

2009

Community Needs Assessment

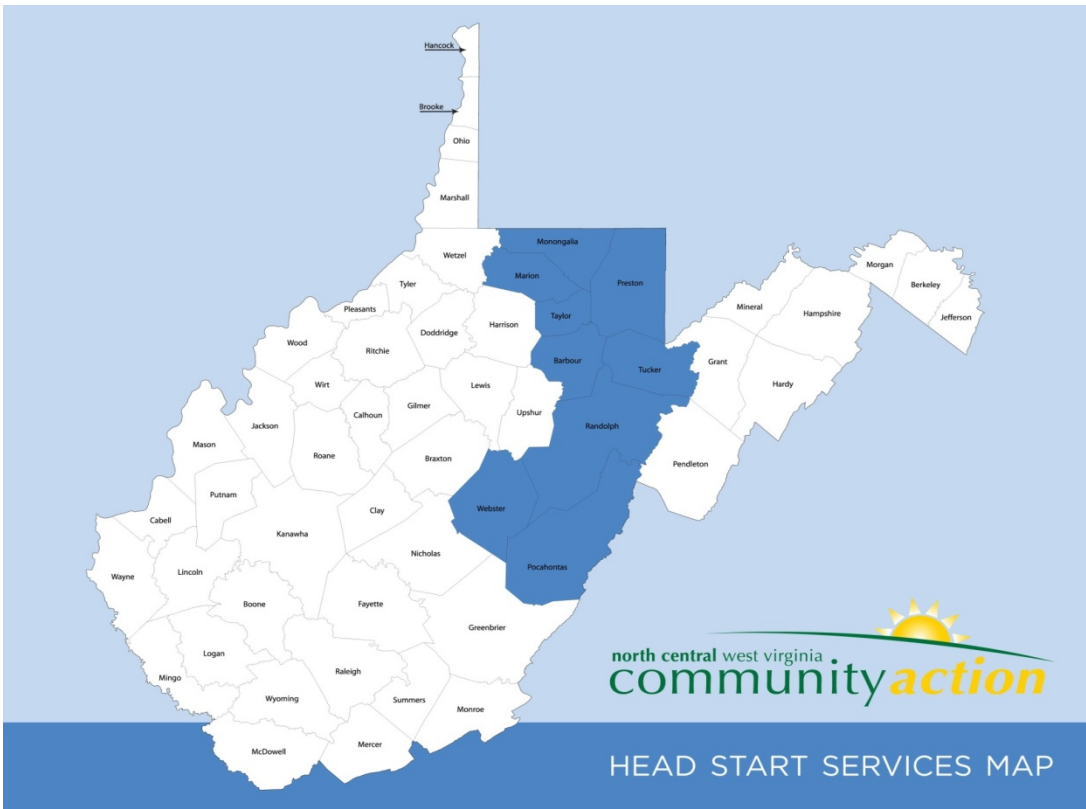
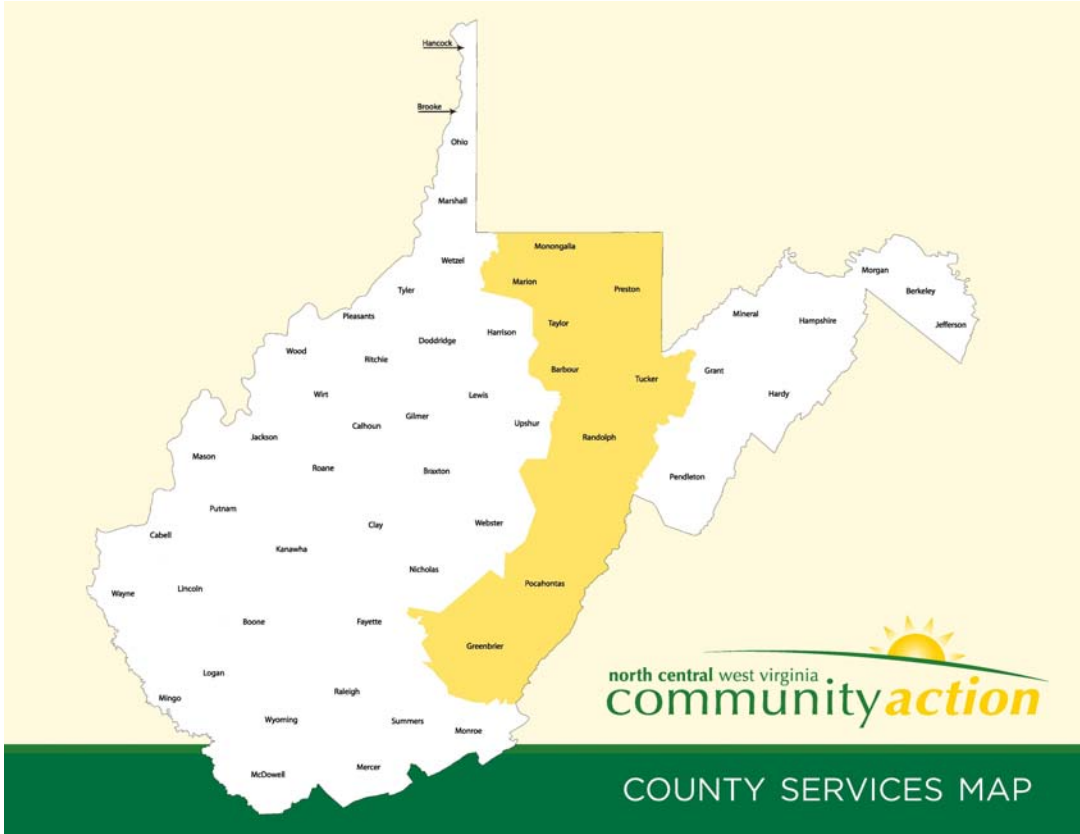
North Central WV Community Action Association, Inc.

This document is the first phase in a process to critically view the communities and families we serve in terms of the quality and degree of service that we, as an organization, are providing. It analyzes data and customer feedback over the nine counties we serve which include Barbour, Marion, Monongalia, Pocahontas, Preston, Randolph, Taylor, Tucker, and Webster Counties in West Virginia. Portions of this document include discussions of issues that are specifically of interest to North Central's Head Start/Early Head Start Program, but many of the areas are useful for all areas of programming. Only through a realistic and customer-based approach, such as this document, can we truly affect change in the lives of the families we serve.



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3/26/2009





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INTRODUCTION AND COMMUNITIES

North Central West Virginia Community Action Agency (NCWVCAA) is one of the largest Community Action Agencies in West Virginia. Its peers and funders regard it as one of the most progressive and effective Community Action Agencies in the State. North Central operates one of the State's largest and most lauded Head Start/Early Head Start programs. Established in 1966, North Central WV Community Action Association, Inc. (NCWVCAA) is a private, non-profit corporation that provides a wide variety of services, from preschool education to housing, to low-income individuals and families in Barbour, Greenbrier, Marion, Monongalia, Pocahontas, Preston, Randolph, Taylor, Tucker, and Webster Counties. NCWVCAA prides itself on a customer-based approach.

North Central WV Community Action Association, Inc. helps individuals and families reach their highest levels of social and economic independence by providing a broad range of anti-poverty services and education resources. NCWVCAA reduces the effects of poverty by empowering individuals, families, and communities to meet the challenges of today, and the changes of tomorrow. NCWVCAA's goal is to assist North Central West Virginia's working families and their friends, neighbors, and employers, to make all communities a better place to live. North Central WV Community Action offers housing assistance, home repair loans, employment assistance, free tax preparation, weatherization, homeless services, affordable rental units, emergency services and Head Start (HS) in nine counties and Early Head Start (EHS) in four counties. More information about our services is available at: www.ncwvcaa.org.

NCWVCAA is working towards a new customer-focused strategic plan for the agency. The agency completed organization and HS/EHS Strategic Plans. This document is a step in the planning process. In looking at the needs of the community in a more integrated approach, NCWVCAA and HS/EHS will be able to identify and implement higher impact strategies towards family and individual social and economic independence. In the next phase of this effort, NCWVCAA will take a similarly integrated approach to examining a broader array of community strengths and needs to develop a plan to assist the full range of families NCWVCAA serves. As a final step in this effort, NCWVCAA will identify at least one priority community need on which to focus resources, and implement targeted strategies to strengthen family and individual social and economic independence.

NCWVCAA's Central Office is located in Fairmont, West Virginia. The service area of North Central is expansive, however, covering over 5,000 square miles from Preston and Monongalia Counties in the North, to Randolph, Pocahontas, and Greenbrier Counties in the South with a population of 259,525. North Central offers all services (Community Service Block Grant, Weatherization, and Head Start) in Barbour, Marion, Pocahontas, Preston, Randolph, Taylor, and Tucker Counties, but only County or Community Service Block Grant (CSBG)-funded programs, and Weatherization services in Monongalia and Greenbrier. North Central offers only Head Start Services in Webster County (CSBG Services are offered by MountainCAP Community Action), and only Weatherization Services in Harrison County. Monongalia County is the Head Start Delegate and Early Head Start Grantee in that county.

Almost the entire service area of North Central WV Community Action is both mountainous and rural. The Snowshoe ski resort in Pocahontas County and other scenic spots are tourist destinations. While often breathtaking, the geography can be treacherous particularly in winter with transportation a major challenge. Low-lying areas are prone to flooding. The geography is also a communication and broadband service barrier.

Remote and sparsely populated in some areas, the rural nature of the area is seen in the high and low county population numbers. Monongalia has the highest population at approximately 87,500 people

and Tucker the lowest at fewer than 7,000. Many are geographically spread apart throughout the region. While some counties are experiencing a slight decline in population and others some growth, the population is aging and the percentage of children decreasing throughout the region. The population remains generally homogenous with 89% or higher Caucasian outside the counties of Monongalia (82%) and Marion (84%). HS families are more diverse in those counties, 16% minority in Marion and 18% in Monongalia. While the population percentages are small, there continue to be increases in diverse populations throughout the area, although very few speaking a language other than English.

Road maintenance, and in some areas even paving, is a challenge. Travel conditions can be a challenge for those who have vehicles, but basic transportation is difficult for those without. Much of the area is without public transportation although many local senior programs provide transportation for medical appointments. In many places it is difficult to obtain transportation for grocery shopping, let alone for employment or post-secondary education. Road conditions, as well as the remote and the sparse nature of the population make it a challenge for HS to provide busing within the one hour limit in portions of the service area.

While there are emergency services throughout the area, many communities rely on volunteer fire and emergency services. Often the volunteers respond offsite from the station and the conditions described above can make it difficult to respond to emergencies in a timely manner.

Diabetes, cardiovascular disease, cancer, tobacco use, and obesity lead the health challenges in the area. Throughout the area there are efforts focusing on wellness and preventative measures families and individuals can take towards their own health. The quality of life and the health of many residents would be improved with the extension of public, potable water – and with improving the hazards of acid run off from mining in some areas.

Documentation in both the Head Start/Early Head Start monitoring reviews of child files and customer-tracking outcome software (DBA FACSPRO) Immunization Critical Health notes provide information that the following are the top medical, nutritional, and health needs facing our Head Start/Early Head Start children and families: (1) Dental health; (2) Childhood Obesity; (3) Seasonal Allergies; (4) Food Allergies/Special Dietary Needs; (5) Asthma; and (6) Seizure Disorders. As a result of childhood obesity, the program has seen an increase in Diabetes Type II.

Residents have access to general health services in most areas, but have to travel to another community for specialty care – and often for dental care. In addition to access, affordable health care remains an issue as many who are employed have no health care benefits or high copayments. Many who use Medicaid insurance have difficulty finding doctors and dentists who will accept their insurance cards.

The lack of well paying jobs with benefits is an ongoing and significant issue throughout the area. Many lower wage jobs and an economy once solely reliant on minerals and natural resources is experiencing a shift to include more service and tourism – often lower-skill and waged jobs. Very low-income families with children utilize cash assistance in extremely low percentages even though child poverty and acceptance for free and reduced school meals increased significantly. By far the biggest drop in cash assistance usage was seen in Marion County from 31.6% of families in 2000 to 1.0% in 2007. While other Counties saw modest usage in 2000, very few families utilize assistance even as jobs and wages are insufficient to make ends meet. The recession is impacting the region with people losing their jobs daily as this assessment is written. Unemployment was up the last quarter of 2008, but in similar patterns to 2007 reinforcing the business and employment challenges faced throughout the region.

West Virginia has a larger percentage of the population who completed high school, but no post secondary education and a larger population who did not complete high school than the rest of the nation. In the service area it is often a challenge for an individual, let alone a parent, to obtain higher education due to distance and cost. Increased post-secondary education and skill training, accessible at the local level, would likely make a big difference for many.

HS/EHS and Community Action are at the center of preparing the next generation of workers for the future. West Virginia is working towards Universal Pre-K and HS/EHS is key to low-income children's success building on Head Start's experience, parental involvement, performance standards, and more. Area wide formal collaborations are still working to resolve inconsistent policies so that all children truly experience Universal Pre-K. Childcare continues to be an issue for many parents and HS/EHS works with community partners to expand access. Many HS/EHS parents and families are success stories (Refer to "Snapshots of Success" on page 80).

NCWVCAA and HS/EHS continue proactive approaches to working with families and communities to solve issues and increase family social/economic independence. The Pre-K collaborations are one example. Leadership in the efforts to expand the use of the Earned Income Tax Credit is another. Advocacy and the development of safe, affordable housing is another. Examining the common components of HS/EHS parent success and working with community partners to develop pathways for other parents is a potential future approach.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 has great potential to make a difference in many of the areas listed above. Investments in transportation, clean water, broadband and other infrastructure projects will give a double boost to the area providing needed jobs and long term improvements to the region. Increased Weatherization funds will make many housing units safer and more energy efficient while also putting more people back to work. Funds for increased renewable energy may offer new business and employment opportunities. Head Start, Early Head Start, childcare, K-12 education, and higher education funds should all offer opportunities for people while stabilizing funding in this recession. The extension of unemployment benefits, health care insurance and funds to put food on the table will help many who are unemployed.

The Recovery and Reinvestment Act will influence the overall infrastructure, impact, and strategic direction of the primary services of North Central WV Community Action Association. While it is still unclear what the total influx of dollars and opportunities will be, the budgets of both Head Start and Early Head Start (EHS) are likely to be increased and expanded, if temporarily, with additional national appropriations of \$1 billion for HS and \$1.1 billion for EHS. Particularly in light of additional increase in Early Head Start monies, North Central is polling staff and reviewing data to assess a possible expansion in Early Head Start programs throughout the nine service counties. Additionally, the Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) will receive an increase, and North Central is estimating that the usual annual CSBG budget will see an increase from approximately \$870,000 to approximately \$1.7 million. North Central's nationally-recognized Weatherization Program has already seen an increase from approximately \$1 million to over \$2 million in the past year, and with The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, the estimated increase of North Central's Weatherization Program will be an approximate total of \$5 million. While the funding is described as "one time" or temporary in nature, the investments and strategic direction of NCWVCAA will have a long term impact on the region.

COUNTY PROFILES

Barbour County

Barbour County is located in the heart of north-central West Virginia. Nestled in the mountains of the Appalachian Plateau region, it is home to the historic cities of Philippi, Belington, and Junior. It is a rural area covering 341 square miles with a population of 15,532, an average of 46 people per square mile. The climate is dry and hot in the summer adding to health issues for residents, particularly respiratory problems. The winters are cold and snowy making travel dangerous. The mountains give runoff in rainy weather that increases flooding in low-lying areas. The land is rolling mountains, with a beautiful yet treacherous river with a rich historic past that lends itself to tourism. It is located in the central part of the state of West Virginia with access to major highways on the southern and northern ends of the county.

Barbour county maintains a relatively stable and homogenous population of approximately 15,500 residents, but is experiencing a slight decrease in children under 18 (see table below). Notable is the significant decrease in families with children who receive cash assistance. Only 1.7% received cash payments in 2007 down from a modest 9.6% in 2000. Still, many families struggle to make ends meet. 61.6% of children are approved for free and reduced school meals.



Background Facts	2000	2007	% Change
Total Population	15,548	15,532	-0.1
Percent all families with related children receiving cash	9.6%	1.7%	-82.7%
Total population under age 18	3,554	3,271	-8.0
Percent population under age 18	22.9%	21.1%	-7.9%
Percent minority population	2.2%	2.7%	25.4%
Percent children under 18 who are minority	2.4%	3.2%	32.7%
Percent children under 18 in poverty (2005)	27.8%	31.7%	14.0%

Kids Count 2008 Data Book

As is the case with many rural counties, road maintenance is an ongoing need in Barbour County. U.S. Routes 250 and 119 and WV Routes 92,76,57,38, and 20 serve as the main transportation arteries in Barbour County. However, none of these are four lane highways. Public transportation services are very limited in the county with no taxi services. The Senior Centers located in Belington and Philippi offer some local daytime transportation and now will transport for doctor appointments in surrounding counties.

Barbour County's most prevalent illnesses are diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, lung cancer and other cancers, and heart disease. Residents access health care through Broaddus Hospital in Philippi or one of five clinics. Broaddus Hospital, a twelve-bed capacity and a 24-hour emergency room facility, is located outside the Philippi city limits. There are very few specialized medical or dental providers in the county who provide services on a regular basis. Specialized care is usually obtained by going to other counties. The medical card and some medical insurance do not cover dental for adults. Women, Infants and Children served approximately 300 children in Barbour County including 65% of HS families.

The quality of life for all county residents could be greatly improved with the extensions of public, potable water systems throughout the county but getting it from the main line to the owner's home could be costly for the homeowner. Many natural water supplies have been ruined because of pre-regulated mine damage. The Barbour County Environmental Protection reports there are four acid

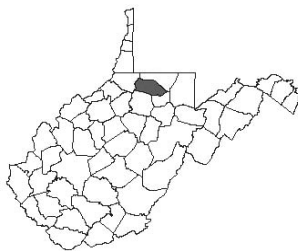
mining runoff areas leading to illegal sewage discharge and unsafe drinking water in some areas of the county. Even though the WV Department of Environmental Protection governs these problems there is no plan in place to track them. Lead in older homes is another concern, but is not monitored.

The local Emergency Squad and Fire Department is made up of certified volunteers who are off-site. They are paged when there are emergencies and at times are unavailable to respond causing delays for emergencies. Broadband access remains an issue in Barbour County. Plans are underway to obtain grant funds to expand broadband services and cell phone towers. This would allow cell phone service in all areas of the county including rural areas.

Marion County

Marion County is located in northern central West Virginia covering 310 square miles with a population of 56,728. Although population growth remained level from 2000 to 2007 (see table below), West Virginia University’s (WVU) Regional Research Institute estimates Marion County’s population will increase by 3.5% over the next 25 years. There are 182 people per square mile in Marion County, far exceeding the state average of 75. The City of Fairmont is the county seat and the largest municipality in Marion County with a population of just over 20,000. The remaining population of Marion County lives in mostly rural areas.

Although the percentage of families with children receiving cash assistance dropped 96.8% from 31.6% in 2000 to 1% in 2007, children living below the federal poverty level grew 15.6% from 2000 to 2005. In 2007, the percent of minority children under 18 was 7.2%. Marion County’s HS children are more diverse with 80 % white, 12% biracial and 8% African American.



Background Facts	2000	2007	% Change
Total Population	56,516	56,728	0.4
Percent all families with related children receiving cash	31.6%	1.0%	-96.8
Total population under age 18	11,634	11,393	-2.1%
Percent population under age 18	20.6%	20.1%	-2.5%
Percent minority population	4.8%	5.3%	11.1%
Percent children under 18 who are minority	6.5%	7.2%	10.1%
Percent children under 18 in poverty (2005)	20.5%	23.7%	15.6%

Kids Count 2008 Data Book

The main routes through Marion County are Route 250, Route 310 and Route 19. Interstate 79 is a four lane highway which travels north to south. Most of the county is very rural with numerous unpaved roads with residents spread apart. This creates numerous problems for Head Start because of the one-hour limit on bus runs. County public transportation is generally available to the residents of Fairmont with limited access to others in the county. The Monongahela River runs through the county providing transportation of coal. Marion County houses the Fairmont Municipal Airport that serves noncommercial small aircraft.

The greatest health issues for residents of Marion County are obesity, diabetes, and tobacco use. Health care services are available, but affordability is an issue for many. Marion County has one full service hospital (Fairmont General), with access to four additional hospitals in neighboring counties. Three medical clinics also serve the residents within the county and two of these are located in rural regions. The Marion County Health Department provides free medical services to county residents. There are two urgent care facilities in the county seat. All accept Medicaid. In addition, Marion County has private physicians, many of whom are located within rural communities. Vision care is also accessible

throughout Marion County. 27% of HS families indicated that they had difficulty accessing professional health care with lack of insurance being the predominant reason. WIC has a monthly caseload of 1,645 pregnant and breastfeeding women and children and serves 50% of HS families.

Marion County ranks among the worst 20% of all counties in the US in terms of environmental releases, including sulfur dioxide emissions and cancer producing hazardous air pollutants. American Bituminous Power Partners L.P. and Allegheny Energy Inc. are the largest polluters in the county. The major pollutant is hydrochloric acid. Marion County ranks third in the state in percentage of surface waters with impaired or threatened uses.

Monongalia County

Monongalia County is the largest and fastest growing county in the service area and is one of the most populous counties in West Virginia, with a population of 87,516 (see table below). It generally has the lowest unemployment rates, but is the most expensive in which to live. Monongalia County is located in the north central section of the state. It covers an area of 417.85 square miles. Morgantown houses the county seat and is the state's fifth largest city. Two-thirds of the county's population resides in remote rural sections of the county.

The county is divided into three districts. The central district, which is one of the largest population areas, contains the city of Morgantown. There are also several small communities in this district that surround Morgantown. Although there is more access to community services and employment opportunities, some of these smaller communities are populated with low-income housing. The population tends to shift from one area to another and these small communities are overcrowded.

The western district is a rural, resource poor location, isolated and removed from Morgantown. This district is very mountainous near the Pennsylvania border, which was heavily mined at one time. Mining interests, a major employer in this community for some time, vacated the area in the last decade leaving a high number of previously employed coal miners forced to take lower paying service sector jobs.

The region is surrounded by small hollows and mountains where approximately 800 families reside in substandard housing. There are few community services, few recreational facilities, and no public transportation or public housing.

Although several agencies offer transportation services, most target seniors, disabled residents or for specialized health care. Mountainline Transit Authority is the main provider with bus service within Morgantown as well as to Clarksburg, Fairmont, and Pittsburgh. Mountainline offers some deviated route service by appointment.



Background Facts	2000	2007	% Change
Total Population	81,866	87,516	6.9%
Percent all families with related children receiving cash	1.6%	0.7%	-55.7%
Total population under age 18	14,897	15,631	4.9%
Percent population under age 18	18.2%	17.9%	-1.8%
Percent minority population	7.5%	8.4%	11.6%
Percent children under 18 who are minority	8.2%	9.6%	16.5%
Percent children under 18 in poverty (2005)	14.9%	18.3%	22.8%

Kids Count 2008 Data Book

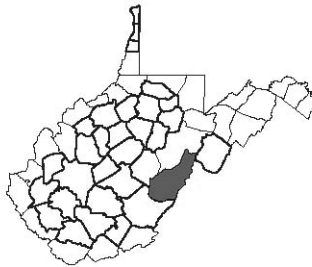
Most human service agencies in the county acknowledge difficulties in adequately serving families in remote, isolated parts of the county. The county is home to West Virginia University in Morgantown. Its

ever-growing regional medical center and teaching hospital at West Virginia University provides specialized health care services far less accessible in other counties. The medical center offers quality health care at rates 20% below the national average.

Few families with children received cash assistance in 2000 at only 1.6%, but the percent decreased to .7% by 2007 (see table above). Many families still struggle to get by as evidenced by 40.4% of children are approved for free and reduced school meals and 52% of HS families participating in the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) nutrition program. The county is starting to become more diverse with 9.6% children of color. 18% of HS children are from diverse families.

Pocahontas County

Pocahontas County is the third largest county in West Virginia with 940 square miles, but very rural with a population of 8,571 (see table below). The overall population decreased 5.9% from 2000 to 2007 and children under 18 by 7.6% in the same time period. The area is still predominately white as is the HS population at 96% Caucasian. Families utilizing cash assistance dropped from 3.1% in 2000 to 1.5% in 2007. In contrast, children living below the poverty level or who were accepted for free or reduced school meals grew in the same period.



Background Facts	2000	2007	% Change
Total Population	9,111	8,571	-5.9%
Percent all families with related children receiving cash	3.1%	1.5%	-51.6%
Total population under age 18	1,889	1,643	-13.0%
Percent population under age 18	20.7%	19.2%	-7.6%
Percent minority population	1.5%	1.9%	23.4%
Percent children under 18 who are minority	1.0%	2.3%	142.7%
Percent children under 18 in poverty (2005)	22.59%	24.6%	9.3%

Kids Count 2008 Data Book

Pocahontas County is quite mountainous and is prone to flooding in several low-lying areas. U.S. Routes 219 and 92, and WV Routes 39 serve as the major routes through Pocahontas County. None of these are four lane highways. There is no public transportation. Access to activities and programs throughout the county are limited to private agency or personal transportation.

There were no reported environmental health concerns, natural disasters, or logging disasters in the last year in Pocahontas County. While there were no floods or flood warnings in the last year, there is a plan to build a flood wall along the Greenbrier River as a preventative measure.

