



DELTA COMMUNITY ACTION ASSOCIATION, INC.

2024-2025 Annual Report

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE, Changing Lives.



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Board of Directors

Delta Community Action Association, Inc. is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors with equal representation from Madison, Richland and East Carroll Parishes representatives from the low-income private sector and representatives of local elected officials. The Board of Directors lead the strategic direction of operations. They also serve as strong stewards of our valuable resources. The Head Start/Early Head Start Policy Council is an integral part of the operations of the corporations particularly the Head Start programs and provides an opportunity to have clientele of Delta CAA's programs directly involved in the decision-making processes about those programs. Below is our leadership, which includes our Executive Director.

Board of Directors

D. L. McCall, President
John "Mike" Rome, Vice-President
Undra Henderson, Secretary/Treasurer
Marilyn Bedgood
Anthony Bridgewater
Scott Cox
Donna Crockett
Samuel Jackson
Rena Lucas
Nandeaner McDowell
Virginia "Suzy" Peebles
Earl Pinkney
Doris Robinson
Jane Sanders
Lan Townsend
M. E. "Manny" DuQue, Executive Director

Policy Council

Ashley Norwood-Atkins, President
Johnny Ray Cleveland, Vice-President
SheKeena Neal, Secretary
Clorinda Turner, Parliamentarian
Leartrice Hawkins
Cassandra Holland
Natiya Jackson
Tanisha May
Stephanie Morrison
Rev. James Smith
Robert Thompson

THE COMMUNITY ACTION PROMISE

Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes Northeast Louisiana a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.

OUR MISSION

Continue waging the war on poverty by mobilizing resources that are used to provide services that enrich the growth and development of children, families and our communities. Emphasis is placed on empowering individuals and families to make life-choices which build capacity.

OUR VISION

To remove all barriers (internal and external) that hinder low-income individuals and families from moving toward self-sufficiency and achieving their potential.



MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Community Members, Partners, and Supporters,

It is with great pride and appreciation that I present the Delta Community Action Association's 2024–2025 Annual Report. This publication reflects our unwavering commitment to serving the families and individuals across Madison, Richland, East Carroll, Franklin, Tensas, and West Carroll Parishes. Throughout the past year, Delta CAA has continued to implement a comprehensive array of programs designed to meet the evolving needs of low- to moderate-income households. These initiatives, guided by our community needs assessment, are a testament to our mission of delivering high-quality, impactful services to those most in need.

We are deeply grateful to our Board of Directors, Policy Council, and dedicated staff for their steadfast leadership and service. We also extend our sincere thanks to our community partners and funding agencies whose support has been instrumental in navigating both the opportunities and challenges of the past year.

Delta CAA remains committed to the values of excellence, integrity, sustainability, and leadership. Our team continues to collaborate with key partners, including the Louisiana Workforce Commission – CSBG Unit, Louisiana Housing Corporation – LIHEAP, the Office of Head Start, and the Louisiana Department of Education's Louisiana Believes initiative, to ensure that every child is prepared for school and every family has access to essential resources.

This report serves not only as a summary of our accomplishments but also as a reflection of the lives we have touched and improved. We are honored to share these outcomes with you and look forward to building on this progress in the year ahead.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in advancing our mission.

Respectfully,

M. E. DuQue III

LIST OF AGENCY FUNDS AND SOURCE (All Public & Private Funds)

The total amount of public and private funds received and the amount from each source:

Program Year Funded Amount		
	2023-2024	2024-2025
Head Start	\$ 3,483,363.00	\$ 3,527,998.00
Early Head Start	\$ 1,631,034.00	\$ 1,668,511.00
Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)	\$ 169,817.00	\$ 215,704.00
USDA Child & Adult Care Food Program	\$ 686,161.73	\$ 733,441.00
USDA Family Day Care Homes Program	\$ 742,238.37	\$ 675,270.19
Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)	\$ 492,356.00	\$ 483,912.00
Food For Seniors	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
LA. Department of Education – Early Childhood Network	\$ 948,418.59	\$ 592,536.81
Total Funds Received	\$ 8,153,388.69	\$ 7,897,373.00

Annual Audit - The annual audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, was presented by Mr. Travis Morehart, CPA from Cook & Morehart, CPA Firm. An unqualified opinion was given which is the highest possible opinion. The Audit is available for review at 611 North Cedar, Tallulah, Louisiana 71282.

DELTA COMMUNITY ACTION ASSOCIATION, INC.

HEAD START

Pre-School - A federal program that promotes school readiness for low-income children 3-5 years old. The entire family is encouraged to be involved with the child's education. Disability services are offered to children with special needs. Head Start is based on a "whole child" model, and provides comprehensive services that include preschool education, medical, dental, mental health care, and nutrition services. Head Start services are designed to be responsive to each child's and family's ethnic, cultural, and linguistic heritage.

EARLY HEAD START - A federal program that provides family-centered services to infants/toddlers, pregnant women and their families. Disability services also are offered to children with special needs.

COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG)

Supports efforts to identify and eliminate causes and conditions of poverty. The funds are appropriated to enable low-income individuals to achieve self-sufficiency, enhance family stability, and revitalize their community.

USDA CHILD & ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM (CACFP)

Reimburse agency at a specified rate for meals served to Head Start Pre-K and Early Head Start children. Breakfast, lunch, and snacks are served each day.

USDA FAMILY DAY CARE HOME PROGRAM (FDCH)

Reimburse childcare providers for meals served to children in their home. Each provider can keep up to six children from birth to 12 years of age in their home. Providers can serve breakfast, lunch, dinner, and P.M. snack.

