

DELTA COMMUNITY ACTION, INC

DELTA HEAD START

**2025 COMMUNITY WIDE
STRATEGIC PLANNING
ASSESSMENT**



***Garvin, McClain & Stephens
Counties, Oklahoma***

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PURPOSE AND METHODOLOGY

Delta Community Action Foundation, Inc. has developed the 2025 *Community Wide Strategic Planning and Needs Assessment* to identify the strengths, challenges, and barriers to self-sufficiency of those living in poverty in Garvin, McClain and Stephens counties in Oklahoma. The Community Assessment process examines the capabilities of community members, partner agencies and organizations while identifying services and solutions that support and nurture families and children. The Assessment is intended for the design of future program plans that meet community needs; to build on the current strengths and resources of the community; and to assist in reducing identified barriers to self-sufficiency for families living in poverty.

The Community Assessment and annual updates inform decisions by leadership and governing bodies including, but not limited to:

- ◆ Determination of long- and short-range program goals, objectives, and priorities;
- ◆ Types of services most needed for pregnant women, children, and families living in poverty;
- ◆ Gaps in service and geographic areas are to be served, if additional funding is available, or if limitations in resources make it impossible to serve the entire service area;
- ◆ Locations of Early Head Start and Head Start services.
- ◆ Criteria to define and prioritize special populations for recruitment and selection for services.
- ◆ Community collaborations to develop, strengthen, and provide responsive programming; and
- ◆ Identification of and reduction of inequities within communities.

The HSPPS requires the community assessment to use data that describes community strengths, needs, and resources (45 CFR §1302.11(b)). At a minimum, the community assessment must include:

1. Demographic information about eligible infants, toddlers, preschool age children, and expectant mothers
2. Information about the education, health, nutrition, and social service needs of eligible children and their families
3. Work, school, and training schedules of parents with eligible children
4. Information about other child development services, childcare centers, and family child care programs that serve eligible children
5. Resources available in the community
6. Strengths of the community

KEY FINDINGS

The following are Key Findings from the 2025 Community Assessment. All areas (e.g., demographics, poverty, early education, disabilities, health, housing, births) were reviewed for significant, updated, or newly available data. Areas not included in this report have no significant or updated data to report; in such cases, the most recent data is in the 2023 report.

POVERTY

Poverty rates of children under age five are 30.9% (520 children) in Garvin County, 12.7% (275 children) in McClain County, and 27% (651 children) in Stephens County. In the three-county service area, there are an estimated 880 infants/toddlers and 586 preschool-aged children in poverty.

Young Children in Poverty by Age Group

County	Children Under Age 5			Infants and Toddlers		3- and 4-Year Olds	
	Total Children	# in Poverty	% in Poverty	Total*	In Poverty	Total*	In Poverty
Garvin	1,608	520	30.9%	965	312	643	208
McClain	2,331	275	12.7%	1,399	177	932	118
Stephens	2,409	651	27.0%	1,445	391	1094	260

*Estimated infants/toddlers (60%) and 3- & 4-Year-olds (40%) Source: ACS, 2023 Five-Year Estimates

MINIMUM WAGE AND THE IMPACT ON ELIGIBILITY

Oklahoma's 2024 minimum wage is \$7.25/hr. Post-pandemic, employers have struggled to hire/retain staff; therefore, some have increased entry-level pay to \$10-\$15 or more. Increased wages impact HS/EHS eligibility, particularly for full-time (FT) working families. While rising wages are positive, they may preclude low-income families from automatically qualifying for assistance programs—such as HS/EHS—during an economically challenging period. An FT adult with one, two, or three children earning \$9.49, \$11.96, and \$14.43 respectively, is above the FPL. The living wage for one working adult and one child, for example, ranges from \$31-\$33/hr.—putting the cost of quality childcare out of reach.

Working Families

Household Composition	Federal Poverty Level (FPL)*	Full Time (FT) Annual Salary at Min Wage	Hourly Wage Exceeds FPL	Living Wage
1 FT Working Adult/1 Child	\$24,440	\$15,080	\$9.49/hour	\$31 - \$33/hr.
1 FT Working Adult/2 Children	\$25,820	\$15,080	\$11.96/hour	\$40 - \$41/hr.
1 FT Working Adult/3 Children	\$31,200	\$15,080	\$14.43/hour	\$51 - \$53/hr.

*Families with income at or below FPL are categorically eligible for Head Start/Early Head Start services

BIRTHS AND ELIGIBLE PREGNANT WOMEN

2022 Births by county were as follows: Garvin (323); McClain (488); and Stephens (462). Of birth mothers, 69.3% were non-Hispanic (NH) White, 12.6% were Hispanic, 9.3% were Native American/Alaskan Native, 6.3% identified as multiracial, and 1.5% were NH Black. Based on county births paid by Medicaid, the estimated numbers of income-eligible pregnant women are 174 in Garvin County, 168 in McClain County, and 227 in Stephens County.

NEED FOR QUALITY CARE

There is a significant need for quality care for children under age five, particularly for infants, toddlers, and three-year-olds. In FY 2022, there were 337 enrolled pre-k children in Garvin County, 445 pre-k children in McClain County, and 494 pre-k children in Stephens County; of these children, only 3.7% were 3-year-olds and 96.3% were 4-year-olds.

DISABILITIES

During 2021-22, 266 children received Early Intervention services in Garvin, McClain, and Stephens counties and surrounding counties. During FY 2021 the number of children ages 3-5 with diagnosed disabilities were 61 in Garvin County, 70 in McClain County, and 61 in Stephens County.

COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS

Of Oklahoma's 77 counties, McClain County (9) ranks among the healthiest, while Garvin (#68) ranks among the least healthy. Stephens County (49) ranks among the lower middle range of counties. Areas of challenge or "areas to explore" are adult smoking (19%-24%), adult obesity (35%-41%), and uninsured adults (16%-21%); these most negatively impact the health of residents.

FOOD INSECURITY

Child food insecurity rates in 2024 were 16.9% in Garvin County, 10.9% in McClain County, and 18.9% in Stephens County, lower than Oklahoma at 19.1%. Between 2019 (pre-pandemic) and 2021, child food insecurity decreased by 1% - 3% in the three-county area. Massive public/private response to hunger during the pandemic was successful in mitigating food insecurity rates across the country.

In March 2020, Congress increased the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits during the pandemic. However, SNAP benefits returned to standard amounts in March 2023. With reduced benefits and food costs increasing, communities are again experiencing higher food insecurity rates.

EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKFORCE

In February 2023, the National Head Start Association surveyed grantees about workforce struggles. Nearly 200 grantees responded, representing about 10% of children and families who serve nationwide. Twenty percent of HS/EHS classrooms were closed, of which 81% of grantees cited staff vacancies as the primary reason and that vacancies were higher than usual. Nineteen percent of positions were vacant with 65% of grantees giving the major reason as compensation. There were up to 275K children on HS/EHS waiting lists, equating to up to 33% of funded slots. Turnover included not only lead teachers but also other HS staff who left for entry-level jobs elsewhere that pay more and offer better benefits.

PARENT TYPICAL WORK SCHEDULE

Families in Garvin, McClain, and Stephens Counties typically follow a standard full-time work schedule (7:00 AM–5:00 PM), often with commute times averaging 20–30 minutes or longer. School-aged children generally attend school between 7:30 AM and 3:30 PM, with some districts operating on a four-day week. This creates consistent childcare gaps before and after school, as well as full-day care needs on Fridays in some communities. Rural geography, commuting patterns, and limited transportation options further impact parents' ability to align work and school schedules.

DEMOGRAPHICS

POPULATION

The total population of the three-county area is 111,339 with a population density of 52 people per square mile, compared to 58 people per square mile in Oklahoma.²

Population Density

Location	Total Estimated Population, 2021	Total Land Area (Square Miles)	Population Density (Per Square Mile)
Oklahoma	4,053,823	68,577.80	58
Garvin County	25,806	802.14	32
McClain County	42,393	570.72	74
Stephens County	43,140	870.21	49

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2024 Five-Year Estimates

AGE

Of the population, 6.2% or 1,601 children in Garvin County; 5.5% or 2,332 in McClain County; and 5.6% or 2,416 in Stephens County are children under age five.³

Population by Age Groups

	0-4	5-17	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Oklahoma	6.2%	18.9%	9.2%	13.5%	12.9%	11.5%	12.2%	16.9%
Garvin County	6%	14.6%	12.6%	11.5%	12.8%	11.3%	12.8%	16.4%
McClain County	5.4%	22.2%	7.5%	11.7%	14.5%	12.4%	12.8%	15.5%
Stephens County	5.6%	17.5%	7.6%	11.2%	12.1%	11.5%	14%	17.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2022 Five-Year Estimate

RACE AND ETHNICITY

Following are racial and ethnic populations in the three-county area: non-Hispanic White (83%); Multiple Races (10.8%); Native American/Alaskan Native (5.1%); African American (1.6%); Asian (1.3%); and Other Race (2.0%). The Hispanic population is 9.7%, less than Oklahoma (12.9%).⁴

Population By Race Alone

	White	Black	Asian	Native American	Native Hawaiian	Other Race	Multiple Races
Oklahoma	64.6	6.8%	2.3%	7.2%	0.2%	3.8%	15.0%
Garvin Co.	87.7%	2.0%	0.3%	4.3%	0.0%	1.1%	12.3%
	22,619	489	80	1,107	0	289	3187
McClain Co.	80.7%	1.0%	0.5%	5.9%	0.0%	1.6%	10.3%
	34,191	426	217	2,488	0	696	4,375
Stephens Co.	80.7%	1.7%	0.5%	5.0%	0.4%	3.2%	9.8%
	34,835	719	229	1712	77	1,360	4,208

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2023 Five-Year Estimates

Population By Hispanic Origin

Location	Hispanic Population		Non-Hispanic Population	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Oklahoma	523,231	12.9%	3,530,592	88.1%
Garvin County	2,617	10.1%	23,189	89.9%
McClain County	3,713	8.8%	38,680	91.2%
Stephens County	3,514	8.3%	39,520	91.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2023 Five-Year Estimates

PRIMARY LANGUAGE

The most spoken home language is English, ranging from 94% - 95% in the three-county area. Of the population, 5% - 6% speak Spanish in the home.⁵

Languages Spoken at Home

	English Only	Spanish	Indo-European	Asian/Pacific Islander	Other Languages
Oklahoma	89.0%	7.8%	0.9%	1.6%	0.7%
Garvin County	93.5%	5.6%	0.5%	0.2%	0.2%
McClain County	93.5%	5.8%	0.5%	0.1%	0.1%
Stephens County	94.6%	4.5%	0.7%	0.3%	0.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2024 Five Year Estimates

PRE-K

In FY 2024, there were 319 enrolled pre-k children in Garvin County, 485 pre-k children in McClain County, and 438 pre-k children in Stephens County; of these children, 4.3% were 3-year-olds and 95.7% were 4-year-olds.⁶

Garvin County: Pre-K Student Count, FY 2024 Report

District	Total PK3		Total PK4		Total Pre-K
	Half Day	Full Day	Half Day	Full Day	
Elmore City-Pernell	0	0	0	21	21
Lindsay	0	4	0	72	76
Maysville	0	0	0	15	15
Paoli	2	0	0	10	12

Pauls Valley	0	1	0	78	79
Stratford	0	2	0	35	37
Whitebead	0	0	0	41	41
Wynnewood	0	2	0	36	38
Total	2	9	0	308	319

Source: Oklahoma State Department of Education

McClain County: Pre-K Student Count, FY 2023 Report

District	Total PK3		Total PK4		Total Pre-K
	Half Day	Full Day	Half Day	Full Day	
Blanchard	2	0	2	104	108
Dibble	0	1	0	40	41
Newcastle	0	9	0	138	147
Purcell	1	0	0	71	72
Washington	2	1	12	81	96
Wayne	0	1	0	20	21
Total	5	12	14	454	485

Source: Oklahoma State Department of Education

Stephens County: Pre-K Student Count, FY 2023

District	Total PK3		Total PK4		Total Pre-K
	Half Day	Full Day	Half Day	Full Day	
Bray-Doyle	0	3	0	18	21
Central High	0	0	0	21	21

Comanche	0	3	0	49	52
Duncan	9	0	0	180	189
Empire	0	1	0	25	26
Grandview	0	3	0	6	9
Marlow	0	4	0	79	83
Velma-Alma	0	3	0	34	37
Total	9	17	0	412	438

Source: Oklahoma State Department of Education

DISABILITIES

Oklahoma's SoonerStart/Early Intervention program is the Part C system of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to meet the needs of infants and toddlers with disabilities and developmental delays. During 2023-2024, 266 children received Early Intervention services in Garvin, McClain, and Stephens counties and surrounding counties.⁷ **Early Intervention Birth-Three, 2023-24**

	SoonerStart Site: Chickasha (Stephens and Grady Counties)	SoonerStart Site: Norman (Garvin, McClain, and Cleveland counties)
Child Count Birth – Age 1	9	18
Child Count Birth – Age 2	62	204

Source: Oklahoma State Department of Education, SoonerStart

Oklahoma's Local Education Agencies (LEAs) provide Part B services under IDEA to students, ages 3 through 21. During FY 2024 the number of children ages 3-5 with diagnosed disabilities were 61 in Garvin County, 70 in McClain County, and 61 in Stephens County.⁸

