

# ANNUAL REPORT

2018-2019



**Choctaw Nation**

Head Start

# ABOUT

Head Start is a national program that promotes school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through the provision of educational, health, nutritional, social, and other services to enrolled children and families.

## MISSION STATEMENT

We hold ourselves accountable to work in collaboration with our families and communities to provide a quality program committed to the wellness of the entire family.



# CULTURE



The Head Start multi-cultural program continues to be updated and expanded to provide new materials for the teaching staff which, along with their own creative ideas, expose the children to a wide variety of cultures. The teaching staff and parents working together provide Choctaw cultural experience in language, music, nutrition, dress, games, and other activities. The Choctaw Nation Language Curriculum is integrated daily in each center to expose the children to traditional folk tales, correct pronunciation of Choctaw words and phrases, and the culture. Choctaw language courses, presented by the Choctaw Language Department, have assisted the teachers and parents in learning the language.

# LOCATIONS



- Antlers
- Atoka
- Bennington
- Broken Bow
- Coalgate
- Durant
- Hugo
- Idabel
- McAlester
- Poteau
- Stigler
- Wilburton
- Wright City

# PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Choctaw Nation Head Start encourages parent participation in the program. Opportunities for parental involvement within the program are provided during the year through:

- Parent Meetings
- Parent Training
- Community Events
- Family Literacy Nights
- Cultural Events
- Home Visits
- Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Field Trips
- Parent Committees
- Policy Council
- Volunteering/Classroom

Fatherhood/Male Involvement Project, Good Guys, activities include:

- Movie Night
- Birdhouse Construction
- Kite Flying
- End-of-Year Cook Out for Children & Families



# SCHOOL READINESS

The educational services of the Choctaw Nation Head Start are focused on children’s ‘school readiness’; exciting children about a lifetime of learning and supporting parent’s engagement in their child’s education journey.

Choctaw Nation teaching staff is comprised of highly qualified, state-certified teachers in the field of Early Childhood. Choctaw Nation Head Start utilizes The Creative Curriculum for Preschool, which is a scientifically researched curriculum based on the sound and proven principles of developmentally appropriate practice.

The Creative Curriculum for Preschool is a comprehensive collection of knowledge-building and daily practice resources which explain the “what,” “why,” and “how” of teaching.

“What” and “why” are explained in The Foundation book of the curriculum. “How” is provided by way of step-by-step guidance found in the Daily Resources.

These include Teaching Guides and additional instructional tools which provide a wealth of ideas and detailed plans for filling each day with meaningful and engaging experiences designed for all children. The Teaching Guides feature studies, exciting and engaging first-hand explorations of topics relevant to children’s everyday experiences.

The study approach is a method of integrating content learning through children’s in-depth investigations of a meaningful topic. Learning activities are implemented through Indoor and Outdoor Interest Areas, Child-Initiated/Teacher-Directed Activities, Teachable Moments, Technology, and Field Trips.

The Creative Curriculum for Preschool supports and meets the requirements set forth by the Head Start Performance Standards-1302, Subpart C; Head Start Act-641-A, The Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework and the Oklahoma Academic Learning Standards for Pre-Kindergarten.

Providing comprehensive early childhood educational services is an important priority for our program. In addition to our foundation curriculum, Creative Curriculum for Preschool Children, our program provides supplemental curriculums to support our ‘school readiness’ goals.

To comply with federal Transportation mandates, Safety Sam Transportation Curriculum provides children and families training in pedestrian safety. Phonics Dance provides teachers with engaging materials/activities designed to teach children phonics to build reading and writing skills.