FEMA EMERGENCY FOOD & SHELTER FUNDS

In collaboration with United Way of Northeast Louisiana, assist individuals/families with direct payments to home energy suppliers and rent/mortgage direct payments to vendors/landlord to avoid homelessness and/or evictions.

LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP)

Provides direct payments to home energy suppliers on behalf of eligible households, particularly the elderly and disabled. To be eligible, an individual must be within an income guideline developed by the Department of Health and Human Services.

ATMOS ENERGY SHARE THE WARMTH

Provide bill paying assistance to low-income customers of ATMOS Energy.

POWER TO CARE

Provide bill paying assistance to for seniors over 65 and disabled customers of ENTERGY.

FOOD FOR SENIORS

Food boxes are provided every other month to eligible seniors ages sixty and above.

EARLY CHILDHOOD NETWORK

A program that seeks to bring all publicly funded early childhood programs into one network. The initiative is intended to better serve birth to age five children and improve preschoolers' readiness for kindergarten by providing access to quality Pre-K for at-risk 4-year-olds according to the Louisiana Department of Education.

DELTA COMMUNITY ACTION - COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS



Delta CAA could not have been so nimble in an ever-changing world without the help of so many partners who provided us with additional support to allow us to use funding where it was needed most, or distribute services earlier than scheduled.

Along with other accomplishments for the year, Delta CAA received Board approval for the community needs assessment and for updates of the risk assessment evaluation report, succession plan and agency-wide budget. In addition, we had another successful year by receiving an unmodified audit opinion with no findings.

Community Service Block Grant (CSBG)



The Delta CAA CSBG Program delivers targeted services aimed at addressing the root causes of poverty in Madison and Richland Parishes. Funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and administered through the Louisiana Workforce Solution, CSBG enables Delta CAA to implement impactful initiatives such as the Summer Youth Program, Emergency Assistance, Energy Assistance, and Food for Seniors.

Since 2019, Delta CAA has consistently achieved a perfect score of 100% in Organizational Standards, reflecting its commitment to excellence and accountability.

Family Day Care Homes Program



Family Day Care Homes provides reimbursement for meals and snacks served to small groups of children receiving nonresidential day care in private homes (Provider) that are licensed, registered, or approved to provide family childcare in East Carroll, Franklin, Madison, Richland, Tensas and West Carroll Parishes.

The meals must meet the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) minimum meal pattern requirements, as well as standards for safety, sanitation and food quality.

The provider must care for no more than six children including the provider's own children and any other children living at the provider's residence who are under age 13, or age 13 through 17 if special needs.

93	Providers.
442	Children served.
\$526,658.24	Providers Payments.
\$673,429.24	Total Provider and Program Operation Reimbursement.

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program



The Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program provides life-saving assistance for eligible households by helping to pay electricity and gas bills. Payments are generally made to the utility or fuel vendor directly to help ensure that utility service is not terminated.

Madison Parish - 2024-2025 LIHEAP

259	Households received LIHEAP benefits.
\$595.00	Average LIHEAP benefit per household.
30%	Households including a disabled person.
55%	Households including an elderly person.

Richland Parish - 2024-2025 LIHEAP

345	Households received LIHEAP benefits.
\$668.00	Average LIHEAP benefit per household.
30%	Households including a disabled person.
49%	Households including an elderly person.

Without LIHEAP, households can experience disconnection of utility service, leading to lack of heat in the winter. This creates dangerous situations, especially for the elderly and young children. Households without adequate heat sometimes resort to unsafe heating methods, which can result in serious property damage, even loss of life. Many more families experience homelessness simply because their houses are not livable: unaffordable energy bills lead to dire choices.

ATMOS Energy Share the Warmth – July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

Helping to pay gas bills for Atmos customers. Payments are generally made to the utility or fuel vendor directly to help ensure that utility service is not terminated.

Madison Parish

108	Households received benefits
\$258.48	Average benefit per household

Richland Parish

85	Households received benefits
\$200.61	Average benefit per household

POWER CARE – July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

Power to Care is a donation-based fund from Entergy customers and Entergy employees. for seniors over 65 and disabled customers. The maximum amount is \$500 per year.

Madison Parish

6	Households received benefits
\$246.96	Average benefit per household

Richland Parish

13	Households received benefits
\$333.52	Average benefit per household

Ready Start Early Childhood/Delta Connection Network



Act 3 establishes a statewide Early Childhood Care and Education Network to ensure children are prepared for kindergarten. It tasks the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) with unifying the system by:

- Setting high expectations across all publicly funded providers;
- Aligning public funding with provider performance to support high-quality services; and
- Providing clear, accessible information to empower parents in making informed choices.

Delta Community Action Agency (Delta CAA) as the Lead Agency for the Madison Ready Start/Early Childhood has resulted in consistent, measurable success across the network:

100% completion of CLASS observation.

100% TS GOLD assessment completion.

Common Coordinated enrollment application.

Coordinated enrollment Round-up.

Partner's meeting participation.

Ready Start Advisory Board participation.

The CLASS observation report card issued by Louisiana Department of Education- Louisiana Believe reports Madison Parish Early Childhood Network continues to rank as a High Proficient Network with an overall score of 5.71. Delta HS/EHS program also ranks High Proficient Early Childhood learning centers with an overall CLASS score for East Carroll, Madison and Richland Parishes of 5.64.

Food For Seniors Program



Food boxes are provided every other month to eligible seniors ages sixty and above. In collaboration with the Catholic Charities of New Orleans, Delta Community Action has distributed over 6,577 food boxes in Madison and Richland Parishes.