Disabilities by School District (Ages 3-5)

Child Count FY 2025

Garvin County		McClain County		Stephens County	
School District	Count	School District	Count	School District	Count
Elmore City-Pernell	7	Blanchard Public Schools	16	Bray-Doyle Public Schools	6
Lindsay Public Schools	15	Dibble Public Schools	8	Comanche Public Schools	9
Maysville Public Schools	5	Newcastle Public Schools	20	Duncan Public Schools	29
Paoli Public Schools	3	Purcell Public Schools	17	Empire Public Schools	4
Pauls Valley	16	Wayne Public Schools	5	Marlow Public Schools	7
Stratford Public Schools	7	Washington Public Schools	4	Velma-Alma Public Schools	6
Wynnewood Public Schools	8				
Total	61	Total	70	Total	61

Source: Oklahoma State Department of Education

BIRTHS

The following infants were born by county in 2023: Garvin (331); McClain (524); and Stephens (510). Of mothers giving birth, 76.3% were White, 9.3% were Hispanic, 6.8 % were Native American/Alaskan Native mothers (AIAN); 9.1% identified as multiracial; and 4.9 % were Black mothers. Based on county births paid by Medicaid, following are the estimated numbers of income eligible pregnant women: Garvin (206); McClain (204); and Stephens (227).⁹

County of Residence	Births 2023	Births 2024	Race/Ethnicity of Mother, 2024						
			White	Native American	Black/African-American	Asian/Pacific Islander	Other	Multi	Hispanic
Garvin	323	331	70.4%	13.5%	2.0%	0.0%	3.1%	11%	10.6%
McClain	488	524	78.0%	3.0%	7.4%	.10%	3.5%	8.0%	7.5%

Stephens	462	510	80.5%	3.9%	5.4%	.10%	1.6%	8.5%	9.8%
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Births and Race/Ethnicity of Mother

ECONOMIC WELL BEING

WAGES

Oklahoma's 2025 state minimum wage rate remains at \$7.25 per hour. A full time (2,080 hours) minimum wage worker earns \$15,080 per year (gross pay). The 2023 Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for a family unit of two people is \$19,720 per year; therefore, a single parent with one child who is working full time at minimum wage (\$15,080) falls below the FPL.¹⁰

Post-pandemic, many employers have struggled to hire and retain employees. Therefore, some employers have increased entry-level pay to \$10-\$15 or more. A single parent with one child who is working full time at \$9.49/hour (\$19,739) or more is above the FPL. A head of household of four who is working full time at \$14.43/hour (\$30,014) or more is above the FPL.

Living Wage¹¹

Living wage is the hourly rate that a full-time (2,080 hours annually) worker must earn to support the family and cover daily expenses.

- The living wage for one working adult and one child in the three-county area ranges from \$31-\$33. A full-time working adult with one child who is making minimum wage earns only 22% - 23% of the living wage in the service area.
- The living wage for a household with one working parent, one non-working parent, and two children is \$31-\$33 in the three-county area, just 27% of minimum wage.

INCOME

While McClain County's median household income is \$73,914, Garvin (\$50,441) and Stephens (\$53,470) counties are closer to the state of Oklahoma's median household income (\$56,956). Of households, 22.1% in Garvin County, 12.9% in McClain County, and 21.5% in Stephens County earn under \$25,000, compared to Oklahoma (20.2%).¹²

Mean/Median Household Income

Location	Total Households	Average (Mean) Household Income	Median Household Income
Oklahoma	1,589,105	\$85,650	\$62,138
Garvin County	9,906	\$72,476	\$53,600
McClain County	15,447	\$102,199	\$80,150
Stephens County	17,032	\$75,598	\$57,065

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2023 Five-Year Estimates, S1901

Household Income Levels

Location	Under \$25,000	\$25,000 - \$49,999	\$50,000 - \$99,999	\$100,000 - \$199,999	\$200,000+
Oklahoma	20.1%	22%	30.5%	19.7%	6.2%
Garvin County	19.1%	27.8%	29.4%	17.1%	4.3%
McClain County	10.9%	18.1%	22.5%	30.3%	8.2%
Stephens County	21.0%	22.6%	33.0%	18.9%	4.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2023 Five-Year Estimates, S1901

INFLATION

The annual U.S. inflation rate was 2.6% for the 12 months ended 2025. The 2022 average monthly inflation was 8%—a 40 year high. Since June 2020, prices have risen by a total of 17.4%.¹³

U.S. Inflation Rate

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
2025	3.0	2.8	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.7	2.7	2.9	3.0	— (*)	2.7	2.7	2.6

2024	3.0	3.2	3.5	3.4	3.2	2.9	2.5	2.6	2.4	2.6	2.7	2.9	2.9
2023	6.4	6.0	5.0	4.9	4.0	3.0	3.2	3.7	3.7	3.2	3.1	3.3	4.1

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, August 2024

POVERTY CHILDREN

The following are county estimates of children under age five in poverty: Garvin (520 children, 30.9% poverty); McClain (275 children, 12.7% poverty); and Stephens (651 children, 27% poverty).¹⁶ The largest estimated numbers of children under age five in poverty are in Pauls Valley (280 children, 56.5% poverty), Purcell (150 children, 26.5% poverty), and Duncan (458 children, 31.1% poverty).¹⁷

Children under Five in Poverty by Age Group

County	Children Under 5	Population Under 5 in Poverty	
Garvin	1603	19%	304
McClain	2588	10%	258
Stephens	2464	24%	591

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community, 2023 Five-Year Estimates

HOUSING (FAIR MARKET RENT)

The Fair Market Rent rate (FMR), established by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, is used as a basis for paying federal housing assistance programs like the Housing Choice Voucher Program (often called “Section 8”). FMR prices are gross rent prices, meaning they include utilities.

The FMR for a two-bedroom rental has increased by 11.8% in Garvin and Stephens counties and by 7.4% in McClain County between 2023 and 2024.²³ FMR in 2025 will increase in all counties.