Pocahontas Memorial Hospital is a critical access hospital located in Buckeye. Ambulance service started in June of 2007. Two clinics provide additional services with local doctors providing general medical care. However, specialized medical care, most dental care and optical care must be obtained outside the county requiring residents to travel 63 miles to Elkins or 45 miles to Lewisburg. WIC served 48 infants and 124 children in Pocahontas County including 50% of HS families.

Preston County

Preston County is a rural community with a population of 30,254 (see table below). Preston County is located in the north central part of the state bordering Pennsylvania to the north and Maryland to the east. Like other families in the service area, low rates of families utilizing cash assistance decreased even further from 3.2% in 2000 to 1.0% in 2007 while at the same time more families were living below the poverty level. The percent of the population under 18 shrank by 10.8% at the same time the county

experienced modest growth. The general population and the HS population continue to be mostly homogenous.



Background Facts	2000	2007	% Change
Total Population	29,308	30,254	3.2%
Percent all families with related children receiving cash	3.2%	1.0%	-69.4%
Total population under age 18	6,915	6,370	-7.9%
Percent population under age 18	23.6%	21.1%	-10.8%
Percent minority population	1.2%	1.5%	24.7%
Percent children under 18 who are minority	1.8%	2.2%	23.7%
Percent children under 18 in poverty (2005)	21.5%	24.8%	15.3%

Kids Count 2008 Data

The county is mountainous and has no metropolitan regions. The County seat is in Kingwood. Cranesville Swamp is located northeast of Terra Alta and is one of the first National Natural Landmarks to be designated by the National Park Service in 1965. Another “unique” location is the Cheat River "narrows," just north of Rowlesburg. This is a popular spot for white water enthusiasts. The Cheat River Canyon, a virtually impenetrable canyon beginning at Albright and running to the northwest corner of Preston County, is said to hold some of the most challenging white water in the eastern United States.

Preston County is 648.37 square miles and has the distinction of being the WV County with the most roads. This makes it difficult to deliver needed emergency services. U.S. Route 50 and 92 are the major east west highways with Interstate 68 cutting across a small northern section of the county. State Route 7 and 26 are the counties only other major highways. The rest are mainly secondary roads and can be extremely hazardous to travel in the winter months. Bus service is provided to portions of the county through the Buckwheat Express. On average, commuting time to work is 30 minutes.

For 30 years, West Virginia has claimed one of the lowest crime rates in the nation and Preston County has maintained one of the lowest crime rates in the state. This is an attractive incentive for business as well as residential growth in the county. Each community has an ambulance service and a volunteer fire department.

The most prevalent health issues are obesity and diabetes. Preston Memorial Hospital in Kingwood is an asset providing local inpatient and outpatient care. Preston County is also relatively close, at a 23 mile distance, to WVU’s outpatient, medical research, and cancer centers, as well as WVU’s Ruby Memorial Hospital. The residents of northern Preston County utilize services at the Garrett County Hospital 20 miles away in Maryland. Cases requiring specialized care or surgery are referred out-of-county. Severe cases are sometimes life-flighted to Ruby Memorial Hospital also in Monongalia County. There are current plans to build a new Hospital to help meet the needs of Preston County residents. WIC provided services to 863 women, infants and children from 835 families including 31% of HS families.

Randolph County

Randolph County is a mountainous rural county with a steady population of approximately 28,292. Randolph County has a land area of 1,046.34 square miles and 27.2 persons per square mile. U.S. Routes 33, 219, 250 and WV 92 and 32 serve Randolph County as main arteries into the county. Sections of Corridor H have been completed and the eventual connection of Interstate 79 and Interstate 81 in Virginia could be a great stimulus to business growth in the county. None of the rivers in the county are navigable. The Elkins-Randolph Airport is open to the public and has limited commercial commuter

services. County Roads Transit provides rides to the general public in major locations in the Elkins area and by appointment to destinations outside the service area.

Child poverty increased 10.8% from 2000 to 2007. Like other counties, there are more low-income children, but less received cash assistance. From 2000 to 2007 there was a 78.2% decrease in families with children who utilized cash assistance with only .8% in 2007. The HS population is more diverse than the county with 9% children of color.



Background Facts	2000	2007	% Change
Total Population	28,220	28,292	0.3%
Percent all families with related children receiving cash	3.7%	0.8%	-78.2%
Total population under age 18	6,284	6,011	-4.3%
Percent population under age 18	22.3%	21.2%	-4.6%
Percent minority population	2.2%	2.7%	23.3%
Percent children under 18 who are minority	2.2%	2.9%	35.3%
Percent children under 18 in poverty (2005)	23.1%	25.6%	10.8%

Kids Count 2008 Data Book

One of the most prevalent concerns to county residents is the run-off from area mines and quarries. Citizens have formed local watchdog groups that advocate against mines and quarries that they believe could potentially harm area streams. WVDEP and the U.S. Forestry Service continue to monitor and enforce laws pertaining to water quality. There have been no natural disasters in Randolph County. There are ten Volunteer Fire Departments in the county available to respond to disasters or emergencies.

Cardiovascular disease is the prevailing disease in Randolph County. The Davis Memorial Hospital and health system continues to expand to offer a variety of services including a new urgent care facility in the summer of 2008. The facility reports good utilization and a corresponding decrease in the use of the Davis Memorial Hospital ER for non-emergency use. Davis Memorial Hospital was recently awarded “Best Joint Care Hospital” in West Virginia by a major healthcare-reporting agency. In addition to the services offered by Davis, there currently are 13 dentists, 3 pediatricians, and 4 obstetricians/gynecologists. The regional mental health provider is Appalachian Community Health Center. WIC averages 1309 consumers per month.

Taylor County

Taylor County has a stable population of 16,117 (see table below) and consists of 173 square miles, located in north central West Virginia. High percentages of residents are Caucasian. Families struggle to make ends meet, but only 1.5% of children received any cash assistance, 27.5% children lived at income levels below poverty.



Background Facts	2000	2007	% Change
Total Population	16,103	16,117	0.1
Percent all families with related children	4.9%	1.4%	-71.8%
Total population under age 18	3,679	3,262	-11.3%
Percent population under age 18	22.9%	20.2%	-11.5%
Percent minority population	1.8%	2.3%	22.5%
Percent children under 18 who are	2.4%	3.3%	37.1%
Percent children under 18 in poverty	24.7%	27.5%	11.3%

Kids Count 2008 Data Book

The eastern portion of the county is quite mountainous and the lower areas are prone to flooding despite the Tygart Dam, the largest cement flood control dam east of the Mississippi River. U.S.

Routes 250, 119, and 50 and W.V. Routes 310 and 76 serve Taylor County as the main arteries into Taylor County. None of these are four-lane highways. Route 50 and Route 119 are mountainous and winding. Railroad service, motor freight carriers, and parcel services are available in the county for shipping purposes. The Monongahela River north of Taylor County is the nearest navigable river; Roy Airfield in Thornton is a small private airfield. A taxi/limousine service is available, but there is no bus service.

There were no natural disasters, flooding or environmental concerns in the past year. The Taylor County Emergency Squad and three other paid and volunteer fire departments are prepared to respond to local emergencies.

Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in Taylor County followed by cancer, stroke, COPD, injuries, diabetes, and kidney disease. Obesity, tobacco use, and lack of exercise cause many of these diseases. Taylor County has a multi-service hospital in Grafton and a County Medical Center in Grafton. Tygart Valley Total Health Care operates both at the hospital and at a satellite location in Flemington; the clinic has a full medical staff. The Taylor County Medical Center includes medical and dental services on a sliding fee scale. While an obstetrician comes to the Medical Center a few times a month, Grafton City Hospital does not provide delivery services so expectant mothers must travel to Clarksburg, Fairmont, or Morgantown to have their babies delivered. One doctor, one optometrist, three mental health providers, and three dentists maintain private practices. WIC serves 6% of HS families in Taylor County.

Tucker County

Tucker County is extremely rural with the service area’s sparsest population of 6,868. The county’s general and child population dropped 5.0% and 9.9% respectively from 2000 to 2007 (see table below). Almost 26% of children lived below the federal poverty level in 2005, yet only .4% received any cash assistance in 2007. The population of the county is very homogenous, 98.9% of residents cited as White in the 2000 Census. The next highest grouping is 0.7% of residents who claim to be of two or more ethnicities.



Background Facts	2000	2007	% Change
Total Population	7,299	6,868	-5.9
Percent all families with related children receiving cash	2.7%	0.4%	-86.0%
Total population under age 18	1,553	1,318	-15.1%
Percent population under age 18	21.3%	19.2%	-9.9%
Percent minority population	0.8%	0.9%	13.5%
Percent children under 18 who are minority	2.1%	2.0%	-7.2%
Percent children under 18 in poverty (2005)	20.6%	25.8%	25.2%

Kids Count 2008 Data Book

While it is popular for winter sports, the cold snowy winters at higher elevations make life difficult for those who must travel the roads in all extreme weather conditions. Over 50% of Tucker County is national forest, federal wilderness, fish, and wildlife refuge and state park lands. Additional tourist attractions include: Timberline Four Seasons Resort and Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Nearly 900,000 acres of the Monongahela National forest and parts of Dolly Sods Wilderness and the Otter Creek Wilderness lie within the county. There are few retail stores and those that do exist are

many miles apart and a great distance from several populated centers in the county. Social service agencies are mostly located in Parsons making transportation to services a problem as well.

U.S. Routes 250, 219, and 50 and WV Routes 93, 90, 72, 38, and 32 cross the 419 square miles of mountains and valleys in the sparsely inhabited county of 7,046 persons. Parsons, Davis, and Thomas are the largest communities. Tucker County has no four-lane highway, no bus service, and no railroad access. There are four Fire Departments and two Volunteer Emergency Squads in the county.

Health care access remains a concern for residents. Challenges include shortage of HIB vaccine, one of two dentists not taking appointments, and transportation issues. Tucker County has no hospital and the closest one to the most southern part of the county is in Elkins in Randolph County. Tucker County health care providers include one Community Care Center in Parson, one Medical Clinic located in St. George, two Medical Clinics located in Parsons, a mental health center, and two dentists. Patients needing assistance for cancer and heart conditions are treated in Davis Memorial Hospital in Elkins, 30 minutes from Parsons, or hospitals located in Morgantown, Monongalia County, 2 hours from Parsons. WIC serves approximately 206 individuals monthly.

Webster County

Webster County is a remote, rural area in West Virginia of 556.1 square miles. The density rate is 17.5 people per square mile with a declining population currently at 9,435. A large portion of the county is unoccupied, held by large forestry companies for the vast timber resource. The percent of population under 18 dropped about 11% from 2000 to 2007. The ethnicity of the county is extremely homogenous with the 2000 Census reporting 99.2% Caucasian residents. A high percent of children, 42.9%, live below the federal poverty level in 2005, but only 5.6% received cash assistance in 2007 (see table below).



Background Facts	2000	2007	% Change
Total Population	9,700	9,435	-2.7%
Percent all families with related children receiving cash assistance.	15.4%	5.6%	-63.3%
Total population under age 18	2,218	1,925	-13.2%
Percent population under age 18	22.9%	20.4%	-10.9%
Percent minority population	0.6%	0.9%	53.3%
Percent children under 18 who are minority	0.7%	1.5%	101.6%
Percent children under 18 in poverty (2005)	36.4%	42.9%	17.9%

Kids Count 2008 Data Book

Two highways serve the county, WV Routes 15 and 20. To date there are no navigable waterways, rail or airport services available within the county. The mountainous terrain contributes to significant transportation problems for the citizens of Webster County. Residents can access the Mountain Transit Authority (MTA) for bus service to the Cowen and Webster Springs areas and to neighboring Summersville. There are no taxi services available for county residents.

Sewer, septic and water related issues are in the process of being addressed. The Back Fork Water Project was completed in August 2008 and 52 families in that area now have adequate septic and water services, according to Gary Weir of the Webster County Development Authority. The community of Bergoo continues to be served by an outdated sewage system that was implemented several decades ago and approximately 50 homes have systems that drain directly into the Elk River through a "community pipe." New construction is not permitted to connect to the old pipe according to the Health Department and funds are being sought to alleviate this problem.

Childhood obesity is a prevalent health issue with one provider reporting approximately 30% of patients under the age of 18 considered obese. The county sustains two health care facilities at Webster County Memorial Hospital located in Webster Springs and the Camden Area Medical Center serves as the health care providers for the residents living in the remote southern area. Memorial Hospital continues to work in collaboration with Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital in Weston to resolve Webster Memorial's two year financial crisis. In addition, Hope Medical Center's second office at Cowen's Business Park continues to offer services.

Dental services continue to be an issue, but a new project with the WVU School of Dentistry offers some dental screenings and referrals for needed services. Outside this project, there is only one practicing dentist in the county and he does not accept Medicaid. As a result, many of the County's children age five and under do not receive any dental services until required upon entrance into a pre-school program. Residents are required to travel one hour or more to receive optical and advanced dental services as there are none available in the County. Children obtain vision screenings when they enter pre-school or kindergarten and are referred to providers outside the county. Seneca Mental Health in Parcoal offers mental health and counseling services. WIC served 336 families in 2008 including 80% of HS families.

EDUCATION

Head Start, West Virginia Pre-K and Childcare

West Virginia is a leader in early childhood education and Head Start is key to its success. In 2002, in an end of session move, the West Virginia legislature passed an education provision requiring all four-year-old children have access to Pre-K by the 2012-2013 school year. The law mixed existing Pre-K funds into the state public school funding formula and requires county school systems to coordinate Pre-K contracts and programs. At least half of all Pre-K classrooms must be in community-based settings by the fall of 2012 unless there insufficient providers that meet the Pre-K standards. (Pre-K Now, 2009)

NCWVCAA Head Start Grantee and Delegate Analysis of Monthly Summaries PY43

Month	Enrollment %	Barbour	Marion	Monongalia	Pocahontas	Preston	Randolph	Taylor	Tucker	Webster
AUGUST	98.46%	100.00%	81.03%						100.00%	
SEPTEMBER	100.59%	101.39%	100.00%	100.00%	115.00%	99.10%	100.00%	101.27%	100.00%	101.72%
OCTOBER	100.47%	97.22%	100.86%	100.00%	120.00%	100.00%	98.84%	101.27%	100.00%	100.00%
NOVEMBER	100.47%	100.00%	100.43%	100.00%	120.00%	98.20%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	101.72%
DECEMBER	100.83%	101.39%	100.43%	100.00%	120.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	101.72%
JANUARY	100.24%	100.00%	100.00%	99.45%	115.00%	99.10%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	101.72%
FEBRUARY	100.59%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	120.00%	99.10%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	103.45%
Annual Attendance and Enrollment	100.53%	100.00%	100.29%	99.91%	118.33%	99.25%	99.81%	100.42%	100.00%	101.72%

Data collected through February, 2009 (August is not included in this average for some, because most counties are still completing their enrollments and classes have not begun.)

Counties are required to have approved Universal Pre-K Plans before they may receive state funds. Annual county plans must be written collaboratively with input from Head Start, childcare, parents, public school teachers, and Department of Health and Human Resources. Pre-K quality requirements must align with the Head Start Performance Standards and with the state's childcare licensing requirements. While the goal is to serve four year olds, the state's funding is limited to four-year-olds and three-year-olds with an Individualized Education Plan. According to the West Virginia Early Care and Education, the programs vary from 12-30 hours per week, with an average of 21.5 hours, generally three to five days a week. 64% of classrooms provide between 24-30 hours of instruction. Eighty percent operate four days per week. (WV Department of Education , 2007)

NCWVCAA offers several Head Start and Early Head Start Program Options. The table below details the various program options:

NCWVCAA Head Start/Early Head Start Program Options
Early Head Start
2 Center-Based Classrooms.
4 Home-Based Classrooms.

Head Start
A total of 54 Center-Based Classrooms of which there are:
2 Half-Day Classrooms.
6 Half-Day Board of Education Collaborative Classrooms.
1 Full-Day Classroom.
42 Full-Day Board of Education Collaborative Classrooms.
3 Full-Day Child Care Collaborative Classrooms.
2 Home-Based Classrooms.

Head Start’s longtime experience, parental involvement and performance measures are fundamental to West Virginia’s successful transition to community-based Pre-K programs. NCWVCAA is right in the heart of the Pre-K efforts in North Central West Virginia. NCWVCAA served 931 children between Head Start (HS) and Early Head Start (EHS) from 886 families during PY 42 (2007-2008)(see table below). 71% were four year olds. There are 52 EHS slots in the service area. English was the primary language of 99% of children. Nine percent were children of color. 2% were of Hispanic/Latino origin. HS maintained full enrollment. While approximately 10% of HS children dropped out of the program and did not re-enroll, HS replaced 82% of those slots with other children. In most counties, HS served at least 65% of the eligible children, but not in Tucker County. Tucker is sparsely populated and only has five HS slots which translate into 11% of the eligible children.

HEAD START				
Number of Children Served, Average Monthly Enrollment, Percentage of Eligible Children				
COUNTY	CHILDREN SERVED	FAMILIES SERVED	AVERAGE MONTHLY ENROLLMENT	ELIGIBLE CHILDREN SERVED
BARBOUR	88	85	92.10%	67.00%
MARION	255	243	98.58%	85.00%
MON.	191	178	100.83%	88.00%
POCA.	23	22	106.00%	65.00%
PRESTON	125	114	101.60%	75.00%
RAND.	93	90	102.51%	71.00%
TAYLOR	85	85	100.26%	80.00%
TUCKER	5	5	97.78%	11.00%
WEBSTER	66	64	106.25%	88.00%
TOTAL	931	886	100.66%	70.00%

PY42 Data

EARLY HEAD START

Number of Children Served, Average Monthly Enrollment, Percentage of Eligible Children

COUNTY	CHILDREN SERVED	FAMILIES SERVED	AVERAGE MONTHLY ENROLLMENT	ELIGIBLE CHILDREN SERVED
MARION	28	19	99.03%	84.00%
PRESTON	22	17	100.76%	63.00%
RAND.	33	25	91.29%	64.00%
TUCKER	6	6	100%	55.00%
TOTAL	89	67	97.77%	66.50%

PY42 Data

Head Start Funded Enrollment by County		EHS Funded Enrollment by County	
Barbour	72	Marion	16
Marion	232	Preston	12
Monongalia	181	Randolph	18
Pocahontas	20	Tucker	6
Preston	111	Total	52
Randolph	86		
Taylor	79		
Tucker	5		
Webster	58		
Total	844		

PY 43 Funded Enrollment

Demographic Analysis for Head Start Children

The following charts were compiled on March 15, 2009 from information in DBA FACS Pro (NCWVCAA demographic and customer outcome tracking software). All Head Start ACF children served during PY43 are included on this report. The total number of children fluctuates on each chart due to current field data not being available in DBA on each child.

HS GENDER

COUNTY	FEMALES	MALES
Barbour	34	37
Marion	132	130
Monongalia	96	97
Pocahontas	13	11
Preston	64	57
Randolph	44	50
Taylor	37	47
Tucker	3	4
Webster	29	30
Total	452	463

HS ETHNICITY

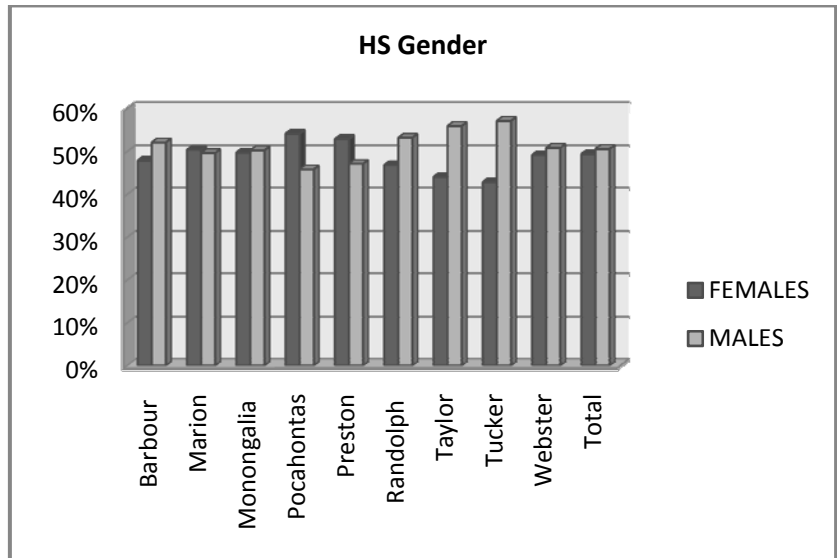
COUNTY	Non-Hispanic or Latino	Hispanic or Latino
Barbour	71	0
Marion	256	4
Monongalia	182	11
Pocahontas	24	0
Preston	120	1
Randolph	94	0
Taylor	83	1
Tucker	7	0
Webster	56	3
Total	893	20

HS RACE

COUNTY	Caucasian	American Indian	Bi-Racial	African American	Native Hawaiian
Barbour	67	2	1	1	0
Marion	221	0	22	19	0
Monongalia	148	1	22	13	0
Pocahontas	23	0	1	0	0
Preston	116	0	5	0	0
Randolph	93	0	0	1	0
Taylor	77	2	3	0	2
Tucker	6	0	0	0	0
Webster	57	0	2	0	0
Total	808	5	56	34	2

HS PRIMARY LANGUAGE

COUNTY	ENGLISH AS PRIMARY LANGUAGE	OTHER	SPANISH
Barbour	71	0	0
Marion	262	0	0
Monongalia	183	5	5
Pocahontas	24	0	0
Preston	121	0	0
Randolph	94	0	0
Taylor	84	0	0
Tucker	7	0	0
Webster	59	0	0
Total	905	5	5



HS FAMILY TYPE

COUNTY	Multi-Adults (w/children)	Single Parent (Male)	Living with Grandparents	Two Parents (w/children)	Single Parent (Female)
Barbour	11	2	2	28	26
Marion	42	3	1	124	82
Monongalia	2	7	6	92	80
Pocahontas	1	1	1	12	9
Preston	12	2	2	54	32
Randolph	14	1	1	44	28
Taylor	7	3	4	43	16
Tucker	2	0	0	2	2
Webster	7	2	1	29	12
Total	98	21	18	428	287

HS LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

COUNTY	OWN	RENT-UNSUBSIDIZED	RENT-SUBSIDIZED	LIVING W/FRIENDS OR FAMILY	TRANSITION AL/SHELTER	OTHER
Barbour	20	17	13	7	0	2
Marion	81	56	32	28	1	1
Monongalia	54	62	40	20	3	1
Pocahontas	7	10	2	0	0	0
Preston	51	14	4	3	0	0
Randolph	31	31	13	16	0	0
Taylor	41	15	15	7	0	0
Tucker	3	1	2	1	0	0
Webster	28	8	9	3	0	1
Total	316	214	130	85	4	5

Demographic Analysis for Early Head Start Children

The following charts were compiled on March 15, 2009 from information in DBA FACS Pro (NCWVCAA demographic and customer outcome tracking software). All Early Head Start children served during PY43 are included on this report. The total number of children fluctuates on each chart due to current field data not being available in DBA on each child.

