



Delta Health Alliance

SOLUTIONS FOR A HEALTHY TOMORROW

For Every Stage
of Life



Annual Report 2019

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Delta Health Alliance is a non-profit, tax exempt organization that is changing health care and education in the Mississippi Delta by improving access to health services, promoting healthier lifestyles, and expanding educational opportunities. Two principles guide our work in the Delta: using data to make decisions and building community partners to manage our programs.

We are at the forefront of combating poor health and educational opportunities in the Mississippi Delta. Our programs are built on the latest medical, public health, and education research and regularly assessed using relevant data and outcomes to ensure we provide quality resources for our community. We work through community organizations, recognizing that long-lasting change occurs only when it is nurtured and supported by the members of these communities.

Our headquarters in Stoneville, Mississippi often serves as a center for community based collaborative programs and educational initiatives for partnering agencies and residents of the Delta. Additionally, we have offices throughout the Delta and Mississippi in Clarksdale, Cleveland, Indianola, Marks, Oxford, and Ridgeland.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mr. Bill Kenendy, Chairman

Ms. Lisa Percy, Secretary

Hon. Willie Bailey

Dr. Cass Pennington

Mr. Woods Eastland

DHA Initiatives in the Mississippi Delta

IMPROVING HEALTH CARE

1. Leland Medical Clinic
2. Mobile Medical Clinic
3. The Delta Heart Health Network
4. Small Provider Quality Improvement Program
5. Delta Futures Teen Pregnancy Prevention
6. Deer Creek Behavioral Health Network
7. Delta Systems of Treatment And Rehabilitation (*Delta STAR*)
8. Delta Opioid Task Force (*DOT*)
9. BUILD Health Challenge
10. COMPASS (*Commitment to Partnership in Addressing HIV/AIDS in Southern States*)

INCREASING HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

11. Electronic Health Services
12. U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development
13. Delta Health Information Network
14. Medicaid Population Health Demonstration Project

EXPANDING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

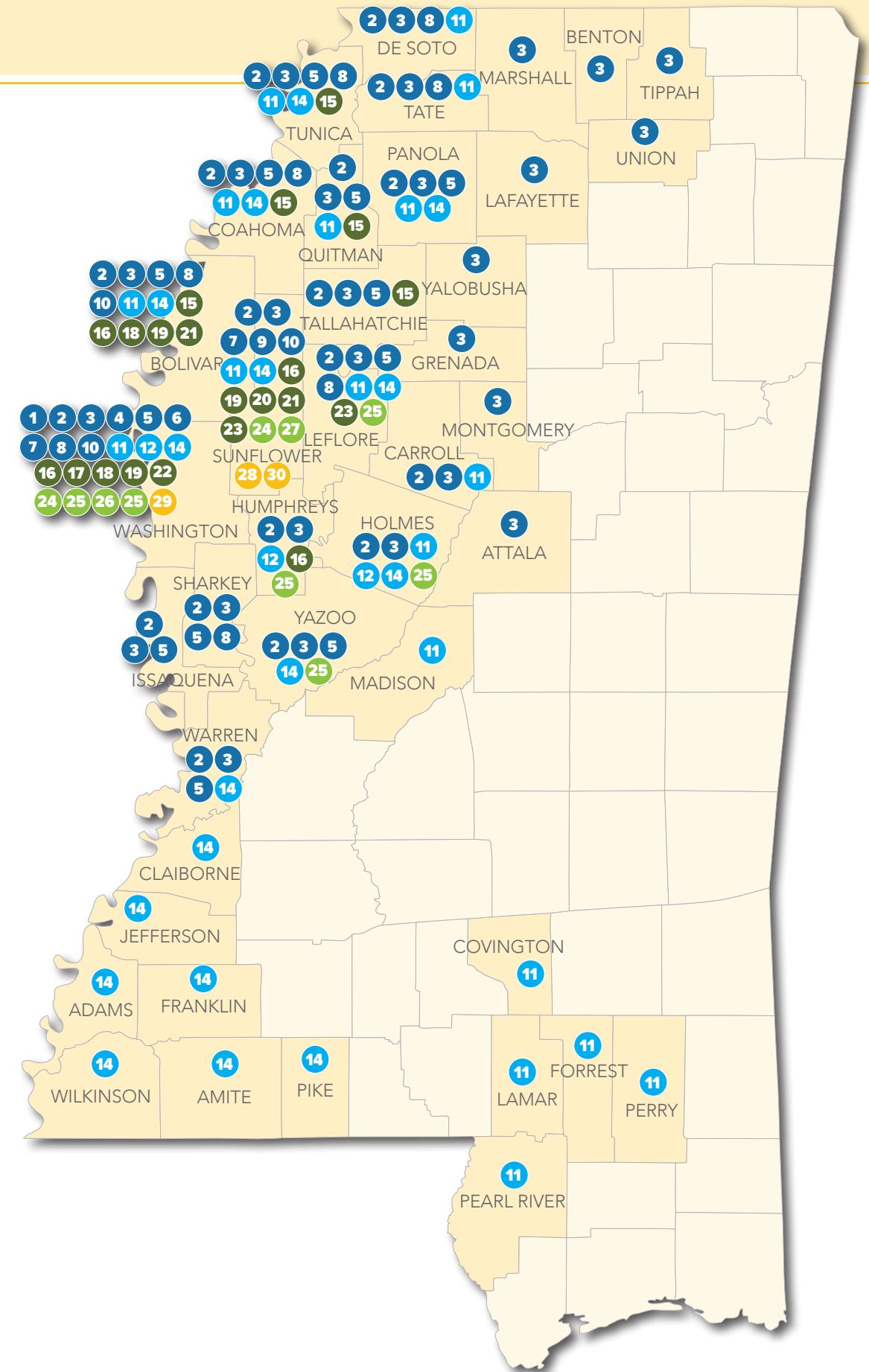
15. Tobacco-Free Coalition
16. Imagination Library
17. Delta EATS (*Edible Agriculture Teaching Students*)
18. Whole Kids Foundation Delta EATS
19. Delta EATS Community Foods Planning Project
20. Sunflower County Head Start/Early Head Start
21. Early Head Start Childcare Partnership
22. Delta DREAMS
23. Delta Assault Response Team Network (*DART*)

HELPING FAMILIES

24. Parents as Teachers
25. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Healthy Start Collaborative
26. Universal Parenting Place
27. Sesame Street in Communities

BUILDING PROMISE COMMUNITIES

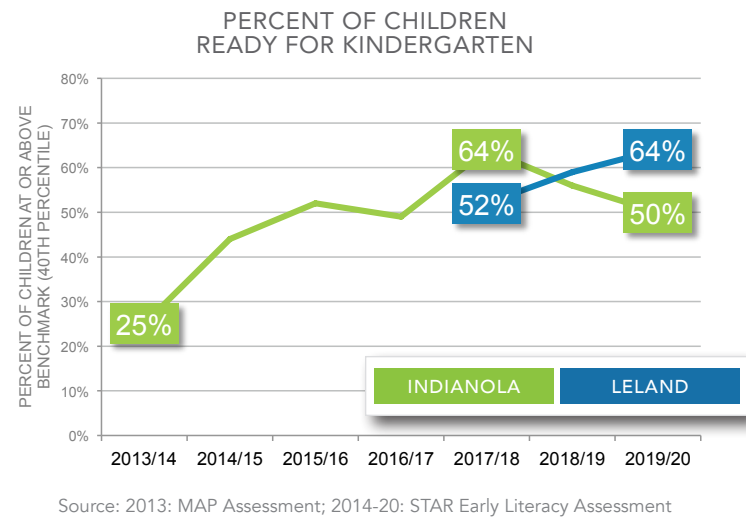
28. Indianola Promise Community (*IPC*)
29. Deer Creek Promise Community (*DCPC*)
30. Phil Hardin Foundation Early Childhood Initiative (*Promise Community Expansion*)



