

# **Five County Child Development Program, Inc. 2025-2026 Community Assessment**

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## **Community Assessment**

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**Policy Council approval pending on January 19, 2026**

**Board approval pending on January 20, 2026**

## **Introduction**

Based on the Head Start Act of 2007, the name of the Community Assessment was changed to the Communitywide Strategic Planning and Needs Assessment, however, in this report it will still be referred to as the Community Assessment. This report also complies with the federal regulation for Head Start Preschool/Early Head Start Programs to prepare a comprehensive Community Assessment (CA) once every five years with annual updates of significant changes.

The purpose of the community assessment is to identify strengths, needs and resources available that meet the needs of the children and families we serve. We collect relevant information from family and community questionnaires, survey forms, family partnership intake assessments, nutritional, health, disability, and educational information. The community assessment will be the instrument used to gather relevant information that exhibits an accurate representation of the assessment results. The compiled information will reflect the results of strengths and needs of Head Start Preschool/Early Head Start families and their communities. This report is the collection and analysis of information on the needs and characteristics of the service area of Five County Child Development Program, Inc., as well as the resources available to meet these needs.

The Community Assessment is an integral part of the agency's planning process. It is the basis for designing plans, choosing community partners, forming essential collaborations, implementing comprehensive services to meet the needs of low-income children and families, and make decisions about changes needed in our program design and services. Five County Child Development Program is a responsible non-profit agency, committed to providing comprehensive and accountable services for economically disadvantaged individuals, children and families in its services area. These services are designed to enhance the quality of life and promote the opportunity to achieve self-sufficiency.

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

**“Enhancing the well-being of children, families, and communities for a brighter, healthier future.”**

### **VISION STATEMENT**

We believe that all people should be provided with the necessary tools to enhance their educational, economic and social status. We further believe that the families we serve should have the opportunity to improve their quality of life through Head Start. Our vision is to enhance the knowledge and skills of the children, families and communities we serve.

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## **I. Methodology**

The community assessment focuses on three levels of analysis: statewide analysis, current Head Start Centers and analysis of future program projections and implementation plans. Here is a brief summary of the activities conducted to complete the Community Assessment:

1. The Five County Child Development Leadership Team/Executive Staff, along with board and policy council, participated in a capacity building Strategic Summit, facilitated by a consultant, to understand the process that would be used to complete goals and objectives based on the community assessment.
2. Supported by staff, the Family Advocates administered a Parental Needs Assessment Survey to identify needs and strength of the families and participants in the program. The survey results were calculated and analyzed to determine the most current information regarding the children and families of the program.
3. An independent consultant reviewed all the data, analyzed the trends and examined past Community Assessment results, particularly those recommendations and priorities established in recent reports. The data was compiled and finalized in a report. The CA results are reviewed by the Leadership Team/Executive Staff, board and policy council in order to define program objectives and establish budget decisions before the beginning of the program year. A final version of the CA is then presented to the Policy Council to approve and submit to the board members.

Based on the data collected, Five County Child Development Program is struggling with enrollment issues based on lack of qualified staff in the areas. There are eligible children and families, however, the agency cannot hire and retain qualified staff. The best practice for children ages birth to five is consistency and continuity of care. The service area is comprised of some of the poorest communities in the state of Mississippi. There has been a great migration to Jackson and Hattiesburg, which are two of the larger cities that are about 60 to 90 miles away from the service area. Many qualified staff left the service area for better job opportunities. According to the Pew Research Center data in October 2022, the top reason employees left their jobs was because of poor pay. Compensation and benefits are incredibly important to employees. The report also revealed that at least 67% of the employees were terminated for poor job performance. Five County holds the belief that the children and families served deserve the best and the agency would rather focus on quality rather than quantity.

It is important to note that several day cares in the service area closed, but the former day care staff don't meet the qualifications and/or are unwilling to follow Head Start/Early Head Start rules and regulations. For example, several are not willing to go back to school, even with assistance from Five County. But the day care centers that survived through COVID, offer longer service hours, which allows families to work out of the service area and maintain childcare. This also attributes to low enrollment numbers.

Mental Health is also another reason for the decline in competent staff, according to the report. Since COVID, there has been an increase of 72% of the population to seek mental health services. The research shows that depression is a huge part of the mental health crisis. Depression causes lack of mental focus and sometimes even physical symptoms. People must be alert and physically able to work in a Head Start Preschool/ Early Head Start learning environment in order to provide services to preschoolers, infants, and toddlers. The agency has implemented trauma informed care and response for children, staff and families, but it is simply not enough to secure the qualified staff needed to provide services. Five County has also revamped and increased employee recruitment using advertising and holding job fairs in all of its counties.

A reduction in enrollment, while keeping the current funding level, is the only way that Five County Child Development Program can continue to provide quality and meet the needs of the community and current employees. The agency has a great staff and retention is very important to the Executive Director and the board. The program completed a Focus Area 2 review in January 2023 with no non-compliance issues and it is due to the quality services and staff.

## **II. History**

President Lyndon B. Johnson officially declared the “War on Poverty” in his message to Congress, January 12, 1964. In that message, President Johnson outlined the nature of the Federal Anti-Poverty programs and established the Community Services Administration, formerly called the Office of Economic Opportunity. Five County Child Development Program, Inc., a non-profit Mississippi Chartered Corporation, is an outgrowth of the act by President Johnson and Congress.

Community leaders, Dr. S. L. Richmond, Reverend L. Z. Blankinship, Sr., Mr. Edgar Bridges, Sr., Mr. J. C. Burns and others pioneered the birth of Sophia Sutton Mission Head Start by organizing the community and mobilizing public and private resources. The purpose of Head Start was to serve under privileged children.

Sophia Sutton Mission Head Start was an eight-week summer pilot program in March of 1965 in Jefferson Davis County. The Head Start program became a full year operation in September of 1966. In 1971, the program was chartered, and the name changed to Five County Child Development Program, Inc.

The mission of Five County Child Development Program, Inc. is “Improving the Quality of Life of Children, Families, and Communities”. Five County serves 649 children and families in the south-central portion of the state. The current funded enrollment is 400 preschool students and families in four of our counties; Covington, Jefferson Davis, Lawrence and Simpson Counties. In July 2020, Five County obtained Lincoln County and we currently serve 128 Head Start preschool students, and 48 Early Start families, with up to 8 pregnant women. In 2025, we acquired Franklin County and we serve 57 Head Start preschool students, and 16 Early Head Start families with up to 4 pregnant women.

The areas are largely rural and have no organized means of public transportation. The population consists of low-income families, who lack reliable transportation. Therefore, there is a great demand for transportation to and from our centers. The agency provides safe and dependable transportation services to Head Start Preschool children in Covington, Franklin, Jefferson Davis, Lawrence, Lincoln and Simpson counties. (Since the COVID-19 Pandemic our transportation services have been limited due to the unavailability of new buses.) Five County remains committed to enriching the lives of the families we serve.

## **III. Agency Overview**

As an essential part of the Head Start planning process, pertinent information is compiled on the availability of services needed by the target population. The present condition of our economy, high percentage of unemployment, and the problem of poverty are especially distressing in the target areas of Covington, Franklin, Jefferson Davis, Lawrence, Lincoln and Simpson Counties. Statistics have revealed the severity of poverty, as it exists in the target areas of Five County Child Development Program, Inc.

Five County staff along with parents, community partners, the Policy Council and the Board of Directors has taken the challenge of providing the highest quality and most appropriate services to low-income children and families, as our priority.

Five County Child Development Program seeks every opportunity to provide quality services to at risk children and families. The Head Start experience begins with the recruitment and enrollment process. Information gathered in the Community Assessment helps to determine program options, guidelines, and requirements for participation in the program and the ERSEA (Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment and Attendance) Criteria Plan. The plan was presented to the Policy Council and Board for approval. The Recruitment and Selection Plan is updated annually.

#### **IV. Goals and Objectives**

The information gathered through the Community Assessment is used to:

- ❖ To design a program that meets the needs of the communities we serve and build on the current strengths and resources. We will determine the basic demographic characteristics of the service area, such as; population, employment status, education, income level, birth rates, sex, marital status, age, number of eligible children, expectant mothers, race, geographic location, ethnicity, languages, children experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, children with disabilities and the types of service and resources provided, the needs of children and families, typical work and school schedule of parents, other pre-school programs and the number of eligible children they serve, and resources and strengths of the community.
- ❖ The demographic data\* obtained shows information of inventory existing resources and services; which include the number of people who receive services, types, capacity, geographic distribution and accessibility.
- ❖ Develop profiles of community needs, such as housing, education, employment, health, nutrition and economic assistance.
- ❖ Revisit the long range and short-range plans of Five County Child Development Program, Inc. and formulate goals and objectives for providing the most appropriate services to children and families in Covington, Franklin, Jefferson Davis, Lawrence, Lincoln and Simpson Counties.

#### **V. Head Start Service Needs and Program Options**

The Community Assessment data shows a need for comprehensive Head Start services in Covington, Franklin, Jefferson Davis, Lawrence, Lincoln and Simpson Counties. The center-based option was preferred by 484 of parents and community members that participated in the survey and 6 preferred home-based. The majority of parents preferred the same days and hours of the public schools (426) or 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. for hours of service (453) and ninety-six percent preferred the thirty-six weeks of school. Therefore, the agency determined that a full day (6.5 hours per day), five days per week, 1020 of service in a Head Start and 1380 annual Early Head Start classroom-based environment is the program option that best fits the needs of the Head Start service area.

#### **Service Area**

Based upon data collected, Five County Child Development Program, Inc., has determined that comprehensive Head Start services are needed in the entire service area including the towns of Collins, Hopewell, Mt. Olive and Seminary in Covington County; Bude, Meadville, Roxie, in Franklin County; Bassfield and Prentiss in Jefferson Davis County; Brookhaven and Bogue Chitto in Lincoln County; Monticello, Topeka, New Hebron and Silver Creek in Lawrence County; D'Lo, Pinola, Magee and Mendenhall in Simpson County.

Based on data collected, Five County Child Development Program, Inc., has determined that selection priority will be given to age eligible children from low-income families, teen moms, whose families are experiencing homelessness, in foster care, have diagnosed disabilities and/or who have other needs. The 2025 Five County's Community Assessment survey data collected suggested the following needs:

- 109 children experiencing homelessness and 177 in foster care.
- 35 children with disabilities with IEP's (more are pending) are being served by Five County PY 2025-2026
- 35 children have diagnosed disabilities (from the Questionnaire survey)
- 842 medical and dental need. (Questionnaire survey)
- 2,158 social service needs identified. (Questionnaire survey)
- 539 Nutritional needs identified. (Questionnaire survey)

## **VI. The Data**

The data contained on the next few pages is listed by counties we serve. It is comprehensive using various sources, such as Kids Count, US Census, and state information. It describes the families we work with on a daily basis. This data includes the following requirements from the Head Start Program Performance Standards 1302.11:

- (i) Identify populations most in need of services including prevalent social or economic factors, challenges, and barriers experienced by families and children;
  - (ii) Inform the program's design and to ensure equitable, inclusive, and accessible service delivery that reflect needs and diversity of the community;
  - (iii) Inform the enrollment, recruitment, and selection process to prioritize the enrollment of those populations with relevant circumstances identified under paragraph (b)(1)(i) of this section;
  - (iv) Identify strengths and resources in the community that can be leveraged for service delivery, coordination, and partnership efforts for education, health, nutrition, and referrals to social services to eligible children and families; and,
  - (v) Identify the communication methods and modalities available to the program that best engage with prospective and enrolled families in accessible ways.
- (2) In conducting the community assessment, the program must collect and utilize data that describes community strengths, needs, and resources and include, at a minimum:
- (i) Relevant demographic data about eligible children and expectant mothers, including:
    - (A) Race and ethnicity;
    - (B) Children living in poverty;
    - (C) Children experiencing homelessness in collaboration with, to the extent possible, McKinney-Vento Local Education Agency Liaisons (42 U.S.C. 11432 (6)(A));
    - (D) Children in foster care;
    - (E) Children with disabilities, including types of disabilities and relevant services and resources provided to these children by community agencies; and
    - (F) Geographic location and languages they speak.
  - (ii) The education, health, nutrition and social service needs of eligible children and their families, including prevalent social or economic factors, challenges, and barriers to program participation such as transportation needs;
  - (iii) Typical work, school, and training schedules of parents with eligible children;
  - (iv) Other child-development, child-care centers, and family child care programs that serve eligible children, including home visiting, publicly funded State and local preschools, and the approximate number of eligible children served and their ages;
  - (v) Resources that are available in the community to address the needs of eligible children and their families, especially transportation resources, and culturally appropriate and responsive supports;
  - (vi) Strengths of the community; and,
  - (vii) Gaps in community resources in areas relevant to addressing the needs of eligible children and their families such as gaps in health and human services, housing assistance, food assistance, employment assistance, early childhood development, and social services.