EHS GENDER

COUNTY	FEMALES	MALES
Marion	10	11
Preston	7	8
Randolph	14	14
Tucker	4	2
Total	35	35

EHS ETHNICITY

COUNTY	Non-Hispanic or Latino	Hispanic or Latino
Marion	21	0
Preston	15	0
Randolph	27	1
Tucker	6	0
Total	69	1

EHS RACE

COUNTY	Caucasian	American Indian	Bi-Racial	African American	Native Hawaiian
Marion	17	0	4	0	0
Preston	15	0	0	0	0
Randolph	28	0	0	0	0
Tucker	6	0	0	0	0
Total	66	0	4	0	0

EHS PRIMARY LANGUAGE

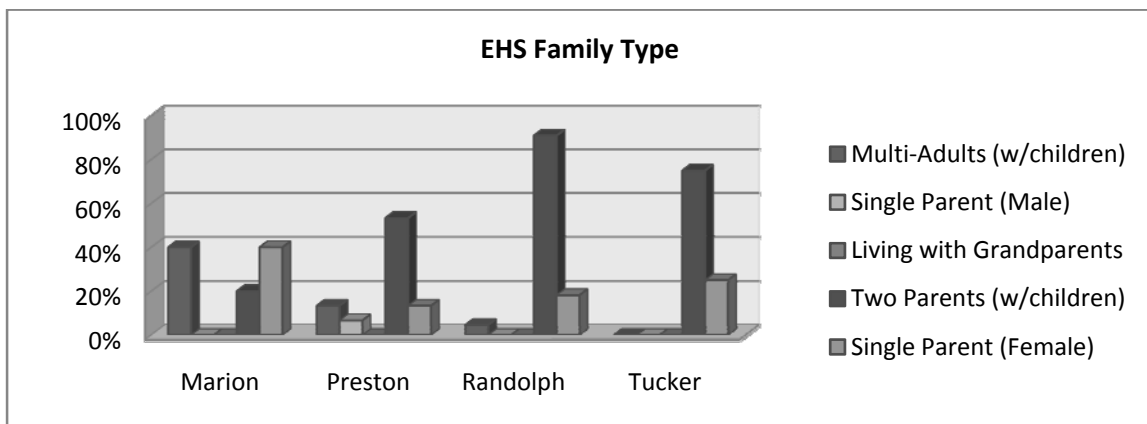
COUNTY	ENGLISH AS PRIMARY LANGUAGE	OTHER	SPANISH
Marion	21	0	0
Preston	15	0	0
Randolph	27	0	1
Tucker	6	0	0
Total	69	0	1

EHS FAMILY TYPE

COUNTY	Multi-Adults (w/children)	Single Parent (Male)	Living with Grandparents	Two Parents (w/children)	Single Parent (Female)
Marion	8	0	0	4	8
Preston	2	1	0	8	2
Randolph	1	0	0	20	4
Tucker	0	0	0	3	1
Total	11	1	0	35	15

EHS LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

COUNTY	OWN	RENT-UNSUBSIDIZED	RENT-SUBSIDIZED	LIVING W/FRIENDS OR FAMILY	TRANSITIONAL/SHELTER	OTHER
Marion	2	0	0	15	0	0
Preston	9	3	2	1	0	0
Randolph	4	14	2	2	0	0
Tucker	2	3	0	1	0	0
Total	17	20	4	19	0	0



Head Start Special Needs

Sixty-three children received services for speech and language impairments. The **special needs** in this area stand out in comparison to other disabilities. 21 children received services for delayed disabilities or non-categorical conditions. Only 2 children were identified as autistic receiving services for that condition. Other special needs are as follows:

SERVICES FOR HEAD START CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS										
Special Need	Barbour	Marion	Monongalia	Pocahontas	Preston	Randolph	Taylor	Tucker	Webster	Total By Need
Total HS Children Served	72	232	181	20	111	86	79	5	58	844
Health Impairment	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Emotional/Behavioral Disorders	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Speech or Language Impairment	8	17	7	1	11	3	11	0	5	63
Mental Retardation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hearing Impairment	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Orthopedic Impairment/physical therapy	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2
Visual Impairment	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Learning Disabilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Autism	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Traumatic Brain Injury	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Non-categorical/developmental delay	1	3	21	3	0	4	0	0	3	35
Total By County	9	20	29	4	13	9	15	0	8	107

Current children as of March 16, 2009 (PY43)

Early Head Start Special Needs

Two Early Head Start children had speech or language impairments, 1 in Preston County and 1 in Randolph County. There were 4 confirmed special needs in Early Head Start overall.

Children's Progress

HS and its collaborative partners seek to prepare children for kindergarten and close the achievement gap. Barbour, Marion, Preston, Pocahontas, Tucker, Webster and Monongalia Counties utilize Creative Curriculum and Assessment system. The High/Scope COR Curriculum and Assessment system is used by Randolph and Taylor Counties, both curricula are approved by the state. As per Universal Pre-K policy, an Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale (ECERS-R) is completed in each room to determine the quality of the classroom environment. All of these measures provide data that is evaluated in order to identify child outcome strengths and weaknesses, and determine staff training needs.

The Creative Curriculum measures the overall progress of Preschool children across six developmental levels, beginning at level Forerunner I and ending at Step III. There were appropriate gains in all areas giving consideration for the degree of children's skill level upon entry into Preschool. In each area there was growth of one whole step from the fall to the spring reporting period. At the end of the 2007-2008 school year, 50% of children in Marion, Preston, Pocahontas, Tucker and Webster were at Step III in:

- Language Development:
 - Understand an increasingly complex and varied vocabulary
 - Develops increasing abilities to understand and use language to communicate information, experiences, ideas, feelings, opinions, needs, and for other varied purposes
 - Uses an increasingly complex and varied vocabulary
- Literacy Development:
 - Book knowledge and appreciation
- Social/Emotional
- Physical Health and Development

A majority of children were at Step II in the following areas:

- Literacy Development:
 - Phonological Awareness
 - Associates Sound with Written Words
 - Print Awareness and Concepts Print Awareness
 - Recognizes a word as a unit of print
 - Identifies at least 10 letters of the alphabet
 - Knows that letters of the alphabet are a special category that can be individually named
- Math
 - Numbers and Operations
- Science
- Approaches to learning

In the delegate, Monongalia, more than 50% of the HS children were in the top level Step III in 39 of 41 categories. Two-thirds of the children are in Step III in eight categories:

- Language Development:
 - Understand an increasingly complex and varied vocabulary.
 - Develops increasing abilities to understand and use language to communicate information, experiences, ideas, feelings, opinions, needs, and for other varied purposes.
 - Uses an increasingly complex and varied vocabulary.
- Literacy Development:
 - Phonological Awareness
 - Book knowledge and appreciation
 - Print Awareness and Concepts Print Awareness
 - Identifies at least 10 letters of the alphabet
 - Knows that letters of the alphabet are a special category that can be individually named
- Math
 - Numbers and Operations
- Science
- Creative Arts
- Social/Emotional
- Approaches to Learning
- Physical Health and Development

The two categories in which the program did not have 50% of the children scoring in Step III were:

- Literacy Development:
 - Associates Sound with Written Words

- Recognizes a word as a unit of print
- Associates sound with written word.
- Recognizes word as a unit of print.

The High/Scope COR data indicates that children experienced the highest gains in Math, Science, and Literacy because children came into the program at lower levels in those areas. The data shows that overall there was substantial growth in every area measured. The scores illustrate that teachers are using environments and interactions to foster development in all areas. The High/Scope COR measures progress over five levels, 1-5. On the High/Scope COR the highest average was a score of 4. A majority of children in Barbour, Randolph, and Taylor Counties ended the school year at a 4 at the end of the school year in the following areas:

- Language- Understands an increasingly complex and varied vocabulary
- Language-Develops increasing abilities to understand and use language to communicate information, experiences, ideas, feelings, opinions, needs, and for other varied purposes
- Social/Emotional
- Approaches to Learning
- Physical Health and Development

The following areas had average scores of three at the end of the year:

- Language
 - Uses an increasingly complex and varied vocabulary
- Literacy Development:
 - Phonological awareness
 - Associates Sound with Written Words
 - Print Awareness and Concepts Print Awareness
 - Recognizes a word as a unit of print
 - Identifies at least 10 letters of the alphabet
 - Knows that letters of the alphabet are a special category that can be individually named
- Math
 - Numbers and Operations
- Science
- Creative Arts

With the use of ECERS-R and effective ongoing assessment, teachers continue to foster development in all developmental domains. The Creative Curriculum Outcome Report indicates that gaps that were evident were there due to the lack of assessment in some areas. This is being addressed with staff through training in individual county Pre-Service and ongoing file monitoring.

COUNTY SERVICES

Barbour County

HS serves a total of 72 children in Barbour County. All children spoke English as their primary language, 93% were white, with the next most prevalent race being American Indian at 3%. HS children served in Barbour County were equally split in family type between two parents with children(41%) and female single parent (38%). Living arrangements for HS children in PY 43 were 34% living in homes owned by their caregivers, 29% living in unsubsidized rental units, and 22% living in subsidized rental units. 8% of HS children received services for speech/language impairment. Children in the county receive additional health services from Right from the Start Program, Youth Health Outreach, Appalachian Health, and the Birth to Three Program.

Barbour County has four Head Start-operated programs: two located in the northern town of Philippi and the other two at Philip Barbour High School serving children from the southern end. There are two Pre-K HS collaborative classrooms with the Board of Education located at Philippi Elementary School (see table below).

BARBOUR SITES	First day of School	Full/Half Day	Hours of Operation	Number of Hours/Day	Number of Days/Week	Number of Days/Year
Belington Philip – Barbour Pre-K – Head Start	8/27/08	Half	8:00 – 12:00	4	5	160
Belington Philip – Barbour Head Start	8/27/08	Half	12:00 – 4:00	4	5	160
Philippi Elem I ©	8/27/08	Full	9:00 – 3:30	6	4	160
Philippi Elem II ©	8/27/08	Full	9:00 – 3:30	6	4	160
Philippi I	8/27/08	Full	8:00 – 2:00	6	4	128
Philippi II ©	8/27/08	Full	9:00 – 3:00	6	4	128

36% of HS children utilize childcare in a variety of settings. There are 2 licensed childcare centers in Barbour County:

Child Care Center	Capacity
Wee Train Christian Day Care, Junior	56 children (ages birth to 12 years old)
Kid Care, Philippi	54 children (ages birth to 12 years old)

(WVDHHR, 2009)

© Denotes collaboration between HS and local Board of Education or Child Care Center.

There are 25 family childcare providers who may serve a maximum of six children per home; 18 in the Philippi area and 7 in the Belington area. The low number of providers may be due to the costs associated with childcare licensing regulations. The Wee Train and Kid Care day care centers have declined to participate in the Universal Pre-K program at this time due to additional costs which may be incurred.

Marion County

Marion County serves a total of 232 HS and 16 EHS children. Gender of the children is split evenly with 50% male and 50% female. Of the HS children in Marion County, 8% are bi-racial, 7% are African American and 84% are white. 2 % of the children are of Hispanic/Latino origin. All speak English as their primary language. Of the HS children in Marion County, 7% are receiving treatment for a speech or language impairment, and 1% are receiving services for non-categorical or developmental delays. The number of HS children living with two parents is almost half, at 49%, while the next highest category is female single parent (33%). 41% of Head Start children in the county live in homes owned by their parents. Additionally, 28% live in unsubsidized rental housing, and 16% live in subsidized housing. 14% described their living arrangements as “living with friends or family”.

HS has an ancillary services agreement with the Marion County Board of Education (BOE). All HS eligible children are served in an inclusive setting. Because of specific one-on-one services required for some children, there are two exclusive BOE special needs classrooms, but no HS children are in these classrooms. The strong working relationships between HS and the BOE result in positive outcomes including the Universal Pre-K Plan and the maximizing of transportation resources.

Marion County operates 6 Head Start centers and 1 childcare center collaboration (see table below). All of the centers are inclusive settings for special needs children. The collaboration with Sunbeam Childcare Center allows for full-day full year services for families who need childcare.

MARION SITES	HS Children	First Day Of School	Full Day/Half Day	Hours of Operation	Hours/Day	Days/Week	Days/Year
Carolina – I ©	18	8/26/08	Full	8:00 – 2:00	6	4	128
Carolina - II ©	18	8/26/08	Full	9:00 – 3:00	6	4	128
Edgemont – I ©	18	8/26/08	Full	8:00 – 2:00	6	4	128
Edgemont – II ©	20	8/26/08	Full	9:00 – 3:00	6	4	128
Fairmont - I ©	20	8/26/08	Full	8:00 – 2:00	6	4	128
Fairmont –II ©	20	8/26/08	Full	9:00 – 3:00	6	4	128
Mannington – I ©	19	8/26/08	Full	8:00 – 2:00	6	4	128
Mannington – II ©	18	8/26/08	Full	9:15-3:15	6	4	128
Rivesville I ©	18	9/02/08	Full	8:00 – 3:00	7	4	128
Rivesville II ©	18	9/02/08	Full	8:00 – 3:00	7	4	128
Sunbeam CC I ©	5-10	8/26/08	Full	6:30 – 6:00	11.5	5	160

West Fairmont-AM ©	19	8/26/08	Half	8:00 – 12:00	4	5	160
West Fairmont-PM ©	19	8/26/08	Half	12:00 – 4:00	4	5	160

As a collaboration with the Marion County Board of Education, the Marion County Early Head Start Program currently serves 16 children of high school student parents at two local high schools, East Fairmont and the North Marion Vocational Technical Center. This provides Center-based services at the high school while students are able to attend classes and complete their high school education (see table below):

MARION EHS SITES	EHS Children	Full Day/Half Day	Hours of Operation	Hours/Day	Days/Week	Days/Year	Home Visits/Year	Hours of Home Visit
East Fairmont Center ©	8	Full	7:00-3:00	8	5	182	14	1
North Marion Center ©	8	Full	7:00-3:00	8	5	182	14	1

Of the 16 children of high school student parents served by Marion County’s Early Head Start Program, 48% are females and 52% are males. 88% of those parents cited that the children live with friends or family. 81% of the EHS children are Caucasian, and 19% are Bi-Racial. Of the EHS children and parents 40% were of the “multi-adult with children” family type, 40% were single female parents, and 20% were two parents with children. The primary language of the Early Head Start children was English.

All Marion County Head Start centers have been at full enrollment although most centers have minimal wait lists. The Fairmont and Edgemont centers have the largest income eligible wait lists. The Mannington, Carolina, and Rivesville centers are an ongoing concern because they are in the most rural areas. Keeping within the required 45 minute bus run makes it difficult for Head Start to transport all of the eligible children. East Fairmont EHS has an adequate wait list, but North Marion EHS has no wait list of high school students and has begun to enroll community families.

The HS and BOE staff jointly completes Pre-K applications with the HS Supervisor and the BOE liaison selecting children for enrollment. All but 2 of the classrooms now offer full-day services to families and a teaching assistant in each of the full day classrooms were added. 24% of parents report using childcare with another 16% needing childcare for their children based on the agency customer survey.

Marion County currently has 10 licensed child care sites. The Marion County Head Start Program has a collaboration with Sunbeam Child Care that serves 5 eligible children. These sites are listed as follows:

Child Care Center	Capacity
Bright Beginnings Daycare and Preschool	60 children (birth-12 years old)
Fairmont State Laboratory Preschool	15 children (3-5 years old)
First United Methodist Church Child Care	30 children (2-12 years old)

Just Like Home Child Care	30 children (2-12 years old)
Kids R Special, Inc.	109 children (birth-12 years old)
Little Precious Ones Daycare, LLC	92 children (birth-5 years old)
Rivesville Heart Junction Child Care Center, Site 1	60 children (2-5 years old)
Sunbeam Child Care	72 children (birth-12 years old)
Valley Chapel Child Development Center	45 children (2-12 years old)
Wonderland Learning and Child Care Center	60 children (birth-12 years old)

(WVDHHR, 2009)

Monongalia County

Monongalia County is within the general NCWVCAA service area, but its HS service component is provided by the Monongalia BOE as the Delegate provider. The BOE serves 181 HS children and of those, 95% were cited as using English as their primary language, with 3% using Spanish and 3% cited as “other”. As in many counties, the gender of HS children is equally split in Monongalia County, with 50% males and 50% females. 49% are two parent families with children, 33% are female single parent families, and 17% are multi-adults with children. In terms of living arrangements, 30% of HS children in the county live in homes owned by their parents. An additional 34% live in unsubsidized rental housing, and 22% live in subsidized rental housing. Caucasians make up 82% of the race category for children in Monongalia County, with Bi-Racial (12%) and African American (7%) being the next two largest categories. 4% of HS children in the county received special needs services in the area of speech or language impairment, while 12% were cited as receiving assistance with non-categorical/developmental delays. One child received assistance due to traumatic brain injury.

Monongalia County Head Start has adopted the Creative Curriculum and uses their web-based assessment system CreativeCurriculum.Net. Head Start children are assigned to schools based on their attendance area and are in classrooms with over-income children as well as with children who are developmentally delayed. All teachers have either bachelor or masters degrees in preschool or preschool special needs. Teachers receive support from Preschool Academic Coaches as well as Family Service Specialists who serve as a liaison between the school and family. The classroom environment is assessed annually with the Early Childhood Environmental Rating System (ECERS-R).

DELEGATE	Full Day/Half Day	Days/Week
MONONGALIA		
Brookhaven	Full	4
Easton(Cheat Lake Woodburn)	Full	4
Mason Dixon	Full	4
Mountainview	Full	4
Mylan	Full	4
MTEC	Full	4
North	Full	4
Ridgedale	Full	4
Skyview	Full	4

Sundcrest	Full	4
Presbyterian Child Development Center	Full	5

Monongalia County has 22 licensed child care sites. Monongalia County Delegate has a collaborative partnership with Presbyterian Child Development Center. These sites are listed as follows:

Child Care Center	Capacity
Chyleen's Two and Threes Day Care, LLC	31 children (2-5 years old)
Covenant Day School	43 children (3-5 years old)
Dreamland Development, LLC	245 children (0-12 years old)
Duseyland	56 children (0-12 years old)
Fair Play, LLC	54 children (0-12 years old)
Future Steps Child Dev. Center	75 children (0-12 years old)
Hobbie Horse Child Development Center	34 children (0-12 years old)
Kids Korner	71 children (0-12 years old)
Kinder Haus	123 children (0-12 years old)
Little Tikes Childcare Center	44 children (0-12 years old)
Mon Kids Child Development Center	68 children (0-12 years old)
Mon Kids School Age Program	15 children (5-12 years old)
Morgantown Early Learning Facility	95 children (2-12 years old)
Morgantown Learning Academy	100 children (3-12 years old)
Place of Grace Early Learning Center	74 children (0-12 years old)
Playworks 2	45 children (2-12 years old)
Playworks Child Development Center	75 children (2-12 years old)
Presbyterian Child Development Center	109 children (0-12 years old)
Scotts Run Settlement House	40 children (2-12 years old)
Toys and Tots Day Care Center	120 children (0-12 years old)
WVUH Child Development Center	177 children (0-12 years old)

(WVDHHR, 2009)

Pocahontas County

Twenty children participated in HS in Pocahontas County. Of those, 100% utilize English as their primary language. 50% of the children live in two-parent family types, with 38% living with a female single parent. 54% of the children served in Pocahontas County are females, and 46% are males. A notable statistic is that of the 20 families served by HS in the county, 50% live in unsubsidized rental housing, with the next highest category being 35% home ownership. Caucasians make up 96% of HS children in Pocahontas County, with the next largest group being Bi-Racial children at 4%. Of the 20 HS children in the county, 5% were assisted with a speech or language impairment and 15% had non-categorical special needs or developmental delays.

HS contracted with School Days Child Care to provide services for up to 20 HS children participating in pre-K at four sites in Pocahontas County (see table below).

POCAHONTAS SITES	First Day of School	Full Day/Half Day	Hours of Operation	Hours/Day	Days/Week	Days/Year
Hillsboro ©	8/26/08	Full	9:00-4:00	7	4	148
Marlinton ©	8/26/08	Full	8:15-3:15	7	4	148
School Days I ©	8/26/08	Full	8:00-3:00	7	4	148
School Days II ©	8/26/08	Full	8:00-3:00	7	4	148

In August 2008, School Days Child Care hired a new a part time FRC to provide services to the HS children and families. Parents of all 20 HS children reported needing childcare for their children with 57% reporting using care, according to the community needs survey. School Days Child Care offers preschool services to 43 regular full-time children from ages six weeks to five years. They serve eleven HS children. Their after school program provides care for 25 non-HS children. School Days Childcare is the only licensed childcare facility in the county. They have locations in Marlinton, Snowshoe and Silver Creek and have a capacity of 60 children ages 0-12. In addition, there are nine approved family childcare providers in the county. Kid's First Childcare closed in 2008.

Preston County

HS serves 111 children in Preston County. All of the HS children in Preston County utilize English as their primary language. 53% of the HS children served in the county are males, and 47% are females. In terms of family type, 53% of the children live in two parent households, with 31% residing with female single parents, and 12% living in multi-adult with children households. 96% of Preston County HS children are Caucasian with the next highest category being Bi-Racial (4%). Living arrangements for children, according to the demographic tables, are 71% living in a home ownership situation, 19% living in unsubsidized rental housing, and 6% living in subsidized rental housing.

10% of children served are receiving treatment for speech or language impairments, while 1% are receiving treatment for orthopedic impairment or physical therapy.

The HS and Preston County Board of Education (BOE) Universal Pre-K collaboration served 216 children in 11 classrooms (see table below).

PRESTON SITES	First Day of School	Full Day/Half Day	Hours of Operation	Hours/Day	Days/Week	Days/Year	Staff at Site
Howesville I ©	9/02/08	Full	7:30-2:00	6.5	4	128	3
Howesville II ©	9/02/08	Full	8:15-2:35	6.5	4	128	3
Valley I ©	9/02/08	Full	7:30-2:00	6.5	4	128	3
Valley II ©	9/09/08	Full	7:10-2:10	7	4	128	3
Rowlesburg ©	9/02/08	Full	7:10-2:10	7	4	128	3

Bruceton I ©	9/02/08	Full	7:00-2:00	7	4	128	3
Bruceton II ©	9/02/08	Full	7:15–2:15	7	4	128	3
Kingwood I ©	9/02/08	Full	8:15-2:45	6.5	4	128	3
Kingwood II ©	9/02/08	Full	7:50-2:45	7	4	128	2
Kingwood III	9/02/08	Full	8:00-3:00	7	4	128	2
Terra Alta ©	9/02/08	Full	7:20–2:35	7	4	128	3
Little Bear Day Care	9/02/08	Full	8:00-1:00	5	5	128	2

Early Head Start services are provided to 12 children prenatal to 3 years of age in Preston County. Of these 12 EHS children, 47% are females and 53% are males. All of the children are Caucasian and utilize English as their primary language. 53% of the EHS children live in two parent families, with 13% living with female single parents, and 13% living in multi-adult households. Of the 12 children, 60% reside in a home ownership situation, with 20% living in unsubsidized rental housing, 13% living in subsidized rental housing, and 7% living with friends or family. The Preston County EHS relocated its office and socialization site in the fall of 2008 from the Brumfield House to the Cornerstone Church in Reedsville on Route 7.

PRESTON	EHS children	Full Day/Half Day	Home Visits/Year	Hours of Home Visit	Socializations/Year	Hours/Socializations
Preston EHS (HB)	12	HB	44	1.5	24	1.5

Twenty-eight percent of HS children needed childcare, most families used a relative or other adult for care, according to the community needs survey. The average cost of childcare in Preston County is \$15 per day. Surveys continue to demonstrate a lack of affordable childcare centers in the county. The information below shows licensed daycare centers and the number of children served by each. In addition to these, there are five Mountainheart-approved family childcare homes.

Child Care Center	Capacity
First Presbyterian Day Care, Kingwood	24 children (ages 2-12 years old)
Hugs and Kisses Daycare, Reedsville	60 children (ages 2-12 years old)
Little Bear Daycare, Hazelton	55 children (ages birth-12 years old)

(WVDHHR, 2009)

As of the writing of this Community Needs Assessment, there has also been a major change in the Board of Education with the resignation of the Preston County Superintendent and the assumption of

control of the County Board of Education by the WV Board of Education. It is unclear at this time how this change will affect Pre-K in Preston County in the upcoming year.

Randolph County

Head Start serves 86 children in Randolph County. 99% of the HS children are Caucasian and 1% are African American. English is the primary language for all of the children served in Randolph County, and the gender of the children is almost equally distributed with 47% females and 53% males. 50% of the HS children served in the county live in two parent households, with the next highest categories being female single parent (32%) and households with multiple adults (16%). 43% of the children live in a home ownership situation with 43% living in unsubsidized rental housing, 18% living with friends and family, and 14% living in subsidized rental housing. 4% of the children were treated for speech or language impairments, while 4% were treated for non-categorical special needs and/or developmental delays.

The NCWVCAA Randolph County Head Start program continues to collaborate with the Randolph County Board of Education (BOE) to provide Pre-K services to approximately 214 students with a waiting list of 21 students. Both HS eligible and over income children are served as the programs move towards Universal Pre-K services. Services are provided at ten sites within the local elementary schools (see table below). In addition, 10 families at Valley Head Elementary Preschool receive family and community partnership services.

RANDOLPH SITES	HS Children	First Day of School	Full Day/Half Day	Hours of Operation	Hours/Day	Days/Week	Days/Year
Beverly ©	18	9/08/08	Full	8:30-3:30	7	4	140
Coalton ©	18	9/08/08	Full	8:30-3:30	7	4	140
George Ward Elem I ©	20	9/08/08	Full	8:30-3:30	7	4	140
Harman ©	18	9/08/08	Full	8:30-3:30	7	4	140
Homestead ©	18	9/08/08	Full	7:30-2:30	7	4	140
Jennings Randolph ©	20	9/08/08	Full	8:30-3:30	7	4	140
Midland I ©	18	9/08/08	Full	8:00-3:30	7.5	4	140
Midland II ©	18	9/08/08	Full	8:00-3:30	7.5	4	140
North ©	20	9/08/08	Full	8:30-3:30	7	4	140
Third Ward ©	20	9/08/08	Full	8:30-3:30	7	4	140

RANDOLPH	EHS Children	Full Day/Half Day	Home Visits/Year	Hours of Home Visit	Socializations/Year	Hours/Socializations
EHS Elkins (HB)	12	HB	44	1.5	24	1.5

EHS Midland (HB)	6	HB	44	1.5	24	1.5
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Approximately thirty students dropped from the program since classes began. The majority of the drops were due to families relocating out of the area. All wait listed families are offered a place where there is a vacancy. However, all chose to wait for openings at specific sites, either in their home district or a site which meets their transportation needs.

There were a few changes in sites in PY 43. One of the two George Ward Elementary classrooms moved to Harman due to demographic changes. HS does not count children at Valley Head Pre-K due to the employment of only one staff person; a teacher.

The Early Head Start Home-based program continues to be fully enrolled with 18 children. There is currently one full-time Family Educator serving 12 children and their families. A Family Educator also serves 6 additional children and their families. Family Educators schedule weekly Home Visits in which they provide individualized services. Socializations are held twice a month at the Midland EHS site, on the grounds of Midland Elementary. The program maintains full enrollment, but continues to actively recruit income eligible children and families.