Madison Parish

163 Individuals (average) in Madison Parish received nutritional food boxes.
1,900 Boxes distributed in Madison Parish.

Richland Parish

382 Individuals (average) in Richland Parish received nutritional food boxes.
4,587 Boxes distributed in Richland Parish.





Head Start Pre-School & Early Head Start

Head Start is a federal program that promotes school readiness of low-income children and their families. Head Start Pre-K provided school readiness services to 3-5 years old by enhancing their cognitive, social, and emotional development in a learning environment that supports children's growth in language, literacy, mathematics, science, social and emotional functioning, creative arts, physical skills, and approaches to learning. Head Start Pre-K also provides eligible children and their families with health, nutrition, social, and other services that are determined based on family needs assessments. Early Head Start provides family-centered services for low-income families with infants/toddlers promote the development of the children, and to enable their parents to fulfill their roles as parents and to move toward self-sufficiency. Persons who may participate in Early Head Start are pregnant women and families with children under age 3 who meet eligibility criteria specified in the Head Start Act.

HEAD START & EARLY HEAD START PROGRAM EXPENDITURES

To meet the goal and objectives to serve 360 preschool age children, 97 infants/toddlers and their families, Delta CAA was awarded grants of \$3,527,998 for Head Start and \$1,668,511 for Early Head Start which includes the required 20% local match. These funds were to support the cost of staff, age-appropriate classroom supplies/furnishings, curriculum, food supplies, facilities occupancy cost, facilities upgrade, vehicles replacement, health/dental/mental health services and age-appropriate playground and shade structures. The charts below list the funds spent to date.



HEAD START PROGRAM		
	2024-2025 Approved Budget	2024-2025 Expenditures
Personnel	\$ 2,298,713.00	\$ 2,077,307.27
Fringe Benefits	\$ 612,718.00	\$ 547,216.85
Travel	\$ 11,866.00	\$ 11,866.50
Equipment	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Supplies	\$ 82,702.00	\$ 138,957.92
Contractual	\$ 31,550.00	\$ 31,500.00
Construction	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Other	\$ 490,499.00	\$ 696,402.96
T/TA	\$ 24,747.00	\$ 24,747.00
In-Kind	\$ 709,875.83	\$ 709,875.83
Total	\$ 4,237,873.83	\$ 4,237,873.83

EARLY HEAD START PROGRAM		
	2023-2024 Approved Budget	2023-2024 Expenditures
Personnel	\$ 1,054,555.00	\$ 911,499.55
Fringe Benefits	\$ 226,795.00	\$ 211,123.22
Travel	\$ 16,317.00	\$ 16,317.00
Equipment	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Supplies	\$ 111,000.00	\$ 111,000.00
Contractual	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
Construction	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Other	\$ 208,552.00	\$ 367,279.23
T/TA	\$ 36,292.00	\$ 36,292.00
In-Kind	\$ 188,701.17	\$ 188,701.17
Total	\$ 1,857,212.17	\$ 1,857,212.17

Note: Due to the continued families' concern with COVID-19 and the local economy, Delta CAA requested a waiver for the required 20% local match. In the spring of 2025, Delta Head Start/Early Head Start was approved a non-federal waiver for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

HEAD START PROGRAM ENROLLMENT

MONTH	2024/2025	2023/2024
July	Not Operational	Not Operational
August	304	305
September	326	325
October	350	316
November	353	310
December	358	321
January	355	329
February	360	340
March	360	347
April	357	356
May	357	353
June	Not Operational	Not Operational

EARLY HEAD START PROGRAM ENROLLMENT

MONTH	2024/2025	2023/2024
July	88	95
August	90	94
September	96	92
October	94	90
November	95	92
December	95	96
January	93	96
February	91	96
March	96	97
April	92	96
May	92	96
June	90	96

Average Monthly Enrollment Head Start	2024/2025	2023/2024
As a percentage of Funded Enrollment:	99	98.8
Total Number of Children and Families served:	399	385
Percent of Eligible Children Served:	100%	100%
Average Monthly Enrollment Early Head Start	2024/2025	2023/2024
As a percentage of Funded Enrollment:	99%	98%
Total Number of Children and Families served:	138	145
Percent of Eligible Children Served:	100%	100%











Services	2024/2025	2023-2024
Children that received medical exams – Head Start:	399	385
Children that received medical exams – Early Head Start:	138	145
Number of All Enrolled Children with an ongoing source of continuous and accessible, routine, preventive and acute medical care:	537	530
Number of Enrolled Children in Head Start received dental exams:	399	385
Number of Enrolled Children in Early Head Start received dental exams:	138	145

DELTA HS/EHS PREPARES PRE-SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN FOR KINDERGARTEN

Delta Head Start/Early Head Start utilizes the Creative Curriculum which is a high quality, systematic and curriculum that combines teacher directed instruction with child centered explorations. The curriculum fosters children's cognitive and social/emotional development and brings together the Pre-Kindergarten academic standards designed to promote explicit instruction in all domains of learning. The Creative Curriculum combines three main areas, including effective curriculum, relevant professional development and strong family connection and support.

In the classroom, teachers use the Teaching Strategic GOLD (TS GOLD), a valid and reliable assessment tool that is aligned with Head Start and Louisiana Outcomes Framework. This tool is used to measure growth in skill development in children aged - 5. Knowing where each pre-school child is in relation to their individual plan and curriculum objectives enables staff and parents to meet and support each child's development and learning.