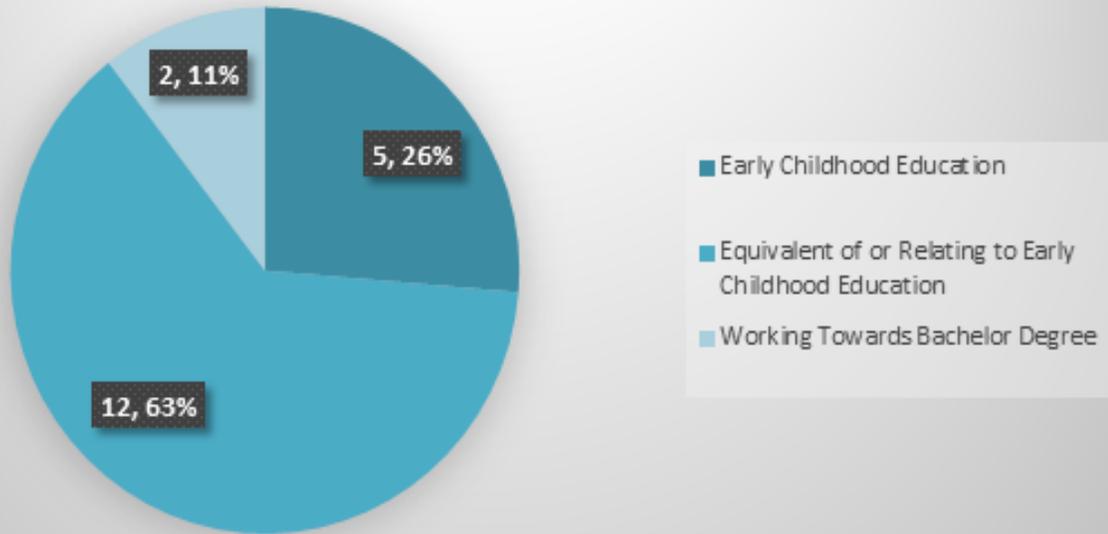
The Choctaw Nation Head Start utilizes the Teaching Strategies GOLD Assessment System as a tool to monitor the progress of children’s learning. This assessment system aligns with the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework and State early learning standards. The information below shows the percentages of Preschool 3 and Pre-K 4 children whose skill levels are Emerging or Accomplished at the end of the 2018-2019 school year according to the Five Central Domains as outlined by the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework.

AREAS OF DEVELOPMENT	2018-2019 PRE-K 4'S			2018-2019 PRE-K 3'S		
	# OF CHILDREN	EMERGING	ACCOMPLISHED	# OF CHILDREN	EMERGING	ACCOMPLISHED
Social Emotional Development	147	12%	88%	161	9%	91%
Physical	147	5%	95%	161	1%	99%
Language	147	11%	89%	161	11%	89%
Cognition	147	10%	90%	161	11%	89%
Literacy	147	14%	86%	161	13%	87%
Mathematics	147	22%	78%	161	12%	88%