Gender among the 18 children currently enrolled in the EHS Home-based program is evenly split with 50% males and 50% females. The living arrangements of these children is cited as 64% living in unsubsidized rental housing, 18% living in a home ownership situation, and 9% percent each, living in subsidized rental housing or with friends and family. The Early Head Start children in Randolph County are all Caucasian and 96% utilize English as their primary language, with 4% utilizing Spanish. 91% of the children are living in a two-parent household, with 18% living with female single parents, and 5% living in multi-adult households.

Twenty-two percent of children need child care and most of them need care before and after school, according to the Community Needs Survey. Unlike several other NCWVCAA Counties, Randolph County has five child care facilities:

Child Care Center	Capacity
Discovery Corner	30 to 40 children
Home Ties, Youth Health Services	117 children
Elkins Montessori	44 children
Play & Learn Child Care Center	26 children
RayZum With Us Child Care	20 children

(WVDHHR, 2009)

Mountain Heart Child Care Services provides child care referrals for approximately 151 clients via an approved network of 84 family childcare providers. Most Head Start families report using either family-based childcare or care provided by a relative or other adult.

One significant update is the recent retirement of the Superintendent of Schools in Randolph County. The position is to be filled by the former Superintendent of Marion County Schools beginning July 1, 2009. It is currently unclear how this will affect Pre-K in Randolph County, but NCWVCAA to-date has had a positive relationship with the incoming Superintendent during his tenure in Marion County.

Taylor County

Head Start has a funded allotment of 79 children in Taylor County. Of these children, 99% are Caucasian and all speak English as their primary language. Gender is not as equally divided in Taylor County, with 44% females and 56% males served by Head Start. 59% of the children live in two parent households, 22% with single parent females, and 10% in multi-adult households. The living arrangements of HS children in Taylor County include 52% living in houses own by their parents or guardians, and 19% each in unsubsidized and subsidized rental housing. A total of 9% are living with friends or family. Of the HS children in the county, 14% receive services for a speech or language impairment, 3% receive special needs assistance due to Autism, and 1% each, receive services for emotional/behavioral disorders and orthopedic impairment/physical therapy.

Taylor County Head Start is in the eighth year of collaboration with the Taylor County Board of Education (BOE). In spring 2008, it was one of the first two programs in West Virginia awarded Universal Preschool status. Head Start classes are all center-based in Taylor County serving 79 children in collaborative settings (see table below). In total, the Taylor County Collaborative Preschools serve 124 children. Head Start operates an additional class of seventeen children, primarily 3-year olds. Little Shepherds Preschool at the Church of the Good Shepherd also has ten children ages 3 or 4; classes are three days a week for 3.5 hours per day.

Taylor Sites	First Day of School	Full Day/Half Day	Hours of Operation	Hours/Day	Days/Week	Days/Year
Anna Jarvis I A & B ©	9/02/08	Full	8:00-3:00	7	4	144
Anna Jarvis II ©	9/02/08	Full	8:00-3:00	7	4	144
Flemington ©	9/02/08	Half	8:00-12:00	4	5	160
Lucretia – AM	9/02/08	Half	8:00-12:00	4	5	160
Lucretia – PM ©	9/02/08	Half	12:00-4:00	4	5	160
Webster ©	9/02/08	Half	9:15-1:15	4	5	160
West Taylor Elem ©	9/02/08	Full	8:00-3:00	7	4	144

There were 13 four year-olds on the Anna Jarvis Preschool wait list in PY 43 compared to 10 in PY 42. There are 8 four year-olds on West Taylor Preschool’s wait list in contrast to 15 in PY 42. The low census of 4-year-olds at the Flemington Preschool in PY 43 is not anticipated in PY 44 as the demographic assessment shows 25 Head Start eligible 4-year-olds in the area. Consistent bus service and improved weather should resolve attendance issues in the Lucretia AM program. There were six snow days and four days of school delays in January 2009. With HS wait lists of 4-year-olds for the past six years, no recruitment problems are anticipated.

64% of the families responding to the 2008 Community Needs Survey indicated they desire full-day preschool services. 4-hour classes do not accommodate the schedules of working parents. There is no after-school program or licensed day care in Taylor County. Parents need safe, dependable child care; another full-day class would solve this issue for another twenty families.

With few child care services in Taylor County, there may be an increased need for childcare while parents work several part-time jobs or attend job training. The faltering economy may dictate families locate full-day preschool classes, a more cost-efficient child care option. Wrap-around child care could be an option at the Webster Center or at the Lucretia Center if the collaborative class were relocated to Anna Jarvis Elementary. WVDHHR currently lists no available, licensed child care facilities in Taylor County. (WVDHHR, 2009)

Tucker County

Head Start is Home-based in Tucker County (see table below). In this sparsely populated county, it serves two 3 and three 4 year olds. The 4 year olds are all projected to attend kindergarten in the fall of 2009. In 2008, families were active in both programs including parent meetings and social events. Attendance for socialization in Head Start has been good but attendance for Early Head Start has been lower than in the past years.

Tucker	Full/Half Day	Home Visits/Year	Hours of Home Visit	Socializations/Year	Hours of Socialization
Tucker HS (HB)	HB	32	1.5	16	3.5
Tucker EHS (HB)	HB	44	1.5	16	1.5

Of the 5 children who receive HS services in Tucker County, all are Caucasian and speak English as their primary language. 57% are males and 43% are females. Family type is almost equally divided between multi-adult households (33%), two parent households (33%), and female single parents (33%). No children in HS are receiving special needs services. 43% of HS children in Tucker County live in a home ownership situation, with subsidized rental housing (29%), unsubsidized rental housing (14%), and living with friends or family (14%) making up the next largest categories.

HS has Inter-Agency agreements with the Tucker County BOE, Family Resource Center, Starting Points, and Mountain Heart. Recruitment for both programs began January 2009 with particular assistance from WIC and the Tucker County Health Department.

All five HS children in Tucker County need childcare with 80% of their parents expressing a preference to find it in conjunction with a pre-K, center-based classroom program, according to the Community Needs Survey. There are 17 registered family childcare homes in Tucker County and no licensed childcare centers. (WVDHHR, 2009)

Tucker County also offers Home-based Early Head Start services to a total of 6 children. 67% of these EHS children are females and 33% are males. All are Caucasian and all utilize English as their primary language. 75% live in two parent households and 25% live with single female parents in unsubsidized rental housing (50%), home ownership situations (33%), or with friends or family (17%).

Webster County

Head Start in Webster County has a funded enrollment of 58 children. 97% are Caucasian, 3% are Bi-Racial, and all utilize English as their primary language. 49% are females and 51% are males. 9% of the HS children in Webster County receive services for speech or language impairment, and 5% receive services for non-categorical needs or developmental delays. 57% live in two parent housings, 24% with single parent females, and 14% in multi-adult households. Living arrangements are primarily home ownership (57%), with many children also living in subsidized rental housing (18%), unsubsidized rental housing (16%), or with friends and family (6%).

73% of parents now want full-day programming, replacing half-day as the preference, according to the Community Needs Survey. As shown in the table below, the county collaboration with Head Start expanded full day Pre-K educational opportunities in three of the four elementary schools. At present, Webster County Pre-K Collaborative Programs include Cowen Pre-K, Diana Pre-K, and Webster Springs I and II. A Home-based option continues to be available in the Cowen area serving 10 enrollees. Each of the full-day sites has a collaborative agreement with the Board of Education. There is also a BOE operated half-day program for 4 year olds at Glade Elementary that does not include HS children in the count.

WEBSTER SITES	First Day of School	Full Day/ Half Day	Hours of Operation	Hours/ Day	Days /Week	Days/ Year	Home Visits/ Year	Hours of Home Visits	Socializations/Year	Hours of Socialization
Cowen	9/09/08	Full	8:30 - 2:30	6	4	128				
Cowen	9/02/08	HB					32	1.5	16	3.5
Diana	9/09/08	Full	8:00 – 3:00	7.00	4	128				
Webster Springs I	9/09/08	Full	8:00 – 3:00	7.00	4	128				
Webster Springs II ©	9/09/08	Full	8:00 – 3:00	7.00	4	128				

Webster County’s wait lists are maintained. There were 2 drops and 1 student transfer. Cowen Pre-K resolved transportation issues by collaborating with the BOE to provide bus transportation for the four year old students. Parents must continue to transport three year olds due to lack of child safety restraints on buses.

HS and the BOE continue to work toward the expansion Universal Pre-K through collaborations. Impact studies are complete and will assist in the consideration of new collaborations with the Mountain Cap Child Development Center in Cowen and the Hacker Valley Pre-K. At this time, it is unclear how the fall 2009 opening of the new Hacker Valley Elementary School will affect services at Diana Pre-K.

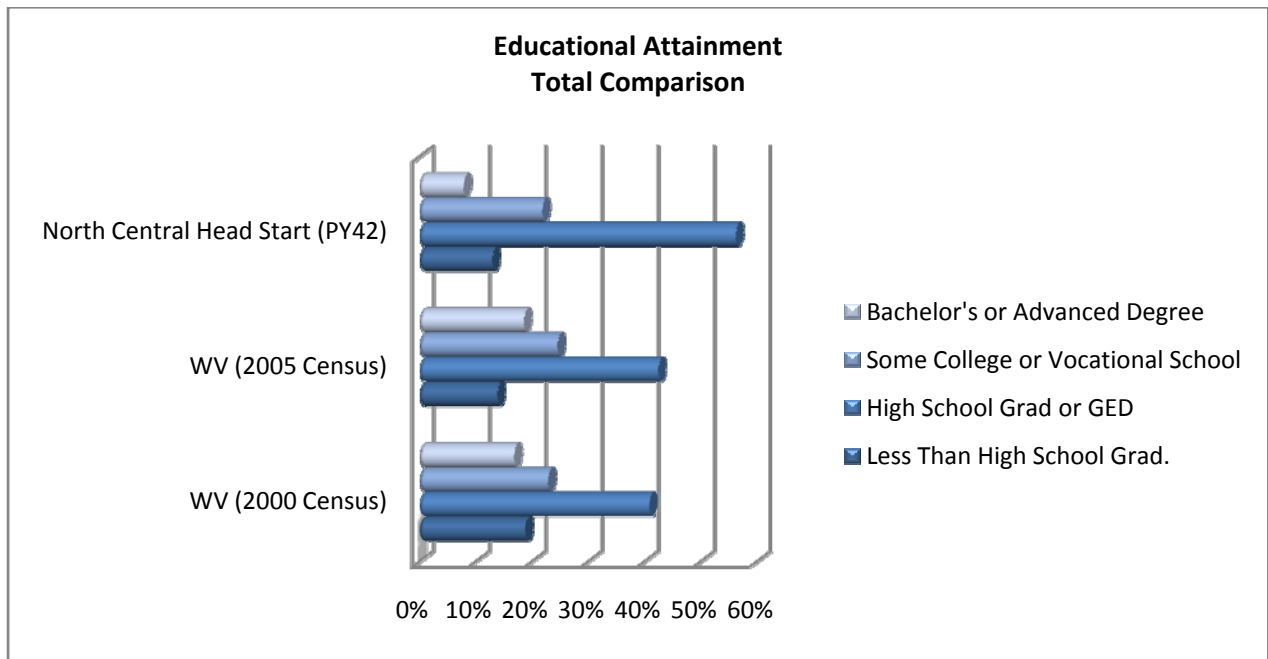
42 % of HS families utilize child care with an additional 15% needing child care; particularly after school care, according to the Community Needs Survey. The Mountain Cap Child Development Center in Cowen completed an addition to their facility in October 2008. The expansion provides space for a toddler room

and increased capacity by up to 18 children. There is no change in availability of other services. Mountain Cap Child Development is the only licensed child care center in Webster County.

Educational Attainment: K-12 and Post-Secondary Education

West Virginia ranked 36th out of 50 states in percent of adults 25-64 completing at least a high school diploma/GED in 2005. According to the 2005 Census, West Virginia has a larger percentage of the population who completed high school, but no post secondary education and a larger population who did not complete high school than the rest of the nation. It ranked last in the nation with those completing at least a bachelor’s degree at 19% compared to 29% nationally.

However, the state made progress on high school completion and degree attainment since 2000 (see below). NCWVCAA families graduated from high school at higher rates than the state average, but were below the state in some college and far below in degree completion with only 8% completing at least a bachelor’s degree. Data gathered was at the family level, but not the parent level. The reporting by family could mask lower educational rates as parents only reported the highest education level in the family. Thus, county family data may make it appear as if higher percentages of parents have completed a particular level of education. In the future, collecting information on each parent will provide better information. Even with this data limitation, increasing post-secondary education/training would enhance families’ opportunities to obtain better paying jobs.



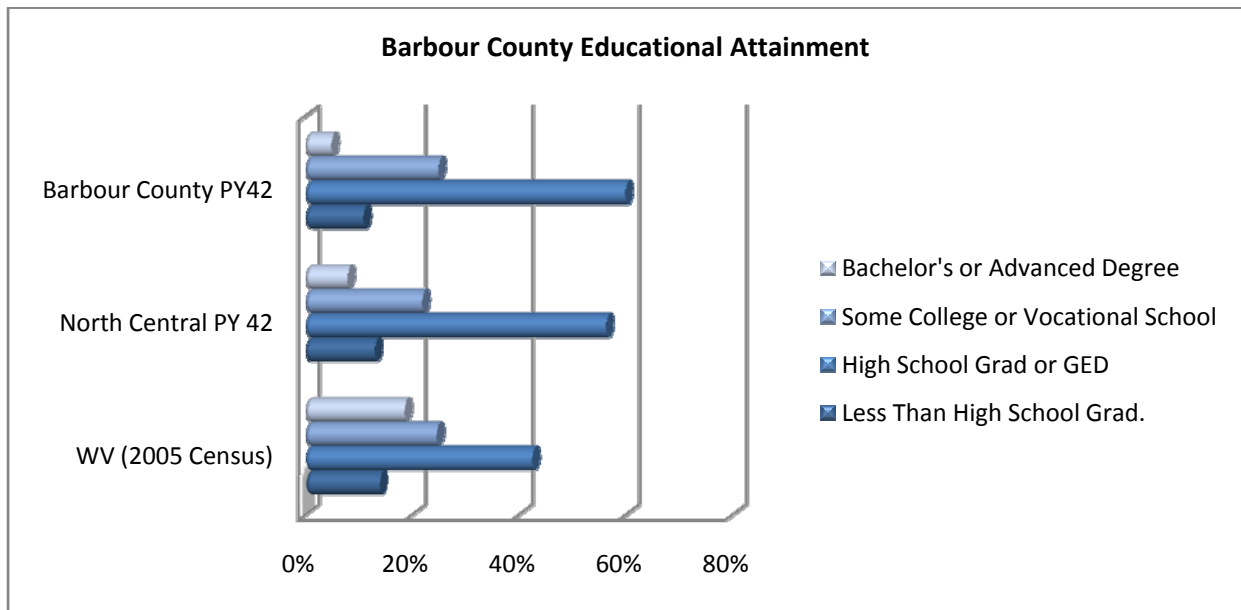
Barbour County

There are several post-secondary education opportunities in the county. Alderson Broaddus College is a four year college emphasizing Physicians Assistant and Nursing programs. The Mollohan Training Center, located on the Alderson Broaddus campus, provides job readiness skills. Additional education and training opportunities are available through Fairmont State College which provides outreach classes at the Barbour County Vo-Tech Center four nights per week.

The public school system has six elementary schools for children preschool through 5th grade. Three middle schools serve children 6th through 8th grades while one high school vocational school serves the county. Barbour County Schools maintained a graduation rate of 79% for the 2005-2006 school years after an unusual increase in 2004-2005. A higher percentage of HS families in Barbour County have completed high school or some college than either the state or overall NCWVCAA HS family rates. A much smaller percent completed a bachelor's degree.

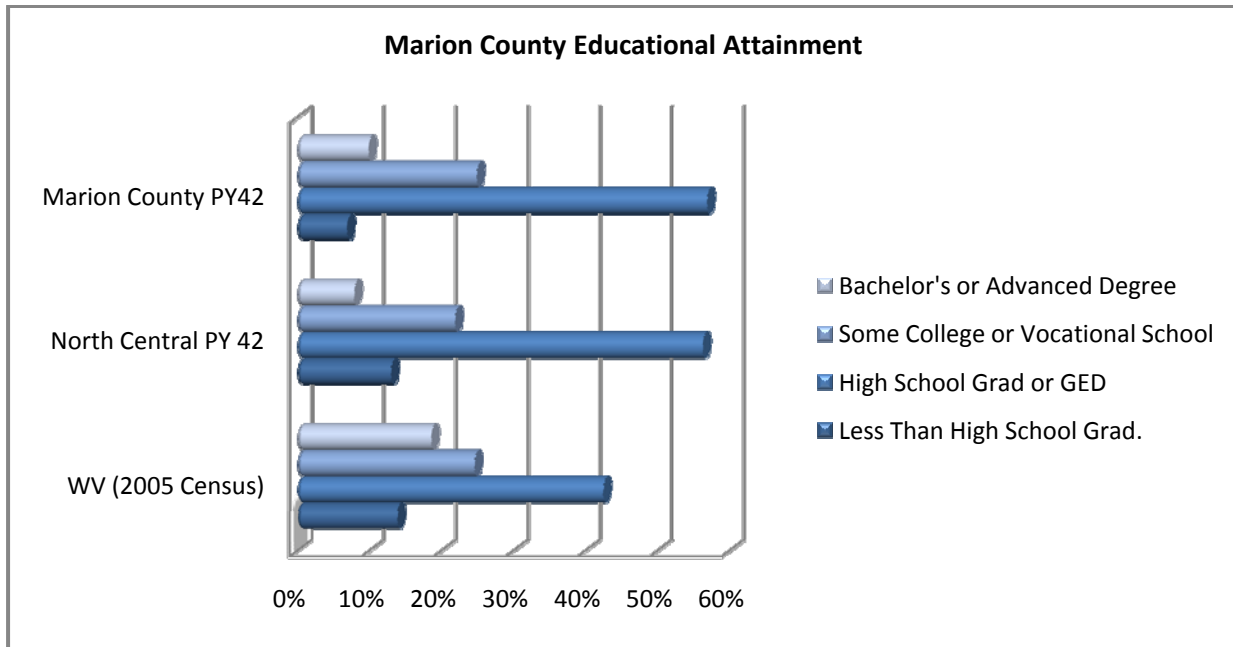
Barbour County has one private Christian school that serves 42 children in K through 8th grade. The county has an active Home School Association that facilitates parents who are home schooling their children. According to the Barbour County Board of Education, 48 children are currently home schooled in Barbour County - four times as many children as last year.

The average class size for Barbour County Schools decreased to 18.5 students from last year's 19.2. Barbour County has five Title I Schools in the County. All five Title I Schools continue to have Distinguished School Status.



Marion County

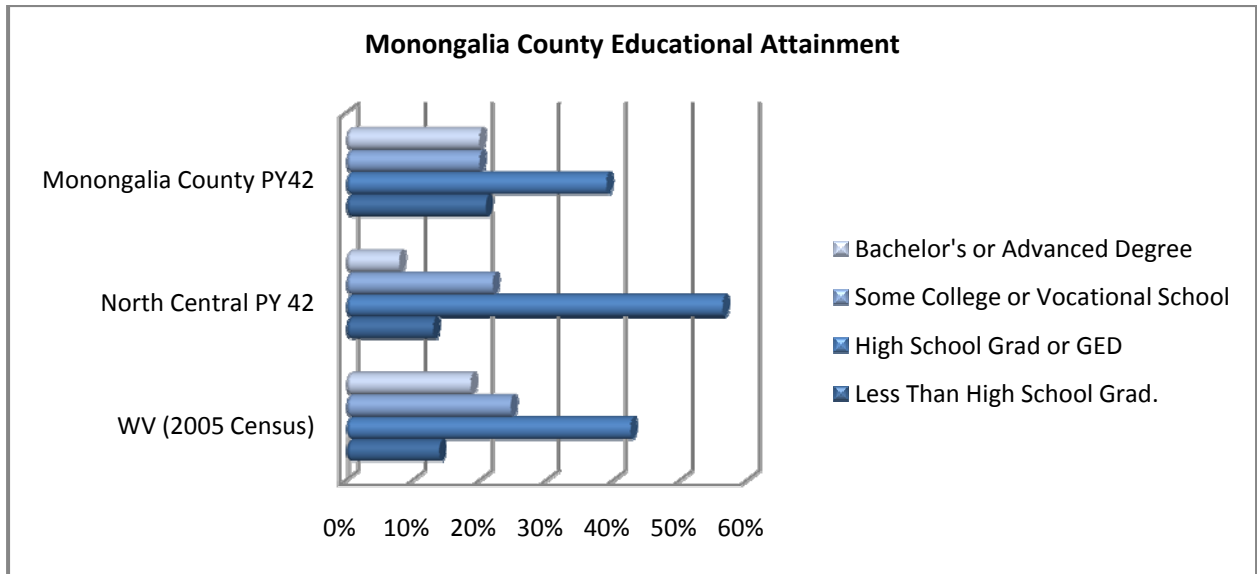
Marion County is home to one college, Fairmont State University, 12 elementary schools, 7 secondary schools, and 3 high schools. The new middle school in Fairmont opened in March 2007. This triggered the closing of Dunbar Elementary and Miller Junior High schools. High school dropout rates inched up over 3% from 2003-2007. In contrast, significantly fewer HS families appear to have less than a high school diploma than the state, county or NCWVCAA families as a whole. Marion County HS families completed high school at similar levels as other NCWVCAA HS families. A higher percent completed at least a bachelor's degree than other families, but still significantly below state levels. 56% of HS families indicated that they would like to further their education but cost and affordable dependent care are the restraints.



Monongalia County

County residents have access to a number of higher education institutions and programs. West Virginia University is located here. In addition, residents have access to the West Virginia Career College, Monongalia County Technical Education Center, or Fairmont State University.

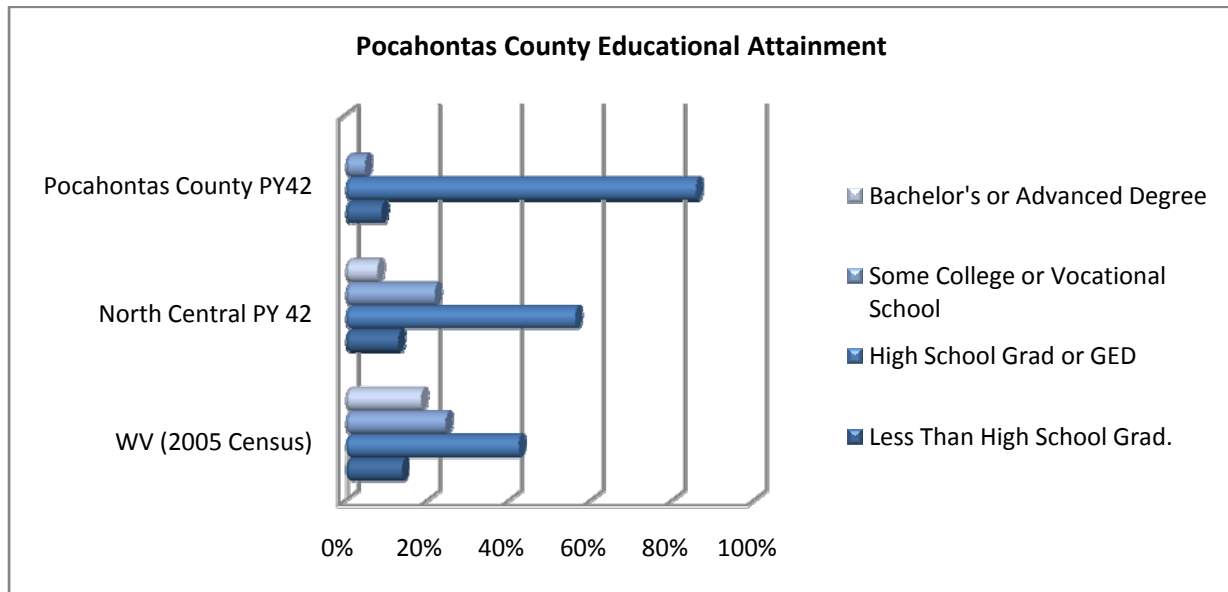
High school dropout rates increased from 2003-2007. In contrast, significantly fewer HS families appear to have less than a high school diploma than the state, county, or NCWVCAA families as a whole. Marion County HS families completed high school at similar levels as other NCWVCAA HS families. A higher percent completed at least a bachelor's degree than other families, but still significantly below state levels.



Pocahontas County

In Pocahontas County, post-secondary education is offered through night classes at the high school and online through Bluefield State College, Shepherd State College, and Greenbrier Community College. The Pocahontas County dropout rate decreased significantly in the 2005-2006 school year to 14.5% down from 21.1% and 22.3% the two previous school years. The highest education level for HS families was at the high school completion level with only one family going beyond that level out of 22 families. Although a small number of families, their education level is disproportionately below other families which likely are limiting their wage and job opportunities.

The Pocahontas County Public School System has two elementary schools that offer preschool through 4th grade. Marlinton Elementary serves 276 students, a 4.7% decrease in the last year. Hillsboro serves 99 students. Green Bank Elementary/Middle School serves 285 students from preschool through eighth grade down 36, an 11% decline. Marlinton Middle serves 231 students from both the Marlinton and Hillsboro areas, down 3.9%. Pocahontas High School in Dunmore is the only high school in Pocahontas County serving 380 students, with a 4.2% decrease. The per-pupil expenditure in the Pocahontas County Public School System is \$7,087, slightly above the state average of \$6,962. There are 50 children who are home-schooled.

