



Suwannee Valley 4Cs Head Start/Early Head Start

Community Assessment

Full Assessment: 2013-2014

Update 1: 2014-2015

Update 2: 2015-2016

Update 3: 2016-2017-Draft 1

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Section 1: Introduction

Mission Statement

We will empower and support children and their families through the provision of early childhood services.

Purpose of Community Assessment

Suwannee Valley 4Cs 2013-2014 Community Assessment provides demographic data and relevant community information to identify the strengths, needs, and trends that impact the design and implementation of the Head Start and Early Head Start programs.

Methodology

Every three years, Suwannee Valley 4Cs conducts a comprehensive community assessment to stimulate strategic thinking about the Head Start and Early Head Start programs, services provided, needs within the community and community strengths. The 2013-2014 Community Assessment is year one of this three-year cycle. During the intervening years, (years two and three), a review of the aggregate community demographic and program data is performed to ascertain if any significant changes have occurred that would need to be addressed. Head Start Program Performance Standard 1302.11(b) issued September 2016 has changed the cycle from three years to a five-year cycle.

The 2013-2014 Community Assessment provides in-depth information and analysis focused on strengths, needs and resources of families with children birth to five years old in the service area. The assessment was accomplished by gathering qualitative and quantitative data aimed at:

- Establishing the current status of eligible children and families in the service area.
- Preparing an inventory of the community's strengths and available resources for eligible children and families.
- Gauging the needs of the eligible children and their families.
- Enhancing the understanding of the gaps between existing community services and the needs of eligible children and their families.
- Increasing the understanding of cultural demographics and diverse groups within the community that are eligible for services.
- Identifying current and initiating new community partnerships beneficial for families and children served.
- Ascertaining community knowledge regarding the Head Start and Early Head Start programs and Suwannee Valley 4Cs' mission.

Suwannee Valley 4Cs collected and analyzed data from the communities it serves. Data was reviewed from a variety of sources, including the Florida Department of Health, Florida Department of Education, County Social Services and Health Departments, as well as Suwannee Valley 4Cs Program Information Report (PIR). Community members were invited to share their perspectives and knowledge as well as to brainstorm ideas for future planning through a community input survey. Two parent surveys were disseminated to determine the needs and

challenges of Head Start children and families. The majority of the data comes from published sources available online or in a draft form from the originating public agencies.

Program Overview

Suwannee Valley Community Coordinated Child Care, Inc. (Suwannee Valley 4Cs) is a private, non-profit corporation formed in 1985. Suwannee Valley 4Cs was initially awarded the Head Start grant for Columbia, Hamilton, Lafayette and Suwannee counties in September of 1996. In September of 1998, the agency was awarded the Early Head Start grant for Columbia County and received an Early Head Start expansion grant for Hamilton and Suwannee counties in the summer of 2003. In March 2010, the agency was awarded another Early Head Start expansion grant to serve an additional 64 infants and toddlers in Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee counties through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

The Head Start program serves 303 children and their families in all four counties of the service area. Suwannee Valley 4Cs provides a high-quality preschool program for low-income families and serves eligible children from three to five years old. The program works with the whole family and relies on parent engagement. The program includes components addressing Education, Health, Disabilities, Social Services, Nutrition, Mental Health and Parent Engagement.

Suwannee Valley 4Cs Early Head Start program serves 176 infants, toddlers (birth to age three) and pregnant women in three of the counties (Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee) within the service area. The program provides high-quality child care and child development services and support for families designed to foster health, early education and economic stability. Prenatal and postnatal education and mentoring are provided to enrolled pregnant moms.

There are currently seven Head Start sites and four Early Head Start sites within the service area. All children are served under the center-based option.

<u>Early Head Start Sites</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Number of Classrooms</u>	<u>Funded Enrollment</u>
Lawton’s Place	Columbia	878 NE Jackson Ave, Lake City, FL 32055	9	72
Jasper Learning Center	Hamilton	6183 NW Hwy. 41, Jasper, FL 32052	4	32
Jennings Learning Center	Hamilton	1432 SW Turrett Ave, Jennings, FL 32053	2	16
Azalea Park First Class	Suwannee	405 SW Walker Ave, Live Oak, FL 32060	7	56

<u>Head Start Sites</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Number of Classrooms</u>	<u>Funded Enrollment</u>
The Learning Center	Columbia	258 SW Columbia Ave, Lake City, FL 32025	7	140 ¹
Ft. White Learning Center	Columbia	18033 SW State Rd 47, Fort White, FL 32038	1	20
Jasper Learning Center	Hamilton	6183 NW Hwy. 41, Jasper, FL 32052	2	29
Jennings Learning Center	Hamilton	1432 Turrett Ave, Jennings, FL 32053	1	20
Mayo Learning Center	Lafayette	173 NE Hawkins, Mayo, FL 32066	1	17
Branford Learning Center	Suwannee	103 NW Express St, Branford, FL 32008	1	17
Live Oak Learning Center	Suwannee	843 SW Marymac St, Live Oak, FL 32060	3	60 ¹

¹2015-2016 Update: The Head Start program now serves 278 children; Early Head Start serves 192 children. In August 2015, fifteen (15) Head Start slots were restored to the Live Oak

Learning Center to bring funded enrollment for the site to 75. In October 2015, forty Head Start slots in Lake City were converted to 16 Early Head Start slots at The Learning Center.

Program Options and Service Area Locations

The seven Head Start centers operate on a 10-month cycle with operational calendars that closely coincide with the service area public school calendars. Each Head Start classroom operates under the center-based, single session/full-day option, with the exception of two full-year classrooms at the Lake City site serving 40 children. The staffing pattern in each Head Start classroom is one Lead Teacher plus one Teacher or Teacher Assistant. Center staff is supervised by five Site Coordinators and the Head Start Coordinator.

Each Early Head Start classroom operates under the center-based, single session/full-day/full-year option. The staffing pattern is one Teacher for every four infants or toddlers. Efforts are made to maintain continuity of care by keeping the same teacher with the same group of four children for the entirety of the child's enrollment in Early Head Start. Each Early Head Start site has a transition room to assist children and families in the program to successfully transition from infant/toddler experiences to preschool experiences. Center staff is supervised by four Site Coordinators and the Early Head Start Coordinator.

Columbia County (Lake City and Ft. White): The Lake City Head Start Learning Center is located several blocks from downtown Lake City and serves 140 children and their families on leased property. The Lake City Early Head Start program, named Lawton's Place, is located on agency-owned property, donated by the City of Lake City, near the Richardson Community Center and serves 72 children and their families and pregnant women. The Fort White Head Start Learning Center, a Head Start site serving 20 children and their families, is located on land owned by the Columbia County School Board adjacent to the Fort White High School.

Suwannee County (Branford and Live Oak): The Branford Head Start Learning Center, serving 17 children and their families, is located on agency-owned property two blocks from downtown Branford, approximately one-half mile from Branford Elementary School. The Live Oak Head Start Learning Center provides services to 60 children and their families at an agency-owned facility and property conveniently located within the city. The Live Oak Early Head Start site, called Azalea Park First Class, provides services to 56 children and their families and pregnant women on land partially donated by First Federal Savings Bank and partially owned by the agency.

Hamilton County (Jasper and Jennings): The Jasper Head Start (serving 29 HS children and their families) and Early Head Start (serving 32 children and their families, and pregnant women) Learning Center, is located adjacent to the Jasper public elementary school on land donated by the Hamilton County School Board. The Jennings Learning Center, an agency-owned facility and property conveniently located near the Jennings Elementary school, serves 20 Head Start and 16 Early Head Start children and their families, and pregnant women.

Lafayette County (Mayo): The Mayo Head Start Learning Center serves 17 children and their families with the classroom located on agency-owned property adjacent to the public school complex.

Section 2: Service Area Description, Population Estimates and Geographic/Industry Data

The Suwannee Valley 4Cs Head Start service area - comprised of the four rural counties of Columbia, Hamilton, Suwannee and Lafayette – is located in extreme north central Florida and is designated as a “Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern”. The majority of the service area is rural undeveloped land or farmland, with population widely scattered throughout the service area. Since public transportation in the service area is non-existent, the land area itself is the feature with the most impact on program-eligible children and families, with transportation to educational and social services the major challenge for many families in the service area.

Service Area Data

	County Rank	Population Estimate	Square Miles	Population Density (per square mile)	Population Growth 2000-2010
Columbia	40	67,850	797	85	19.5%
Hamilton	61	14,762	515	29	11.0%
Lafayette	66	8,619	543	16	26.3%
Suwannee	44	44,475	688	64	19.2%
Service Area	-	135,706	2,543	53	19.0%
State	67 counties	18,801,332	65,755	349	17.6%

Census 2010-Office of Economics and Demographic Research

The population increase in the service area of approximately 19% over the last two census cycles (2000 and 2010) nearly matches the upward trend of near 18% statewide.

Individual county information follows.

Columbia County

County Rank	Population Estimate	Square Miles	Population Density (per square mile)	Population Growth 2000-2010
40 th of 67	67,850	797	85	19.5%

Columbia County borders the state of Georgia on the north and is located in a rapidly growing region of North Central Florida. The intersection of two major interstate highways, I-75 and I-10, is located in the heart of Columbia County in Lake City. The county is also served by multiple rail lines. In the past 25 years the population has nearly doubled, with a current population of approximately 67,850. It is the most populated county in the service area. The top four major employers in Columbia County are the county school board, VA Medical Center, TIMCO (aircraft maintenance) and PCS Phosphate (phosphate mining) based on information from the local chamber of commerce.

Hamilton County

County Rank	Population Estimate	Square Miles	Population Density (per square mile)	Population Growth 2000-2010
61 st of 67	14,762	515	29	11.0%

Hamilton County is located west of Columbia County, and shares its northern border with the state of Georgia. The county is divided by I-75, a major north/south corridor, and the east/west

corridor of I-10 that nearly parallels the county's southern border. The population estimate includes a prison population of 3,044 or 20% of the total county population. The most populated areas in the county include the City of Jasper (located in the heart of the county), followed by the Town of Jennings and White Springs. Although some population growth is seen in Jennings/White Springs, the county is growing at nearly half the rate of the other counties in the service area and is the third least populated in the four county service area. Major employers in Hamilton County are PCS Phosphate, healthcare, retail, the Department of Corrections, the county school board and the county government based on information from the local chamber of commerce.

Lafayette County

County Rank	Population Estimate	Square Miles	Population Density <i>(per square mile)</i>	Population Growth 2000-2010
66 th of 67	8,619	543	16	26.3%

Lafayette County is located south-west of Columbia County, midway between Tallahassee to the northwest and Gainesville to the southeast. The population estimate includes a prison population of 2,086 or 23% of the total county population. The county is second to last in population density of all Florida counties and the least populous county in the service area. US Highway 27 is the major transportation route through the county. Primary private sector employers in the county are in the corrections, healthcare and agricultural products industries.

Suwannee County

County Rank	Population Estimate	Square Miles	Population Density <i>(per square mile)</i>	Population Growth 2000-2010
44 th of 67	44,475	688	64	19.2%

Suwannee County borders Columbia County to the west. As the county's name implies, the meandering Suwannee River has a big influence on the county, and forms three of its four boundaries (North, West, and South). Interstate 10 runs through the northern portion of the county, and the Interstate 75 interchange is a short distance east of the county line in Columbia County. CSX Railways operates east/west rail service through the northern part of the county. The largest private sector employers are in the industries of poultry, manufacturing and healthcare.

Section 3: Demographic and Socioeconomic Data

The total estimated population of the Suwannee Valley 4Cs Head Start and Early Head Start service area is 135,706 based on 2010 U. S. Census Bureau data. The following tables provide a more detailed look at the demographics and socioeconomic profiles of each county.

Table 1. Service Area Population by Race / Ethnicity / Age / Gender

	Columbia	Hamilton	Lafayette	Suwannee	Service Area
Population Estimates	67,850	14,762*	8,619**	44,475	135,706
White	79%	64%	83%	85%	78%
Black	18%	33%	15%	12%	19%
Other	3%	3%	2%	3%	3%

Table 1.a Ethnicity

Hispanic	5%	10%	12%	10%	9%
Non-Hispanic	95%	90%	88%	90%	91%

Source: Florida Department of Health, County Health Profile 2012

**20% or 3,044 prison population **23% or 2,086 prison population*

Table 1.b. Age and Gender

Ages	Columbia		Hamilton		Lafayette		Suwannee		Service Area	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
< 5	2088	2048	374	382	223	227	1326	1292	4011	3949
Total <5	4,136		756		450		2,618		7,960	
Percent of estimated population <5	6.0%		5.1%		5.2%		5.9%		5.55%	
5-14	4243	4072	820	756	495	525	2749	2674	12%	
15-24	5278	3866	1702	732	898	418	3018	2345	14%	
25-44	8837	7500	2495	1296	1797	809	6083	4608	25%	
45-64	9466	9477	2276	1815	1199	897	5901	6037	32%	
65-74	3080	3346	642	662	323	342	2275	2484	8%	
>74	1969	2580	342	468	204	262	1541	2142	7%	

Source: Florida Department of Health, County Health Profile 2012

2014-2015 Update: There were no significant changes in the indicators in Table 2 with the exception of ‘All people with related children under 5 in poverty’. (See shaded section of table.) The poverty estimates are based on data from the American Community Survey Five Year Estimate 2009-2013 available through the U. S. Census Bureau.