Fair Market Rent²⁴

County	Year	Efficiency	One-	Two-	Three-	2-Bedroom
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			Bedroom	Bedroom	Bedroom	Housing Wage
Garvin	2023	\$601	\$605	\$797	\$1,043	\$15.33
	2024	\$674	\$678	\$891	\$1,159	\$17.13
	2025	\$689	\$694	\$910	\$1,206	\$19.08
McClain	2023	\$775	\$821	\$1,016	\$1,353	\$19.54
	2024	\$824	\$884	\$1,091	\$1,454	\$20.98
	2025	\$886	\$961	\$1,180	\$1,575	\$21.77
Stephens	2023	\$639	\$643	\$797	\$1,115	\$15.33
	2024	\$734	\$739	\$891	\$1,256	\$17.13
	2025	\$768	\$773	\$910	\$1,275	\$19.08

Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Policy Development and Research

COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS

Health Outcomes represent a county's current health and reflect the physical and mental well-being of residents through measures representing length and quality of life. Health Factors (health behaviors, clinical care, social & economic factors, physical environment) represent issues that, if modified, can improve length and quality of life. They are predictors of how healthy communities can be in the future.²¹ Of Oklahoma's 77 counties, McClain County (#9) ranks among the healthiest, while Garvin (#68) ranks among the least healthy. Stephens County (#49) ranks among the lower middle range of counties. Areas of challenge or "areas to explore" are adult smoking (19%-24%), adult obesity (35%-41%), and uninsured adults (16%-21%); these most negatively impact the health of residents.²

2024 County Health Rankings

Areas of Strength	Garvin County	McClain County	Stephens County	Oklahoma
Areas to Explore				
Health Outcomes Ranking	68	9	49	
	Among Least Healthy	Among Healthiest	Lower Middle Range	
Length of Life	68	9	46	
Quality of Life	60	15	53	
Health Factors Ranking	46	3	40	
	Lower Middle Range	Among Healthiest	Lower Middle Range	
Health Behaviors	48	4	33	
Clinical Care	36	7	37	
Social & Economic Factors	42	5	49	
Physical Environment	60	43	44	
FACTORS				
Poor or Fair Health	19%	15%	18%	17%
Adult Smoking	24%	19%	23%	20%
Adult Obesity	40%	35%	41%	37%
Food Environment Index	7.5	8.4	6.9	5.8
Physical Inactivity	32%	26%	32%	28%
Exercise Opportunities	40%	55%	68%	71%
Excessive Drinking	15%	15%	14%	14%

Income Inequality	4.3	4.1	4.2	4.5
Uninsured	21%	16%	19%	18%
Primary Care Physicians	3,080:1	2,070:1	2,540:1	1,650:1
Dentists	2,870:1	2,900:1	1,660:1	1,570:1
Mental Health Providers	550:1	840:1	800:1	240:1
Severe Housing Problems	10%	10%	11%	14%
Air Pollution	9.3	9.9	8.8	8.7
Children in Single-Parent Households	28%	17%	22%	26%

Source: countyhealthrankings.com

CHILD ABUSE

Child abuse is a health risk for many of our children with 63 children in Garvin Co. confirmed abused in FY 2025, with 104 in McClain and 136 in Stephens County, a slight increase from previous years.

FOOD INSECURITY

Food insecurity refers to the USDA's measure of lack of access to a sufficient amount of food for an active, healthy life for all household members, and limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate foods. According to Feeding America, "Food insecurity can cause serious health issues when families have to choose between spending money on food or on medicine and healthcare, as well as choosing between food and rent, bills, and transportation. Further, food insecurity can make it more difficult for a child to properly learn and develop."²⁵

Child food insecurity rates in 2022 were 22.5% in Garvin County, 15.9% in McClain County, and 24.7% in Stephens County—with the state of Oklahoma at 23.5%. Between 2019 (pre-pandemic) and 2021, child food insecurity decreased by 1% - 3% in the three-county area. Massive public/private response to hunger during the pandemic was successful in mitigating food insecurity rates across the country.

In 2022, nearing the end of the Covid Pandemic, food insecurities increased significantly. All counties increased with Stephens County marked an increase of 5.8%, Garvin 5.6 and McClain 5%.

While food insecurity improved for sub-population, there was a deepening divide across racial and ethnic lines. In 2024, 12% - 14% of the Hispanic general population in the three-county area and 14% - 22% of the African American community were food insecure, higher than 8% - 13% of the non-Hispanic White population.²³

Overall Food Insecurity by Race/Ethnicity, 2024

Location	Overall Population	Black (All Ethnicities)	Latino/ Hispanic	White (Non-Hispanic)
Oklahoma	14.1%	25%	14%	11%
Garvin County	12.8%	22%	12%	12%
McClain County	8.9%	No Data	10%	8%
Stephens County	14.3%	14%	14%	13%

"Overall" refers to all individuals, including children, regardless of race or ethnicity. Information unavailable for other races and ethnicities. Source: Feeding America, 2024

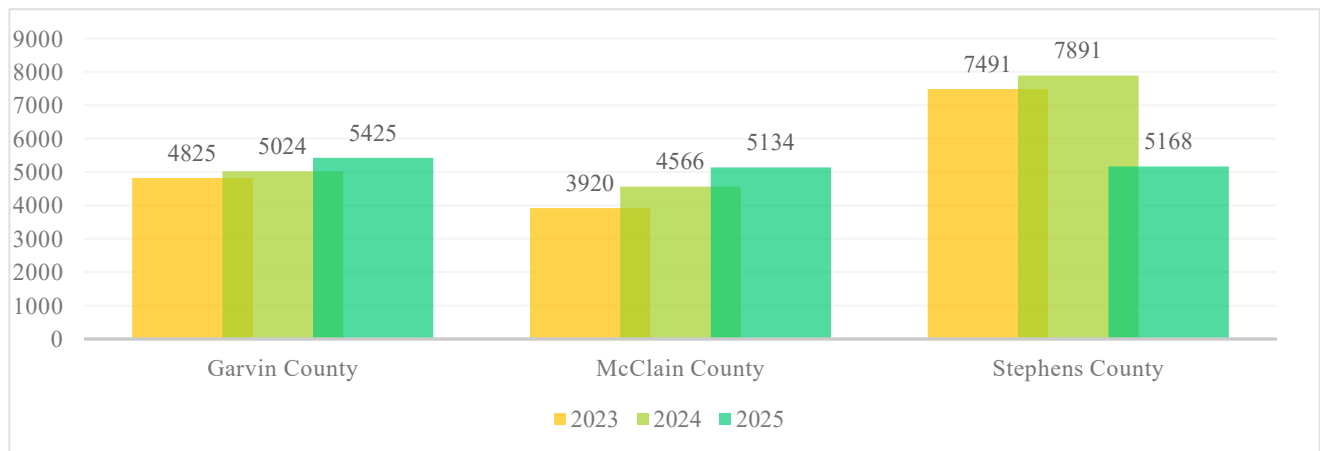
SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

SNAP enables low-income families to buy nutritious food with Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards.