The Mississippi Delta: Getting Smarter

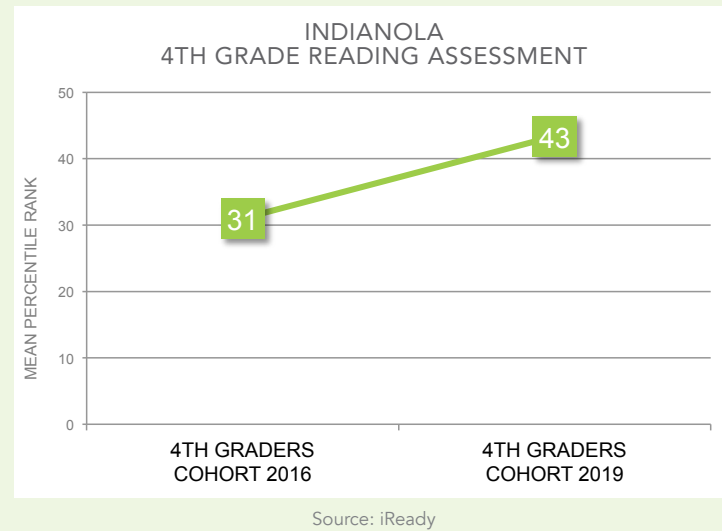
Leland School District's scores on the kindergarten readiness assessment were the highest and second highest in the state at the kindergarten and pre-kindergarten level, respectively.

In Leland, about 64% of children entering kindergarten in the 2019-20 school year earned the benchmark score on the STAR assessment. While a smaller share of Indianola students reached kindergarten-readiness compared to last year, 2019-20 levels still show noticeable improvements over previous years.

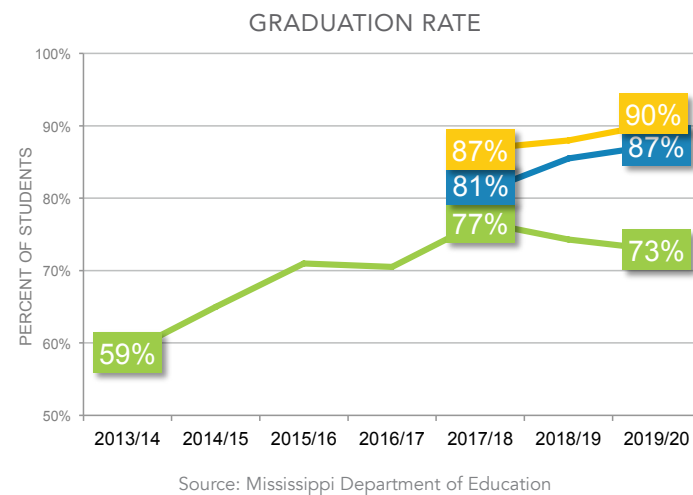
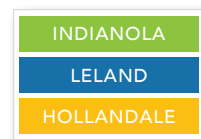


Pipeline of DHA Educational Programming Proves Effective

The entering fourth grade class in 2019 marks the first to receive the full battery of IPC programming: pre-kindergarten, LINKS, CARES, and the extra programming for literacy fellows most at risk of failing the third grade reading gate. As a result, this cohort is performing at record levels compared to earlier cohorts who received less programming. The graph shows the 2019 cohort's mean percentile rank for meeting grade level reading assessments is 12 points higher than the cohort just three years before.



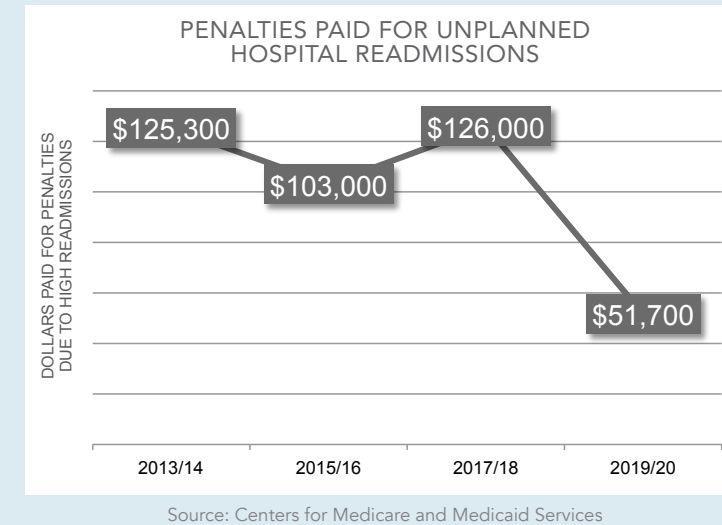
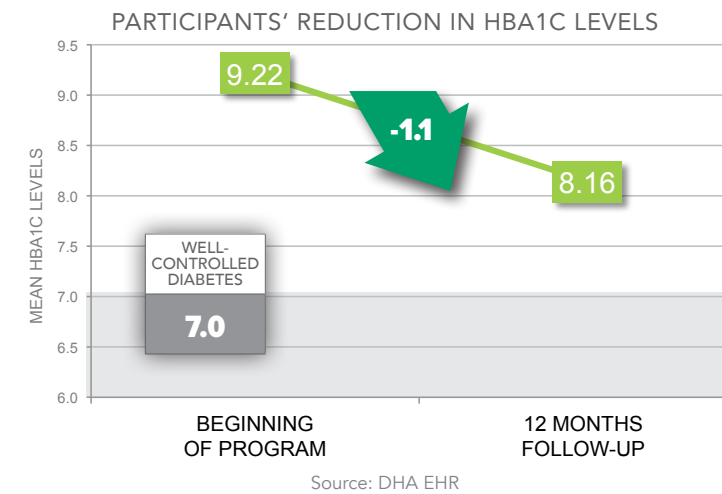
Graduation rates in school districts featuring Delta Health Alliance's Promise Communities are on the rise.



The Mississippi Delta: Getting Healthier

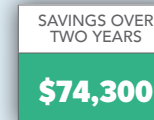
PCMH is Reducing Hemoglobin Levels Among Diabetes Patients

Delta Health Alliance's Patient Centered Medical Home Model (PCMH), which aims to manage and prevent diabetes through treatment, education, and home visits, improves hemoglobin levels in program participants as depicted in the graph to the left. Average hemoglobin levels decreased by 1.1 points among program participants 12 months after the beginning of the program. Such a large decline in one year represents a significant step toward controlling diabetes and improving the patients quality of life.



HOSPITAL READMISSION COSTS

Delta Health Alliance's Delta Heart Health program aims to reduce hospital readmissions in 23 rural counties in the Delta. Our programming has led to fewer penalties paid by hospitals for patient readmissions.



Serving Families in the Community



Jackie Lambert and Robert Love have two very different tasks with one common goal – to strengthen the health and well-being of Delta families.

Under the umbrella of the Delta Health Alliance’s Delta Home Visiting Initiative, Lambert and Love, respectively, work with new mothers and fathers to help ensure that their children have the best opportunities for a healthy and successful life.

“By adding these two new staff members, we are creating a more robust and well-rounded program to better serve the needs of the entire family,” said Melanie Williams, DHA’s Associate Vice President of Home Visiting Initiatives. “Each of them brings unique experiences and expertise that will have a real impact on our residents.”

Jackie Lambert, a native of Pace, Miss., is a Certified Lactation Counselor, Certified Childbirth Educator, and a Loss and Bereavement Doula. She has 15 years of experience working with expectant families in the Delta by educating and supporting their infant feeding decisions.

Breastfeeding leads to healthy mothers, babies, and family outcomes. So, our work also encourages breastfeeding as the preferred method of infant feeding,” Lambert said.

Through the Home Visiting Initiative, Lambert hopes to increase breastfeeding rates in the Delta, “but I also hope to improve support and education in lactation with these programs,” she said.

