

# Early Childhood Care and Education Report

## Great Start Collaborative Of Jackson County



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*Prepared By:*

Sheri Butters – Jackson Great Start Collaborative  
Elizabeth McClain -- Community Action Agency Head Start  
Mary Cunningham DeLuca- Community Action Agency Head Start/ Jackson Great Start  
Collaborative

## Executive Summary

During the months of October and November 2011, The Great Start Collaborative conducted a county-wide assessment of early childhood related services and supports to identify services that are available in the community to support families with young children. Information was gathered from local agencies via phone and email to determine the types of programs offered, eligibility criteria and program capacity.

At the request of the Re-Inventing Jackson County Education committee, school district superintendents completed a SWOC analysis related to parental involvement. The SWOC analysis identified each school district's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges that exist in the area of parental involvement.

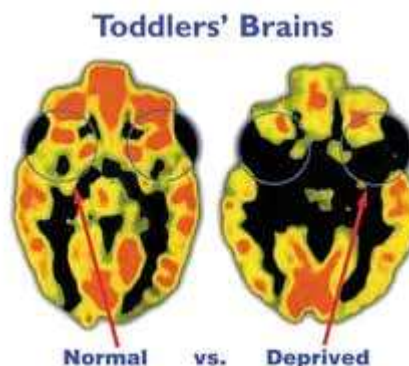
In addition to the community needs assessment, information was gathered on child care and preschool capacity county-wide using a phone survey. Through this survey the early childhood / parental involvement committee determined the number of licensed child care and preschool slots by type that exist to serve families with young children as well as the current number of openings. The information gathered includes sites that are licensed, accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) or both licensed and accredited.

This report will discuss the importance of early childhood investment, describe the current early childhood conditions in Jackson County, provide a detailed description of the data gathered through the needs assessment process and define the current early care & education programs available to families in Jackson County.

## Why Supporting Early Childhood Education Matters...

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The first five years are the most critical in the development of a child's brain. During these early years, children begin to develop their cognitive, social, emotional, and language skills and start to relate to and interact with the world around them. In fact, from birth to age three, children grow and learn at the most intense rate; these are the years when children are learning how to learn. The first five years represents the pivotal juncture of nature and nurture and how they shape the development of young minds.



Achievement gaps develop well before children begin kindergarten. Because school readiness and language development are key predictors of a child's academic success, they are the focus of early childhood education programs. Unfortunately, many children who do not participate in high-quality pre-k or early childhood programs are in general not fully prepared to begin school. Research also tells us that students who begin school behind have a tendency to remain behind throughout their academic careers.

### Quality Counts

Quality is critical to achieving positive outcomes for children. High-quality early childhood education programs promote the whole child, paying equal attention to his or her cognitive (academic), social, and emotional development. According to Harvard University's Center on the Developing Child, effective programs employ highly skilled staff, maintain small class sizes with high adult-to-child ratios, utilize a language-rich environment, provide age-appropriate curricula and stimulating materials, provide a safe physical setting for children, nurture positive and warm staff-to-child interactions and relationships, and experience high quality and consistent levels of child participation. High quality programs also work collaboratively with community organizations and social service agencies, as well as other service providers, to promote the healthy development of young children.

In October 2011, the State of Michigan launched a tiered quality rating and improvement system to assist with ensuring quality programming in all program settings. The program, *Great Start to Quality*, is a system of progressive standards that has a continuum of five levels. Each level represents slightly higher standards and a higher level of quality. Higher levels of quality during early learning experiences correlate to greater readiness, particularly for children with high needs. Michigan has developed a set of Great Start to Quality standards that uses a point system approach to move through the five levels of quality. Level One represents that an early learning

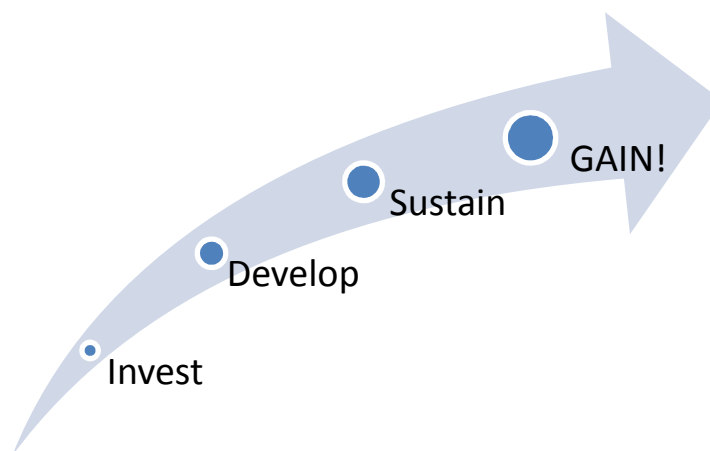
and development program has met the licensing requirements, and Level Five represents the highest level of standards. All licensed programs serving children birth to five enter Great Start to Quality at Level One and have an opportunity to choose to move up the quality continuum through online and consultative supports. Great Start to Quality supports vary depending on the type of support and the quality level of the early learning and development program.

### The Economics of Early Childhood

A growing body of research shows that investing in quality programs and services that support a child's earliest development provide a higher rate of return than investments made later in life. Economists across the nation have recognized the importance of investing in early childhood to support future economic growth.

James Heckman is a Henry Schultz distinguished service professor of economics at the University of Chicago, a winner of the Nobel Prize of Economic Sciences, and an expert in the economics of human development. His groundbreaking work with a consortium of economists, developmental psychologists, sociologists, statisticians, and neuroscientists has proved that the quality of early childhood development heavily influences health, economic, and social outcomes for individuals and society at large.

Heckman has proven that great economic gains can be had by investing in early childhood development for disadvantaged children. As a result of his research, he has developed a formula known as the Heckman Equation. A visual of the Equation is provided below.

