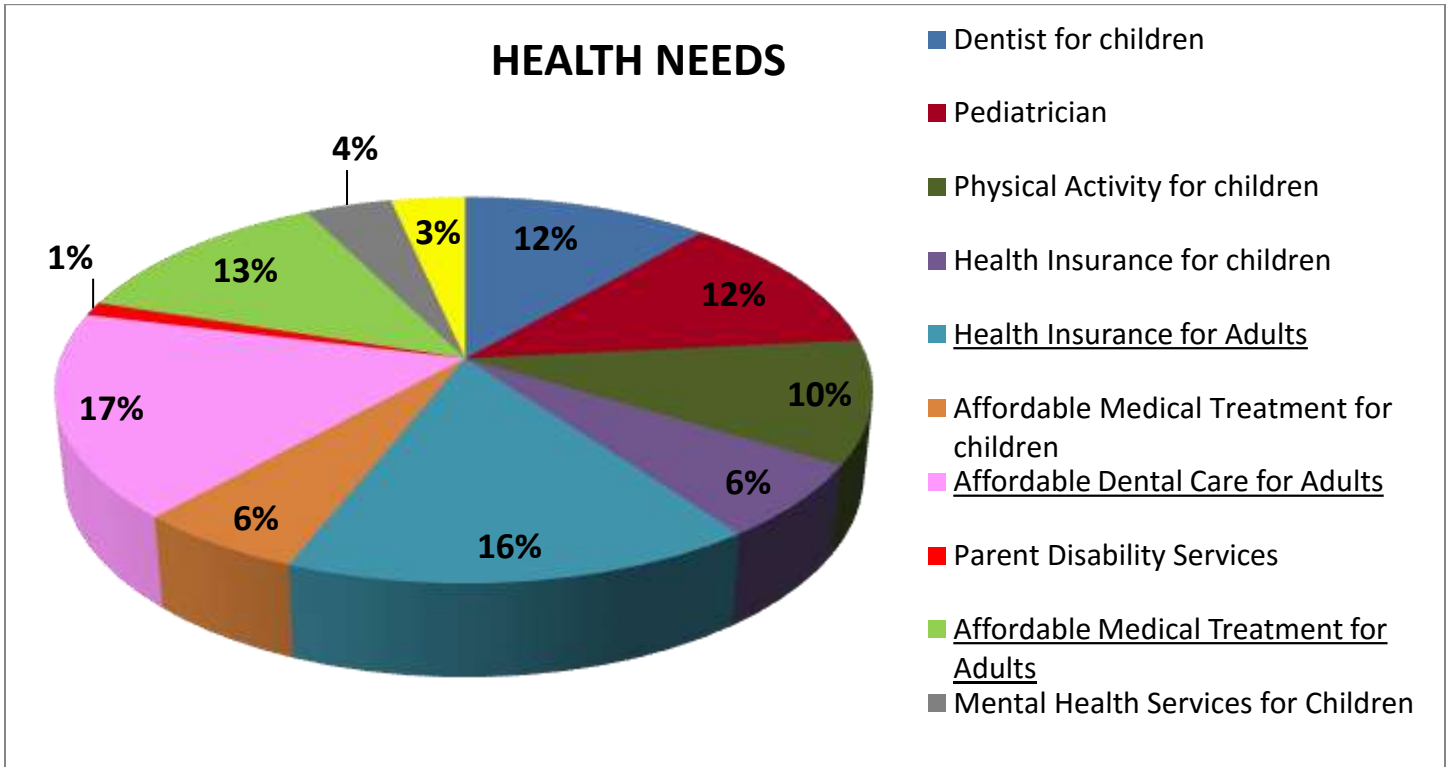


39 parents/guardians believe there are enough Social Service resources in the community, with 27 stating these resources are easy to get to. 8 Families believe there are not enough resources.

Survey Results Hays County – San Marcos

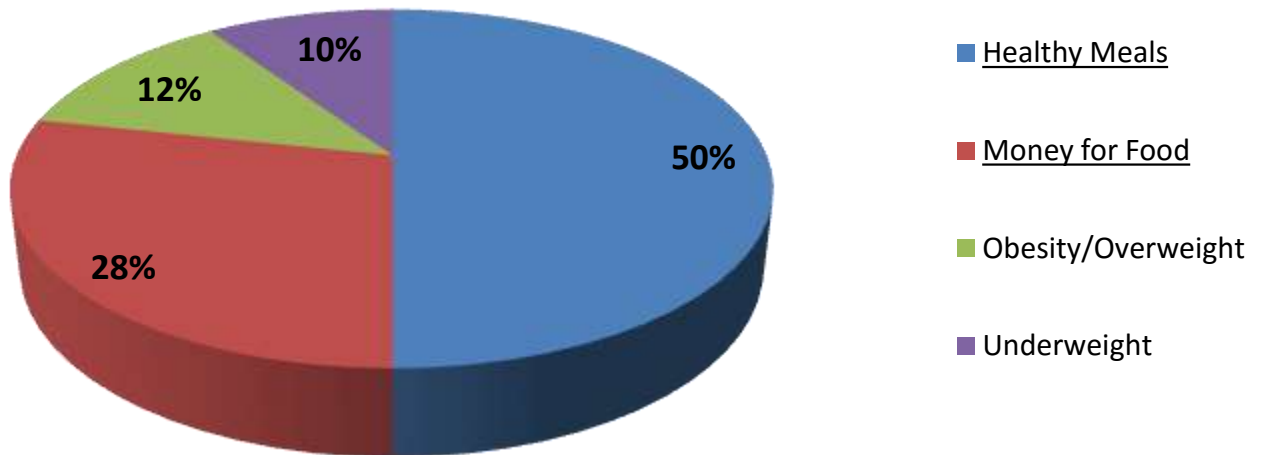


A total of 91 surveys were collected in the city of San Marcos, TX. 77 parents/guardians believe there are enough Education resources in the community, with 54 stating these resources are easy to get to. 7 families believe there are not enough resources.



