

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT



EAST MISSOURI
ACTION AGENCY INC.

(EMAA)

2022-2023

East Missouri Action Agency Head Start

2022-2023 Community Assessment

East Missouri Action Agency (EMAA) Head Start has provided services to our eight county service area for more than fifty years.

The EMAA Head Start program has worked hard to provide children (ages 3-5 years) with nutritious meals, health screenings, and the ability to become Kindergarten ready. We provide only center-based classrooms and the counties we serve are as follows:

- Bollinger
- Cape Girardeau
- Iron
- Madison
- Perry
- St. Francois
- Ste. Genevieve
- Washington

We serve a total of 542 children throughout the eight counties.

We use a selection criteria grid to choose which children will be attending our program. Our criteria grid is updated annually, if needed, and approved by the EMAA Policy Council and Board of Directors. Just this year we added SNAP benefits to our grid so families that receive food stamps will be eligible for our program. It also allows us to serve the oldest, neediest children first.

The EMAA Head Start program looks at many data sources to help us make decisions regarding the number of children served in each county. The latest census, PIR, Resource and Referral, etc. are some of the data we used in our determinations this year.

**Total Population – 3 to 5 Years Old
EMAA Service Area**

County	Total Population by Counties:	Number of 3-5 year olds
<i>Bollinger</i>	10,556	385
<i>Cape Girardeau</i>	82,113	2,758
<i>Iron</i>	9,408	287
<i>Madison</i>	12,652	424
<i>Perry</i>	18,922	624
<i>St. Francois</i>	67,541	2,147
<i>Ste. Genevieve</i>	18,588	657
<i>Washington</i>	23,502	803

**Median Income – Per Capita Income – Persons in Poverty
EMAA Service Area**

For the State of Missouri, the median household income for 2016-2020 was \$57,290. The following chart shows the median household income for our service area and the per capita income for the past twelve months and the percentage of persons in poverty.

County	Median Household Income	Per Capita Income	Persons in Poverty (%)
<i>Bollinger</i>	\$45,140	\$21,813	16.3%
<i>Cape Girardeau</i>	\$53,776	\$27,483	11.9%
<i>Iron</i>	\$40,082	\$21,769	19.5%
<i>Madison</i>	\$47,984	\$26,063	16.3%
<i>Perry</i>	\$56,861	\$27,294	11.7%
<i>St. Francois</i>	\$46,307	\$22,577	16.2%
<i>Ste. Genevieve</i>	\$61,746	\$33,049	9.0%
<i>Washington</i>	\$42,849	\$23,740	19.4%

As you can tell from the above information, only one of our eight counties (Perry) is above the states median household income. The other seven counties are well below the states median range.

Percentage of Population Without Health Insurance EMAA Service Area

Many people are without health insurance. Just another reason to maintain Head Start centers in our eight counties. Following is the percentage of people without health insurance in our service area.

BOLLINGER	16.9%
CAPE	12.2%
IRON	16.4%
MADISON	14.7%
PERRY	12.1%
ST. FRANCOIS	13.7%
STE. GENEVIEVE	12.3%
WASHINGTON	14.9%

Race and Hispanic Origin EMAA Service Area

	White Alone	African American	American Indian	Asian Alone	Hawaiian /Pacific Islander	Two or More Races	Hispanic or Latino
Bollinger	96.3%	.8%	.9%	.3%	0%	1.7%	1.7%
Cape	87.3%	7.8%	.4%	1.9%	0%	2.5%	2.6%
Iron	95.2%	1.7%	.9%	.2%	0%	2.0%	1.9%
Madison	96.2%	.6%	.6%	1%	0%	1.6%	2.4%
Perry	96.3%	.7%	.6%	1.1%	.1%	1.2%	2.5%
St. Francois	93.2%	4.4%	.5%	.4%	.1%	1.4%	1.8%
Ste. Genevieve	96.8%	.8%	.3%	.3%	.6%	1.2%	1.1%
Washington	94.9%	2.6%	.5%	.4%	0%	1.6%	1.6%

Pre-Schools Ran by Public Schools EMAA Service Area

Many of the public schools are offering pre-school programs for children ages three – five. Although this can be very helpful to families in our area, it puts somewhat of a burden on our programs to find eligible children. We contacted all the public school districts in our area and this is what we learned.

County	# of Classrooms	# of Children
Bollinger	3	60
Cape Girardeau	19	330
Iron	5	57
Madison	4	75
Perry	1	20
St. Francois	12	244
Ste. Genevieve	2	40
Washington	7	84

Disabilities by Type EMAA Service Area

According to our latest PIR, we served fifteen homeless children, thirty-seven children in foster care, and eighty children with a diagnosed disability. Our priority grid gives extra points to the children that have any/all of these issues. Working with our local school districts, the chart below lists the specific type of disability, the number of children with this disability, and the number of children receiving special services.

Disability	# of Children Receiving Services
Emotional Disturbance	1
Speech or Language Impairment	22
Visual Impairment	1
Specific Learning Disability	3
Autism	8
Developmental Delay	45

The school district that the children attend compose the IEP, (Individual Education Plan) with parents, staff, etc.

Licensed Daycare Providers – Number of Children Served EMAA Service Area

A lot of children attend daycares in our area or their siblings attend them. The number of licensed daycares in each county is listed below as well as the total number of children they serve.

County	Number of Daycares	# of Children Served
Bollinger	1	40
Cape Girardeau	11	1,180
Iron	1	40
Madison	2	110
Perry	9	497
St. Francois	24	1,379
Ste. Genevieve	3	238
Washington	3	177

All the above numbers include our Head Start centers and the Head Start children since we are State licensed. Only one of the three daycares in Washington County takes infants. That is why it is so important for us to begin an Early Head Start program next year.

Long and Short Term Goals

Based on the information given we have established long-term and short-term goals.

Goal #1: Increase the number of applications for our program with-in our eight county area, paying attention to under-served area(s).

- 1a. Reduce the number of classroom days on Fridays. This goal has been met.
- 1b. Increase the number of applications taken. In 2022-2023 we took 873 applications, so this goal was not met.

Goal #2: Increase knowledge in our education staff for dealing with challenging children behaviors.

Due to COVID this goal was not met but is being worked on. This goal remains.

Goal #3: Work to increase collaboration with public schools, especially with dually enrolled children.

Due to COVID this goal will remain.

Goal #4: Implement opportunities for parents to participate in parenting curriculum.

This goal was met as parent classes were available through Creative Curriculum. Many, many parents attend these classes online.

Goal #5: Increase the number of Family Advocates that have a credential in social work or a related field.

Due to the staff turnover of family advocates, this goal was not met. However, we do have classes set to begin this fall that will help us meet this goal.

Goal #6: Establish an Early Head Start program by the fall of 2021.

This goal was moved to the fall of 2023 due to staff turnover, COVID, etc. This goal will remain on-going.