

Texas Head Start

State Collaboration Office

TEXAS HEAD START/ EARLY HEAD START PROGRAMS 2019-2020

“STATE REPORT SNAPSHOT”

Head Start State National Collaboration Offices

The Head Start State and National Collaboration Offices (HSSNCOs) exist “to facilitate collaboration among Head Start agencies...and entities that carry out activities designed to benefit low income children from birth to school entry, and their families. Collaboration directors provide a structure and a process for the Office of Head Start to work with State agencies and local entities to leverage their common interests around young children and their families to formulate, implement, and improve state and local policy and practice. The Texas Head Start State Collaboration Office plays an important role in helping our state make progress in improving the lives of young children and their families. The Collaboration Office assists with relevant state initiatives and brings the support and perspective of Head Start to the development of a comprehensive early childhood system in Texas working in collaboration and partnership with other agencies.

The **Texas Head Start State Collaboration Office** (THSSCO), under the administration of Dr. Alferma Giles, is part of the Texas State Center for Early Childhood Development within the Children’s Learning Institute (CLI) at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston.

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The Head Start Program

Head Start is a federally funded program that provides comprehensive child development services to low income families and their children. Since its inception in 1965, Head Start has provided families with support and resources that addresses school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through the provision of educational, health, nutritional, social and other services to enrolled children and families.

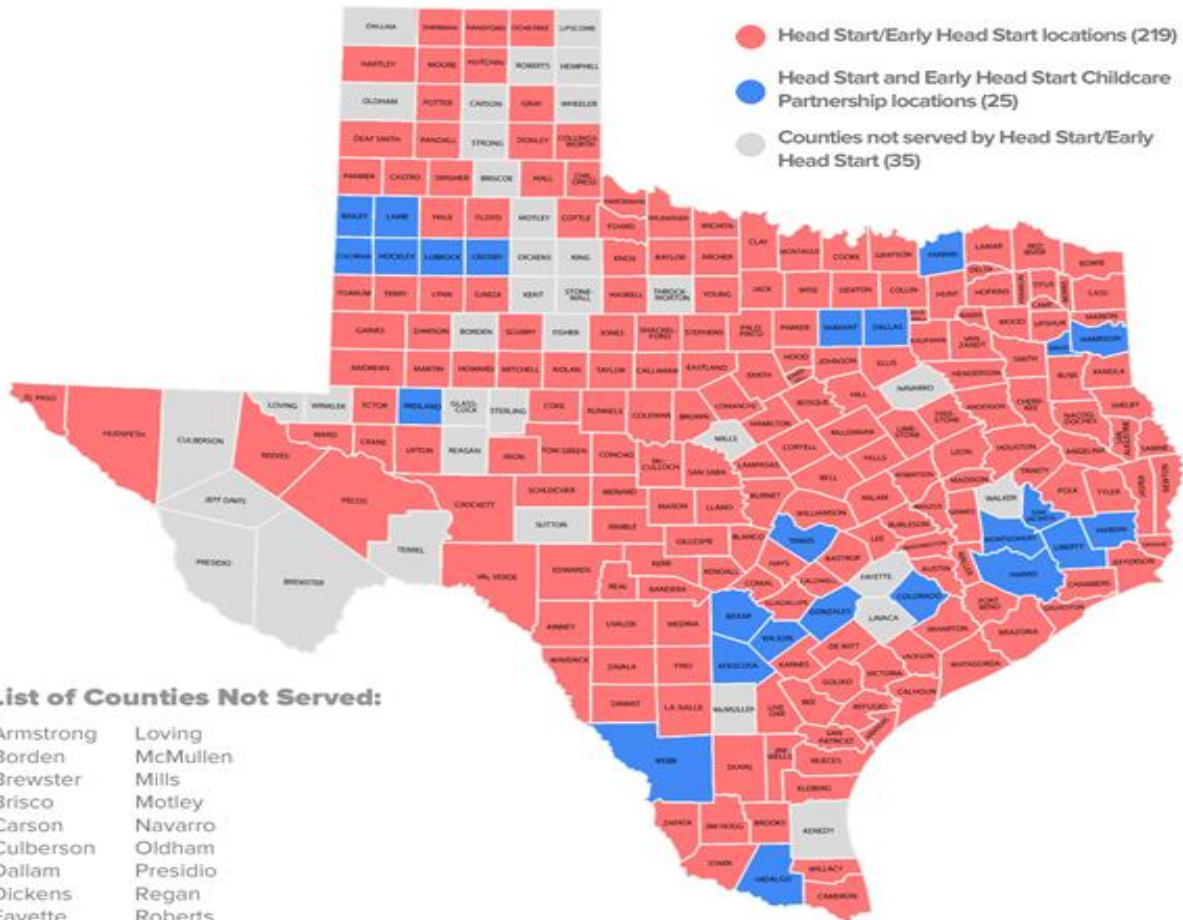
The Office of Head Start awards grants directly to public/non-public agencies, private organizations, school districts and Indian Tribes, to provide Head Start and Early Head Start services. Head Start programs are free-of-charge to participants. Services are delivered in several options: center-based, home-based, combination models and Family Child Care.