2015-2016 Update: There were no significant changes in the indicators in Table 2 with the exception of ‘All people with related children under 5 in poverty’. (See shaded section of table.) The poverty estimates are based on data from the American Community Survey Five Year Estimate 2010-2014 available through the U.S. Census Bureau.

Table 2. Socioeconomic Indicators

Indicator	Columbia	Hamilton	Lafayette	Suwannee
Per Capita Income	\$29,966	\$21,022	\$19,972	\$28,027
Median Household Income	\$37,534	\$36,875	\$44,180	\$36,159
Average Family Size	3.0	3.05	3.10	2.97
Estimated Households by type w/children under 18 yrs				
Family households	6,749 ^a	1,172	800	4,122
Married couple families	4,100	689	578	2,614
Male householder, no wife present	727	108	66	453
Female householder, no husband present	1,922	375	156	1,055
Rate of Single Parent Households	39%	41%	28%	37%
Estimated Poverty Rates by type w/children under 5 yrs^{2,b}				
Family households	23%	36%	7%	42%
Married couple families	20%	31%	(x)	14%
Female householder, no husband present	30%	49%	(x)	71%
All people with related children under 5 ²	36%	45%	27%	41%
<i>2014-2015 Update: All people with related children under 5^b</i>	38%	53%	26%	48%
<i>2015-2016 Update: All people with related children under 5^b</i>	43%	57%	33%	48%
<i>2016-2017 Update: All people with related children under 5^b</i>	39%	57%	28%	49%
Births to mothers >18 w/o high school education ⁵	17%	35%	19%	25%
Births to mothers ages 15-19 ⁵	21%	39%	15%	26%
Births to unwed mothers ⁵	52%	65%	42%	54%
Percent of population >25 without a high school diploma ⁴	18%	26%	19%	20%
Percent of estimated population in workforce ³	45%	31%	34%	41%
Unemployment rate ³	6.1%	8.0%	6.1%	5.7%
High school graduate or higher, persons over 25	81%	75%	82%	81%
Bachelor Degree or higher	13%	8%	10%	10%
Language spoken at home other than English	6.8%	9.3%	9.8%	8.1%

(x)-data not available

Source: Office of Economic and Demographic Research, Florida Legislature, ²American Community Survey 5 Year Estimate 2008-2012,

³U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Bureau of Labor Market Statistics, November 2013, ⁴Florida Department of Health, County Health Profile 2012, ⁵ Florida Department of Health, Pregnancy and Young Child Profiles

2014-2015 Update:

“The American Community Survey (ACS) 5 Year Estimate 2009-2013 shows a 14% drop in this number to 5,774, all other counties remained stable in number of family households.

^b ACS 5 Year Estimate 2009-2013

The Teen Pregnancy and Prevention Program, taken up by state government leaders, is an initiative that emphasizes the importance of education (staying in school), personal responsibility (abstinence), and building lasting relationships. Since the initiative began, the Florida teen birth rate has dropped significantly from 20.3% in 2010 to 15.4% in 2012.

2014-2015 Update: Florida’s teen birth rate – The downward trend for teen pregnancies continues with the 2013 rate at 12%.

2015-2016 Update: Florida’s teen birth rate – The downward trend for teen pregnancies continues with the 2014 rate at 10.5%.

2016-2017 Update: Florida’s teen birth rate – The downward trend for teen pregnancies continues with the 2015 rate at 9.5%.

Poverty Guidelines

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) updates the poverty guidelines at least annually and by law these updates are applied to eligibility criterion for programs such as Medicaid, Head Start and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Poverty Guidelines are updated annually. See below.

Poverty Guidelines				
Persons in family/household	Poverty guideline 2014	Poverty guideline 2015	Poverty guideline 2016	Poverty guideline 2017
1	\$11,670	\$11,770	\$11,880	<u>\$12,060</u>
2	\$15,730	\$15,930	\$16,020	<u>\$16,240</u>
3	\$19,790	\$20,090	\$20,160	<u>\$20,420</u>
4	\$23,850	\$24,250	\$24,300	<u>\$24,600</u>
5	\$27,910	\$28,410	\$28,440	<u>\$28,780</u>
6	\$31,970	\$32,570	\$32,580	<u>\$32,960</u>
7	\$36,030	\$36,730	\$36,730	<u>\$37,140</u>
8	\$40,090	\$40,890	\$40,890	<u>\$41,320</u>
<i>(2014) For families/households with more than eight persons, add \$4,060 for each additional person.</i>		<i>(2015 & 2016) For families/households with more than eight persons, add \$4,160 for each additional person.</i>		<i><u>(2017) For families/households with more than 8 persons add \$4,180 for each additional person.</u></i>

The following table provides estimated data for the service area from the U. S. 2010 Census and the American Community Survey. A range has been given for potentially eligible Head Start children based on the poverty indicators listed.

Local eligibility indicators are provided in Section 7 - Head Start Eligible Population.

Table 3. Range of Potentially Eligible Children – National and State Data

	Columbia	Hamilton	Lafayette	Suwannee
Estimated Children 1 – 5 yrs¹	4,136	756	450	2,618
All people, in poverty, with related children under 5 (estimate) ²	36%	45%	27%	41%
Number of potentially eligible based on estimated poverty rate	1,489	340	122	1,073
2014-2015 Update:				
All people, in poverty, with related children under 5 (estimate) ^b	38%	53%	26%	48%
Number of potentially eligible based on estimated poverty rate	1,572	401	117	1,257
2015-2016 Update:				
All people, in poverty, with related children under 5 (estimate)	43%	57%	33%	48%
Number of potentially eligible based on estimated poverty rate	1,778	431	149	1,257
2016-2017 Update:				
<u>All people, in poverty, with related children under 5 (estimate)</u>	<u>39%</u>	<u>57%</u>	<u>28%</u>	<u>49%</u>
<u>Number of potentially eligible based on estimated poverty rate</u>	<u>1,613</u>	<u>431</u>	<u>126</u>	<u>1,282</u>

Source: ¹ Florida Department of Health, County Health Profile 2012 ² American Community Survey 5 Year Estimate 2008-2012 (x)-data not available

2014-2015 Update: ^b ACS 5 Year Estimate 2009-2013; 2015-2016 Update: ACS 5 Year Estimate 2010-2014; 2016-2017 Update: ACS 5-Year Estimate 2011-2015

Unemployment

The U. S. Department of Labor (DOL), Bureau of Labor Statistics, in a report released December 20, 2013, stated Florida’s current unemployment rate as 6.2%. The report tracks only recently unemployed workers who have responded to a DOL survey in the last four weeks.

The estimate of joblessness in the service area, as presented in the following table is based on statistics from the U. S. Department of Labor four-week survey.

Statistics do not provide number of under-employed workers – i.e. working part-time but need full-time employment, those who are no longer looking for employment or working at jobs that pay far less than previous occupations and doing tasks for which they are over-qualified.

Table 4. Unemployment Statistics by County

	Population Estimate	% of Population in Workforce	Workforce Estimate	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployed Rate			
						2013	2014-2015 Update:	2015-2016 Update	2016-2017 Update
Columbia	67,850	45%	30,544	28,688	1,856	6.1%	5.2%	4.8%	<u>5.0%</u>
Hamilton	14,762	31%	4,641	4,268	373	8.0%	7.5%	5.4%	<u>4.4%</u>
Lafayette	8,619	34%	2,897	2,719	178	6.1%	6.0%	6.0%	<u>4.1%</u>
Suwannee	44,475	41%	18,533	17,484	1,049	5.7%	5.5%	5.5%	<u>5.1%</u>

SOURCE: U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Bureau of Labor Market Statistics, November 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016

Section 4: Education, Health/Nutrition and Social Services Information

Education

Florida’s high school graduation rate has consistently increased over the past ten years and has improved by almost 16% in that timeframe, from 59.2% in 2003-04 to 75.6% in 2012-13. The state dropout rate has remained steady at near 2% for the time period shown in the following table.

Each county in the service area, with the exception of Hamilton County, has shown marked improvement in both the graduation rates and dropout rates over the five-year reporting period keeping pace with the state rates on average.

The following tables provide high school graduation and ninth through twelfth grade dropout rates by county.

2014-2015 Update: Significant changes are seen in both tables with the addition of 2013-2014 percentages.

2015-2016 Update: Significant changes are seen in both tables with the addition of the 2014-2015 percentages.

Table 5. High School Graduation Rates by County*

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14 ¹	2014-15 ²	2015-16
Columbia	56.6%	59.9%	63.2%	64.8%	65.7%	61%	71%	75%
Hamilton	47.7%	52.6%	65.0%	55.0%	55.5%	78.6%	73.7%	83%
Lafayette	64.1%	81.3%	63.8%	65.8%	87.5%	80%	80.7%	93.2%
Suwannee	52.7%	53.7%	54.4%	59.5%	59.5%	76.6%	67.5%	89.6%
FLORIDA	65.5%	69.0%	70.6%	74.5%	75.6%	76.1%	77.8%	80.7%

Source: 2012-13 Florida Department of Education (FDOE) cohort graduation data as of 10/18/13.

**Florida’s graduation rate is 75.6%, but that does not mean that 24.4 % of students in the cohort are dropouts. In a cohort, students can be classified as graduates, dropouts and non-graduates. Non-graduates include students who have been retained and are still in school, received certificates of completion or received GED-based diplomas. In Florida’s 2012-13 cohort, 4.6% of the students dropped out and 19.8% were retained or earned a certificate of completion, special diploma or GED-based diploma.*

¹2014-2015 Update: FLDOE cohort graduation data as of 11/2014; ²2015-2016 Update: FLDOE cohort graduation data as of 11/2015; ³2016-2017 Update: FLDOE cohort graduation data as of 12/12/16

Table 5a. 9th-12th Grade Single-Year Dropout Rates by County

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14 ¹	2014-15	2015-16
Columbia	0.7%	0.6%	0.6%	0.5%	0.3%	0.3%	0.64%	n/a
Hamilton	3.6%	4.4%	2.7%	3.1%	4.2%	1.9%	3.61%	n/a
Lafayette	0.7%	0.3%	1.6%	1.2%	0.3%	0.6%	1.45%	n/a
Suwannee	3.4%	2.7%	1.3%	1.3%	0.6%	0.8%	0.33%	n/a
FLORIDA	2.3%	2.0%	1.9%	1.9%	2.0%	1.9%	1.78%	3.8%

Source: 2012-13 Florida Department of Education (FDOE) Automatic Student Database as of 11/1/13.; ¹2014-2015 Update:

FLDOE cohort dropout data as of 11/17/14; ²2015-2016 Update: FLDOE cohort dropout data as of 2/27/15;

Table 6. Educational Attainment Data - People 25 years and older

Attainment	Columbia	Hamilton	Lafayette	Suwannee	SV4Cs Family Intake 2013²	SV4Cs Family Intake 2014²	SV4Cs Family Intake 2015^{2*}	Florida
Less than a High School Diploma	18%	26%	19%	20%	21%	25%	26%	15%
High School Diploma or equivalent	82%	74%	81%	80%	42%	47%	49%	85%
Bachelor Degree or higher	13%	8%	10%	10%	2.5%	2%	2%	26%

*Sources: Florida Department of Health Florida Charts 2010, ²PIR *25% of parents have associate degree, vocational degree or some college. This category of data is not available through FDOH.*

The service area is home to Florida Gateway College, located in Columbia County. North Florida Community College, approximately 55 miles west of the service area, is located in nearby Madison County. Both institutions offer early childhood education classes for credential and degree-seeking students. Suwannee Valley 4Cs has working relationships with both institutions.

For the 2012-2013 school year, 136 students obtained an Associate of Science degree from Florida Gateway College - only three of those were in Early Childhood Education. North Florida Community College for the 2012-2013 academic year awarded 170 associate degrees with eleven awarded for Early Childhood Education. In the state of Florida for the same school year, 12,936 students were awarded associate degrees.

The following table reflects the number of Early Childhood Education associate degrees awarded recently by the two colleges. The agency maintains communication links with both institutions. Both colleges are sources for degreed and credentialed early childhood education teachers when a vacancy occurs in one of our classrooms.

Table 7. Early Childhood Education Associate Degrees Awarded

College	AS/AA				Early Childhood Education, AS			
	2012-13	2013-14 ¹	2014-15	<u>2015-16</u>	2012-13	2013-14 ²	2014-15	<u>2015-16</u>
FGC	136	118	112	<u>112</u>	3	6	2	<u>2</u>
NFCC	170	194	133	<u>187</u>	11	19	1	<u>1</u>

Sources: FGC Fact Book 2012-13 presents the 2010-2011 completers

NFC Fact Book 2012; ¹2014-2015 Update: FGC Fact Book 2013-2014 presents the 2011-12 completers; ²NFCC Fact Book 2013-2014 presents the 2012-13 completers; 2015-16 Update: FGC Fact Book 14-15, NFCC Fact Book 13-14

Credentialed teacher information by county was not available. The service area has one vocational school which offers early childhood education classes for CDA credential seekers.