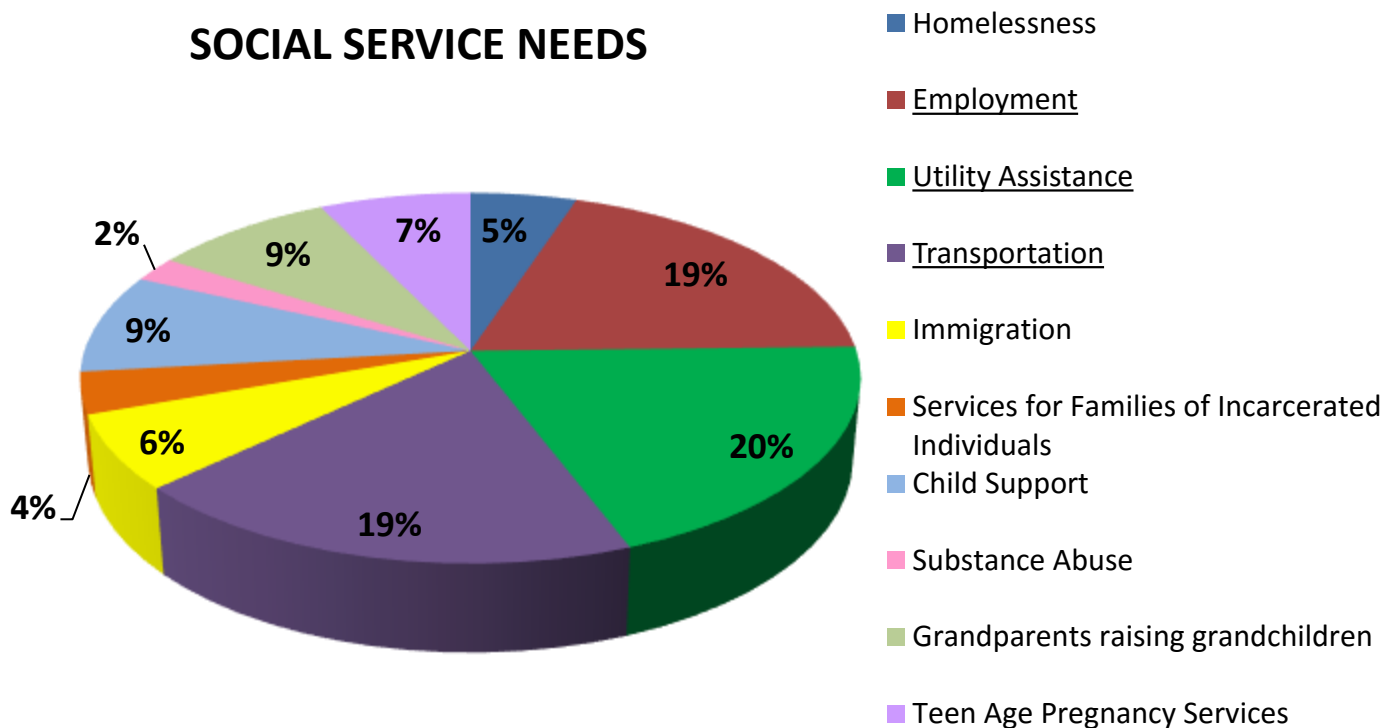
64 parents/guardians believe there are enough Health resources in the community, with 38 stating these resources are easy to get to. 18 families believe there are not enough resources.

NUTRITION NEEDS



75 parents/guardians believe there are enough Nutrition resources in the community, with 49 stating these resources are easy to get to. 6 believe there are not enough resources.

SOCIAL SERVICE NEEDS



68 parents/guardians believe there are enough Social Service resources in the community, with 37 stating these resources are easy to get to. 13 believe there are not enough resources.

Caldwell County

Caldwell County is a much smaller county with a population of 39,800 people. According to the Rural Capital Area Headlight website, the population grew 11% from 2004-2014; however, its growth was primarily from natural increase, births minus deaths, at 54% unlike Hays County. Caldwell County's poverty rate for 2014 is 16% which represents a drop of 4 percentage points from 2012; however, it is still an increase from its poverty rate in 2004 when it was at 15%. The percentage of children in poverty was 23.7% in 2014.