Agency Effort to Prepare Children for Kindergarten

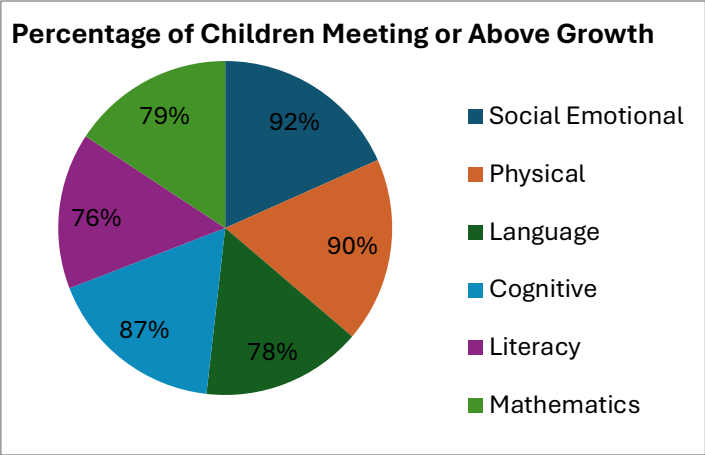
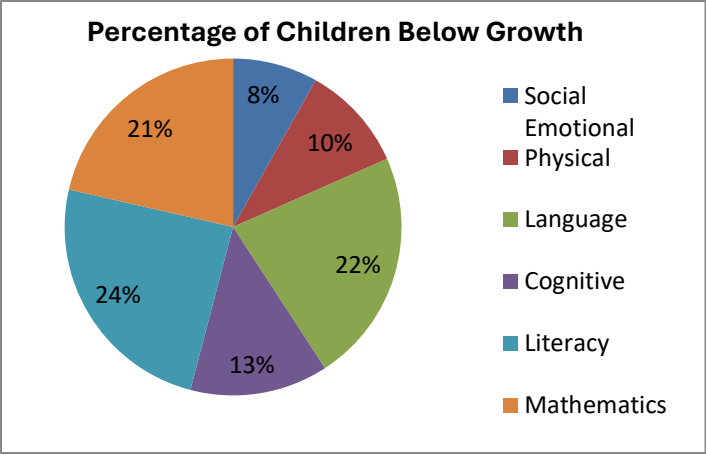
-  Establish school readiness goals for children.
-  Align curricula and assessment tool with Madison, East Carroll and Richland School Districts.
-  Monitor children's progress toward attaining goals.
-  Participation in Louisiana Early Childhood Network for East Carroll, Madison and Richland Parishes.
-  Joint Professional Development between Delta Head Start/Early Head Start, Local Education Agencies and Child Care Partners.
-  Strengthen Family and Community Engagement Plan.
-  Tour of schools for children who will enter Kindergarten.
-  Transition packet for parents.
-  Specialized field trips (museums, theatres, etc.).
-  More individualized instruction.



Investment in young people at the beginning of their lives reaps huge social rewards down through the years. Head Start graduates are more likely to graduate from high school, less likely to be incarcerated and less likely to get a divorce. Other findings show more of Head Start's impact: Children completing Early Head Start achieved gains on standardized tests of cognitive and language development, may need fewer special learning interventions later on, and performed better on critical social-emotional tasks, such as relating to their parents, paying attention and behaving appropriately, according to research.

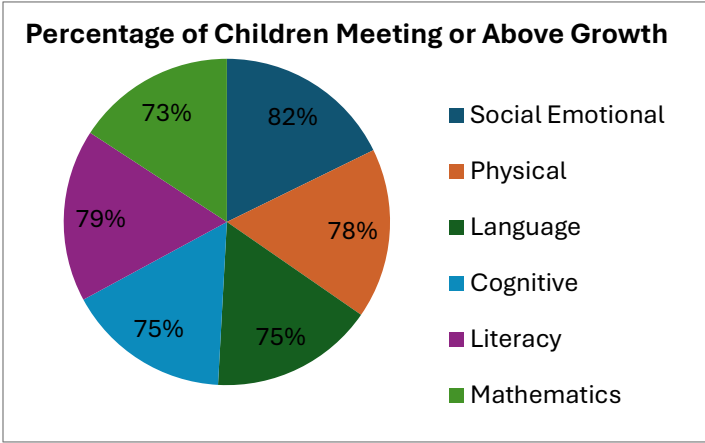
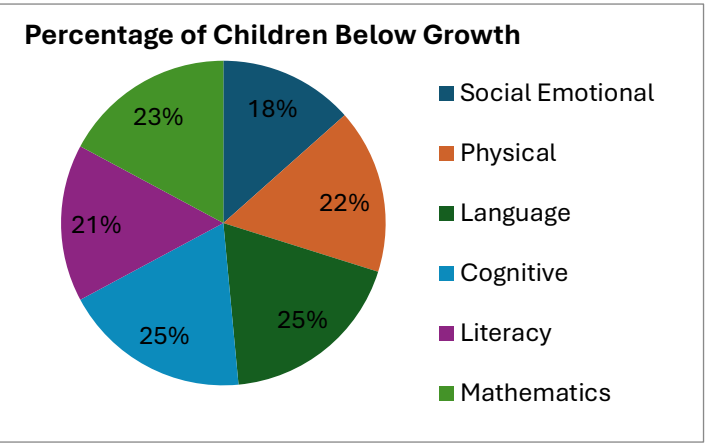
CHILD OUTCOMES All Domains 2024-2025

Growth Report - All Sites 3 Year Olds					
2024-2025 TS GOLD Assessment	Number of Children	Number of Children Below Growth Range	Percentage of Children Below Growth Range	Number of Children Meeting or Above Growth Range	Percentage of Children Meeting or Above Growth Range
Social Emotional	341	26	8%	315	92%
Physical	341	34	10%	307	90%
Language	341	76	22%	265	78%
Cognitive	341	45	13%	296	87%
Literacy	341	81	24%	260	76%
Mathematics	341	73	21%	268	79%



During the Spring of the 2024-2025 school year, there was a 31% increase for 3-year-olds meeting or above growth in all areas of(Social Emotional, Physical, Language, Cognitive, Literacy, and Mathematics) from the Fall to the Spring.