(3) Programs should have a strategic approach:

(i) To determine what data to acquire to reach goals in paragraph (b)(1) of this section prior to conducting the community assessment; and

(ii) For how to use the data acquired to reach goals in paragraph (b)(1) of this section after conducting the community assessment.

(4) When determining what data to acquire under paragraph (b)(2) of this section programs should consider what information is most relevant to inform services for families most in need. Data gathering should be informed by the program's understanding of the community and be intentionally designed to help the program identify community strengths, needs and resources, and plan the program accordingly. Programs are not required to collect all information themselves; rather programs should utilize community partners and utilize existing available data sources relevant to the local community.

(5) A program must annually review and, where needed, update the community assessment to identify any significant shifts in community demographics, needs, and resources that may impact program design and service delivery.

## *Demographic Data by Counties*

County:	Covington				Source
Year:	2025	2024	2023	2022	
A. The number of children under 5	1,171	1,238	1,330	1,238	Kids Count
B. Percent of families below poverty level-	20.3%	21.3%	23.6%	20.3%	Kids Count
C. Percent of Children below poverty level-	31.2%	33.3%	33.3%	31.2%	Kids Count
D. Percent of families receiving Food Stamps-(SNAP)	17.4%	21.9%	20.5%	21.9%	Kids Count
E. Percent of children with food insecurities	24.5%	23.6%	23.6%	23.6%	Kids Count
F. Percent of families unemployed-	3.4%	2.5%	3.4%	3.2%	MDES
G. Per Capita Income- (US Census)	\$26,323	\$19,537	\$24,147	\$23,381	U S Census
H. Median Household Income	\$47,001	\$42,221	\$40,164	\$40,233	U S Census
I. Total population-	18,015	18,810	18,323	18,279	U S Census
J. County population projection for 2020-2025	21,730	21,730	21,730	21,730	CPRP
K. Teenage Pregnancy Rates-	43.1%	33.6%	33.8%	33.6%	Kids Count
L. Expectant Mothers	269	258	223	288	MSDH
M. Live birth's single mothers-	168	145	228	171	MSDH
N. Teen fertility rate (live birth per 1000 females)	43.1%	43.1%	14.2%	15.1%	teenhealthtms .org/MSDH
O. Cost per child (all 4 counties)	\$21,618.92	\$21,127.35	\$13,962.80	\$13,587.68	FICO Finance
P. Daycare facilities	2	3	1	1	MSDH
Enrolled children	74	98	45	47	
Q. Public School Pre-K Program	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	Public School
R. Percentage of households with broadband internet subscriptions	62.5%	60.4%	62.4%	59.4%	US Census
S. The estimated number of children under 3 years	763	834	739	864	MSDH
T. The number of children 3 years old-	243	281	270	281	MSDH
U. The number of children 4 years old-	281	295	228	242	MSDH
V. The number of Employed	7,560	8,110	7,730	7,840	MDES
W. Percent Population change	0.0%	-0.8%	-0.4%	-0.3%	MDES
X. Population Change	-5	-152	-152	-61	MDES
Y. The children in Foster Care	26	24	16	17	Fostering court
Z. Estimated Homeless Children	12	19	15	7	Public School/FICO
AA. Drop-out Rate	11.1%	14.9%	18.3%	10.%	MDEH
BB. The care of Grandparents	461	273	273	273	Kids Count
CC. Industry Employed	5676	5,868	5,748	4,448	BLS /US Census
DD. Employer Establishment	391	328	387	321	BLS/US Census
EE. English-Speaking Population	98.5%	98.4%	98.4%	98.4%	US Census
FF. Non-English-Speaking Population	1.5%	1.6%	1.6%	1.6%	US Census
GG. Spanish- Speaking Population	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.1%	US Census

Franklin County			Source
Year:	2025	2024	
• The number of children under 5	442	429	Kids Count
• Percent of families below poverty level-	21.4%	19.6%	Kids Count
• Percent of Children below poverty level-	26.6%	27.9%	Kids Count
• Percent of families receiving Food Stamps-(SNAP)	15.7%	16.7%	Kids Count
• Percent of children with food insecurities	29.6%	23.9%	Kids Count
• Percent of families unemployed-	4.4%	3.8%	MDES
• Per Capita Income- (US Census)	\$27,379	\$22,723	U S Census
• Median Household Income	\$45,618	\$41,548	U S Census
• Total population-	7,406	7,716	U S Census
• County population projection for 2020-2025	7,958	7,958	CPRP
• Teenage Pregnancy Rates-	44.6%	48.6%	Kids Count
• Expectant Mothers	52	95	MSDH
• Live birth's single mothers-	29	51	MSDH
• Teen fertility rate (live birth per 1000 females)	44.6%	44.6%	MSDH
• Cost per child (Head Start) Cost per child in Early Head Start	\$16,976.05 \$21,056.64	unknown	FICO CFO FICO CFO
• Daycare facilities Enrolled children	-0- -0-	-0- -0-	MSDH
• Public School Pre-K Program	-0-	40	Public School
• Percentage of households with broadband internet subscriptions	81.9%	82.8%	U S Census
• The estimated number of children under 3 years	276	307	MSDH
• The number of children 3 years old-	95	102	MSDH
• The number of children 4 years old-	102	101	MSDH
• The number of Employed	2,860	2,590	MDES
• Percent Population change	-1.4%	-0.6%	MDES
• Population Change	-110	-47	MDES
• The children in Foster Care	15	16	Fostering Court Improvement
• Estimated Homeless Children	0	4	Public School
• Drop-out Rate	11.9%	6.3%	MSDH
• The care of Grandparents	123	174	Kids Count
• Industry Employed	1559	1,461	BLS/US Census
• Employer Establishment	139	128	BLS/US Census
• English-Speaking Population	99.8%	99.8%	US Census
• Non-English-Speaking Population	0.2%	0.2%	US Census
• Spanish-Speaking Population	0.0%	0.0%	US Census

	<b>County: Jefferson Davis</b>				<b>Source</b>
<b>Year:</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	
<b>A. The number of children under 5</b>	<b>897</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>702</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>Kids Count</b>
<b>B. Percent of families below poverty level-</b>	<b>25.2%</b>	<b>24.3%</b>	<b>23.1%</b>	<b>25.2%</b>	<b>Kids Count</b>
<b>C. Percent of Children below poverty level-</b>	<b>45.2%</b>	<b>36.4%</b>	<b>36.4%</b>	<b>45.2%</b>	<b>Kids Count</b>
<b>D. Percent of families receiving Food Stamps-(SNAP)</b>	<b>20.3%</b>	<b>21.6%</b>	<b>21.6%</b>	<b>21.6%</b>	<b>Kids Count</b>
<b>E. Percent of children with food insecurities</b>	<b>32.9%</b>	<b>25.9%</b>	<b>23.6%</b>	<b>25.9%</b>	<b>Kids Count</b>
<b>F. Percent of families unemployed-</b>	<b>3.7%</b>	<b>4.1%</b>	<b>5.4%</b>	<b>5.0%</b>	<b>MDES</b>
<b>G. Per Capita Income- (US Census)</b>	<b>\$24,065</b>	<b>\$21,205</b>	<b>\$22,693</b>	<b>\$20,782</b>	<b>U S Census</b>
<b>H. Median Household Income</b>	<b>\$37,183</b>	<b>\$35,567</b>	<b>\$31,544</b>	<b>\$34,771</b>	<b>U S Census</b>
<b>I. Total population-</b>	<b>11,121</b>	<b>11,182</b>	<b>11,291</b>	<b>11,134</b>	<b>U S Census</b>
<b>J. County population projection for 2020-2025</b>	<b>10,981</b>	<b>10,951</b>	<b>10,951</b>	<b>10,951</b>	<b>CPRP</b>
<b>K. Teenage Pregnancy Rates-</b>	<b>43.%</b>	<b>61.8%</b>	<b>61.8%</b>	<b>61.8%</b>	<b>Kids Count</b>
<b>L. Expectant Mothers</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>MSDH</b>
<b>M. Live birth's single mothers-</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>MSDH</b>
<b>N. Teen fertility rate (live birth per 1000 females)</b>	<b>39.4%</b>	<b>39.4%</b>	<b>27.2%</b>	<b>20.2%</b>	<b>MSDH</b>
<b>O. Cost per child (all 4 counties) -</b>	<b>\$21,618.92</b>	<b>\$21,127.35</b>	<b>\$13,962.80</b>	<b>\$13,587.68</b>	<b>FICO Finance</b>
<b>P. Daycare facilities Enrolled children</b>	<b>1 40</b>	<b>2 60</b>	<b>1 40</b>	<b>1 40</b>	<b>MSDH</b>
<b>Q. Public School Pre-K Program</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>-0-</b>	<b>Public School</b>
<b>R. Percentage of households with broadband internet subscriptions</b>	<b>75.3%</b>	<b>70.4%</b>	<b>70.6%</b>	<b>62.6%</b>	<b>U S Census</b>
<b>S. The estimated number of children under 3 years</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>MSDH</b>
<b>T. The number of children 3 years old-</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>MSDH</b>
<b>U. The number of children 4 years old-</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>MSDH</b>
<b>V. The number of Employed</b>	<b>5,110</b>	<b>3,840</b>	<b>3,690</b>	<b>3,560</b>	<b>MDES</b>
<b>W. Percent Population change</b>	<b>+0.6</b>	<b>-0.6%</b>	<b>-0.6%</b>	<b>-1.7%</b>	<b>MDES</b>
<b>X. Population Change</b>	<b>+62</b>	<b>-70</b>	<b>-70</b>	<b>-187</b>	<b>MDES</b>
<b>Y. The children in Foster Care</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Fostering court</b>
<b>Z. Estimated Homeless Children</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Public School/FICO</b>
<b>AA. Drop-out Rate</b>	<b>9.8%</b>	<b>7.4%</b>	<b>12.8%</b>	<b>8.8%</b>	<b>MSDH</b>
<b>BB. The care of Grandparents</b>	<b>564</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>Kids Count</b>
<b>CC. Industry Employed</b>	<b>2,406</b>	<b>1,417</b>	<b>1,557</b>	<b>1,281</b>	<b>BLS/US Census</b>
<b>DD. Employer Establishment</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>BLS/1US Census</b>
<b>EE. English-Speaking Population</b>	<b>99.7%</b>	<b>99.7%</b>	<b>99.7%</b>	<b>99.3%</b>	<b>US Census</b>
<b>FF. Non-English-Speaking Population</b>	<b>03.%</b>	<b>0.3%</b>	<b>0.3%</b>	<b>0.7%</b>	<b>US Census</b>
<b>GG. Spanish-Speaking Population</b>	<b>0.1%</b>	<b>0.1%</b>	<b>0.4%</b>	<b>0.4%</b>	<b>US Census</b>