Texas Head Start programs have been in existence since 1965, when the national program began. The Early Head Start Program, which began in 1994, focuses on expectant mothers and children from birth to age three.

Texas Head Start Collaboration Office

The state of Texas is comprised of 254 counties.

Map of Counties served by Head Start/Early Head Start and Child Care Partners (2019-2020)



List of Counties Not Served:

- Armstrong
- Borden
- Brewster
- Brisco
- Carson
- Culberson
- Dallam
- Dickens
- Fayette
- Fisher
- Glasscock
- Hemphill
- Jeff Davis
- Kenedy
- Kent
- King
- Lavaca
- Lipscomb
- Loving
- McMullen
- Mills
- Motley
- Navarro
- Oldham
- Presidio
- Regan
- Roberts
- Sterling
- Stonewall
- Sutton
- Terrell
- Throckmorton
- Walker
- Wheeler
- Winkler

List of Programs with Head Start and Early Head Start Childcare Partnerships

- Atascosa
- Gregg
- Midland
- Bailey
- Hardin
- Montgomery
- Bexar
- Harris
- San Jacinto
- Cochran
- Harrison
- Tarrant
- Colorado
- Hidalgo
- Travis
- Crosby
- Hockley
- Webb
- Dallas
- Lamb
- Wilson
- Fannin
- Liberty
- Gonzales
- Lubbock

HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START AND CHILDCARE PARTNERSHIP LOCATIONS

There are 254 counties in Texas, with Harris, Dallas and Tarrant counties serving the largest populations. Head Start/Early Head Start have locations in 219 out of the 254 counties, with a total of 35 counties that does not serve Head Start Children.

HHS POVERTY GUIDELINES FOR 2020

The 2020 poverty guidelines are in effect as of January 15, 2020

The [Federal Register notice for the 2020 Poverty Guidelines](#) was published January 17, 2020.

2020 POVERTY GUIDELINES FOR THE 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	
PERSONS IN FAMILY/HOUSEHOLD	POVERTY GUIDELINE
For families/households with more than 8 persons, add \$4,480 for each additional person.	
1	\$12,760
2	\$17,240
3	\$21,720
4	\$26,200
5	\$30,680
6	\$35,160
7	\$39,640
8	\$44,120

Eligibility

Head Start and Early Head Start services are available to pregnant women and children ages birth to five and their families.

Eligibility is determined by local program staff. Your family may be eligible for Head Start or Early Head Start services if your family's income is determined to be at or below the federal poverty level. Programs may enroll some children from families whose incomes are higher than the federal poverty level if they meet other eligibility requirements. Families with circumstances such as homelessness, children in foster care, or receiving TANF or SSI may also qualify for services.

Because many programs offer services to families that may qualify them under other local criteria, we strongly recommend you contact the program in your community for more information and guidance.

SUMMARY OF TEXAS HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START PROGRAMS

According to the 2019 Program Information Report (PIR) data, Texas has funded enrollment for **79,284** children.