The goal of the Delta Home Visiting Initiative -- and its Healthy Start Collaborative in Leflore, Holmes and Humphreys counties; Delta Parents As Teachers program in Sunflower County; the Medicaid Healthy Pregnancy program in 10 Delta Counties; and the Deer Creek Promise Community’s Parents As Teachers program in Washington County -- is six-fold:

- (1) To improve women’s health
- (2) To promote quality perinatal services
- (3) To strengthen family resilience
- (4) To increase parent resources
- (5) To achieve a collective impact in health, wellness, and education programs
- (6) To improve school readiness



Like Lambert, Robert Love, sees the initiative as an opportunity to provide more support and guidance for fathers. “What I hope to achieve is reaching as many fathers as possible and guiding them through the processes of becoming good fathers and good citizens of the community,” said Love. “I hope to inspire the fathers to be more active in the lives of their children and for some to look into marrying the mothers of their children.”

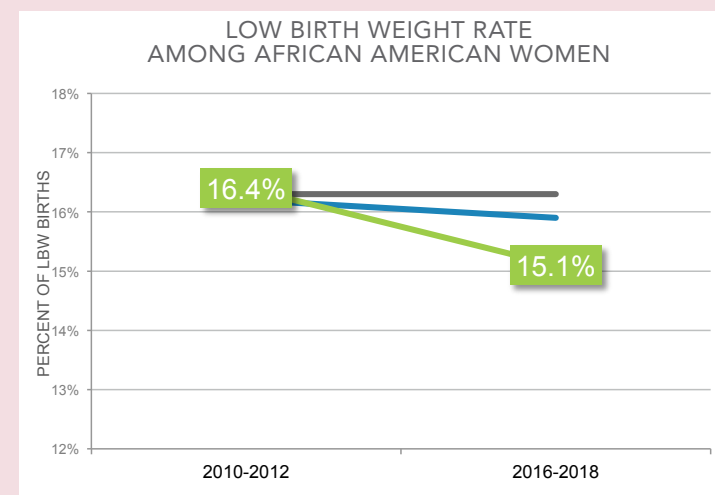
Love’s experiences in Indianola have allowed him to develop the know-how to work with young men in the Delta. He has started several important programs including Sanctified Overachieving Newborn Soldiers (SONS), a mentoring program that teaches basic life skills such as car repair and maintenance, cooking, and cutting hair. He also began a program centered around identifying the skills and opportunities to help improve the finances of young men. “My experience will improve the lives of Delta families by letting the fathers know that they, too, are important to the family and are welcome to participate in the lives of the children,” said Lambert.

Together, Lambert and Love will help fortify DHA’s ongoing efforts to ensure that Delta families have the resources and guidance they need to live successful lives and provide healthy futures for their children.

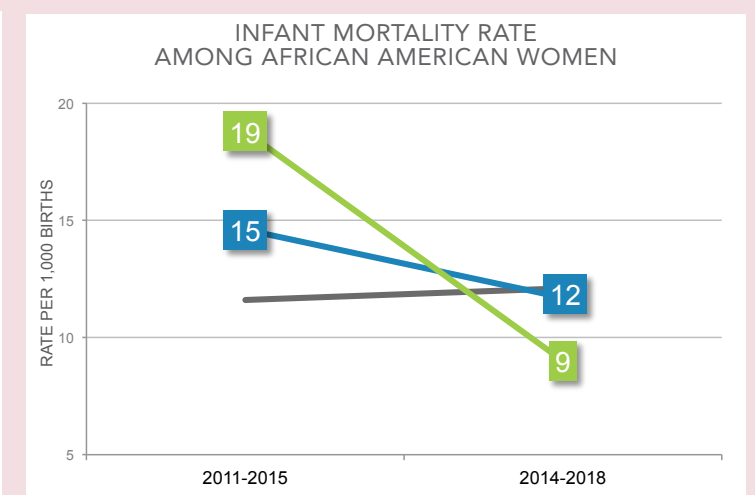
“It’s a team collaboration with all of us working together to have a real impact,” said Lambert. “Support and encouragement are key components and I’m excited for the challenges that lie ahead.”

DHA Programming Leads to Decreases in Low Birth Weights and Infant Mortality

Among other goals, the Delta Healthy Start Collaborative seeks to combat infant mortality and low birth weight babies in the four-county service area where both indicators of maternal and infant health historically see higher incidences. Leflore County has seen significant reductions in low birth weight rates among African American mothers—who comprise 97% of all mothers participating in the program— as a result of DHA programming. In fact, researchers estimate enrollment in DHA’s Delta Healthy Start Collaborative reduces the risk of low birth weight by 34%, up from 32% last year. In terms of infant mortality, DHA programming has contributed to a 53% decrease in Humphreys County’s infant mortality rate, and a 20% decrease in Holmes County.



Source: Mississippi Department of Health



Source: Mississippi Department of Health

Sunflower County Head Start / Early Head Start Childcare Partnership



From the oven of success has come one of the Delta Health Alliance's most fruitful offerings: the Sunflower County Head Start / Early Head Start Childcare Partnership – an early learning program that expanded significantly in fall 2019 under the leadership of the Delta Health Alliance.

Linda Stevenson knows the recipe. So do Kenya Raymond and Johnnie Mae Rodney.

First, take hundreds of children ages 0-3 and combine them with a team of dedicated, well-trained child-care staff members. Then, mix a creative curriculum with a network of recently renovated, modern learning centers. Finally, add a helping of family outreach services with a quality healthcare component. The result is a quality early learning program that prepares children for success in kindergarten and beyond.

Stevenson, Raymond and Rodney, staff members at the Imaginarium Learning Center in Drew, Little Angels Day Care in Moorhead and Be'Be' Kids Learning Center in Indianola, respectively, are all part of the nearly three-year-old early learning program that is helping change lives in the Mississippi Delta.

"It's so important for these kids that all the parts of the partnership work together to give us the results we're looking for -- which is a community of healthy children ready to start school," said Stevenson.

In 2019, DHA received funding to expand the Head Start program in Sunflower County. The five-year grant, provided through the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, now encompasses five additional childcare facilities located in Drew, Moorhead, Sunflower, Ruleville, and Indianola. The Early Head Start component of the Sunflower County Childcare Partnership is a continuation of the efforts previously provided by Save the Children.

DHA already oversaw childcare partnerships serving six childcare centers throughout Sunflower County.

Since forming, the childcare partnership has adhered to five primary goals:

- (1) Building capacity and providing technical support of childcare centers in Sunflower County.
- (2) Providing training and certification for all centers.
- (3) Increasing parental engagement at centers and improving access to support services.
- (4) Increasing the number of children enrolled in and utilizing the childcare subsidy program.
- (5) Improving the financial viability of centers.

"We have met and exceeded our goals," said Roshunda Samples, a DHA program director who oversees the Early Head Start program. "The statistics are all positive, but they only tell part of the story. Our mission is to really change the lives of the youngest members of our community, as well as their families; and we are doing that in a real and self-sustaining way."



While the statistics are positive, the full picture only comes into focus by adding other elements, including:

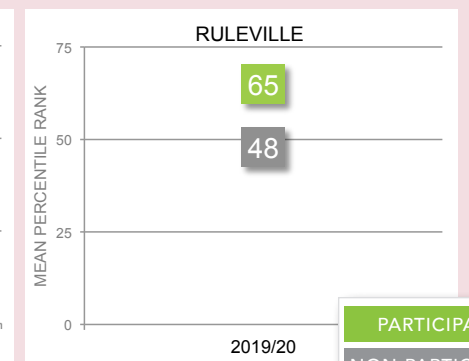
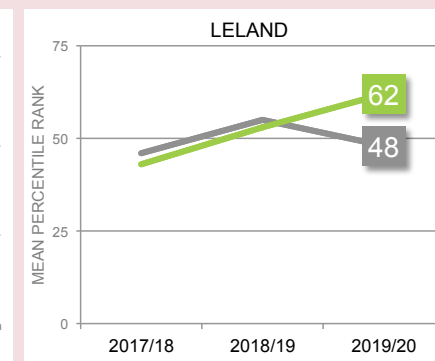
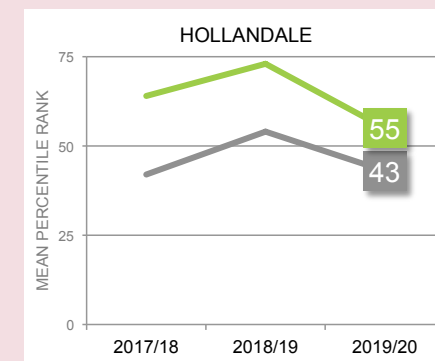
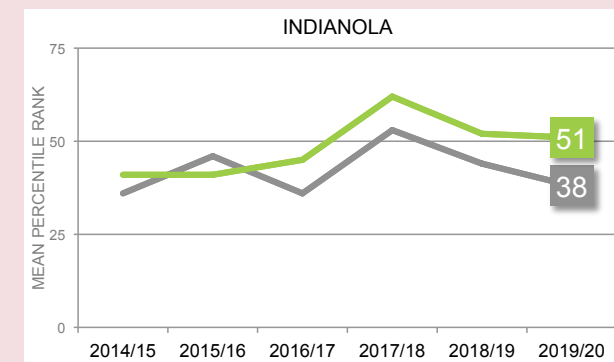
"The Creative Curriculum for Infants, Toddlers, & Twos," a component that provides theory, research and best practices for responsive teaching and caring for very young children. Taught by instructors from Teaching Strategies, the onsite training in Indianola has reached 52 teachers from the six childcare centers.

Staff member training. Early Head Start teachers have taken part in a training program called "Conscious Discipline," to provide additional skills and techniques to use with children ages 0-3.

Childcare centers that meet the needs of children. Through the partnership, childcare centers have undergone multi-million-dollar renovations to better serve the kids in a more welcoming learning environment. Flooring, roofing, lighting, bathrooms and kitchens have been remodeled to make these facilities more efficient and usable.

"Children represent our most vulnerable population and we have to build programs that ensure them a healthy and vibrant future," said Samples. "Early Head Start is one way to meet those needs. This is a community effort that involves parents, schools, churches and businesses. We all have a role to play."

The five new facilities will house up to 556 children-serving 428 Head Start children and 128 Early Head Start children.



PROMISE SCHOOL KINDERGARTEN READINESS

Many of the Early Head Start and Head Start programs that DHA operates are in the same towns as promise schools and the two programs often serve the same populations. DHA's programming in early childhood education is having a positive impact in preparing children for kindergarten and beyond. Participants in Delta Health Alliance's Promise School consistently score higher on STAR Early Literacy Assessments for kindergarten readiness compared to students entering kindergarten not participating in the promise school program.

PARTICIPANTS
NON-PARTICIPANTS

Delta EATS



Ryan Betz envisions a day when as much as 15 percent of the food served in Hollandale, Leland, and Shaw public schools is coming from local gardens and farmers.

“We’re still a long way off, but we have to take small bites to get to where we want to be,” said Betz, a certified gardener and Delta EATS project coordinator for the Delta Health Alliance (DHA). “It all starts with planning to be able to build a network that achieves our goals.”

Delta EATS, or Edible Agriculture Teaching Students – a network of school gardens supported by DHA – received a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) grant to develop a community food strategy “through the lens of the farm-to-school program,” said Betz.

As stated by the USDA, the grant will be used to develop “a program to fight food insecurity through developing community food projects that help promote the self-sufficiency of low-income people by increasing their access to fresher, more nutritious food supplies.”

The EATS program has already developed a strong foot-hold in the communities it currently serves through a network of school and community gardens, and connections with local farmers and agriculture programs.

The three school gardens are located at Hollandale’s Sanders Elementary School; Shaw’s McEvans School; and Leland’s Leland Elementary School. A community garden was recently built on the grounds of the South Delta Regional Housing Authority near the Leland Career and Technical Education Center, which has a greenhouse to be used as a hub for seed plants that will be transferred to the other gardens.

Overseen by Betz, the program is also supported by AmeriCorps-FoodCorps members, the U.S. Department of Education, the Whole Foods/Whole Kids Foundation, the Mississippi Farm to School Network, and Lowes. The program has received numerous in-kind contributions and individual and local business donations.

“Ultimately, this is about supplying the food we eat from right here in the community, and getting food services directors in the schools to be open to developing connections with local growers,” said Betz. “I think we’ve sowed the seeds to make that happen. I think we’re becoming a real leader with our classroom education component.”

Each school garden is an outdoor classroom, equipped with a series of garden “rooms” that highlight different uses and functions such as garden entrance space and pathways; raised beds and square-foot classroom labs; and double-dug production bed spaces to produce a higher yield of just a few crop varieties to be used for cafeteria taste tests and cooking lessons.

“When we put all the pieces together – the school gardens, the cafeterias, the vo-tech center, the local growers, and farmers – we’re going to have a network that fulfills the food supply needs of these communities, resulting in healthier, more educated students and adults,” said Betz.



Delta EATS’s community food strategy has four primary goals:

- (1) To meet the food needs an increase self-reliance of low-income families.
- (2) To improve coordination and distribution between agricultural and commercial food sectors.
- (3) To create innovative marketing activities that benefit farmers, producers and low-income residents.
- (4) To plan for long-term solutions and foster an interest in sustainable community-based agriculture among future generations.

Teen Pregnancy Prevention



When it comes to preventing teen pregnancy, Nakisha Watts wants to ensure that no group of young people falls through the cracks.

“It’s so important that we have a prevention program that’s focused on those older adolescents who aren’t in high school,” said Watts, a program director for the Delta Health Alliance (DHA). “This program fills that gap so we’re not leaving that age group just hanging.”

The program described by Watts is called Delta Futures II, an offshoot of the successful Delta Futures Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program

that has been giving teens in 10 Delta school districts important knowledge about sex, teen pregnancy and prevention, and sexually transmitted diseases so they can make the right choices.

Delta Futures II, coordinated by DHA, targets adolescent teens who are either in college, in a workforce training program, or working toward their GED.” Unlike the original program, Delta Futures II uses “peer educators” to teach other young people about prevention.

“It’s also focused on pre-conceptional health, risk reduction, the importance of delaying pregnancies to improve infant health, and development awareness,” said Watts. “Having these messages delivered by their peers really helps drive it home.”

Eight peer educators, selected among college upperclassmen who have demonstrated leadership skills and then trained specifically for the program, conduct classes two hours a week over four sessions at four sites: Coahoma Community College, Mississippi Delta Community College, Delta State University, and Mississippi Valley State University. The pilot phase of the program saw 26 participants. A full contingent of students is expected this fall.

Bolivar County has a teen birth rate of 48 per 1,000 adolescent females aged 15-19. Coahoma County is 60 per 1,000. Humphreys is 28 per 1,000. Leflore is 58 per 1,000. Sunflower is 38 per 1,000. Washington is 40 per 1,000. All are greater than the national rate of 17 per 1,000, and all but Humphreys County are greater than Mississippi’s rate of 32 per 1,000.

In addition, for every 1,000 babies born in the service area, nearly 37 die in the first year of life. In those six counties, 15.2 percent of infants are born at low birth weights.

Teen mothers are more likely to be high school dropouts, limiting future earnings, and the financial support they can provide their child. And, they are more likely to rely on public assistance. In addition, children born to teen mothers are more likely to be born prematurely.

“This program also teaches risk avoidance skills by demonstrating to these teens the effects that their actions could have on their health and the health of their potential child,” said Watts. “It also aims to address high rates of sexually transmitted diseases by promoting abstinence.”