County: Lawrence					Source
Year:	2025	2024	2023	2022	
A. The number of children under 5-	753	782	816	782	Kids Count
B. Percent of families below poverty level-	19.1%	19.7%	22.5%	19.1%	Kids Count
C. Percent of children below poverty level-	25.2%	26.1%	27.7%	25.2%	Kids Count
D. Percent of families receiving Food Stamps-(SNAP)	17.8%	19.7%	19.7%	19.7%	Kids Count
E. Percent of children with food insecurities	25.8%	20.6%	20.6%	20.6%	Kids Count
F. Percent of families unemployed-	3.8%	3.4%	4.6%	4.7%	MDES
G. Per Capita Income- (U S Census)	\$26,276	\$23,215	\$22,693	\$24,985	U S Census
H. Median Household Income	\$43,368	\$36,272	\$41,096	\$39,443	U S Census
I. Total population-	11,626	12,595	11,933	11,812	U S Census
J. County population projection for 2020-2025	13,101	13,101	13,101	13,101	CPRP
K. Teenage Pregnancy Rates-	62.3%	30.3%	30.3%	30.3%	Kids Count
L. Expectant Mothers	107	139	143	142	MSDH
M. Live birth's single mothers-	58	74	142	139	MSDH
N. Teen fertility rate (live birth per 1000 females)	60.6%	59.7%	12.7%	14.4%	MSDH
O. Cost per child (all 4 counties)-	\$21,618.92	\$21,127.35	\$13,962.80	\$13,587.68	FICO CFO
P. Daycare facilities	3	2	2	1	MSDH
Enrolled children –	120	80	65	45	MSDH
Q. Public School Pre-K Program	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	Public School
R. Percentage of households with broadband Internet subscriptions	68.5%	59.3%	59.3%	53.6%	U S Census
S. The estimated number of children under 3 years	423	472	442	426	MDHS
T. The number of children 3 years old	139	179	128	128	MSDH
U. The number of children 4 years old	149	144	142	144	MSDH
V. The number of Employed	4,990	4,710	4,630	4,350	MDES
W. Percent Population change	-0.4%	-0.5%	-0.5%	-1.7%	MDES
X. Population Change	-46	-61	-61	-204	MDES
Y. The children in Foster Care	17	18	13	9	Fostering court
Z. Estimated Homeless Children	7	6	6	1	Public School/FICO
AA. Drop-out Rate	19.4%	11.0%	12.3%	12.6%	MSDH
BB. The care of Grandparents	188	131	131	131	Kids Count
CC. Industry Employed	2,747	2,588	2,624	1,281	BLS/US Census
DD. Employee Establishment	218	205	212	170	BLS/US Census
EE. English-Speaking Population	98.3%	97.3%	97.3%	97.6%	US Census
FF. Non-English-Speaking Population	1.7%	2.7%	2.7%	2.4%	US Census
GG. Spanish-Speaking Population	1.4%	2.2%	2.2%	1.7%	US Census

	County: Lincoln				Source
<b>Year:</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	
<b>The number of children under 5</b>	<b>1971</b>	<b>2,068</b>	<b>2,313</b>	<b>2,068</b>	<b>Kids Count</b>
<b>Percent of families below poverty level-</b>	<b>18.7%</b>	<b>19.6%</b>	<b>22.3%</b>	<b>18.7%</b>	<b>Kids Count</b>
<b>Percent of Children below poverty level-</b>	<b>24.3%</b>	<b>24.2%</b>	<b>24.2%</b>	<b>24.3%</b>	<b>Kids Count</b>
<b>Percent of families receiving Food Stamps-(SNAP)</b>	<b>14.0%</b>	<b>13.7%</b>	<b>13.8%</b>	<b>13.7%</b>	<b>Kids Count</b>
<b>Percent of children with food insecurities</b>	<b>21.5%</b>	<b>19.1%</b>	<b>19.1%</b>	<b>19.1%</b>	<b>Kids Count</b>
<b>Percent of families unemployed-</b>	<b>3.7%</b>	<b>2.8%</b>	<b>4.2%</b>	<b>3.5%</b>	<b>MDES</b>
<b>Per Capita Income- (US Census)</b>	<b>\$26,925</b>	<b>\$23,586</b>	<b>\$25,775</b>	<b>\$23,410</b>	<b>U S Census</b>
<b>Median Household Income</b>	<b>\$48,316</b>	<b>\$44,695</b>	<b>\$47,069</b>	<b>\$43,926</b>	<b>U S Census</b>
<b>Total population-</b>	<b>35,097</b>	<b>34,197</b>	<b>34,855</b>	<b>34,943</b>	<b>U S Census</b>
<b>County population projection for 2020-2025</b>	<b>38,111</b>	<b>38,111</b>	<b>38,111</b>	<b>38,111</b>	<b>CPRP</b>
<b>Teenage Pregnancy Rates-</b>	<b>32.1%</b>	<b>41.6%</b>	<b>41.6%</b>	<b>41.6%</b>	<b>Kids Count</b>
<b>Expectant Mothers</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>MSDH</b>
<b>Live birth's single mothers-</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>MSDH</b>
<b>Teen fertility rate (live birth per 1000 females)</b>	<b>28.7%</b>	<b>28.4%</b>	<b>15.9%</b>	<b>16.7%</b>	<b>MSDH</b>
<b>Cost per child in Head Start</b>	<b>\$16,976.05</b>	<b>\$14,722.32</b>	<b>\$10,555.16</b>	<b>\$10,252.69</b>	<b>FICO CFO</b>
<b>Cost per child in Early Head Start</b>	<b>\$21,056.64</b>	<b>\$17,180.52</b>	<b>\$23,833.18</b>	<b>\$23,189.04</b>	<b>FICO CFO</b>
<b>Daycare facilities</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>856</b>	<b>MSDH</b>
<b>Enrolled children</b>	<b>725</b>	<b>690</b>		<b>836</b>	
<b>Public School Pre-K Program (58 are in collaboration with FCCD)</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>Public School</b>
<b>Percentage of households with broadband internet subscriptions</b>	<b>82.5%</b>	<b>80.5%</b>	<b>80.7%</b>	<b>76.0%</b>	<b>U S Census</b>
<b>The estimated number of children under 3 years</b>	<b>1,206</b>	<b>1304</b>	<b>1213</b>	<b>1198</b>	<b>MSDH</b>
<b>The number of children 3 years old-</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>MSDH</b>
<b>The number of children 4 years old-</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>MSDH</b>
<b>The number of Employed</b>	<b>14,870</b>	<b>14,230</b>	<b>13,610</b>	<b>13,740</b>	<b>MDES</b>
<b>Percent Population change</b>	<b>+0.4</b>	<b>-0.5%</b>	<b>0.5%</b>	<b>+0.1</b>	<b>MDES</b>
<b>Population Change</b>	<b>+141</b>	<b>-190</b>	<b>-190</b>	<b>+36</b>	<b>MDES</b>
<b>The children in Foster Care</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>Fostering court</b>
<b>Estimated Homeless Children</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Public School</b>
<b>Drop-out Rate</b>	<b>11.8%</b>	<b>11.6%</b>	<b>12.1%</b>	<b>5.7%</b>	<b>MSDH/Kids Count</b>
<b>The care of Grandparents</b>	<b>947</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>Kids Count</b>
<b>Industry Employed</b>	<b>12,453</b>	<b>12,857</b>	<b>13,189</b>	<b>11,030</b>	<b>BLS/US Census</b>
<b>Employer Establishment</b>	<b>862</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>867</b>	<b>809</b>	<b>BLS/US Census</b>
<b>English-Speaking Population</b>	<b>98.8</b>	<b>98.8%</b>	<b>98.8%</b>	<b>98.6%</b>	<b>US Census</b>
<b>Non-English-Speaking Population</b>	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	<b>US Census</b>
<b>Spanish-Speaking Population</b>	<b>0.4%</b>	<b>0.3%</b>	<b>0.6%</b>	<b>0.6%</b>	<b>US Census</b>

	<b>County: Simpson</b>				<b>Source</b>
<b>Year:</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	
<b>A. The number of children under 5-</b>	<b>1,523</b>	<b>1,535</b>	<b>1,700</b>	<b>1,535</b>	<b>Kids Count</b>
<b>B. Percent of families below poverty level-</b>	<b>21.2%</b>	<b>17.8%</b>	<b>17.1%</b>	<b>21.2%</b>	<b>Kids Count</b>
<b>C. Percent of children below poverty level-</b>	<b>31.3%</b>	<b>28.3%</b>	<b>28.3%</b>	<b>31.3%</b>	<b>Kids Count</b>
<b>D. Percent of families receiving Food Stamps (SNAP)</b>	<b>11.2%</b>	<b>18.6%</b>	<b>19.7%</b>	<b>18.6%</b>	<b>Kids Count</b>
<b>E. Percent of children with food insecurities</b>	<b>21.4%</b>	<b>20.8%</b>	<b>20.8%</b>	<b>20.8%</b>	<b>Kids Count</b>
<b>F. Percent of families unemployed-</b>	<b>3.3%</b>	<b>2.9%</b>	<b>3.9%</b>	<b>3.6%</b>	<b>MDES</b>
<b>G. Per Capita Income- (U S Census)</b>	<b>\$29,599</b>	<b>\$24,170</b>	<b>\$27,920</b>	<b>\$24,810</b>	<b>U S Census</b>
<b>H. Median Household Income</b>	<b>\$54,111</b>	<b>\$41,988</b>	<b>\$50,867</b>	<b>\$43,842</b>	<b>U S Census</b>
<b>I. Total population-</b>	<b>25,597</b>	<b>26,818</b>	<b>25,949</b>	<b>25,750</b>	<b>U S Census</b>
<b>J. County population projection for 2020-2025</b>	<b>28,456</b>	<b>28,456</b>	<b>28,456</b>	<b>28,456</b>	<b>CPRP</b>
<b>K. Teenage Pregnancy Rates-</b>	<b>32.1%</b>	<b>39.3%</b>	<b>39.3%</b>	<b>39.3%</b>	<b>Kids Count</b>
<b>L. Expectant Mothers</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>MSDH</b>
<b>M. Live birth's single mothers-</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>MSDH</b>
<b>N. Teen fertility rate (live birth per 1000 females)</b>	<b>38.2%</b>	<b>38.2%</b>	<b>16.8%</b>	<b>15.7%</b>	<b>MSDH</b>
<b>O. Cost per child (all 4 counties)-</b>	<b>\$21,618.92</b>	<b>\$21,127.35</b>	<b>\$13,962.80</b>	<b>\$13,587.68</b>	<b>FICO CFO</b>
<b>P. Daycare facilities</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>MSDH</b>
<b>Enrolled children-</b>	<b>575</b>	<b>690</b>	<b>645</b>	<b>628</b>	<b>MSDH</b>
<b>Q. Public School Pre-K Program</b>	<b>-20-</b>	<b>-0-</b>	<b>-0-</b>	<b>-0-</b>	<b>Public School</b>
<b>R. Percentage of households with broadband Internet subscriptions</b>	<b>77.1 %</b>	<b>73.1%</b>	<b>73.1%</b>	<b>69.8%</b>	<b>U S Census</b>
<b>S. The estimated number of children under 3 years</b>	<b>944</b>	<b>1052</b>	<b>967</b>	<b>842</b>	<b>MSDH</b>
<b>T. The number of children 3 years old-</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>MSDH</b>
<b>U. The number of children 4 years old-</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>MSDH</b>
<b>V. The number of Employed</b>	<b>10,940</b>	<b>10,490</b>	<b>10,120</b>	<b>9,910</b>	<b>MDES</b>
<b>W. Percent Population change</b>	<b>0.2%</b>	<b>-0.4%</b>	<b>-0.4%</b>	<b>-0.8%</b>	<b>MDES</b>
<b>X. Population Change</b>	<b>-56</b>	<b>-99</b>	<b>-99</b>	<b>-199</b>	<b>MDES</b>
<b>Y. The children in Foster Care</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>Foster Court Improvement</b>
<b>Z. Estimated Homeless Children</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>Public School</b>
<b>AA. Drop-out Rate</b>	<b>15.9%</b>	<b>8.9%</b>	<b>9.8%</b>	<b>8.4%</b>	<b>MSDH</b>
<b>BB. The care of Grandparents</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>723</b>	<b>723</b>	<b>723</b>	<b>Kids Count</b>
<b>CC. Industry Employed</b>	<b>7,138</b>	<b>7,018</b>	<b>7,362</b>	<b>5,598</b>	<b>BLS/US Census</b>
<b>DD. Employee Establishment</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>BLS/US Census</b>
<b>EE. English-Speaking Population</b>	<b>97.5%</b>	<b>97.2%</b>	<b>97.2%</b>	<b>98.6%</b>	<b>US Census</b>
<b>FF. Non-English-Speaking Population</b>	<b>2.5%</b>	<b>2.8%</b>	<b>2.8%</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	<b>US Census</b>
<b>GG. Spanish-Speaking Population</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	<b>1.6%</b>	<b>1.6%</b>	<b>0.5%</b>	<b>US Census</b>

### Estimated number of age eligible children by county

Communities	Head Start	Early Head Start	Expectant Parent
Covington County	524	763	269
Franklin County	197	276	52
Jefferson Davis County	245	346	116
Lawrence County	318	423	107
Lincoln County	847	1,206	470
Simpson County	689	944	262
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,820</b>	<b>3,958</b>	<b>1,276</b>

The estimated number of age eligible children and expectant parents is 8,054; a small increase of 35 more than last year's data.