SNAP recipients spend their benefits to buy eligible food in authorized retail food stores/Farmers' Markets. The Gross Monthly Income Eligibility Standard is 130% of the Federal Poverty Level.²⁴

Between FY 2022 and FY 2024, the monthly average of SNAP recipients increased by 4.1% in Garvin County, 16.5% in McClain County, and 5.3% in Stephens County. FY 2024 there was an 8% increase in Garvin and McClain Counties and a 34% decrease in Stephens County.²⁵

Monthly Average SNAP Recipients



TYPICAL PARENT WORK & SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Garvin, McClain, and Stephens Counties, Oklahoma

Work Schedules (Parents/Guardians)

- Most employment is tied to agriculture, oil/gas, service, healthcare, and commuting to nearby cities (especially Oklahoma City)
- Standard work hours for many parents:
 - ♦ 7:00 AM – 4:00 PM (common in labor, manufacturing, healthcare)
 - ♦ 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM (typical full-time shift)
- A notable portion of workers:
 - ♦ Leave home before 6:00 AM (≈15–16%)
 - ♦ Have ~20–27 minute commutes on average, with some longer rural commutes
- Many residents work outside their home county (≈65% in McClain County)

👉 Implication:

Parents often need early morning care (before 7 AM) and late afternoon care (after 4–5 PM).

School Schedules (Children)

- Most districts follow a traditional school day:
 - ♦ Start: 7:30–8:15 AM
 - ♦ Dismissal: 3:00–3:45 PM
- Some rural districts use 4-day school weeks (Mon–Thu)

Implication:

- There is a gap between school hours and work hours
- Fridays may require full-day childcare in some communities

Typical Daily Routine for Families

Weekday (5-day school district example)

- 5:30–6:30 AM: Parents wake, prepare for work
- 6:00–7:00 AM: Commute begins for many workers
- 7:30–8:00 AM: Children dropped off at school / childcare
- 3:00–3:45 PM: School dismissal
- 4:30–6:00 PM: Parents return home (after commute)

👉 Creates a 1.5–3-hour childcare gap in the afternoon

Weekday (4-day school week example)

- Monday–Thursday: Longer school days (similar hours)
- Friday:
 - ♦ No school for children
 - ♦ Parents typically still work full shifts

👉 Creates a full-day childcare need on Fridays

Key Challenges for Working Head Start Families

- Transportation & commuting
 - ♦ Limited public transit (almost all drive)
- Nontraditional work hours
 - ♦ Early morning shifts, some evening/weekend work
- Childcare gaps
 - ♦ Before school (6–8 AM)
 - ♦ After school (3–6 PM)
 - ♦ Full-day care on non-school days
- Rural distance barriers
 - ♦ Longer travel times to jobs, childcare, and services

OTHER CHILD CARE PROGRAMS

GARVIN COUNTY

Child Care

- About 9 licensed childcare centers
- Plus additional family child care homes (smaller, informal capacity)

Estimated total capacity

- ~300–600 children

Ages served

- Infants (0–12 months)
- Toddlers (1–2)
- Preschool (3–5)
- Some school-age care

Key point: Smaller provider base = more limited slots, especially for infants.

Public Pre-K (Strongest Component)

- Available through local school districts
- Serves:
 - ♦ Mostly 4-year-olds (universal eligibility)

Coverage

- Likely majority of 4-year-olds enrolled.

Home Visiting & Family Support

- Programs like:
 - ♦ SafeCare / ParentPRO (birth–5)
- Serve: Families with children under age 6

Scale

- Limited reach (small percentage of eligible families)

Overall Coverage Estimate

- Children under 5 in county (typical rural estimate): ~1,000–2,000
- Served (all programs combined): ~30–50%

Biggest gaps

- Infant/toddler care (0–2)
- Rural areas outside towns like Pauls Valley

MCCLAIN COUNTY

Child Care (Largest of the 3)

- About 24 licensed childcare centers
- Includes larger-capacity facilities (some up to ~100+ children)

Estimated total capacity.

- ~400–800+ children

Ages served

- Full range:
 - ♦ 0–5 (core)
 - ♦ School-age also common

Key point: More suburban (near OKC) → higher supply and larger centers

Public pre-K

- Widely available through school districts

Coverage

- Likely very high participation among 4-year-olds

Home Visiting & Family Services

- SafeCare (birth–5)
- Youth and Family Center serves:
 - Infants → adolescents

Scale

- Broader service network than neighboring counties

Overall Coverage Estimate

- Children under 5: ~1,500–2,500
- Served:
 - ~40–60% (highest among the three counties)

Biggest gaps

- Still limited infant care
- Rapid population growth → demand outpacing supply

STEPHENS COUNTY

Supply of Child Care

- Moderate number of providers (similar scale to Garvin)
- Likely mix of:
 - ♦ Small centers
 - ♦ Home-based care

Estimated capacity

- ~300–700 children

Ages served

- Birth → 5 primarily
- Some school-age

Key point: Mid-sized system but less dense than McClain

2) Public Pre-K

- Available through local districts

Coverage

- Likely majority of 4-year-olds served

3) Home Visiting & Family Programs

- SafeCare / ParentPRO eligibility includes county

Scale

- Similar to Garvin:
 - ♦ Targeted, not universal

4) Overall Coverage Estimate

- Children under 5: ~1,200–2,000
- Served:
 - ♦ ~30–50%

Biggest gaps

- Infant/toddler care

- Transportation/access in rural areas

SIDE-BY-SIDE COMPARISON

Category	Garvin County	McClain County	Stephens County
Licensed centers	~9	~24	~10–15 (est.)
Total children served	300–600	400–800+	300–700
Pre-K access	High	Very high	High
Home visiting reach	Limited	Moderate	Limited
% of eligible children served	~30–50%	~40–60%	~30–50%
Biggest gap	Infant care	Growth capacity	Rural access

Key Takeaways Across Counties

1. McClain County is structurally stronger
 - More providers
 - Larger centers
 - Better access due to proximity to Oklahoma City
 2. Garvin and Stephens are more rural and constrained
 - Fewer providers
 - Smaller capacity
 - Greater geographic barriers
 3. Pre-K is the most consistent success
 - Across all three counties:
 - ♦ 4-year-olds are most likely to be served
 4. Infants & toddlers are underserved everywhere
 - Highest cost to provide care
 - Lowest availability
-

