
Additional Board Update Information: Head Start PK3 Grant

Report for December 2021/January 2022 to ensure the sharing of accurate and regular information about program planning, policies, and agency operations.

Project Name: Head Start – Travis County, Texas

Grant Period: 7/1/2019 – 4/30/2024

Award Amount: 5/1/2021-4/30/2022: \$1,658,881 for Operations, \$21,383 for T/TA

Supplemental Award Amount:

COVID/American Rescue Plan: 4/1/21 - 3/31/23 - \$305,484

Financial Expenditures:

Head Start Federal Grant Funds	
<i>July 2021</i> - Supplies and Materials for Classrooms	\$3,332
<i>August 2021</i> - Supplies and Materials for Classrooms	\$12,632
<i>September 2021</i> - Supplies and Materials for Classrooms	\$21,920
<i>October 2021</i> - Supplies and Materials for Classrooms	\$2,696
<i>November 2021</i> - Supplies and Materials for Classrooms	\$6,490
<i>December 2021</i> - Supplies and Materials for Classrooms	\$159
<i>January 2022</i> - Supplies and Materials for Classrooms	\$20,714
Total Expenditures to date (2/1/22)	\$67,943
Head Start Federal Grant Funds: COVID-19 Funds	
<i>July 2021</i> - Supplies and Materials for Classrooms	\$8,751
<i>August 2021</i> - Supplies and Materials for Classrooms	\$6,212
<i>September 2021</i> - Supplies and Materials for Classrooms	\$4,488
<i>October 2021</i> - Supplies and Materials for Classrooms	\$363
<i>November 2021</i> - Supplies and Materials for Classrooms	---
<i>December 2021</i> - Supplies and Materials for Classrooms	\$266
<i>January 2022</i> - Supplies and Materials for Classrooms	---

Total Expenditures to date (10/7/21)	\$20,080
--------------------------------------	----------

A report of salary and benefit expenses can be provided by the finance department upon request.

Enrollment:

As of February 1st, 2022, 204 families are eligible and are enrolled in the Head Start program for the 2021-2022 school year. All eligible families completed a digital AISD PK3 screener, the AISD PK3 online enrollment and a digital Head Start enrollment application along with a transfer (as needed). Our enrollment capacity is 204. Open enrollment for the 2022-2023 school year was launched in January 2022 with an enrollment kick-off meeting. The Family Advocates modified all recruitment and selection strategies due to the pandemic to ensure children and families in most need are given priority. Recruitment efforts for the 2022-2023 school year included: sharing Head Start information via email, text, agency websites, social media, and hand-delivering flyers by placing them on storefronts and car windows. In addition, yard signs are being placed around the community. All communication and interviews are conducted with families via phone/video calls, or meeting them at the schools while using all preventative measures to ensure no contact is made. Family Advocates continue to support their assigned campuses daily.

Program information summaries:

Update on Vaccine and Mask Mandates

On January 3rd 2022, in Lubbock Federal District Court granted an injunction to stop the implementation of the “Interim Final Rule” or “IFC” requiring all staff, certain contractors, and volunteers to be vaccinated for COVID-19 by Jan. 31, 2022 and that all staff and students over the age of 2 wear a face covering or mask while attending the Head Start program. Until there are further updates or changes to the injunction, AISD Head Start staff will not be required to meet the mandates. Updates will be provided to the board if there are any changes or if the injunction ends.

Grant Continuation Application

Due to situations outside of the Head Start grant management team control, the AISD Head Start grant continuation application for the 22-23 school year will be submitted late. A request to the Head Start regional office for an extension has been approved and we have until 3/1 to submit the complete approved application.

Parent Family Engagement:

During the month of December we did not host any parent-engagement meetings to allow for families to focus on the holidays and spending time together. During this time, Family Advocates focussed their family support efforts on helping families to enroll and benefit from various social services programs such as Coats for Kids, Blue Santa and other free holiday events. Starting again in January we launched the beginning of a 5 part health series available to all of our enrolled families in both English and Spanish. This health series is part of a partnership that we have with Texas A&M AgriLife

Extension. The series is providing a hands-on virtual health class with a dietician to go over health topics all voted on by our Head Start families. Families who participate are asked to complete a pre and post survey to gauge their initial knowledge of healthy choices versus what they learn from the class. Any family who participates in three out of the five classes and completes the surveys is eligible for prizes such as measuring cups, exercise bands and recipe books. The first lesson was taught in January and focused on the impact of sugar in your health. This class taught participants to think about their daily sugar consumption, how to read food labels for added sugars, and how to set goals to reduce their daily sugar intake. This class had 10 participants in English and 19 participants in Spanish. The classes were also recorded to share with all enrolled families who were unable to attend the live session. These lessons will be hosted once a month through May engaging families in a range of health topics. In addition to the health series, in February we will continue teaching the last three lessons of our parenting curriculum. These lessons will focus on helping children to identify and express their emotions in a healthy way.

Education:

During the months of December & January, the Education Specialist has implemented coaching cycles with Head Start teaching staff. Teachers have filled out a coaching cycle survey to select their instructional strategy, identify learning style, how they want their instruction to be recorded, and how they would like coaching conferences to be structured. Results of the survey showed that most teaching staff prefer to be recorded using the swivl camera. As a result, the education specialist has been teaching students and staff about how to use the camera and about safety. Instructional strategies have been modeled for teaching staff and observations have begun. December and January also included professional learning opportunities around asking the right questions where teachers learned about the importance and purpose of open and closed ended questioning and how to be patient and support young children as they are building capacity to process language and respond appropriately. Teachers have also had opportunities to come together and engage in curriculum planning where they exchanged ideas for lessons for the upcoming units of study.

Behavior and Disabilities:

In January, we continued with re-screens on our ASQ-3 and started screening newly enrolled students. We are using the information from our ASQ-3 and ASQ-SE to develop intervention strategies for the classroom. The teachers have been asked to sign up for a meeting time with the Behavior and Disabilities Specialist to collaborate on intervention plans for specific students who did not pass portions of the initial and re-screener on the ASQ. We have also been working with evaluation staff to connect with campus itinerants and gather up to date timelines for teachers and parents. Currently, Head Start has 33 students enrolled with a suspected disability, with 66% of these students either in the process of an evaluation or already have a current IEP. The Head Start leadership team also met with the Early Learning department to develop a professional development plan for the 2022-2023 school year and propose a behavior intervention system for Early Childhood.

Communication & Guidance from the Secretary of DHHS and Office of Head Start:

December 2021 - [All Communications](#)

- [12.3.21](#) - Directors Email Digest from November 2021
- [12.3.21](#) - FY22 Head Start Monitoring Virtual Office Hours
- [12.21.21](#) - A Letter from the Director About the Full Enrollment Initiative

January 2022 - [All Communications](#)

- [1.11.22](#) - Litigation Update- COVID-19 Vaccine and Mask Requirements
- [1.21.22](#) - ACF-PI-HS-22-01 Final Rule on Flexibility for Head Start Designation Renewals in Certain Emergencies
- [1.25.22](#) - HHS Poverty Guidelines for 2022