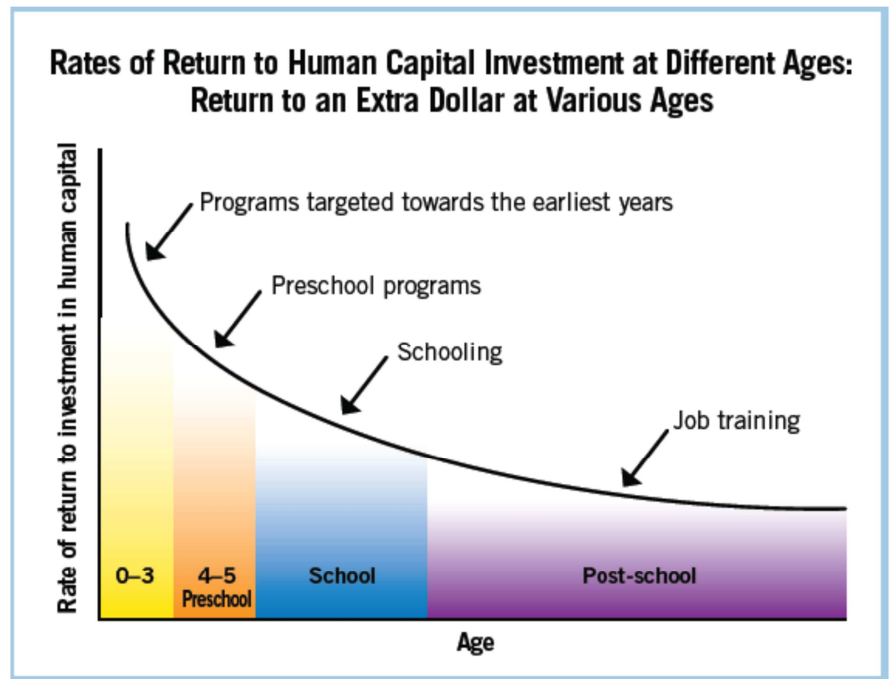


- **Invest** in educational and development resources for disadvantaged families to provide equal access to successful early human development.
- **Develop**: Nurture early development of cognitive and social skills in children from birth to age five.
- **Sustain** early development with effective education through to adulthood.

- **GAIN** a more capable, productive, and valuable workforce that pays dividends to America for generations to come.

Heckman’s research demonstrates that investments made in these early years yield the highest rates of return to society and he is not alone.

Arthur J. Rolnick, then-senior vice president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, and Robert Grunewald, associate economist, calculated an annual, inflation-adjusted rate of return of 16% for high-quality prekindergarten for disadvantaged three- and four-year olds. These returns are based on long-term educational, social, and economic benefits, including increased earnings and tax revenues and decreased use of welfare and other social services, *resulting in lower expenses for state and communities.*



## Early Childhood Services & Supports—Jackson County

### Early Education

There are several program options available to support the early education of young children in Jackson County and each has its own eligibility criteria and program guidelines. Program quality may vary greatly based on the curriculum, environment, staff training and health & safety standards of each program setting.

Early Head Start (EHS) provides support to low-income infants, toddlers (up to age three), pregnant women and their families. EHS programs enhance children’s physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development. Early Head Start assists pregnant women to access comprehensive prenatal and postpartum care, support parents’ efforts to fulfill their parental roles; and help parent move toward self-sufficiency. There is no cost to families, but enrolled moms /children must qualify for the program.

Qualifications:

- Pregnant mothers and children under the age of 3 before December 1 in year enrolled.

*And*

- 90% of the children enrolled in the program must have a family income of 100% of poverty. For example, of family with a household of four people must have an income at or less than \$22,350 (or) Children/pregnant mothers living in households that receive cash assistance (FIP), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), or are in foster care?
- Life Stress factors are taken into consideration on the placement of children.

The Early Head Start program in Jackson County is administered by Community Action Agency and currently serves 104 children under age 3 or expectant mothers. The program currently maintains a waitlist of 98 children that are not able to be served due to lack of program capacity related to funding.

Early On provides free developmental evaluation and service coordination for infants, toddlers (up to age three), who have a developmental delay of 20% or an established condition (extreme prematurity, cerebral palsy, down syndrome, etc.) that could lead to a delay. Additional services are provided based on the child's needs and goals developed identified in an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) that is written in conjunction with the child's family. Services are provided through home visits and play groups. The service frequency ranges from monthly to twice per week. Services may include social work, family training, special instruction, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy and/or psychological services depending on the needs of the child.

Qualifications:

- A free comprehensive evaluation is available for any child age birth to 36 months referred to Early On due to a health or developmental concern.
- To be eligible for enrollment in Early On, the evaluation must show a developmental delay of at least 20% in at least one developmental domain or the child must have an established condition that could lead to a delay.
- Any family income level can qualify for the free evaluation and services that are identified in the IFSP.

Jackson County Early On is administered by the Jackson County Intermediate School District in partnership with the Jackson County Health Department. The current enrollment is 213 children under age 3 and their families. This represents 3.7% of the Jackson County population in this

age group. Over the course of the past 12 months, 421 children have received services through an IFSP.

Early On is required to provide an evaluation and an IFSP for eligible children within 45 days of referral. There is no waitlist, however, due to funding cuts, physical and occupational therapy services for children with mild to moderate physical delays (those who do not qualify for educational or medical therapies) have been discontinued. These services were provided to up to 30 children per year and helped prevent future needs. In addition, GAP grants for physical therapist recommended sturdy shoes have been reduced by more than half.

Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) provides preschool programs for four-year-old children who may be “at risk” of school failure. The program may be operated as a half or full day program depending on the site and program capacity. If a program chooses to offer full day GSRP the slot allocation is reduced by half. There is no cost to families, but enrolled children must qualify for the program.

Qualifications:

- Children must be four years of age on or before December 1 in year enrolled.  
*and*
- 75% of the children enrolled in the program must have two risk factors outlined by the state.
- 75% of the children enrolled in the program must have a family income of 300% of poverty. For example, of family with a household of four people must have an income at or less than \$67,050.

There are currently 442 GSRP slots available to serve at-risk four year children county-wide. These slots are available through the following school districts:

- Columbia School District: 19 slots
- Jackson Public Schools: 223 slots
- Michigan Center School District: 35 slots
- Napoleon Community Schools: 7 slots
- Northwest Community Schools: 54 slots
- Springport Public Schools: 32 slots
- Vandercook Lake Public Schools: 36 slots
- Western School District: 36 slots

Head Start (HS) is a federally-funded program targeting children ages 3-5 and providing a variety of services, including education in the form of preschool, nutrition and medical services. Head Start programs promote 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. They engage parents in their children's learning and help them in making progress toward their educational, literacy and employment goals. Significant emphasis is placed on the involvement of parents in the administration of local Head Start programs. There is no cost to families, but enrolled children must qualify for the program.

Qualifications:

- Children must be 3 years of age on or before December 1 in year enrolled.  
*and*
- 90% of the children enrolled in the program must have a family income of 100% of poverty. For example, of family with a household of four people must have an income at or less than \$22,350 (or) children living in households that receive cash assistance (FIP), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), or are in foster care.
- Life Stress factors are taken into consideration on the placement of children.

The Head Start program in Jackson County is administered by Community Action Agency and currently serves 563 children ages 3-5. The program currently maintains a waitlist of 212 children that are not able to be served due to lack of program capacity related to funding.