Estimated number of Head Start and Early Head Start age eligible children in the Five County service area being served by agencies other than Head Start. This number has decreased by 44 from the previous year.

• Covington County	74
• Franklin County	0
• Jefferson Davis County	40
• Lawrence County	120
• Lincoln	725
• Simpson County	575
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,534</b>

According to the US Census the official poverty rate in the United States, or percentage of people who live in poverty, fell to 10.6% in 2024, down from 11.1% the previous year. In 2024, 35.9 million people lived in poverty. This decline in the national official poverty rate was reflected in poverty rate declines among children (14.3% in 2024, down from 15.3% in 2023), adults 18 to 64 (9.6%, down from 10.0%), persons living in the West region (9.9%, down from 11.0%), residents of principal cities within metropolitan areas (13.0%, down from 13.8%), persons 25 and older with no high school diploma (23.1%, down from 25.1%), and nonworkers (28.2%, down from 29.7%).

“In 2024, the poverty rate in **Mississippi** was **17.8%**, indicating that approximately **1.3 million** residents lived below the poverty line. This rate reflects the ongoing challenges of poverty in the state, which has been a significant issue for many years.” ([www.statista.com](http://www.statista.com)).

#### Mississippi children in poverty

“Mississippi has a significant number of children living in poverty, with approximately **54% of all children** in the state living in households with income below the ALICE Threshold of Financial Survival in 2019. This includes families in poverty as well as those who are Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed. The poverty rate in Mississippi is higher among Black children compared to Asian and white children, and children of single mothers are also more likely to be affected. The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), National School Lunch Program (NSLP), Child First Medicaid, Universal Basic Income, and other innovative policies are being explored to address the challenges of poverty and child health in the United States.”

According to worldpopulationreview.com, in 2023 Mississippi children's poverty rate is 26.39%, the highest in the nation. "Fortunately, the U.S. poverty rate is declining; however, poverty is still a significant problem across the country. The national poverty rate in 2017 was 13.4% after falling for the fifth year in a row and was 12.3% in 2019. Numbers in this article are provided by the U.S. Census Bureau, which uses data from the American Community Survey.

"The highest poverty rate in the country is in Mississippi, where 18.8% of the population lives in poverty. However, this has improved from 2012, when the state's poverty rate was nearly 25%. Mississippi has the lowest median household income of any state of \$44,966. Mississippi's educational attainment levels are among the lowest in the U.S., with about 85.3% of adults graduating high school and 22% of adults having at least a bachelor's degree. Mississippi is the poorest U.S. state, with 18.8% of its residents living in poverty. The state also has the highest child poverty rate, with 27.9% of its under-18 population meeting federal poverty guidelines. Fifteen percent of residents are food insecure. The median household income in the state is \$44,966, the lowest in the country. Unfortunately, Mississippi also has the country's highest obesity rate, at 40.8%, and the lowest life expectancy of 74.4 years" (worldpopulationreview.com).

Mississippi has an average 17. % of families that live below the poverty rate. All the counties in Five County's service area have a larger percentage of population living below the poverty level than the state average. The counties poverty rates are: Covington County -20.3%, Franklin County-21.4%, Jefferson Davis County- 25.2%, Lawrence County-19.1%, Lincoln County 18.7%, and Simpson County- at 21.2% of families living in poverty.

#### **Mississippi food insecurity rate**

According to Feeding America

"Mississippi's food insecurity rate is a significant concern, with **15.3%** of the population affected. This rate is **32% higher** than the national average of **10.4%**. The state's food insecurity rate is particularly concerning as it affects more than **16%** of the population, including **1 in 6 children**. The challenges of food insecurity in Mississippi are compounded by the state's poverty rate, which is **18.1%**, and the impact of high food prices. SNAP, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, plays a crucial role in addressing food insecurity, with **16% of Mississippi households** experiencing food insecurity. SNAP supports over **379,549 people** in Mississippi, bringing significant economic benefits to the state." Feeding America+1

"Food desert" is a term used to describe areas where access to healthy and affordable food is limited. Rural and minority communities are disproportionately impacted by food deserts, and that's certainly the case in Mississippi. Mississippi is a very rural state with complex geographical issues that make food distribution a challenge too. In other words, even when food banks have enough food, getting it to the right people isn't always easy. "A lot of the food that we have access to that is inexpensive are the unhealthy foods," Victoria Zigmont, assistant professor of public health and health sciences, said. "Fruits and vegetables are typically more expensive than the unhealthy foods, so people that are experiencing food insecurity have an easier time getting these unhealthy foods, and over time if you keep eating unhealthy foods, you're more likely to develop different chronic diseases."

The chronic diseases that can develop from food insecurity include obesity and hypertension. If someone is already experiencing food insecurity, they may not have access to preventive screenings that can prevent heart attacks." (The Daily Mississippian, November 2022)

According to the University of Mississippi Medical Center, 70% of households eligible for SNAP benefits travel more than 30 miles to reach a supermarket. Traveling such distances can be expensive for low-income families who are already facing financial struggles.

**The percentage of children with food insecurities according to KIDS COUNT**

County	Covington	Franklin	Jefferson Davis	Lawrence	Lincoln	Simpson
Percentage	24.5%	29.6%	32.9%	25.8%	21.5%	21.4%

Food insecurities for children have increased in every county in our service area, since last year's data.

**2025 The percentage of children living in poverty according to the US Census**

County	Covington	Franklin	Jefferson Davis	Lawrence	Lincoln	Simpson
Percentage	31.2%	26.6%	45.2%	25.2%	24.3%	31.3 %.

The percentage of children living in poverty slightly decreased in Lawrence County from 26.1% to 25.2%. However, Jefferson Davis County percentage of children living in poverty rose from 36.4% to 45.2% this year.

The top communities in each county that has the greatest needs for Head Start services are as followed:

- Covington County-Collins, and Hopewell
- Franklin County-Bude, Meadville, and Roxie
- Jefferson Davis County- Bassfield, and Prentiss
- Lawrence County-Monticello, Topeka, and New Hebron
- Lincoln County- Brookhaven, and Bogue Chitto
- Simpson County-Magee, and Mendenhall

PROGRAMMATIC STATISTIC STANDARD MODEL	
ITEM	PROGRAM TOTAL
<b>FULL DAY OPERATION</b>	
Number of days of Head Start classroom operation	160
Hours of operation per day	6.5
Hours of operation yearly Head Start	1020
Hours of operation yearly Early Head Start	1380
Number of centers	11
Number of Head Start units	32
Number of Early Head Start units	7
<b><u>ENROLLMENT</u></b>	
Head Start Funded Enrollment	585
Head Start Enrollment	551
Actual Enrollment (with drop outs)	589
Number who dropped out	38
Number of bilingual	11
Number of non-English speaking children enrolled	-0-
Number of migrant children enrolled	-0-
Early Head Start Funded Enrollment/ with up to 12 expectant mothers	64
Early Head Start Enrollment (as of 01/07/2026)	19
<b><u>ENROLLMENT BY INCOME</u></b>	
Head Start and Early Head Start Enrollment	570
Percentage below poverty level	99.82%
Number at or below poverty level	569
Number of above poverty level	1
Number of children/families receiving public assistance SSI/SNAP/TANF	294
Number of single parent children	512
Number of two parent children	32
Child lives with other relatives	26
Foster children enrolled	7
Number of Homeless Families	42
Number of Head Start/EHS Families	503
<b><u>Head Start Enrollment by Age</u></b>	
Head Start Class age 2 (turned 3 after 9-1)	4
3 years of age	230
4 years of age	294
Total actual enrollment (with drop outs)	589

### **Eligibility Income Status of Enrolled Head Start and Early Head Start Students**

#### **ENROLLMENT BY RACIAL/ETHNIC COMPOSITION**

<b>African American</b>	<b>457</b>
<b>Caucasian</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>Asian/Pacific</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Bi-Racial</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Native American</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>541</b>
<b>Hispanic</b>	<b>11</b>

#### **ENROLLMENT BY LENGTH OF PARTICIPATION**

<b>First year of Head Start</b>	<b>365</b>
<b>Second year of Head Start</b>	<b>158</b>
<b>Third year of Head Start</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>528</b>

	<b>\$0 TO \$2,999</b>	<b>\$3,000 TO \$5,999</b>	<b>\$6,000 TO \$8,999</b>	<b>\$9,000 TO \$11,999</b>	<b>\$12,000 TO \$14,999</b>	<b>\$15,000 AND OVER</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>121</b>

<b><u>PUBLIC SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP PROFILE</u></b>	The number of Head Start children that are housed in public school buildings
Covington County School District	40
Jefferson Davis County School District	111
Lawrence County School District	73
Lincoln County School District	88
Simpson County School District	120
<b>Total</b>	<b>432</b>

### **Demographic Information**

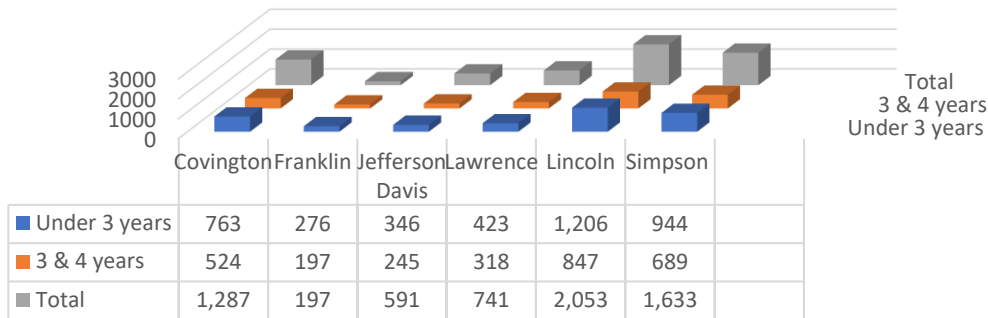
The demographic make-up of Head Start eligible children and families, including their estimated number and racial and ethnic composition:

#### **a. Number of children by age and county:**

<b>AGE</b>	<b>Covington</b>	<b>Franklin</b>	<b>Jefferson Davis</b>	<b>Lawrence</b>	<b>Lincoln</b>	<b>Simpson</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Under 3</b>	<b>763</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>1,206</b>	<b>944</b>	<b>3,958</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>1,309</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>1,511</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,287</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>591</b>	<b>741</b>	<b>2,053</b>	<b>1,633</b>	<b>6,778</b>

According to the Vital Statistics the estimated number of children under three-years-old is 3,958 and 2,820 children ages three and four in the agency service area. The county with the highest number of eligible children and families is Lincoln County with 2,053 children under five-years-old. The data shows there are roughly about the same number of three and four-year-old children in each county. The data states that Franklin County has the least number of children under five, totaling 473.