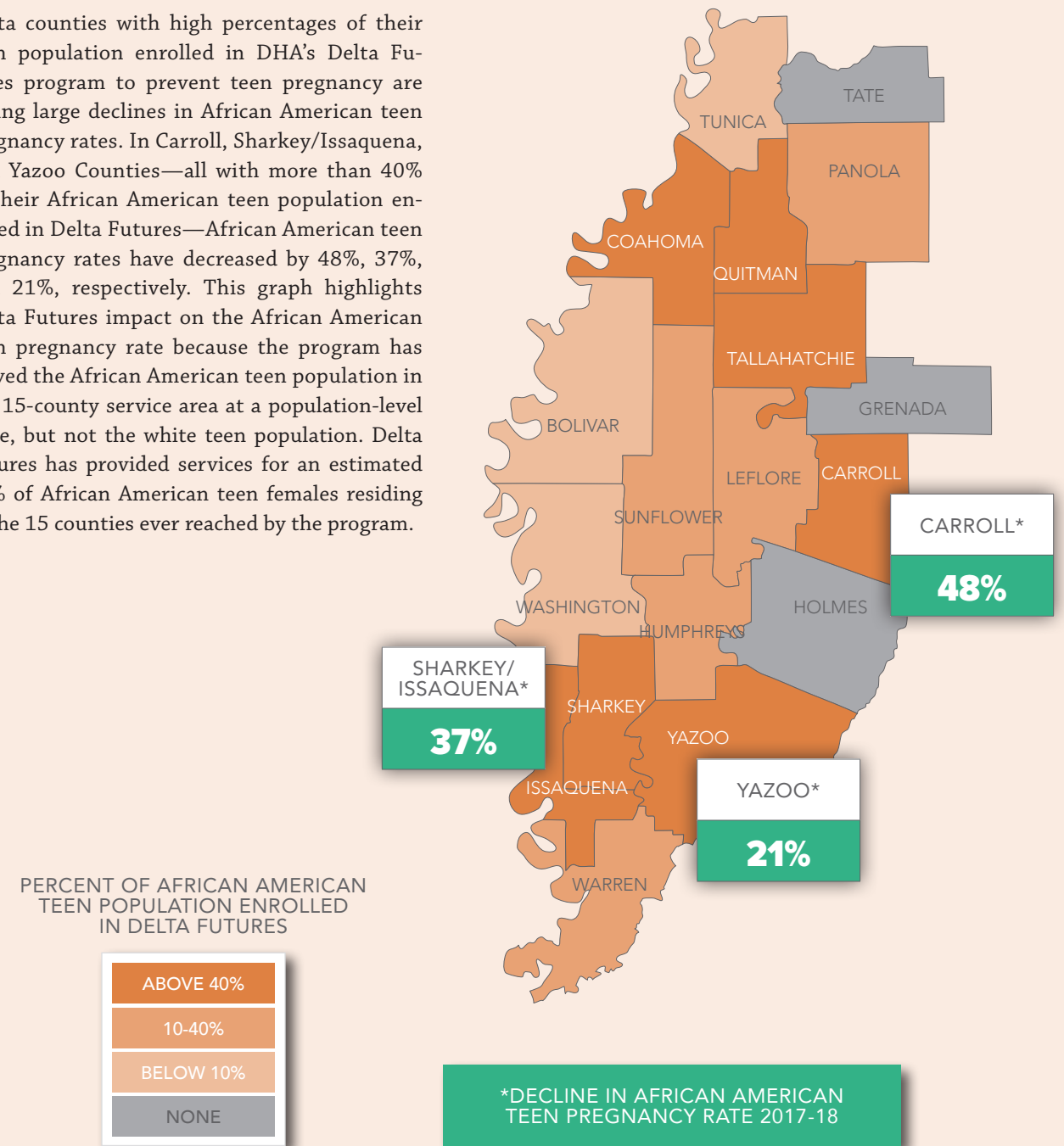
The original in-school Delta Futures program, begun in 2015, has helped meet the unique challenges of the region in terms of high unemployment and poverty rates and their relationship to teen pregnancy.

“These older adolescents in Delta Futures II were very excited about the program,” said Watts. “At that age, they are who they are and more willing to open up and share personal feelings. And that really helps in communicating the important facets of the program as it relates to teen pregnancy.”

The problem of teen pregnancy is very real in the Mississippi Delta, specifically the service area that Delta Futures II will target.

Delta Futures Reduces African American Teen Pregnancy Rates

Delta counties with high percentages of their teen population enrolled in DHA’s Delta Futures program to prevent teen pregnancy are seeing large declines in African American teen pregnancy rates. In Carroll, Sharkey/Issaquena, and Yazoo Counties—all with more than 40% of their African American teen population enrolled in Delta Futures—African American teen pregnancy rates have decreased by 48%, 37%, and 21%, respectively. This graph highlights Delta Futures impact on the African American teen pregnancy rate because the program has served the African American teen population in the 15-county service area at a population-level scale, but not the white teen population. Delta Futures has provided services for an estimated 26% of African American teen females residing in the 15 counties ever reached by the program.



Preparing Students for College



Raven was reading her acceptance letter to the university at the same time she and her fellow Simmons High School students from Hollandale were visiting campus.

High school senior Raven Davis stood in the student union of the University of Memphis as part of a college tour when she received an email that couldn't have come at a better time.

In one of the greatest "wow" moments of her life, Raven was reading her acceptance letter to the university at the same time she and her fellow Simmons High School students from Hollandale were visiting the campus. Raven described it as an incredible complement to an important and informative tour.

"It doesn't get much better than that," said Kendarius Moore, project coordinator for the Deer Creek Promise Community (DCPC), part of the Delta Health Alliance (DHA). "We chose to tour the University of Memphis based on some seniors in the Deer Creek Youth Council who'd mentioned they'd been accepted to the university but had never visited the campus."

The college tour, an annual event by DHA, was led by Moore; Katelyn Ables, DCPC project manager; and Betty Newell, a Simmons High School counselor. The subsequent tours have focused on in-state institutions as a way to combat the exodus of young Mississippians leaving the state.

"This tour gave them the opportunity to visit an out-of-state university and receive some valuable information from current students," said Moore. "The tour guides led us through the campus providing information on admissions, scholarships, majors and careers, and personal stories on their decision to come to the University of Memphis.

In addition, students toured the National Civil Rights Museum, gaining a perspective on the work and others endured to earn basic rights and opportunities for everyone.

Raven said that the youth council members were excited about the tour, asking many questions on the school's offerings. The student tour guides, she said, were great at answering questions based on the feedback they were getting from the students.

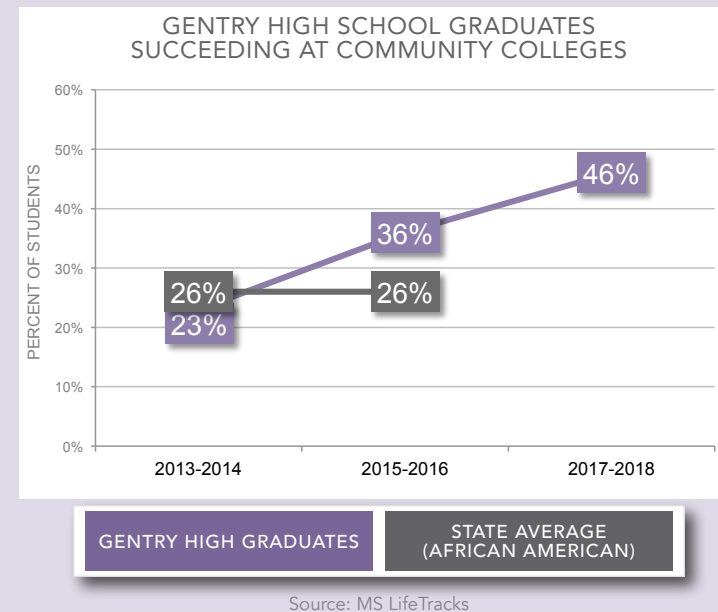
The Deer Creek Youth Leadership Council is comprised of students in 9th-11th grades from Hollandale and Leland who want to make a mark on their communities. Modeled after the highly successful Indianola Youth Council, members must hold a 2.8 GPA or higher; have recommendations from teachers, administrators and community leaders; complete an application; and undergo an interview process.

The youth council focuses on college readiness, laying the foundation for post-secondary success by providing workshops and exposure to events such as the college tours.

