

Community Assessment August, 2014

I. Buchanan County Head Start: Background

Buchanan County Head Start serves the county of Buchanan located in Southwest Virginia. The program is federally funded to enroll 177 children in a four hour, four day per week program through nine center based classroom and one home based program.

II. Objectives, Need for Assistance, and Geographic Area

Buchanan County is located in the Appalachian Plateau on the borders of Kentucky and West Virginia. It covers 508 square miles of land and one of the most remote and extremely rural areas of Southwest Virginia. (See attached map of the county). It is bounded on the west by the Kentucky state line and the northeast by the West Virginia state line. According to family surveys and assessments, many families have needs that include but are not limited to: health care, (the distance some families must travel to obtain medical services is an average one way of 45 miles), health insurance, employment, housing, public water and sewage, homes that are winterized, fuel assistance, dental care, job training, and day care evenings and after school.

The county's natural resources include coal, natural gas, and timber. Grundy, the county seat, functions as the trade center for the county, as well as portions of neighboring counties in Kentucky and West VA. The communities are located throughout this area and are for the most part, isolated one from the other because of the distance between the communities.

The county is located 200 miles west of Roanoke, VA and 390 miles west of Richmond, VA, the state capitol. Residents of the county must drive at least three hours to reach a major shopping center.

In addition, Buchanan County shares the beautiful Breaks Interstate Park with Dickenson County. The Breaks Park also known as the 'Grand Canyon of the South,' attracts approximately 400 thousand visitors a year to its cabins, walking trails, swimming pool and restaurant and lodge. Recreational facilities are somewhat limited with only one 18 hole private golf course and one 9 hole public course. There are three public swimming pools, two of which are located at the public school facilities. The other one is located at the WMCA. The youth of the county are frequently found using the local schools' outdoor tennis and basketball courts.

At the present time, Buchanan County does not have a shopping mall, but there are three mini shopping strips found in various locations of the county.

In 2012, the Town of Grundy was completed. The construction move which had been ongoing for three years was completed. It now hosts several new shops and a one of a kind Walmart. These changes have added a few minimum wage jobs. There is still a move to build a better road system thereby making the county more attractive to outside industry. There are a few fast food establishments, i.e. Pizza Hut, Wendy's, Hardees, the Huddle House, etc. There are two family restaurants with buffet style dining. There is one hotel within the town limits of Grundy with two other motels in the county.

The population density is approximately 53.05 persons per square mile. Almost all of the county's population is rural, with only 4.53% living in the Town of Grundy. Approximately 4% of the population is made up of minority or ethnic groups with 3% black and .03% Asian.

The poverty level of the county is high. An excellent indicator of poverty is represented by the percentage of students in the public school system who receive free and reduced price breakfast and lunch.

The population of Buchanan County is in a declining mode. There is a steady out migration of individuals who have no job opportunities in the county. The county population currently stands at approximately 24,409. This number represents a decrease of 9.5% from April 2000 to July 2006. (U.S. Census Bureau, State and County QuickFacts). See statistical county data below:

Buchanan County, Virginia

People QuickFacts	Buchanan County	Virginia
Population, 2006 estimate	24,409	7,642,884
Population, percent change, April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2006	-9.5%	8.0%
Population, 2010	26,978	7,078,515
Persons under 5 years old, percent, 2010	4.8%	6.7%
Persons under 18 years old, percent, 2006	19.4%	23.6%
Persons 65 years old and over, percent, 2006	14.1%	11.6%
Female persons, percent, 2006	48.9%	50.8%
White persons, percent, 2006 (a)	96.0%	73.3%
Black persons, percent, 2006 (a)	3.2%	19.9%
American Indian and Alaska Native persons, percent, 2006 (a)	0.1%	0.3%
Asian persons, percent, 2006 (a)	0.3%	4.8%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, percent, 2006 (a)	Z	0.1%
Persons reporting two or more races, percent, 2006	0.4%	1.6%
Persons of Hispanic or Latino origin, percent, 2006 (b)	0.6%	6.3%
White persons not Hispanic, percent, 2006	95.5%	67.7%
Living in same house in 1995 and 2000, pct 5 yrs old & over	76.4%	52.2%
Foreign born persons, percent, 2000	0.3%	8.1%

<i>i</i> Language other than English spoken at home, pct age 5+, 2000	1.4%	11.1%
<i>i</i> High school graduates, percent of persons age 25+, 2000	52.9%	81.5%
<i>i</i> Bachelor's degree or higher, pct of persons age 25+, 2000	8.0%	29.5%
<i>i</i> Persons with a disability, age 5+, 2000	8,855	1,155,083
<i>i</i> Mean travel time to work (minutes), workers age 16+, 2000	33.4	27.0