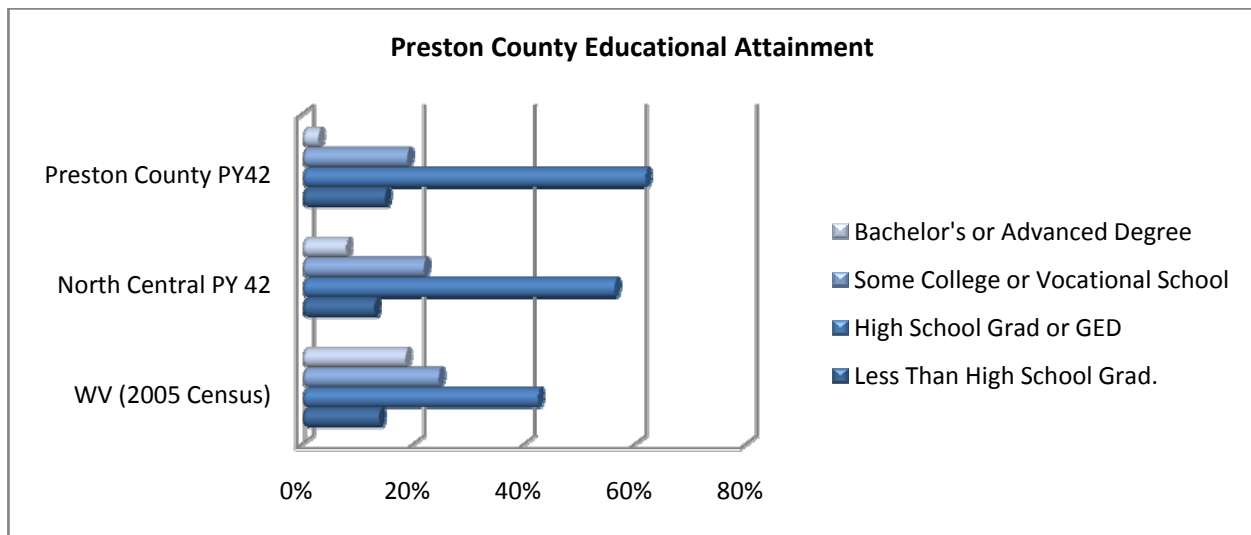


Preston County

Preston County HS families have a much higher percentage of high school completion (62%) and a much lower percent of college degrees (3%) than the state or even other HS families served by NCWVCAA. While there is no post-secondary institution in the county, Fairmont State University in Marion County recently formed a partnership with Preston High School to enhance adult education and to give high school students an early start towards college requirements. This could help increase the percentage of resident who work towards a college degree.

The residents of Preston County receive educational services through one high school, Preston High School, one vocational school, 4 middle schools, and 8 elementary schools. Kingwood Elementary, with an enrollment of approximately 600 students, is one of the largest elementary schools in West Virginia. Because of structural problems with the building, Preston Middle School students were brought into the High School in 2007.

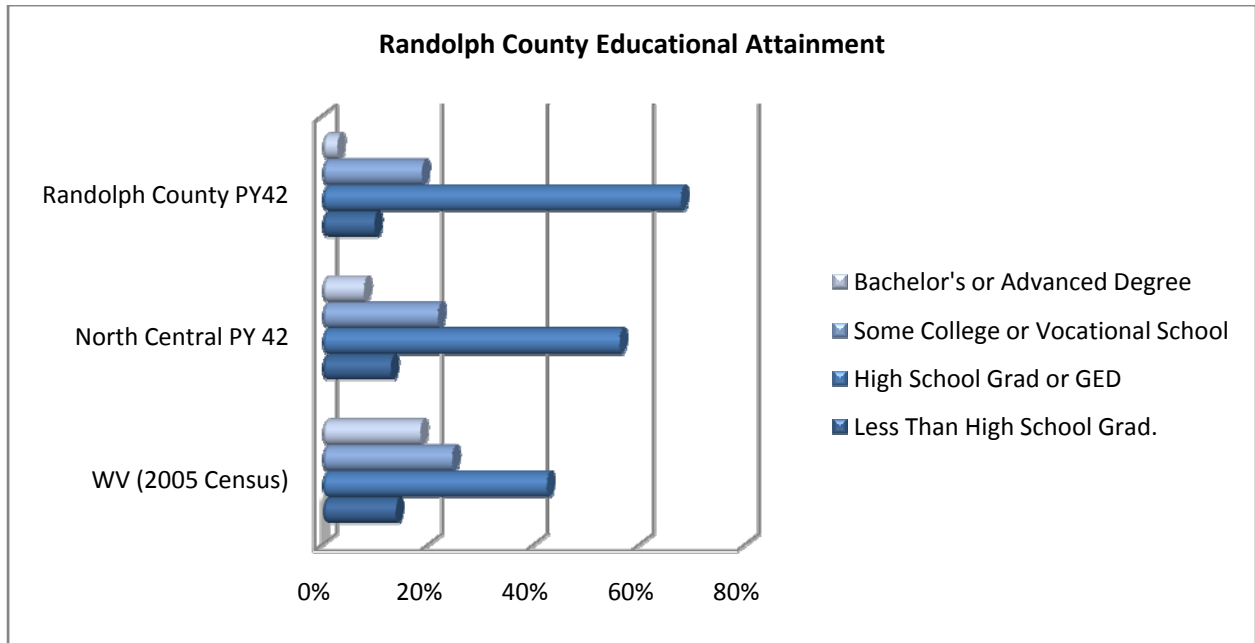
Preston County School declined 41 students—65% in Grades 1-5 in the past 30 years in the southern elementary districts (Fellowsville, Newburg, Rowlesburg, Aurora, and Tunnelton). The "middle districts" along the Route 7 east-west corridor (Valley, Kingwood-Albright, Terra Alta) have seen an enrollment decline of 28-31% while the northern part of the county (Bruceton) has shown a stable enrollment.



Randolph County

Post-secondary education and skills training are available at several satellite sites for Fairmont State University, WVU, and Marshall University as well as at Davis & Elkins College, a four-year liberal arts college, located in Elkins. High school dropout rates rose gradually from 2003-2006 from 11.8 to 14.7%. However, fewer Randolph County HS families have less than a high school level education. 68% are high school graduates or have a GED, but no post-secondary education. Only 3% completed college in contrast to 19% of West Virginians.

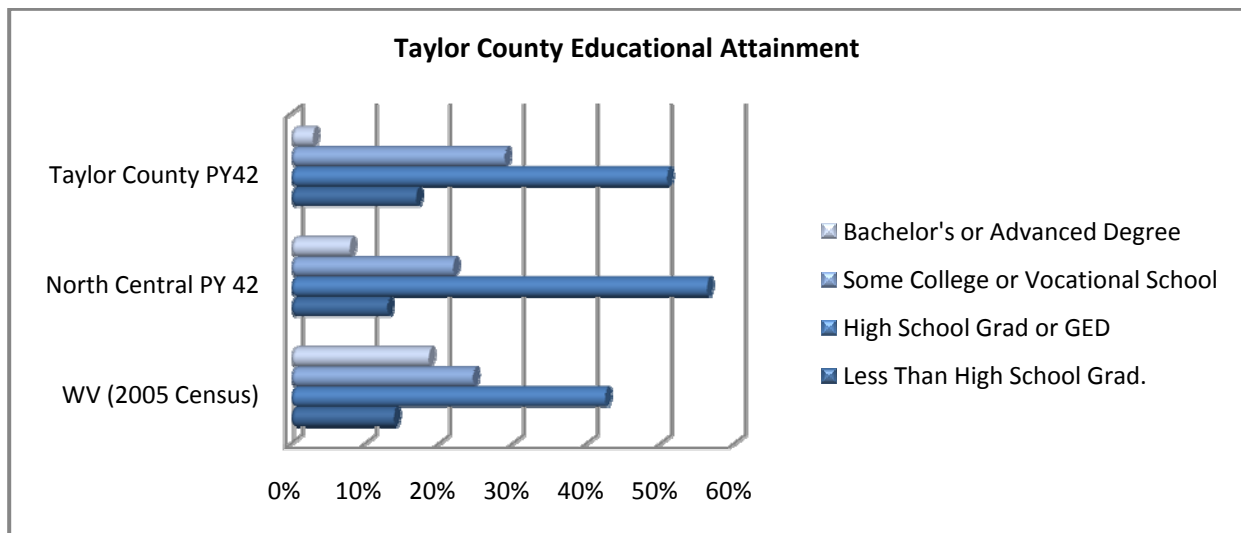
Randolph County Schools enrolled 4,430 students in 2006-2007. This is an increase of 63 students from the 2005-2006 academic school years. Private and parochial schools are also available in the county. Three churches offer education for students K-12. Population, public assistance and housing statistics remain relatively unchanged.



Taylor County

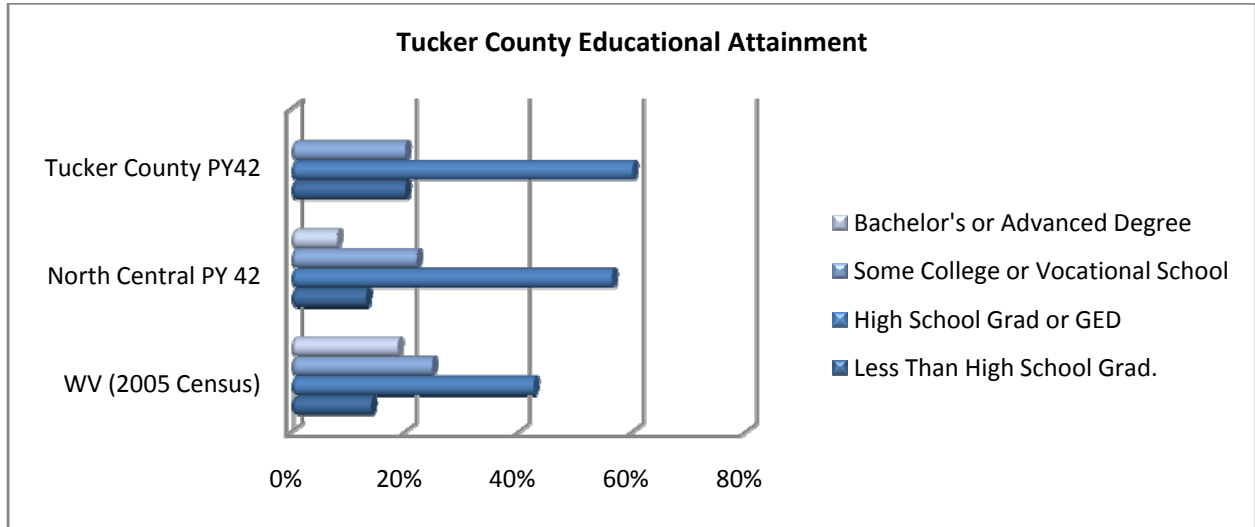
Taylor County's dropout rate of 25.5% in 2006 was the worst in the state. 17% of HS families have not completed high school or obtained a GED, the second highest percentage in the service area. In contrast, a higher percentage of families completed at least some amount of post-secondary education. Only 3% have college degrees, well below the state average. While there is no community college in Taylor County, four college courses are offered each semester at the Taylor County Technical Center by Fairmont State University and vocational classes are offered to adults.

The Taylor County Public School System has three elementary schools enrolling children preschool through 4th grade. Taylor County Middle School is outside the Grafton City Limits and serves students in grades 5-8. Grafton High School and the Taylor County Technical Center share the downtown campus and serve students grades 9-12. All the schools in Taylor County have met national "No Child Left Behind" standards.



Tucker County

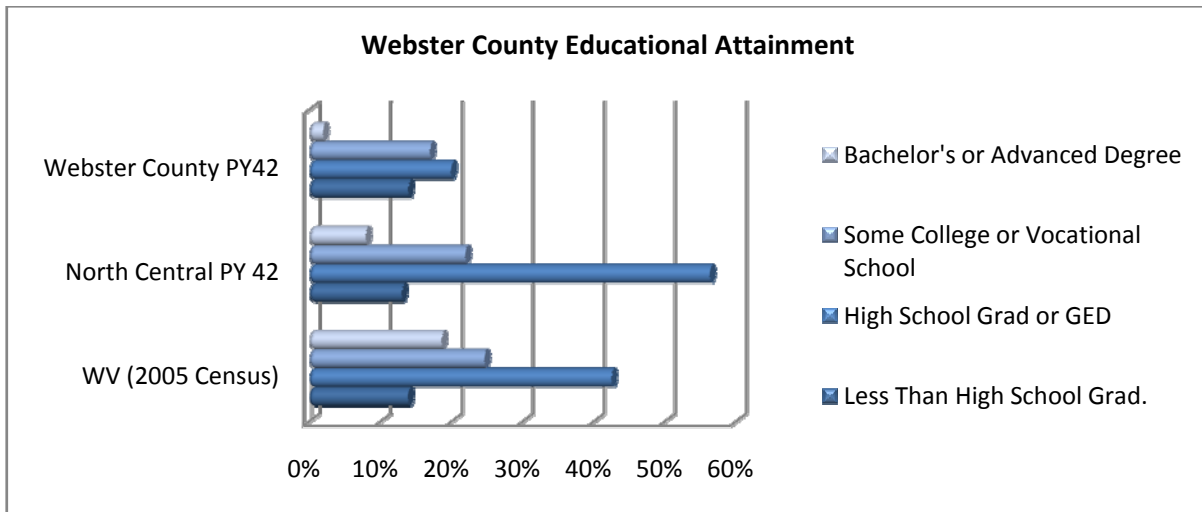
Tucker County’s dropout rate is the lowest in the state at 6.3% in 2006. In 2006-2007, 398 students attended Tucker County High School which was a decrease of 4 students from the previous year. Davis Thomas Elementary & Middle School had 191 students, a decline of 28 students while Tucker Valley Elementary Middle School 566 students, an increase of 17 students. Tucker County Schools also provide a before and after program in Parsons to approximately 189 children, a decrease by 47 children.



Webster County

Webster County’s dropout rate decreased .4% in 2006 after increasing from 11.6% in 2004 to 15.5% in 2005. A significantly higher percentage of HS families have achieved less than a high school diploma/GED than for the state or the nation; a higher percentage has at least some college. Only 3% have completed at least a bachelor’s degree. While this represents a relatively small number of families (34), the high percentage of families below the high school graduate level is an issue to be examined. There are no post-secondary institutions in Webster County so residents have to travel to attend classes. New River Community & Technical College in Summersville is about 45 minutes from Cowen. Glenville State College is about 1 hr. and 15 minutes from Cowen.

The Webster County Public School System has four elementary/middle schools serving preschool through 8th grade. There is one high school centrally located to the students, but there is no local post secondary option in this remote county.



SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE

NCWVCAA and HS/EHS help families and individuals reach their highest levels of social and economic independence through a broad range of anti-poverty services and education resources. Employment and stable, safe affordable housing are important components in realizing self sufficiency. Community supports and resources also help families as they move towards independence. Each of these components are discussed below.

Employment

Good jobs with benefits are difficult to find throughout the service area – especially for those with low skill levels. Many can find a minimum wage job, but those wages are insufficient for a family to live on and generally do not offer health insurance. This section describes the major employment sectors, median family wages, HS parent information, and recent unemployment information in each county. In addition, the percentage of children eligible for free or reduced school meals as well as the percentage of the population living below the federal poverty level and the more recent West Virginia Self Sufficiency Standard.

Self Sufficiency wage by family type and county		
	Family Type	
County:	1 Adult, 1 Preschooler	2 Adults, 1 Infant, 1 Preschooler
Barbour	\$12.15	\$20.50
Marion	\$12.78	\$21.24
Monongalia	\$12.68	\$20.96
Pocahontas	\$12.09	\$20.36
Preston	\$12.68	\$20.96
Randolph	\$12.22	\$20.56
Taylor	\$12.32	\$20.64
Tucker	\$12.15	\$20.48
Webster	\$12.09	\$20.56

(Workforce West Virginia , 2009)

The poverty measure in the United States is based on a formula created more than 40 years ago. The federal poverty measure is based on the cost of food and the idea that food costs represent as much as a third of family need. Over the last 40 years, the costs of living have change, with food becoming a much smaller part of monthly expenses and housing, transportation, and other items becoming relatively more expensive. As a result, the federal poverty measure undercounts families in need. The federal poverty measure also assumes costs are the same regardless of the location or ages of children and does not account for taxes or tax credits.

The Self-Sufficiency Standard of West Virginia examines the typical real costs for families in West Virginia by county based on family type, ages of children; the real cost of basic needs (housing, transportation, child care etc.), taxes and tax credits and establishes a self-sufficiency wage rate which would need to be earned to meet a family's basic needs. The standard calculates a self sufficiency wage for each of 70 family types. The living expenses and self sufficiency wage for two typical HS family types – one parent/one preschooler and two parents/one infant/one preschooler – are shown below for each family. The need for better skills and for increased economic development activity can be seen throughout the descriptions below.

Barbour County

As in other parts of the state, coal mining, natural gas, timber, and farming was the mainstay for 150 years. However, the agriculture community faced drastic changes in the 1980's. Small family farms were eliminated due to market pressures and replaced by large-scale industrial agriculture operations. Coal experienced a huge transition in the 1980's as a result of the Surface Mine Reclamation Act implemented in 1978. Coal companies had to move to more efficient, high volume production to survive resulting in large machines and a small labor force. This devastated the rural communities whose economy was based on coal extraction. The move away from mining is reflected in the current large employers: education and health care sectors with employment through the Board of Education, Alderson Broaddus College and Broaddus Hospital Association at the top. (WVU College of Business and Economics , 2008)

NCWVCAA Service Area	Barbour
% of persons below poverty	23%
median family income	\$29,722
% of children free/reduced school meals	65%

(WV Kids Count Data Book, 2008)

Barbour County's median family wage is \$29,722 (see above). For the smallest of Head Start Families, 1 parent and one HS student, the family would need to earn \$25,660/yr to meet its basic needs. This amount is nearly the county median family wage (see below). For all other families, the wage needed to reach self sufficiency wage is generally significantly higher than the median wage made by a family in Barbour County. For example, a two parent family with an infant and a preschooler would need an annual wage of \$43,276 to meet the self-sufficiency standard. 85% of 2 parent HS families have at least one parent employed, 58% of single parents report working. Of the two parent families, only 32% report both parents employed while one parent is working in 53% of the families. 11% of single parent families and 9% of two parent families are not employed. Unemployment in December 2008 was 5% up from 4.3% in November, but at about the same level as November 2007. (Workforce West Virginia, 2009)

Typical Living Expenses in Barbour County		
	Family Type	
Expense	1 Adult, 1 Preschooler	2 Adults, 1 Infant, 1 Preschooler

Housing	\$540	\$540
Child Care	\$409	\$820
Food	\$338	\$668
Transportation	\$365	\$720
Health Care	\$214	\$276
Miscellaneous	\$187	\$302
Taxes	\$360	\$610
Less Tax Credits	(\$273)	(\$331)
Monthly Self Sufficiency Wage	\$2,138	\$3,606
Annual Self-Sufficiency Wage	\$25,660	\$43,276

(Workforce West Virginia , 2009)

Marion County

While the top employer in the County is the Board of Education, the largest employment sectors are in service and retail. Annual wages in each of the sectors fall below the median family income of \$37,182 with service wages averaging \$23,028 and with retail averaging significantly lower at \$13,817. (WVU College of Business and Economics , 2008) The median wage falls below the amount needed for a family with two adults and two preschool children \$45,000 to be self-sufficient (see tables below). With service and retail wages falling significantly below this needed amount, it is even more challenging for adults without skills to make ends meet. 86% of two parent families and 47% single parent families report employment. Of the two parent families, both parents are employed in only 31% of the families with 55% reporting one parent working.

NCWVCAA Service Area	Marion
% of persons below poverty	16%
median family income	\$37,182
% of children free/reduced school meals	50%

(WV Kids Count Data Book, 2008)

5% of employed HS families are unable to support basic living expenses and receive no assistance. 18% are unable to support basic living expenses with assistance. 16% are able to support living expenses without assistance. 23% are able to support basic living expenses with assistance. Only 4% are able to support basic living expenses and save funds for emergencies with no assistance. 39% have full time employment and 23% have part time employment. Only 45% of those employed have employer provided benefits.

14% of two parent families report neither parent working with 23% of single parents out of the workforce. In contrast, 92% of BOE parents report working. Unemployment in the last quarter of

2008 held steady and below the West Virginia average of 4.4% hovering between 3.1 –3.3%. Sixty-five percent of those unemployed site the primary reason as no availability of employment. (Workforce West Virginia, 2009)

Typical Living Expenses in Marion County		
Expense	Family Type	
	1 Adult, 1 Preschooler	2 Adults, 1 Infant, 1 Preschooler
Housing	\$591	\$591
Child Care	\$431	\$864
Food	\$338	\$668
Transportation	\$365	\$719
Health Care	\$214	\$276
Miscellaneous	\$194	\$312
Taxes	\$375	\$632
Less Tax Credits	(\$258)	(\$326)
Monthly Self Sufficiency Wage	\$2,249	\$3,737
Annual Self-Sufficiency Wage	\$26,989	\$44,843

(Workforce West Virginia , 2009)

Monongalia County

The top employment sectors in Monongalia County are education, health services, the public sector and trade, technology and utilities. The median family wage of \$43,628 is amongst the highest in the area served by HS. Unemployment remains the lowest in West Virginia down to 2.2% in December, 2008. The wage needed for a family with two parents, one infant, and one preschooler is just over the median county income, but with 41% of children approved for free and reduced school meals, many families' income falls far short (see tables below).

NCWCAA Service Area	Monongalia
% of persons below poverty	23%
median family income	\$43,628
% of children free/reduced school meals	41%

(WV Kids Count Data Book, 2008)

This is particularly true for HS families. 49% of HS families are two parent families, 51% single parent. Of the two parent families, both parents are employed in 21% of cases with one parent employed in 52%.

37% of single parents are employed. 27% of two parent and 63% of single parent families are unemployed. 17% of families receive Supplemental Security Income.

Typical Living Expenses in Monongalia County		
Expense	Family Type	
	1 Adult, 1 Preschooler	2 Adults, 1 Infant, 1 Preschooler
Housing	\$602	\$602
Child Care	\$409	\$820
Food	\$338	\$668
Transportation	\$365	\$719
Health Care	\$214	\$276
Miscellaneous	\$193	\$309
Taxes	\$373	\$624
Less Tax Credits	(\$260)	(\$331)
Monthly Self Sufficiency Wage	\$2,233	\$3,688
Annual Self-Sufficiency Wage	\$26,790	\$44,254

(Workforce West Virginia , 2009)

Pocahontas County

Tourism and the public sector are the largest employers in Pocahontas County. Snowshoe Mountain Resort is the largest employer and approximately one-sixth of the county's population lives in the area. The median family wage in the county is \$32,511. The needed wage to reach self-sufficiency wage for a family of one adult and one preschool child is \$25,541 and for a family with two adults, an infant and a preschooler, is \$42,991 (see tables below). The 6.4% December 2008 unemployment rate continues to be worse than the West Virginia average of 4.4%. It spiked to 8.6% in November from 6.1% in October 2008. (Workforce West Virginia, 2009)

NCWVCAA Service Area	Pocahontas
% of persons below poverty	17%
median family income	\$32,511
% of children free/reduced school meals	57%

(WV Kids Count Data Book, 2008)

59% of HS families are two parent families, 41% single parent. Of the two parent families, both parents are employed in 15% and 54% one parent. 8% of two parent families have one parent in education or

training. 67% of single parents are employed, none are in training. 33% of single parent and 31% of two parent families do not have a job, let alone one that helps them meet their families' needs.

Typical Living Expenses in Pocahontas County		
Expense	Family Type	
	1Adult, 1 Preschooler	2 Adults, 1Infant, 1 Preschooler
Housing	\$540	\$540
Child Care	\$391	\$779
Food	\$338	\$668
Transportation	\$377	\$743
Health Care	\$214	\$276
Miscellaneous	\$186	\$301
Taxes	\$358	\$606
Less Tax Credits	(\$274)	(\$331)
Monthly Self Sufficiency Wage	\$2,128	\$3,583
Annual Self-Sufficiency Wage	\$25,541	\$42,991

(Workforce West Virginia , 2009)

Preston County

The public and service sectors are the largest employers. Private wage or salary jobs make up 84% of the employment in the county; government jobs 16%. The median age in Preston County is 41.8 years reflecting an aging population. 45.7% percent of the population is male and 54.3% are female. The federal prison at Bruceton Mills and the Camp Dawson U.S. Army Reserve training facility, near Kingwood, are two of the public sector employers. The extraction industry in Preston County remains active although not as many residents are employed as in the past. Timber, limestone and coal are still removed from the county. (WVU College of Business and Economics , 2008)

NCWCAA Service Area	Preston
% of persons below poverty	18%
Median family income	\$32,904
% of children free/reduced school meals	56%

(WV Kids Count Data Book, 2008)

Preston County's median family wage is \$32,904. The self-sufficiency wage for a family of one adult and one preschooler is \$26,790 and for a family with two adults, an infant and a preschooler is considerably higher at \$44,874 (see tables). 65% of HS families are headed by two parents, 35% by single parents.