Funded Enrollment by Funding Source		
Total Funded Enrollment	79,284	
ACF Funded Enrollment	79,178	
Non ACF Funded Enrollment	106	
MIECHV Funded Enrollment	0	
Funded Enrollment by Type		
Center-based Option Full Day (5 days per week)	61,113	
Center-based Option Full Day (5 days per week, full-working-day)	21,519	
Center-based Option Full Day (5 days per week, full-working day, full-year)	15,056	
Center-based Option Part Day (5 days per week)	14,673	
Center-based Option Part Day (5 days per week, double session)	2,750	
Center-based Option Full Day (4 days per week)	428	
Center-based Option Part Day (4 days per week)	239	
Center-based Option Part Day (4 days per week, double session)	100	
Home-based Option	1,989	
Family Child Care Program	104	
Family Child Care Option (full-working-day enrollment)	104	
Family Child Care Option (Full-working-day, full-calendar-year)	104	
Locally Designed Option	252	
Funded Enrollment of Pregnant Women (EHS Program)		
Total Funded Pregnant Women	510	
Funded Enrollment at Child Care Partner		
The number of funded enrollment positions at center-based child care partners with whom the program has formal contractual arrangements	1,360	
Total funded enrollment at child care partners (center based partner and family child care program option)	1,464	
Children by Age	# of children at enrollment	
a. Under 1 year	4,432	
b. 1 year old	5,592	
c. 2 years old	7,792	
d. 3 years old	33,709	
e. 4 years old	35,254	
f. 5 years & older	355	
Race and Ethnicity	(1) Hispanic or Latino Origin	(2) On-Hispanic or Non-Latino origin
American Indian/Alaska Native	190	140
Asian	45	549
Black or African American	948	16,120
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	51	58
White	50,638	7,840
Biracial or Multi-Racial	2,154	1,890
Other Race	5,631	282
Unspecified Race	1,587	15
Primary Language of Family at Home		
a. English	60,408	

b. Spanish	26,164
c. Native Central American, South American, and Mexican Languages	11
d. Caribbean Languages	59
e. Middle Eastern & South Asian Languages	527
f. East Asian Languages	134
g. Native North American/Alaska Native Languages	33
h. Pacific Island Languages	10
i. European & Slavic Languages	90
j. African Languages	368
k. Other	48
l. Unspecified	288

HEALTH SERVICES

Health Insurance - Children

	(1) # of children at enrollment	(2) # of children at end of enrollment year
C.1 Number of all children with health insurance	81,820	82,738
a. Number enrolled in Medicaid and/or CHIP	76,400	76,916
b. Number enrolled in state-only funded insurance (for example, medically indigent insurance)	119	122
c. Number with private health insurance (for example, parent's insurance)	4,931	5,242
d. Number with health insurance other than those listed above, for example, Military Health (Tri-Care or CHAMPUS)	370	458
C.2 Number of children with no health insurance	5,314	4,396

Health Insurance - Pregnant Women (EHS Programs)

	(1) # of pregnant women at enrollment	(2) # of pregnant women at end of enrollment
C.3 Number of pregnant women with at least one type of health insurance	905	885
a. Number enrolled in Medicaid	793	757
b. Number enrolled in another publicly funded insurance program that is not Medicaid	24	25
c. Number with private health insurance	83	97
d. Number with health insurance other than those listed above, for example, Military Health (Tri-Care or CHAMPUS)	5	6
C.4 Number of pregnant women with no health insurance	99	119

Medical Home - Children

	(1) # of children at enrollment	(2) # of children at end of enrollment year
C.5 Number of children with an ongoing source of continuous, accessible health care	83,609	84,011
C.6 Number of children receiving medical services through the Indian Health Service	23	26
C.7 Number of children receiving medical services through a migrant community health center	167	51

Medical Services - Children

	(1) # of children at enrollment	(2) # of children at end of enrollment year
C.8 Number of all children who are up-to-date on a schedule of age-appropriate preventive and primary health care, according to the relevant state's EPSDT schedule for well child care	49,840	70,863

Dental Home - Children

	(1) # of children at enrollment	(2) # of children at end of enrollment year
C.17 Number of children with continuous, accessible dental care provided by a dentist	80,954	83,254

Preschool Dental Services (HS and Migrant Programs)

	# of children
C.18 Number of children who received preventive care since last year's PIR was reported	55,745
C.19 Number of all children, including those enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP, who have completed a professional dental examination since last year's PIR was reported	57,717
a. Of these, the number of children diagnosed as needing treatment since last year's PIR was reported.	7,864
1. Of these, the number of children who have received or are receiving treatment	5,764
b. Specify the primary reason that children who needed dental treatment did not receive it:	
1. Health insurance doesn't cover dental treatment	
2. No dental care available in local area	
3. Medicaid not accepted by dentist	
4. Dentists in the area do not treat 3 - 5 year old children	
5. Parents did not keep/make appointment	42
6. Children left the program before their appointment date	5
7. Appointment is scheduled for future date	18
8. No transportation	
9. Other	5
10. None	4