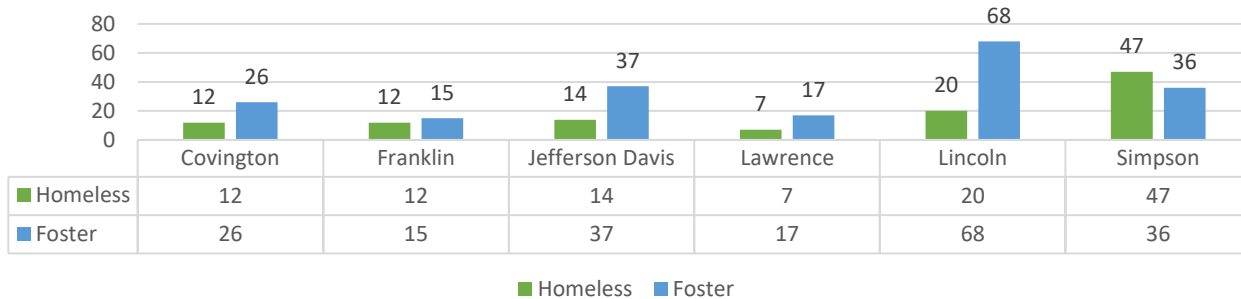
**The Number of Children by Age and County**



**The Chart Outlines the Number of Children by Counties**

**b. Number of Homeless and Foster Children**

**Homeless and Foster Children by County**



Our Local School Districts indicates that the estimated number of homeless children as defined by Subtitle B of Title VII of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (Title X, Part C, of the Child Left Behind Act) in the agency service area is 112 children, an increase of 3 from the previous year. Simpson County has the highest number of homeless children reported at 47. Kids Count Data Report indicates that Lincoln County area had the highest number of foster children reported at 68 with an overall total of 199 in foster care within our service area. The total number of families experiencing homelessness and foster children has increased from 286 last year to 311 currently. This is a significant increase.

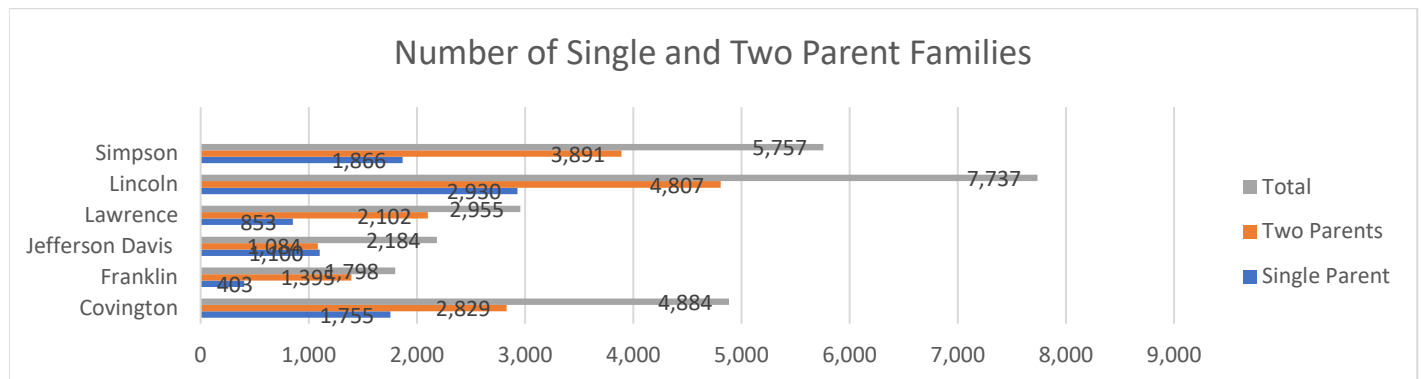
**The Chart Outlines the Number of Homeless and Foster Children by Counties**

**c. Number of Single and Two Parent Families by County**

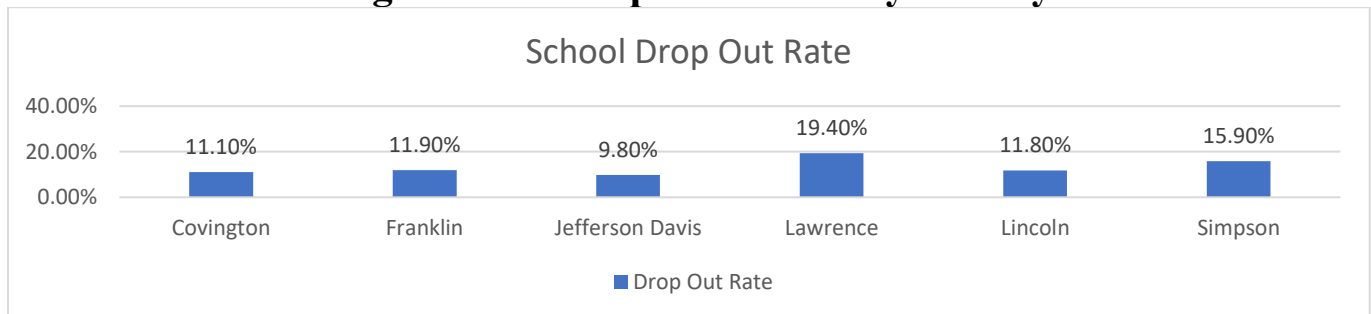
Status	Covington	Franklin	Jefferson Davis	Lawrence	Lincoln	Simpson	Total
One Parent	1,755	403	1,100	853	2,930	1,866	8,907
Two Parent	2,829	1,395	1,084	2,102	4,807	3,891	16,108
Total	4,584	1,798	2,184	2,955	7,737	5,757	25,015

Kids Count data the estimated number of families in our agency service area is 25,015, updated in January 2025. The county with the highest number of families is Lincoln with 7,737 and the county with the lowest number of families is Franklin with 1,798. The data identifies 8,907 single parent families in the service area. There are 16,108 two parent families in the service area with highest number of 4,807 residing in the Lincoln County area. The Jefferson Davis County area had the lowest number of two parent families with 1,084 and Lawrence County had the lowest number of single parent families with 853.

The Chart Outlines the Number of Families by Counties



## High School Drop-Out Rates by County



Lawrence County has the highest percentage of drop outs at 19.4%. This is a significant increase from the 11% last year. Simpson County had a significant increase from 8.9% last year to 15.9% reported this year. Covington County had the only decrease from 14.9% last year to 11.10% this year.

## Population by Race and County

Data Provided by Mississippi Kids Count

### Covington County Race/Ethnicity Data

Race/Ethnicity	Percentage of Population (2023)
White	60.91%
African American	34.95%
Hispanic	2.57%
Asian	0.34%
Native American	0.94%
Hawaiin/Pacific Islander	0.28%

### Franklin County Race/Ethnicity Data

Race/Ethnicity	Percentage of Population (2023)
White	63.46%
African American	35.48%
Hispanic	0.93%
Asian	0%
Native American	0.13%
Hawaiin/Pacific Islander	0%

### Jefferson Davis County Race/Ethnicity Data

Race/Ethnicity	Percentage of Population (2023)
White	38.65%
African American	61.1%
Hispanic	0.17%
Asian	0.04%
Native American	0.05%
Hawaiin/Pacific Islander	0%

### Lawrence County Race/Ethnicity Data

Race/Ethnicity	Percentage of Population (2023)
White	65.08%
African American	32.15%
Hispanic	2.09%
Asian	0.31%
Native American	0.37%
Hawaiin/Pacific Islander	0%

### Lincoln County Race/Ethnicity Data

Race/Ethnicity	Percentage of Population (2023)
White	67.83%
African American	30.28%
Hispanic	1.27%
Asian	0.53%
Native American	0.07%
Hawaiin/Pacific Islander	0.01%

### Simpson County Race/Ethnicity Data

Race/Ethnicity	Percentage of Population (2023)
White	61.65%
African American	35.71%
Hispanic	1.7%
Asian	0.47%
Native American	0.16%
Hawaiin/Pacific Islander	0.31%

### Children with Disabilities

Five County Child Development Program has served approximately 29 children (as of 01/08/26) with disabilities during the 2024-2025 program year. These disabilities include speech and language impairments, cognitive and social emotional delay. Services are provided in collaboration with local education agencies and other community agencies. Children with disabilities are served in an inclusive environment.

### **Children being served with disabilities and concerns with IEP: 2025-2026 PY**

County	Number of Children	Types
Covington	15	Speech or language impairment
Franklin	4	Speech or language impairment

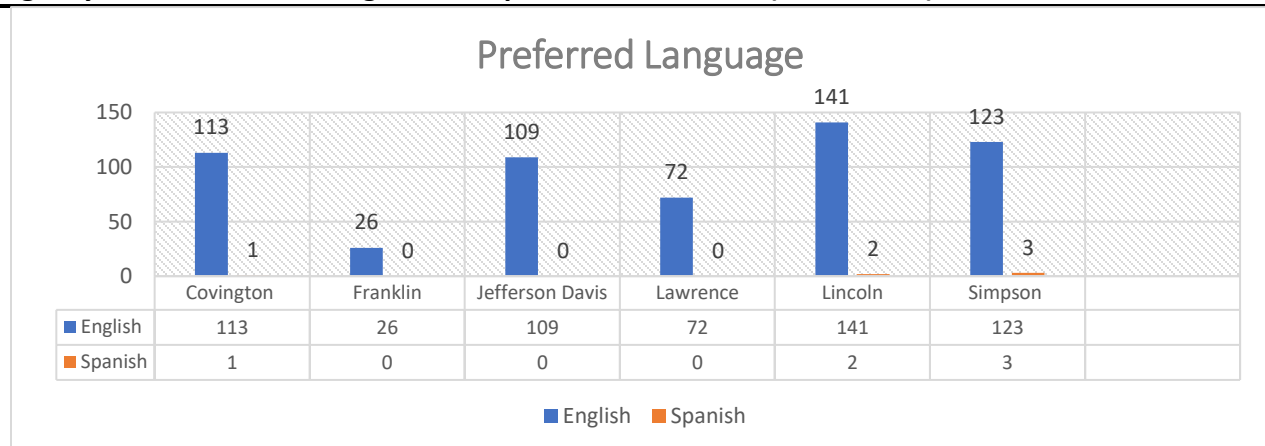
Jefferson Davis	10	Speech or language impairment Autism
Lawrence	3	Non-categorical/ developmental delay Speech or language impairment
Lincoln	4	Non-categorical/ developmental delay Speech or language impairment
Simpson	1	Speech or language impairment
Total	37	

The following data was collected from the **2025 Community Assessment Questionnaires**; from the parents and the communities we serve:

**Preferred Language**

Language	Covington	Franklin	Jefferson Davis	Lawrence	Lincoln	Simpson	Total
English	113	26*	109	72	141	123	584
Spanish	1	0	0	0	2	3	6
Others	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Total	114	26	109	73	143	126	591

According to the questionnaire survey data most preferred and the primary language spoken by the families in the agency service area was English and Spanish was second. (\*Estimated)



**The Chart Outlines the Primary Language of the Families by Counties**

The survey data stated the primary and preferred language of the families in the agency service area is English. The education, health, nutrition and social service needs of Head Start eligible children and their families as defined by families of Head Start eligible children:

**EDUCATION**

**a (1). Needs**

Education	Covington	Franklin	Jefferson Davis	Lawrence	Lincoln	Simpson	Total
ii. High School	60	TBD	32	16	31	14	153
iii. Job Training/School/GED	34	TBD	38	23	59	32	186
v. College	19	TBD	22	16	52	51	160
<b>Total</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>499</b>

ii. High School Graduate: The survey data states there are 153 family members in the agency service area who need high school diplomas.

iii. Job Training/School/GED: The data states there are 186 family members who need JT/S/GED's.

iv. College: The data states there are 160 family members who need a college education.

v. School Readiness: The data states there are 375 families who are knowledgeable of their child's school readiness goals and 22 that did not understand their child's school readiness goals.

**HEALTH**

**a (1). Mental, Stress and Postnatal/Postpartum needs**

Health Needs	Covington	Franklin	Jefferson Davis	Lawrence	Lincoln	Simpson	Total
Mental Health Services	31	2	17	28	54	21	153
Stress	57	15	21	23	29	45	190
Postnatal/Postpartum	4	0	0	0	4	6	14
Alcohol	4	1	3	6	8	28	50
Drug Abuse	4	2	3	3	8	28	48
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>455</b>

The survey data states there are 455 family members with health needs, the greatest health need in the service area is stress with 190 family members identifying the need and Mental Health Services was the second highest.