Growth Report - All Sites 4 Year Olds					
2024-2025 TS GOLD Assessment	Number of Children	Number of Children Below Growth Range	Percentage of Children Below Growth Range	Number of Children Meeting or Above Growth Range	Percentage of Children Meeting or Above Growth Range
Social Emotional	120	22	18%	98	82%
Physical	120	26	22%	94	78%
Language	120	30	25%	90	75%
Cognitive	120	30	25%	90	75%
Literacy	120	25	21%	95	79%
Mathematics	120	27	23%	93	73%








During the Spring of 2024-2025 there was a 38% increase for 4-year-olds meeting or above growth in all areas(Social Emotional, Physical, Language, Cognitive, Literacy, and Mathematics) from the Fall to the Spring.
















DELTA HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START PARENT ENGAGEMENT

Delta Head Start/Early Head Start utilizes various methods for educating parents on the important role they play in the growth and development of their children. Parents are encouraged to participate in daily program operations, and they are trained through orientations, workshops, and conferences. They are encouraged to volunteer and assist in the on-going planning and monitoring of the program. During the enrollment process, parents are empowered to ensure that their children continue to receive high quality education after their child exits Delta Head Start/Early Head Start.

Although the 2024-2025 program year provided an enrollment challenges, Delta CAA was able to provide many exciting opportunities for families to participate in, both by themselves and with their children, including:

-  Decision making and leadership activities, through Parent Center Committees, Executive Board, Policy Council, Health/Mental Health Advisory Committee, and other committees.
-  Access to Mental Health Services.
-  Referral and linkage to local educational and work training institutions, which may lead to self-enrichment and gainful employment.
-  Volunteer opportunities.
-  Training on available community services to promote awareness and utilization of available resources.

Parent Engagement Activities:

-  Dad's Day—make and take workshop for dads in classroom.
-  Mom's Day—make and take workshop for moms in classroom.
-  Grandparent's Day—opportunity for grandparents to interact with children.
-  Ready Rosie- Parenting Program.
-  Read Together/Talk Together—training and activities for parents.
-  Donuts for Dads—a day of activities with dads and children.
-  Muffins for Moms—a day of activities with moms and children.
-  Parent Meetings.
-  Field Trips.
-  MACHO Day - Men and Children Hanging Out.
-  Activity Sheets—weekly activities sent home to parents to reinforce classroom teaching.
-  Health and Mental Health Advisory Committee.
-  Thanksgiving and Christmas Dinner.
-  Black History Program.
-  End of Year Celebration.

HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START PROGRAM ON-SITE MONITORING REVIEW RESULTS

Delta Head Start/Early Head Start last federal review Focus Area Two was from January 10-12, 2024. Based on the results of the review, it was determined that Delta HS/EHS was following all applicable Head Start Performance Standards, laws, regulations, and policy requirements and no deficiencies were found. During the review event the OHS monitoring team observed the following Strong Practice(s) in the Performance Area: 1) The grant recipient provides a compensation and benefits package that ensures staff are provided with a total compensation package that promotes fair wages and compensation for staff, 2) The grant recipient routinely (at least 3 times per year for year-round programs) observes and supports proper implementation of the curriculum through the regular and ongoing use of curriculum fidelity tools in all classrooms and programs, 3) The grant recipient has substantial and ongoing strategies to address food insecurities and ensure children and families have access to food outside of the scheduled day.

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT SUMMARY UPDATE

As part of an ongoing assessment of community needs, Delta Community Action Association, Inc. (Delta CAA) engaged in a comprehensive process of interviews, focus groups, surveys, data gathering and analysis to identify the root causes and conditions of poverty in the service areas of Madison, Richland, East Carroll, West Carroll, Franklin, and Tensas Parishes.

The following list of community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, private sector, public sector and educational institutions which Delta CAA consulted, gathered and utilized relevant information to address any significant changes or updates in the Community Needs Assessment (CNA):

Agency/Organization	Sector	Resources
U. S. Census	Public	US Census QuickFacts Report
Louisiana Workforce Commission	Public	Louisiana Labor Force Report
Madison Council on Aging	Community-Based	Service Data
Richland Council on Aging	Community-Based	Service Data
Madison and Richland School Boards	Public	Enrollment Data
Ministerial Alliance	Faith-Based	Service Data

Delta CAA programs continue to work vigorously with the Board of Directors, Policy Council, community partners, parents and community at large to ensure the long-range/short-range program and financial objectives are met and are appropriate by using the data that is obtained in the Community Assessment.