<i>i</i> Housing units, 2006	12,108	3,230,803
<i>i</i> Homeownership rate, 2000	82.9%	68.1%
<i>i</i> Housing units in multi-unit structures, percent, 2000	2.3%	21.5%
<i>i</i> Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2000	\$55,400	\$125,400

<i>i</i> Households, 2010	10,464	2,699,173
<i>i</i> Persons per household, 2010	2.46	2.54
<i>i</i> Median household income, 2004	\$25,549	\$51,103
<i>i</i> Per capita money income, 1999	\$12,788	\$23,975
<i>i</i> Persons below poverty, percent, 2004	21.1%	9.5%

Business QuickFacts	Buchanan County	Virginia
<i>i</i> Private nonfarm establishments, 2005	499	193,067 ¹
<i>i</i> Private nonfarm employment, 2005	5,365	3,060,127 ¹
<i>i</i> Private nonfarm employment, percent change 2000-2005	-17.6%	5.4% ¹
<i>i</i> Nonemployee establishments, 2005	930	469,878
<i>i</i> Total number of firms, 2002	1,407	529,520
<i>i</i> Black-owned firms, percent, 2002	F	7.8%
<i>i</i> American Indian and Alaska Native owned firms, percent, 2002	F	0.5%
<i>i</i> Asian-owned firms, percent, 2002	F	5.8%
<i>i</i> Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander owned firms, percent, 2002	F	0.1%
<i>i</i> Hispanic-owned firms, percent, 2002	F	3.6%
<i>i</i> Women-owned firms, percent, 2002	S	29.7%

<i>i</i> Manufacturers shipments, 2002 (\$1000)	NA	83,952,547
<i>i</i> Wholesale trade sales, 2002 (\$1000)	115,559	69,267,796
<i>i</i> Retail sales, 2002 (\$1000)	137,290	80,509,062
<i>i</i> Retail sales per capita, 2002	\$5,271	\$11,069
<i>i</i> Accommodation and foodservices sales, 2002 (\$1000)	11,670	10,929,429
<i>i</i> Building permits, 2006	33	47,704
<i>i</i> Federal spending, 2004 (\$1000)	205,945	90,637,946 ¹

Geography QuickFacts	Buchanan County	Virginia
<i>i</i> Land area, 2000 (square miles)	503.88	39,594.07
<i>i</i> Persons per square mile, 2000	53.5	178.8
<i>i</i> FIPS Code	027	51
<i>i</i> Metropolitan or Micropolitan Statistical Area		

The coal economy, which has traditionally been the major source of income, had taken a turn for the worse the past 2-3 years. Currently, there is a coal boom in progress with jobs available for those who have the necessary skills. Natural gas is also becoming a vital part of the county's economy with an approximate 2700 gas wells now pumping gas out to suppliers in an effort to supply the demand for energy.

Subject	Number	Percent
SCHOOL ENROLLMENT		
Population 3 years and over enrolled in school	5,598	100.0
Nursery school, preschool	295	5.3
Kindergarten	277	4.9
Elementary school (grades 1-8)	2,508	44.8
High school (grades 9-12)	1,613	28.8
College or graduate school	905	16.2
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT		
Population 25 years and over	18,851	100.0
Less than 9th grade	5,401	28.7
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	3,486	18.5
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	5,188	27.5
Some college, no degree	2,330	12.4
Associate degree	946	5.0
Bachelor's degree	918	4.9
Graduate or professional degree	582	3.1
Percent high school graduate or higher	52.9	(X)
Percent bachelor's degree or higher	8.0	(X)
MARITAL STATUS		
Population 15 years and over	22,457	100.0
Never married	4,069	18.1
Now married, except separated	14,265	63.5
Separated	641	2.9
Widowed	1,887	8.4
Female	1,546	6.9
Divorced	1,595	7.1
Female	806	3.6
GRANDPARENTS AS CAREGIVERS		
Grandparent living in household with one or more own grandchildren under 18 years	562	100.0
Grandparent responsible for grandchildren	313	55.7
VETERAN STATUS		
Civilian population 18 years and over	21,128	100.0
Civilian veterans	1,608	7.6
DISABILITY STATUS OF THE CIVILIAN NONINSTITUTIONALIZED POPULATION		
Population 5 to 20 years	5,455	100.0
With a disability	527	9.7
Population 21 to 64 years	16,188	100.0

Subject	Number	Percent
With a disability	6,385	39.4

Partial Profile – Buchanan County, 2012

High School Graduates	Bachelor's Degree	Disability Med. Income	Med. Income	Per Capita Income	Poverty Level
52.9%	8.0%	8,855	25,549	23,975	21.1%

III. Transportation

Only seven traffic lights monitor the entire road system in the county. The remaining roads are mostly mountainous terrain. The closest interstate highway is approximately 90 from the county seat. There is one freight service or commercial air-passenger service available in the county. Residents must travel to Tri-Cities Airport in Blountville, TN (120 miles), or to Roanoke Airport, Roanoke, VA (220 miles), or to Huntington Airport, Huntington, WV (120 miles) one way if they wish to travel by air.