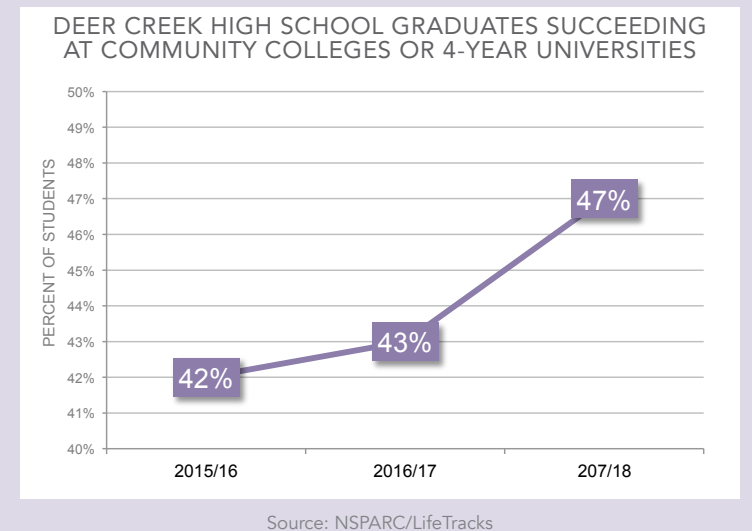
"To ensure our students stayed engaged throughout the trip, we conducted pop quizzes after touring both the National Civil Rights Museum and the University of Memphis," said Moore. "The quiz questions were made prior to the trip based on civil rights events and questions about college admissions."

Moore said that tours like this are vital in encouraging the students to stay on track as they move toward high school graduation.

"Overall, this was a great trip," he said. "Everyone had fun, and it was awesome seeing students from both communities experiencing a rewarding opportunity together. We want them to be in the best position possible when they enter college."



Graduates from Gentry High School in Indianola, where Delta Health Alliance operates several programs in the Indianola Promise Community, who go on to a Mississippi community college are showing signs of improvement. Averages in the 2017-18 school year show 46% of Gentry High School students required no remedial English or math courses, a marked improvement over previous years. In the 2015-16 school year, a higher percentage of Gentry High School students required no remedial English or math courses than the state averages for African American students.



Graduates of Leland and Simmons High Schools, inside DHA's Deer Creek Promise Community service area, are showing improvements in English and math at Mississippi post-secondary institutions. In the 2017-18 school year, roughly half of entrants into Mississippi community colleges or four-year universities from Leland and Simmons High Schools required no remedial English or math courses, up from 42% just 2 years before.

Stemming the Tide of Addiction in the Delta

“You have no idea the damage it will cause in your life. Your family, your job, your finances – it will destroy them all.”

Daisia Stewart wants to make sure that the people around her understand the harmful effects of tobacco.

“Because as society grows, these manufacturers will continue to add more addictive chemicals to their products,” said the Madison Palmer High School senior. “Our youth, as young as middle school students, are using tobacco and electronic cigarettes. They don’t know the true facts about these e-cigarettes.”

Likewise, David Trewolla, former state opioid coordinator with the Mississippi Department of Mental Health, has an important message for those tempted by opioids: “You have no idea the damage it will cause in your life. Your family, your job, your finances – it will destroy them all.”

Helping them deliver their messages are three important programs sponsored and overseen by the Delta Health Alliance (DHA): the Tobacco-Free Coalition project, the Opioid Task Force Initiative, and the STAR program (Systems of Treatment and Rehabilitation).

TOBACCO CESSATION

With new funding, this nearly decade-old program is continuing its mission by transitioning from schools into communities in Bolivar, Coahoma, Sunflower, Tallahatchie, Tunica, and Quitman counties.

“The focus is still on both tobacco prevention and cessation, but more within these communities,” said Leslie Johnson, program director for DHA. “The school activities consist of ensuring tobacco-free, no vaping school signs are posted throughout campuses, and tobacco-free public service announcements will be made at school-related functions.”

Tobacco coordinators partner with youth groups within communities and perform summer activities with those young people, she said. Coordinators educate youth and encourage them to be the voice of young people in those communities.

Since its inception, Johnson estimates that more than 1,500 students in K-12 have benefited from the tobacco prevention and cessation program. Statistics reflect the need for such programs in Mississippi.

- Mississippi’s youth prevalence rates for combustible cigarettes and smokeless tobacco are similar to national averages, with Mississippi ranging from 6.9 percent for current high school smokers to 5.4 percent for current high school smokeless tobacco users.
- E-cigarette use among youth remains a significant health concern in Mississippi with current rates of use almost doubling from the previous year.

MISSISSIPPI
tobacco
FREE

Delta Opioid
Task Force (DOT)

SUPPORTED BY DELTA HEALTH ALLIANCE

(DOT Y)

(DOT R₃)

DELTA OPIOID TASK FORCE

DHA’s Opioid Task Force (DOT) Initiative is aimed at reducing addiction and deaths associated with substance use in rural communities of the Delta. Part of that initiative are the Delta Opioid Treatment Network – Rural Rapid Response, a collaborative effort between health and mental health providers, law enforcement and a recovery-oriented system of care; and the DOT Kids and Youth Support, which offers help to children affected by the opioid crisis.

“By partnering with a wide range of providers, our network will provide access to the resources needed by those impacted by opioids,” said Brooks Ann Gaston, who oversees the program for DHA. “We want to ensure that our program aligns with the state’s plans and efforts.”

DELTA STAR

With an emphasis on alcohol addiction, the STAR program also targets those who live in rural communities. The program is funded by a grant from the U.S. Health Services & Resource Administration, Office of Rural Health Policy.

So far, more than 70 people have committed to the six-month program to receive counseling services at the Leland Medical Clinic and through the tele-health system at DeSoto Family Counseling Center. The short-term goal is to reach 100 enrollees.

STAR provides an intense level of therapy and support that includes individual weekly therapy sessions for the first month; counseling or therapy sessions every two weeks in months two and three; monthly group therapy sessions; and recovery and support sessions.

“The need for this program is so important to the residents of this region,” said program coordinator Shambria Chillis.

Delta STAR

SUPPORTED BY DELTA HEALTH ALLIANCE

“Alcohol addiction takes a toll on everyone – the person with the addiction, his or her family, employers and the community as a whole. So all of us have a reason to help ensure that those suffering from addiction have the help they need.”

Delta DREAMS



Sheila Rosco became emotional as she carried boxes into the place she plans to call home for the rest of her life.

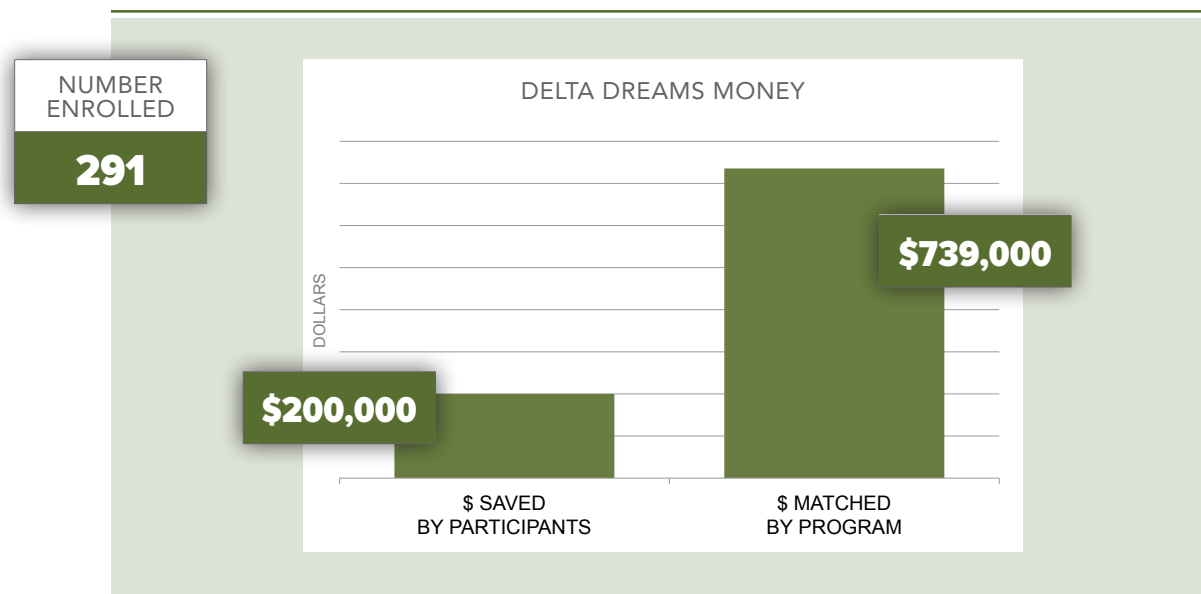
“I’m just so overwhelmed and excited that I’m a homeowner,” Sheila said as her voice broke fighting back tears. “It was a long process, but I did this! My children are so excited and happy for me. I’m the first person in my family to actually be a homeowner.”