The analysis of the U. S. 2024 Census updated data shows that:

1. Since the 2018 U.S. Census update, a decrease in population has occurred in all three parishes.

Geographic	U.S. Census Population by Parish						
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
East Carroll	7,037	6,861	6,589	7,220	6,990	6,738	6,719
Madison	11,161	10,951	10,017	9,809	9,601	9,393	9,246
Richland	20,192	20,122	20,049	19,805	19,826	19,762	19,712

U.S. Census Data update-2024

The factors listed throughout this community needs assessment, along with their more traditional counterparts, must be considered when assessing the cause and conditions of poverty. Common contributors to poverty in rural areas such as population density, limited tax base that restricts investment in social capital such as education and healthcare, and economic structures that include limited opportunities, and low wages occupations are all present within the service area.

Poverty rates are higher in Louisiana than in the nation falling behind Mississippi. In Louisiana, the 2023 U.S. Census update estimated 19% Louisiana residents lived below the federal poverty line at 100% was \$31,200 for a family of four. While at 125%, \$39,000 for a family of four and at 200% is \$62,400. As of July 2023, Northeast Louisiana had three parishes with more than 25% of their population living in poverty. Of those four parishes, three are in Delta CAA CSBG service area.

East Carroll, 46.5%	West Carroll, 32.1%	Tensas, 35.4%
Madison, 34.1%	Richland 25.1%	Franklin 24.8%

2024 U.S. Census Bureau, "Quick Facts"	Louisiana	Madison	Richland	East Carroll	Franklin	Tensas	West Carroll
Population 2024	4,573,749	9,246	19,712	6,990	19,285	3,764	9,323
Male	2,241,137	49.4%	49.2%	56.3%	48%	49.3%	49.2%
Female	2,332,612	50.6%	50.8%	43.7%	52. %	50.7%	50.8%
Under age 5	6.1%	6.8%	6.6%	4.5%	6.3%	4.9%	5.3%
Under age 18	23.1%	25%	23.7%	20.4%	25.1%	21.1%	22.6%
Age 65 or older	17%	17.8%	18.7%	15.5%	19.3%	27.7%	21%
White	62.5%	35.6%	62.4%	28.6%	66.6%	43.1%	82.1%
Black or African American	32.8%	61.5%	35.7%	68.4%	31.2%	54.6%	14.6%
American Indian & Alaska Native	0.8%	0.4%	0.4%	0.5%	0.4%	0.3%	1%
Asian	1.9%	0.4%	0.4%	0.6%	0.4%	0.3%	0.4%
Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander	0.1%	0%	0.0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Hispanic or Latino origin	5.8%	3.4%	2.5%	3.4%	1.8%	2.9%	4.5%
Two or more	1.9%	2.1%	1.1%	1.9%	1.2%	1.6%	1.8%
Poverty Under 18	24.6%	52.4%	30.5%	62.9%	39.8%	52.8%	29.1%
Poverty 18 to 64 years	17.3%	35.0%	23.3%	30.7%	22.7%	32.8%	17.5%
Poverty 65 years and over	14.8%	24.2%	17.3%	29.6%	16.5%	24.7%	12.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau July 2024 Update Note: Percent does not add to 100 since Hispanics may be of any race

There are some differences between the demographic characteristics of people in the parishes regarding gender, age, and race. First, while Madison Parish has a higher percentage of females, all parishes in the primary and secondary service area have higher percentages of females living in poverty than males. Second, the average (highest) percentage of those in poverty in primary and secondary service area are children under the age of 18 (average 44.58%) whereas this age group indicates the smallest percentage compared to Louisiana 24.6% and the overall population in the service area (average 5.6%). Over 81% of the service area are not Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin. Lastly, with the exception of West Carroll Parish poverty 65 years and over of 12.5% as listed above are higher than

Louisiana poverty level by age category in the primary and secondary service area population. Poverty is also disproportionately concentrated along the Mississippi River’s rural communities and among African Americans. Child poverty, particularly among very young children, is also significantly higher in Louisiana than in the nation as a whole. Louisiana ranks 47 in the nation in its percentage of children living in poverty. Also, the state ranks 49 in the nation in its percentage of families with children living in single-parent households.

As part of the Community Needs Assessment, Delta CAA also examined data related to customer satisfaction. Data was collected via a Customer Satisfaction Survey diligently distributed to each individual who receives a service from Delta CAA programs to capture the satisfaction of the overall experience in working with Delta CAA to help them and change lives. Delta CAA staff distributed over 992 total surveys to customers with a total of 888 unduplicated customers completing the survey and/or participating in area focus groups. In the fall of 2024 and spring of 2025, Delta CAA surveyed agency staff members, Board of Directors, local elected officials, and community partners regarding their perspective on needs in the community. Collectively, these groups identified a number of needs and analysis of their responses clearly indicated several core barriers to self-sufficiency. Ten (10) partner and community stakeholders and seven (7) Delta CAA staff members were respondents. Survey results still provide valuable insight into the needs of local residents living in poverty. The number of residents taking the survey in each parish reflected the proportion of residents living in Madison and Richland Parishes. 75% of survey respondents lived alone or with one other family member. Most of the remaining 25% were comprised of families that range from 3-7 members. Of those residents taking the survey, the reported incomes were at or less than 125% of the federal poverty level.

Overall, Delta CAA customers appear to be overwhelmingly satisfied with services. Of the 888 respondents, 100% of respondents to the Customer Satisfaction Survey noted that overall, they were satisfied with the services they received from Delta CAA. All feedback received in community meetings was positive as well. Staff were praised for being supportive in a number of programs, including emergency assistance and food programs. Staff members also received a 100% satisfaction rate in the Customer Satisfaction Survey and strong praise in community meetings. For example, a single female parent was so amazed with the service provided to her child a special needs child that she joined Delta HS/EHS workforce, one Food for Seniors participant specifically thanked Mr. C. White, Food for Seniors delivery driver with the program, for going above and beyond. Almost all customers were satisfied with Delta CAA’s facilities, but 1 customer noted that they were not able to physically enter a facility, likely due to pandemic restrictions. 100% of customers expressed that the services provided met their needs. Over 25% were referred to other services by Delta CAA or other community organizations. This statistic was supported by evidence from community meetings. For example, one participant in the group meeting hosted by Madison Parish noted that “learning about the different services has really helped me out during my time of needs”. This comment expressed a positive, appreciative attitude towards Delta CAA.