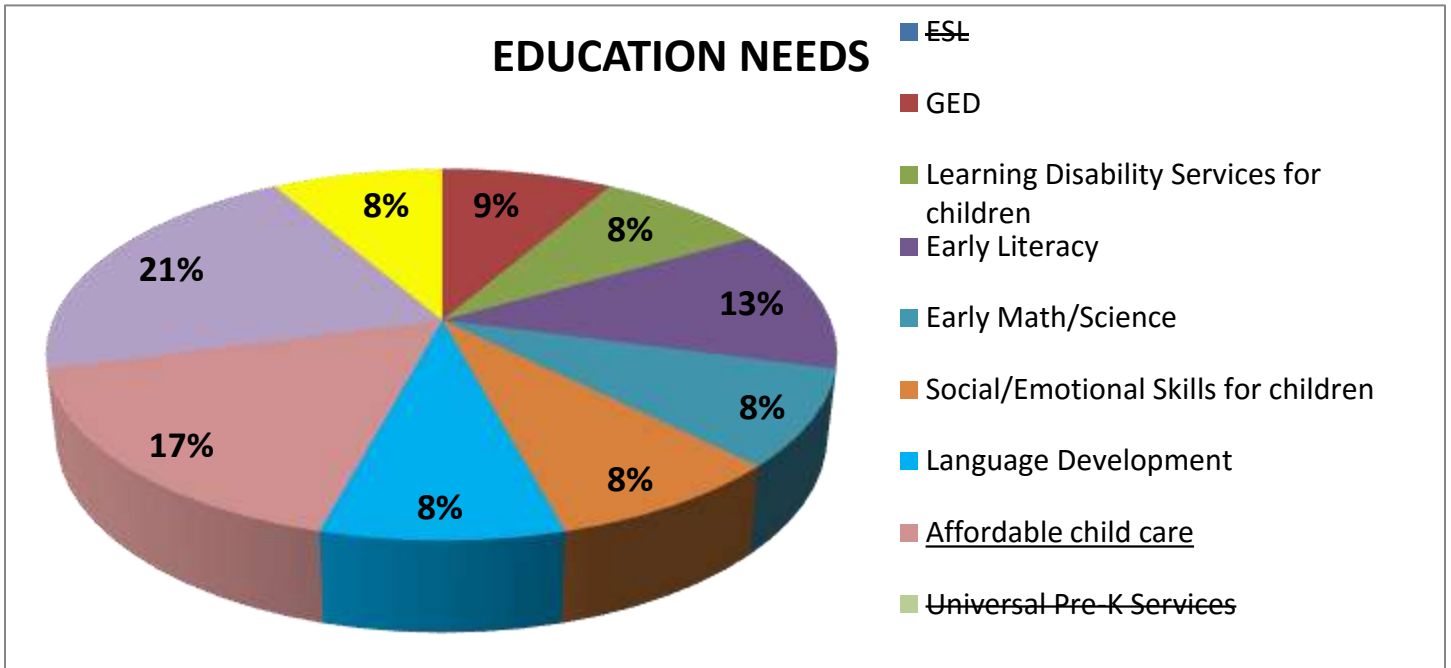
The profile posted for Caldwell County on the Rural Capital Area Headlight website also notes that the educational attainment statistics (as pulled from the United States Census American Community Survey) are lower than Texas' average showing that 78% of residents had at least a high school degree and only 16% had a Bachelor's Degree or higher. Caldwell County's population is 42% white, 49% Hispanic, 7% Black, and 1% Asian, numbers which reflect, just as in Hays County, very little change from the makeup of the county in 2013. The percentage of homes where a language other than English is spoken is 30.3%, 29.4% of which the language spoken is Spanish.

Within Caldwell County, the cities of Lockhart and Luling represent two of the largest communities with Lockhart's population an estimated 13,232 people and Luling an estimated 5,732 people. Estimates of growth for these communities from 2010 to 2014 according the Census Quickfacts are 4.2% for Lockhart and 5.9% for Luling. Persons in poverty in Lockhart make up 15.3% of its population whereas they make up 17.2% of the population in Luling.

In Caldwell County, the two largest school districts are Lockhart Independent School District (Lockhart ISD) and Luling Independent School District (Luling ISD). According to its 2014-2015 District Profile on the Texas Education Agency Academic Performance Report, The Lockhart Independent School District serves 5,351 (an increase from the previous school year 238 children, 70.2% of which are considered Economically Disadvantaged, 15.4% are English Language Learners, and 4.6% 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 1,375 students (a decrease from the previous year of 52 students), 71.7% of which are Economically Disadvantaged, 13.2% are English Language Learners, and 4.4% are Pre-Kindergartners. Kindergarten and First Grade are available in all communities.