Both parents are employed in 18% of two parent families with one parent working in 74% of the families. 63% of single parents are working, 5% are in education or training. Both parents are unemployed in 8% of the two parent families, but 38% of single parents are unemployed. The unemployment rate steadily increased over the last quarter of 2008 rising from 3.1% in October to 4.2% in December close to the state average of 4.4%. The rise is similar to that experienced in 2007. (Workforce West Virginia, 2009)

The two largest employers in the county are Bruce Hardwood and Preston County Schools. Wood product manufacturing and retail offer significant jobs. Coal mining is seeing huge growth potential with two mines fully operational and a third under construction. The Huttonsville Correctional Center is an additional large employer.

Typical Living Expenses in Preston County		
Expense	Family Type	
	1Adult, 1 Preschooler	2 Adults, 1Infant, 1 Preschooler
Housing	\$602	\$602
Child Care	\$409	\$820
Food	\$338	\$668
Transportation	\$365	\$719
Health Care	\$214	\$276
Miscellaneous	\$193	\$309
Taxes	\$373	\$624
Less Tax Credits	(\$260)	(\$331)
Monthly Self Sufficiency Wage	\$2,233	\$3,688
Annual Self-Sufficiency Wage	\$26,790	\$44,874

(Workforce West Virginia , 2009)

Randolph County

Randolph County’s median family income is \$32,632. The self-sufficiency wage required in Randolph County is similar to that in Preston County, ranging from \$25,818 for a family of one adult and one preschooler to \$43,419 for a family with two adults, an infant and a preschooler.

NCWCAA Service Area	Randolph
% of persons below poverty	18%
Median family income	\$32,632
% of children free/reduced school meals	58%

(WV Kids Count Data Book, 2008)

Two parent families make up 66% of HS families. Both parents are employed in 39% of the families and one parent in 54%. Both parents are participating in education or training in just over 3% of two parent families with a similar percentage of one parent families participating in similar activities. 65% of single parent families are employed. 9% of families receive SSI. The Randolph County December 2008 unemployment rate of 6.2 was above the state average. The last quarter of 2008 was up from the same period in 2007. Unemployment of two parent HS families was somewhat higher at 6.8%, but single parents experienced much higher rates of unemployment at 35.5%. (Workforce West Virginia, 2009)

Typical Living Expenses in Randolph County		
	Family Type	
Expense	1Adult, 1 Preschooler	2 Adults, 1 Infant, 1 Preschooler
Housing	\$549	\$540
Child Care	\$409	\$820
Food	\$338	\$668
Transportation	\$365	\$720
Health Care	\$214	\$276
Miscellaneous	\$187	\$303
Taxes	\$361	\$612
Less Tax Credits	(\$271)	(\$331)
Monthly Self Sufficiency Wage	\$2,151	\$3,618
Annual Self-Sufficiency Wage	\$25,818	\$43,419

(Workforce West Virginia , 2009)

Taylor County

The two largest employers in the county are Taylor County Schools and Grafton City Hospital. In addition to tourism, Dyna Tech, Dyna Mix, Rex Hide, WalMart, CSX, and Watco are the main employers. A massive seam of coal under the Knottsville area of Taylor County is scheduled to be mined in the next three years; this will create 200+ jobs but the opening of this mine is subject to the fate of energy prices. The median family wage is \$32,222 (see below). Living expenses in Taylor County are similar to those in Preston and Randolph, with the self sufficiency wage for a family of one adult and one preschooler of \$26,015 and for a family of two adults, one infant and one preschooler of \$43,596.

NCWVCAA Service Area	Taylor
% of persons below poverty	20%
median family income	\$32,222
% of children free/reduced school meals	54%

(WV Kids Count Data Book, 2008)

59% of HS are two parent families. Both parents are employed in 28% of these families with one parent employed in 52%. 40% of single parent families are employed. Higher percentages of parents are in education/training than in other area counties with 28.6% of single parents engaged and with 16% of two parent families in which both parents are participating and 18% in which one parent is. The 20% of two parent and 60% of one parent HS family unemployment is significantly above the rate for Taylor County as a whole. The December 2008 Taylor County unemployment rate of 4.5% is a slight increase since October, but similar to December 2008's rate of 4.4%. (Workforce West Virginia, 2009)

Typical Living Expenses in Taylor County		
Expense	Family Type	
	1Adult, 1 Preschooler	2 Adults, 1 Infant, 1 Preschooler
Housing	\$560	\$560
Child Care	\$409	\$820
Food	\$338	\$668
Transportation	\$365	\$720
Health Care	\$214	\$276
Miscellaneous	\$189	\$304
Taxes	\$364	\$614
Less Tax Credits	(\$269)	(\$331)
Monthly Self Sufficiency Wage	\$2,168	\$3,633
Annual Self-Sufficiency Wage	\$26,015	\$43,596

(Workforce West Virginia , 2009)

Tucker County

Resort, education, and health care are the largest employers in Tucker County and the median family income is \$32,574. Tucker County has typical living expenses similar to those of Preston, Randolph and Taylor. The self-sufficiency wage for a family of one adult and one preschooler is \$25,652 and for a family of two adults, one infant and one preschooler of \$43,260.

NCWVCAA Service Area	Tucker
% of persons below poverty	18%
median family income	\$32,574
% of children free/reduced school meals	57%

(WV Kids Count Data Book, 2008)

With only five families, it is difficult to compare their employment situations to the rest of the county. Tucker County's unemployment rose from 5.3% in October 2008 to 7.8% in December, far above the 4.4% rate for the state. The rates were also higher than for the same period in 2007. (Workforce West Virginia, 2009)

Typical Living Expenses in Tucker County		
Expense	Family Type	
	1Adult, 1 Preschooler	2 Adults, 1 Infant, 1 Preschooler
Housing	\$540	\$540
Child Care	\$409	\$820
Food	\$338	\$668
Transportation	\$365	\$719
Health Care	\$214	\$276
Miscellaneous	\$186	\$302
Taxes	\$359	\$609
Less Tax Credits	(\$273)	(\$331)
Monthly Self Sufficiency Wage	\$2,138	\$3,605
Annual Self-Sufficiency Wage	\$25,652	\$43,260

(Workforce West Virginia , 2009)

Webster County

The service category is the largest employment sector in Webster County with education and government opportunities ranking the highest. The goods producing category is lead by the timber and coal industry. Numerous opportunities for coal mining employment have increased throughout the year in the county and surrounding counties. Employment opportunities declined with the closure/downsizing of businesses in the last 12 months. However, the mining industry showed modest growth in the same period. (WVU College of Business and Economics , 2008)

NCWVCAA Service Area	Webster
% of persons below poverty	27%
median family income	\$25,049
% of children free/reduced school meals	72%

(WV Kids Count Data Book, 2008)

The median family wage is \$25,049. Unlike many other counties in the NCWVCAA service area, the self-sufficiency wage is closer to the median for smaller families at \$25,541 for a family of one adult and one preschooler. Two parent families make up 86% of HS families. Both families work in 23% of the families and one parent in 59%. Only 18% of single parents are employed which means the vast majority are unemployed. 19% of two parent families are out of work. Both these rates far exceed Webster County's December 2008 unemployment rate of 4.9% which was below the 5.6% for the same month in 2007. (Workforce West Virginia, 2009)

Typical Living Expenses in Webster County		
Expense	Family Type	
	1Adult, 1 Preschooler	2 Adults, 1 Infant, 1 Preschooler
Housing	\$540	\$540
Child Care	\$391	\$779
Food	\$338	\$668
Transportation	\$377	\$743
Health Care	\$214	\$276
Miscellaneous	\$186	\$301
Taxes	\$358	\$606
Less Tax Credits	(\$274)	(\$331)
Monthly Self Sufficiency Wage	\$2,128	\$3,583
Annual Self-Sufficiency Wage	\$25,541	\$42,991

(Workforce West Virginia , 2009)

HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

One of the central program initiatives of North Central WV Community Action is the creation of safe, affordable housing. North Central endeavors to both improve and expand the existing housing stock across the counties we serve. Currently, NCWVCAA has built and manages 18 units of high-quality, affordable rental housing and is in the process of developing 38 more units across various counties, including a scattered-site housing project that will provide affordable home ownership in five counties.

North Central also operates a nationally-recognized Weatherization Program. Funded by the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources and the US Department of Energy, the Weatherization Program provides energy saving home repairs to over 280 low-income, disabled, and elderly households per year (this will increase to 842 next program year).

North Central WV Community Action also takes a lead role in the prevention of Homelessness. North Central has two homeless shelters, Scott Place Homeless Shelter in Fairmont, Marion County, and the Randolph County Homeless Shelter in Elkins, WV. Scott Place is a 38-bed facility that offers the VA Homeless Per Diem Grant, serving homeless veterans, and is currently building 4 units of transitional housing the homeless and 5 units of permanent housing for the homeless disabled, via HUD and WV Housing Development Fund monies. The Randolph County Homeless Shelter is an 18-bed facility and recently applied for a HUD grant to build 3 units of permanent housing for the homeless disabled adjacent to the shelter. There is also one WVDHHR licensed homeless shelter in Monongalia County, Bartlett House, not operated by NCWVCAA.

NCWVCAA and its community partners are responding to the need for safe, affordable housing throughout the service area. Many permanent units are substandard, making them unsafe. Increased Weatherization funds from the Federal Recovery funds may provide an opportunity for eligible units to be made more energy efficient. Rents increased approximately 5% throughout the area from 2008-2009. There were few reported incidents of homelessness among HS families or county residents, although families “doubling up” may go largely undetected.

The majority of information concerning homelessness and homeless children for NCWVCAA is from Scott Place Homeless Shelter in Marion County. Three HS families with a total of five children were homeless with two acquiring housing in the area. Within the broader community, Scott Place Homeless Shelter served 119 adults and 10 children last year (5 male, 5 female). 31% of those served cited eviction as their reason for homelessness, while 14% cited loss of income, 9% cited substance abuse, and 8% cited mental illness. Scott Place served 8,020 meals last year and 83% of the guests staying at the shelter were Caucasian, with 11% African American and 2% bi-racial. 90% of guests to the shelter in 2008 were from West Virginia. The average length of stay for children at Scott Place Homeless Shelter in 2008 was 38 days, an increase of 2 weeks in comparison to 2007. In 2008, 40% of those staying at the shelter had no income of any kind at intake. 17% had a wage or pension, 17% were on food stamps, 14% were on SSI, and 10% were receiving Veterans benefits.

The Soup Opera provides lunch daily, a food pantry, laundry, and shower facilities. Last year The Salvation Army served 3,154 meals. The Union Mission served 92 men, 121 women, and 61 children for meals and shelter.

A recent article from the Associate Press, featured on MSNBC.com, cited a recent study by the National Center for Family Homelessness (www.familyhomelessness.org) showing that 1 in 50 children experiences homelessness and that states and localities are woefully unprepared to deal with the problem. The report analyzes data from 2005-2006. It estimates that 1.5 million children experienced homelessness at least once that year, and says the problem is surely worse now because of the foreclosures and job losses of the deepening recession.

(Associated Press, 2009)

The study also ranks states in terms of child homeless per capita, child well-being, risks of child homelessness, and state policy and planning; West Virginia ranked 15th on the overall state ranking

(Connecticut being the 1st, or best, and Texas ranking 50th, or the worst). Again, however, one of the prevalent problems in terms of homelessness in West Virginia is the ability to maintain an accurate, unduplicated count of homeless people in West Virginia. This issue is currently being addressed by NCWVCAA and other community partners via the HUD Homeless Management Information System or HMIS. As this statistical software database system is implemented in phases, the count of Head Start Families experiencing homelessness should be much more accurate in the updating of this report next year.

Military Families

According to North Central’s most recent internal data through DBA FACs Pro, Head Start is currently serving 3 children with one parent who is a veteran of the armed forces, and 1 Early Head Start child whose parent is a veteran of the armed forces. Additionally, 2 children of veterans are on the waitlist for Head Start and 1 child is on the waitlist for Early Head Start. By polling Family and Community Partnerships Staff, it was found that there are currently no parents or legal guardians in Early Head Start who are on active military duty, and in Head Start, there are 3 parents in Preston County on active military duty and 1 parent in Taylor County. Currently, client statistics are only tracked by “veteran” status, but the program will be adding an “active military” tab to the client intake screen in the client tracking software, enabling staff to track active military status of all clients in the upcoming program year and beyond. There are currently only two active military installations in West Virginia, but neither is in NCWVCAA’s service area. Within the service area, however, there are five counties who house over 25 Army National Guard Units (WV Army National Guard , 2009). There are also two large Air National Guard Units in West Virginia, one in Charleston and one in Martinsburg.

Barbour County

There are 7,813 housing units in Barbour County as of 2008 up from 7,553 in 2006. There are 5,196 owner occupied units with a median value of \$82,072. There are 1,252 units of rental housing. North Central WV Community Action is building 3 apartments that will house 6 families in Junior. A new multi-tenant building in Belington Industrial Park is also being built. 7% of HS families accessed housing assistance. One family was homeless.

(United States Census Bureau , 2009)

Rents for a two-bedroom apartment increased an average of \$25/month from 2008-2009:

Barbour County, WV	FAIR MARKET RENT (\$/month)				
	0 BR	1 BR	2 BR	3 BR	4 BR
2008	397	414	515	675	710
2009	416	434	540	707	745

(US Department of Housing and Urban Development , 2009)

What 138 HS parents say about their family’s housing in Barbour County:

Safe	
non-assisted, limited due to income	16%
Secure Public Housing	4%
Substandard, Unsafe Housing	0
Home of Their Choice	56%

Inadequate due to Cost/Income	9%
Inadequate due to Bad Credit	9%
Inadequate due to Availability	1%
Temporary, Transitional Housing	3%
Homeless	1%
Homeless/acquired housing	0%

The majority of housing units are detached. 79.9% of county residents live in housing units built prior to 1970 with 22.7% of these units built in 1939 or earlier. Housing and/or adequate housing is very limited. The median contract rent for Barbour County is \$330.00 per month. Of households below the poverty level that rent, 4.7% lack complete plumbing facilities; 16.9% were built prior to 1940; 15% have social security income and 20% have public assistance. 22.8% of the renter-occupied units are mobile homes and/or manufactured homes.

Barbour County does not have any homeless shelters within the county. Residents are referred to the Homeless Shelters in Randolph County, Harrison County, and Marion County. HS served one homeless family; the BOE reported none. Statistics regarding homelessness in Barbour County are difficult to obtain and may mask families/individuals doubling up. Local agencies report shelter requests are generally from transient individuals rather than local families or individuals.

Marion County

There are 27,422 housing units as of 2008 with 18,559 owner occupied units and 5,555 renter occupied. The median house value is \$90,885. 97% of parents surveyed said their housing is safe with 63% indicating they are living in housing of their choice. 59% of those without adequate housing cited income as the primary reason.

Between 2008-2009, rent for a two-bedroom apartment increased \$27/month:

Marion County, WV	FAIR MARKET RENT (\$/month)				
	0 BR	1 BR	2 BR	3 BR	4 BR
2008	367	470	564	675	822
2009	385	492	591	707	861

(US Department of Housing and Urban Development , 2009)

The Fairmont Housing Authority has 136 apartments, including several accessible units, available for low-income families through the Fairmont Housing Authority. The Housing Authority also has a home ownership program that offers a lease-to-purchase agreement within a two-year period to first time homeowners. Rental assistance is available for apartments and houses for families across Marion County. 140 HS families accessed housing assistance.

Monongalia County

The total number of housing units in Monongalia County is 39,448 as of 2008. There are 22,190 owner occupied dwellings and 12,403 renter occupied for a total of 34,593 households. The median home value is \$127,063.

Monongalia MSA (Morgantown)	FAIR MARKET RENT (\$/month)				
	0 BR	1 BR	2 BR	3 BR	4 BR
2008	467	485	574	744	883
2009	489	509	602	781	926

(US Department of Housing and Urban Development , 2009)

As seen above, rent for a two-bedroom apartment increased an average of \$28 from 2008-2009. 62 families utilized housing assistance. One family was homeless and acquired housing in the area.

Pocahontas County

Total housing units in Pocahontas County rose to 8,141 in 2008 from 7,874 in 2006. Owners occupy 3,096 units. Renters occupy 675 units for a total of 3,771 households. The median value of owner occupied housing is \$89,225.

Pocahontas County, WV	FAIR MARKET RENT (\$/month)				
	0 BR	1 BR	2 BR	3 BR	4 BR
2008	428	444	515	630	748
2009	449	466	540	661	784

(US Department of Housing and Urban Development , 2009)

There are 32 rental units based on family income, some pay as little as \$50 a month. Rent on other units in the county ranges from \$225 to \$800 per month. Rent varies due to location and size of unit. Rental property near Snowshoe is higher than the rest of the county.

What parents in Pocahontas County are saying about their family's housing:

Safe	
Non-assisted, limited due to income	11%
Secure Public Housing	10%
Substandard, Unsafe Housing	0
Home of Their Choice	57%
Inadequate due to Cost/Income	10%
Inadequate due to Bad Credit	6%
Inadequate due to Availability	4%
Temporary, Transitional Housing	1%
Homeless	0%

One HS family accessed housing assistance. No HS families were homeless. DHHR reported three homeless cases in the county in 2008. One was located to a shelter in another county because Pocahontas County does not have a shelter. The other two moved away.

Preston County

There were 14,410 housing units in Preston County in 2008. Owners occupy 10,493 units. Renters occupy 1,903 units for a total of 12,396 households. The median value of owner occupied housing is \$96,299. On average, rents for a two-bedroom rental unit increased \$24 from 2008-2009:

Preston County (Morgantown MSA)	FAIR MARKET RENT (\$/month)				
	0 BR	1 BR	2 BR	3 BR	4 BR
2008	467	485	574	744	883
2009	489	509	602	781	926

(US Department of Housing and Urban Development , 2009)

There are 8 subsidized housing complexes all accepting recipients of Medicaid, Medicare, SSI, and SSA. All of the complexes are full and have a waiting list. These complexes are located in Kingwood, Terra Alta, Reedsville and Masontown. Eleven percent of HS families utilized housing assistance.

One HS family was homeless and acquired housing in the area. Within the County, accurate homeless statistics are difficult to obtain since there are no shelters or formal tracking in Preston County. DHHR reported 19 homeless individuals their agency helped during 2008. These individuals were provided with either food or shelter for the night. Their records do not indicate how many people they referred to homeless shelters outside the county. The Bartlett House located in Monongalia County does not keep statistics by county and neither does the Preston County Sheriff's Office, which is called upon to transport some of the homeless to shelters. North Central WV Community Action Association, Inc. assisted 6 families with shelter due to homelessness in 2008. The children in these families were not of Head Start age and the homelessness situation was temporary due to eviction or transition.

Randolph County

There are 14,100 housing units within the county's boundaries up 612 from the 2000 census. Of these, 11,567 are occupied. Renters occupy 2,564 of the units and 9,003 are owner occupied. 48% of families accessed housing assistance. Rent for a two-bedroom apartment increased an average of \$25 from 2008-2009:

Randolph County, WV	FAIR MARKET RENT (\$/month)				
	0 BR	1 BR	2 BR	3 BR	4 BR
2008	406	407	524	676	695
2009	425	426	549	708	729

(US Department of Housing and Urban Development , 2009)

The 2008 median value of owner occupied housing was \$101,315. The county's housing stock is fairly old, with 24.9% of the units having been built before 1939. Approximately 2,547 units (20.3%) were constructed between 1980 and 1990. Most of the new construction was in the Tygart Valley area. In general, there are no large areas of housing deterioration, but some individual homes need to be replaced or have extensive repairs. Housing opportunities exists for both elderly family assisted housing and multi-family development.

HS assisted one homeless family access housing services, but the family did not acquire local housing. The NCWVCAA Randolph County Homeless Shelter, a 16 bed facility, provided services to 115 clients during the past year, including 6 school-aged children. It is the only shelter in the immediate area. When at capacity, or when trying to find a more appropriate placement for some individuals, referrals are made to the Union Mission and other providers in the North Central area. Most served by the shelter report doubling up with friends or relatives prior to coming to the shelter. A few others reported “camping out” prior to obtaining more suitable shelter. There are currently no soup kitchens in the Randolph County area. The local Ministerial association is in the early planning stages of developing a site.

What Randolph County Parents say about their family's housing:

Safe	
non-assisted, limited due to income	12%
Secure Public Housing	14%
Substandard, Unsafe Housing	2%
Home of Their Choice	70%
Temporary, Transitional Housing	2%

Taylor County

The total housing units in the county is listed at 7,391 in 2008. There are 5,353 owner occupied homes and 1,215 occupied rental units for a total of 6,568 households. On average, rents for a two-bedroom rental unit increased \$26 from 2008-2009:

Taylor County, WV	FAIR MARKET RENT (\$/month)				
	0 BR	1 BR	2 BR	3 BR	4 BR
2008	355	452	534	640	760
2009	372	474	560	671	797

(US Department of Housing and Urban Development , 2009)

The rentals include eight HUD approved housing units for low-income persons. Two of the units do not accept children. 9% of families utilized housing assistance.

What Taylor County Parents say about their family's housing:

Safe	
non-assisted, limited due to income	9%
Secure Public Housing	8%
Substandard, Unsafe Housing	0%
Home of Their Choice	74%
Inadequate due to Cost/Income	67%
Inadequate due to Bad Credit	11%
Inadequate due to Availability	11%
Temporary, Transitional Housing	9%

The 2008 median value of owner occupied housing is \$87,446. Housing in Taylor County is affordable in comparison to the surrounding counties of Harrison, Marion, and Monongahela. No HS families were homeless. In the first ten months of 2008 two families came to NCWVCAA in Taylor County to request help due to homelessness. One family's home had burned to the ground.

Tucker County

Affordable housing remains an issue for Tucker County as a whole. While several communities have adequate utilities, (water, sewage, garbage disposal, and communication technology) these are limited to the more populated areas and are non-existent in a large portion of the county. As recently as 2000, U.S. Census Bureau indicated 10% of those living in Tucker County have no telephone service. There are a total of 4,811 housing units as of 2008. 2,482 units were owner occupied and 465 were renter occupied for a total of 2,947 households. The 2008 median value of owner occupied homes was \$84,788. Rent for a two-bedroom apartment increased \$25 from 2008-2009:

Tucker County, WV	FAIR MARKET RENT (\$/month)				
	0 BR	1 BR	2 BR	3 BR	4 BR
2008	397	414	515	675	710
2009	416	434	540	707	745

(US Department of Housing and Urban Development , 2009)

NCWVCAA currently owns a total of 12 affordable rental units in Tucker County (8 at Mountain View Apartments, 4 at Jameson Street Apartments) and is currently developing 3 more units. Tucker County only has 5 HS/EHS slots for children. All five families accessed housing assistance.

None of the HS/EHS families were homeless. North Central WV Community Action Association made two referrals to the Randolph County Homeless Shelter. Two individuals were referred to the Parsons Ministerial Association for housing and food at the local motel. Individual's ages ranged from 24 to 70.

Webster County

As of 2008, there are 5,653 housing units in Webster County. There are 3,418 owner occupied units and 807 renter occupied for a total of 4,225 households. The median value of an owner occupied home is \$66,012. Rent for a two bedroom apartment increased an average of \$25 from 2008 to 2009:

Webster County, WV	FAIR MARKET RENT (\$/month)				
	0 BR	1 BR	2 BR	3 BR	4 BR
2008	428	444	515	630	748
2009	449	466	540	661	784

(US Department of Housing and Urban Development , 2009)

Thirteen HS families accessed housing assistance. None were homeless. The Webster County Department of Health and Human Resources and Board of Education report four individuals within the county that were considered homeless. The Faltis Children's Center in Summersville, the local DHHR, and Mountain Marketplace Mission continue to provide aid to these persons. There are a total of four

low-income housing units with availability based on income located in the Cowen and Webster Springs area. These two communities also provide housing for qualified elderly/disabled individuals in the form of apartment complexes, both of which are located on the main roadway making access easy in this mountainous county

Public Assistance

Fewer West Virginians rely on cash assistance to make ends meet. The percentages utilizing assistance continue to decrease. The highest usage is in Webster County at 5.6% in 2007, down from 11% in 2003. The lowest is in Monongalia at .7% in 2007, down from 1.3% in 2003. Children are eligible for free and reduced school meals in high percentages. Monongalia has the lowest rates at 40.4%. Barbour and Webster are the highest at 75.7% and 73.2% respectively. High rates of children live below 100% of the federal poverty level with 42.9% of all children in Webster living at that level.