Health/Nutrition

Overall Service Area Health Indicators

The following table of health indicators by county in the service area reflects the most current data available from the Florida Department of Health website. The food insecurity estimates are based on information provided by feedingamerica.org using 2001-2012 data. The grandparents raising grandchildren indicator is compared to family intake information for the program in section 8 of this assessment.

Indicator	Florida	Columbia	Hamilton	Lafayette	Suwannee
Poor or fair health, Adults who classify their overall health as	17.10%	22.10%	23.30%	25%	24%
Adult smoking	18%	24%	21%	17%	24%
Adult obesity	27.20%	30.90%	44.80%	41.70%	27.40%
Food Insecurity Rate-Overall ¹	17.9%	17.7%	20.4%	15.6%	16.8%
Food Insecurity Rate-Children ¹	27.6%	27.1%	27.4%	25.9%	29%
Heavy/binge drinking	17.6%	11.3%	18.5%	6.5%	15.5%
Alcohol-impaired driving deaths	861	7	2	3	7
Sexually transmitted infections	101,872	467	127	18	215
Medical Checkup in past year	69.70%	66.00%	65.90%	57.1%	65.4%
Mammography screening	54.70%	49.30%	50.50%	49.00%	61.90%
PSA screening last 2 years	71.90%	75.60%	54.40%	59.30%	72.60%
Diabetes, diagnosed (adults)	10.40%	12.00%	11.10%	9.80%	12.70%
Uninsured, non-elderly	24.10%	21.03%	20.60%	27.20%	23.70%
Preventable hospital stays (per 100,000)	1217.6	1306.3	1294.4	817.7	1582.5
Adequate social support	79.50%	72.40%	78.50%	71.70%	75.00%
Grandparents raising grandchildren 18 yrs old and under	38.30%	51.60%	69.80%	48.60%	48.20%
Domestic violence 2011-13 total offenses	327,757	1,537	177	37	385
Air Quality: Days with particulate matter over 2.5	0	<i>Not available</i>	<i>Not available</i>	<i>Not available</i>	<i>Not available</i>
Fluoridated water supplies	77%	0%	0%	0%	66.10%
Housing units	8.9 mil	28,451	5,743	3,365	19,025
Housing units vacant	20.44%	16.38%	22.11%	19.10%	16.53%

¹ *feedingamerica.org estimate*

Access to Health Care Providers

The entire population of Hamilton, Lafayette and Suwannee counties has been federally designated as medically underserved in primary health, dental health and mental health fields. Only the low-income population of Columbia County has been federally designated as medically underserved in primary health, dental health and mental health fields.

Access to Dental Care

According to the Florida Department of Health's 'Report on the 2009-2010 Workforce Survey of Dentists', there are nearly 9,400 active dentists in the state, of those, only 1,500 or 16% are enrolled as Medicaid providers. The survey reported 56% of respondents cited low compensation as the reason for not accepting Medicaid. Further, the report estimated that during fiscal year 2009-2010, 2.1 million children (under age 18) were eligible for Medicaid, but only 21% of those received a dental service paid for by Medicaid. A more current report was not available as of this assessment.

Health Access Settings Definition and Dental Hygienists' Scope / Area of Practice Expanded

In May 2011, the Florida governor signed into law a bill increasing access to preventative dental care by broadening the definition of health access settings to include school-based prevention programs, including Head Start programs, and widening the scope of practice for dental hygienists to include dental charting, applying fluorides and sealants and performing dental cleanings in these expanded settings.

Fluoridated Water

In the rural counties of the service area, especially in the outlying regions, access to fluoridated water is nonexistent and a challenge beyond the scope of the agency.

Barriers for families in the service area in accessing dental care include not only availability of providers but also transportation and oral health education. For most families, transportation is the main challenge. Many providers are located 75 miles or more away. Public transportation is not available for this distance. Medicaid does provide limited transportation assistance for eligible families.

Maternal and Child Health

The 2012 overall birth rate for the state shows an insignificant decline to 11.5% from the 12.3% reported in the 2010 Census. Of greater significance is the rate of teens giving birth. The state rate has dropped significantly to 15.4% from the 20.3% in 2010.

Only Lafayette County trends the state number with 14.8% in teen births and shows a very significant drop from the 2010 number of 36.1% and nears the state number of 15.4%; Columbia and Suwannee counties have had significant decreases in teens giving birth down from 31.7% and 40.7%, respectively, to 20.5% and 26.2%. Hamilton County has actually seen a slight increase in teens giving birth, up from the 2010 number 34.3% to a near 39%.

Drop-out Prevention programs designed to assist pregnant teens in high-school are in place in two of the four counties in the service area. Suwannee Valley 4Cs is an active partner with both of the districts in this program.

Infant death rates have nearly reduced by half for Columbia and Suwannee down from the previously reported rates of 12.1% and 12.2% respectively, to 6.1% and 6.6%. Maternal and

child health information by county for 2012 based on Well Florida Council data is provided in the following table.

Pre- and Post-Natal Care

Multiple agencies in all four counties of the service area provide pre- and post-natal education and access to care for pregnant women. Women participating in Suwannee Valley 4Cs Pregnant Mom Program receive regular scheduled pre- and post-natal care among the other services provided by the program and community partners (breastfeeding education, smoking cessation, fetal development, bonding, SIDS/Sleep Safe, etc.).

2014-2015 Update: Birth data for 2013 has been added to the table below.

2015-2016 Update: Birth data for 2014 has been added to the table below.

2015-2016 Update: Birth data for 2015 has been added to the table below.

Table 8. Service Area Birth Data

		Columbia	Hamilton	Lafayette	Suwannee	State
Overall Birth Rate	2010 Census	13.3	11.8	10.6	12.7	12.3
	2012	12.1	11.7	9.7	11.7	11.5
	2013	11.6	10.2	9.1	10.7	11.2
	2014	12.2	10.0	8.7	10.3	11.2
	<u>2015</u>	<u>12.1</u>	<u>10.7</u>	<u>8.3</u>	<u>10.2</u>	<u>11.2</u>
Births to mothers ages 15-19	2010 Census	31.7	34.3	36.1	40.7	20.3
	2012	20.5	38.8	14.8	26.2	15.4
	2013	16.2	21.6	12.5	22.6	12.0
	2014	18.0	23.1	15.0	21.9	10.5
	<u>2015</u>	<u>19.5</u>	<u>11.0</u>	<u>23.7</u>	<u>19.7</u>	<u>9.5</u>
Repeat Birth Rate	2010 Census	19.2	27.3	16.2	23.0	18.7
	2012	18.0	23.7	21.9	20.5	18.1
	2013	13.9	19.4	15.4	13.5	16.9
	2014	12.9	23.9	16.0	22.0	16.6
	<u>2015</u>	<u>15.0</u>	<u>23.7</u>	<u>8.7</u>	<u>26.2</u>	<u>16.2</u>
Low Birth Weight Rate	2010 Census	9.1	10.0	7.3	7.4	8.7
	2012	8.5	8.5	7.1	9.1	8.7
	2013	8.7	8.6	7.6	9.0	8.6
	2014	9.9	7.9	5.7	9.1	8.6
	<u>2015</u>	<u>10.1</u>	<u>9.5</u>	<u>5.6</u>	<u>9.2</u>	<u>8.6</u>
Late or No Pre-natal Care	2010 Census	8.1	13.3	5.4	6.5	5.6
	2012	7.1	9.6	5.6	6.2	4.1
	2013	7.1	8.8	3.4	6.9	4.3
	2014	7.5	12.0	5.2	7.7	4.6
	<u>2015</u>	<u>7.4</u>	<u>11.4</u>	<u>6.9</u>	<u>7.9</u>	<u>4.8</u>
Infant Death Rate	2010 Census	12.1	21.1	3.7	12.2	7.1
	2012	6.1	13.5	4.0	7.5	6.6
	2013	8.0	11.0	4.2	7.8	6.2
	2014	9.5	9.0	0	9.5	6.1
	<u>2015</u>	<u>8.5</u>	<u>10.6</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>9.6</u>	<u>6.1</u>
Pregnant Women Estimate*	2012	174	20	10	110	-
	2013	165	29	14	94	-
	2014	171	22	12	78	-
	<u>2015</u>	<u>165</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>93</u>	<u>-</u>

Sources: 2010 U S Census, Well Florida Council 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015;

*based on women of reproductive age, birth, fetal death and abortion rate data

The following table represents the various low-income insurance indicators by county in the service area and the state overall. The number for estimated Medicaid eligible children is derived from total births covered by Medicaid for a given year. The data below is for the three year period 2010-2012 which is the most recent data available.

2014-2015 Update: Data for the three-year period of 2011-2013 has been added.

2015-2016 Update: Data for the three-year period of 2012-2014 has been added.

2016-2017 Update: Data for the three-year period of 2013-2015 has been added.

Table 9. Medicaid Births and KidCare Data

		Columbia	Hamilton	Lafayette	Suwannee	State
Medicaid Births	2010-2012	1,547	355	153	1,002	319,709
	2011-2013	1,532	342	151	986	326,607
	2012-2014	1,675	328	155	1,006	330,062
	<u>2013-2015</u>	<u>1,698</u>	<u>335</u>	<u>239</u>	<u>987</u>	<u>330,737</u>
Births self-pay (no insurance)	2010-2012	4.3%	7.2%	5.7%	5.8%	8.4%
	2011-2013	3.3%	4.6%	7.1%	4.4%	7.8%
	2012-2014	3.0%	5.6%	5.7%	2.3%	7.1%
	<u>2013-2015</u>	<u>2.3%</u>	<u>6.4%</u>	<u>7.4%</u>	<u>2.3%</u>	<u>6.6%</u>
Children Birth-5 w/MediKids	2010-2012	1.8%	1.4%	1.3%	1.9%	2.8%
	2011-2013	2.1%	2.2%	1.4%	2.2%	3.1%
	2012-2014	2.0%	2%	1%	2%	2.9%
	<u>2013-2015</u>	<u>1.8%</u>	<u>1.7%</u>	<u>1.2%</u>	<u>2.0%</u>	<u>2.7%</u>

Other Birth Family Data

Births to unwed mothers	2010-2012	52%	65%	42%	54%	48%
	2011-2013	52%	64%	34%	54%	48%
	2012-2014	55%	65%	48%	55%	48%
	<u>2013-2015</u>	<u>57%</u>	<u>64%</u>	<u>48%</u>	<u>55%</u>	<u>48%</u>
Father acknowledged on birth certificate	2010-2012	81%	76%	85%	81%	86%
	2011-2013	81%	71%	85%	81%	86%
	2012-2014	80%	73%	83%	80%	86%
	<u>2013-2015</u>	<u>80%</u>	<u>70%</u>	<u>83%</u>	<u>81%</u>	<u>87%</u>
Births to mothers >18 w/o high school education	2010-2012	17%	35%	19%	25%	14%
	2011-2013	16%	29%	18%	23%	13%
	2012-2014	17%	29%	18%	22%	12%
	<u>2013-2015</u>	<u>17%</u>	<u>30%</u>	<u>18%</u>	<u>23%</u>	<u>12%</u>

Florida Department of Health, Pregnancy and Young Child Profiles 2010-2012, 2014-2015 Update: Florida Department of Health, Pregnancy and Young Child Profiles 2011-2013; 2015-2016 Update: Florida Department of Health, Pregnancy and Young Child Profiles 2012-2014; 2016-2017 Update: Florida Department of Health, Pregnancy and Young Child Profiles 2013-2015

Immunizations

For the year 2012, the overall average of Kindergarten children fully immunized in the service area was 96.4%, up from last year’s 95.2%, outpacing the state rate of 92.1% for 2012 (91.3% in 2011) by little more than four points, according to the Florida Department of Health, County Health Status Report. The rate by county in the service area is shown in the following table.

2014-2015, 2015-2016, 2016-2017 Updates: There were no significant changes in the rate of immunizations.

Table 10. Kindergarten Children Fully Immunized

Columbia	Hamilton	Lafayette	Suwannee	State
97%	97%	98.9%	99%	93%

Source: Well Florida Council 2012

Suwannee Valley 4Cs Dental Screenings and Treatment

Suwannee Valley 4Cs Head Start dental specific partners include University of Florida Dental School and area pediatric dentists. Access to dental providers who accept Medicaid is very limited for the program. All children entering the program receive a dental exam within 90 days of entry. For the 2012-2013 year, 114 children entered the program with a continuous, accessible dental care home; at the end of the enrollment year the number of children with a dental home was 349.

Based on the PIR report for the 2012-2013 school year, 357 children were provided a professional dental exam. Dental follow up treatment was diagnosed for 135 children. Children receiving follow up treatment totaled 119; 16 children left the program before their follow up treatment appointment date.

2014-2015 Update: Based on PIR information for the 2013-2014 school year, 104 children entered the program with a continuous, accessible dental care home; at the end of the enrollment year the number of children with a dental home was 356. During the same school year, 307 children were provided a professional dental exam with 123 needing professional dental treatment, 94 receiving treatment; and 29 children leaving the program before their follow up treatment appointment date.