*Head Start Inclusion Program in Collaboration with Jackson County Intermediate School District* Since 1993 the Jackson County Intermediate School District and Head Start have collaborated to meet the needs of special education students age 3-5. Head Start has been mandated to reserve 10% of its total enrollment for children with diagnosed disabilities. JCISD was mandated to provide children with disabilities special education services to qualified children. The collaboration made perfect sense and has continued to grow since its conception.

All our Head Start classrooms include children with disabilities, but the classrooms that are formally referred to as “Inclusion” have a special purpose. Each classroom is assigned 2 Head Start teachers, and a Jackson County Intermediate Teacher Assistant to help the children placed in the “Inclusion” classroom with a disability.

The JCISD provides Special Education Teacher Consultation, Speech Therapists, Occupational Therapist, and Physical Therapist to each Inclusion classroom as well as any other child who may qualify for services. They also provide a school Social Worker and School Psychologist for evaluations, and follow up conferences to address the many other situations that arise during the referral and evaluation process.

The reasons for our successful program are rooted in staff commitment, staff development, continued communication, parent commitment, problem solving, and flexibility. Some of the many benefits that come from Inclusion programming are the increase of diversity, specialized trainings, opportunities for students to gain more independence, and increased opportunities for language development, and socialization experiences. Since 1993 over 500 children with disabilities have been served in the joint program and 100 have been decertified from Special Education Services resulting in hundreds of thousands of dollars saved in the k-12 education system.



Special Education Preschool A special education preschool is one that offers a variety of services such as speech therapy, occupational therapy or physical therapy for young children who are too old to receive services through early intervention. Services are usually provided by a team, depending upon the needs of the child.

Qualifications:

- By law, any 3 to 5 year old with a documented disability should be provided with a free special education and related services. In order to be considered for placement in a special education preschool, a child must be evaluated. Each school is different; services, teachers, facilities, technologies and other elements will vary with the school district the student is located in.
- If it is decided that a child is eligible to attend a special education preschool, the parents will be provided with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Drawn up by a special education committee (usually made up of educators, and the parents) is a list of the services the child will receive along with the goals for the student.

There are 513 children ages 0-5 (4.3% of total 0-5 population) currently being served by special education preschool county-wide.

Private Preschools operate as for-profits, independent nonprofits or programs sponsored by religious organizations. The educational quality and cost of all preschools varied from program to program.

Private preschool programs are tuition-based and typically do not have eligibility requirements. The total number of private preschool slots is difficult to separate from the total number of child care slots available county-wide due to the way data is collected and reported by the Bureau of Children and Adult Licensing (BCAL). It is also difficult to determine the concentration of preschool and child care programs across the county due to lack of adequate geo-mapping technology.

Imagination Library mails a free, age-appropriate book each month to children ages 0-5 living in Jackson County. Children who are registered at birth have a library of 60 quality children's books by the time they enter kindergarten and graduate from the program. Studies have shown that children who participate in Imagination Library are more likely to be read to by their parents or another caregiver and are more likely to be successful upon school entry.

Qualifications:

- All children under age five that reside in Jackson County are eligible.
- Number of children served is dependent on local funds raised.

In Jackson County, the Imagination Library program is a project of the Great Start Collaborative and the Jackson District Library. The program is funded through donations and grants from local businesses, organizations and individuals. Imagination Library currently serves 3,914 children under age five and has provided books to more than 6,500 children since its launch in May of 2008.

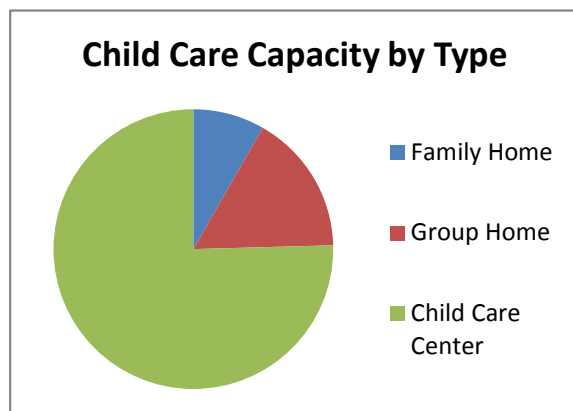
*Child Care Services* provide care for children when parents and/or caregivers are away due to employment, school, family preservation and other various activities. In Jackson County child care is provided in many different settings including: unlicensed or registered care, licensed family homes, licensed group homes, and licensed child care centers.

- *Child Care Center:* A facility, other than a private home, licensed to care for one or more children.
- *Family & Group Homes:* A private home registered to care for up to six children.
- *Unlicensed Child Care Provider:* Adult who is 18 years or older and enrolled by the Department to provide child care for up to four children at a time (or six children, if all children are siblings or migrants), either where the child lives, or provides care in their home, not the home of the child, and is related to the child(ren) by blood, marriage or adoption as a: grandparent/ great-grandparent; aunt/great-aunt; uncle/great-uncle; sibling.

According to BCAL, there are currently 63 licensed family homes with the capacity to care for 377 total children, 62 licensed group homes with the capacity to care for 742 children, and 58 licensed child care centers with the capacity to serve 3,436 children. Included in the number for licensed child care centers is each of the county’s GSRP sites and Jackson County’s Head Start program, without these two publicly funded programs the child care center capacity is 2,431 county-wide.

Of these licensed providers, 139 out of 183 care for children ages 0-5. There are currently 219 open slots county-wide for children ages 0-5 in all licensed settings.

The geographic concentration of child care and preschool programs across the county is difficult to accurately determine due to lack of adequate geo-mapping capabilities. Further time and resources would be needed to map all early childhood settings county-wide.



While it is unclear how many unlicensed providers are currently caring for young children in their homes, the Department of Human Services estimates that approximately 67% of children ages 0-5 in child care are cared for in unlicensed settings.

Child Care Subsidy The Department of Human Services (DHS) provides a child care subsidy to qualifying families that can help families pay for child care. This subsidy is not intended to cover the full cost of child care, in many cases families will be asked to pay a portion of their child's child care tuition. It is the provider's responsibility to collect what DHS does not pay from the parent. There are currently 773 children ages 0-5 receiving child care subsidy from DHS and 306 young children receive relative aid subsidy.

The number of children supported by subsidy has continued to decline over the last four years. In 2006 there were 1,104 children under age five receiving child care subsidy, in 2011 there are 773 young children receiving subsidy. This decrease is due in part to more stringent internal controls that eliminated erroneous payments and the introduction of new regulations that require unlicensed providers who receive subsidy to complete basic health & safety training through Great Start to Quality.