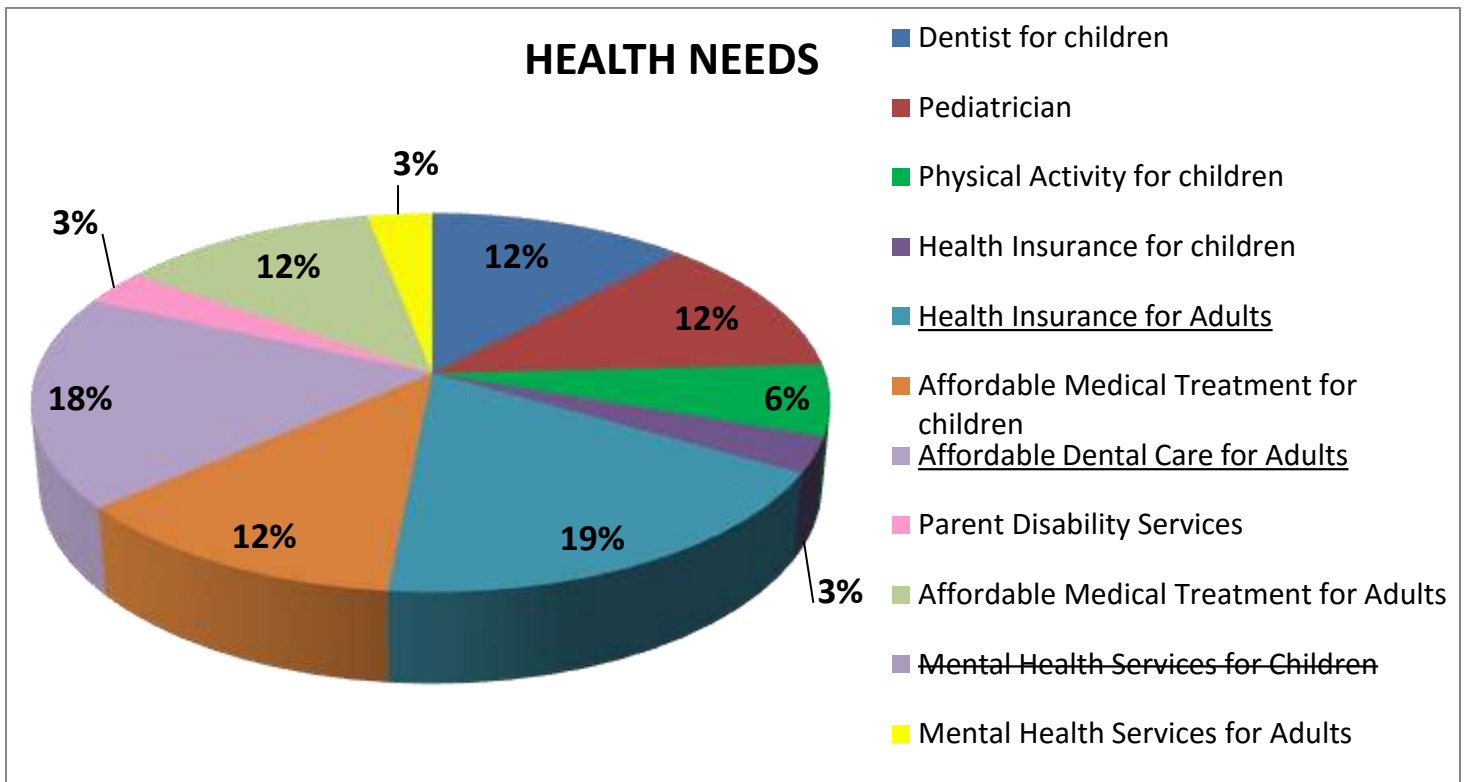
Using the demographic information referenced previously including the overall population of each community, determining what percentage of that population is under the age of 5, then multiplying that number times the poverty rate in that community, a number of Head Start children may be determined (see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

Survey Results Caldwell County – Luling



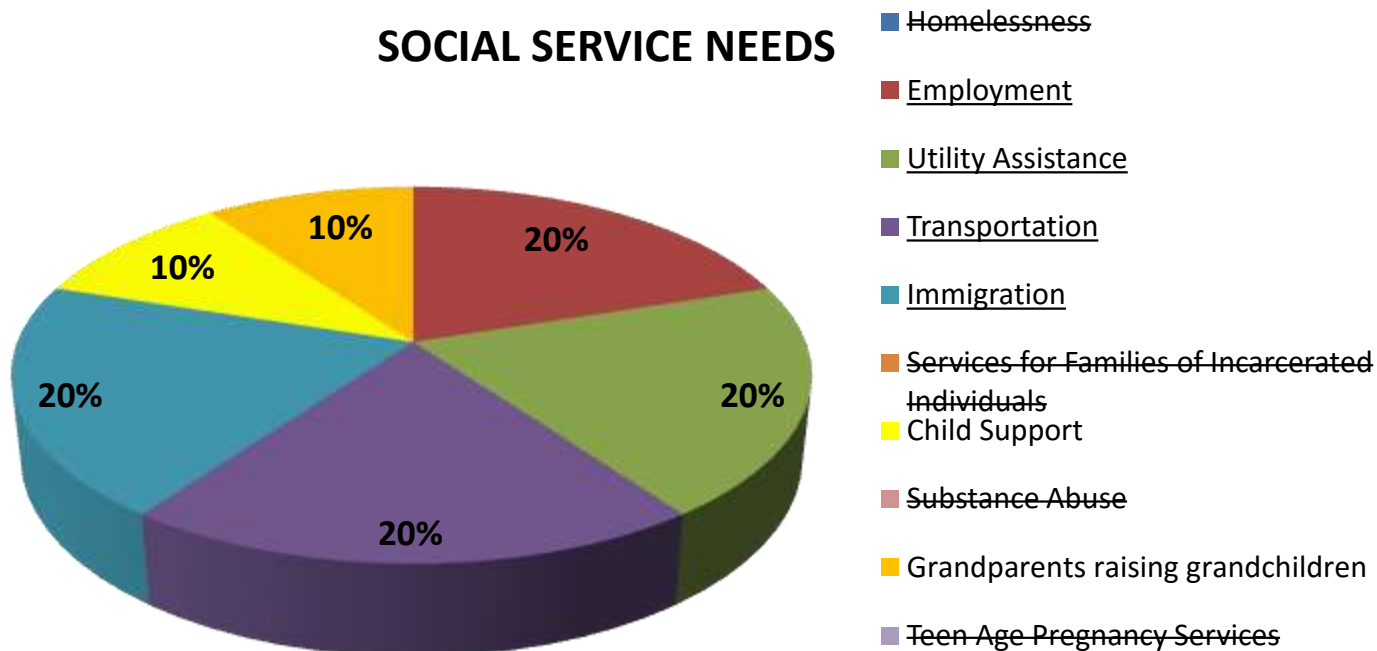
A total of 24 surveys were collected in the city of Luling, TX.

18 parent/guardians believe there are enough Education resources in the community, with 10 stating these resources are easy to get to. 5 families believe there are not enough resources.