2015-2016 Update: Based on PIR information for the 2014-2015 school year, 104 children entered the program with a continuous, accessible dental care home; at the end of the enrollment year the number of children with a dental home was 368. During the same school year, 362 children were provided a professional dental exam with 124 needing professional dental treatment, 99 receiving treatment; and 25 children leaving the program before their follow up treatment appointment date.

2016-2017 Update: Based on PIR information for the 2015-2016 school year, 87 children entered the program with a continuous, accessible dental care home; at the end of the enrollment year the number of children with a dental home was 302. During the same school year, 302 children were provided a professional dental exam with 82 needing professional dental treatment, 73 receiving treatment; and 9 children leaving the program before their follow up treatment appointment date.

Asthma

Asthma and bronchial distress are increasing and have become growing concerns. As one of the most common chronic conditions in children, asthma is a leading cause of school absences and hospital admissions for children.

The Florida Department of Health reports for the three year period of 2010-2012 the total number of asthma hospitalizations for children, five and under, in the service area was:

Columbia – 963 Hamilton – 1,055 Lafayette – 806 Suwannee - 719

The program has taken significant steps to address the issue by partnering with the families and physicians to ensure necessary health care plans and services are followed through.

Table 11. Participating Children Receiving Medical Treatment for Asthma

Year	Total (EHS & HS) Cumulative Enrollment	Children Receiving Medical Treatment for Asthma	As a percentage of cumulative enrollment
2012-2013	633	50	12.6%
2013-2014 ¹	653	65	10%
2014-2015	621	76	8%
<u>2015-2016</u>	<u>604</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>12.58%</u>

¹2014-2015 Update: PIR 2014

Childhood Obesity

The Journal of American Medical Association in its published report of February 25, 2014 stated there was a significant decrease in obesity among two- to five year-old children for the period of 2003 through 2012 from 13.9% to 8.4%; a 5.5% decrease in early childhood obesity for the 8 year period. Current research finds that both private and public sectors appear to be moving beyond a simplistic view of childhood obesity toward an analysis of the underlying genetic and environmental causes, in order to facilitate a multidisciplinary approach to prevention. Nutrition education and increased physical activity are avenues the CDC is encouraging for early intervention in the hopes of substantially reducing childhood obesity and the effects of ill health later in life due to obesity.

Suwannee Valley 4Cs Nutrition Services

Suwannee Valley 4Cs Head Start program performs body-mass index screenings, and offers proper nutrition information, materials and guidance to parents through screening results letters, parent workshops, nutrition newsletters and classroom curricula. If a child is determined to be overweight, parents are referred to WIC, and the child’s physician is alerted to request additional support. Suwannee Valley 4Cs offers counseling with the contracted registered dietician and support in the form of resource information and education to modify family habits.

2014-2015 Update: Data for the 2013-2014 year has been added to the chart below and shows this to be an area of concern in all counties of the service area. The 2013-2014 percentages represent 69 children with BMI at or over 95% in the 2013-2014 program year. Parents of these 69 children were offered additional services, of these 4 parents requested WIC referrals, 1

requested referral to the contracted registered dietician, 15 requested nutritional information and 49 refused services of any kind.

2015-2016 Update: The 2014-2015 percentages below represent 57 children with BMI at or over 95%. Parents of these children were provided nutritional information and offered additional services that includes referrals to the contracted registered dietician or WIC. Of these, additional services were provided to 8 parents in the form of WIC referrals and 24 parents requested additional information. No one requested a referral to the contracted registered dietician, and 25 refused services of any kind.

2016-2017 Update: The 2015-2016 percentages below represent 54 children with BMI at or over 95%. Parents of these children were provided nutritional and active play information and offered additional services that included referrals to the contracted registered dietician or WIC. No one requested a referral to the contracted registered dietician or WIC.

Table 12. Overweight Children

	Columbia				Hamilton			
	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16
WIC Children 2 and older	27.8%	30.8%	32%	<u>34.7%</u>	30.3%	32.4%	33%	<u>32.4%</u>
SV4Cs Head Start	22%	26.8%	16%	<u>19%</u>	14%	38.7%	28%	<u>16%</u>

	Lafayette				Suwannee			
	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16
WIC Children 2 and older	22.2%	35.4%	29%	<u>28.4%</u>	27.4%	27.2%	27%	<u>30.5%</u>
SV4Cs Head Start	15%	17.6%	12%	<u>32%</u>	8%	31.6%	16%	<u>15%</u>

Sources: Florida Department of Health Pregnancy and Young Child Profiles 2012, ChildPlus Report 3420, 2012-2013
 2014-2015 Update: Florida Department of Health Pregnancy and Young Child Profiles 2013, ChildPlus Report 3420 2013-2014; 2015-2016 Update: Florida Department of Health Pregnancy and Young Child Profiles 2014, ChildPlus Report 3420 2014-2015; 2015-2016 Update: Florida Department of Health Pregnancy and Young Child Profiles 2015, ChildPlus Report 3420 2015-2016

Social Services

Public Assistance

ACCESS Program

Florida’s ACCESS Program provides financial and medical assistance, food assistance, and other supportive services to needy persons and families. Each program has eligibility requirements determined by state or federal law. In an effort to reach more low-income residents, applications for all ACCESS programs can be submitted online, by calling the statewide call center or by contacting a local Children and Families ACCESS Service Center or local Community ACCESS partner site. There are a total of 48 Community ACCESS locations in all four counties in the service area including each of Suwannee Valley 4Cs locations. Eligibility in a program, in some

instances, makes recipients eligible automatically for other assistance programs, such as Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

Florida operates its Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program as a partnership among three state agencies (DCF, AWI, DOE), a state-level policy board, Workforce Florida, Inc. (WFI), and a network of Regional Workforce Boards, along with non-financial cooperation from programs in the Florida Department of Health. TANF is more than temporary cash assistance; it also includes child care/school readiness for at-risk children, emergency financial assistance for housing, in-home supports (family safety net services), and scholarship tuition for at-risk students.

Suwannee Valley 4Cs 2013 PIR report shows 120 families reported receiving public assistance (TCA, SSI, etc.) to meet program financial eligibility requirements.

2014-2015 Update: The 2014 PIR shows 130 families reported receiving public assistance to meet program financial eligibility requirements.

2015-2016 Update: The 2015 PIR shows 96 families reported receiving public assistance to meet program financial eligibility requirements.

2016-2017 Update: The 2016 PIR shows 93 families reported receiving public assistance to meet program financial eligibility requirements.

Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA)

Temporary cash assistance is available to families and certain relative caregivers with children under age 18 (and in some instances age 19) and pregnant women in their third trimester who meet eligibility requirements. Its mission in providing temporary assistance is to keep families intact and on their way to self-sufficiency. Adult recipients may receive up to 48 months of assistance; child-only assistance does not have a time limit.

While the work requirement for parents or relative caregivers may be exempted, there are requirements: to keep immunizations up to date, school-age children must attend school, and parents or relative caregivers must attend parent conferences.

TCA Caseload Report

<i>Type</i>	<i>Columbia</i>	<i>Hamilton</i>	<i>Lafayette</i>	<i>Suwannee</i>	<i>Service Area</i>	<i>Circuit</i>
Families	356	66	22	214	658	911
Children	479	98	30	302	909	1,251

February 2014 TCA Caseload Report

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) helps low-income people buy healthy food. A food assistance household is normally a group of people who live together and buy food and cook meals together. The amount of food assistance benefits depends on the number of people in the household and how much money remains after certain expenses are subtracted. TCA recipients are automatically eligible for SNAP.

The number of households receiving assistance through SNAP for the entire Third Circuit, which includes the four counties in the service area, plus three other counties, was 20,200 as of March 2011 per the State of Florida’s Public Assistance Caseload Report. This number has doubled in two years in the four county service area alone. As of July 2013, there were 42,650 households just in the four county service area participating in SNAP. Households by county as of July 2013 are as follows:

Columbia: 21,945 Hamilton: 5,150 Lafayette: 1,636 Suwannee: 13,919

Medicaid

Pregnant Women and Newborns – Low income pregnant women in their third-trimester may receive temporary Medicaid with immediate access to outpatient prenatal care which can extend up to one additional month after the child is born. A child born to a mother who is Medicaid eligible remains Medicaid eligible through the month of his or her first birthday.

Parents with eligible children may also enroll the child in the Child Health Check-up Program. The Child Health Check-Up Program provides regularly scheduled health checkups, dental screenings, immunizations and other medical services for children. However, the program is optional.

SV4Cs Participants Enrolled in Medicaid

SV4Cs Program	Medicaid	Private Insurance	No Insurance
EHS Pregnant Mom Program			
2012-13	85%	15%	-
2013-14	100%	*	-
2014-15	86%		14%
<u>2015-16</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
EHS Children			
2012-13	96%	4%	-
2013-14	95%	11%	-
2014-15	98%	2%	2%
<u>2015-16</u>	<u>92%</u>	<u>3%</u>	<u>-</u>
HS Children			
2012-13	94%	5%	-
2013-14	96%	4%	3%
2014-15	99%	-	-
<u>2015-16</u>	<u>97%</u>	<u>2%</u>	<u>-</u>

Baseline data from the 2012-2013 PIR

*2014-2015 Update: PIR 2013-2014; *The PIR for this year is showing only that the participant has at least one type of insurance but does not specify the type.*

Domestic Violence

Domestic violence has many different definitions. Florida Statute 741.28 defines domestic violence as "any assault, battery, sexual assault, or any criminal offense resulting in physical injury or death of one family or household member by another who is or was residing in the same single dwelling unit". The most common type of domestic violence reported is ‘simple assault’.

The Department of Children and Families Domestic Violence Program operates as the central clearinghouse for state and federal funding initiatives for the prevention and intervention of

domestic violence. The program’s primary responsibility is the administration and oversight of funding to certified domestic violence centers.

The service area has two state-certified centers: Another Way, Inc., serving Columbia, Hamilton and Lafayette counties and Vivid Visions serving Suwannee County.

The most recent data available for domestic violence offenses is the 2009-2011 three year average from the Florida Department of Health, County Health Profile and is, by county:

Columbia: 413 Hamilton: 61 Lafayette: 6 Suwannee: 177

During the 2012-2013 program year, Suwannee Valley 4Cs provided Domestic Violence Awareness/Prevention training to 136 families based on the PIR report.

2014-2015 Update: The 2013-14 PIR reports 146 families received Domestic Violence Awareness/Prevention training.

2015-2016 Update: The 2014-15 PIR reports 73 families received Domestic Violence Awareness/Prevention Training.

2016-2017 Update: The PIR reports shows 153 families received Domestic Violence Awareness/Prevention Training.

Children in the Child Welfare System and Receiving Foster Care

Most children who enter foster care have already been exposed to conditions that undermine their chances for healthy development. Most have grown up in poverty and have been maltreated—conditions associated with delayed development and, in the case of maltreatment, problems with behavior regulation, emotional disorders, and even compromised brain development. Once in foster care, the foster care experience itself can either exacerbate or ameliorate a child's problems. Children in foster care are more likely to have behavioral and emotional challenges and are at much higher risk of poor educational outcomes. Developmental and health care needs of children in foster care include: a health evaluation to identify any immediate medical needs; a consistent source of medical care to ensure continuity of care; and ongoing developmental, educational, and emotional assessments. Research clearly shows a stable family life is a child’s best chance of growing up healthy, drug-free, able to achieve educational goals and remain socially-emotionally healthy. Family instability increases the risk of adverse effects on a child’s welfare. Whether the instability is due to substance abuse, unemployment, illness, divorce, incarceration or death – children may be at risk from abuse or neglect when the family is unstable. The state-wide information provided below is from the DCF website.

DCF 2014-15, State-Wide Quarter 2 (Child Welfare) Program Data

	Quarter 2 Total	FY 2014-15 Total
Number of calls forwarded for an Investigation to assess child safety	45,9515	92,276
Children in investigations of abuse, abandonment, or neglect ¹	62,453	126,911
Children assessed during an investigation resulting in the need for DCF	5,749	10,971

Suwannee Valley 4Cs Community Assessment 2013 – 2014, Update 3: 2016-2017

	Quarter 2 Total	FY 2014-15 Total
intervention (in home or out of home) <u>1</u>		
Children achieving permanency (reunified with parents, adopted, or living with a guardian) within 12 months <u>2</u>	48.7%	48.8%
Children Adopted	1,089	1,700
Newly Licensed Family and Therapeutic Family Foster Homes <u>3</u>	471	828

	Point in Time Count as of 12/31/14
Children who are receiving in-home services	12,281
Children who are in kinship foster care placements <u>4</u>	10,656
Children who are in licensed foster care placements <u>4</u>	9,149
Children available for adoption	824

1 Represents an unduplicated count of children who meet the criteria during the report period. Quarterly counts will not always sum to the YTD totals.

2 Represents permanency based on a cohort of children who were removed 12 months prior to the end of the report period (e.g., Quarter 4 performance for state fiscal year 2013-14 represents the percent of children removed between 4/1/2013 and 6/30/2013 who achieved permanency within 12 months). FY data is only available at the end of each FY.

3 This is the count of newly licensed foster homes during the report period where the home was not licensed as of the report period begin date and had a gap of at least 90 days since their prior licensed ended and the new one began.