See the chart below for the most current subsidy rates:

<b>Department Hourly Rates</b>		
Effective 10/9/11		
<b>Provider Type</b>	<b>Child's Age</b>	
	<b>0-2 ½ years of Age</b>	<b>2 ½ years +</b>
Child Care Center	\$3.75	\$2.50
Family & Group Homes	\$2.90	\$2.40
Unlicensed Child Care Provider –Tier 2	\$2.20	\$1.85
Unlicensed Child Care Provider – Tier 1	\$1.35	\$1.35

## Early Childhood Services Gaps

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An analysis of the services and supports included in the Central Michigan 2-1-1 database identified 56 services and supports that offer some type of assistance to children ages 0-5 and/or their families. A full list of services identified is available in the appendices of this report. The services and supports identified in the needs assessment do not reflect every program or service available to support parents and their young children. Additional time would be needed to conduct a thorough analysis of local programming.

Of the 56 organizations identified, five programs or services indicated that children ages 0-5 are currently going unserved due to lack of funding that affects program capacity:

- Early Head Start – 98 currently on a waitlist
- Head Start – 201 currently on waitlist
- Salvation Army – approximately 250 families turned away each month due to lack of funding
- MSU Extension, Breastfeeding Initiative – currently beginning a waitlist due to lack of funding
- Aware Shelter – Families are currently being turned away due to lack of funding
- Medicaid/Healthy Kids – 523 currently waiting for assistance

The list above is just a small snapshot of the unmet needs related to early childhood and is not intended to be considered an exhaustive list of all unmet needs. A more comprehensive survey of individual programs and services is needed to accurately reflect all service gaps county-wide.

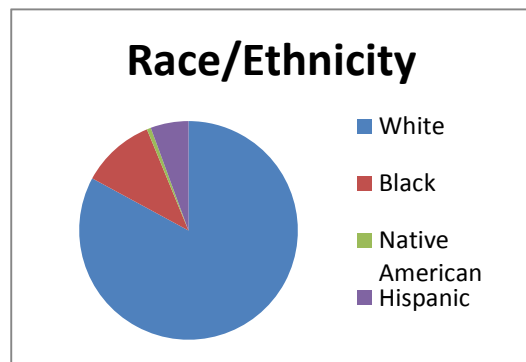
## Early Childhood Community Conditions – Jackson County

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Many factors can affect a family’s ability to adequately support their child’s healthy development. Low family income can impact a child’s cognitive development and ability to learn which can contribute to behavioral, social and emotional problems. Disparities continue to persist with the relationship between poverty and race/ethnicity.

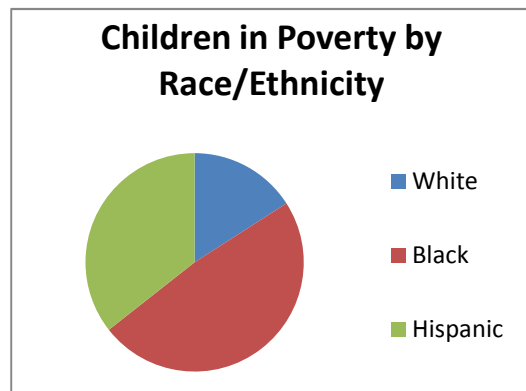
### Race/Ethnicity

Jackson County is home to an estimated 11,800 children ages birth to five. Of these 11,800 young children, 79.8% are White, 10.5% are Black, .6% are Native American and 5.4% are Hispanic.



### Economic Conditions

27.4% of children under age five in Jackson County are living in poverty compared to 22.7% statewide. Of the 2,732 young children in poverty, 22% are White, 67.1% are Black and 49.2% are Hispanic.



47.6% of children under age 6 are living at or below 200% of poverty compared to 43.5% statewide.

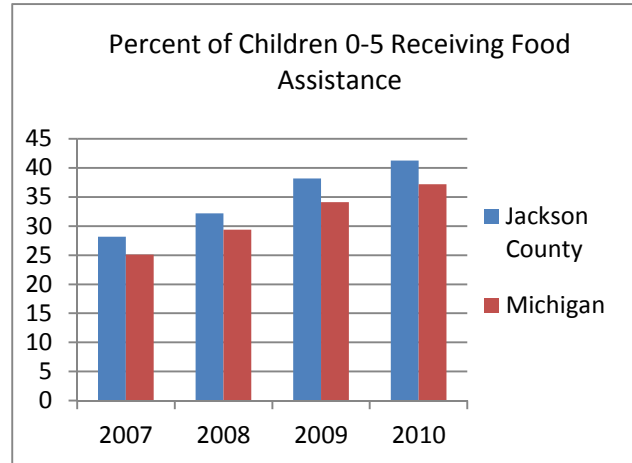
During the 2010-2011 school year, 51% of students

received free or reduced price lunches in public schools compared to 46.5% statewide.

Jackson County's median household income was slightly higher than the state in 2009 at \$46,526 compared to \$45,254 for Michigan.

11% of children ages 0-5 received funds to support their basic needs from the Family Independence Program (FIP) in 2010 compared to 9.5% statewide.

In December of 2010, 41.3% of children ages 0-5 in Jackson County were receiving food assistance through the Department of Human Services.



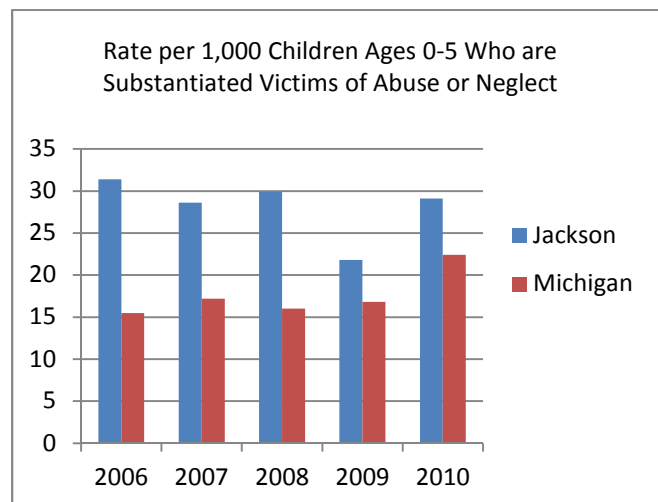
### Parenting Education

In 2009, 17.8% of births in Jackson County were to mothers who did not have a high school diploma. Approximately 13.4% of births in Jackson County are to teens under age 20, 22.1% of all teen births in the County are repeat births to teens.

The community needs assessment identified multiple parenting education programs available to parents of young children. Program curriculum and focus varies by agency and in most cases available programming is dependent on grant funding. Each program has its own eligibility requirements.