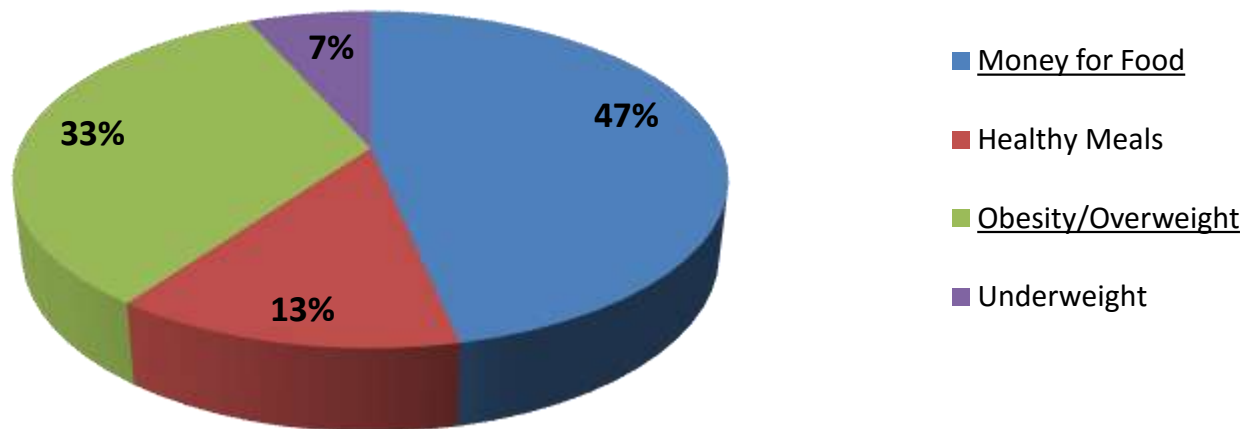
16 parent/guardians believe there are enough Health resources in the community, with 10 stating these resources are easy to get to. 5 families believe there are not enough resources.

SOCIAL SERVICE NEEDS



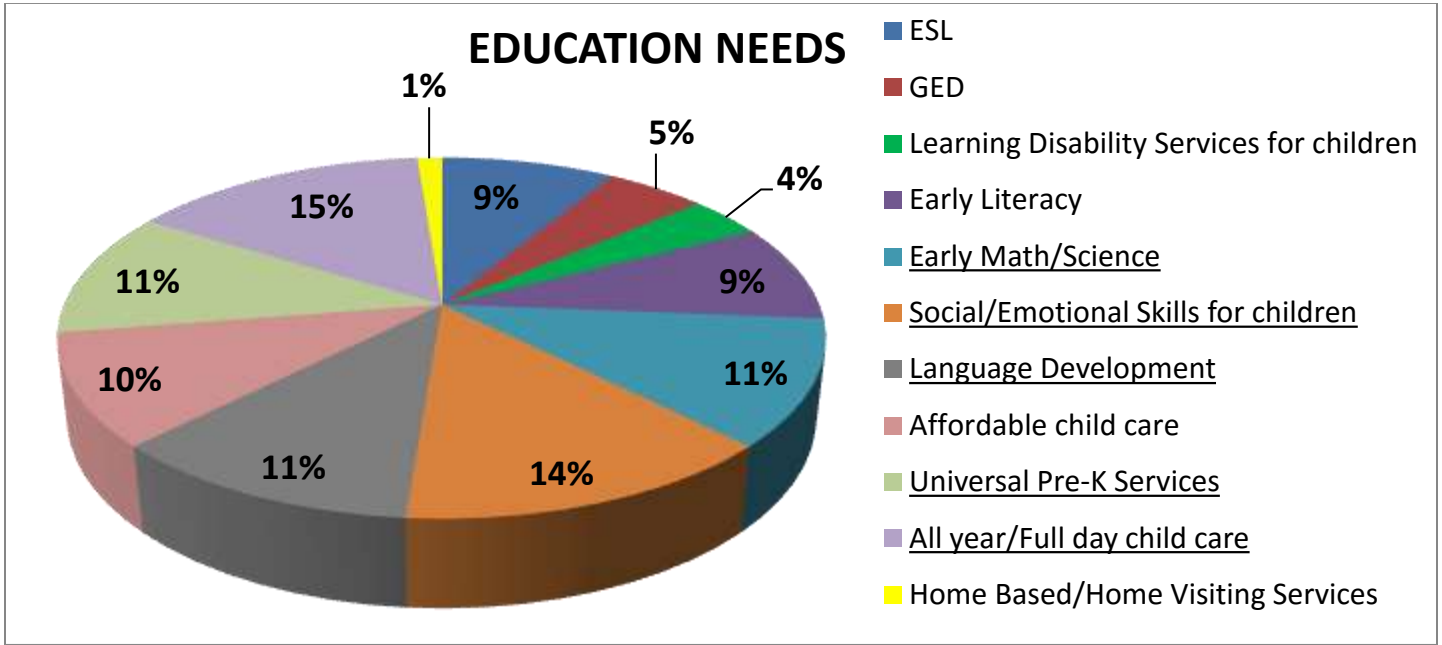
15 parent/guardians believe there are enough Social Service resources in the community, with 4 stating these resources are easy to get to. 1 family believes there are not enough resources.