There is a 4-County Transit System serving the counties of Buchanan, Dickenson, Tazewell and Russell Counties. This public transportation is available to all residents. Those who most benefit from the public transportation are the elderly and the low income residents.

A transportation obstacle faced by Head Start is the long bus runs and the number of miles the buses must travel each day. All of the agency vehicles are old and have too many miles on them for extremely heavy usage.

IV. Education

Public schools began in Buchanan County as early as 1830. The facilities and staff consisted on one-room schools with an itinerant teacher. One room schools were in use until the early 1960's.

The table below gives the Buchanan County School enrollment as of May 30, 2014.

School Enrollment May,
2014

School	Enrollment
Council Elementary	205
Hurley Elementary/Middle	369
J. M. Bevins Elementary	98
Riverview Elementary/Middle	899
Twin Valley Elementary/Middle	394
Council High School	125
Grundy High School	500
Hurley High School	224
Twin Valley High School	255
Totals	3069

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Religious schools have played a vital role in education in Buchanan County. The Baptist Mission in the Council Community was one of the first and was later taken over by the county. Mountain Mission School is an orphanage and a school that was founded in 1921 and is still a very important part of the community. Mountain Mission school serves better than 200 residential students and approximately 60 day students who do not live on campus. These students are in Pre-K through 12^tgrades.

The Appalachian School of Law began in July 1997. The law school recruits and serves students from any and all states and students from other countries. Many of the students come from southern WV, southeast KY and different locations throughout VA as well as many other states.

The Appalachian School of Law is a non-profit institution authorized by the State Council of Higher Education for VA for the purpose of offering courses leading to the jurist doctorate degree. The school stands at full enrollment with 376 students.

The county has a School of Pharmacy, a part of the Appalachian University. The pharmacy school opened its doors for students in the fall of 2004. The school offers an accelerated program that allows students to obtain a degree in pharmacy in three years. The school graduated its first class in August 2007. Many of those students obtained jobs in the county and chose to remain in the area. There are approximately 100 students enrolled. The long range plan for the university calls for a school of optometry, a forensics lab, and a management degree in the human resource field.

Other Child Development Programs offered in Buchanan County are:

Location	Head Start classes	Title 1/ VPI Pre-K classes	Total H.S. Total Pre-K		
Hurley 1	20	Hurley	18	20	18
Hurley 2	20	n/a		20	0
Whitewood	17	Twin Valley	29	17	29
BCHS 1	20	Riverview	57	20	57
BCHS 2	18	n/a		18	0
BCHS 3	18	n/a		18	0
Garden	20	J.M. Bevins	11	20	11
Council	15	Council	18	15	18
Home Base	12	n/a		24	n/a
Rock Lick	17			17	n/a
Totals	177			177	133

At the close of the 2013-2014 school years, Head Start open slots were filled. However the Buchanan County VPI classrooms are fully enrolled as well. As shown by the chart above, VPI and Title 1 classrooms have 133 students in 9 classrooms. Many parents choose to enroll their children in the VPI and Title 1 Pre-K programs because they are located in the schools where the siblings attend school. This system allows the children to ride the same bus, leave home together and come home at the same time. At the beginning of this school year Head Start needs 25 children to reach the funded 177 enrollment.

V. Education, Health, Nutrition and Social Service Needs

The Buchanan County School System provides a full range of services for students with special needs that may include physical impairments, need for psychological counseling, learning disabilities and mental handicaps.

With the cooperation and endorsement of the local school system, various institutions provide adult education courses and adult education services that can lead to a college degree. These institutions include: Southwest VA Community College, Clinch Valley College, Old Dominion University, Virginia Intermont and the University of VA.

Historically Buchanan County has had a history of low educational attainment. The county profile indicates that only 52.9% of its population are high school graduates with only 8% having earned a Bachelor's Degree or higher.

During the past four years, BCHS has worked in partnership with Southwest VA Community College to provide college classes for staff and parents of Head Start in an effort to assist them with furthering their education. The classes are targeted toward

citizens in Buchanan County who are in a lower income bracket and cannot afford to pay for college classes.

The estimated number of three and four year old children within the county is 465. An estimated 121 of these children are enrolled in the VPI and Title 1 Pre-K programs within the local school system. There is an additional 177 children enrolled in the Head Start Program. That leaves an estimated 155 children who are not receiving services. There is 1 church operated Methodist School that enrolls around 12-14 four year old children.