DISABILITIES SERVICES

Preschool Disabilities Services (HS and Migrant Programs)

	# of children
C.25 Number of children enrolled in the program who have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) indicating they have been determined eligible by the LEA to receive special education and related services	7,566
a. Of these, the number who were determined eligible to receive special education and related services:	

Infant and Toddler Part C Early Intervention Services (EHS and Migrant Programs)

	# of children
C.26 Number of children enrolled in the program who have an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) indicating they have been determined eligible by the Part C Agency to receive early intervention services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)	2,273
a. Of these, the number who were determined eligible to receive early intervention services:	
1. Prior to enrollment into the program for this enrollment year	1,582
2. During this enrollment year	674
b. Of these, the number who have not received early intervention services under IDEA	2

HEAD START PROGRAMS: Regardless of the options are required to do the following:

(Center based, home based, Family Child Care, child care partnerships, school district locations, etc.)

1. Provide, either directly or through referral, early, continuous, intensive, and comprehensive child development and family support services that will enhance the physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development of participating children
2. Ensure that the level of services provided to families responds to their needs and circumstances
3. Promote positive parent-child interactions
4. Provide services to parents to support their role as parents (including parenting skills training and training in basic child development) and services to help the families move toward self-sufficiency (including educational and employment services, as appropriate)
5. Coordinate Head Start services with services provided by other programs in the state (including home-based services) and programs in the community (including programs for infants and toddlers with disabilities and programs for homeless infants and toddlers) to ensure a comprehensive array of services (e.g., health and mental health services, family support services)
6. Ensure children with documented behavioral problems, including problems involving behavior related to prior or existing trauma, receive appropriate screening and referral
7. Ensure formal linkages with local Head Start programs to provide for continuity of services for children and families
8. Develop and implement a systematic procedure for transitioning children and parents from an Early Head Start program to a Head Start or other local early childhood education and development program
9. Establish channels of communication between staff of the Early Head Start program and staff of a Head Start program or other local providers of early childhood education and development programs to facilitate the coordination of program services
10. In the case of an Early Head Start agency that operates a program and that also provides Head Start services through the age of mandatory school attendance, ensure that children and families participating in the program receive such services through such age
11. Ensure formal linkages with providers of early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.), with the state interagency coordinating council as established in Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.), and with the agency responsible for administering section 106 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a)
12. Meet such other requirements concerning design and operation of the program described in subsection (a) as the Secretary may establish



AGENCY PARTNERS:

Children at Risk	Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (T.E.A.C.H)
Children's Learning Institute (CLI)	Texans Care for Children
City of Houston-Health Department - Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program	Texas Department of Agriculture – Summer Meals Program
Department of Health and Human Services/Early Childhood Intervention (ECI)	Texas Department of Family and Protective Services
Department of State Health Services (Pregnant Moms & Infants) - Oral Health	Texas Department of State Health Services
Department of State Health Services (Texas Project Launch) – Mental Health	Texas Early Childhood Suspension and Expulsion workgroup
First3Years	Texas Health & Human Services Commission
Harris County Department of Education	Texas Home Visiting
Help Me Grow Texas	Texas Kindergarten Entrance Assessment (TX-KEA)
Houston Infant/Toddler Coalition	Texas Opioid Misuse & Substance Abuse State Team
Pritzker Pre Natal – 3 Collaborative (PN-3)	Texas Oral Health Partners (TOHP)
QRIS - (Texas Rising Star)	Texas School Ready
State Developmental Screening workgroup	Texas Transition to Kindergarten State Team (TTK)
Texas Education Agency (TEA)	Texas Workforce Commission

THSSCO PRIORITIZED ACTIVITIES 2019-2020

Health Care:

- Engages with the Region VI Training and Technical Assistance Specialist (Monthly conference calls to provide support to the THSSCO to address health need of children, supporting training at conferences and provides input in the development of the needs assessment and strategic plan. The T/TA team provides Health Manager Network meetings, wellness institutes, virtual learning opportunities for staff and new this year, the Region VI Children with Special Health Care Needs Institute.
- The THSSCO Director participates in the Office of Head Start (OHS) Region VI Office of Head Start initiative, “Preparing and Planning to Address the Opioid Crisis and Substance Use Disorders: Creating a Path Forward to Support Head Start Children, Families. Serving as the Texas State Team lead for a workgroup of nine leaders in the state with experience in areas that address substance use disorders in young children and their families. The team engages to understand how Head Start/Early Head Start, child care, and home visiting programs can help young children and their families who are impacted by opioid use disorders and other substance use disorders. The team worked to develop a state plan for Texas, to support HS/EHS Grantees and their families.
- Provides leadership to the Texas Oral Health (OHP) Partners participating in quarterly meetings, to support Head Start Programs with oral health needs.
- Participates in the Early Childhood Obesity Prevention Committee (ECOPC), to revisit the purpose of ECOPC meetings and to review the current work taking place to identify changes to the committee, meeting structure, goals and activities.
- New Partnership: The THSSCO Director and the Houston Health Department developed a partnership to support Harris County Head Start Programs with Lead Poisoning education, training sharing enrollment information and filling vacant slots. A partnership letter was developed to use to support engagement with the Houston Health Department.

Children with Disabilities:

- Serve as a member of the Governor Appointed Early Childhood Intervention Advisory Council, and participates in quarterly Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) Meetings.
- Under the Preschool Development Grant, a new training was been developed for ECI programs to use when making connections with local childcare centers and communities, titled “All Together Now.” The training covers:
 - Understanding ECI services
 - Exploring typical developmental milestones
 - Identifying potential developmental red flags
 - Discussing concerns with parents
 - Creating inclusive classrooms
 - Working with an ECI provider
- The THSSCO Director participated with the State Systemic Improvement Plan workgroup to create the Texas Early Childhood Suspension and Expulsion Matrix (TECSEM), a cross-walk and overview of federal and state agency policies and efforts related to suspension and expulsion.
- A new poster was developed with homeless and family violence centers in mind for exposure to ECI services.

Welfare/Child Welfare

- Participates on the Texas Early Childhood Suspension and Expulsion workgroup, which includes a workgroup of state agency staff and early childhood stakeholders convened to conduct a comprehensive landscape analysis and review of efforts to prevent the suspension and expulsion of young children in Texas. The workgroup reviewed all federal and state policies and standards and created the Texas Early Childhood Suspension and Expulsion Matrix (TECSEM). The TECSEM provides an overview and comparison of all federal and state policies, standards, and supports in place to prevent the suspension and expulsion of young children in Texas.
- Collaborates with the Texas Association of Infant Mental Health on issues relating to the social emotional development of infants & toddlers.
- Worked with the THSSCO Board Member from Texas Department of Family & Protective Services (DFPS) to develop a letter of collaboration to support engagement with DFPS to better serve children enrolled in Head Start from the foster care system, provide resources, participate in enrollment efforts, and provide training at the Texas Head Start Association Institute.

Professional Development:

- The THSSCO Director supported the enhancements and growth of the Texas Early Childhood Professional Development System (TECPDS), which included a total and complete web design and web features. Texas Workforce Registry via The Children's Learning Institute Engage platform, and the offering of free accounts to all early childhood professionals in the state. The measurable results are reflected in the growth in the number of the accounts reflected in the registry.

Ongoing activities for Early Childhood Systems Development:

- The THSSCO Director was appointed by Governor Greg Abbot to serves on the Texas Early Learning Council, which includes (participating in meetings, activities, workgroups and the development of the Texas Early Learning Strategic Plan).
- Participates on the Texas BUILD State Team. The work and engagement is supported by cross-sector state teams that lead to equitable access to state programs, services and initiatives that benefit young children, their families and communities. BUILD supports state leaders' efforts to develop a comprehensive early childhood system tailored to the needs of their state's young children and families.
- Participates in the Inter-Agency Workgroup to support the implementation of the activities identified in the Texas Early Learning Strategic Plan. The workgroup participates in bi-monthly meetings to engage in discussions around the agency alignment document, review the list of agency initiatives contributing to the state

activities, denote those requiring legislative action, and determine the activities that are approachable to complete for this fiscal year.