NUTRITION NEEDS



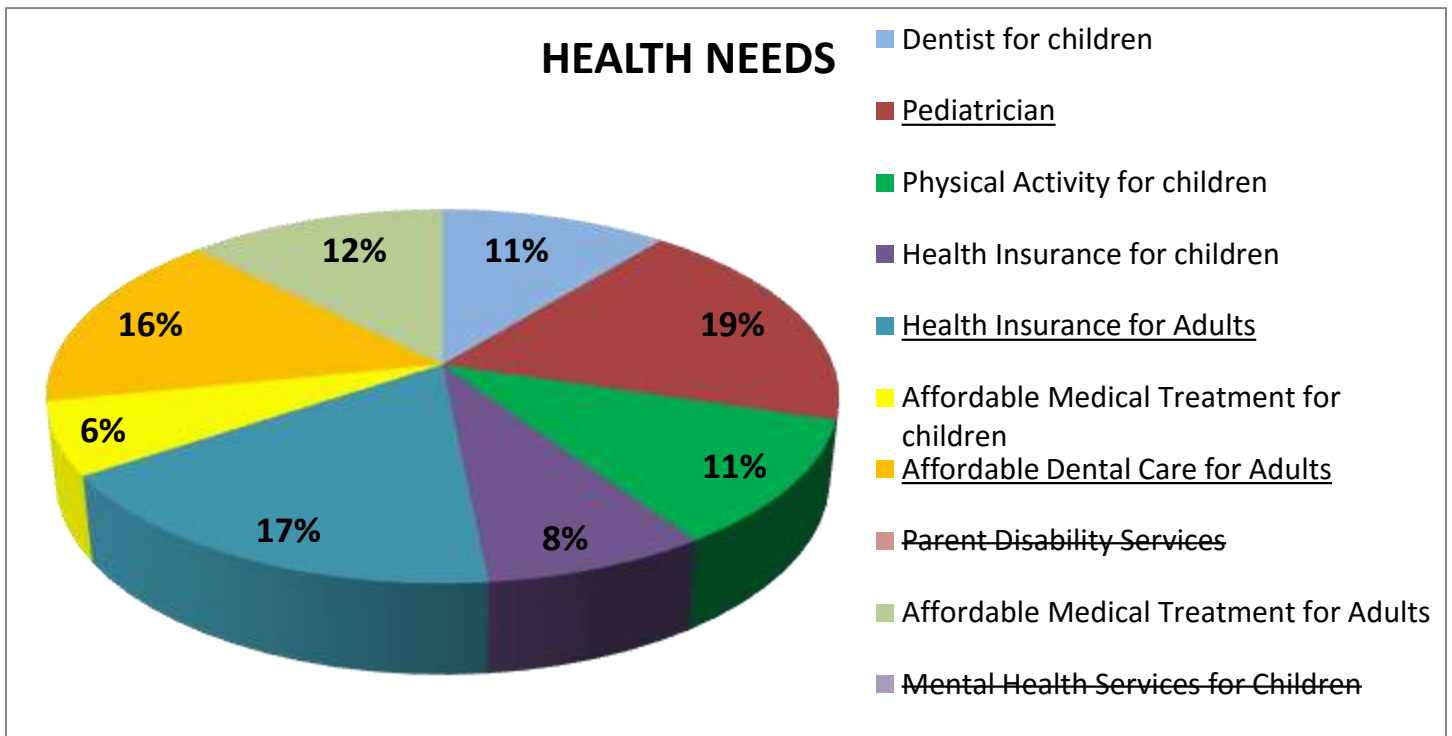
15 parent/guardians believe there are enough Nutrition resources in the community, with 7 stating these resources are easy to get to. 2 families believe there are not enough resources.

Survey Results Caldwell County – Lockhart



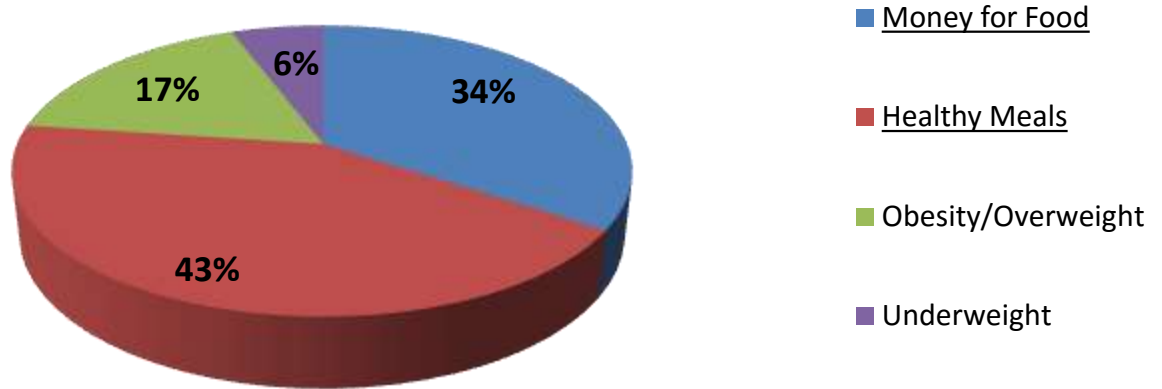
A total of 45 surveys were collected in the city of Lockhart, TX.

31 parent/guardians believe there are enough Education resources in the community, with 22 stating these resources are easy to get to. 9 families believe there are not enough resources.