Buchanan County Head Start serves 165 children in nine center based locations with 3 full time staff at each center and 12 home-base children throughout the county who are served by one home visitor.

Health care remains a primary issue. There is one hospital, Buchanan General, which serves the entire county. There is no OB service at the hospital. Women must travel 38 miles or more to Clinch Valley Hospital that is located in a neighboring county to deliver a baby. There are several clinics within the county mostly staffed by nurse practitioners with a doctor on board for consulting purposes.

The poverty level is high. An excellent indicator is represented by the percentage of students in the public school system who receive free and reduced price breakfast and lunch. (SNP Monthly Eligibility Report, Virginia Department of Education, School Nutrition Program, prepared July, 2014).

School	Percentage Free and Reduced Meals
J. M. Bevins Elementary	86.49%
Council Elementary	79.73%
Hurley Middle School	81.61
Grundy High School	59.52%
Council High School	65.89%
Hurley High School	79.11%
Riverview Elementary/Middle	76.29%
Twin Valley Elementary/Middle	67.32%
Twin Valley High School	60.23%
Total Percentage	68.57%

A need for jobs is a primary concern. Many residents must travel out of the county to find work. Current inflated gasoline and car expenses consume much of the net income realized by the employee.

The county government is working to attract new business and industry to the area. Sykes Enterprises employs approximately 500 individuals with a salary range of eight to fifteen dollars per hour.

Heat and warm homes for the winter is a Head Start family concern. Many families need general repairs to their homes as well as fuel assistance in the winter months.

TANF/VIEW/FOOD STAMPS/MEDICAID

Source: Buchanan County Department of Social Services, 2008 Chart identifies primary family assistance programs with a 48.60% total county population receiving some form of assistance.

Tanf	View	Medicaid	Total Participants	County Percentage
681	107	11,077	11,865	48.60%

Buchanan County Head Start serves children with disabilities. The PIR (Program Information Report) for June 2014 shows how the program serves disabled youth. See table below for breakdown for special needs children. The total number with special needs served was 27. The percentage for the 13/14 school year was 18.60% of the funded enrollment.

Speech 17	Autism 5	Non-Categorical 5
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The local school system provides services for most of the children with special needs who are county residents from the age of two and up. The school system also offers a preschool program for children with disabilities with an average load of 20 children at a time four days a week. The other days of non-classroom instruction are utilized for home visits. The children receive services such as speech, language, hearing, visual and psychological evaluations. There is a special education and parent resource center at the local technology center which is open 5 days per week for all county residents, staff and parent use.

Program Approach:

As previously stated, Buchanan County Head Start is federally funded to enroll 177 children in a four hour, four day program through nine center based classrooms with one home visitor who serves the home based option of the program.

The following chart outlines the structure to meet the funded enrollment of children and families:

Center	Operational hrs.	No. days of operation		Staff credential
Council H.S.	8:00 A.M.- 3:00 P.M.	139	1 teacher 1 teacher asst. 1 bus driver	BS Early Childhood AA Early Childhood AA Early Childhood
Hurley I H.S.	8:00 A.M.- 3:00 P.M.	139	1 teacher 1 teacher asst. 1 bus driver	AA Early Childhood Enrolled in AA Enrolled in AA
Hurley 2 H.S.	8:00 A.M.- 3:00 P.M.	139	1 teacher 1 teacher asst. 1 bus driver	CDA Enrolled in AA Enrolled in AA
BCHS # 1	8:00 A.M.- 3:00 P.M.	139	1 teacher 1 teacher asst. 1 bus driver	BS Early Childhood To be hired To be hired
Rock Lick	8:00 A.M.- 3:00 P.M.	139	1 teacher 1 teacher asst. 1 bus driver	BS Early Childhood AA Early Childhood To be hired
BCHS # 2	8:00 A.M.- 3:00 P.M.	139	1 teacher 1 teacher asst. 1 bus driver	AA Early Childhood Enrolled in AA To be hired
Garden H.S.	8:00 A.M.- 3:00 P.M.	139	1 teacher 1 teacher asst. 1 bus driver	BS Early Childhood Enrolled in AA AA Early Childhood
BCHS # 3 H.S.	8:00 A.M.- 3:00 P.M.	139	1 teacher 1 teacher asst. 1 bus driver	BS Early Childhood Enrolled in AA
Whitewood H.S.	8:00 A.M.- 3:00 P.M.	139	1 teacher 1 teacher asst. 1 bus driver	BS Early Childhood To be hired AA Early Childhood
1 Home Base	8:00 A.M.- 3:00 P.M.		1 home Visitor	AA Early Childhood

Buchanan County Head Start personnel structure is as follows:

Position	Qty.	Full vs. part time	Months per year
Director	1	Full	12
Education Manager	1	Full	12
Health/Disabilities Manager	1	Full	12
Social Services Manager	1	Full	11
Transportation/Parent Inv. Mgr.	1	Full	12
Fiscal manager	1	Full	12
Fiscal Assistant	1	Full	12
Family service workers	1	Full	188 days
Home visitor	1	Full	191 days
Teachers	9	Full	191 days
Teacher assist /bus monitor	4	Full	174 days
Bus drivers	9	Full	174
Teacher asst/bus monitor/FSP	5	Full	188 days

The family service worker has an average caseload of 80 families. All of the food service is provided by the Buchanan County Public School System. All of the center employees are responsible for the custodial needs in their own individual centers. All nine of our teachers have an AA degree in Early Childhood Education and some are working toward a Bachelor's degree. Several of the teacher assistants and bus drivers have an AA degree. Many of the employees are enrolled in classes through our local community college.

Buchanan County Head Start is organized into the following four supervisory areas that effectively meet the needs of children and families. These four areas are: Education and Early Childhood Development, Health Services, Family and Community Partnerships and Monitoring and Compliance.

The Education and Early Childhood Development service area focuses on the developmental needs of the children in the classrooms. Our goal is to create a developmentally appropriate, nurturing environment in which children from all cultures and at all abilities can learn and grow socially, emotionally, physically and cognitively. This goal is accomplished through assessment of the child's needs, classroom planning, field trips and enrichment experiences that meet the needs of each child in the classroom. Teachers discuss the individual needs of each child with the parents during in-school conferences and home visits. Plans are made to ensure that each child is given an opportunity to have positive experiences every day. The child's progress is monitored throughout the school year through the use of ongoing portfolio assessments and child outcome data.

Buchanan County Head Start reserves slots for at least ten percent of its enrollment to serve children with disabilities. The 2012/2013 PIR data shows 27 children with

special needs served by the program for a percentage total of 16% of the funded enrollment.

Buchanan County Head Start has set the following goals and/or objectives for program years 2013-2016.

- ✓ Continue to encourage teachers and other staff to further their education goals by enrolling classes to obtain either an AA or a BS in Early Childhood Education.
- ✓ Continue to train staff on effectively and correctly implementing the Creative Curriculum and the Developmental Continuum.
- ✓ Continue to work to educate parents through the use of consultants on the importance of healthy life styles.
- ✓ Continue to work with parents on the issue of diabetes and exercise for all family members.
- ✓ Initiate Early Language and Literacy in the classrooms as well as to implement activities for parents to participate in and facilitate at home. In addition, Buchanan County Head Start will continue to purchase backpacks and family literacy materials for parents to use in their homes.
- ✓ Continue to work with fathers and encourage them to take a more active part in the classroom and in the education of their children.
- ✓ Strive to increase collaboration with the Buchanan County School's VPI Director.
- ✓ Improve communication and technical resources in the Head Start classrooms by implementing internet access capabilities in all classrooms.
- ✓ Continue our partnership with World Vision to provide our families with necessities such as clothing, hygienic products, and other various household needs.
- ✓ Continue to work with county organizations to secure more up-to-date computers for our classrooms that will allow for increased communication and research capabilities. Internet capability will assure current outcome measures can be reported in a timely and effective manner through CC Port. Staff will be able to access helpful tools such as the Creative Curriculum web site for helpful ideas, reporting, questions, etc.
- ✓ Continue to form partnerships with local coal companies in a community outreach mission to upgrade existing Head Start Centers through the use of paint and general improvements.
- ✓ Buchanan County Head Start employees currently have a 100% health and dental insurance plan funded 100% by the Board of Supervisors.
- ✓ Continue to work toward locating a warehouse for storing supplies and goods from Vision D.C. Such a warehouse would enable the program to keep household items, furniture, paint, clothing and other necessary items on hand for families who suffer loss at any given time.
- ✓ To continue to partner with dental agencies and specifically the mobile dental unit to provide dental care for the families in our own county. Currently,

children must be transported an approximate distance of 35-50 miles to a neighboring county to receive the services of a children's dentist.