4 Foster care includes all children who have been removed from their homes due to abuse, neglect or abandonment. Kinship foster care is a subset that includes children who are placed with relatives or other person(s) deemed to be a significant person in the child's life. Licensed foster care is a subset that includes traditional family foster homes, therapeutic foster homes, group homes, residential placements and other settings requiring a license.

Child Welfare

Child abuse or neglect is defined in Florida Statutes Section 39.201(e) as “harm or threatened harm” to a child’s mental or physical health or welfare by the acts or omissions of a parent, adult household member, or other person responsible for the child’s welfare, or for the purpose of reporting requirements by any person. The Department of Children and Families is the central abuse registry mandated by Florida Statutes to receive, investigate and act upon reports of abuse and neglect of children and the elderly. In 2012, Florida increased the penalty for failure to report suspected abuse/neglect from a misdemeanor to a third-degree felony.

The 2013 State Child Abuse Death Report stated the youngest children are the most vulnerable for death as a result of abuse or neglect. During 2012, according to national statistics, the majority of children dying due to maltreatment were less than three years of age: 44% were less than one year of age; 70% were younger than three.

The same report indicated that Florida statistics mirrored national statistics: 49 (42%) of the children who died from abuse and neglect were under a year old and 92 (78%) of the children were younger than three years of age. The following table shows declines in all indicators presented.

***Abuse Hotline Reports to the Department of Children and Families
All Children Ages 0 – 17 – State Data***

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Number of reports to the Abuse Hotline	217,382	223,082	186,579	178,451	-	-
Number of reports involving child deaths	513	507	474	432	-	-
Number of child deaths verified due to abuse or neglect	200	155	130	122	107	103

Source: 2013 State Child Abuse Death Review

Suwannee Valley 4Cs will ensure the coordination of comprehensive services for children in the child welfare and foster care system including proper medical care and a consistent medical home and ongoing assessment of progress - developmentally, educationally and emotionally.

Suwannee Valley 4Cs provides workshops, information and intervention services to assist families and attempt to prevent abuse or neglect from occurring. The 2012-2013 PIR report shows Suwannee Valley 4Cs provided training on Child Abuse and Neglect Awareness/Prevention (131 families), Mental Wellness (97 families), Substance Abuse Awareness/Prevention (48 families), and as previously cited 136 families with Domestic Violence Awareness/Prevention training.

2014-2015 Update: The 2013-2014 PIR report shows Suwannee Valley 4Cs provided training on Child Abuse and Neglect Awareness/Prevention (120 families), Mental Wellness (26 families), Substance Abuse Awareness/Prevention (150 families), and 146 families with Domestic Violence Awareness/Prevention training.

2015-2016 Update: The 2014-2015 PIR report shows Suwannee Valley 4Cs providing a training on Child Abuse and Neglect Awareness/Prevention (87 families), Mental Wellness (26 families), Substance Abuse Awareness/Prevention (137 families), and 73 families with Domestic Violent Awareness/Prevention Training.

2016-2017 Update: The 2015-2016 PIR report shows Suwannee Valley 4Cs providing a training on Child Abuse and Neglect Awareness/Prevention (148 families), Mental Wellness (26 families), Substance Abuse Awareness/Prevention (106 families), and 153 families with Domestic Violent Awareness/Prevention Training.

Housing Affordability

Florida’s State Housing Initiatives Partnership SHIP is designed to assist very low, low and moderate income families to purchase a home with assistance in down payment and closing costs. SHIP requires participants to attend home budgeting class to qualify for assistance.

The National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) August 2013 profile of Florida, stated there is a deficit of affordable rental units available to extremely low income households, i.e. those with incomes at 30% or less of the area median income. According to the profile for counties in the service area; Columbia County is the most challenging for extremely low income renters to find available housing, Hamilton and Suwannee were less challenging. Data was not available for Lafayette County.

The 2012-2013 PIR report shows Suwannee Valley 4Cs helped 91 families (46 Early Head Start and 45 Head Start) obtain housing assistance services.

2014-2015 Update: The 2013-2014 PIR report shows Suwannee Valley 4Cs helped 78 families (52 Early Head Start and 26 Head Start) obtain housing assistance services.

2015-2016 Update: The 2014-2015 PIR report shows Suwannee Valley 4Cs helped 46 families (15 Early Head Start and 31 Head Start) obtain housing assistance services.

2016-2017 Update: The 2014-2015 PIR report shows Suwannee Valley 4Cs helped 35 families (14 Early Head Start and 21 Head Start) obtain housing assistance services.

Homelessness

The state of Florida’s definition for homelessness is an individual who lacks fixed, regular and adequate night-time residence and includes an individual who:

- Is sharing housing with others
- Is living in a motel, hotel, travel trailer park or camping ground due to a lack of alternative, adequate accommodations
- Is living in an emergency or transition shelter
- Has a primary night-time residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings
- Is living in a car, park, public space, abandoned building, bus or train station or similar setting
- Is a migratory individual because he/she is living in circumstances previously described

The major causes of homelessness in the service area, as reported by the DCF Office of Homelessness report, is unemployment / financial distress. Other causes include family, medical / disability problems. Housing issues or lack of affordable housing and forced relocation were the least noted reasons for a person being homeless in the service area.

The United Way of Suwannee Valley is the service area’s lead homeless coalition service network. Per their January 2013 survey prepared for the Department of Children and Families Council on Homelessness, the number of homeless in the service area is as follows:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Columbia</i>	<i>Hamilton</i>	<i>Lafayette</i>	<i>Suwannee</i>	<i>Children Students</i>
2013	491	107	63	318	22%
2014	473	102	60	308	18.6%
2015	538	114	68	350	<u>1401^a</u>
<u>2016</u>	<u>596</u>	<u>114</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>367</u>	<u>N/A</u>

DCF, Office of Homelessness, Point-In Time Count; ^a 2016 Annual Report

The Homeless Education Program (HEP) administered by Florida’s Department of Education provides guidance, technical assistance and educational funds to local school districts to help identify, enroll, ensure school attendance and support academic achievement of homeless students.

Homeless student living situations when identified are: shelters, sharing, motels, awaiting foster care placement or other (living in cars, parks, campgrounds, public spaces, abandoned buildings, etc.). Parent or legal guardian custody data is also collected. The majority of students are in sharing living situations and not in the physical custody of a parent of legal guardian.

Suwannee Valley 4Cs 2012-2013 PIR data showed the following enrollment statistics regarding homelessness for participating children and families.

Families Experiencing Homelessness, Indicator at time of enrollment

Indicator	Early Head Start	Head Start	2012-13 Totals	2013-14 Totals	2014-15 Totals	2015-16 Totals
Families experiencing homelessness	8	9	17	7	6	<u>1</u>
Children experiencing homelessness	9	9	18	8	9	<u>2</u>
Homeless families acquiring housing during the enrollment year	5	2	7	3	5	<u>1</u>

Source: PIR

Section 5: Child Care Services

The service area has a variety of resources and providers of early childhood, child care and child development services. The child care delivery system includes family child care, private and faith based centers, Head Start, Early Head Start and public schools. The economic reality of working families continues to reflect a need for full-day and wrap-around child care. The cost of child care remains prohibitive for many working families. The average annual cost of child care for one preschooler and one infant can range from \$10,000 - \$15,000 a year.

Child care and child development services, school readiness, and voluntary Pre-K (VPK) services in the service area are managed by The Early Learning Coalition of Florida’s Gateway, Inc. (ELCFG) which oversees provider contracts. All of the school readiness programs and providers maintain waitlists. Parents may choose whichever form of care they feel is best suited for their children, and may also choose to blend child care options, such as VPK with Head Start. Use of part-time and full-time services is available based on the needs of the family.

The following tables provide child care service data (number served and number waitlisted) by Suwannee Valley 4Cs and ELCFG for each county in the service area.

Table 13. Number of Children Birth To 5 in Early Childhood Programs

THREE TO FIVE	Columbia	Hamilton	Lafayette	Suwannee	Totals
Head Start					
2012-13	160	49	17	92	318
2013-14	160	49	17	77	303
2014-15	160	49	17	92	318
2015-16	<u>120</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>278</u>
ELCFG					
2012-13	608	58	12	217	895
2013-14	563	53	26	241	883
2014-15	361	8	10	157	536
2015-16	<u>394</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>158</u>	<u>579</u>
2012-13 Combined Total	768	107	29	294	1198
2013-14 Combined Total	723	102	43	318	1186
2014-15 Combined Total	521	57	27	249	854
2015-16 Combined Total	<u>514</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>250</u>	<u>857</u>
BIRTH TO THREE					
Early Head Start¹	72	48	-	56	176
2015-16	<u>88</u>	48	-	56	<u>192</u>
ELCFG					
2012-13	423	37	7	147	614
2013-14	379	41	6	149	575
2014-15	302	-	9	102	413
2015-16	<u>298</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>105</u>	<u>451</u>

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2012-13 Combined Total	495	85	7	203	790
2013-14 Combined Total	451	89	6	205	751
2014-15 Combined Total	374	48	9	158	589
2015-16 Combined Total	<u>386</u>	<u>87</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>161</u>	<u>643</u>

¹EHS Funded Enrollment

Waitlists

THREE TO FIVE	Columbia	Hamilton	Lafayette	Suwannee	Totals
Head Start					
2012-13	25	37	6	33	101
2013-14	4	22	5	15	46
2014-15	40	19	2	22	83
2015-16	<u>41</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>81</u>
ELCFG					
2012-13	25	2	2	4	33
2013-14	1	0	0	3	4
2014-15	6	0	0	2	8
2015-16	<u>5</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5</u>
2012-13 SY Combined Total	50	39	8	37	134
2013-14 SY Combined Total	8	22	5	18	50
2014-15 SY Combined Total	46	19	2	24	91
2015-16 SY Combined Total	<u>46</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>86</u>
BIRTH TO THREE					
Early Head Start					
2012-13	78	37	-	69	184
2013-14	109	52	-	38	199
2014-15	62	35	-	38	135
2015-16	<u>66</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>142</u>
ELCFG					
2012-13	36	1	3	13	53
2013-14	114	9	0	38	161
2014-15	36	6	0	8	50
2015-16	<u>106</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>153</u>
2012-13 SY Combined Total	114	38	3	82	237
2013-14 SY Combined Total	223	61	0	76	360
2014-15 SY Combined Total	98	41	0	46	185
2015-16 SY Combined Total	<u>172</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>295</u>

Source: Office of Early Learning Fact Book, SV4Cs February Enrollment Report

Waitlist Trends

2014-2015 Update: A significant change in waitlist numbers is seen when comparing 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 numbers for both Head Start and ELCFG. Head Start waitlists in all four counties are at historic lows while Early Head Start numbers continue to increase.

2015-2016 Update: A significant increase in infant-toddler waitlist numbers is shown.

2016-2017 Update: The increase in infant-toddler waitlist numbers continues.

Greatest Need: Additional Infant Toddler Slots

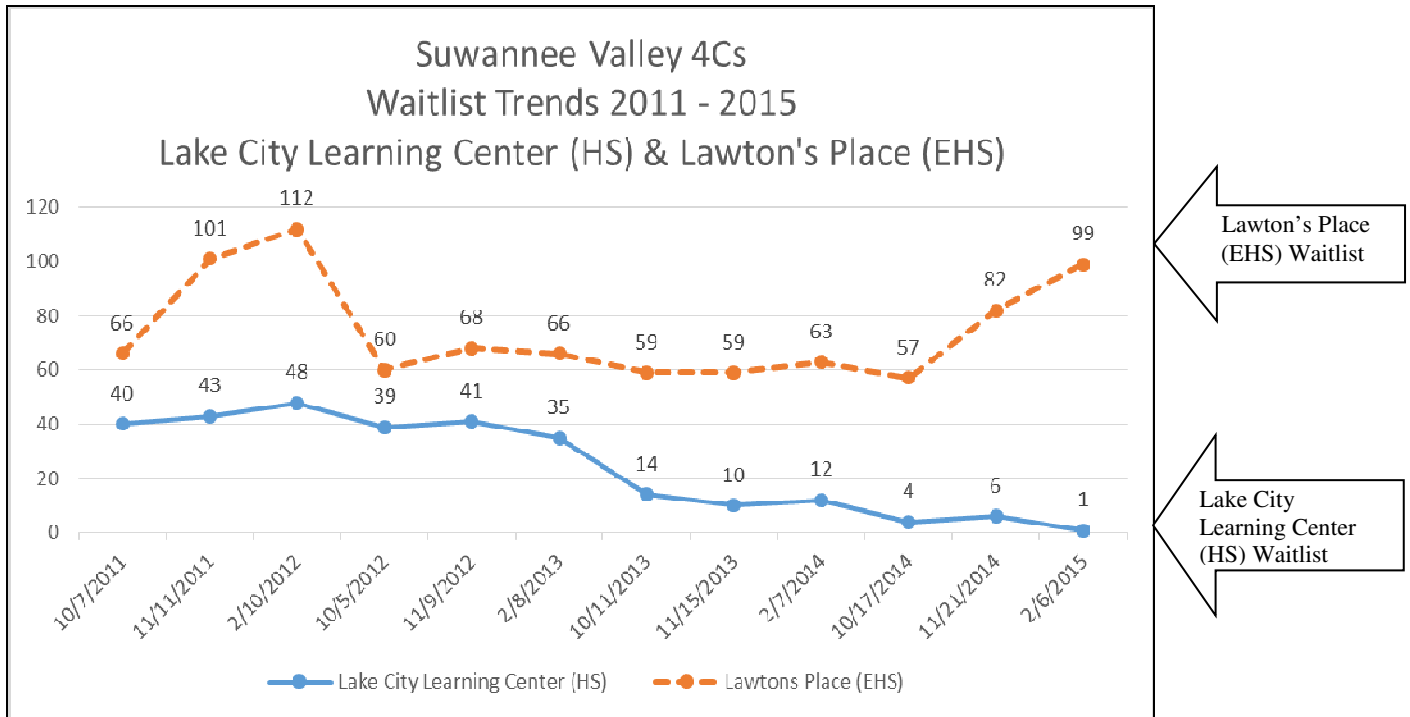
The overriding need for additional birth to three slots is evident. The 2012-2013 combined (Suwannee Valley 4Cs and ELCFG) waitlist numbers for infants and toddlers is 237. This is almost double the number of waitlisted pre-k children for both agencies. Columbia and Suwannee counties have the greatest need for additional infant toddler slots with 196 infants and toddlers on the combined waitlists.

