



PART OF THE SHEPPARD PRATT HEALTH SYSTEM:



Discovery Station Early Head Start Annual Report Program Year 2017 July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019



Discovery Station Early Head Start Overview

Family Services, Inc. Discovery Station Early Head Start program (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 2018, Discovery Station Child Development Center in Gaithersburg provided child care for 70 children throughout the year, 25 of whom have teen parents who were enrolled in area high schools. The program also received funding to extend its hours of operation to support working parents. Nineteen children whose parents were working, in a training program and/or in school were served through the extended care program. EHS also provided weekly home visiting services to 148 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 2018 that covers the period of July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019.

Program Enrollment

- Total pregnant women and children served: **227**
- Average monthly enrollment: **124**
- Average monthly enrollment in the Home-based: **80**
- Average monthly enrollment in Center-based: **44**
- Children receiving early intervention services: **28%**
- Families listing Spanish as primary language spoken in the home: **85%**
- 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)



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. 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 saw a consistent increase across all domains, especially in the areas of Language and Social Emotional Development (see summary below).

Progress with School Readiness Indicators						
Domain	Social-Emotional	Physical	Language	Approaches to Learning	Cognitive	Literacy
SUMMER 2018	73%	78%	56%	80%	80%	63%
SPRING 2019	83%	88%	78%	90%	88%	85%

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

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, EHS specialists including the Developmental and Behavioral Specialist, Health Manager, and Education Manager, 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, 28% 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.

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.

Services Received by Early Head Start Families PY 2019	
Emergency/ crisis intervention (immediate needs for food, clothing or shelter)	18
Housing assistance (subsidies, utilities, repairs)	10
Mental health services	21
ESL	1
Adult education (including GED)	20
Job training	6
Substance abuse prevention	74
Substance abuse treatment	14
Child abuse and neglect	18
Domestic violence	37
Child support assistance	1
Health education	162
Assistance to families of incarcerated individuals	5
Parenting education	201
Marriage education	79
Asset building services (such as financial education, opening savings and checking accounts, debt counseling, etc.)	81
Families that received at least one service	209



Health and Dental Services

Number of Children Enrolled that Received Health and Dental Services PY 2019	
Children with Health Insurance	218
Children with a Medical Home	219
Children Up to Date on EPSDT	210
Children Up to Date on Immunizations	211
Children with Access to Dental Services	178
Children Up to Date with Dental	213

Number of Pregnant Women that Received Health and Dental Services PY 2019	
Enroll in Health Insurance	8
Received Prenatal Services	7
Received Post-partum Care	5
Mental Health Services	5
Substance Abuse Prevention	5
Prenatal Education	6
Breastfeeding Education	5
Received Dental Services	1

Families learn about child development and how to support their child’s healthy development and learning in both program options. All 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.

Keys to Success Program

The EHS Keys to Success program offers wrap around services designed with pregnant 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 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 parenting teens through workshops, field trips and peer support.



On-Going Monitoring

- The Uniform Guidance audit report for Program Year 18 will be completed in January 2020. The Uniform Guidance (formerly A-133) audit report for Program Year 17 was completed in February 2019 and did not include any findings for EHS.
- Under the new Head Start Program Monitoring Protocols, EHS received a Focus Area 1 Monitoring Review during the 2018-2019 Program Year. There were no findings. Various program strengths were highlighted including the two-generational approach of the Keys to Success program as well as the diversity of the EHS reflective of the community being served and providing access to services in families' primary language.
- The EHS Discovery Station Child Development Center was awarded accreditation through the Maryland State Department of Education. The program also received level 4 in Maryland EXCELS, the state's Quality Rating and Improvement System.

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PY2018

Financial Report-July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019

<u>Public and Private Funding</u>	Budgeted	Actual
Grant – Federal (HHS ACF)	\$1,971,977	\$2,239,419
Food reimbursement program (MSDE)	34,000	47,646
Grants – State (MSDE)	68,600	138,339
Grant – City of Gaithersburg	20,000	18,000
Other Foundation Support	30,000	30,453
In-Kind Support	294,023	445,298
Total Revenue and Support	\$2,418,600	\$ 2,919,155
<u>Program Expenses</u>		
Personnel (salaries, benefits, taxes)	\$1,605,882	\$1,612,718
Facility and occupancy	191,363	191,020
Other Direct Costs	237,293	544,831
Training and Technical Assistance	45,500	47,163
In Kind Support	206,568	319,444
Subtotal Expense	\$ 2,286,606	\$ 2,715,176
Indirect/ Administrative costs (Reimbursed)	\$ 131,994	\$ 203,979
Indirect/ Administrative costs (Actual)	286,932	332,349
Total Program Expenses	\$2,573,538	\$ 3,047,525
Deficit on federal award	- \$154,938	- \$128,370

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