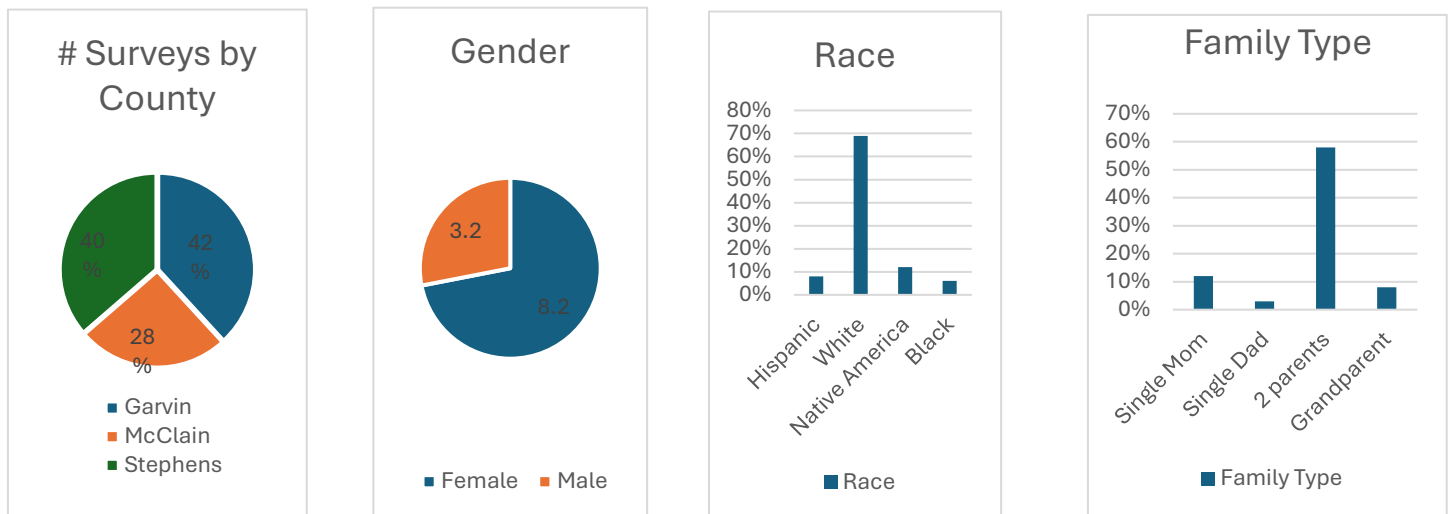
Bottom line

- McClain County = highest capacity and coverage
- Garvin & Stephens = smaller, more limited systems
- Across all three:
 - ♦ The system serves hundreds of children per county
 - ♦ But a significant share of eligible children—especially ages 0–2—remain unserved.

SURVEYS

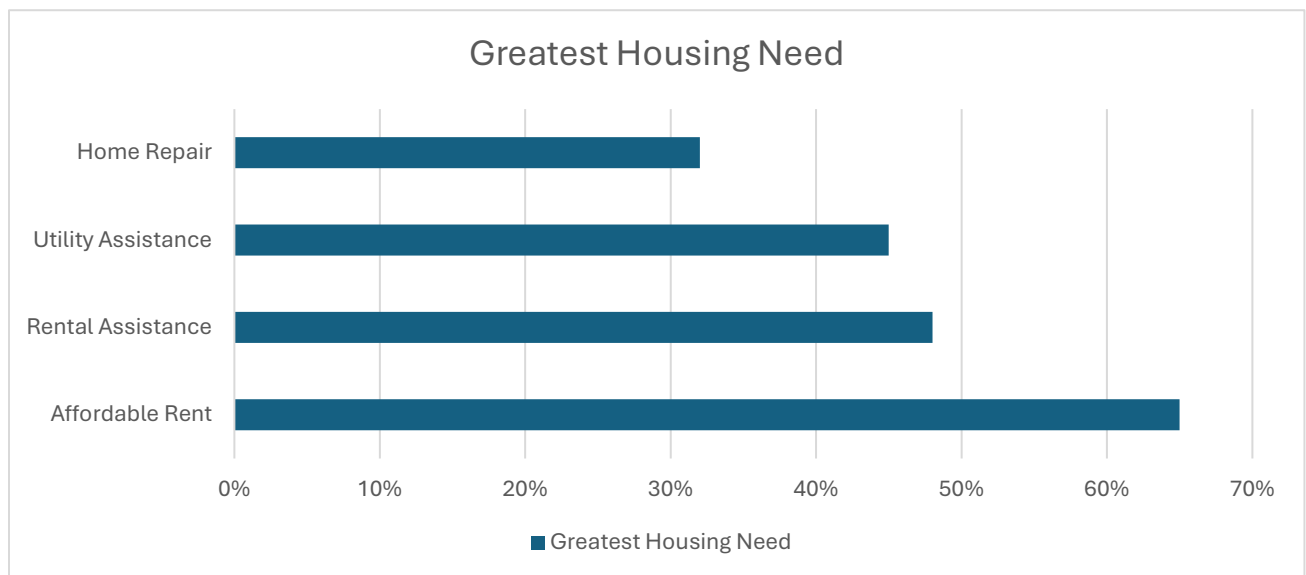
As part of the Community Assessment process, a survey was given to families and enrolled in Delta or residing in our service area and community partners who provide services to our families.

Out of 368 surveys 42% were from Stephens Co., 28% from Garvin Co. 40% from McClain Co. 82% completed surveys were by a female and 18% male.

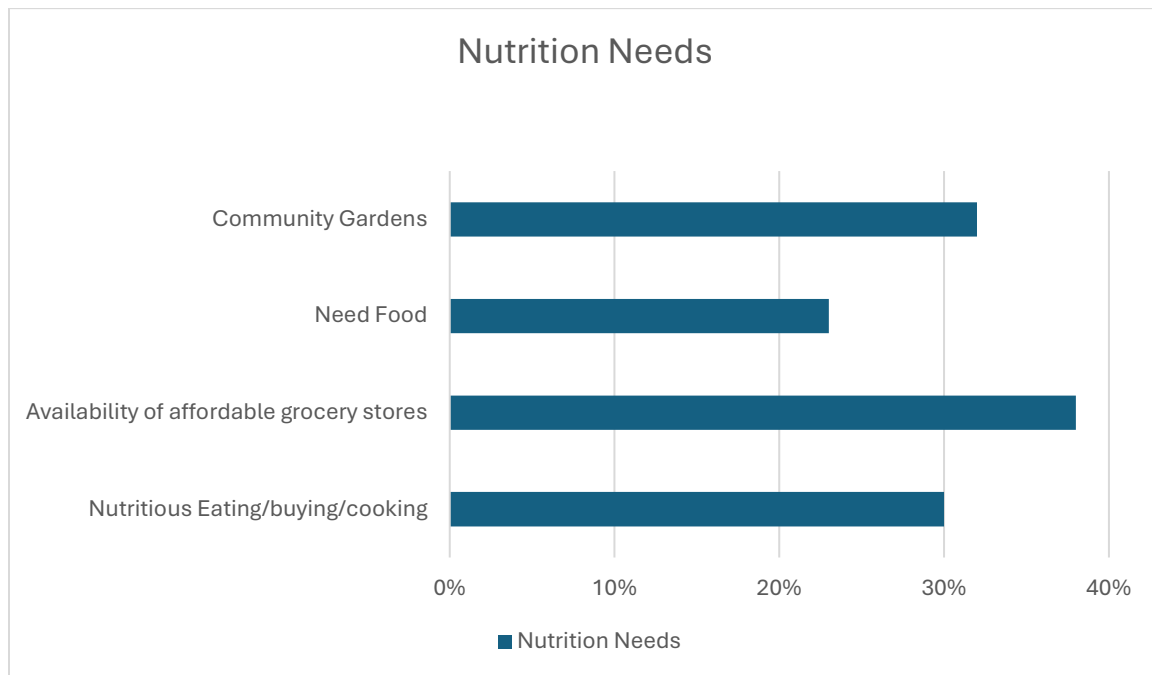


The following graphs depict what families are “most in need of” that aligns with Head Start Family Outcomes.