- ✓ Continue to educate staff and families on the "I Am Moving, I Am Learning" initiative that is now a vital part of the everyday classroom. The goal of Head Start is to encourage families to make the initiative a part of their home life.
- ✓ Continue to seek funds that will enable Head Start to expand to a full day five day a week program.
- ✓ Continue to use PALS in the classrooms as an assessment tool to keep Head Start children in line with the assessment used by Pre-K.
- ✓ Continue to seek funds to purchase new buses and agency vehicles. The grantee board has allocated ninety thousand dollars (90,000) to the Head Start Program to purchase two new buses during this school year.
- ✓ Provide educational activities into the bus routes.
- ✓ Continue to promote retention of second year children and families
- ✓ Revise parent handbook to include the community resource portion.
- ✓ Expand mental health partnerships
- ✓ Continue to educate families and staff on dental health.
- ✓ Educate families on appropriate health milestones and promote wellness.
- ✓ Participate with community agencies to establish a proactive approach for a safe and healthy lifestyle.
- ✓ Orient, update and train grantee board and policy council on shared governance, new initiatives and the Head Start Reauthorization Act.
- ✓ Seek funds to bring staff wages to a more commensurate level with local wages.
- ✓ Obtain a site to house one classroom at the new county development located at South Gap
- ✓ To enhance parent development by providing learning opportunities for increased parent participation, training and education to support family development.
- ✓ To enhance male involvement by extending specific parent training and activities thereby promoting family growth and development.
- ✓ Educate parents on the importance of structure, routine and attendance for their children.
- ✓ Educate parents on developmentally appropriate milestones.
- ✓ Educate staff, parents and the community in all four components of family literacy as defined by the Head Start Act.
- ✓ Enhance training for classroom staff to support educational experiences and strategies to improve child outcomes.
- ✓ Provide all mandated local, state and federal training (First Aid, CPR, child abuse and neglect, etc.) Strengthen emergency preparedness training.
- ✓ Provide funds for staff and parents to attend state meetings and conferences.

Community Assessment Needs for Families

Buchanan County Head Start 2014 Community Assessment was conducted to target the following areas:

1. To provide program partners with the information needed on Head Start families so they can better serve the needs of the communities and families.
2. To improve guidance for services and program funding needs.
3. To provide non-profit service providers with up-to-date demographics for the purpose of assisting with the needs of Head Start families.
4. To collect pertinent data that can be used by program partners in providing for the needs of the community and the program.

Buchanan County Head Start conducted a Family Needs Assessment Survey in May, 2014. Approximately 100 of the 177 families returned the survey. The following is a list which illustrates the most essential current needs:

Family Needs Survey 2014 Totals

Category	Number
Employment opportunities	173
Crime and drug abuse	78
Cost of utilities, gas, electric and water	64
Roads and street repair	50
Affordable health care	48
Dental care	47
Housing	34
Transportation needs	33
Child abuse	33
Food for low income families	33
Money management	32
Conditions of school buildings	33
School safety	30
Cost of prescription drugs	17
Personal safety	14
Educational services for children	14
Teen pregnancy	13
Quality child care	11
Phone service	10
GED services	10
Mental health services	4

Results from approximately 100 surveys returned indicate areas of most need for Head Start include: job opportunities, crime and drug abuse, cost of utilities, gas, water and electricity, roads, affordable health care, dental care, etc. Head Start partners with local churches that assist with electric bills for some of the neediest families; the mobile dental unit has been most successful in answering the need for family dental care; food pantries in different communities in the county for those in need of food, and Dr. Brian Looney who assists with vision care for needy children.

As part of the health services component, Buchanan County Head Start recognizes the importance of health, nutrition and dental care in the overall development of the child. Working with local physicians, dentists, nutritionists and other health providers, staff provides comprehensive screenings, follow-up and training designed for specific needs. Training includes correction of health defects, wellness and preventive care.

Nutrition is a vital part of Head Start's comprehensive services to children and families. Breakfast and lunch are served to all of the children. All meals are planned using USDA guidelines for Child and Adult Care Programs. Because BCHS partners with the local school system to furnish the food for Head Start children, a pre-planned central menu is followed. The focus of the menus must be healthy and nutritious. Special diets are provided upon the advice of a physician. Meals are served in the school cafeterias family style with the children learning to carry their own trays to the table and then back to the appropriate drop for cleaning. Children are taught self-help skills and how to get around in the "big" school. Nutrition education is provided to children and families as a part of the program. Nutrition experiences are offered monthly in classrooms to foster an understanding of the importance of good nutrition to overall health.

The family service area consists of one family service worker who is assigned to four of the nine classrooms for a total case load of 80 children and families. The other five centers are served by the teacher assistant/family service employee who is assigned to the classroom to the classroom in which they work. The worker is responsible for making at least two (2) home visits during the school year. The first home visit must occur within ninety days (90) days of the child's enrollment. The second home visit is completed as appropriate to enrollment. During these home visits, the family service worker will initiate the process of getting to know the family and by reviewing the Head Start program and policies. In conjunction with the family, they will complete a Family Partnership Agreement. The agreement looks at areas of concern and sets goals in the areas where families wish to see progress and accomplishment. Family service workers use any additional office time to assist with the following:

- ✓ To provide transportation, if needed to community agencies, parent meetings, policy council meetings, workshops etc.
- ✓ To assist the family in assessing strengths and concerns.
- ✓ To provide services that build upon the family's individual strengths to help address concerns.
- ✓ To work in the community to build partnerships.
- ✓ To provide and secure information on community resources to all Head Start parents and encourage the formation of community partnerships.
- ✓ To provide Medication Administration Training (MAT) for all classroom personnel and any other Head Start staff who might need to administer medication to children.

