



## **Program Structure**

The Head Start program is funded solely by DHHS-OHS and receives reimbursement from USDA (CACFP) which supports our nutrition program. UCHRA Van Buren County Head Start in conjunction with the governing bodies operates a center-based option. The center-based option best meets the needs of children and families in the service area as determined by the community assessment and provides for the full range of comprehensive services and addresses the needs of culturally diverse and dual language children and families. These services are provided to preschool age children three (3) to five (5) years of age. Program services schedule runs in conjunction with the local school system to include holidays and break periods. The center makes available two classrooms. Both classrooms operate 6.5 hour core day for 160 school attended days per year and attend Monday thru Friday at a minimum of 1020 hours per school year. Every effort to schedule makeup days will be made. Both classrooms are multi-age and maximum size is determined by the age of the majority of children assigned to each classroom. The program maintains appropriate ratios during all hours of operation. Classrooms that serve a majority of children who are 3 years of age will serve no more than 17 children and a classroom that serves a majority of children who are 4 years of age will serve no more than 20 children. The program will maintain the state licensing requirements. The Van Buren County Head Start facility provided by the Local School System meets and exceeds the basic requirements of 35 square feet of usable indoor space per child and 75 square feet of usable outdoor space per child. Head Start transportation is provided to as many children as possible to ensure availability to the program. A waitlist is maintained throughout the program year. At last resort children exceeding the eligibility guidelines are offered the opportunity to attend the program, never exceeding performance standards limitations.