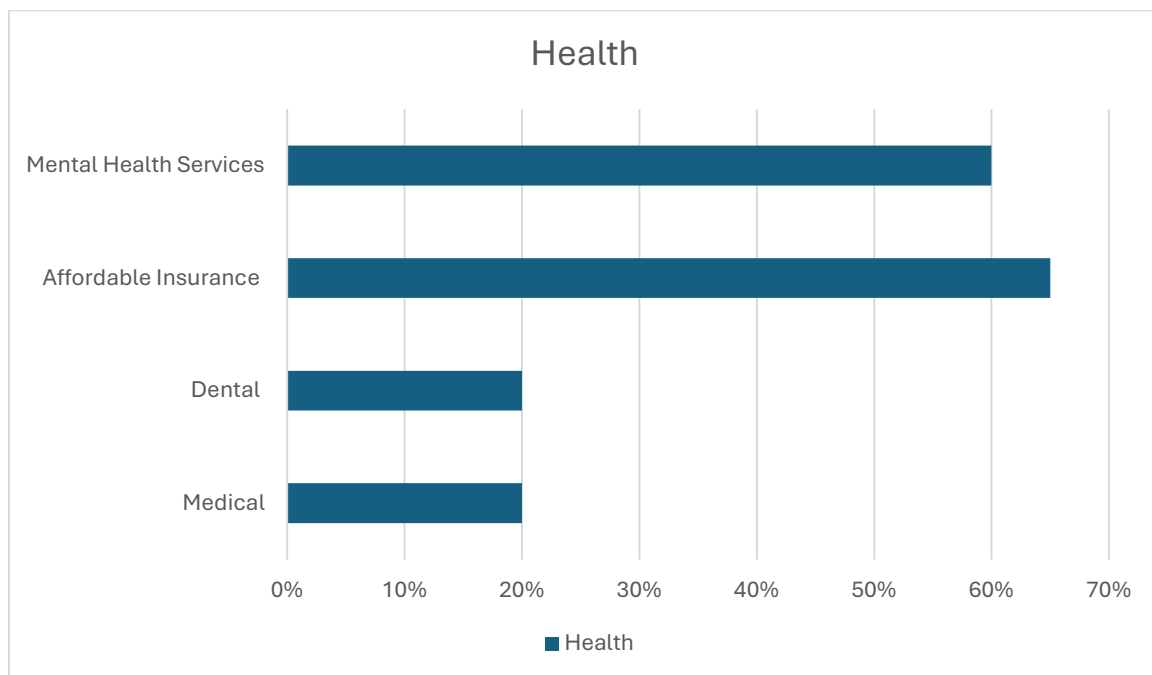
What is the greatest housing need in your community?



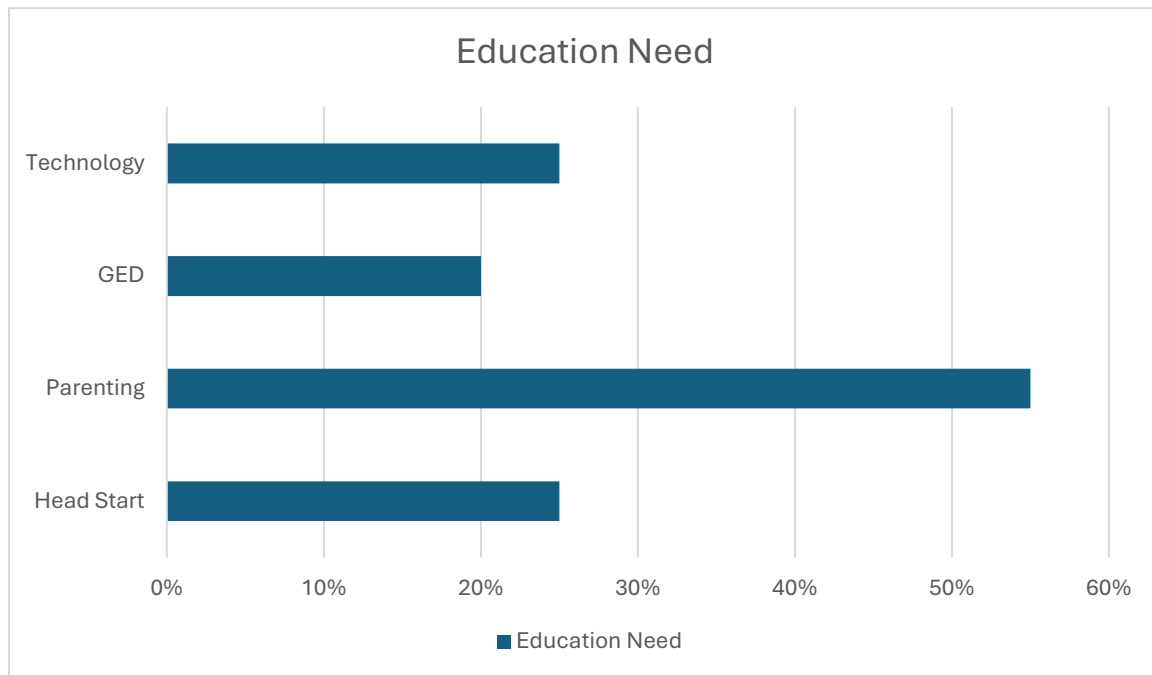
What is the greatest nutrition need in your community?