- Participates on the Early Childhood Education Workgroup managed by TexProtects, as part of the statewide Prenatal to 3 (PN-3) Collaborative. The goals of the Early Childhood Education PN-3 Workgroup includes:
 1. Increase access to high quality child care for low-income children with working parents.
 2. Strengthen the early childhood education workforce through additional professional development, wage supports, and other efforts.
- Participated in the First3Years & Good Reason Houston's Round Table Discussion, hosted by Children at Risk. The meeting focused on new child care and Pre-K Legislation that was passed in the 86th Texas Legislative Session, including the impact these changes will have on the community, to provide feedback and help shape the future of early learning in Texas, and to learn more about how we can be involved in statewide efforts through the Texas Rising Star 4-year review process, Pritzker Prenatal to 3 coalition, and more.
- Participates with the Houston Infant Toddler Coalition to collectively develop and implement strategies for strengthening our system of programs and services to increase positive early experiences for infants and toddlers and to better meet the needs of the families with young children in Houston.
- Participates in the Home Visiting Coalition meetings. Home visiting involves trained personnel providing targeted services for parents and their children in their homes.

Activities for the Office of Head Start (OHS), National Head Start Association, Regional, State, local policies, planning and processes:

- Participates in board meetings, conferences, institutes, trainings, strategic planning, committee workgroups, conference calls and activities with: The Region VI Head Start Association, Texas Head Start Association, National Head Start Association, Administration for Children & Families/Office of Head Start, Office of Head Start/Collaboration Office, State Leadership, Region Leadership, Kitchen Table-Talk and National Head Start Association/Head Start Collaboration Office.

Services for Children Experiencing Homelessness:

- The THSSCO leads the OHS Home at Head Start Initiative to support the enrollment of homeless children to fill vacant slots, and to refer children from shelters to local programs.
- Participates in the HSSCO Learning Community on Homelessness, working to articulate shared areas of practice including IDEA, transition to K, coordination of state Pre-k, coordination with McKinney-Vento, and Title I. Other topics, include shared space, transportation, professional development and other resources, to outline of how each of these areas may relate to supporting children and families experiencing homelessness.
- Participated with the Texas Homeless Coalition to provide information to programs to access available local, community and state resources. The coalition no longer provides services to the state at this time.

Transition to Kindergarten:

- Participates in the Office of Head Start/Public Schools Collaboration Demonstration Project trainings, virtual meetings, and served as the facilitator for BCFS, the Central Texas Team in WebEx and face-to-face meetings from June/2019 through the present time.
- Participates in the Office of Head Start Transition to Kindergarten (TTK) initiative. Serve as the Texas Team group leader to implement the OHS/TTK plan to support programs with transitioning children from Head Start to Kindergarten, which includes but is not limited to participating in all of the OHS trainings and meetings, as well as providing trainings, face-to-face and virtual meetings, conducting a TTK Summit, and other transition activities at the state level, providing TTK materials, suggestions and guidance for grantees. The Texas Team goals:
 1. Strengthening Head Start public school transitions in Texas
 2. Provide tools, support and information to Head Start grantees to use to strengthen transition efforts with public schools

- The Texas TTK Team developed a plan to conduct a TTK Summit that was scheduled for March 23, 2020; however, due to COVID-19, the event was cancelled and has not been rescheduled.
- The Texas TTK Team planned to conduct a modified TTK Summit Session at the Texas Head Start Association Institute scheduled for July, 27-30, 2020. The institute was cancelled due to COVID-19, and has not been rescheduled.

RESOURCEFUL WEB-LINKS:

[Children’s Learning Institute](#)

[Texas Early Childhood Professional Development System](#)

[Children’s Learning Institute Engage](#)

[Texas Education Agency](#)

[Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center](#)

[Texas Head Start Association](#)

[Head Start Locator in Texas](#)

[Texas Head Start Collaboration Office](#)

[National Head Start Association](#)

[Texas Health and Human Services Commission](#)

[Office of Head Start](#)

[Texas Infant Toddler Specialist Network](#)

[Region VI Head Start Association](#)

[Texas Workforce Commission](#)

[Region VI Office of Head Start](#)

[211 Texas](#)

[Texas Department of State Health Services](#)