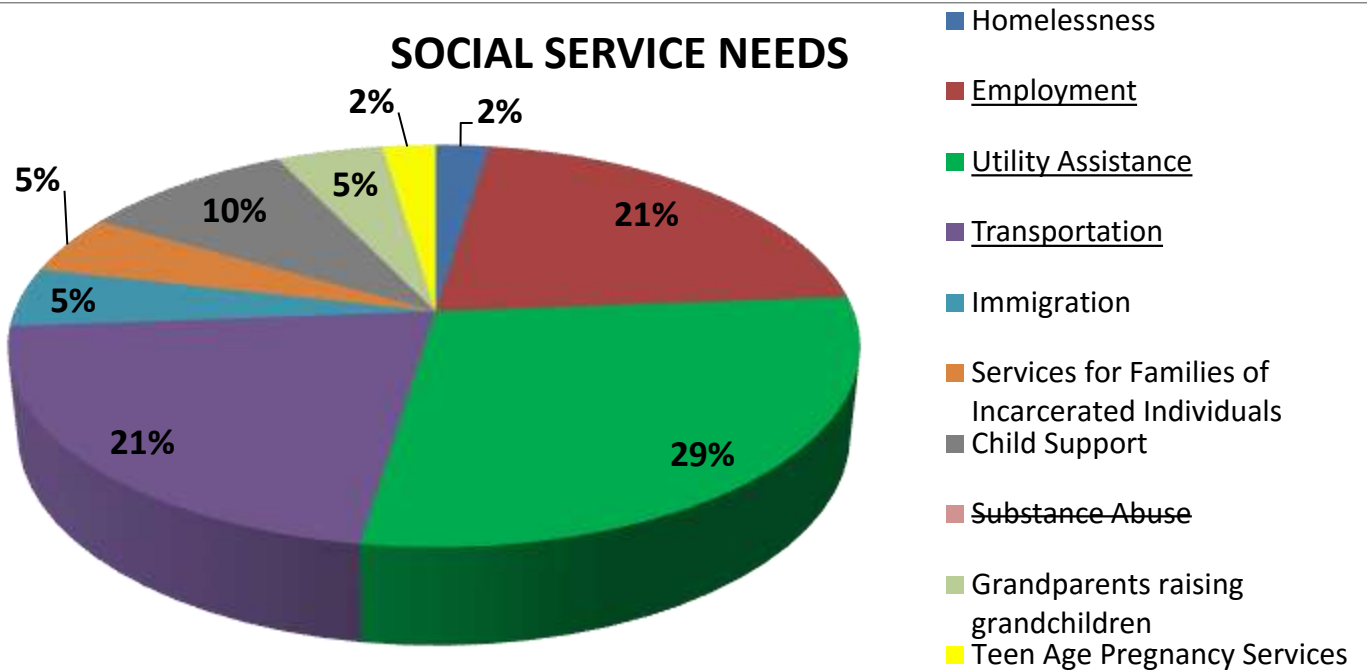
22 parent/guardians believe there are enough Health resources in the community, with 14 stating these resources are easy to get to. 14 families believe there are not enough resources.

NUTRITION NEEDS



32 parent/guardians believe there are enough Nutrition resources in the community, with 28 stating these resources are easy to get to. 7 Families believe there are not enough resources.

SOCIAL SERVICE NEEDS



31 parent/guardians believe there are enough Social Service resources in the community, with 21 stating these resources are easy to get to. 9 families believe there are not enough resources.

Community	Population	Percent of Population under the age of 5	Poverty Rate	Estimated number of Head Start Program zero-to-five eligible children
HAYS COUNTY				
San Marcos	58,892	4.5 %	37.1%	983
Kyle	32,881	9.8 %	6.4 %	206
Buda	11,461	10.0 %	8.9 %	102
Wimberley	2,600	5.3 %	22.1%	31
CALDWELL COUNTY				
Lockhart	13,232	5.2 %	15.4%	105
Luling	5,732	5.4 %	15.6 %	48

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; 141 are allotted to Kyle/Buda; 84 to Lockhart; 74 to Luling; and 12 to Wimberley.

Community	Early Head Start Funded Enrollment	Head Start Funded Enrollment	Total Funded Enrollment
HAYS COUNTY			
San Marcos	60 Infants and Toddlers	168 (100 Pre-K)	228
Kyle/Buda	47 Infants and Toddlers	94 (60 Pre-K)	141
Wimberley Home-Based	12 Infants and Toddlers	0	12
TEXAS HOME-VISITING SERVICE GOALS 196 FAMILIES			
CALDWELL COUNTY			
Lockhart	16 Toddlers	68 (34/Pre-K)	84
Luling	28 Infants & Toddlers	46 (29 Pre-K)	74

According to the Program Information Report (PIR) for the 2014-15 school year, the Community Action, Inc. of Central Texas Head Start Program (ZERO-TO-FIVE) enrolled 625 children cumulatively (400 in the Head Start Program and 225 in the Early Head Start Program including 17 pregnant women), 94.6% (591) 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 in terms of ethnicity, 88.8% were Hispanic with 9.6% classifying themselves as non-Hispanic. In terms of racial categories of those enrolled, clients identified themselves in the following way: 88.5% White, 2.2% Black, 8.5% Biracial or Multiracial, .5% American Indian or Alaska Native, and .2% Asian. Spanish was the primary language at home for 26% of enrollees.

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 and board members, and conducted focus groups with agency staff. Staff focus groups included home visiting staff and family advocate staff.

Parent survey results showed similarities in priorities across all communities surveyed; however, the staff focus groups showed a slightly different perspective in some areas from that represented by the parent surveys and identified additional needs, not necessarily identified as highest priorities by parents.

For example, when surveyed about the Educational Needs of children and families, parents often identified their top three needs as **affordable child care, all year/full day child care, universal Pre-K services, and language development**. Whereas, staff focus groups also added **adult education such as English as a Second Language (ESL) and General Equivalency Diploma (GED)** classes as a needs in all communities. Both staff and parents identified priority Health and Nutrition needs that reflected concerns about the **lack of affordable health care for adults including dental care and affordable health insurance**. **Transportation and employment** were the top needs identified by parent surveys whereas staff added **affordable housing** as a need as well.

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

The Community Action, Inc. of Central Texas – Head Start Program (zero-to-five) developed strong collaborations with SMCISD, Hays ISD, Lockhart ISD, and Luling ISD. An collaboratively serves **223 four year old children and their families**. 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. 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 – 56; Caldwell County – 12) slightly lower than last year where they were 59 and 14 respectively.

