



Sheppard Pratt

**Discovery Station Early Head Start  
Annual Report Program Year 2020  
July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021**



### 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 2020, Discovery Station Child Development Center in Gaithersburg provided childcare for 70 children throughout the year, 14 of whom have teen parents who were enrolled in area high schools. The program also received additional funding to support its operation as the pandemic continued. This additional funding supported the purchase of PPE, equipment, and staff support. EHS also provided weekly home visiting services to 74 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. From the point of the declared national emergency, all services (classroom, home visits, trainings, policy meetings, etc.) were delivered in a virtual format during the program year. The program faced challenges such as outreach and recruitment, and in person learning and health services where alternate strategies had to be put in place. Despite this, although not easy, the program was able to continue to provide services to children and families. This Annual Report summarizes services, expenditures and outcomes for the Program Year 2020 that covers the period of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

### Program Enrollment

- Total pregnant women and children served: **196**
- Average monthly enrollment: **119**
- Average monthly enrollment in the Home-based: **76**
- Average monthly enrollment in Center-based: **43**
- Children receiving early intervention services: **22%**
- Families listing Spanish as primary language spoken in the home: **78%**
- 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- 3 years**

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).

<b>Progress with School Readiness Indicators</b>						
<b>Domain</b>	<b>Social- Emotional</b>	<b>Physical</b>	<b>Language</b>	<b>Approaches to Learning</b>	<b>Cognitive</b>	<b>Literacy</b>
SUMMER 2020/21	84%	88%	75%	89%	83%	79%
FALL 2020/21	83%	88%	69%	86%	83%	78%
WINTER 2020/21	75%	81%	70%	83%	75%	70%
SPRING 2020/21	71%	75%	53%	83%	79%	67%

\*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, 22% 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 childcare 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.

<b>Services Received by Early Head Start Families PY 20</b>	
Emergency/ crisis intervention (immediate needs for food, clothing or shelter)	28
Housing assistance (subsidies, utilities, repairs)	14
Mental health services	23
Substance misuse prevention	0
Substance misuse treatment	0
Job training	10
Substance abuse prevention	0
Substance abuse treatment	0
English as a Second Language (ESL) training	23
Assistance in enrolling into an education or job training program	12
Research-based parenting curriculum	179
Involvement in discussing their child's screening and assessment results and their child's progress	179
Education on preventive medical, oral health and nutrition	175
Education on postpartum care (e.g. breastfeeding support)	3
Education on relationship/marriage	2
Asset building services (such as financial education, opening savings and checking accounts, debt counseling, etc.)	6
Assistance to families of incarcerated individuals	3
Families that received at least one service	179



**Health and Dental Services**

<b>Number of Children Enrolled that Received Health and Dental Services PY 20</b>	
Children with Health Insurance	182
Children with a Medical Home	182
Children Up to Date on EPSDT	162
Children Up to Date on Immunizations	162
Children with Access to Dental Services	182
Children Up to Date with Dental	157

<b>Number of Pregnant Women that Received Health and Dental Services PY 20</b>	
Enroll in Health Insurance	3
Received Prenatal Services	3
Received Post-partum Care	3
Mental Health Services	0
Substance Abuse Prevention	0
Prenatal Education	3
Breastfeeding Education	3
Received Dental Services	3

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. When the pandemic hit, tutoring services continued virtually. 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 20 is underway and should be completed by April 2022. The report will be available by June 2022. The Uniform Guidance (formerly A-133) audit report for Program Year 19 was completed in February 2021 and did not include any findings for EHS.
- Under the new Head Start Program Monitoring Protocols, EHS received a Focus Area 2 Monitoring Review during the 2020-2021 Program Year. There were no findings and various program strengths were highlighted.
- 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.

# Discovery Station Early Head Start Annual Report

## July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021

PY2020

### Financial Report-July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021

<b><u>Public and Private Funding</u></b>	<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>Actual</b>
Grant – Federal (HHS ACF)	\$2,119,432	\$2,119,432
COVID Funds-Federal	108,972	108,972
Food reimbursement program (MSDE)	45,000	42,342
Grants – State (MSDE)	40,090	73,862
Grant – City of Gaithersburg	19,150	19,206
Other Foundation Support	25,000	24,357
In-Kind Support	416,432	303,227
<b>Total Revenue and Support</b>	<b>\$2,774,076</b>	<b>\$ 2,691,398</b>
<b><u>Program Expenses</u></b>		
Personnel (salaries, benefits, taxes)	\$1,761,971	\$1,667,762
Facility and occupancy	186,867	164,576
Other Direct Costs	249,191	224,424
Training and Technical Assistance	45,500	45,500
In Kind Support	416,132	303,227
<b>Subtotal Expense</b>	<b>\$ 2,659,661</b>	<b>\$ 2,405,489</b>
Indirect/ Administrative costs (Reimbursed)	\$ 189,793	\$ 195,632
<b>Indirect/ Administrative costs (Actual)</b>	<b>324,221</b>	<b>341,894</b>
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,983,882</b>	<b>\$ 2,747,383</b>
<b>Deficit on federal award</b>	<b>- \$94,157</b>	<b>- \$107,115</b>

*For more information contact the Discovery Station EHS Program Director at 301-840-3271 or visit us online at: [www.SheppardPratt.org](http://www.SheppardPratt.org).*