2014-2015 Update: For the 2013-2014 year the combined total (Suwannee Valley 4Cs and ELCFG) of waitlisted infants and toddlers is 360 with 223 of these in Columbia County.

2015-2016 Update: The great need for additional infant-toddler slots continues.

The Office of Head Start has made Early Head Start a priority. In February 2014, OHS announced an additional \$500 million dollars in funding for Early Head Start – Child Care partnerships. The major initiative of the grant opportunity is for Early Head Start grantees to partner with private pay providers and bring Head Start Program Performance Standards into the private child care setting. Currently in Suwannee Valley 4Cs very rural service area the possibility of these partnerships seems less viable, despite the need for increased infant/toddler care.

2014-2015 Update: Suwannee Valley 4Cs Columbia County Head Start (Lake City Learning Center) and Early Head Start (Lawton’s Place) waitlist trend chart that follows clearly shows the need for additional infant / toddler slots (top indicator) and the decline in waitlisted Head Start children (bottom indicator).



Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten

During the 2012-2013 school year, 1,472 Pre-K children participated in the VPK program in the service area. An enrollment breakdown by service provider and county is shown below.

2014-2015 Update: For the 2013-2014 school year, 1,409 children participated in VPK. The table below has been updated with this data.

2015-2016 Update: For the 2014-2015 school year, 1,069 children participated in VPK. The table below has been updated with this data.

2016-2017 Update: For the 2015-2016 school year, 1,047 children participated in VPK. The table below has been updated with this data.

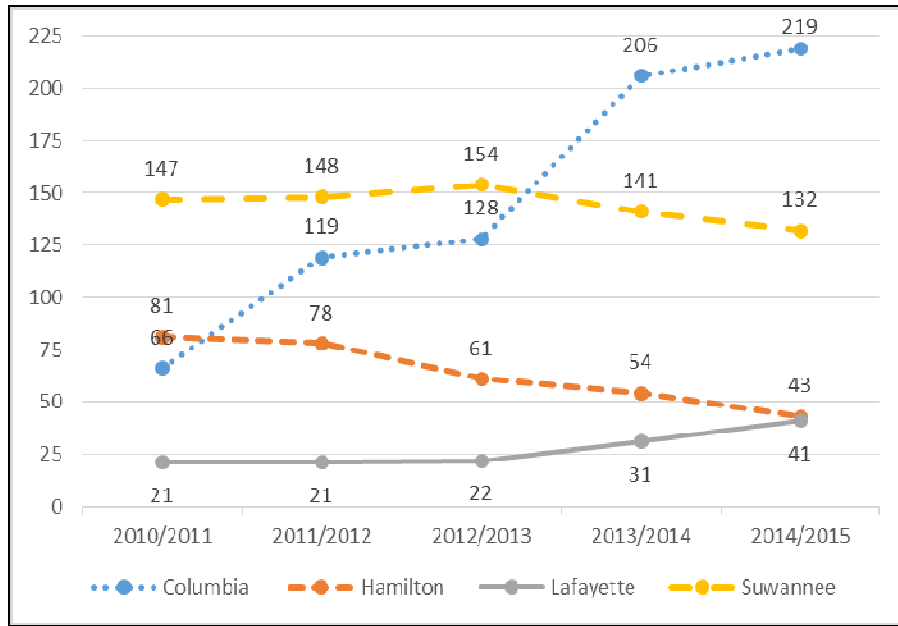
Table 13a. VPK Children Served

Provider	Columbia	Hamilton	Lafayette	Suwannee	Totals
SV4Cs¹					
2012-13	85	11	-	30	126
2013-14	77	-	-	34	111
2014-15	67	0	0	26	93
2015-16	<u>69</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>100</u>
LEAs²					
2012-13	128	61	22	154	365
2013-14	206	54	31	141	432
2014-15	222	44	41	132	439
2015-16	<u>226</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>126</u>	<u>445</u>
Other Providers²					
2012-13	562	74	61	284	981
2013-14	568	35	47	216	866
2014-15	368	20	21	128	537
2015-16	<u>351</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>128</u>	<u>502</u>
2012-13 Combined Totals	775	146	83	468	1472
2013-14 Combined Totals	851	89	78	391	1409
2014-15 Combined Totals	657	64	62	286	1069
2015-16 Combined Totals	<u>646</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>285</u>	<u>1047</u>

Sources: ¹ SV4Cs Program Reports, ² Office of Early Learning Fact Book

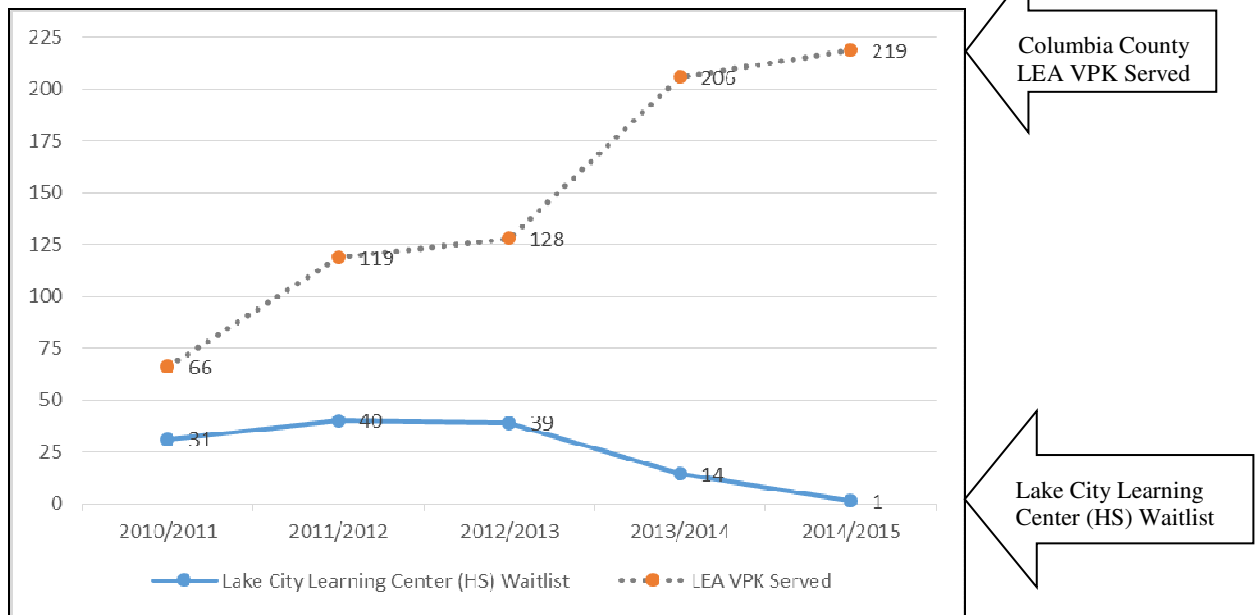
LEA VPK Trend

The trend over the past five years shows an increased rate of VPK services by LEAs, particularly in Columbia County (top indicator), where LEA VPK service has increased over 330%, from 66 children served in 2010-2011 to 219 in 2014-2015.



Impact on SV4Cs Columbia County Head Start (Lake City Learning Center) Waitlist

While Columbia County LEA VPK services have increased significantly over the five year period, Suwannee Valley 4Cs Lake City Learning Center waitlists have declined by 77%. The following chart compares these two indicators over the five year time period. This change in community needs is addressed in Section 11 Summary of Findings.



Section 6: Disability Services

A number of agencies provide services to children with disabilities in the service area. Early Steps is the local Part C provider and primary referral agency responsible for assessing and arranging for services for children birth to age three with disabilities. Agencies providing resources to infants, toddlers and preschool aged children with disabilities and their families are available and accessible through FDLRS, exceptional student education programs and private providers throughout the service area. Services available include occupational, physical, speech and language therapy; assistive technology; counseling and support groups. Individual assistance, parent training and informational workshops provide learning opportunities for parents of children with disabilities.

Suwannee Valley 4Cs fills a critical need for early assessment services to prevent the effects of long-term involvement in special education or the possibility of not participating in mainstream education. Suwannee Valley 4Cs continues to maintain close relationships with local referral agencies. Through written interagency agreements between Suwannee Valley 4Cs, the Children’s Transition Network, Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS), the Special Education Local Agencies and Early Steps, Suwannee Valley 4Cs staff helps families access needed assessment and services. Suwannee Valley 4Cs staff participates in meetings with school districts and others on a regular basis. Shared training opportunities are in place and have been successful.

The Special Education Local Agencies in the service area are the four county school districts. Special education and early intervention services are provided to children, birth to age five, who meet eligibility criteria. School districts assign special education staff to Suwannee Valley 4Cs sites to provide services for children when needed.

The following tables represent the number of children with diagnosed disabilities receiving services for 2012-2013. Overall, Suwannee Valley 4Cs provided services to 15% of three to five year olds receiving disability services.

2014-2015 Update: Suwannee Valley 4Cs provided services to 20% of children aged three to five receiving disability services during the 2013-2014 school year as shown in the following table.

2015-2016 Update: Suwannee Valley 4Cs provided services to 19% of children aged three to five receiving disability services during the 2014-2015 school year as show in the following table.

2015-2016 Update: Suwannee Valley 4Cs provided services to 19% of children aged three to five receiving disability services during the 2014-2015 school year as show in the following table.

<u>Table 14a. Disability Services for Children 3 to 5 (SV4Cs)</u>	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	<u>2015-16</u>
Health impairment				<u>1</u>
Emotional/behavioral disorders				
Speech or language impairments	24	24	19	<u>11</u>
Developmental delay	21	19	20	<u>23</u>
Hearing impairment including deafness				
Orthopedic impairment		1		
Visual impairment including blindness				
Learning disabilities				
Autism		3		
Traumatic brain injury				
Other impairments			1	
SV4Cs Totals	45	47	37	<u>35</u>

Table 14b. Disability Services for Children 3 to 5 (LEAs)

Year	Columbia LEA				Hamilton LEA			
	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16
Health impairment	5	20	4	20				1
Emotional/behavioral disorders								
Speech or language impairments	35	45	41	47	11	8	3	5
Developmental delay	92	66	58	107	24	16	15	6
Hearing impairment including deafness	1	2						
Orthopedic impairment		5						
Visual impairment including blindness		2						
Learning disabilities								
Autism	1	8	5		1			
Traumatic brain injury								
Other impairments								
Totals	134	91	77	174	36	24	18	12
Year	Lafayette LEA				Suwannee LEA			
	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16
Health impairment								
Emotional/behavioral disorders					1			
Speech or language impairments	5	3	2	4		3	14	
Developmental delay	19	13	11	4	57	47	28	
Hearing impairment including deafness					1		1	
Orthopedic impairment								
Visual impairment including blindness								
Learning disabilities								
Autism					1	2	3	
Traumatic brain injury								
Other impairments					6	1	2	
Totals	24	16	13	8	66	53	48	
<i>Table 14c. Disability Services for Children 3 to 5 - Combined</i>								
2012-2013	245							
2013-2014	231							
2014-2015	193							
2015-2016								

Table 15 provides information for children birth to three receiving services through Suwannee Valley 4Cs and Early Steps, by county, for the 2012-2013 school year. Overall, Suwannee Valley 4Cs provided services to 21% of infants and toddlers receiving disability services.

2014-2015 Update: Overall, Suwannee Valley 4Cs provided services to 16.5% of infants and toddlers receiving disability services during the 2013-2014 program year as shown in the following table.

2015-2016 Update: Overall, Suwannee Valley 4Cs provided services to 21.7% of infants and toddlers receiving disability services during the 2014-2015 program year as show in the following table.

2016-2017 Update: Overall, Suwannee Valley 4Cs provided services to 17% of infants and toddlers receiving disability services during the 2015-2016 program year as show in the following table.