The mother of four reached her goal of owning a newly built, four-bedroom, three-bathroom home through a highly successful program offered through the Delta Health Alliance (DHA) called Delta DREAMS, or Dollars Reinvested in Education and Assets to Maximize Success. This five-year-old program is changing futures by matching funds to assist Sunflower County residents and business owners with the purchase of a first home, a college education, or capital for a qualified business.

DREAMS is a community-driven collaboration between DHA and regional banks, economic development agencies, service groups, housing authorities, community representatives and faith-based partners. Funding partners include Guaranty Bank and Trust Company, Mississippi State University, and Delta State University.

The proof of the program’s success is in the numbers. Since beginning in 2015, DREAMS has matched \$199,594 saved by program participants such as Sheila with \$739,411. The breakdown:

- 291 people have successfully completed the DREAMS program.
- 283 of the participants have used the program to help with education, including 175 Mississippi State University students, three working moms saving funds for their daughters, three who have saved money for barber college, and one working mom completing her community college education.
- Seven of the participants have used the program for their businesses, including a t-shirt designer, the owner of a barber school who has opened his own shop, the owner of a trucking company, a developer of a multi-tiered crafting business, and two working parents who have begun businesses.



One of the participants, Sheila Rosco, has completed the program for home ownership.

“Sheila wanted to build her own home from the ground up,” explained Alexis Hynes, program coordinator for DHA. “This sends a message that if you’re dedicated, your dreams can come true.”

Participants must have completed a financial literacy course, or enroll in a financial literacy course within three months of starting the DREAMS program, and obtain a certificate of completion. DHA offers a five-week Financial Literacy Boot Camp to help residents meet this requirement.

Second, an individual must commit to saving at least \$20 per month for a minimum of six months to two years with a maximum amount of \$2,000 eligible for the match.

Asked if she planned to have a celebratory dinner immediately after she’s moved in, Sheila laughed and said, “No, I’ll be too tired. But I plan to have many holidays here with my family. And each month when I write my mortgage check, I’ll know it’s going toward something I own and not to a landlord. What a great feeling that is.”

Leland Medical Clinic



In a region of the country that historically has been left behind in most every facet of life, playing catch-up can be a slow proposition. But not in the case of the Leland Medical Clinic – a relatively new facility that is changing the healthcare landscape at breakneck speed.

In less than four years, since community leaders and the Delta Health Alliance (DHA) cut the ribbon on the renovated old city hospital, the clinic has added new services, programs, and equipment seemingly every week. Since May 2016, the clinic has:

- Undergone a \$1.2 million renovation to offer quality healthcare to residents who might otherwise be forced to travel to see a doctor or nurse practitioner. The renovation was made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- Installed a state-of-the-art, \$75,000 x-ray machine, allowing patients to receive results in 15 minutes.
- Earned PCMC certified-diabetes program status.
- Opened the Universal Parenting Place (UPP) – a newly renovated wing of the clinic that provides free resources for parents and guardians to build on the emotional well-being of families. The facility was made possible through a \$200,000 grant from the Memphis-based ACE Awareness Foundation.
- Implemented a host of new services for residents, such as the “Getting Healthy” program. Through the clinic, residents have access to a variety of lifestyle programs aimed at keeping residents active and healthier.
- Begun a much-needed mammography program with a nearly \$200,000 mammography machine via a grant funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. More than 1,000 women over 40 now have access to breast cancer screening in their community. Through a partnership with Delta Cotton Belles, we are able to provide mammograms for women who cannot afford them at reduced costs.
- Hit the road with a new \$320,000 mobile health clinic destined to make a profound difference in a region hindered by a lack of transportation and financial resources. The mobile clinic was funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

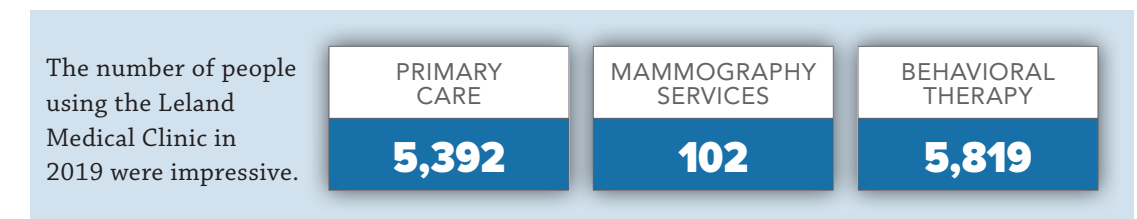


Lovia Davis, a Leland resident who received medical care at the old city hospital more than 40 years ago, said she no longer worries about her community not offering quality healthcare, especially after the closure of the Leland and Hollandale branches of the Mississippi State Department of Health.

“This is just such a blessing,” said Davis. “What a beautiful job. Our community can now feel more comfortable knowing they can get good service right here, without having to drive far away.”

The clinic is a Recognized Patient Centered Medical Home by the National Committee for Quality Assurance. The designation means that the entire clinic staff, as well as patients, work together as a team by focusing on all aspects of patients’ health using enhanced technology and chronic disease management.

The clinic treats thousands of patients each year with approximately a quarter of those having no health insurance. Twelve percent of patients have been diagnosed with diabetes while more than 21 percent receive care for high-blood pressure. Services provided by the clinic include management of acute and chronic illnesses, psychiatric care, wellness exams and checkups, immunizations, pediatric care, work-injury treatment, drug testing, pre-employment and school physicals, and nutritional services.



Before the clinic opened, Leland resident Dianne Burchfield worried for a time whether residents in her community would have access to even the most basic services.

“I’ve been here all my life, going to doctors in Leland, and I hoped I’d be able to keep doing that,” said Burchfield. “People outside of the Delta may not understand how important good healthcare can be when you’ve always had it. You can take it for granted. But not us. When the Delta Health Alliance stepped in to bring the old hospital back as a top-notch medical clinic, it was a real blessing.”