Delta CAA program clients (customers) have different needs. For example, early childhood program clients are likely to have more needs related to children. Survey results are not a perfect reflection of the needs of all low-income residents of the service area.

The following is the general public Needs Assessment priority breakdown:










Lack of Jobs	Emergency Assistance
Lack of Livable Wages	Education Opportunities beyond High School
High Cost of Energy	High Crime in Neighborhoods
High Cost of Food	Lack of Transportation

Lack of Affordable Childcare
Nutritional Needs

Lack of Health Community Resources
Lack of Financial Literacy Knowledge





Head Start/Early Head Start Specific

As of March 2024, Delta HS/EHS service area has two parishes with more than 33% of their population living in poverty: East Carroll 39.9%, Madison 35.3% and Richland 25%. Poverty is also disproportionately concentrated along the Mississippi River's rural communities and among African Americans. Child poverty, particularly among very young children, is also significantly higher in Louisiana than in the nation as a whole. According to Kids Count Data Center 2023 report, Louisiana ranks:

-  50 in the nation in its percentage of children living in poverty,
-  50 in the nation overall in child economic well-being,
-  48 in the nation in education,
-  49% of young children ages 3 and 4 are not in school,
-  74% of fourth graders are not proficient in reading,
-  77% of eighth graders are not proficient in math, and
-  20% of High School students are not graduating on time.
-  49 in the nation in its percentage of families with children living in single-parent households, and
-  49 in the nation in children's health well-being.

Furthermore, Louisiana is tied with 11 other states for 6th place for the percentage of children without health insurance.

The Head Start/Early Head Start Community Assessment reflects the following information:

-  The service area is the boundaries of East Carroll, Madison and Richland Parishes and the recruitment area remains the same for families in East Carroll, Madison and Richland parishes. The program recruitment process is utilized to maximize the recruitment efforts for income eligible children in the service areas. A coordinated enrollment effort with the LEAs, charter schools and public-funded day-cares is implemented prior to the commencement of center operations and is used in an ongoing basis for the duration of the program year.
-  Through the analysis of the data that was collected in the Community Assessment, the Eligibility and Selection Criteria is formulated to determine the children with the most need for the HS and EHS services. A point system has been established by the program with the engagement of staff and parents. This process ensures that the neediest children and families are enrolled into the program including foster children, children with disabilities, homeless children, and children receiving public assistance.
-  Based on the enrollment data as of February 2025, a decrease in population continues as an emerging trend as listed on item 7. Delta HS/EHS management team submitted a Change of Scope to is the Office of Head Start Regional VI Office to serve 326 HS Pre-K eligible children, 88 infants/toddlers to eliminating under-enrollment and/or maintain a 97% enrollment.
-  Locations of HS/EHS centers remain unchanged in appropriate areas that meet the families' needs. The information that is in the Community Assessment indicates the centers are strategically placed in the areas where the eligible families are located. However, due to the condition of some of the buildings, playground space, classroom size, the location of restrooms for the children, and

insufficient office space for support staff, new facilities are needed.



The program options and services provided reflect the expressed interests of families in East Carroll, Madison and Richland parishes. The following are the program options to serve the eligible infants/toddlers, pregnant women and their families for the 2025-2026 program year:

Center Based –

The HS Pre-K program will operate a full day/part year center-based option for a total of 180 days, five days a week from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for a total of 1080 hours from August through May. The center staff total of 196 days includes training days, preparation days, and holidays.

The EHS Program will provide a full day/full year center-based program option for a total of 240 days, five days a week from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for a total of 1440 hours from mid-July through June. The center staff total of 260 days includes training days, preparation days, and holidays. This operation enables the Delta HS/EHS program to meet the Head Start Performance Standards and the 2007 Head Start Act.



The service delivery approach consists of a pro-family style, part year/full day for HS and full/day full/year for EHS, center based comprehensive developmental program that promotes preventive care, early childhood education, and integrated services; and is sensitive to race, culture, gender and individuals with disabilities; and is responsive to the service needs of children and their families. The EHS has a home base option for children and pregnant women.

Trends – The following are common themes that continue to emerge across East Carroll, Madison and Richland Parishes:

- Decrease in population (out-migration).

- Increase of one childcare center in Tallulah, one childcare center in Delhi, and one childcare center in Rayville/Start.

- Decrease in 3 & 4-year-old population in Madison and East Carroll Parishes.

- Lack of transportation.

- Lack of Jobs.

- Declining retail establishments in East Carroll and Madison Parishes.

Based on some of the trends listed above, Delta Head Start/Early Head Start submitted a Change of Scope for a reduction in funded child enrollment slots in Head Start Pre-School (HS Pre-K) by 34 slots and change of Program Option for Early Head Start (EHS) eliminating the Home-based option. This request is in direct response to the changing needs of families in our service area and population decrease for the last 10 years.

Key Findings and Strategies to Address Area Needs

Economy

Because Delta CAA's mission is to help those living in poverty, strategies that best ameliorate poverty would help clients the most. Two ways to best address poverty are outside of the direct role of social service agencies like Delta CAA:

- Increase the number of jobs in the service area.