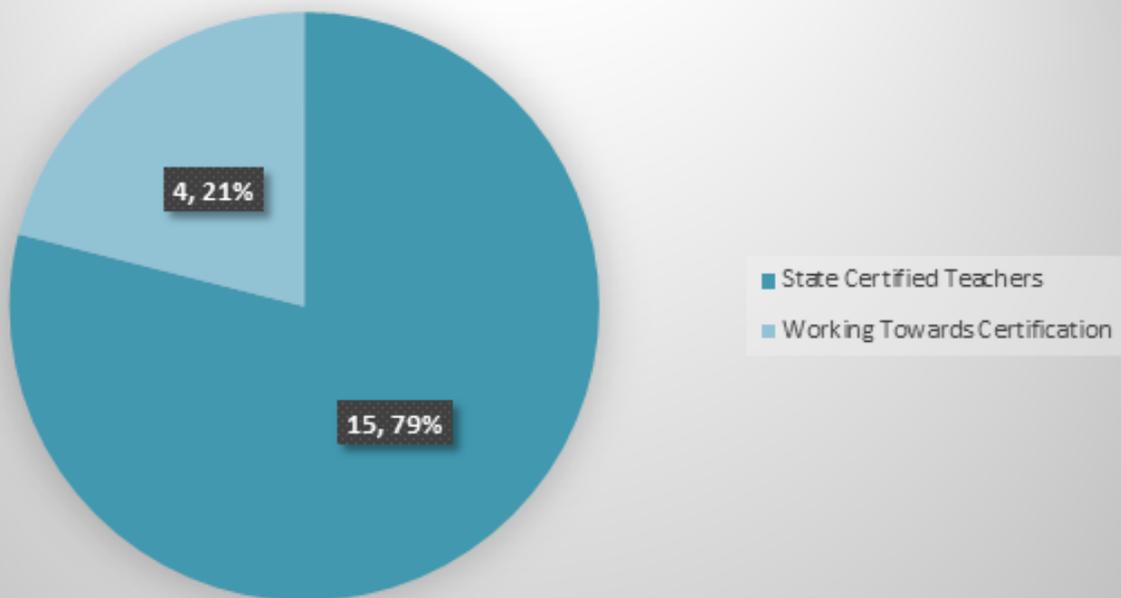
# STAFF QUALIFICATIONS

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## Teachers with Bachelor Degrees



## Oklahoma State Teacher Certification



# ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

Choctaw Nation operates a Head Start program in the 10-county service area with a funded enrollment of 310, including a total of 13 centers with 19 classrooms in the following ten counties: Atoka, Bryan, Choctaw, Coal, Haskell, Latimer, Le Flore, McCurtain, Pittsburg, and Pushmataha.

The total number of children served during the 2018-2019 school year was 331.

There were 323 families, 173 two-parent families and 150 single-parent families.

The percentage of income eligible children served was 60%, which included 2% of children in foster care and 3% of children experiencing homelessness.

The program had an average monthly enrollment of 100%.

The number of enrolled children who received medical exams was 286 students, and those receiving dental exams were 275.



# COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT



Although the Choctaw Nation consists of ten and one-half counties, for purposes of the community assessment, data was collected on the ten counties with tribal Head Start centers: Atoka, Bryan, Choctaw, Coal, Haskell, Latimer, Leflore, McCurtain, Pittsburg, and Pushmataha. The southern half of Hughes County, while in the Choctaw Nation service area, does not have tribal Head Start services at this time. The southern part of the county is sparsely populated and is served by a non-tribal Head Start program.

Two out of every five Oklahoma children live in a rural area. A larger percentage of children living in rural areas fall below the poverty level than percentages in urban or mixed rural/urban counties. All of counties in the Choctaw Nation service area are considered rural, with the exception of Le Flore County. Poverty is invariably linked with homelessness, food insecurity, lack of access to child care and health care, and unsafe living environment.

Oklahoma has an Economic Well-Being Ranking for each of the 77 counties in the state. The ranking is based on parent unemployment, children living in 100% poverty, children living in 200% of poverty, and the percentage of children in a family receiving Temporary Aid to a Needy Family (TANF). Ranking in the top 10% indicates families are living in better circumstances than counties ranked in the lowest 10%. Six of the 10 counties in Choctaw Nation's service area are ranked in the lowest 15%.

The U.S. Census Bureau uses a measurement system to account for the impact of social programs. Without government programs such as Head Start, Oklahoma would have an estimated childhood poverty rate of 30% rather than the current rate of 22%.

# FINANCIAL INFORMATION

## CHOCTAW NATION FINANCIAL AUDIT

The last fiscal audit completed and filed was for FY18. There were no Head Start findings on this audit.

## RECENT MONITORING REVIEW

In September 2018, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) conducted a Focus Area Two monitoring review of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Head Start program. During the review, the program's effectiveness in delivering services to children and families was monitored based on requirements set forth by the regulating agency. Based on the information gathered during the review, two areas of non-compliance were found. The Program put new policies and procedures in place to address the concerns. Another monitoring review was conducted on April 9, 2019. ACF determined the previously identified findings had been corrected, and no corrective action was required.



## FUNDING

Federal	\$2,655,606
In-Kind Match	\$663,903
Supplemental	\$3,906,395
USDA Food	\$253,715
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,533,619</b>

## BUDGETS AND EXPENDITURES

Wages	\$4,524,260
Fringe	\$745,959
Travel	\$87,079
Supplies	\$616,699
Contractual	\$184,178
Communication	\$37,228
Training	\$21,131
Vehicle Expenses	\$167,699
Insurance	\$73,255
In-Kind Expense	\$663,903
Capital Outlay	\$388,027
Other	\$24,447
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,533,619</b>



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