**b (2). Family Medical Resources Needs**

Needs	Covington	Franklin	Jefferson Davis	Lawrence	Lincoln	Simpson	Total
Medical	69	2	58	28	134	52	343
Dental	77	2	20	19	109	49	276
Others	77	0	14	28	54	32	205
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>824</b>

The survey data states there are 824 needs for medical and dental and other resources. Of the number identified, 343 are in need of medical resources and 276 dental needs were identified.

**NUTRITION**

**Nutritional Needs**

Needs	Covington	Franklin	Jefferson Davis	Lawrence	Lincoln	Simpson	Total
Obesity	53	4	16	13	21	49	156
Fluoride	3	20	2	1	11	8	45
Weight Controls	45	4	14	14	18	41	136

Planning Menu's	7	0	13	9	17	18	64
Food Selection	7	0	5	9	19	12	52
Food Preparation	28	0	7	9	16	28	88
Total	143	28	57	55	102	156	541

#### **SOCIAL SERVICES**

Social Services Needs	Covington	Franklin	Jefferson Davis	Lawrence	Lincoln	Simpson	Total
i. Family Violence	19	1	7	26	9	12	74
ii. Affordable Housing	13	5	18	9	72	44	161
iii. Employed	46	11	55	44	115	103	374
iv. Unemployed	19	10	49	27	107	27	239
v. Employed Part-time	13	1	17	7	26	22	86
vi. Self-Employed	3	4	1	2	14	3	27
vii. Transportation	45	3	111	69	86	85	399
viii. Adult Daycare	4	0	0	0	12	3	19
ix. Paying Bills	13	5	27	11	49	47	152
x. Counseling	36	4	17	54	45	44	196
xi. Recreation	3	0	48	30	28	49	158
xii. Income Management	31	6	31	21	36	46	171
xiii. Literacy Skills	18	1	26	15	24	14	98
TOTAL	263	51	407	315	623	499	2,158

#### **a. Family Social Services Needs**

ii. Housing: The questionnaire data states there are 161 families with affordable housing needs.

ix. Paying bills and financial security is a need in all counties.

vii. Transportation: The data states the greatest need in our service area is transportation, with 399 families that have transportation needs.

xii. Income Management: The data states there are 171 families with needs for income management.

xiii. Literacy Skills: There are 98 families with needs for literacy skills.

#### **b. Program Options**

Program Options	Covington	Franklin	Jefferson Davis	Lawrence	Lincoln	Simpson	Total
Center-Based	87	21	109	66	140	89	512

Home-Based	0	0	0	1	1	4	6
Combination	8	0	0	8	1	4	21
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>539</b>

The survey data states that 539 families identified their preferred program options for the provision of services. The data states 512 of these families preferred the Center-Based option; only 6 families preferred the Home-Based Option.

### The Program Options Identified by the Families that Participated in the Survey

#### C. 2025 Parents surveyed on Employment/School, Head Start Service Hours and Early Head Start Services ----

-----Based on 2025 community surveys questionnaires:

		Covington	Franklin	Jefferson Davis	Lawrence	Lincoln	Simpson	Total
Typical Work, School, and Training Schedules	The number of current parents that work Monday through Friday	89	9	55	66	82	81	382
	The number of current parents that attend training/ school Monday through Friday	22	4	3	4	6	11	54
	Current parents that do not work or attend school	48	10	49	28	37	42	214
	The number of parents that work between 7:30 am – 5:00 pm	81	17	52	51	79	76	341
	The number of parents that work between 5:00pm – 7:30 am	27	0	5	7	14	3	56
Parents prefer Head Start Service Hours	7:30 am to 3:30 p.m.	58	17	109	66	122	86	454
	Same Days and hours as public school	74	18	109	68	127	97	493
	7:30 am to 6:00 pm	3	4	16	6	33	21	83
	Longer hours More days	11	10	16	13	41	21	112
Early Head Start Services	Parents interested Early Head Start	29	26	30	19	58	27	189
	Number of Children between ages of 0 months and 3-years-old	36	15	27	30	42	34	184

The data from the 2025 community questionnaire shows that the typical work/school schedule of parents is Monday-Friday, 7:30 am-5:00 pm. The majority of parents prefer 7:30 am- 3:30 pm and the same hours and days as public school for Head Start services and 189 would be interested in an Early Head Start Program.

#### c. Weeks Per Year

		Covington	Franklin	Jefferson Davis	Lawrence	Lincoln	Simpson	Total
i.	36 (9 mo.)	71	20	96	58	80	86	521
Weeks per year	52 (12 mo.)	11	6	16		8	15	43

The data stated the most families preferred a schedule of hours per day/days per year/weeks per year as follows:

i. Weeks per year: 521 families preferred 36 weeks per year (9 mo.) of services, and 43 preferred 52 weeks per year.

### Five County Recruitment Areas

Covington County is in South Central Mississippi. Covington County was established on January 4, 1819. The county seat is Collins. Covington County is crossed both north and south and east to west by four-lane highways 49 and 84. Covington County total area is comprised of 414.94 square miles. Five County is currently serving approximately 98 children and families in Covington County. Covington County recruitment areas include the towns of Collins, Mt. Olive and Seminary and also the unincorporated communities of Dry Creek, Eminence, Hopewell, Leaf River, Lone Star, Lux, Okahay, Ora, Rock Hill, Salem, Sanford, Sunset and Williamsburg. U.S. Census estimates population at 18,015 and per capita income at \$26,323.

Franklin County is a county located in South Central Mississippi. This was the fourth county organized in Mississippi. Its county seat is Meadville. The county was formed on December 21, 1809, from portions of Adams County and named for Founding Father Benjamin Franklin. It is bisected by the Homochitto River, which runs diagonally through the county from northeast to southwest. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the county has a total area of 567 square miles. It is located at the intersection of highway 84 and 98. U.S. Census estimates population at 7,406 and per capita income at \$27,379.

Jefferson Davis County is in South Central Mississippi. Jefferson Davis was established on May 9, 1906. The county seat is Prentiss. Jefferson Davis County is located at the intersection of Highway 84 and 13. Jefferson Davis County total area is comprised of 404.10 square miles. Five County is currently serving approximately 109 children and families in Jefferson Davis County. Jefferson Davis County recruitment areas include the towns of Bassfield and Prentiss and also the unincorporated communities of Carson and Oak Vale. U.S. Census estimates population at 11,121 and per capita income at \$24,065.

Lawrence County is located in South Central Mississippi. Lawrence was established on December 22, 1814. The county seat is Monticello. Lawrence County is located at the intersection of Highway 27 and highway 84 with highway 27 north, 84 east and highway 43 running through the county. Lawrence County total area is comprised of 435.73 square miles. Five County is currently serving approximately 73 children and families in Lawrence County. Lawrence County's recruitment areas include the towns of Monticello, New Hebron and Silver Creek and also the unincorporated communities of Jayess, Nola, Oak Vale, Oma, Sontag and Wanilla. U.S. Census estimates population at 11,626 and per capita income at \$26,276.

Lincoln County is in South Central Mississippi. Lincoln County was established on April 7, 1870. The county seat is Brookhaven. Lincoln County is located at the intersection of interstate 55, Highway 51 and Highway 84 running through the county. Lincoln County has a total area of 588 square miles. Five County is funded to serve 128 Head Start children and 48 Early Head Start children including up to 8 expectant mothers. Lincoln County's recruitment areas include the towns of Brookhaven and Bogue Chitto. U.S. Census estimates population at 35,097 and per capita income at \$26,925.

Simpson County is located in South Central Mississippi. Simpson was established on 1824. The county seat is Mendenhall. Simpson County is located off of Highway 49 south with highway 13, 28, and 43 running through the county. Simpson County total area is comprised of 590.53 square miles. Five County is currently serving approximately 120 children and families in Simpson County. Simpson County recruitment areas include the cities of Magee and Mendenhall and also the town of D'Lo, village of Braxton, and unincorporated communities of Harrisville, Pinola, and Weathersby. U.S. Census estimates population at 25,897 and per capita income at \$29,599.

#### **IIV. Resources for the Five County Child Development Service Area**

##### **Day Care and Head Start Centers for all Five Counties**

###### **Day Care Centers for Covington County**

Little Learners	601-765-3374
The Anderson-Piquant	601-921-7277

###### **Head Start Preschool Centers for Covington County**

Collins Head Start Preschool	601-765-3386
Hopewell II Head Start Preschool	601-765-1070

###### **Day Care Centers for Jefferson Davis County**

Jefferson Davis Outreach Ministry After School	601-792-9604
Little Angels Academy	601-943-5505

###### **Head Start Preschool Center for Jefferson Davis County**

J. E. Johnson Head Start Preschool	601-792-4243
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###### **Day Care Centers for Lawrence County**

Heaven's Little Saints	601-587-5588
Loving Care	769-227-0211

###### **Head Start Preschool Centers for Lawrence County**

New Hebron Head Start Preschool	601-694-2698
Topeka Head Start Preschool	601-587-0074

###### **Daycare Centers in Lincoln County**

Dribble Drabble Child Development	601-835-1934
Wee Care Day Care Center	601-833-9699
Cindy's Daycare	601-833-2743
Easthaven Christian Childcare Kindergarten	601-835-2898
Faith Presbyterian Kindergarten	601-833-0098
Kids "R" US Learning Center	601-833-7223
Cornerstone Preschool and Nursery	601-833-6128
First United Methodist Kindergarten	601-833-3519
Shiny Star Learning Center	601-990-4379

###### **Early Head Start Centers in Lincoln County**

Lincoln/Richardson Early Head Start	601-265-5120
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**Head Start Preschool Centers for Lincoln County**

New Zion Head Start Preschool	601-265-5570
Mamie Martin Head Start Preschool	601-265-5120
Richardson Head Start Preschool	601-265-5120

**Day Care Centers for Simpson County**

Genesis I Christian School	601-847-3446
Nazareth Day Care	601-847-0551
First Baptist Church Child Care	601-847-2625
Happy Faces Village	601-218-8307
Mrs. Sheila's Afterschool Clubhouse	601-847-9945
ABC/ Patti-Cake	601-849-3202
Shining Starr	601-665-2791
Praying Handz	601-858-2438
Afterwards Academy	601-503-3743
First Baptist Weekday Educational Program	601-849-4062

**Head Start Preschool Centers for Simpson County**

Magee Head Start Preschool	601-849-9105 or 601-439-6011
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**Medical Services****Physicians for Jefferson Davis County**

Miller, Dr. Laura	601- 792-2071
MaHaffey, Dr. Earl	601- 792-2200
Jagadeesan, Dr. Jaislankar	601- 792-3200
Evans, Dr. Roy D.	601- 792-5060
Rush, Katie CNP	601- 792-2200
Ware, Ashley FNP	601- 792-3200
Massey, Brad NP	601- 943-5060

**Physicians for Covington County**

Johnston, Dr. Word	601- 797-3405
Bruce, Dr. Andrea	601- 765-3180
Pickering, Dr. Billie Mack	601- 722-4300
Jones, Dr. Bobby	601- 722-4300
Harvey, Dr. Martin	601- 765-4414
Rice, Dr. Amanda	601- 765-4414
Behniay, Dr. Hassasan	601- 722-3208
Beasley, Dr. Jason	601- 765-9393

**Physicians for Lawrence County**

Ward, Dr. Joe	601- 587-4492
Pace, Dr. Brantley	601- 587-7793
Musial, Dr. Bonita	601- 587-2783
Burris, Dr. Richard G.	601- 587-4648
Stephen, Dr. James	601- 587-4648
Taylor, Deon FNP-C	601- 587-4304
White, Valerie FNP	601- 587-4492
Bradford, Constance FNP	601- 587-4492

### **Physicians for Lincoln County**

Roberts, Jim MD 601-833-6011  
Dr. Robert Walker (Southern Primary Care) 601-833-8300  
Dr. Eugene A. Simmons Jr, MD 601-823-3098  
Dr. Joseph S. Moak Jr, MD 601-833-5051  
Dr. Elaine R. Reinhard, MD 601-833-3800

