

Overview of Service Area

The service area of Southwest Human Resource Agency Head Start includes seven (7) counties in the Southwest Tennessee area.

Chester County, the crossroads of West Tennessee, has a rich educational heritage and diverse entertainment opportunities usually found only in urban areas. Freed-Hardeman University offers national leaders, theater, music, and business seminars. Both Chester County Schools and F-HU nurture scholarship and adult educational training. Chickasaw State Park draws thousands to its recreational retreats. The annual September Barbeque Festival salutes the significance of Chester County's multimillion dollar agricultural base while it celebrates its nationally recognized speciality - whole hog barbequed over an open pit. More than 10 industries are helping to broaden the county's economic base, and local leaders are committed to providing a financial climate favorable for continued growth. There is one (1) Head Start Center (4 classrooms) located in Henderson. One of the four classrooms is a Pre-K collaboration classroom.

Decatur County anchors the middle of the extreme eastern edge of West Tennessee. It is bounded on the north by Benton County and the west by Henderson County. The Tennessee River divides it from Perry County on the east and from Hardin County on the south. Decatur County offers not only beautiful landscapes, but also provides abundant natural resources. Phosphate and limestone are two of the county's mineral assets. The limestone is well suited for building materials and also supplies high-grade gravel for road construction. Decaturville, the county seat, is located in the central portion of the county. Parsons, the county's largest town, was chartered in 1913. Decatur County hosts numerous industrial plants that produce apparel, appliances, furniture and other products. With the Tennessee River on the Eastern border of the county, residents and visitors alike enjoy all types of water sports including hunting, fishing, skiing, and camping. The SWHRA operates Head Start Centers in the communities of Decaturville (1 classroom) and Parsons (1 classroom).

Hardeman County, home of the Bird Dog Museum and Field Trial Hall of Fame, is rich in history as well as natural resources. Along with the scenic Hatchie River, which runs across the county, there are more than 20 watershed lakes stocked with game fish. Anderson's Fruit Farm, which has a processing operation at the farm, grows apples, peaches, and other fruit for local markets. Over 100 buildings are on the National Register of Historic Places including The Pillars, The Little Courthouse, and Ames Plantation. The Tennessee Forest Festival, held every October, is a natural festival due to the county's abundance of hardwood. Twenty-seven Hardwoods are shipped commercially from Hardeman County. There are two (2) centers in Bolivar (3 classrooms), one (1) center in Middleton (1 classroom), and one (1) center in Grand Junction (1 classroom).

Hardin County, home of the annual Civil War and Living History Demonstration, is abundant in history and recreation. Pickwick Lake and Pickwick Landing State Park just 14 miles south of Savannah, is a haven for boaters, fishermen, and campers. The Walking Tour of Savannah's Historic Homes and the Trail of Tears Walking Trail begin at the Tennessee River Museum, continue to the Cherry Mansion, Headquarters of General Grant during the Battle of Shiloh, and wind around the shady, tree lined streets of old town to the Wayne Jerrold's Riverside park. There are two Head Start Centers located in Savannah (4 classrooms).

Overview of Service Area

Page 2

Haywood County, home of the Peach Festival, has a vibrant business community along with agriculture and farming that are important ingredients in the community's overall economic mix. The mix of businesses and industries in Brownsville and Haywood County is ample evidence that there's great appeal in the resources and amenities of this serene community. Brownsville located in the rich, rolling farmlands of West Tennessee, is a quiet city which has maintained the charms of the past without ignoring the demands of the future. Two Head Start Centers (5 classrooms) are located in Brownsville. Of the five (5) classrooms there is one extended care service classroom and one 3-year old classroom. There is also a center in Stanton (1 classroom).

Henderson County and the City of Lexington have actively promoted business and industrial growth, leading to success in attracting new employers to the area. Three industrial parks, with roads and utility lines in place, are available to firms building facilities within the county. The county has a reliable labor force, and abundance of water, low natural gas and electric rates, and plenty of affordable land. It also enjoys a favorable central location, low tax rates and a moderate climate. Tourism is an important contributor to the local economy. Farming continues to contribute significantly to Henderson County's economy. While traditional types of farming have declined in recent years, there has been expansion in truck farming, orchards, recreational land use, and forestry. Natchez Trace State Park, the state's largest and most visited, with over 46,000 square acres, is six miles northeast of Lexington. There is one (1) Head Start Center located in Lexington (4 classrooms). Of those four (4) classrooms, one (1) is an extended care service classroom. There is also one (1) center in Reagan (1 classroom).

McNairy County is located in beautiful Southwest Tennessee, 30 miles from Jackson, Tennessee, 90 miles from Memphis; and situated on the Mississippi/Tennessee state line. McNairy County has eight (8) public schools. Five (5) public colleges and universities are located within a 30 mile radius of McNairy County. Vocational and technical courses are offered at Crump, Tennessee on the Eastern edge of McNairy County. Recreation parks and facilities are located throughout the county. Sports programs, golf and swimming are available for all ages. The County is well known for its quality hunting and fishing. Opportunities for enjoying concerts and plays are within an hour's drive. McNairy County is home to over 48 industries. Low occupation cost and location to the Nation's markets are real advantages to McNairy County industry also. Transportation is rapidly improving in the area also. With planned upgrading of US-64 and US-45 to four lane highways, McNairy County will once again be the crossroads of the South. Communities serving Head Start are Selmer, which has one (1) center with four (4) classrooms. Of those four (4) classrooms, one (1) is an extended care service classroom. There are also centers in Ramer and Adamsville with one (1) classroom each.