Tools the Family Service staff use to assist in meeting goals are:

1. Referrals/follow-up, direct services
2. Family Partnership Agreement booklet to be reviewed and explained to the family in order to help the family set realistic goals which will be followed with an action plan that includes action steps, resources, time frames and outcomes
3. To provide information about available community resources and how to obtain and use them.
4. Emergency assistance and/or crisis intervention

Buchanan County is responsive to the needs of families and communities. There are strong relationships with families through constant communication with staff, parents and community partners. We are able to provide excellent comprehensive services to children of both working and non-working families. In addition, we partner with the Department of Social Services to provide day care for parents that need extended child care in excess of that which the Head Start Program offers. The day care service through the local Department of Social Services is approved on an individual day care provider basis.

Finally, BCHS strives to adhere to Head Start's Vision and Philosophy as well as our own agency Mission and Vision Statement which states:

"Buchanan County Head Start will seek to build effective partnerships which can provide quality services to low income families in an effort to assist them to achieve self-sufficiency through economic stability, community involvement and family focus."

Benefits Expected:

The following are some of the benefits our children and families are receiving from the BCHS Head Start Program:

1. Increased family and children's literacy level

2. Increased transition from Head Start to home school area by touring the Kindergarten classrooms, eating in the classrooms and meeting their new teacher in the public schools
3. Increased accountability as staff creates more individual and group outcome measures as required by the Department of Health and Human Services
4. Increased individualization for all children who are served.
5. Increased documentation by staff on the individualization process
6. Increased self-confidence, curiosity, creativity and self-discipline in children.
7. Increased development and improvement in social and emotional skills
8. Increased understanding on the part of parents as they realize how important it is for them to be actively involved in their children's education
9. Increased sense of importance on the part of the parents throughout the educational process. BCHS provides parents with materials and information available for check out that may be taken to homes to be used as parents work with their children. At the same time, we encourage parents to use the wealth of materials found in their own homes to assist in the education of their children.
10. Increased parenting skills as parents realize their individual strengths required to establish and plan family goals
11. Increased family awareness of community resources and their confidence in accessing these resources
12. Increased learning environment that enhances children's developmental skills that are needed to survive in the school system and beyond
13. Increased assessment and development of a child's physical and emotional status and assurance of obtaining a medical home for the child and the family
14. Increased provision of necessary household items, i.e., clothing, furniture, paint and other items to make homes more attractive as they strive to enhance the quality of their lives
15. Increased participation in college classes as families enroll in the "tuition assistance classes" provided at no cost to them that enables them to further their education so they can compete in the job market.

Tables and charts on pages 18-21 give statistics for the following categories: Educational attainment, education, school enrollment, median household income, industry overview, governmental overview with list of county officials and environmental pollution overview.

Buchanan County, VA**Buchanan County, VA****Population 2010:** 26,978**Square miles:** 503.88

2010 CENSUS DATA				
	BUCHANAN COUNTY		VA	US
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT				
	Number		Number	Number
Population 25 and older	18,851			
	Number	Pct	Pct	Pct
High school graduates (includes equivalency)	5,188	27.5	26.0	28.6
Some college, or associate's degree	3,276	17.4	26.0	27.4
Bachelor's degree	918	4.9	17.9	15.5
Master's, professional or doctorate degree	582	3.1	11.6	8.9
SCHOOL ENROLLMENT				
	Number		Number	Number
Population 3 years and over enrolled in school	5,598			
	Number	Pct	Pct	Pct
Preschool and kindergarten	572	10.2	12.1	11.9
Grades 1-12	4,121	73.6	63.7	65.3
College	905	16.2	24.1	22.8

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census; Podunk

Median household income

Local

\$22,213

National

\$41,994

Source: 2000 census, U.S. Census Bureau

For more census details and comparisons, see our [Buchanan County demographic reports](#)

In 2002, the per capita personal income in Buchanan County was \$21,116. This was an increase of 19.2% from 1997. The 2002 figure was 68% of the national per capita income, which was \$30,906.

County seat: [Grundy](#) A leading producer of coal

Buchanan County is one of about 3,141 counties and county equivalents in the United States. It has 503.9 sq. miles in land area and a population density of 47.4 per square mile. In the last three decades of the 1900s its population declined by 15.9%. On the 2000 census form, 99.7% of the population reported only one race, with 2.6% of these reporting African-American. The population of this county is 0.5% Hispanic (of any race). The average household size is 2.46 persons compared to an average family size of 2.87 persons.