### **Physicians for Simpson County**

Adams, Dr. Dennis 601- 847-3306  
Chiemprabha, Dr. Amnuey 601- 847-5066  
Pasco, Dr. Patrick J. 601- 849-5321  
Pruitt, Dr. Charles 601- 849-5321  
Wade, Dr. Frank 601- 849-5321  
Bruce, Dr. Karen 601- 849-5321  
Smith, Dr. Kelli 601- 849-5321  
Holbrook, Dr. Chip 601- 847-3712

### **Medical and Health Services**

Mississippi State Hospital 601- 939-1221  
University Hospital 601- 362-4411  
Jefferson Davis Comm. 601- 792-4276  
Jefferson Davis Co. H. D. 601- 792-5135  
Covington Co. Health Dept. 601- 765-4291  
Lawrence Co. Health Dept. 601- 587-2561  
Simpson Co. Health Dept. 601- 847-2755  
New Hebron Health Dept. 601- 694-2116  
South Mississippi Home 601- 792-5187  
Forrest General Home H. 601- 792-8574  
Jeff Davis Health Care 601- 792-2078  
Simpson General Hospital 601- 847-2221  
Magee General Hospital 601- 849-5070  
St. Dominic's Family Medicine 601-849-1530  
Family Health Care Clinic 601-832-1710  
Jackson Heart Clinic at KDMC 601-835-9359  
KDMC Behavioral Wellness Center 601-835-9499  
KDMC Medical Clinic 601-833-7973  
KDMC Pediatric and Adolescent Clinic 601-823-5204  
KDMC Specialty Clinic 601-823-5000  
KDMC Sports Medicine, Orthopedic & Spine 601-823-5275  
KDMC Vision Center 601-823-3098  
King Daughter's Therapy Center 601-823-5255  
Southern Primary Care 601-833-3800

### **HEALTH CENTERS**

CLINIC	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
Seminary Health Care Clinic	100 MS 535 Seminary, MS 39479	601-722-3208
Sumrall Health Care Clinic	1016 MS 42 Sumrall, MS 39428	601-758-4214
Jeff Davis Health Care	910 2 <sup>nd</sup> St., Prentiss, MS 39474	601-792-2078
Lawrence County Health Care	430 W. Broad St., Monticello, MS 39654	601-587-4492

Agency	Contact Person	Phone
KMDC		601-833-6011
The Doll House	Darlene Slater	601-291-8757
The Therapy Nook	Millicent Porter	601-990-4085
CPS		601-835-2838
Southwest MS Ed Consultants	Volley Davis	601-807-3632
First Step	Lisa Bonds	601-684-9411
KDMC Pediatric Clinic		601-823-5204
Berean Childrens Home		601-823-5776
Lincoln County Wic	Kia Black	601-823-2260/601-823-2263
Healthy Moms/Healthy Babies Program	Julie Case Sherry Ciocan	601-833-3314
Breastfeeding Coordinator	April Horn	601-455-5486

New Hebron Health Care	202 Jefferson St., New Hebron, MS 39140	601-694-2116
Mendenhall Health Care	401 Main St., Mendenhall, MS 39114	601-847-3306
Magee After Hours Clinic	360 Simpson Hwy 149 Magee, MS 39111	601-849-1475
Magee Urgent Care	1529 Simpson Hwy 49 Magee, MS 39111	601-439-7288
Fast Pace Urgent Care	1806 Simpson Hwy 49 Magee, MS 39111	601-867-3880
King Daughter's Medical Center	427 US-51, Brookhaven, MS 39601	601-833-6011
University of Mississippi Medical Center	2500 N State St, Jackson, MS 39216	601-815-2005
Brookhaven Ob-Gyn and Associates	1012 Biglane Dr, Brookhaven, MS 39601	601-833-8157

### COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

County	Address	Telephone	Time
Covington	600 South Arrington, Collins, MS 39428	601-765-4291	8-5 M, W, & Th
Jefferson Davis	1185 A Frontage Road, Prentiss, MS 39474	601-792-5135	8-5 Tu, W, & Th
Lawrence	1230 Nola Rd., Monticello, MS 39654	601-587-2561	8-5 Tu & Th
Simpson	2789 Simpson HWY 49, Mendenhall, MS 39114	601-847-2755	8-5 Tu & Th
Lincoln	1212 Northpark Lane NE Brookhaven, MS 39601	(601) 833-3314	8-5 M-F Closed 12-1

## Early Head Start Resources

### *REGIONAL MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDERS* **REGION 8 (SIMPSON COUNTY)**

Dave Van, Executive Director  
Richard McMullan, Children's Specialist  
Region 8 Mental Health Services  
P.O. Box 88  
Brandon, Mississippi 39043

Phone: 601-824-0342 or 601-824-1692  
Fax: 601-824-0349  
Simpson County Office: 601-847-4410  
Simpson County Mental Health Services  
Adam Different 601-847-4410  
3087 Simpson HWY 13  
Mendenhall, MS 39114 Fax 601-847-7634

**REGION 11 (LAWRENCE COUNTY)**

**Sherlene Vince, Executive Director**  
Shanna Sparkman, Children's Coordinator  
Southwest Mississippi Mental Health Complex  
1701 White Street or P.O. Box 768  
McComb, Mississippi 39648  
Phone: 601-684-2173  
Fax: 601-249-4234  
Lawrence County Office: 601-587-0380

**REGION 12 (COVINGTON & JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTIES)**

Mona Gauthier, Director  
Jean Robertson, Director of Child Adolescent Service  
Pine Belt Mental Healthcare Resources 601-264-2111  
110 Patton Avenue or P. O. Box 18679  
Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39401  
Phone: 601-544-4641  
Hattiesburg Child and Adolescent Services 601-582-1111  
Fax: 601-582-1607  
Covington County Office: 601-765-4514  
P. O. Box 1364/22 Westview Dr.  
Fax: 601-765-8941  
Jeff. Davis County Office: 601-792-4872  
P. O. Box 979/116 J. E. Johnson RD.  
Fax: 601-792-2643

**Dentist for Jefferson Davis County**

Dumas, Dr. James, Jr. 601- 792-5152 or 601-792-4355  
Hathorn, Dr. Randy 601- 792-5126 or 601- 792-6940  
Cole, Dr. Melissa 601-792-5506

**Dentist for Covington County**

Bishop, Dr. James C. 601- 765-4355  
Pierce, Dr. Carroll D. 601- 765-3466  
Rogers, Dr. Joey 601- 765-8881  
Wilson, Dr. Ramsey E. 601- 765-4405

**Dentists for Lawrence County**

Boyd, Dr. Chris	601- 587-2838
Pippen, Dr. Sherry	601- 587-7737
Watson, Dr. Robert C.	601- 587-7737
Chance, Dr. Susan	601- 587-7737
Wilson, Dr. Vaniecia	601- 694-2117
Holloway, Dr. Dennis	601- 587-4492

**Dentists for Simpson County**

Smith, Dr. Kimberly	601- 847-1223
Slover, Dr. Russell	601- 849-5257
Overstreet, Dr. Jeffery	601- 849-3636
Overstreet, Dr. Angel	601- 849-3636
Cronk, Dr. Robert	601-849-0225
Stuart, Dr. James H.	601- 849-4110
Garner, Dr. Lake	601- 849-0225
Dyer, Dr. Foozy	601- 849-2290
Magnolia Smiles Dentistry	601- 849-4949

**Dentists for Lincoln County**

Ole Brook Pediatric Dentistry	601- 833-6113
Brookhaven Dental Center	601-833-0746
Brookhaven Smile Center	601-823-2990
Baker, Dr. Mac	601-833-7241
Brookway Dental	601-265-4520
Brookhaven Smile Center	601-823-2990
Foster, Dr. Donna	601-823-9872
Patti, Dr. Daniel J.	601-833-0777
Doty, Dr. Don	601-823-3200

**Dentist for Jefferson Davis County**

Dumas, Dr. James, Jr.	601- 792-5152 or 601-792-4355
Hathorn, Dr. Randy	601- 792-5126 or 601- 792-6940
Cole, Dr. Melissa	601-792-5506

**Dentist for Covington County**

Bishop, Dr. James C.	601- 765-4355
Pierce, Dr. Carroll D.	601- 765-3466
Rogers, Dr. Joey	601- 765-8881
Wilson, Dr. Ramsey E.	601- 765-4405

**Dentists for Lawrence County**

Boyd, Dr. Chris	601- 587-2838
Pippen, Dr. Sherry	601- 587-7737
Watson, Dr. Robert C.	601- 587-7737
Chance, Dr. Susan	601- 587-7737
Barnes, Dr. Lauri	601- 694-2117
Griffin, Dr. Minor	601- 587-4492

**Dentists for Simpson County**

Smith, Dr. Kimberly	601- 847-1223
Brooks, Dr. Harold, Sr.	601- 849-5257

Overstreet, Dr. Jeffery	601- 849-3636
Overstreet, Dr. Angel	601- 849-3636
Stuart, Dr. James H.	601- 849-4110
Nichols, Dr. Margaret	601- 849-0225
Garner, Dr. Lake	601- 849-0225
Dyer, Dr. Foozy	601- 849-2290
Magee, Dr. Jack	601- 849-4949

**Dentists for Lincoln County**

Ole Brook Pediatric Dentistry	601- 833-6113
Brookhaven Dental Center	601-833-0746
Reid, Thomas	601-833-5454

**Division of Medicaid**

1372 Johnny Johnson Drive Brookhaven, MS 39601 601-835-2020

Marlene Franklin	601-359-9141
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Fax #	601-359-4185
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Division of Medicaid	800-421-2408 or 800-884-3222
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<a href="http://www.medicaid.ms.gov">www.medicaid.ms.gov</a>	601-339-6050 or 601-359-6133
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**Children Health Insurance Program (CHIP)**

Magnolia Health Care <a href="http://www.magnoliahealthplan.com">www.magnoliahealthplan.com</a>	866-912-6285
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United Healthcare <a href="http://www.uhcommunityplan.com">www.uhcommunityplan.com</a>	800-992-9940
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**Mississippi Coordinated Access Network (MSCAN)**

Magnolia Health Care <a href="http://www.magnoliahealthplan.com">www.magnoliahealthplan.com</a>	866-912-6285
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United Healthcare <a href="http://www.uhcommunityplan.com">www.uhcommunityplan.com</a>	877-743-8731
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**Institute of Child Nutrition Applied Research Division**

Dr. Kristi Lewis, PHDRDN, Nutrition Consultant (USDA)

118 College Drive #5060

Hattiesburg, MS 39406

kristi <a href="mailto:lewis@usm.edu">lewis@usm.edu</a>	1-800-321-3054
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**Mississippi Dept. of Education Office of Child Nutrition**

Scott Clements (State Director)

500 Greymanet Ave. Suite F

Jackson, MS 39202

<a href="mailto:sclements@mdek12.org">sclements@mdek12.org</a>	601-576-4990
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**Mississippi Dept. of Health Services**

State Health Officer- DR. T. Hobbs	601-576-7634
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P. O. Box 1700

Jackson, MS 39215-1700

**United Health Care Community Plan of MS**

795 Woodlands PKWY Suite 301

Ridgeland, MS 39157

<a href="http://www.uhcommunityplan.com">www.uhcommunityplan.com</a>	601-718-6612
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**GED Program**

Jefferson Davis County	601- 792-5005
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Covington County	601- 765-0595 or 601- 477-4164
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Lawrence & Lincoln County/ Co-Lin Wesson, MS	601- 643-8655
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Simpson County/ Co-Lin Mendenhall, MS	601- 849-0151 or 849-0155 or 601- 849-5149
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## Five County Child's Community Partners

### Local Education Agencies (LEA)

*(Jefferson Davis, Lawrence, Covington, and Simpson County School Districts)*

Public School District Supt. Of Education	County	Address	Telephone
Ike Haynes	Jefferson Davis	P. O. Box 1197Prentiss, MS 39474 1025 Third Street	601-792-4267
John Daley	Lawrence	346 Thomas E. Jolly Dr. Monticello, MS 39654	601-587-2506
Babette Duty	Covington	P. O. Box 1269 Collins, MS 39428	601-765-8247
Dr. Paul Lawrence	Simpson	111 Education Lane Mendenhall, MS 39114	601-847-8000
David Martin Roderick Henderson	Lincoln Brookhaven	233 East Monticello St. Brookhaven, MS PO Box 540 Brookhaven, MS 39601	601-835-0011 601-833-6661