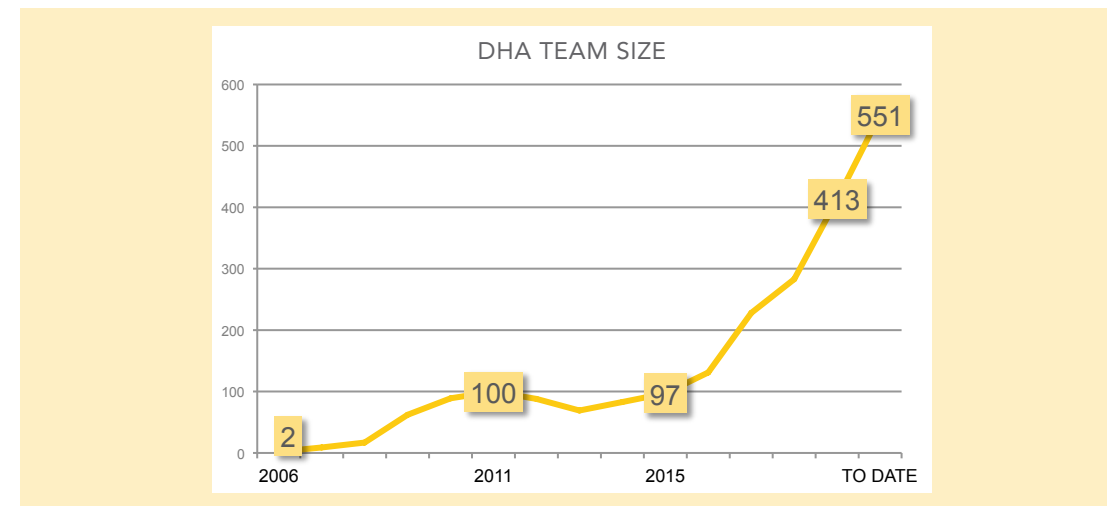


A Look Inside DHA

STAFF GROWTH

The Delta Health Alliance is expanding. Since 2006, from an original staff of two, DHA has added nearly 550 team members. In the past five years alone, the staff has expanded nearly 470%. As a result of this expeditious growth, DHA is now the 8th largest employer in the region.

Nearly 60% of DHA staff members are African American, while roughly 34% are white. DHA's staff is diverse and highly educated. A majority of DHA employees hold a post-graduate degree and nearly 95% have some college education, according to a staff survey. DHA is committed to improving the lives of Delta residents and its mission allows its phenomenal staff to feel a sense of pride and importance in their work.



New Grants Awarded in 2019

BUILD HEALTH CHALLENGE

Granting Agency: The Beaumont Foundation
The BUILD Health Challenge is a national award that strengthens partnerships between local nonprofit organizations, hospitals and health systems and local health departments to drive sustainable improvements in community health. Our program seeks to dismantle and disrupt the systems, policies, attitudes and environments that hinder breastfeeding for low-income, African American women in Sunflower county. Breastfeeding in geographically isolated African American communities of the rural South is challenged by historical trauma and current stigma, which keeps rates of breastfeeding initiation and duration low. Our collaborative, which includes a baby friendly hospital, will educate, prepare and support healthcare providers, childcare centers, employers, families, fathers/partners, and women as well as advocate for culturally appropriate policies and services to make breastfeeding more convenient, socially acceptable and enjoyable for African American moms and babies.

COMPASS

Granting Agency: Emory University
The overarching goal of this community-based initiative is to meet the health education and medical service needs of priority populations in rural, low-income, minority communities that have been disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS in Washington, Sunflower and Bolivar counties, including LGBTQ, homeless, seasonal workers, and residents of public housing. This will benefit residents of all communities disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS and add new services that are not currently in our immediate area. Leland Medical Clinic's vision has the potential to have a dramatic and significant impact on the quality, quantity and reliability of critical services needed by our low-income, underserved communities.

RURAL COMMUNITIES OPIOID RESPONSE (DOT-3)

Granting Agency: US Dept. of Health and Human Service, Health and Human Services Administration (HRSA)
Initially convened in February 2018, DOT's purpose is to increase access and improve outcomes relating to the prevention, treatment, and recovery support services for substance use disorder (SUD) and opioid use disorder (OUD) in rural communities within the Mississippi Delta. DOT-3 seeks to reduce the morbidity and mortality of SUDs and OUDs among adults ages 18+ in 15 rural Mississippi Delta counties: Bolivar, Coahoma, Holmes, Humphreys, Issaquena, Leflore, Panola, Quitman, Sharkey, Sunflower, Tallahatchie, Tunica, Warren, Washington, and Yazoo.

DELTA OPIOID TREATMENT RURAL RAPID RESPONSE COLLABORATIVE (DOT-R3)

Granting Agency: SAMHSA
DOT-R3's goals are to enhance and expand screening, assessments, comprehensive treatment, early intervention, and recovery support services for adults ages 18+ with OUD and co-occurring mental health disorders in Bolivar, Leflore, Sunflower, and Washington Counties.

DOJ YOUTH OPIOID TASK FORCE (DOT-Y)

Granting Agency: Department of Justice
A component of DHA's DOT initiative, the Youth Opioid Task Force (DOT-Y) connects our youngest victims of opioid crime to desperately needed services, utilizing existing resources within our community and developing an ongoing strategy to provide relief to area youth affected by the opioid crisis in the Mississippi Delta.

DHA Partners

FUNDING PARTNERS

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Emory University
Guaranty Bank and Trust
March of Dimes
Mississippi Division of Medicaid
Mississippi State Department of Health
Mississippi State University
Monsanto
Phil Hardin Foundation
The Beaumont Foundation
U.S. Department of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Education
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
U.S. Department of Justice
Whole Kids Foundation

REGIONAL & NATIONAL PROGRAM PARTNERS

AmeriCorps*VISTA
Annie E. Casey Foundation
Dolly Parton's Imagination Library
Girl Scouts – Heart of the South
Hope Credit Union
Office of Adolescent Health
Parents for Public Schools
Parents as Teachers
Rhodes College
Save the Children
Sesame Workshop
Teach for America
University of Memphis
University of Tennessee
Urban Child Institute

STATE PROGRAM PARTNERS

Capps Technology Center
Children's Defense Fund
Delta Council
Delta Housing Development Corporation
Delta State University
Entergy
Excel By 5
March of Dimes
Mississippi 211
Mississippi Access to Care Network
Mississippi Center for Education Innovation
Mississippi Center for Justice
Mississippi Delta Community College

Mississippi Department of Employment Security
Mississippi Department of Human Services
Mississippi Food Network
Mississippi Health Advocacy Program
Mississippi Low Income Childcare Initiative
Mississippi State Department of Education
Mississippi United to End Homelessness
Mississippi Valley State University
Planter's Bank and Trust
Renasant Bank
South Delta Regional Housing Authority
Southern Bancorp
University of Mississippi Center for Excellence in Literacy Instruction
University of Mississippi – Jumpstart

LOCAL PROGRAM PARTNERS

Aaron E Henry Community Health Service Center
B.B. King Museum
Bayou Academy
Bolivar County Community Action Agency
Bolivar County Council on Aging
Burn Healthcare Institute
Carroll County School District
Chosen Generations
City of Greenwood
City of Indianola
City of Leland
Clarksdale Municipal School District
Coahoma County School District
Coahoma County Youth Outreach
Delta Arts Alliance
Delta Cotton Belles
Dr. Andrea Smith
Forever Lifting Youth (FLY Zone)
Friendship MBC
G Hope MBC
Girls to Women/Men to Boys
Greenville Christian School
Greenwood Leflore Hospital
Greenwood Public School District
Hollandale Economic Community Development Foundation
Hollandale School District
Indianola Family Medical Clinic
Indianola Literacy Coalition
Indianola Mayor's Health Council
Indianola P-16 Council
King Temple
Leflore County Health Center

Leland Deacon Alliance
Leland School District
Mallory Community Health Center
Mississippi State University Extension Carroll County
New Jerusalem MBC
New Mount Zion MBC
North Sunflower Medical Center
On Track Community Development Corporation
Our House, Inc
Parents for Public Schools
Pave /Med Ed Services
Pecan Grove Therapeutic Home
Quitman County School District
Rainbow Learning Center
Rasperry Men's Club
S & S College of Hair
South Delta School District
South Sunflower County Hospital
St Luke MBC
Sunflower County Childcare Association
Sunflower County Consolidated School District
Sunflower County Freedom Project
Sunflower County Judicial System
Sunflower County Ministerial Alliance
Sunflower County United for Children
Sunflower Humphreys County Progress, Inc.
Town of Arcola
Town of Hollandale
Vicksburg-Warren School District
Warren-Washington- Issaquena-Sharkey Community Action Agency, Inc.
Washington County Economic Alliance
Washington County Judicial System
Washington County Opportunities, Inc.
Washington County Sheriff's Department
Yazoo City School District
Yazoo County School District





Delta Health Alliance

SOLUTIONS FOR A **HEALTHY TOMORROW**

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