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 and Hays High Schools respectively. During 2014-15 school year, due to mobility of the teen population, unstable home life/homelessness, the Program experienced difficulties maintaining a full enrollment. In 2015-2016 the Program is experiencing the same challenges; however teen parent population continues to be the most vulnerable at risk population. Pregnant teens are at high risk for poor prenatal and post-partum outcomes. Pregnant teens have inique circumstances that require a different approach than provided to pregnant adults. Teen parents lack parenting skills and are at high risk for child abuse and neglect. Teen mothers and fathers are less likely to finish high school and most likely to have poor long-term outcome

In Caldwell County, Lockhart ISD maintains School Age Parenting Education Program; however, in Luling, the school district does not have 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 at its Luling Early Head Start Center.

As mentioned above, in addition to licensed child care centers, other child development services offered to children in each community include public Pre-K services offered by each school district with which the

Community Action, Inc. of Central Texas – Head Start Program collaborates (see School District Pre-Kindergarten Services Chart). These collaborations are all unique and are largely dependent upon how services are offered by the public school. For example, for those districts that offer a part day or half day model, the Community Action, Inc. of Central Texas - Head Start Program offers program services that extend the classroom services so that the children receive educational services all day rather than just part of day. Although Pre-K services for four year old children are offered in all of these communities, services to three year old children are limited; school districts often limit the services they provide to three year old children to only those with special needs as defined by their criteria. Therefore, Community Action, Inc. of Central Texas Head Start services to three year old children in each of these communities help bridge the gap for these three year olds.

Children with Disabilities Four Years or Younger

In terms of children with disabilities, staff focus groups 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 23 children who had an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) through a local ECI program, and 50 children who had an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) through a local school district (43 of which had an identified speech and language impairment and 30 other various disabilities).

Expansion of Pre-Kindergarten Services in San Marcos, Hays County

One of the greatest changes in services to families and children within Hays and Caldwell Counties has been in the expansion of Pre-K services in two of the school districts located within these counties and with whom the Community Action, Inc. of Central Texas – Head Start Program (zero-to-five) collaborates to serve four year old children. These two school districts are San Marcos Consolidated Independent School District in Hays County, and the Lockhart Independent School District in Caldwell County. In collaboration with SMCISD, Community Action currently serves 100, 4 year old children, while with LISD, Community Action serves 34, 4 year old children.

At the end of the 2014-2015 school year, San Marcos CISD opened Bonham Pre-Kindergarten School, a standalone Pre-Kindergarten Center. Previously, services to Pre-K students in San Marcos were provided at one of the district's elementary schools, Hernandez Elementary, which served grades Pre-K through 5th Grade. In shifting to this standalone Pre-Kindergarten Center, San Marcos CISD was able to expand its capacity to serve 4 year old children including offering a tuition based option for families that would not otherwise qualify for Pre-Kindergarten under current state guidelines. The Bonham Pre-Kindergarten center currently uses 20 of its classrooms, serving approximately 400 children (class sizes range from 19 – 22 children each), but has the capacity to serve up to 600 children. Of the 400 children served, 100 children are served in 5 classrooms through the collaboration with the Community Action, Inc. of Central Texas – Head Start Program. The collaboration has struggled to maintain full enrollment in part because

of a previous expansion of San Marcos CISD Pre-Kindergarten services from half day to full day for all of its classrooms (previously only the Head Start collaboration classrooms had provided full day services). The expanded capacity has put an additional strain on maintaining full enrollment within the Head Start collaboration.

In addition to the expansion of services in San Marcos, Lockhart Independent School District is also proposing to expand its Pre-Kindergarten services for the 2015-2016 school year, in part because of the addition of a new Elementary school (Alma Brewer Strawn Elementary) to their district (a school which will include serving the Lytton Springs/Dale area of Lockhart ISD). Previously, Pre-K services were offered at Carver Kindergarten and Bluebonnet Elementary Schools. CAI Head Start program provides services to 34 Pre-K age children in collaboration with LISD at Carver Kindergarten campus which has presented some challenges in the past in terms of enrollment as some parents of 3 year old Head Start Children have chosen for their children to attend Bluebonnet Elementary instead of Carver Kindergarten, which caused a decrease in enrollment numbers in the Head Star collaboration classrooms at Carver Kindergarten. Development of the new Campus, Strawn Elementary, will further pose challenges to enrollment in the Head Start collaboration classrooms at Carver Kindergarten because, at this time, 53% of three year old children in the current Head Start Program in Lockhart (18 of 34 currently enrolled) live in the Lytton Springs/Dale area which will be served by Strawn Elementary. CAI Head Start Program will make a collaborative decision with LISD on slot allocation and placement based on community needs.

Recommendations for Selection Criteria

Based on the data presented within this report, it is recommended that the Selection Criteria presented with minor correction for 2016-2017 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 and Staff 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. (Attached Appendix A & B)

Recommendations for slot allocations in each community are as follows

Community	Early Head Start Funded Enrollment	Head Start Funded Enrollment	Total Funded Enrollment
HAYS COUNTY			
San Marcos	60 Infants and Toddlers	168 (100 Pre-K)	228
Kyle/Buda	47 Infants and Toddlers	94 (60 Pre-K)	141
Wimberley Home-Based	12 Infants and Toddlers	0	12
TEXAS HOME-VISITING SERVICE GOALS 196 FAMILIES Currently Enrolled			
Wimberly Buda Kyle San Marcos			
CALDWELL COUNTY			
Lockhart	16 Toddlers/12 infants & Toddlers in home-based program option	54 (20/Pre-K)	84
Luling	28 Infants & Toddlers	48 (31 Pre-K)	76