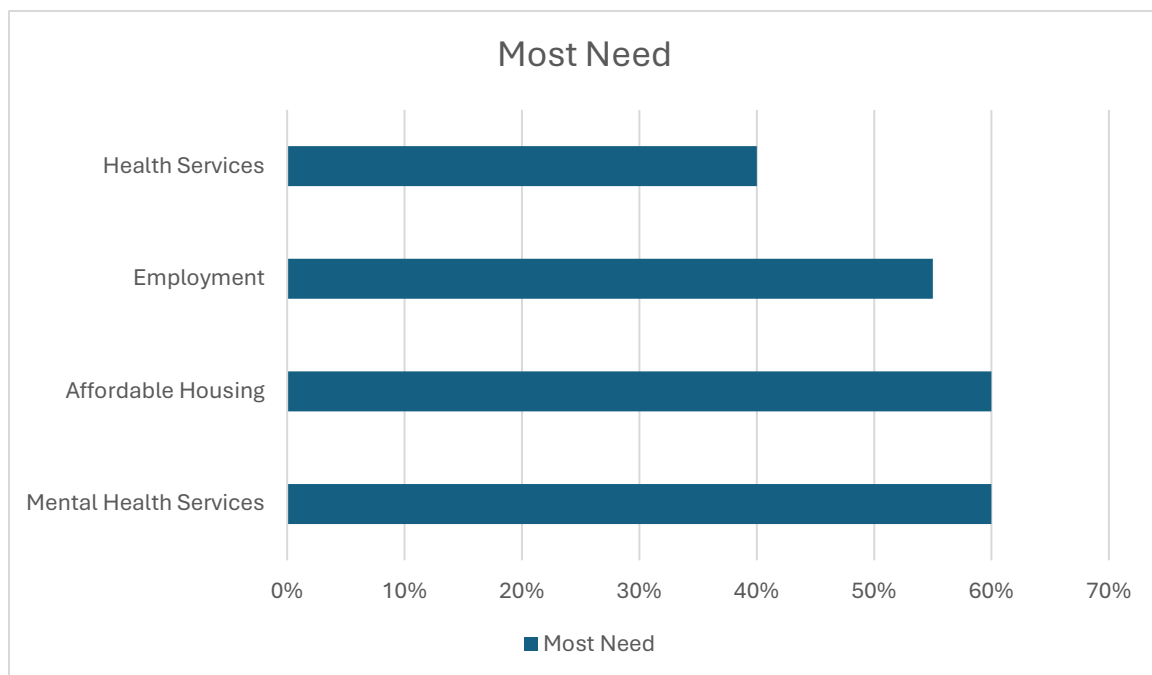
What is the greatest health/mental health need in your community?



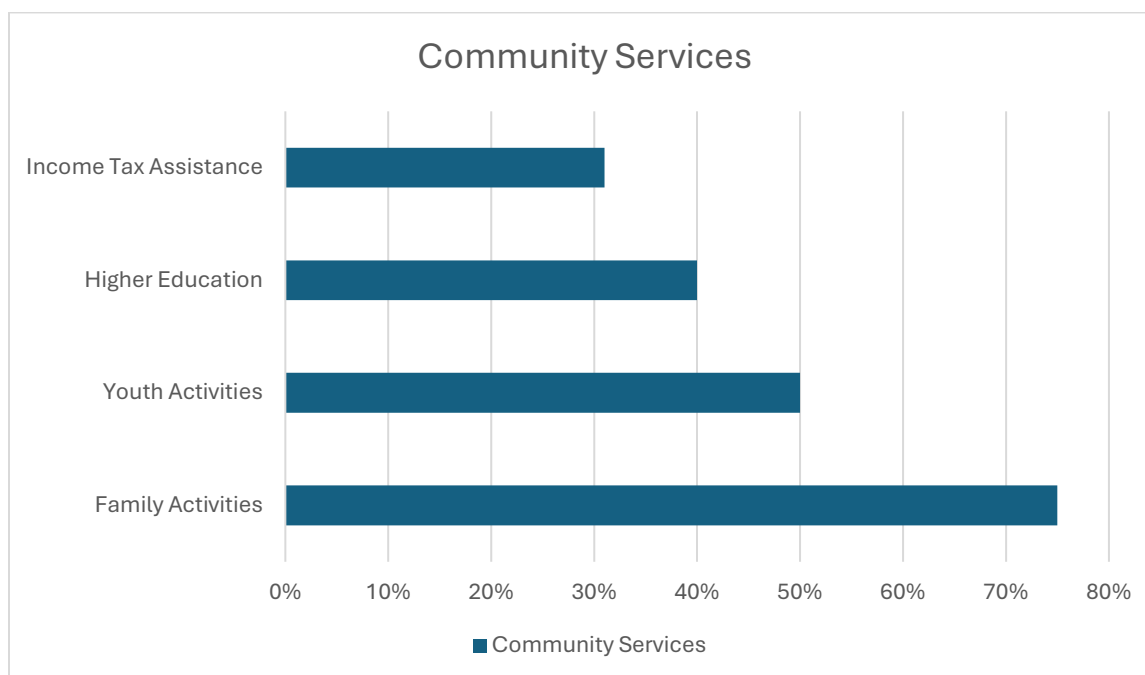
What is the greatest education need in your community?



Which of the following services do you consider the most in need in your community?



If the following services were available, would you use the service?



Collaboration is the key to comprehensive services for children and families who are low-income and/or at risk. Delta Head Start maintains collaborative relationships with a large variety of community services, as well as state and federal organizations. Delta has successful collaborative agreements with city, civic, and community leaders. Delta has found that local volunteers are eager to assist in a variety of ways including building and playground maintenance, serving on local advisory boards, or providing direct services to children and families.

Delta Head Start's agreements include:

Libraries:

Delta has Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with all libraries in the communities we serve.

Public schools:

Delta has contracts with 8 school districts we serve to combine resources to provide better services and to meet the needs of our children and families. We also work with schools to ensure the successful transition of each and every child into kindergarten.

Mental Health:

Delta has agreements with local mental health providers.

Adult Education:

Delta works with programs providing these services to our parents.

Special Education:

Delta has 22 signed MOU agreements with school districts.

Early Intervention:

Delta has MOUs with Oklahoma’s early intervention program SoonerStart. SoonerStart serves children birth-3 year of age. At 2 1/2 years of age, we work with SoonerStart and parents to transition children into Head Start.

Faith-Based:

Delta has many partnership agreements with local churches and ministerial alliances that help families with clothing, food, and utility costs.

Medical professionals:

Delta has partnerships with doctors and dentists who provide screenings to our children for free or a reduced fee.

OSU Extension:

Delta has agreements with all 3 county offices serving our families.

Tribal programs:

Delta has agreements with tribal programs that are in our service area.

Technology centers:

Partnerships with tech centers help provide adult and family literacy to our parents.

Other programs and agencies Delta has collaborations with:

Fire and Police departments, local ambulance services, Youth and Family, Smart Start and McClain County Tobacco Control Program.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

For community resource information in Garvin and Stephens counties, visit: [Helpline 211](#)

For community resource information in McClain County, visit: [Pathways of Central Oklahoma 211](#)

For community resource information in other Oklahoma counties, visit: [Oklahoma 211 Map by County](#)

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