### FIRST STEPS EARLY INTERVENTION

COUNTY	DISTRICT COORDINATOR	ADDRESS	Telephone
Lawrence, Lincoln and Jefferson Davis	Lisa Bonds	303 A Mall Dr. McComb, MS 39648	601-684-9411
Simpson	Latoya Wilson	P. O. Box 1700 Jackson, MS 39213 5963 I-55 North	601-847-2755
Covington	Renita Robinson	5008 Old Hwy 42 Hattiesburg, MS 39402	601-583-0291

## Five County Area Universities and Colleges

Universities/ Community Colleges	Address	Telephone #
University of Southern Mississippi	118 College Dr Hattiesburg, MS 39406	601-266-1000
Jackson State University	1400 Lynch St. Jackson, MS 39204	601-979-2121
William Carey University	498 Tuscan Ave. Hattiesburg, MS 39401	601-318-6051
Alcorn State University	1000 ASU Drive Suite 359 Alcorn State, MS 39096	601-877-6100
Belhaven University Jackson	1500 Peachtree St., Jackson, MS 39202	601-968-5940
Copiah Lincoln	1001 Copiah Lincoln Circle Wesson, MS 39191	601-643-5101

Hinds County Jr. College	3925 Sunset Dr. Jackson, MS 39213	601-875-5261
Jones County Jr. College	900 South Court St. Ellisville, MS 39437	601-427-4000
Pearl River Community College	5458 US 49 Hattiesburg, MS 39401 Poplarville, MS 39470	601-544-5555 601-403-1000
Millsaps College Jackson	1701 North State St., Jackson, MS 39210	601-974-1000

### **Mississippi State University Extension**

Counties	Address	Telephone
Lincoln, Lawrence, Pike Counties	214 Main St., Suite C Monticello, MS 39654	601-835-3460
Covington	68 Collins Industrial Park Dr., Collins, MS 39428	601-765-4761
Jefferson Davis	2304 Pearl Ave., Prentiss, MS 39474	601-792-5721
Simpson	2785 Simpson HWY 49 Mendenhall, MS 39114	601-847-1626

### **American Red Cross**

601-792-5377 or 601-833-2771  
601-426-9071 or 601-353-5442

### **Salvation Army**

601-544-3684 or 601-249-0131  
601-982-4881

### **WIN Job Centers**

601-792-2437 or 601-847-1322  
601-833-3511 or 601-584-1202

#### **Laurel**

2139 Mississippi 15  
Laurel, MS 39440  
601-399-4000

#### **Columbia**

111 US Hwy 98  
Columbia, MS 39429  
601-736-2628

#### **Brookhaven**

545 Brookway Boulevard Brookhaven, MS 39601  
601-833-3511  
601-359-4861 or 877-882-4916

#### **Mendenhall**

150 Court Ave. Mendenhall, MS  
601-847-1322 **Child Support Enforcement**

United Way 211 <a href="http://www.211.org">www.211.org</a>	601-360-0450 or dial 211
Partnership for Prescription Assistance <a href="http://www.pparx.org">www.pparx.org</a>	1-888-477-2669
Lions for Eye Care <a href="http://www.lionsofms.org">www.lionsofms.org</a>	601-420-5752, Ext. 109
MS Donated Dental Services <a href="http://www.dentallifeline.org/mississippi">www.dentallifeline.org/mississippi</a>	601-932-2200

## **COMMUNITY RESOURCES**

Agency: USDA and Natural Resource Conservation Farm Service

Address: 714 Columbia Ave Suite B Prentiss, MS 39474

Phone: 601- 792-8601

Services: Housing program for low and moderate-income families and individuals. Farm loans for operating and purchasing equipment – also loans for socially disadvantaged groups.

Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Applications taken only on Mondays

Agency South Central Community Action Agency, Inc.

Address 110 Fourth Street or P. O. Box 129 D'Lo, MS 39062

Or Brookhaven Office 519 Brookway Blvd., Brookhaven, MS 39601

Phone 601- 847-5552 or 601-833-4313

Fax 601- 847-5589

Services FFRC organizations, funded by MDHS provide educational classes, free of charge, to youth and families across the state.

Abstinence-Until Marriage and Youth Development

Education Responsible Fatherhood Training

### **Public Libraries**

County	Library	Telephone #
Covington	R. E. Blackwell Memorial Library 403 South Fir Ave., Collins, MS	601-765-8582
	Jane Blain Brewer Memorial Library 102 South Fifth St., Mt. Olive	601– 797-4955
	Conner-Graham Memorial Library 102 Willow St., Seminary	601-722-0941
	Evon A. Ford Memorial Library 208 Spring St., Taylorsville	601-785-4361
Jefferson Davis	Dr. Frank L. Leggett Public Library 161 General Robert E. Blount Blvd., Bassfield	601-943-5420
	Prentiss Public Library 2229 Pearl Street Prentiss, MS	601-792-5845
Lawrence	Lawrence County Public Library 142 Washington St., Monticello, MS	601-587-2471
	New Hebron Public Library 209 Jones St. New Hebron, MS	601-694-2623
Lincoln	Lincoln County Library 100 South Jackson St. Brookhaven MS	601-833-5038
Simpson	Georgetown Library 1164 Railroad Ave.	601-858-2202
	Magee Public Library 120 N.W. First St.	601-849-6609
	Mendenhall Public Library 1630 Simpson St.	601-847-2181
	R. T. Prince Library 210 Hwy 28 Mize, MS	601-733-9414
	D'lo Public Library 4 Poplar St., D'lo, Ms	601-847-7474

### **Department of Human Services**

Jefferson Davis County

601- 792-4206

Covington County

601- 765-6585

Lawrence County

601- 587-7632

Lincoln County	601- 833-3311
Simpson County	601- 847-3815
<b><u>Mississippi State University Extension Services</u></b>	
Jefferson Davis County	601- 792-5121
Covington County	601- 765-4761
Lawrence County	601- 587-2271
Lincoln County	601-835-3460
Simpson County	601- 847-1626

**Pearl River Valley Opportunity** 601-792-5356 or 601-765-4871

Monday – Friday (8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)

**Five County Community Transportation** -601-792-4196

**Habitat for Humanity of Lincoln County** -601-823-4061

**US Social Security Administration** -1-877-405-3568

**Brookhaven Housing Authority** -601-833-1781

**AJFC Community Action Agency** – 601-833-2300

### **Domestic Violence Shelters**

#### **Angel Wings Outreach Center**

Mendenhall, MS

Crisis Line: 1-866-847-5802 Admin: 601-847-5802

Counties Served: Hinds, Issaquena, Madison, Rankin, **Simpson**, Warren, Yazoo

Services: Emergency Shelter, Childcare, Advocacy Services, 24-hour crisis line, Community Education, Referral Services

#### **Catholic Charities, Inc. Shelter for Battered Families**

Jackson, MS

Crisis Line: 1-800-273-9012 Admin: 601-366-0222

<http://www.catholiccharitiesjackson.org/services/domestic.violence.html>

Counties Served: Hinds, Issaquena, Madison, Rankin, **Simpson**, Sharkey, Warren, Yazoo Services: Emergency Shelter, Transitional/ Supportive Housing, Childcare, Advocacy Services, 24-Hour Crisis Line, Residential Counseling, Non-Residential Counseling, Emergency Transportation, Community Education, Referral Services, Legal Services.

#### **Domestic Abuse Family Shelter**

Laurel, MS

Crisis: 1-800-649-1092 Admin: 601-428-1707

[www.domesticabusefamilyshelter.org](http://www.domesticabusefamilyshelter.org)

Counties Served: **Covington**, Forrest, Greene, Jasper, **Jefferson Davis**, Jones, Lamar, Marion, Perry, Smith, Wayne Services: Emergency Shelter, Childcare, Advocacy Services, Batterer Intervention Program, 24-Hour Crisis Line, Residential Counseling, Non-Residential Counseling, Emergency Transportation, Community Education, Referral Services

#### **Guardian Shelter**

Natchez, MS

Crisis Line: 1-800-273-6938 Admin: 601-442-0142

<http://www.catholiccharitiesjackson.org/natchez/shelters>

Counties Served: Adams, Amite, Claiborne, Copiah, Franklin, Jefferson, **Lawrence**, Lincoln, Pike, Walthall, Wilkinson Services: Emergency Shelter, Childcare, Advocacy Services, 24-hour Crisis Line, Residential Counseling, Non-Residential Counseling, Emergency Transportation, Community Education, Referral Services, Legal Services

#### **Haven House Family Shelter**

Vicksburg, MS

Crisis Line: 1-800-898-0860 Admin: 601-638-0021

[www.myhavenhouse.org](http://www.myhavenhouse.org)

Counties Served: Hinds, Issaquena, Madison, Rankin, Sharkey, **Simpson**, Warren, Yazoo Services: Emergency Shelter, Transitional/ Supportive Housing, Childcare, Advocacy Services, Batterer Intervention Program, 24-hour Crisis Line, Residential Counseling, Non-Residential Counseling, Emergency Transportation, Community Education, Referral Services

## **VIII. Community Strengths**

Five County Child Development Program serves some of the very poorest and rural communities in Mississippi. Our strengths are our community partners and resources. The citizens are resilient and continue to support the program through adversity and our shrinking population. Review the above lists to see the extensive available resources, and many of these supporting agencies share the same struggles. There is a strong sense of community that extends to Five County in all counties. This program could not operate at its current capacity without the support of the community. The strength of this community is the Five County Board of Directors, the citizens, and partners.

### **X. Data Resources**

1. **Five County Child Development Program, INC. Child Plus Data**
2. **Five County Child Development Program, INC. 2025 Community Survey questionnaire Data**
3. **Covington, Jefferson Davis, Lawrence, Lincoln, and Simpson Public School Districts (Homeless Data)**

#### **Data Sources/ Reference**

##### **Mississippi Department of Human Services**

<https://msdh.ms.gov>

[http://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/\\_static/](http://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/)

<https://msdh.ms.gov/phs/statisti.htm>

<https://teenhealthms.org/county-stats>

##### **Mississippi Department of Employment Security**

<http://www.mdes.ms.gov/information-center/labor-market-information/data-maps/>

##### **Kids Count Data Center**

<http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data#MS>

<https://kidscount.ssrc.msstate.edu/>

<https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data#MS/5/0/char/0>

[Selected Indicators for Covington County, Mississippi | KIDS COUNT Data Center](#)

##### **Census Bureau**

<https://www.census.gov>

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts>

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/simpsoncountymississippi,jeffersondaviscountymississippi,lawrencountymississippi,covingtoncountymississippi,US/INC910216#viewtop>

[https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community\\_facts.xhtml#](https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community_facts.xhtml#)

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/profile?g=0500000US28127>

[Census - Geography Profile](#)

##### **Office of Policy Research and Planning Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning**

[Mississippi Counties by Population \(2024\)](#)

<http://www.mississippi.edu/urc/downloads/PopProjections/PopulationProjections.pdf>

MDEK- [Mississippi Succeeds Report Card \(mdek12.org\)](#)

<https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines>

<http://www.mississippi.edu/urc/data/?q=population+projections&domains=www.mississippi.edu&sitesearch=www.mississippi.edu>

<http://www.mississippi.edu/urc/downloads/PopProjections/PopulationProjections.pdf>

[PopulationProjections.pdf \(mississippi.edu\)](#)

[Dropout rates | KIDS COUNT Data Center](#)

**Childcare Center US** <https://childcarecenter.us/state>

[Child Care Provider Search](#)

[Mississippi Child Welfare Measures \(fosteringcourtimprovement.org\)](#) (foster care)

<https://fosteringcourtimprovement.org/ms/>

<https://statisticalatlas.com/state/Mississippi/Food-Stamps#data-map/county>

[BLS-County Employment and Wages in Mississippi: Southeast Information Office : U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics \(bls.gov\)](#)

[County Employment and Wages in Mississippi: Southeast Information Office : U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)

**[Covington County, MS - Profile data - Census Reporter](#)**

**[Lawrence-25.pdf](#)**