### Child Safety

According to the Department of Human Services, there were 346 substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect involving children ages 0-5 in 2010. Jackson continues to have a higher rate of child abuse and neglect than the state. Jackson has a rate of 29.1 per thousand while Michigan is at 22.4 per thousand.



### Pediatric & Family Health

In 2009, 53.7% of births in Jackson County were paid for by Medicaid compared to 44% statewide.

61.8% of children ages 1-4 participated in WIC compared to 49.7% statewide.

## Student Achievement – Jackson County

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Research has shown that children who start school eager and ready to learn are more likely to be successful throughout school. The achievement gap for children starts early and persists throughout a child's academic career. Children who start behind are more likely to stay behind. A sample kindergarten readiness checklist is included in the appendices.

### School Readiness Assessment - PALS

In 2008, the Jackson County Intermediate School District, in partnership with the Great Start Collaborative, launched a county-wide early literacy assessment to determine the level of foundational literacy skills for each incoming kindergarten student. Each year a team of trained assessors visits each public, private, parochial and charter school to conduct the Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS) with each new kindergarten student. Since 2008, 7,752 assessments have been conducted county-wide.

The Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening assesses the following literacy components:

- Individual Rhyme Awareness
- Individual Beginning Sound Awareness
- Lower-case Alphabet Knowledge
- Letter –Sound Knowledge
- Spelling

Each assessment component has a nationally-normed benchmark that is consistent with the foundational literacy skills an entering kindergarten student should possess in the fall.

A child who achieves the highest level on each assessment component would have a composite score of 94/94. A child who achieves the fall benchmark composite score for each assessment component would have a composite score of 28/94.

Assessment Component	Benchmark
Individual Rhyme Awareness	5
Individual Beginning Sound Awareness	5
Lower-Case Alphabet Knowledge	12
Letter-Sound Knowledge	4
Spelling	2
Composite	28

In September 2011 1,942 incoming kindergarten students participated in the PALS assessment and out of this total number, 66.43% met or exceeded the composite benchmark of 28. The average composite score county-wide was 43/94. The largest number of children in Jackson County had a composite score of 11. Overall this represents an increase from the 2010/2011 school year. In 2010/2011 65.05% of entering kindergarteners met or exceeded the benchmark and the average composite score county-wide was 41/94. In 2010/2011, the largest number of children had a composite score of 16.

### Reading and Math Proficiency at 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

Each year third grade students participate in the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) to determine their level of proficiency in reading and mathematics. In Jackson County 86.1% of third grade students achieved reading proficiency on the 2010 MEAP test while 96% of third graders achieved math proficiency.

## Conclusion

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Supporting a child's healthy development pays considerable dividends throughout the child's life, to both the child and to the community. A child who enters school eager and ready to learn is more likely to do well throughout school and grow to become a successful, contributing member of the Jackson community.

Investing resources in quality programs provide the best outcomes for young children in the area of school readiness. Jackson County is home to several quality early childhood programs and services that have been shown to increase school readiness but total program capacity does not meet the needs of young children and families in the community.

There are currently 1,005 quality, publically funded preschool slots available to at risk children ages 3-5. 807 of those serve at risk four year olds. With an estimated 1,966 four year olds in the Jackson community, this leaves 1,159 four year old children without an affordable, quality preschool experience prior to entering kindergarten.

While the findings in this report appear to show more than adequate child care slots in Jackson County, the reality is that many families are unable to access quality programs due to lack of services in their geographic area, lack of transportation and lack of financial resources to pay for the cost of care. Many early childhood partners including the Great Start Collaborative, Child Care Network and United Way of Jackson County are working to address the problem of affordability through child care scholarships, but resources are limited and parents are often forced to choose between quality and price and may be forced to give up employment to care for their children.

## Checklist for a child being ready for kindergarten...

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**Approaches to Learning:** *The manner in which a child works with others and approaches tasks and learning leads to the development of critical executive skills for both school and life.*

- ✓ Displays persistence in task
- ✓ Demonstrates initiative in learning
- ✓ Works cooperatively with others
- ✓ Comprehends and follows directions
- ✓ Shows self-confidence in contributing to classroom learning

**Early Mathematics:** *Math skills help young children develop both logical and abstract thinking skills as well as to nurture analytical thought.*

- ✓ Shows understanding of numbers and quantity
- ✓ Demonstrates basic knowledge of positional concepts and words
- ✓ Sorts objects including recognizing patterns
- ✓ Uses number concepts and operations to solve problems

**Early Literacy:** *Early literacy serves as the foundation for reading and writing in future school years and life.*

- ✓ Recognizes words as a unit of print and understands that letters are grouped to form words
- ✓ Uses written shapes, symbols, pictures, letters, and words to convey meaning
- ✓ Demonstrates beginning phonemic awareness
- ✓ Identifies the letters within and writes their first name
- ✓ Displays interest in and enjoys reading

- ✓ Comprehends and responds to fiction and non-fiction texts

**Language Development:** Language development opens a child's world to communication and social interaction and assists learning across all child development domains.

- ✓ Is able to engage in conversations with peers and adults
- ✓ Understands and uses an increasingly varied vocabulary
- ✓ Uses language to express feelings and needs
- ✓ Uses effective listening skills

**Social Emotional Development:** How a child forms relationships, regulates and expresses emotions, and develops his or her personal identity are core components to kindergarten readiness.

- ✓ Forms healthy relationships with peers and adults
- ✓ Recognizes and manages emotions
- ✓ Adjusts to transitions
- ✓ Focuses attention on activity, project, or task

**Physical Health and Development:** *Physical well-being and motor development impact a child's readiness to learn.*

- ✓ Completes basic self-care tasks independently
- ✓ Coordinates eye-hand movement to perform tasks
- ✓ Demonstrates basic gross motor skills in a wide range of physical activities
- ✓ Possesses the strength, dexterity, and control in small muscles to use tools for writing and drawing
- ✓ Attends to health status



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### Early Childhood Needs Assessment FY12