In 2007 mining was the largest of 20 major sectors. It had an average wage per job of \$60,109. Per capita income grew by 16.5% between 1996 and 2006 (adjusted for inflation).

People & Income Overview (By Place of Residence)	Value	Rank in U.S.	Industry Overview (2007) (By Place of Work)	Value	Rank in U.S.
Population (2007)	23,900	1626	Covered Employment	7,888	1625
Growth (%) since 1990	-23.7%	3068	Avg wage per job	\$37,510	504
Households (2000)	10,464	1465	Manufacturing - % all jobs in County	4.0%	2411
Labor Force (persons) (2007)	8,868	1901	Avg wage per job	\$49,931	451
Unemployment Rate (2007)	4.8	1375	Transportation & Warehousing - % all jobs in County	3.7%	816
Per Capita Personal Income (2006)	\$24,591	2267	Avg wage per job	\$33,973	2220
Median Household Income (2005)	\$25,193	3049	Health Care, Social Assist. - % all jobs in County	9.1%	1333
Poverty Rate (2005)	26.6	189	Avg wage per job	\$32,939	942
H.S. Diploma or More - % of Adults 25+ (2000)	52.9	3,120	Finance and Insurance - % all jobs in County	2.1%	1952
Bachelor's Deg. or More - % of Adults 25+ (2000)	8.0	3,003	Avg wage per job	\$29,447	2453

NACO Member

Buchanan County, VA

P.O. Drawer 950
 County Courthouse
 Grundy, VA 24614-0950
 Phone: (276) 935-6501
 Fax: (276)935-4479

County Seat: Grundy
Year Organized: 1858
Square Miles: 504
Size of Board: 7

County Populations			
1980	1990	2000	2005
37,989	31,333	26,978	24,755

[Places in Buchanan County](#)
[Census Bureau Quick Facts](#)

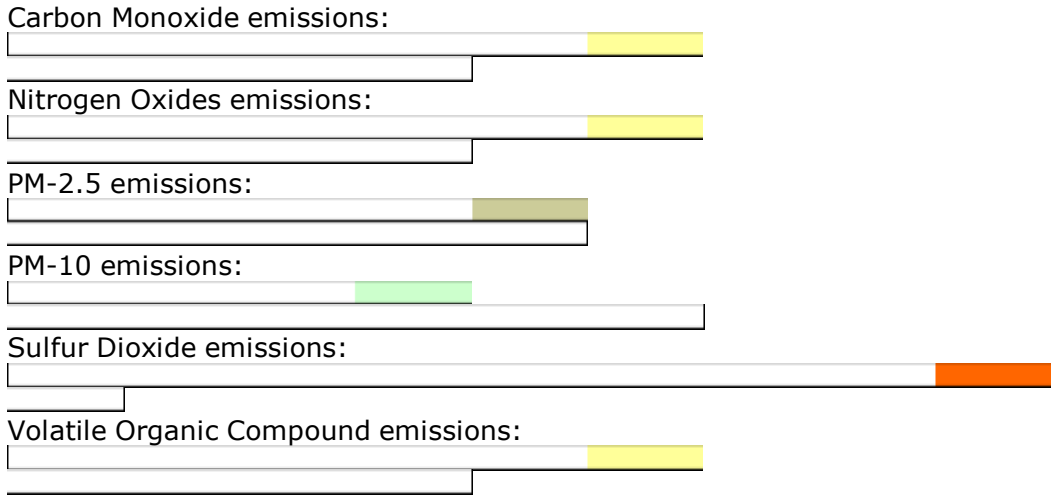
Elected County Officials	
Name	Position
James Branham	Chair
Terry Hall	Supervisor
William Harris	Vice Chair
Carl Landreth	Supervisor
Steve O'Quinn	Supervisor
G. Roger Rife	Supervisor
Berlin Viars	Supervisor
C. Ray Foster	Sheriff
Billy Keene	Treasurer

Victor Breeding	Commissioner Of Revenue
James Bevins Jr.	Clerk Of The Court

[BUCHANAN County](#)

Air Quality Rankings: Health Risks, Exposure, and Emissions

Cleanest/Best Counties in US **Percentile** **Dirtiest/Worst Counties in U**
0% **10%** **20%** **30%** **40%** **50%** **60%** **70%** **80%** **90%** **100%**



Rank counties in **VIRGINIA** by criteria air pollutant [health risks](#), [exposures](#), or [emissions](#).
 Rank facilities in **BUCHANAN County** by criteria air pollutant [emissions](#).
 Rank monitoring stations in **BUCHANAN County** by criteria air pollutant [exposures](#).