County	TANF/Cash Assistance		Free/Reduced School Meals		Children Below Poverty	
	2003	2007	2003	2007	2003	2005
Barbour	5.40%	1.70%	69.50%	75.70%	32.10%	31.70%
Marion	3.80%	1.00%	44.90%	51.90%	21.50%	23.70%
Monongalia	1.30%	0.70%	37.70%	40.40%	18.40%	18.30%
Pocahontas	2.20%	1.50%	53.80%	58.40%	20.60%	24.60%
Preston	2.40%	1%	58.20%	56.20%	25.70%	24.80%
Randolph	2.10%	0.80%	57.70%	57.80%	24.80%	25.60%
Taylor	3.60%	1.40%	54.20%	56%	27.50%	27.50%
Tucker	1.60%	0.40%	52.50%	57.10%	24.60%	25.80%
Webster	11%	5.60%	78.30%	73.20%	45.70%	42.90%
West Virginia	5.10%	2.20%	51.50%	52.50%	24.30%	25.50%

(WV Kids Count Data Book, 2008)

These figures demonstrate the challenges of making ends meet even with employment. Medicaid, subsidized housing, childcare programs, free school lunches, fuel assistance, food pantry and clothing pantry assistance are such supplemental services used by low-income families. This results in an increased demand on programs provided by agencies such as the DHHR, Community Action and other social services. While educational opportunities are available from Pre-K to High School, without additional training/education, and better paying jobs, many families continue to struggle to meet even the basic needs

Family Needs and Resources

Head Start families are offered the opportunity to participate in a variety of services. All families participated in at least one service with 98% participating in more than one service. 96% participated in health and 88% parenting education. Families sought assistance to more self-sufficient with 32%

accessing housing assistance, 24% adult education and 26% job training. Their lives often had many stressors as indicated by 37% receiving substance abuse services, 41% child abuse/neglect services and 33% domestic violence services. As seen in the housing section, very few families were homeless. Marion County reported the highest percentage of parents utilizing the greatest variety of services. The five families participating in Tucker County's HS program all accessed a number of services. Pocahontas County's data reflects almost no participation which indicates issues with data collection rather than what parents are being offered or choosing to participate. (PY42 PIR Data)

Early Head Start families are offered the same opportunity to participate in a variety of services, with 67% participating in more than one service. 60% participated in head services and 67% participating in parenting education. Several Early Head Start parents also participated in housing assistance (12%), adult education (9%), and transportation services (15%). Their lives also had significant stressors with 8% participating in domestic violence services and 8% participating in child abuse and neglect services. No families in Early Head Start were tracked as homeless families. Overall, the needs of Early Head Start parents, from a percentage basis, were lower than Head Start parents, perhaps because of the smaller number of parents and/or their relational position with their own parents. (PY 42 PIR Data)

NCWVCAA offers services to Head Start/Early Head Start and other low-income residents including: Weatherization services, the Garden Program, Summer Food Program, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, home ownership and home repair loans, credit counseling, and emergency assistance for food and utilities. In addition they participate in the Youth Opportunity Camp, One Stop Center through the Bureau of Employment Programs, and the low- income energy assistance program (LIEAP).

Public Health

The County Health Departments in each county provides a variety of services including health information, immunizations, family planning, prenatal clinic, environmental services, TB testing, HIV testing, and health related information. They also offer events like Preston County's annual Family Life Expo in which many local agencies participate to promote healthy eating, exercising, spiritual health, education, and many other activities. Approximately 950 people participated in last year's event. Program offerings include Taylor County Nurses' Right from the Start, an education and support program for up to twenty young women who are pregnant; the program continues through the infant's first birthday.

Social Services

The Department of Health and Human Resources in each county provides resources for low-income families through the food stamp, medical card, West Virginia Works and other related programs. The DHHR handles Child Protective Service and also provides foster and adoptive services as well as Try Again Homes.

There are local social service agencies located throughout the nine County area. These include the Red Cross, Catholic Charities, Community Response, Coordinating Council for Independent Living, Family Resource Network, Helping Hand Clearing House, WIC, Senior Centers, Meals on Wheels, Mountain Partners in Community Development, Mountain Heart Child Care Services, the Salvation Army, Select In-Home Care, the United Way, and Youth Services.

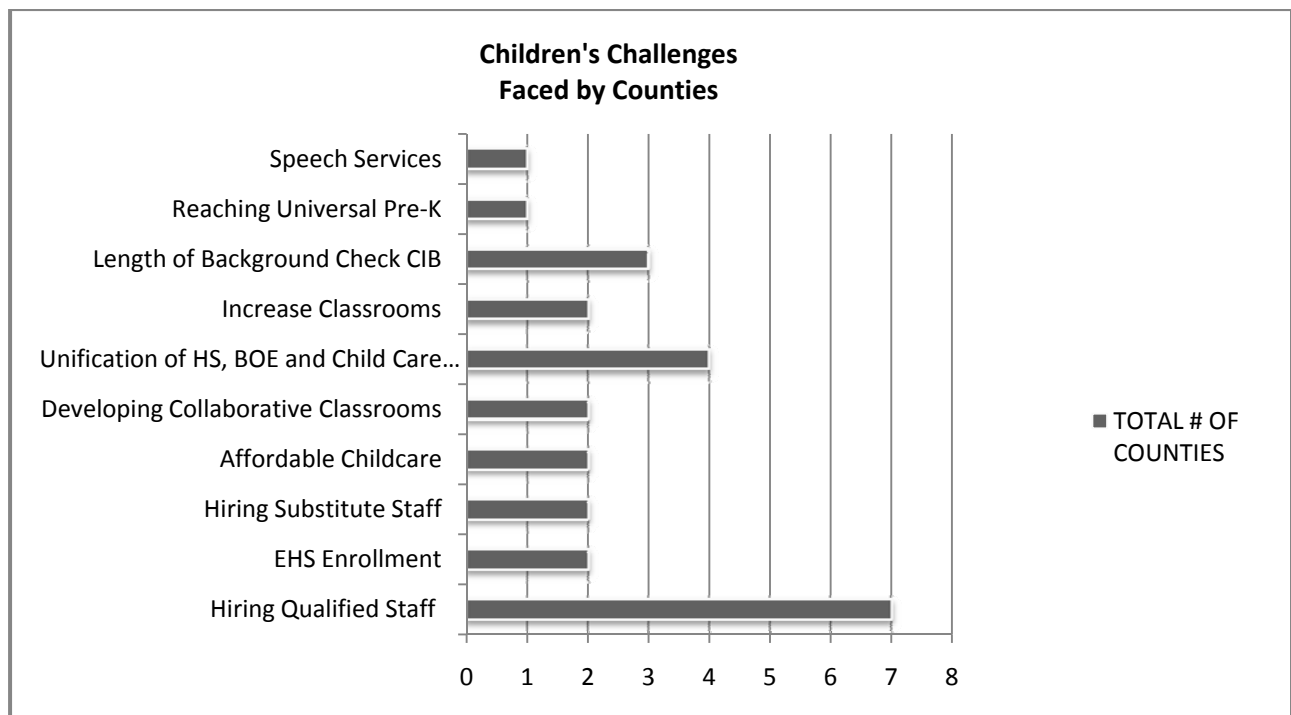
CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Children's Services

Several service area-wide challenges are barriers to serving HS/EHS children and their families. These include hiring and retaining staff including substitutes, inconsistencies between the HS performance standards and Pre-K standards, maintaining/expanding services, and transportation – particularly when linked with geography. Examples of each with recommendations to alleviate the challenge are discussed below.

Whether it is teachers, assistant teachers, bus drivers, or substitutes, it is difficult to **find and retain staff** because the BOE pays more and offers permanent employees much better benefits. It is recommended NCWVCAA establish a work group to determine an agency wide strategy incorporating the recommendations of the current wage comparability study and ways to reach toward parity in wages and benefits with the county Boards of Education as funding allows.

Head Start has an historical **shortage of available substitutes** and a low response of applicants when jobs are advertised. Some of those hired to work other part time jobs and are not available when needed. The program always has a difficult time hiring and retaining substitutes because of the pay, benefits and being “on call” with no guarantee of work hours. In addition to the recommendations above, it is recommended HS increase the number of qualified in-house applicants.



Custodians usually aren't scheduled for enough hours and the pay rate is lower than the private sector. In several counties, HS/EHS combines positions as much as possible to allow for more hours for an employee which assists in retention of these employees. Increasing the number of sites and hours that one custodian is responsible for so that hours and pay will be adequate for the position could assist in meeting this challenge.

Hiring **substitute bus drivers** can also be a challenge. It is recommended HS continue seeking substitute drivers and focus on expanding collaborative services to ensure transportation for HS students and eliminate the problem of HS substitute drivers being hired by the BOE. One potential strategy would be to allocate funds for current employees to obtain Certified Drivers Licenses through career reimbursement funds.

There is also a challenge finding **properly credentialed** employees. It is recommended HS and local partners develop a list of local individuals interested in obtaining advanced degrees and work with other agencies as well as colleges to offer local classes where none exist. Expanded trainings through HS and the BOE would likely also assist in meeting this challenge.

The NCWVCAA Head Start/Early Head Start Program has had difficulty hiring staff timely due to the process established in West Virginia to obtain results for the **Criminal Background Checks (CIBs)** that has taken over 30 days in some cases. The WV Department of Health and Human Services now permits CIBs to be sent directly to the State Police, but the delay is a minimum of 10-15 business days before results are received. The Human Resources Department has expanded and assumed responsibility to establish the system to ensure Head Start/Early Head Start staff receives the criminal background check results prior to hire.

There are **discrepancies between BOE policy, the Head Start Performance Standards and childcare licensure requirements**. A particular challenge exists in the lack of a state level requirement for a family to provide **income information** on its county Pre-K application. Some families continue to decline giving their income. Without this, Head Start is losing families who would be eligible for Head Start. While it is important to continue working out as many logistical issues as possible on the local level, resolving many the issues will need state level advocacy by NCWVCAA and/or WVHSA to eliminate inconsistent requirements.

Expanding HS services to eligible children continues to be an issue in many areas. For example, Tucker County HS is a small home-based program that struggles to maintain enrollment of four year olds because parents prefer the available Center-based Pre-K programs offered by the Board of Education. Tucker County Head Start has then focused on recruitment of families with three-year olds in order to provide services for this population.

In several counties, there is a demand for more collaborative classrooms. **Funding, space limitations, and staff infrastructure** are the main barriers to the expansion of our collaborative Pre-K programs. The one-time federal recovery and reinvestment funds may offer an opportunity to expand services and allow the hiring of program specialists and supervisory staff. NCWVCAA should seek to maximize opportunities to utilize the one time federal recovery and reinvestment funds as well as advocate for permanent funding increases.

Affordable childcare is a challenge for many families. This is especially a problem for families whose children are not participating in one of the 46 full day programs NCWVCAA Head Start offers. This particular challenge also crosses children and community services as it impacts programming, participation, and employment. NCWVCAA and other community partners could seek to increase local training opportunities to assist interested individuals in obtaining childcare credentials. This challenge could be addressed, at least partially, if HS/Pre-K offered additional full-day preschool classes. It is also recommended NCWVCAA and WVSHA advocate for increased childcare funding at the state and federal levels.

The BOE provides **transportation** to some Pre-K sites in each county that offers Center-Based services. Some income-eligible children cannot be served by Head Start Centers or Pre-K as they live too far from the bus route to be provided transportation. Another example is when a site is at its capacity, alternative placements are offered. As BOE bus routes are designed to transport students to a particular school, parents are left to transport their children to an out of district site. For other families and programs, the impact of geography and rural terrain continues to provide challenges for families, schools, and programs. This issue continues to be a part of the Pre-K Planning meetings and will be looked at closely when school assignments are made in early summer.

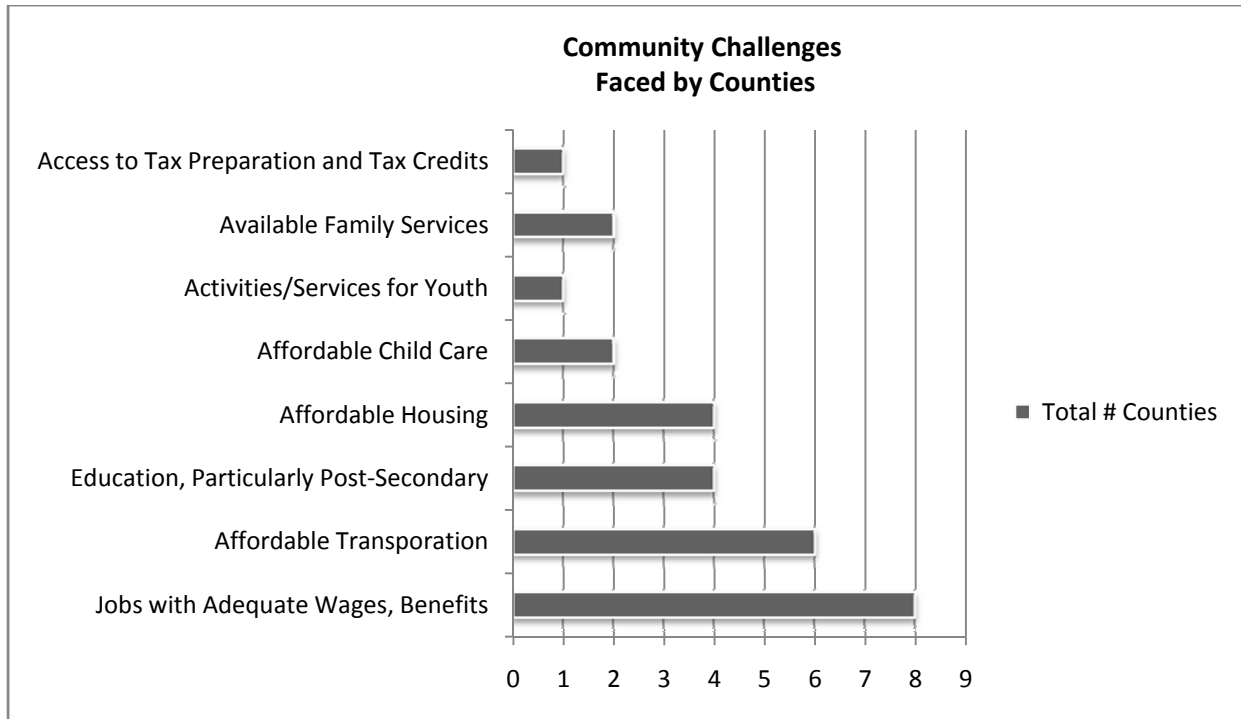
Community Services

NCWVCAA seeks to help families become as socially and economically independent as possible. The current recession makes it more challenging for families to make ends meet. The availability of **living wage jobs with benefits** is the greatest challenge for both job seekers and communities. Because of the **economic downturn**, jobs, let alone well paying jobs, are hard to find. While many HS/EHS parents work, they are unemployed in greater percentages than workers in general. Gaining job skills and post-secondary education would enhance job opportunities. The Federal Recovery and Reinvestment Act offers opportunities for NCWVCAA and parents to create opportunities and enhance skills that will lead to higher wage employment – if not now, when the economy recovers. Transportation, housing, and childcare remain barriers to economic independence. While not mentioned as specifically, accessible affordable health care remains a challenge for many families.

With regard to **employment**, many counties recommend NCWVCAA work with families to connect them with job opportunities. Many families are experiencing a level of economic hardship that was previously foreign to them, therefore highlighting the need for more intensive case management and increased services. It is recommended that NCWVCAA actively work with partners to examine the current community job development approach to determine what changes are needed given the economic situation, and work toward better linking individuals with good jobs as they become available.

It is important for communities and NCWVCAA to understand and maximize the Federal Recovery and Reinvestment Funds. NCWVCAA should also work with the local Development Authority and County Commissions on ways to apply for funding for economic development, transportation, and funding to repair roads in service counties. These strategies should enhance shovel-ready jobs which will assist in the expansion of other jobs.

Because so many adults have little **post-secondary education**, the current economic situation could provide an opportunity for many to increase their skills – although cost and location are real barriers. One strategy is for HS to work in conjunction with the County Collaborative Family Resource Network to secure resources for services and opportunities, including local post-secondary classes, which assist parents in becoming job-ready.



There is a need throughout the area for increased **support to families** for services including housing assistance, adult education, dental assistance for adults, and transportation. Monongalia County suggests a strategy worth examining area-wide of forming cohorts of families needing services, with a staff member assigned to the cohort, in each area who can support each other and advocate for changes.

Geography makes **transportation** difficult in the region. Affordable, accessible public transportation is nonexistent in many areas. A repeated suggested strategy is for NCWVCAA to work with area organizations to develop and advocate for community strategies to ensure local transportation services, including expansions, are available to families. It is also recommended NCWVCAA work with the Development Authorities and County Commissions on ways to apply for funding; particularly maximizing the Federal Recovery and Reinvestment and State Funds for economic development, transportation, and road/infrastructure repair within the counties.

Safe, affordable housing remains a challenge throughout the region. While not as seen as immediate a need as employment in this economic crisis, housing stability is a key component to family self-sufficiency. It is recommended NCWVCAA work with local partners and HUD to explore ways to utilize the Federal Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds to maximize ways to make current housing stock more safe and efficient (e.g. through the use of Weatherization and Public Housing funds) as well as constructing new units. Developing and rehabilitating housing will have the double impact of putting people to work and creating safe housing. NCWVCAA should continue its current strategic direction of providing safe, affordable housing throughout its service counties.

Two-hundred and thirty-four or 25% of HS children **need childcare** in addition to services provided. Of those needing care, only 27% obtained care. 55% of these families use a relative or unrelated adult, 27% a childcare center and 16% family child care. Only 8% received a childcare subsidy. Affordable childcare ranks second in improvements needed in the community and over 20% state childcare as a barrier in

their lives. It ranks only second to the cost of education as the reason willing parents do not complete their education.

NCWVCAA is working in collaboration with others to help families access available **tax credits** through offering tax preparation services. While only Taylor County lists this as one of the top community challenges, low-income families throughout the region struggle to make ends meet. Accessing available tax credits would help them provide for their families. It is recommended NCWVCAA work with community partners to expand numbers of volunteers and to prepare taxes and numbers of residents utilizing tax credits and tax preparation services. NCWVCAA should continue its strategic initiatives in directing and leading local Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Outreach, continuing to manage the 12-county North Central EITC Coalition. NCWVCAA should also continue its collaborations in offering Financial Literacy curricula and credit-repair assistance to families.

NCWVCAA is well-positioned in each county and throughout the state to lead efforts in each of these areas. As community leaders assisting families in reaching social and economic independence, focusing on developing and implementing high impact strategies in the areas above will make a significant impact in children's' and families' lives.

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES
CHALLENGES AND GOALS MATRIX**

	Barbour	Marion	Monongalia
Challenge 1	Hiring and replacing staff in a timely manner.	Hiring and replacing staff in a timely manner.	Increase classrooms for income eligible three- year old children.
Currently Addressing Challenge 1	Current employees are moved into other positions as needed.	HS uses substitutes while hiring to fill temporary positions while waiting for background checks to be completed.	HS is forming collaborations with agencies who wish to provide center-based services to children.
Barriers to Addressing Challenge 1	Background checks are much quicker than in past but take 15 business days. Wage levels as compared to Board of Ed.	Background checks are much quicker than in past but still take 15 business days. Wage levels as compared to Board of Ed.	Lack of classrooms and entities offering services.
Goals and Changes for Challenge 1	Increase substitute pool; increasing number of in-house applicants.	Increase substitute pool; increasing number of in-house applicants.	Develop partnership with EHS and HS to provide classroom experiences for children not eligible for Pre-K because of age on September 1st (state cut-off date for attending school).
Challenge 2	Board of Ed not requiring families to submit income as part of enrollment, decreasing eligible applicants.	Adequate number of Substitute Bus Drivers and Custodians.	Ensure that preschool classrooms provide high quality services for children.
Currently Addressing Challenge 2	Educating community partners on the importance of obtaining income to expand existing Pre-K plan.	Stretching staff responsibilities.	Continue to administer the ECERS-R and make changes identified via evaluation.
Barriers to Addressing Challenge 2	BOE continues to not require income and HS applications are incomplete.	The limited budget and cost of obtaining certified license. Low wages compared to the BOE for these positions.	Existing personnel policies.
Goals and Changes for Challenge 2	Agreement with collaborative team to include income for Pre-K enrollment.	Funds for current staff and interested staff to obtain bus driver cert. Contract custodial services.	Provide Apprenticeship for Child Development Specialist training to all classroom assistants.

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES
CHALLENGES AND GOALS MATRIX**

	Pocahontas	Preston	Randolph
Challenge 1	Difficulty finding staff with proper credentials.	Insufficient funding for collaborative classrooms	Hiring and Retaining Staff
Currently Addressing Challenge 1	Contract with School Days to provide Family and Community Partnership services for program.	NCWVCAA and the Preston County Board of Education annual MOU to address gaps in funding, staffing, and Universality of all aspects of the Pre-k program	HS continues to accept applications from interested individuals. Supporting current staff via face to face monitoring.
Barriers to Addressing Challenge 1	Availability of higher education to obtain credentials. School Days staff turnover.	There is a lack of information about use of Federal Recovery and Reinvestment Funds and local impact.	The lack of individuals with the appropriate early childhood credential is the most significant barrier to hiring and retaining staff.
Goals and Changes for Challenge 1	Distribute information on higher education possibilities. Include training topics in Pre-K plan and T/TA plan.	Seek to maximize the one-time Federal Recovery and Reinvestment funds.	To maintain full staff for all HS areas of service.
Challenge 2	Insufficient Affordable Child Care.	Insufficient site space to meet collaborative classroom needs	Insufficient Transportation
Currently Addressing Challenge 2	Collaborations with School Days and WVDHHR to assist. Contract with Birth-to-Three to provide services.	Do our best with limited space. Added two classrooms, but was difficult.	Continue to offer classrooms in areas where the most children can be served.
Barriers to Addressing Challenge 2	Insufficient licensed family child care providers. Employment that allows families to self-pay.	The program has insufficient space to meet classroom needs.	Geography: most parents are unable or unwilling to transport their child to an out of area school.
Goals and Changes for Challenge 2	Determine licensure requirements.	Become a green pre-schools pilot offering modular classrooms. Potential of another entity purchasing buildings/we lease back.	Work with the BOE and parents to address transportation issues.

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES
CHALLENGES AND GOALS MATRIX**

	Taylor	Tucker	Webster
Challenge 1	Insufficient affordable childcare.	Maintaining enrollment for Head Start/Early Head Start in sparsely populated communities.	Inconsistencies between the Pre-K and HS requirements.
Currently Addressing Challenge 1	50-60% of families rely on a grandparent, child's other parent, or babysitter for care. The Taylor County Preschool Collaborative is considering additional full-day classes.	HS is Home-based with part time EHS/HS person. Because of this, there is a MOU with the BOE rather than a collaborative agreement. HS works with agencies and provides flyers and posters. Target three year olds.	Pre-K and Interagency meetings are held regularly. There is an annual Early Childhood Conference.
Barriers to Addressing Challenge 1	The cost of offering full day versus half day with a minimum addition of \$35,000 per classroom exclusive of facility and staff costs.	The BOE Pre-K program is a barrier to recruiting four year olds. Families prefer to have children attend every day.	Lack of achieving unity in the Universal Pre-K collaborative process.
Goals and Changes for Challenge 1	HS and the BOE can impact the need for childcare most directly through changing one half-day program to full-day. Establish an additional preschool classroom at Anna Jarvis. Find funding for day care and after-school programs.	Continue targeting three year-olds. Increase EHS because of large increase in newborns from 74 up to 97.	Continue to work with the county BOE to achieve unity between the entities in the collaborative so Pre-K can be truly Universal including the HS requirement to provide income.
Challenge 2	Staff retention agency wide	Staff retention agency wide	Hiring and replacing staff in a timely manner.
Currently Addressing Challenge 2	Support staff through positive feedback and face-to-face monitoring. Flexibility with respect to work hours when feasible.	Support staff through positive feedback and face-to-face monitoring. Flexibility with respect to work hours when feasible.	Current employees are moved into other positions when needed.
Barriers to Addressing Challenge 2	The primary barrier to retaining staff is the BOE offers higher wages and better benefits.	The primary barrier to retaining staff is the BOE offers higher wages and better benefits.	The current length of background checks has improved, but is still somewhat lengthy. Disparity in BOE and HS wages.
Goals and Changes for Challenge 2	Utilize the agency wage comparability study to increase staff salaries when funding is available.	Utilize the agency wage comparability study to increase staff salaries when funding is available.	Utilize the agency wage comparability study to increase staff salaries when funding is available.

**COMMUNITY SERVICES
CHALLENGES AND GOALS MATRIX**

	Barbour	Marion	Monongalia
Challenge 1	Low-wage positions versus high-wage jobs with benefits.	Low-wage positions versus high-wage jobs with benefits.	Increased support to families for housing, education, and transportation.
Currently Addressing Challenge 1	Parents can take some post-secondary classes in the evening at the high school or drive 38 miles for additional classes at closest public college. Local 4 year private college is expensive and geared towards medical professions. Community Members have to travel 38 miles even for basic Higher Ed.	Refer parents to job services and known openings.	Advocate for county agencies to provide these services to parents.
Barriers to Addressing Challenge 1	The downturn in the economy makes employment opportunities the paramount issue for many parents. Many low wage jobs exist without benefits, which is often not helpful to overall family stability. Geographic attributes to this challenge as well.	Skill level of parents and low number of jobs available.	Lack of affordable housing, and the high cost of education, and transportation.
Goals and Changes for Challenge 1	Work with parents to determine gaps in education and skills and seek to increase local offerings of needed coursework.	Advocate for better training and education opportunities, link skills to community jobs.	Form groups of families needing services in different areas that can support one another and/or advocate for increased services.
Challenge 2	Affordable Transportation	Affordable Child Care.	Increased support to families for dental/medical care.
Currently Addressing Challenge 2	Working with community groups to possibly expand limited transportation services.	Many parents rely on family members.	Advocate for county agencies to assist in providing these services to parents.
Barriers to Addressing Challenge 2	Geography and lack of local options.	Cost, lack of private child care options.	Not all providers are willing to accept lower payments. HS parents don't always keep appointments.
Goals and Changes for Challenge 2	Work to expand current transportation or discuss North Central's expansion of services in the area of transportation.	Obtain increased child care funding and reimbursement rates at the state level.	Form groups of families needing services in different areas that can support one another and/or advocate for increased services.