- Livable wages.

State and local policymakers are in the best position to directly address these two issues. Passage of the state's minimum wage law will increase area wages. The living wage shown is the hourly rate that an individual must earn to support their family, if they are the sole provider and are working full-time (2080 hours per year). The living wage for a family of three (two adults working, one child) for the

service area ranges from \$16.93 in Madison Parish to \$17.53 in Richland Parish. The State of Louisiana does not have a minimum hourly wage; however, the State follows the Federal Minimum Hourly Wage of \$7.25 per hour. As additional education may be one of the best ways for Delta CAA clients to obtain better jobs or livable wages, Delta CAA’s direct service staff could prioritize discussing the importance of obtaining such education with adult clients seeking any of Delta CAA’s services. Staff could also distribute marketing materials from local education/training providers like Delta Community College.

Education/Childcare

Delta CAA has an incredible opportunity to improve both early childhood outcomes as well as provide additional no-cost childcare in Madison, Richland and East Carroll Parishes. In the spring of 2022, a new childcare opened to provide services to working families in Madison Parish. These childcare centers, the public schools and Delta CAA Head Start/Early Head Start are the most directly related to school readiness. Both Head Start/Early Head Start and Public School programs improve school readiness of children ages 3-5 years old, either by improving parents’ abilities to be their children’s first teachers, or by addressing the health, safety and well-being of children so they are better able to learn. Further, Delta CAA Birth to Five model, staff have the opportunity to align, integrate and collaborate with other public-funded entities so that Madison, Richland and East Carroll Parishes’ most vulnerable children are better prepared to enter and succeed in kindergarten.

Health and Wellness

Delta CAA has traditionally been viewed as a “social service” agency, but the line distinguishing social and health services is blurred. Public health researchers are becoming increasingly aware of the key role that “social determinants” play in people’s health and well-being. Delta CAA’s programs address many areas identified by the Healthy People 2020 Initiative as social determinants, including:

Poverty	High School Graduation	Social Cohesion
Food Security	Language and Literacy	Civic Participation
Housing Stability	Access to Health Care	Access to Healthy Foods
Access to Primary Care	Health Literacy	Environmental Conditions
Quality of Housing	Early Childhood Education and Development	

To the extent that Delta CAA helps residents address social determinants of health, the agency is also improving resident health and wellness. For example, from the resident survey, we know that provision of healthy food is challenging for local, low-income residents. Delta CAA, emergency assistance, as well as its Head Start and Early Head Start programs, can work with residents to increase their understanding of the importance of health and nutrition and help residents learn how to shop for and cook with healthier ingredients.

Delta CAA will continue to be a leader in northeast Louisiana by providing innovative and creative solutions for families and communities grappling with the effects of poverty. Through established partnerships and human connections, we will use our best tools and resources against an enemy that threatens the lives and livelihood of the people we serve.

The next steps that Delta CAA takes to support strategic planning and operational directions are based on the findings from population and demographic information, Delta CAA programs and activities, and community assessment. As a working document, our next iteration of our strategic plan will require a strong commitment by our agency to act on proposed goals, monitor its implementation, and evaluate its impact over time.

LIST OF CENTERS HEAD START PROGRAM	
<u>Delhi HS Pre-K/Early Head Start Center</u> Ms. Shonda McClure, Center Supervisor 212 Cuthbert Street Delhi, LA 71232 (318) 878-3258—Phone (318) 878-3259—Fax	<u>Lake Providence HS Pre-K/Early Head Start Center</u> Ms. Marilyn Threats, Center Supervisor 300 Second Street Lake Providence, LA 71254 (318) 559-2450—Phone (318) 559-9092—Fax
<u>Mangham HS Pre-K Center</u> Ms. Norma Hill, Center Supervisor 421 Hixson Street Mangham, LA 71259 (318) 248-3237—Phone (318) 248-3237—Fax	<u>Rayville HS Pre-K/Early Head Start Center</u> Ms. Norma Hill, Center Supervisor 7 Cumpton Road Rayville, LA 71269 (318) 728-7819—Phone (318) 728-9322—Fax
<u>Rayville HS Pre-K Center – Legacy</u> Ms. Norma Hill, Center Supervisor 115 Legacy Drive Rayville, LA 71269 (318) 728-2100—Phone (318) 728-2100—Fax	<u>Tallulah HS Pre-K Center</u> Ms. Sandra McCoy, Center Supervisor 609 North Cedar Street Tallulah, LA 71282 (318) 574-5529—Phone (318) 574-5529—Fax
<u>Tallulah HS Pre-K/Early Head Start Center</u> Ms. Sandra McCoy, Center Supervisor 703 North Cedar Street Tallulah, LA 71282 (318) 574-5529—Phone (318) 574-5529—Fax	

LIST OF COMMUNITY CENTERS	
<u>Tallulah</u> 611 N Cedar Street Tallulah, LA 71282 (318) 574-2130—Phone (318) 574-6161—Fax	<u>Tallulah Community Center</u> 800 North Beech Street Tallulah, LA 71282 (318) 574-2131—Phone (318) 574-6161—Fax
<u>Delhi Community Center</u> 113 Rundell Street Delhi, LA 71232 (318) 341-8635—Phone (318) 574-6161—Fax	<u>Rayville – Delta CAA Community Center</u> 1036 Harrison Street Rayville, LA 71269 (318) 341-8635—Phone (318) 574-6161—Fax