



PART OF THE SHEPPARD PRATT HEALTH SYSTEM:



Discovery Station Early Head Start Annual Report Program Year 2017 July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018



Discovery Station Early Head Start by the Numbers

The Discovery Station Early Head Start program (DS-EHS) is a comprehensive early childhood development program for pregnant mothers and families with children from birth to three years of age. The program serves families residing in mid and upper Montgomery County, Maryland. During Program Year 2017, Discovery Station Child Development Center in Gaithersburg provided child care for 36 children, many of whom have teen parents enrolled in area high schools. EHS also provided weekly home visiting services to 100 families in its service area. Both program options engage children in quality child development programming and families receive support to meet their children’s health, mental health, nutrition and early intervention needs. This Annual Report summarizes services, expenditures and outcomes for the Program Year 2017 that covers the period of July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018.

Program Enrollment

- Total pregnant women and children served: **224**
- Average monthly enrollment: **136**
- Average enrollment in the Home-based: **100**
- Average enrollment in Center-based: **36**
- Children receiving early intervention services: **24%**
- Families listing Spanish as primary language spoken in the home: **195 (87%)**
- Percentage of eligible children served: **Less than 7%**



(The *Demographic Snapshot* of Montgomery County, Maryland released in fall 2016 by Montgomery Moving Forward indicates that approximately 3,500 children in Montgomery County, MD, would be eligible for Early Head Start)

Progress with School Readiness Indicators						
Domain	Social-Emotional	Physical	Language	Approaches to Learning	Cognitive	Literacy
SUMMER 2017	89%	87%	74%	90%	87%	66%
SPRING 2018	84%	93%	74%	89%	88%	71%

*Percentages indicate children meeting or exceeding widely held expectations for each domain.

Building School Readiness from 0- 3years

The overall goal of the DS-EHS program is to support families in preparing their children for school through healthy child development and learning. DS-EHS staff use research-based curriculum in both the home-based program and the child development center. Home visitors introduce parent-child activities weekly using the *Parents as Teachers* curriculum. Teachers use the *Creative Curriculum* in lesson planning. Ongoing child observations and assessments are conducted for all children using the Teaching Strategies GOLD system which aligns with the curriculum and measures child growth and development in all domains of learning. The number of children meeting or exceeding widely held expectations this year was consistently high, although Language and Literacy have been identified as areas of focus for the program overall (see summary above).

Developmental screenings are conducted within the child’s first forty-five days in the program to determine outstanding needs in the areas of health, mental health and overall development. If a concern is identified, DS-EHS specialists work closely with the family and early intervention specialists to identify and access services. These may include speech and language support, physical therapy, mental health services and family support. During this program year, 24% of the participants in the Discovery Station Early Head Start program received additional early intervention services that are coordinated with the home visiting and classroom curriculum activities.

DS-EHS staff assist families as they transition into Head Start or other early childhood settings when their child turns three years old. Written transition plans include activities to help parents understand what to expect in a new environment, apply for child care subsidies, adjust to another preschool program, adapt to changes in routine, and



visit the new setting. Parents of children with diagnosed disabilities are provided with support as they enroll in new programs and transition from the Montgomery County Infant and Toddler Program to the public schools. Through our partnership with the Head Start and the Prekindergarten division at Montgomery County Public Schools, parents learn about additional educational services available once they age out of EHS.

Family Engagement

Family Partnership Agreements support achievement of family and personal goals, such as graduating from high school, finding affordable housing, obtaining and retaining employment or overcoming post-partum depression. The Head Start Parent, Family and Community Engagement Framework is utilized to ensure that the program offers meaningful opportunities for families to make progress in the each of the identified outcome areas: self-sufficiency, parent-child relationships, lifelong educators, learners, engagement in transitions, connections to peers and the community, and advocacy.

Families learn about child development and how to support their child's healthy development and learning in both program options. All DS-EHS families have regular opportunities to engage in parenting workshops, parent-child learning activities, and social events. Each year program participants are elected by their fellow parents to serve on the EHS Policy Council. The officers and members of the Policy Council play a key role in program decision making during monthly meetings. All parents are included in in the Parent Committees which meet every other month.

The Keys to Success

The DS-EHS Keys to Success program offers wrap around services designed with expectant and parenting teens in mind. During the school year, after school tutoring is offered twice a week with certified teachers. The Keys to Success Coordinator monitors their attendance and grades and provides academic counseling to ensure that participants stay in school and are on track to graduate. A summer program is designed to enhance career and college readiness as well as address many of the unique needs of teen parents through speakers, field trips and peer support.



On-Going Monitoring

- Discovery Station EHS was randomly selected for a site visit by the U.S. Government Accountability Office. Information and documentation regarding enrollment and attendance was requested in advance, and an on-site visit was conducted May 21-23, 2018. As a result of the site visit and review, the recommendation as made to use the Office of Head Start revised eligibility verification form (OMB 0970-0374) as part of the application process. No non-compliance issues were found.
- The Uniform Guidance audit report for Program Year 17 will be completed in February 2019. The Uniform Guidance (formerly A-133) audit report for Program Year 16 was completed in January 2018 and did not include any findings for EHS.
- Under the new Head Start Program Monitoring Protocols, Discovery Station EHS will receive a Focus Area 1 Monitoring Review during the 2018-2019 Program Year.

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PY2017

Financial Report-July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018

<u>Public and Private Funding</u>	Budgeted	Actual
Grant – Federal (HHS ACF)	\$1,967,865	\$1,941,134
Food reimbursement program (MSDE)	34,000	31,470
Grants – State (MSDE)	125,153	130,807
Grant – City of Gaithersburg	20,000	20,000
Other Foundation Support	30,000	13,196
In-Kind Support	274,069	330,372
Total Revenue and Support	\$2,451,087	\$ 2,466,979
<u>Program Expenses</u>		
Personnel (salaries, benefits, taxes)	\$1,645,936	\$1,594,198
Facility and occupancy	192,153	187,231
Other Direct Costs	211,993	258,150
Training and Technical Assistance	45,500	45,500
In Kind Support	206,568	219,963
Subtotal Expense	\$ 2,302,150	\$ 2,305,042
Indirect/ Administrative costs (Reimbursed)	\$ 148,937	\$ 161,937
Indirect/ Administrative costs (Actual)	284,338	297,152
Total Program Expenses	\$2,586,488	\$ 2,602,194
Deficit on federal award	- \$135,401	- \$135,215

For more information contact the Discovery Station EHS Program Director at 301-840-3271 or visit us online at: www.fs-inc.org.