**COMMUNITY SERVICES
CHALLENGES AND GOALS MATRIX**

	Pocahontas	Preston	Randolph
Challenge 1	Low wage jobs.	Loss of jobs.	Loss of/Low Wage Jobs
Currently Addressing Challenge 1	Snowshoe offers employment and secondary jobs (tourism). Community partners work together to address family self-sufficiency.	Public development authority identifies places for business; offers enticements-intensive efforts to promote job development.	Phenomenon of the economy. Reaching out to Job Force to see what jobs are available. Linking people with census jobs.
Barriers to Addressing Challenge 1	Transportation, many jobs pay low wages; many small businesses	Many major employers are closing down or laying off a significant number of people.	Loss of jobs. Local industries have begun massive layoffs. HS seeing 14 applications for substitute teachers. Seeing new families who've never needed assistance before.
Goals and Changes for Challenge 1	Area partners will complete a community plan with goals and action steps including a job development related strategy.	Modify economic development focus to replace, rather than grow jobs.	Plan to effectively use Federal Recovery Funds.
Challenge 2	Lack of Affordable housing	Insufficient Educational Attainment	Lack of Affordable Transport
Currently Addressing Challenge 2	HS and BOE, in partnership with others, advocates for improved access	HS and Pre-K, and the K-12 system are focusing on emergencies in front of each program and system (e.g. facility issues, mandates).	Work with community groups to look at ways to expand limited transportation services.
Barriers to Addressing Challenge 2	Snowshoe Resort brings higher housing costs; not enough affordable units	While education is the key to success, Pre-K programs, schools and post-secondary education tend to focus on dealing with emergencies such as lack of facilities, poor staffing, mandate compliance instead of what the student needs to help them become self reliant.	Geography is the main barrier to improving transportation. Local transportation, Country Roads Transit, only offers transportation services for seniors and medical appointments.
Goals and Changes for Challenge 2	Work with NCWVCAA's housing department to explore options. Utilize options under the Federal Stimulus Funds where applicable.	Develop a strategy for addressing the needs for real education and advocating for those changes	Work with area organizations in supporting the expansion of local transportation services.

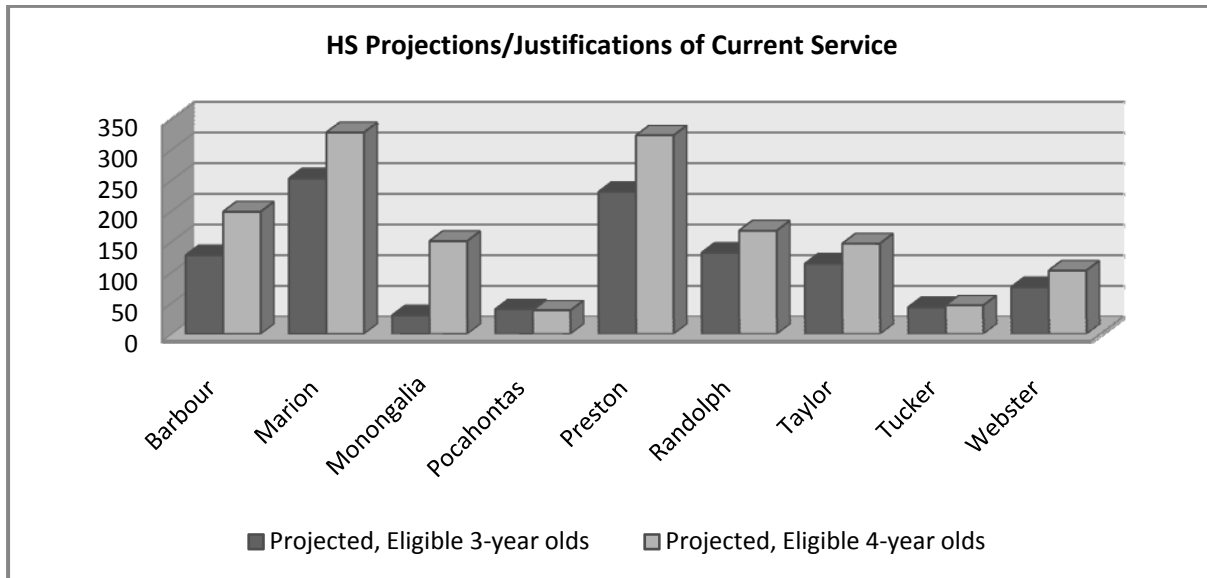
**COMMUNITY SERVICES
CHALLENGES AND GOALS MATRIX**

	Taylor	Tucker	Webster
Challenge 1	Securing good jobs that pay a living wage.	Insufficient higher wage jobs	Insufficient higher wage jobs
Currently Addressing Challenge 1	Assist parents in planning and obtaining skill development.	The Development Authority continually works to develop new business in the county.	Webster County continues to participate in economic development with a core team of local business and community leaders pursuing grants and available funding dollars to increase jobs.
Barriers to Addressing Challenge 1	Lack of two year college in the county, cost of training, lack of good employment opportunities. Railroads laid off employees, Grafton Manufactured Housing and the glass company closed. Employers in bordering counties are also laying off many employees.	Economic development, transportation funding and infrastructure, rental housing. Most families have to travel out of the county for employment.	Access to this remote, rural area makes business investing difficult. Employers are currently downsizing due to recession.
Goals and Changes for Challenge 1	Work in partnership as part of the Taylor County Collaborative Family Resource Network to secure resources for services and opportunities, including local post-secondary classes, which assist parents in becoming job ready.	Work with the Development Authority and County Commission on ways to apply for funding for economic development and transportation. NCWVCAA will work to provide more rental units in the area.	Work with families to connect with jobs; work with the development groups to increase job opportunities. Assist families who have not been in a similar financial situation previously.
Challenge 2	Many families are not accessing available tax credits/tax preparation services	Lack of Transportation.	Lack of Transportation.
Currently Addressing Challenge 2	NCWVCAA VITA volunteers complete tax returns and assist families in accessing Earned Income Tax Credits and Child Tax Credits.	The senior center transports individuals for grocery shopping and medical appointments with an appointment. The St. George medical clinic will provide transportation to clinic appointments. Most HS families need to walk to purchase groceries.	Work with community partners to encourage expansion of transportation. Mountain Transit Authority provides bus transportation throughout county. Increased bus and senior services transportation usage.

Barriers to Addressing Challenge 2	Number of skilled, available volunteers, resources, limited amount of opportunities to access tax preparation services.	There is no bus service in Tucker County; lack of funding to offer services. Many people do not have vehicles.	The rugged terrain is a chief factor in transportation for residents, community organizations and businesses. Funding for expanded services.
Goals and Changes for Challenge 2	Hold financial management classes and continue free tax preparation services. Increase recruitment/training, outreach and number of taxes prepared.	Work with the Development Authority and County Commission on ways to apply for funding, particularly maximizing the Federal Recovery and Reinvestment funds for economic development, transportation, and repair roads in the county.	Continue working with the MTC and other community partners to expand bus service.

COUNTY HEAD START CONCLUSIONS AND JUSTIFICATIONS

One vital aspect of the Community Needs Assessment is the justification of current levels of service within Head Start service areas based on projections of possible students in the coming year. The following narrative and graphs are a comparative analysis of the projected count of 3 and 4 years olds based on families who received some form of public assistance from the WV Department of Health and Human Resources as well as families with 3 and 4 year-olds who have applied for Community Action services in each county.



Barbour County

There are 199 four-year olds and 128 three-year olds in Barbour County estimated to be eligible for Head Start services for PY44. Therefore, it is suggested that the population of eligible children in Barbour County supports the continuation of Head Start services for the following classrooms: Belington Philip – Barbour Pre-K – Head Start AM, Belington Philip –Barbour Head Start PM (3 year old class), Philippi Elem I, Philippi Elem II, Philippi I Head Start, and Philippi II Head Start.

Marion County

Currently, there are 328 four-year olds and 253 three-year olds in Marion County. Therefore, it can be deducted that the population of eligible children in Marion County, supports the continuation of Head Start services for the following sites: Carolina – I, Carolina - II, Edgemont – I, Edgemont – II, Fairmont - I, Fairmont –II, Mannington – I, Mannington – II, Rivesville I, Rivesville II, West Fairmont-AM, and West Fairmont-PM in PY44. However, the Board of Education is proposing the addition of a new Pre-K classroom at East Fairmont High School, and a new Pre-K classroom at the United Methodist Church in Monongah. It is unclear at this time how this could possibly impact NCWVCAA’s HS Program since recruitment and enrollment continues to occur.

Monongalia County

Since the Monongalia County School system has approximately 725 children per grade level and an increasing number of children who are living in poverty, one can predict that the Head Start program would continue to maintain full enrollment at 181 income-eligible children. Also, data from the Monongalia County Office of NCWVCAA indicates that over 129 families who have applied for

community action services with children ages 3-4 years old could be Head Start eligible. It is unclear however, if any of these records may be duplicates between NCWVCAA and the BOE.

Head Start children are enrolled in Head Start/Pre-k collaborative classrooms in their home school attendance areas with approximately seven Head Start children. The Board of Education is proposing to open one more classroom at Mylan Park Elementary, the school with the highest percentage of poverty children. It can then be concluded that Monongalia County can support the continuation of Head Start services in all of its current 24 full day classrooms at Brookhaven (3); Easton (3); Mason Dixon (2); Mountainview (4); Mylan (2 + 1 proposed); MTEC (1); North (2); Ridgedale (1); Skyview (3); Suncrest (2); and the Presbyterian Child Development Center (1)

Pocahontas County

There are 38 four-year olds, and 40 three-year olds in Pocahontas County according to the Community Assessment Demographic Maps. Therefore, it can be concluded that the population of eligible children in Pocahontas County can support the continuation of Head Start services for the following sites in PY44: Hillsboro, and Marlinton. The intent is to continue collaboration with School Days Child Care, however, the number of classrooms needed will be determined by the number of applications for eligible children received in the upcoming Program Year.

Preston County

There are 323 four-year olds, and 231 three-year olds in Preston County according to the Head Start Demographic Map. It can be then concluded that the population of eligible children in Preston County can support the continuation of Head Start services at the following classrooms in PY44: Howesville I, Howesville II, Valley I, Valley II, Rowlesburg, Bruceton I, Bruceton II, Kingwood I, Kingwood II, and Terra Alta. The Board of Education is proposing the expansion of three Universal Pre-K classrooms, one at Aurora, one at Bruceton, and one at Valley. These are pending based on the number of applications received for eligible children for the upcoming Program Year.

Randolph County

Randolph County currently has 168 four-year olds and 132 three-year olds. It can therefore be assumed that the population of eligible children in Randolph County will support the continuation of Head Start services at the following classrooms in PY44: Beverly, Coalton, George Ward Elem I, Harman, Homestead, Jennings Randolph, Midland I, Midland II, North, and Third Ward. Depending upon the number of applications taken for eligible children, there could be a proposed second class for George Ward Elementary.

Taylor County

Taylor County currently has 147 four-year olds, and 114 three-year olds. It is then ascertained that the population of eligible children in Taylor County will support the continuation of Head Start services in the following classrooms in PY44: Anna Jarvis I A & B, Anna Jarvis II, Flemington, Lucretia – AM, Lucretia – PM, Webster, and West Taylor Elementary.

Tucker County

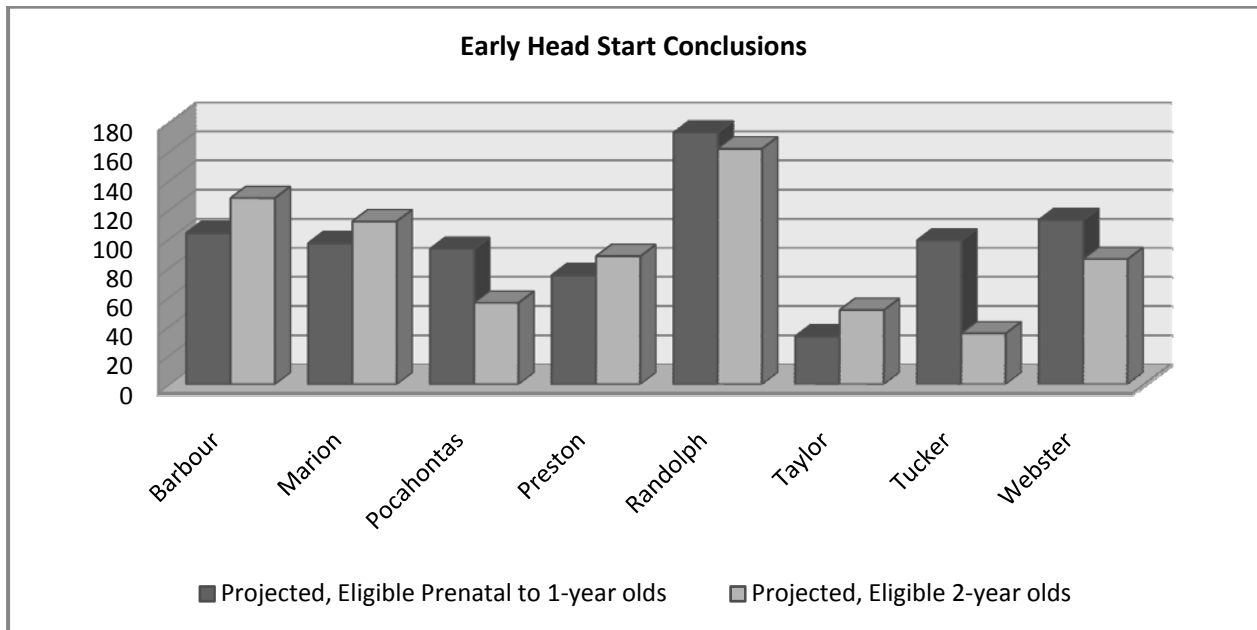
Tucker County, according to the demographic map, has 46 four-year olds and 43 three-year olds. It is then assumed that the population of eligible children in Tucker County does indeed support the continuation of Head Start Home-based services for PY44.

Webster County

According to the demographic maps, Webster County has 103 four-year olds, and 76 three-year olds. It can then be assumed that the number of eligible children projected for Webster County would support the continuation of Head Start services in the following classrooms in PY44: Cowen, Cowen Home-based, Diana, Webster Springs I, and Webster Springs II. The Board of Education is proposing the expansion of two Universal Pre-K classrooms, one at MountainCAP Child Care, and one at Hacker Valley Elementary School. Head Start does not intend to count children in these two proposed sites.

EARLY HEAD START CONCLUSIONS

Due to the Economic Reinvestment and Recovery Act Funds that will potentially provide an opportunity to expand Early Head Start services, it is crucial that North Central begin to analyze the current demographics of prenatal through two year olds in the current counties where Early Head Start services are provided. Currently, there are 2 Center-based Early Head Start Programs in Marion County, 2 Home-based Programs in Randolph County, 1 Home-based Program in Tucker County, and 1 Home-based Program in Preston County. The following graph and narrative outline the current count of prenatal to one-year olds, and two-year olds in each county. This information was gathered from the current demographic maps and includes families with children prenatal through two-years old within the household who have applied for community action services and have received some form of public assistance through the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources.



Barbour County

There are 104 Prenatal to one-year olds and 128 two-year olds according to the demographic map of Barbour County. These estimates would then indicate that the population of eligible children in Barbour County would support a potential addition of Early Head Start services.

Marion County

Currently, there are 97 Prenatal to one-year olds and 112 two-year olds in Marion County according to the demographic map. Therefore, the estimates would indicate that the population of eligible children

in Marion County would support the continuation of current Early Head Start services at the East Fairmont High School, and the North Marion High School /Marion County Votech Centers. Demographics also indicate that Marion County could support a potential expansion of Early Head Start services as well.

Pocahontas County

There are 93 Prenatal to one-year olds and 56 two-year olds in the county, according to the Community Assessment Demographic Maps. Therefore, it can be concluded that the population of eligible children in Pocahontas County can support the potential addition of Early Head Start services.

Preston County

There are 75 Prenatal to one-year olds and 88 two-year olds according to the demographic map in Preston County. It is estimated, then, that the number of eligible children in the county could support the continuation of the current Home-based Early Head Start services and a potential expansion of Early Head Start in this county.

Randolph County

Randolph County currently has 173 Prenatal to one-year olds, and 162 two-year olds, according to the demographic map. It can therefore be assumed that the population of eligible children in Randolph County would support the continuation of both of the current Home-based Early Head Start services and the potential expansion of Early Head Start services.

Taylor County

Taylor County currently has 33 Prenatal to one-year olds and 51 two-year olds according to the demographic map in Taylor County. It can then be ascertained that the current population of eligible children would support a potential addition of Early Head Start services.

Tucker County

Tucker County, according to the demographic map, has 99 Prenatal to one-year olds and 35 two-year olds. It is then assumed that the population of eligible children in Tucker County does indeed support the current Home-based Early Head Start services, with a potential for expansion.

Webster County

According to the demographic maps, Webster County has 113 Prenatal to one-year olds and 86 two-year olds. It would then appear that the number of eligible children projected for Webster County would support a potential addition of Early Head Start services in that county.

SNAPSHOTS OF SUCCESS

The following are real-life success stories that were submitted by Head Start and Early Head Start staff throughout NCWVCAA's various counties. Data, analysis, and community needs are all helpful in determining the programmatic and strategic direction of HS/EHS and the Agency in general, but nothing quite speaks to the reality of the needs we truly are meeting like the personal stories that follow. Of course, all information complies with confidentiality policies and procedures.

Barbour County Success

Philippi had a child this year who failed the vision screening and the rescreen. The Family Resource Coordinator recommended that the child see an eye doctor. When they parents took the child they were told that not only did the child need glasses, but that he was mainly seeing out of only one eye, and if his condition hadn't been caught he would have most certainly developed Amblyopia (Lazy Eye).

Marion County Success

One child has been attending the center for two years and has failed each vision and hearing screening that has been offered. After failing the screenings this year, the Family Resource Coordinator spoke with the child's mother. Subsequently, the child received glasses and has completed two hearing tests with an Ear Nose and Throat Specialist and has been referred to West Virginia University for additional testing. The child has moderate to severe hearing loss and they will be exploring the possibility of hearing aids. The local Board of Education audiologist has worked closely with the center staff and has recruited a hearing impaired teacher begin to work with the child. The child has also started speech therapy this year.

Marion County Success

A mother with two daughters aged five and ten were living in the midst of a domestic violence situation and the mother had finally made the decision to leave. The Family Resource Coordinator had given the mother information, during a home visit, about the inherent dangers of this situation and provided her with a copy of the book "For a Safer State of Family". The mother lacked local family support so the Family Resource Coordinator then began to work with the mother to develop a plan to relocate out of the household, which she quickly did, into a safer environment for her family.

Marion County Success

Chris began her 30 year involvement with Head Start as a parent. She was a recently divorced single mother, and her son was attending the Carolina Center. Chris had just found a new apartment for her and her son, but was without any household items. The Family Resource Coordinator worked with Chris to get the things she needed to start her new life for her and her son.

Years later, Chris applied and was hired for a Head Start Teacher Position at the same center her son had attended. During the course of this job, Chris worked diligently to first complete her Associates Degree and then went on to earn her Bachelor Degree in Education. During this time, Chris also leaned on the support of Head Start in fighting breast cancer while completing her degree and working as a Teacher. Subsequently, Chris applied and was hired for the Education Program Specialist position in Marion

County and has completed ten hours towards a Masters Degree. Her son is now a successful engineer employed with a local government contracting group.

Taylor County Success

A recently divorced, single mother of four was homeless and seeking resources to maintain custody of her children. The Family Resource Coordinator contacted her as she was recruiting three and four-year-olds for the Head Start Preschool. The FRC began discussing assistance and housing options available in Taylor County. Soon after the contact, the mother was transported to the Grafton Housing Authority to apply for suitable housing.

After the family of five moved into their new apartment, received emergency food from local food banks, received donations of furniture, and enrolled the children in school and preschool, the FRC was able to convince the mother to attempt college courses to improve her ability to support her family. The FRC transported the mother to enroll in college and to DHHR to arrange childcare. Three years later the mother received an Associate Degree from Fairmont State College and gained fulltime employment. The customer became very active in the Head Start Policy Council and parents meetings and trainings. She served in several capacities including becoming an officer of the parent group and a parent representative with the local Advisory to the NCWVCAA Board of Directors. The family progressed to the point of purchasing a home. The mother maintains contact with the FRC though last spring her youngest child completed preschool. The FRC had worked with the mother over a six year period and great strides were made in housing, education, employment, community involvement, and parenting skills.

Tucker County Success

In Early Head Start at Tucker County, every child is a success story, and this is but one. In May of 2007, a child was enrolled who had many issues of concern. She was delayed in almost all areas. Birth to Three worked in the home and provided physical therapy and then EHS became an extension of those services every week.

The Family Educator worked to plan activities to correspond with her goals. Between both services, it was only about six months until the child began to walk. This was a child who was two and only scooting across the floor and would not crawl. The Family Educator helped the child work with tunnels to get her to crawl and left things in the home weekly to aid the family. The first big accomplishment came when the child began to first crawl into the tunnel, and then shortly began walking.

It seemed that learning to walk unlocked all the doors for this child. It was almost instantly that she began saying more words and gaining in leaps and bounds. She no longer shows signs of delays in any areas and even walks the balance beam in her home. She talks so much sometimes that the Family Educator and her parents can scarcely keep up. This story proves that when all services work together with the parent as the key, that any child can realize amazing outcomes.

Tucker County Success

Another great success story for one family in our EHS program came this year at Christmas. One Early Head Start family's husband was injured at work making the household income very tight, especially with two children and one on the way. One of the children has Down Syndrome and the family does everything they can to help all of their children.

The Family Educator knew things were getting tight for the family, but that they would not ask for help for the sake of their pride. On one visit, the Mom told the Family Educator that her heat was off because she found that her breaker box was too small and the wires had melted. She happened to be in the closet and found the problem and they could not afford to fix it and replace the breaker box. Through the help of North Central Staff and local churches, the agency was able to replace the breaker box for the family. Not only could they now use the heater but for the first time in many years, the Mom could also use her dryer.

She still thanks the staff constantly during home visits and tells them how much more laundry she gets done with the dryer. In this instance, a family in need received help above and beyond their expectations through being part of a program that is willing to coordinate whatever assistance is available in order to make sure that the families served always have a way to better their situation.

Webster County Success

Sherri was a stay-at-home mom with a husband, a three-year old, and another child soon on the way. Her father-in-law discovered he had terminal cancer. Sherri's child was accepted in the Diana Home-based Program in Webster County. Sherri had concerns for her health, her father-in-law's illness, and how it would affect her son. He was very close to his grandfather and Sherri was in unfamiliar territory. No one close to her had dealt with a terminal illness and Sherri needed help!

The Family Educator was quick to provide information. Sherri received packets on maintaining a healthy pregnancy and stress and grief management resources so that her family could prepare themselves for the road ahead. The videos, pamphlets, and booklets were invaluable as Sherri's father-in-law's health failed and her pregnancy progressed.

Sherri's father-in-law passed away. Five days later, she gave birth to another son. Big brother wasn't exactly thrilled to share his parents with his new sibling and he was devastated by his grandfather's death. Sherri's husband struggled with losing his father and the demands of work and family. What should have been a joyous time was overshadowed by death. Sherri was thankful for the weekly home visits with the Family Educator. She was supportive and was an objective sounding board for comments that couldn't be shared with family who were overly sensitive, as they too, worked their way through the grieving process.

Approximately five months later, Sherri's family was dealt another blow. Her sister was shot and killed by her husband. She left behind a seven year old son and a fourteen month old daughter. Sherri and her husband managed to function only because they had children to care for. Sherri's parents obtained custody of the daughter and Sherri's family were permitted bi-monthly weekend visitations with the son. Sherri's son now had an additional invasion in his home and she had another child working his way through the grieving process on an entirely different level than the family was capable of handling.

Again, the Family Educator responded. She made sure the family kept their weekly home visits. She encouraged Sherri and her son to attend Socializations, and allowed Sherri to vent when she needed to. When the family's world was turned upside down, the Family Educator was a constant that could be depended on. As Sherri watched her leave her home; there were times when she wondered why the Family Educator kept coming back. Sherri knew the atmosphere in the home was one of depression and darkness.

Sherri Hamrick later applied for a Head Start Substitute position and was hired, becoming an employee of the program she admired. A year later, Sherri was hired as a Program Aide; a position she has held for nearly six years.

Sherri now says "Employment with Head Start has changed my family and me in many ways. We are self sufficient and we get our bills paid on time. I have received invaluable training on a large variety of subjects. Most notable is computer skills and purchasing procedures. Because of the travel involved, I have overcome a fear of driving alone on the Interstate."

"I will always stand in deep appreciation for the Head Start Program; along with determination and faith, that enabled me and my family to survive the most challenging obstacles we have ever faced. I know we will succeed."

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