Table 15a. Disability Services for Children Birth to 3 (SV4Cs)

County	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	<u>2015-16</u>
Columbia	15	11	19	<u>17</u>
Hamilton	9	8	8	<u>7</u>
Lafayette	-	-	-	<u>14</u>
Suwannee	9	11	10	<u>0</u>
Total	33	30	37	<u>38</u>

Table 15b. Disability Services for Children Birth to 3 (Early Steps)

County	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	<u>2015-16</u>
Columbia	61	87	70	<u>110</u>
Hamilton	16	31	45	<u>50</u>
Lafayette	6	4	13	<u>17</u>
Suwannee	44	29	5	<u>8</u>
Total	127	151	133	<u>185</u>

Table 15c. Disability Services for Children Birth to 3 - Combined

County	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	<u>2015-16</u>
Columbia	76	98	89	<u>127</u>
Hamilton	25	39	53	<u>57</u>
Lafayette	6	4	13	<u>31</u>
Suwannee	53	40	15	<u>8</u>
Total	160	181	170	<u>223</u>

Suwannee Valley 4Cs continues to publicize enrollment opportunities for children with disabilities through contacts with other agencies and community advertisement.

Section 7: Head Start Eligible Population

Eligibility Indicators

Three indicators are used to determine the potential number of children and pregnant women in low-income families who may be eligible for the Head Start and Early Head Start programs. Indicator 1 is based on the estimated range of children and pregnant women in poverty in the service area as reflected in Table 3 of Section 3 and duplicated below.

Indicator 1: Children and Pregnant Women living in households below poverty level

<i>Table 3. Range of Potentially Eligible Children and Pregnant Women – National and State Data based on estimated poverty rate</i>					
	Columbia	Hamilton	Lafayette	Suwannee	Service Area
Estimated Children 1 – 5 yrs¹	4136	756	450	2618	7960
All people, in poverty, with related children under 5 (estimate) ²	36%	45%	27%	41%	-
<u>Children</u> potentially eligible	1489	340	122	1073	3024
Estimated number of pregnant women	174	20	10	110	314
<u>Pregnant women</u> potentially eligible	63	9	3	45	120
Potentially eligible children 1-5 and pregnant women	1552	349	125	1118	3144
2014-2015 Update:					
All people, in poverty, with related children under 5 (estimate) ²	38%	53%	26%	48%	-
<u>Children</u> potentially eligible	1572	401	117	1257	3347
Estimated number of pregnant women	165	29	14	94	287
<u>Pregnant women</u> potentially eligible	63	15	4	45	127
Potentially eligible children 1-5 and pregnant women	1635	416	121	1302	3474
2015-2016 Update:					
All people, in poverty, with related children under 5 (estimate) ²	43%	57%	33%	48%	-
<u>Children</u> potentially eligible	1778	431	149	1257	3615
Estimated number of pregnant women	171	22	12	78	283
<u>Pregnant women</u> potentially eligible	74	13	4	37	128
Potentially eligible children 1-5 and pregnant women	1852	444	153	1294	3743
2016-2017 Update:					
All people, in poverty, with related children under 5 (estimate) ²	<u>39%</u>	<u>57%</u>	<u>28%</u>	<u>49%</u>	-
<u>Children</u> potentially eligible	<u>1613</u>	<u>431</u>	<u>126</u>	<u>1283</u>	<u>3453</u>
Estimated number of pregnant women	<u>165</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>93</u>	<u>298</u>
<u>Pregnant women</u> potentially eligible	<u>64</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>129</u>
Potentially eligible children 1-5 and pregnant women	<u>1677</u>	<u>447</u>	<u>129</u>	<u>1328</u>	<u>3582</u>

Source: ¹ Florida Department of Health, County Health Profile 2012 ² American Community Survey 5 Year Estimate 2008-2012; **2014-2015 Update:** ^b ACS 5 Year Estimate 2009-2013, Florida Department of Health Pregnancy and Young Child Profiles, County Health Profile 2013; **2015-2016 Update:** ^b ACS 5 Year Estimate 2010-2014, Florida Department of Health Pregnancy and Young Child Profiles, County Health Profile; **2016-2017 Update:** ^b ACS 5 Year Estimate 2011-2015, Florida Department of Health Pregnancy and Young Child Profiles, County Health Profile

Indicator 2: Free / Reduced Lunch Program

The Federal Free and Reduced Lunch program in each school district is an effective gauge of Head Start program eligibility. The number of Head Start eligible children birth to five years of age is assumed to be the same proportionally as those enrolled in kindergarten and first grade who qualify for the free and reduced lunch program in the school district during a given year. Children eligible for the free/reduced lunch program, by county are shown in the following table:

Table 16. Free / Reduced Lunch (FRL) Program

	Columbia	Hamilton	Lafayette	Suwannee	Service Area
0-2 yr olds, estimated potentially eligible	624	133	66	398	1221
3-5 yr olds estimated potentially eligible	624	163	59	391	1237
Total FRL Eligible	1248	296	125	789	2458
2014-2015 Update:					
0-2 yr olds, estimated potentially eligible	584	184	53	483	1304
3-5 yr olds estimated potentially eligible	624	133	66	398	1221
Total FRL Eligible	1208	317	119	881	2525
2015-2016 Update:					
0-2 yr olds, estimated potentially eligible	712	130	46	345	1233
3-5 yr olds estimated potentially eligible	779	274	58	539	1651
Total FRL Eligible	1491	404	104	885	2884
2016-2017 Update:					
0-2 yr olds, estimated potentially eligible	<u>621</u>	<u>149</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>303</u>	<u>1110</u>
3-5 yr olds estimated potentially eligible	<u>617</u>	<u>125</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>367</u>	<u>1151</u>
Total FRL Eligible	<u>1238</u>	<u>274</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>670</u>	<u>2261</u>

Source: Florida Department of Health, Birth Query System, Free and Reduced Lunch Data from Florida Department of Health Pregnancy and Young Child Profiles County Health Profile

Based on the Free and Reduced Lunch percent eligibility for the four school districts there is an estimated 1,221 children birth to two years old potentially eligible for Early Head Start programs and 1,237 children potentially eligible for Head Start programs in the service area.

2014-2015 Update: The current estimates are 1,304 potentially Early Head Start eligible and 1,221 potentially Head Start eligible.

2015-2016 Update: The current estimates are 1,233 potentially Early Head Start eligible and 1,651 potentially Head Start Eligible.

2016-2017 Update: The current estimates are 1,110 potentially Early Head Start eligible and 1,151 potentially Head Start Eligible.

Indicator 3: Medicaid Eligibility

Medicaid eligibility is another indicator used to estimate Head Start eligibility. Based on the data presented, there could be 2,104 children between the ages of three and four (*birth years 2009-2010*) potentially eligible for Head Start services and 3,075 birth to age two (*birth years 2011-2013*) potentially eligible for Early Head Start services. 2013 birth data was unavailable at the time of this report; an average based on prior years was used in calculations.

2014-2015 Update: Current estimates are 2,075 children between the ages of three and four (*birth years 2010 and 2011*) and 3,098 EHS eligible children (*birth years 2012-2014*). Birth data for 2014 Medicaid births was not available at the time of this report, an average based on prior years was used.

2015-2016 Update: Current estimates are 1,992 children between the ages of three and four (*birth years 2011 and 2012*) and 3,228 EHS eligible children (*birth years 2013-2015*).

2016-2017 Update: Current estimates are 2,065 children between the ages of three and four (*birth years 2012 and 2013*) and 3,114 EHS eligible children (*birth years 2014-2016*).

Table 17. Potentially Eligible Children Based On Medicaid Births

Birth Year	Columbia	Hamilton	Lafayette	Suwannee	Totals
2009	565	132	38	304	1039
2010	531	131	53	350	1065
2011	505	120	51	334	1010
2012	511	104	49	318	982
2013	567	120	48	348	1083
2014	597	104	58	340	1099
2015	546 534	119 111	50 39	332 299	1046 983
2016 provisional count	~542	~102	~45	~343	~1032

Source: Florida Department of Health Pregnancy and Young Child Profiles

3 Indicators At a Glance: Estimated Number of Eligible Children Under Five and Pregnant Women

	Columbia	Hamilton	Lafayette	Suwannee	Service Area
Indicator 1:					
Based on estimated poverty rate	1552	349	125	1118	3144
2014-2015 Update	1635	416	121	1302	3474
2015-2016 Update	1852	494	153	1294	3743
2016-2017 Update	1677	447	129	1328	3582
Indicator 2:					
FRL Eligible	1248	296	125	789	2458
2014-2015 Update	1208	317	119	881	2525
2015-2016 Update	1491	404	104	885	2884
2016-2017 Update	1237	274	80	670	2261
Indicator 3:					
Medicaid births 2009-2013	2679	607	239	1654	5179
2014-2015 Update 2010-2014	2649	596	248	1680	5173
2015-2016 Update 2011-2015	2726	567	256	1672	5220
2016-2017 Update 2012-2016	2751	541	239	1648	5179

Section 8: Suwannee Valley 4Cs Head Start Program Information

Enrollment Statistics during 2012-2013 Program Year

The 2012-2013 PIR report shows Suwannee Valley 4Cs provided services to 384 preschool children and 249 Early Head Start children including 13 pregnant women. While operating at full capacity, Suwannee Valley 4Cs maintains a waitlist of eligible children for Head Start and Early Head Start.

2014-2015 Update: The agency provided services to 391 Head Start children, 262 Early Head Start children and 12 pregnant women. There were no significant changes in the indicators in table 18.

2015-2016 Update: The agency provided services to 405 Head Start children, 187 Early Head Start children and 14 pregnant women. There were no significant changes in the indicators in table 18.

2016-2017 Update: The agency provided services to 324 Head Start children, 267 Early Head Start children and 13 pregnant women. There were no significant changes in the indicators in table 18.

Table 18 reflects ethnicity, race and primary language enrollment statistics for the 2012-2013 program year based on PIR. Six percent of participating children are dual-language learners.

Table 18. Ethnicity, Race and Primary Language – HS, EHS, Program

Head Start	Ethnicity		Race				Primary Language (spoken at home)		
	Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	Black	White	Multi	Asian	English	Spanish	Mid-East.
Columbia	173	17	107	76	5	2	183	6	1
Hamilton	48	15	35	23	5	-	50	13	-
Lafayette	15	5	3	16	1	-	19	1	-
Suwannee	94	17	43	66	2	-	107	4	-
Totals	330	54	188	181	13	2	359	24	1
Percent of Enrollment	86%	14%	49%	47%	3%	>0.01%	93%	6%	>0.01%

Early Head Start	Ethnicity		Race				Primary Language (spoken at home)		
	Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	Black	White	Multi	Asian	English	Spanish	Mid-East.
Columbia	93	3	71	19	6	-	94	2	-
Hamilton	54	22	47	22	7	-	65	11	-
Suwannee	70	7	44	23	10	-	75	2	-
Totals	217	32	162	64	23	-	234	15	-
Percent of Enrollment	87%	13%	65%	26%	9%	-	94%	6%	-

Service Area / Program Comparison	Ethnicity		Race				Primary Language (spoken at home)		
	Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	Black	White	Multi	Asian	English	Spanish	Mid-East.
SV4Cs HS/EHS	86%	14%	55%	39%	6%	.003%	94%	6%	.001%
Service Area	91%	9%	19%	78%	3%	-	91.5%	8.5% ¹	

¹ Average from 'Language spoken at home other than English' from Table 2

Dual Language Learners (DLL):

Young DLLs lag behind their peers when they enter kindergarten and the gap in academic achievement appears to widen as children grow older. There is great variability among young DLLs with regard to the rate and the manner in which they learn a second language, with several factors influencing the process of second language learning, such as child factors (e.g., age, motivation, personality, first language proficiency), program/school factors (e.g., instructional approaches, teacher preparation), and socio-cultural factors (e.g., poverty, familial stress, incongruence between home and school environments).

Suwannee Valley 4Cs staff encourage parents of DLLs to maintain their home language with their children to help ensure a strong language foundation for each child. In addition, parents are encouraged to visit the classroom to teach an activity, read a story or sing a song in their home language. Children are encouraged to speak their home language with other children in the classroom who speak that language. At the same time, children are encouraged to learn the English language in the classroom through bi-lingual signage and activities. Teachers work toward children’s understanding of the English language and building their vocabulary through repetition, using non-verbal signs, and dual language references to objects or pictures. Dual language staff is available.

Tables 19 and 20 reflects PIR family data at time of enrollment for the 2012-2013 program year.

2014-2015 Update: There were no significant changes in the indicators for tables 19 and 20. While community data suggests a high percentage of grandparents raising grandchildren live in the service area (See Section 4 Health Indicator Table) the PIR data presented below is not reflective of these high percentages in program enrollment.

2015-2016 Update: There were no significant changes in the indicators for tables 19 and 20.

2016-2017 Update: There were no significant changes in the indicators for tables 19 and 20.