Agency or Organization	Name of Program	Program Description	Eligible Participants	Capacity	Need
COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY	EARLY HEAD START	HELPING FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN 0-3 WITH MEDICAL, PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS THROUGH HOME OR CENTER BASED. LINKING FAMILIES WITH RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES THEY NEED.	LOW INCOME/AT RISK FAMILIES; SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN	100	98 WAITLISTED
COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY	HEAD START	A PRESCHOOL PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN 3-5. PROVIDING EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND DENTAL CARE ALONG WITH NUTRITIOUS FOOD.	LOW INCOME/AT RISK FAMILIES SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN	563	201 WAITLISTED
COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY	PROUD FATHERS/HEALTHY COUPLES	PARENT AND RELATIONSHIP CLASSES, TEACHING PARENTS AND/OR COUPLES NURTURING RELATIONSHIP SKILLS. EDUCATING PARENTS HOW A RELATIONSHIP AFFECTS CHILDREN.	ANY FAMILY IN JACKSON/HILLSDALE WITH MINOR CHILDREN OR EXPECTING TO HAVE CHILDREN	2	PROGRAM HAS BEEN DISCONTINUED DUE TO LACK OF FUNDING
COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY	ADULT EDUCATION	GED PREPARATION CLASSES, ADULT LITERACY, AND ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE ARE ALL OFFERED. CLASSES ARE EITHER TAUGHT IN CLASSROOM AND/OR TUTOR BASED.	RESIDENTS OF JACKSON, HILLSDALE AND LENA WEE. 18 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER NOT ENROLLED IN HIGHSCHOOL WITH THE LACK OF ABILITY BUT WITH THE DESIRE TO FUNCTION IN SOCIETY.	11 HS/EHS	
COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY	EMERGENCY SERVICES	FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WITH UTILITIES AND EVICTIONS. INFORMATION AND REFERRALS TO PROGRAMS AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR A RANGE OF PROBLEMS.	ELIGIBILITY VARIES WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE FUNDER.	743 FAMILIES 14 HS/EHS	
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES	FOOD ASSISTANCE	SUPPLEMENTING BUYING POWER FOR FOOD TO LOW INCOME FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS.	ELIGIBILITY DEPENDS ON FINANCIAL SITUATION OF ALL MEMBERS OF THE HOUSEHOLD GROUP.	4531*	
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES	CASH ASSISTANCE	TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE TO PAY FOR LIVING EXPENSES WITH A 48 MONTH LIFE TIME LIMIT.	ELIGIBILITY DEPENDS ON FINANCIAL SITUATION OF ALL MEMBERS OF THE HOUSEHOLD GROUP.	987*	

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES	CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND CARE PROGRAM	PROVIDES PAYMENT FOR CHILD CARE SERVICES WHEN THE PARENT OR LEGAL GAURDIAN IS UNAVAILABLE TO PROVIDE CARE DUE TO EMPLOYMENT OR AN APPROVED ACTIVITY.	688	THE DHS USES AN INCOME ELIGIBILITY CHART	
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES	HEALTH CARE	PROVIDING HEALTH COVERAGE FOR LOW INCOME PREGNANT WOMEN AND FAMILIES WHO OTHERWISE WOULD NOT HAVE RESOURCES TO PURCHASE THEM.	12000*	INCOME AND ASSET LIMITS APPLY FOR ALL MEDICAID APPLICANTS	
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES	EMERGENCY SERVICES	HEAT AND UTILITIES, HOME REPAIRS, RELOCATION, HOME OWNERSHIP AND BURIAL SERVICES TO LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLDS WHO NORMALLY ARE ABLE TO MEET NEEDS BUT NEED UNEXPECTED HELP.	136*	A DHS SPECIALIST MAKES ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION DUE TO MANY VARIABLES.	
JACKSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT	INFANT BREAVMENT SUPPORT	INFORMATION AND EMOTIONAL SUPPORT TO HELP DEAL WITH GRIEF AND OTHER EMOTIONS FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF A BABY.	1	IF YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED THE DEATH OF A BABY WHILE PREGNANT OR AFTER BIRTH REGARDLESS OF THE CAUSE.	
JACKSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT	CAR SEAT PROGRAM	LOW COST CAR SEATS FOR ALL INCOME LEVELS. CAR SEAT SAFETY EDUCATION AND CHECKS.	1,428 FAMILIES SERVED	ALL LEVELS OF INCOME QUALIFY. WIC AND/OR MEDICAID PARTICIPANTS RECEIVE A DISCOUNT OFF THE EXISTING WHOLESALE PRICE.	NO WAITING LIST/ HAVE NOT TURNED ANY FAMILIES AWAY. FUNDING PROVIDED BY HIGHWAY SAFETY AND UNITED WAY.
JACKSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT	CHILDRENS SPECIAL HEALTH SERVICES	OFFERS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR MEDICAL CARE AND TREATMENT FOR CHILDREN WITH CERTAIN DISABILITIES OR CHRONIC ILLNESS.	680 FAMILIES ENROLLED	FAMILIES WITH ANY INCOME CAN QUALIFY. SEVERAL OTHER FACTORS ARE CONSIDERED; RESIDENCY,CITIZENSHIP, AGE, WITH QUALIFYING MEDICAL CONDITION.	NO WAIT LIST
JACKSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT	EARLY ON	ASSISTS FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN EXPERIENCING DELAYS OR DIAGNOSED DISABILITY. FINDING NEEDED SERVICES SUCH AS THERAPY, EQUIPMENT/TOY LENDING, HOME VISITS AND EMOTIONAL SUPPORT.	210 CHILDREN ARE CURRENTLY ENROLLED	ALL LEVELS OF INCOME QUALIFY. FREE EVALUATION OF CHILDS ABILITIES AND NEEDS.	NO WAIT LIST. HOWEVER, DUE TO LACK OF FUNDING, THE PHYSICAL THERAPY HOME VISITS HAVE BEEN ELIMINATED. THIS CUT WILL AFFECT 20-25 CHILDREN PER YEAR.

JACKSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT	WOMAN, INFANT AND CHILDREN SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM	SUPPLYING HEALTHY FOODS TO ELIGIBLE PREGNANT, POSTPARTUM, WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN UNDER AGE 5. BREASTFEEDING EDUCATION, PROMOTION AND SUPPORT.	MODERATE TO LOW INCOME FAMILIES QUALIFY, AND/OR IF YOU SHOW A MEDICAL OR NUTRITION RISK.	5,725 PARTICIPANTS	ALWAYS LOOKING FOR MORE PARTICIPANTS.
JACKSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT	MATERNAL/ INFANT HEALTH PROGRAM	PROVIDES SUPPORT TO PROMOTE HEALTHY PREGNANCIES, GOOD BIRTH OUTCOMES AND HEALTHY INFANTS.	MICHIGAN WOMEN WITH MEDICAID WHO ARE PREGNANT AND ALL INFANTS WITH MEDICAID AS AN INSURANCE BENEFIT.	233 MOMS AND 163 INFANTS	
JACKSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT	HEARING AND VISION CLINIC	FREE HEARING AND VISION CLINIC FOR RESIDENTS STARTING AT AGE 3.	ALL JACKSON COUNTY RESIDENTS	300 HEARING/50 VISION	
JACKSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT	IMMUNIZATION CLINIC	VACCINES FOR CHILDREN AT LOW COST OR NO COST.	ALL MEDICAID CLIENTS AND THOSE WHO DO NOT HAVE INSURANCE. THOSE WHO HAVE HEALTH INSURANCE BUT IT DOES NOT COVER A CERTAIN VACCINE. THOSE WHO ARE AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKAN NATIVE.	8,000 WOMEN AND CHILDREN	
LIFEWAYS	COUNSELING	PROVIDING CASE MANAGEMENT FOR DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED, EMOTIONAL IMPAIRMENTS AND PROBLEMS. INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY COUNSELING IN HOME OR OUTPATIENT.	INDIVIDUALS WITH MEDICAID AND THE UNINSURED WHO MEET THE MEDICAL NECESSITY FOR SPECIAL MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.	49 FAMILIES*	NO WAIT/ NEVER TURNED ANYONE AWAY
LIFEWAYS	SUBSIDY FAMILY SUPPORT	FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR SEVERLY AND OR MULTIPLY IMPAIRED OR AUTISTICALLY IMPAIRED.	CHILDREN WHO RESIDE IN HOME AND MUST HAVE AN INCOME UNDER \$60,000.	29*	NO WAIT/ NEVER TURNED ANYONE ELIGIBLE AWAY
SALVATION ARMY	EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE	FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR MANY THINGS INCLUDING EVICTIONS AND UTILITIES. PROVIDES A UTILITY CASE MANAGER WITH EDUCATION AND GOAL SETTING TO MANAGE UTILITY COSTS.	ELIGIBILITY VARIES DEPENDING ON THE FUNDING SOURCE.	6,000* FAMILIES IN 6 MONTHS	TURNING AWAY 250 FAMILIES PER MONTH DUE TO LACK OF FUNDING.
SALVATION ARMY	FOOD PANTRY	SUPPLIES A HOUSEHOLD WITH UP TO 5 DAYS OF MEALS.	ANYONE WHO DEMONSTRATES THE NEED.	2,000* FAMILIES IN 6 MONTHS	NOT TURNING AWAY ANY FAMILIES

ST. LUKE CLINIC	FREE MEDICAL CLINIC	PROVIDES BASIC COMPREHENSIVE AND PREVENTIVE HEALTH CARE. PRESCRIPTION ASSISTANCE TO ESTABLISHED PATIENTS.	UNINSURED INDIVIDUALS, WAITING FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE DECISIONS, UNEMPLOYED, AND/OR IF INSURANCE BENEFITS HAVE EXPIRED.	20 FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN 0-5	
MSU EXTENSION	BREAST FEEDING INITIATIVE	SUPPORT FOR MOTHERS WHO ARE BREAST FEEDING FOR ONE YEAR THROUGH ONE HOME VISIT AND MONTHLY CALLS .	ANY WIC PARTICIPANT OR WHO ARE WIC ELIGIBLE	70	CURRENTLY CREATING A WAITING LIST DUE TO LACK OF STAFF AND FUNDING. FUNDING COMES FROM MSU GRANTS.
JACKSON INTERFAITH SHELTER	SHELTER/FOOD	TEMPORARY SHELTER WITH 3 PREPARED MEALS DAILY.	ANYONE WHO DEMONSTRATES THE NEED .	7 FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN 0-5.	NO WAIT LIST, NOT TURNING FAMILIES AWAY FOR ANY REASON.
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL	CLOTHING/FOOD/HOUSEHOLD ITEMS	ALLOWS 3 OUTFITS PER PERSON IN FAMILY EVERY 3 MONTHS.	ANYONE WHO DEMONSTRATES THE NEED WITH PROPER DOCUMENTS.	2,000 FAMILIES IN 2011	NOT TURNING AWAY ANY FAMILIES
AWARE SHELTER	SHELTER/SUPPORT WITH 24 HOUR CRISIS LINE	TEMPORARY SHELTER TO DOMESTIC/SEXUALLY ASSULTED WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN. INDIVIDUAL COUNSELING, LEGAL ADVOCACY AND SUPPORT.	ANYONE WHO DEMONSTRATES THE NEED	6 FAMILIES	NO WAIT LIST BUT TURNING FAMILIES AWAY DUE TO LACK OF FUNDING.
ERICKSON LEARNING FOUNDATION	TUTORING	TUTORING AND HELP GETTING CHILDREN TO SUCCEED IN SCHOOL. SPECIAL PROGRAMMING FOR AUTISM, ADHD AND ASPERGER'S.	ANYONE WHO DEMONSTRATES THE NEED. FINANCIAL HELP AVAILABLE.	5 CHILDREN CURRENTLY ENROLLED AGE 0-5	NO WAIT LIST/ NOT TURNING CHILDREN AWAY AT THIS TIME.
COMPREHENSIVE SPEECH AND LANGUAGE LAUNGUAGE CENTER	SPEECH/LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY, OCCUPATIONAL AND PHYSICAL THERAPY	INDIVIDUAL THERAPY FOR SPEECH LANGUAGE, VOICE, SWALLOWING AND ARTICULATION DELAYS OR DISORDERS. OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY "DAY TO DAY LIVING," GROOMING, DRESSING, TOILETING. PHYSICAL TRAINING TO IMPROVE BALANCE, MOBILITY, ENDURANCE AND COORDINATION.	MEDICAID; MOST PRIVATE INSURANCES PLANS ARE ACCEPTED.	50	NO WAITING LIST/HAVE NOT TURNED ANY FAMILIES AWAY FOR ANY REASON.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF JACKSON	COUNSELING	INDIVIDUAL AND/OR FAMILY COUNSELING SERVICES	ANYONE WHO DEMONSTRATES THE NEED.	3 CLIENTS IN 0-5 AGE RANGE	MAINTAINING A SMALL WAITLIST HOWEVER NO ONE IN 0-5 AGE RANGE IS ON THE LIST. NEVER TURN ANYONE AWAY BECAUSE OF ABILITY TO PAY.
TRINITY UNITED METHODIST	FOOD BANK	EACH FAMILY IS ALLOWED A SHOE BOX OF FOOD.	ANYONE WHO DEMONSTRATES THE NEED.	12-20 FAMILIES MONTHLY	NOT TURNING AWAY ANY FAMILIES
ST.JOHN CENTER UNITED CENTER FOR CARING	FOOD BANK				
SPRING ARBOR FREE METHODIST CHURCH	FOOD BANK	MONTHLY FOOD PANTRY	ANYONE WHO DEMONSTRATES THE NEED	15 FAMILIES PER MONTH	NEVER TURNED ANYONE AWAY.
FIRST CHUCH OF THE NAZARENE	FOOD BANK/ ANGEL FOOD MINISTRIES	MONTHLY FOOD PICK UP ON THE 1ST/3RD SATUDAY OF THE MONTH. 3-4 BAGS INCLUDING BREAD AND PRODUCE. THANKSGIVING DINNER 12-4 AND CHRISTMAS DINNER 12-3	ANYONE WHO DEMONSTRATES THE NEED	175 FAMILIES IN 0-5 AGE RANGE ON 11-5-11.	NEVER TURNED ANYONE AWAY.
IMMANUAL LUTHERAN CHURCH	FOOD BANK/ANGEL FOOD MINISTRIES	THERE ARE NO LIMITS	NO REQUIREMENTS	25 FAMILIES IN 3 MONTHS	NEVER TURNED ANYONE AWAY FOR ANY REASON IN 8 YEARS.
NORTH PARMA UNITED METHODIST	FOOD BANK				
SPRINGPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH	FOOD BANK	WELCOME TO COME EVERY 30 DAYS	RESIDENCE IN THE SPRINGPORT SCHOOL DISTRICT	5 FAMILIES	NEVER TURNED ANYONE AWAY FOR ANY REASON.
FIRST CHUCH OF THE NAZARENE	FOOD BANK				
GRASS LAKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH	FOOD BANK				
HARMONY BAPTIST CHURCH	FOOD BANK				