Table 19. Ages of Children Served and Family Composition

Early Head Start	Age Range			Family Composition		
	Under 1	1 year old	2 year olds	1 parent	2 parent	Grandparent
Columbia	21	32	39	85	12	3
Hamilton	20	26	25	63	14	1
Suwannee	27	25	21	60	18	3

Head Start	Age Range			Family Composition		
	2 yr olds	3 yr olds	4 yr olds	1 parent	2 parent	Grandparent
Columbia	-	75	114	155	36	3
Hamilton	-	28	35	53	11	2
Lafayette	-	14	6	16	4	3
Suwannee	1	47	64	68	22	3

Working Parents

PIR data indicates the majority of participating families are single working parents with a high school education. These indicators at time of enrollment are provided below.

2015-2016 Update: The number of working parents with children participating in the program has risen significantly since the full assessment in 2013-2014 from 57% in that year to 67% this assessment year.

2016-2017 Update: The number of working parents with children participating in the program has dropped significantly since the 2015-2016 update from 67% in that year to 54% this assessment year.

Table 20. Indicator at time of enrollment (Full Assessment 2013-2014)	SV4Cs Family Intake	Service Area¹
Single parent families	77%	36%
Two parent families	18%	62%
Parent(s) in workforce	57%	38%
Parent(s) in job training/school	9%	-
Parents with less than high school education	24%	21%
Parents with high school diploma/GED	47%	80%
Parents with some college, vocational school, associate degree	27%	-

¹ Averages from Table 2

Head Start and Early Head Start Parent Input

Suwannee Valley 4Cs administers a Parent Needs Assessment at enrollment with a Parent Satisfaction Survey each spring. Most recent data from these sources has been compiled below.

Parent Needs Assessment (upon enrollment)

- Most families found out about the program because they:
 - live in the neighborhood
 - were referred by friend/relative
 - through advertisement
- Reasons families choose the program:
 - free care
 - location
 - child development/socialization
- Community trends of greatest concern to families:
 - transportation
 - job availability
 - emergency housing / energy assistance
- Family challenges include:
 - transportation
 - finding work
 - housing
 - wrap-around care for working families
- Additional resources needed:
 - extended care hours
 - food assistance
 - transportation

- 81% of participating families are aware of or have accessed local services through the agency, family or friends.

Goals families worked on with assistance from Family Services staff were parenting/health education, adult education, employment/job training, education/literacy, budgeting and substance abuse prevention.

2014-2015 Update: Parent needs assessment responses in 2013-2014 included job training resources. Additionally, family goals included transportation and assistance with after school care. 87.5% of participating families are aware of/have accessed local services.

2015-2016 Update: Parent needs assessment responses upon enrollment in 2014-2015 included preparing for job interviews. Sixty-nine percent of participating families are aware of/have accessed local services.

Of the 275 parents responding to the mid-year survey, 67% were working parents, 30% non-working parents, with 3% of parents not responding to the question. The survey provided the following data:

Head Start Respondents				Early Head Start Respondents			
	respondents	176			respondents	99	
	core day	113	64%		core day	66	38%
	extended day	57	32%		extended day	16	9%
	needs met	136	77%		needs met	70	40%
	additional hours needed	30	17%		additional hours needed	20	11%
	summer care needed	88	50%				
Head Start Working Parents Responding				Early Head Start Working Parents Responding			
		117	66%			66	38%
	core day	73	62%		core day	50	76%
	extended day	44	38%		extended day	15	23%
	needs met	87	74%		needs met	44	67%
	additional hours needed	23	20%		additional hours needed	16	24%
	summer care	69	59%				
Head Start Working Parents Responding Center Breakdown				Early Head Start Working Parents Responding Center Breakdown			
	Branford	4	3%		Azalea Park	21	32%
	Ft. White	14	12%		Jasper EHS	20	30%
	Lake City	54	46%		Jennings EHS	12	18%
	Live Oak	26	22%		Lawton's	13	20%
	Jasper	9	8%				
	Jennings	0	0%				
	Mayo	5	4%				

Thirty percent of respondents were non-working parents with 84% using core day services and 16% using extended day services. Eighty-five percent of non-working parents stated the program met their child care needs with 9% stating additional hours of service were needed and 44% stating summer care was needed.

Typical Work, School and Training Schedules of Parents

Per Head Start Program Performance Standards 1302.11 b.1.(iii), issued September 2016, the community assessment must use data that describes typical work, school, and training schedules of parents with eligible children.

2016-2017 Update: The parent typical schedule data collected through the mid-year parent survey shows the program meets the needs of the majority (69%) of parents responding. Two hundred thirty-four (234) parents of the 470 participating in the program responded to the survey. The majority of parents responding (71%) were working parents. The data is presented below.

Data from 2016-2017 Mid-Year Parent Survey:

71% (166) of respondents were working parents

69% (114) of working parents responding said the program met their needs

Zero parents responding attend school or a training program only

Weekly Work Schedules:

Monday - Friday 56%

Schedule changes each week 31%

Daily Work Schedule:

Morning 33%

Morning and afternoon 16%

Morning, afternoon, evening and night 8%

Afternoon 7%

Number of Hours Work/School each Week:

Less than 40 hours each week 41%

Forty hours each week 33%

Hours include work and school 6%

Hours are school only 0%

**Parents responding to survey (working and non-working): 234 or 51% of parents with children currently participating in the program.*

Section 9: Community Survey

The final stage in the data gathering process is to collect various forms of community input and opinions on the issues revealed in the analysis of demographic and other status information from other resource service providers. Data for this component of the process was collected: through a community needs survey sent to resource agencies; through interviews with community leaders and key informants in the service area.

- a. The three most significant strengths identified in the community revolve around involvement in school, church and the community. These attributes speak to the strength of small communities and the willingness of community members to help each other.
- b. The three greatest challenges facing children and families in the community were employment opportunities, transportation and alcohol abuse.

2014-2015 Update: In the survey the top three challenges named were employment, dental care and affordable housing.

2015-2016 Update: In the survey the top three challenges named were employment, transportation, and mental health.

2016-2017 Update: The top three challenges identified were employment, transportation, and illegal drugs.

- c. Services identified as needed, but not well-provided in the community were public transportation, emergency shelters, family counseling/support, financial assistance and housing assistance.

2014-2015 Update: In the survey, respondents said services needed but not well provided were transportation, dental care and child care (infant / toddler, ill care, and p.m. hours)

2015-2016 Update: In the survey, respondents said services needed but not well-provided were child care (infant/toddler, p.m. hours), emergency shelter, adult education, and family counseling and support.

2016-2017 Update: Respondents identified life skills training and transportation with adult education, financial assistance, child health care, parenting education, infant child care, dental health care, mental health care, housing assistance and language assistance tying for third place.

- d. Community agencies responding to the survey identified five of the greatest barriers to low-income families seeking assistance: transportation, length of waiting lists, eligibility requirements, awareness of services offered, and hours of service.

2014-2015 Update: In the survey, respondents identified transportation, awareness, child care, length of waitlists and service hours as barriers.

2015-2016 Update: In the survey, respondents indentified transportation, awareness, child care, comfort level with agencies staff, and eligibility requirements as barriers.

2016-2017 Update: Transportation, awareness of services, length of waiting lists, eligibility requirements, and child care were identified as the five greatest barriers.

- e. Populations of special concern were the homeless, single parents, the unemployed, children birth to five, and adults with disabilities.

2014-2015 Update: In the survey, pre-school children, school-age children and the unemployed were of special concern to respondents.

2015-2016 Update: In the survey, children (birth to teens), parenting grandparents, and the unemployed were of special concern to respondents.

2016-2017 Update: Respondents identified all children, single parents and the homeless as populations of special concern.

Section 10: Community Resources

The extent to which resources exist to meet the identified needs of Head Start families varies widely from county to county within the service area. Head Start parents always have access to services provided by Suwannee Valley 4Cs. The agency also provides referrals to resources for child health insurance and other information relating to family issues. A number of community resources have already been identified within prior sections of this community assessment. Information on other resources follows.

Health Services

Each county in the service area has its own public health department. Health department staff meets regularly with Head Start staff, participates in the Health Advisory Committee, and provides professional and technical assistance as needed. Coordination with the Women, Infants and Children program (WIC) for those families who need the services is available and easily accessed. Suwannee Valley 4Cs, WIC and the county health departments work together to address the issues of anemia, childhood obesity and other nutrition-related concerns affecting young children.

Within the service area, health care providers are culturally competent and reflect the cultures and languages of the families served. Sensory screenings and dental exams are provided through qualified contractual providers to all Head Start and Early Head Start children, follow-up treatment is provided when necessary.

Continuing Education and Job Training

Suwannee Valley 4Cs maintains a productive relationship with the adult education departments in each county to assist parents to earn GEDs. Head Start parents who wish to enroll in college are referred to Florida Gateway College in the service area, or North Florida Community College in nearby Madison County. Parents are also referred to services and vocational training provided by the local Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI) and River Oak Technical College in Live Oak.

Parent Education

Suwannee Valley 4Cs' Family Support Department and community agencies provide workshops and information that assist families in many areas including child development, parenting skills, money management, proper pediatric oral health and nutrition, child support enforcement, domestic violence prevention, child abuse prevention, adult literacy, and employment.

The region's community mental health provider, Meridian Behavioral Health Services, provides counseling and treatment for low-income families based on a referral system. Suwannee Valley 4Cs' Mental Health Consultant (Resolution Health Alliance) is available to assess the needs of Head Start families and to make referrals, as appropriate. It also provides direct-service counseling and treatment for children and families enrolled in Head Start and Early Head Start.

Transportation

Implementing a regional public transit system is an issue beyond the scope of the Head Start/Early Head Start programs; however, agency staff is involved in advocating for public transportation in the service area. The family support specialists help families identify available transportation such as car pools.

Housing

Head Start families that are ready to explore the possibility of owning their own homes are encouraged by family support staff to enroll in the State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP). SHIP requires participants to attend classes in budgeting, home ownership and other issues, and assists participants in locating and purchasing their first home. Other resources available to families in each county to help prospective homeowners include: USDA, HUD, and the public housing authority in each county.

Homelessness

The United Way serves as the lead agency for the homeless services network of Suwannee Valley, bringing together homeless service providers to coordinate services and position the community to receive grant funds in support of services for those who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness.

Working Families and Extended Care

Since many parents are in the workforce now, more find it necessary to seek extended hours of care. Families are referred to the Early Learning Coalition of Florida's Gateway when Suwannee Valley 4Cs extended care slots are full.

Section 11: Summary of Findings

The Community Assessment analysis of demographic data and population trends confirms the need for affordable, comprehensive early childcare programs in the service area to meet the needs of low-income families and their children. Quality early childhood services will increase the resiliency, growth and development of our youngest and most vulnerable population as well as make an impact on poverty in the community.

The following summary of findings is a compilation of areas of concern identified in the full assessment and intervening year updates. Goals and objectives based on assessment findings that are within the scope and budget parameters of the program will be established / updated in agency plans (short- and long-term).

Qualified Staff

Looking at the percentage of each county's population in the workforce and comparing high school graduation/drop-out rates with unemployment and poverty rates the connection can be made between all these factors and potential eligibility for services. In particular, it is evident when looking at the education data that a challenge exists in staffing Hamilton county centers with 'local' qualified teachers.

2016-2017 Update: The challenge to staff centers with qualified teachers now exists in all counties of the service area.

Child Care / Greatest Need: Additional Infant - Toddler Slots

Quality center based services for infants and toddlers are still lacking in the counties served by Suwannee Valley 4Cs. The data demonstrates that while Suwannee Valley 4Cs Early Head Start programs in Columbia, Hamilton, and Suwannee have made a significant impact, there are many more infant and toddler care slots still needed. Moreover, the growing need for services in Suwannee and Columbia counties is specifically reflected in the waitlist data collected by Suwannee Valley 4Cs. (See Section 5-Table 13-Waitlist Data)

2016-2017 Update: The lack of quality center-based infant and toddler care remains a great need in the service area. (See Section 5 – table 13 – Waitlist Data)

Increase in LEA VPK Services / Decrease in Head Start Waitlist

With the data presented in Section 5 of this assessment, the increase in VPK services in Columbia County by the LEA has greatly impacted the program's Lake City Learning Center waitlist - from an average of 33 children waitlisted in 2010-2011 to one child in 2014-2015. This pattern will have a dramatic effect on the program's ability to fill vacant slots in a timely manner.

2015-2016 Update: In October 2015 Suwannee Valley 4Cs converted 40 Head Start slots to 16 Early Head Start slots in Columbia County.

Obesity / Overweight

The data presented indicates this health factor is an area of concern in the service area across all age ranges. (See Section 4 Health Indicator Table, Section 4 Childhood Obesity and the 2013-2014 parent responses, Table 12 Overweight Children)

2015-2016 Update: Suwannee Valley 4Cs continues to address this area of lifestyle through health/nutrition services which include: providing additional services with the contracted registered dietician, WIC referrals, providing families information through workshops, brochures, and newsletter articles.

2015-2016 Update: Head Start – Needs for Summer Care Services

Parents Needs Assessment data reflects a greater need for Head Start program services during the summer months. It is our understanding that there will be funding opportunities in the near future for full-year services.

The Community Assessment serves as the cornerstone for program planning to address the needs of Head Start and Early Head Start children and families in the service area. The information compiled in this report will also assist the program and program partners to better collaborate in implementing programs and services.

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