CITY OF ZION CHURCH	FOOD BANK						
COLUMBIA CHRISTIAN INTERFAITH SUPPORT	FOOD BANK						
CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH	FOOD BANK	MONTHLY FOOD PANTRY AVAILABLE ON 3RD SAT. OF THE MONTH.	RESIDENTS OF PLEASANT LAKE	4 FAMILIES	NO WAITLIST/HAVE NEVER TURNED ELIGIBLE FAMILIES AWAY.		
FIRST EVANGELISTIC COGIC	FOOD BANK						
WORD OF LIGHT CHRISTIAN CENTER	FOOD BANK						
CENTER FOR WOMEN	LEARN AND EARN	PRENATAL AND INFANT HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAM THAT ALLOWS POINTS FOR BUYING SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT.	ALL PREGNANT WOMAN AND INFANTS UP TO 2 YEARS ARE ELIGIBLE REGARDLESS OF FINANCIAL OR MARITAL STATUS, IN OR OUT OF CRISIS.	600-700 FAMILIES PER YEAR	HAVE NEVER TURNED ANYONE AWAY.		
CENTER FOR FAMILY HEALTH	MATERNAL/ INFANT HEALTH PROGRAM	CREATES A CARE PLAN WITH 9 VISITS, ASSISTS WITH TRANSPORTATION TO VARIOUS APPOINTMENTS, ASSISTS WITH SUPPLIES, EXPERTS WITH DRUG EXPOSED INFANTS.	PREGNANT WOMEN AND INFANTS WITH MEDICAID.	1,450	NO WAIT/NEVER TURNED ANYONE AWAY		
CENTER FOR FAMILY HEALTH	PRIMARY CARE	WELL CHECKS, IMMUNIZATIONS, SICK VISITS, HEARING AND VISION SCREENINGS, ADHD ASSESSMENTS. REFERRALS TO ANY MEDICAL SPECIALISTS. OFFERS ASSISTANCE WITH APPLYING FOR HEALTH CARE.	ALL MEDICAID CLIENTS AND THOSE WHO DO NOT HAVE INSURANCE.	3947*	NO WAIT/NEVER TURNED ANYONE AWAY		
DISABILITY CONNECTIONS	PARENT EDUCATION AND RESOURCE CENTER	WORKS WITH EARLY ON. PROVIDES MANY SERVICES; KINDERMUSIC, SUPPORT/EDUCATION TO FAMILIES. LENDING LIBRARY, FAMILY ADVOCACY, REFERRAL, FAMILY MATCHING, TRAINING AND 16 HOURS PER MONTH OF IN-HOME RESPITE CARE.	FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES	100 CHILDREN	CREATES A WAIT LIST OCCASIONALLY, NOT CURRENTLY MAINTAINING ONE AT THIS TIME.		

COUNCIL FOR THE PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT	EDUCATION/PARENTING CLASSES	FREE CLASSES TO JACKSON CO. RESIDENTS, WITH CHILD CARE AND PIZZA PROVIDED. STARTING FEB 6TH.	ALL JACKSON COUNTY RESIDENTS	0, SERVICES PROVIDED TO PARENTS-- SOME HAVE CHILDREN UNDER AGE FIVE	STARTING NEW CLASSES IN 2012.
BORN FREE	FAMILY SERVICE AND CHILDRENS AID	INTENSIVE OUTPATIENT SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING TO PRGNANT WOMEN. PARENTING/HEALTH EDUCATION CLASSES WITH CASE MANAGEMENT.	SELF REFERRALS, REFERRALS FROM CPS, PRISONS. ACCEPTING MEDICAID	8	NO WAIT LIST. FUNDED BY MID-SOUTH.
ALLIANCE HEALTH	STORK CLUB	PRENATAL CLASSES	MEDICAID AND MOST INSURANCE ACCEPTED, SELF PAY AND ALSO SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE	20 WOMEN MONTHLY	NO WAIT/NEVER TURNED ANYONE AWAY
ALLIANCE HEALTH	BREAST FEEDING SUPPORT	BREAST PUMP RENTALS AND SUPPORT	MEDICAID AND MOST INSURANCE ACCEPTED, SELF PAY AND ALSO SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE	3	NO WAIT
FAMILIES FIRST	INTENSIVE IN-HOME PRESERVATION PROGRAM	SERVES THE HIGHEST CATEGORIES OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT	CPS REFERRALS OR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE.	72 FAMILIES	NO WAIT
LIFE SPAN	JOEY'S JUNCTION RESPITE CARE	SERVES FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN OF SPECIAL NEEDS UP TO 12 HOURS OF CARE AT THE SITE.	SELF PAY/INSURANCE PAY	12 FAMILIES	NO WAIT
MEDICAID	HEALTHY KIDS	INSURANCE FOR PREGNANT WOMEN AND CHILDREN OF LOW INCOME, UNEMPLOYED, AND OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES.	ELIGIBILITY DETERMINED BY DHS	13,000 WOMEN AND CHILDREN 0-5	523 APPLICANTS WAITING FOR ASSISTANCE AS OF 11/11
* Number served is not specific to children ages 0-5, may include children over age five and/or family members					