



Sheppard Pratt

**Discovery Station Early Head Start
Annual Report Program Year 2020
July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022**



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 2021, Discovery Station Child Development Center in Gaithersburg provided childcare for 79 children throughout the year, 19 of whom have teen parents who were enrolled in area high schools. The program also received funding to extend its hours of operation to better support working parents. EHS also provided weekly home visiting services to 102 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. The program was able to return to the majority of in person services for families but maintains virtual options for situations that better allow for parent participation, such as the Policy Council meetings and as an option for some parent workshops, and for situations such as staff or family illness and inclement weather. The program faced challenges such as outreach and recruitment for families and recruitment of staff. Despite these challenges, program was able to continue to provide high quality services to children and families. This Annual Report summarizes services, expenditures and outcomes for the Program Year 2021 that covers the period of July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022.

Program Enrollment

- Total pregnant women and children served: **181**
- Average monthly enrollment: **110**
- Average monthly enrollment in the Home-based: **67**
- Average monthly enrollment in Center-based: **43**
- Children receiving early intervention services: **21.5%**
- Families listing Spanish as primary language spoken in the home: **81%**
- 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).

Progress with School Readiness Indicators						
Domain	Social-Emotional	Physical	Language	Approaches to Learning	Cognitive	Literacy
SUMMER 2020/21	75%	85%	63%	94%	86%	70%
FALL 2020/21	77%	79%	60%	73%	86%	67%
WINTER 2020/21	84%	80%	72%	89%	82%	76%
SPRING 2020/21	89%	79%	75%	93%	89%	79%

*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, 21.5% 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 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 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.



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Services Received by Early Head Start Families PY 21	
Emergency/ crisis intervention (immediate needs for food, clothing or shelter)	27
Housing assistance (subsidies, utilities, repairs)	14
Mental health services	21
Substance misuse prevention	0
Substance misuse treatment	0
Education on Preventive medical and oral health	174
English as a Second Language (ESL) training	17
Assistance in enrolling into an education or job training program	4
Research-based parenting curriculum	174
Involvement in discussing their child's screening and assessment results and their child's progress	174
Education on preventive medical, oral health and nutrition	174
Education on postpartum care (e.g., breastfeeding support)	7
Education on relationship/marriage	2
Asset building services (such as financial education, opening savings and checking accounts, debt counseling, etc.)	2
Assistance to families of incarcerated individuals	3
Families that received at least one service	174

Health and Dental Services

Number of Children Enrolled that Received Health and Dental Services PY 21 (N=166)	
Children with Health Insurance	96%
Children with a Medical Home	98%
Children Up to Date on EPSDT	96%
Children Up to Date on Immunizations	96%
Children with Access to Dental Services	95%
Children Up to Date with Dental	95%

Number of Pregnant Women that Received Health and Dental Services PY 21 (N=8)	
Enroll in Health Insurance	88%
Received Prenatal Services	100%
Received Post-partum Care	100%
Mental Health Services	38%
Substance Abuse Prevention Education	100%
Prenatal Education	100%
Breastfeeding Education	88%
Received Dental Services	100%

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 including curriculum, finance decisions and key hires. 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. Tutoring services are now being 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 21 is underway and should be completed by March 2023. The report will be available by June 2023. The Uniform Guidance (formerly A-133) audit report for Program Year 20 was completed in January 2022 and did not include any findings for EHS.
- The EHS Discovery Station Child Development Center has maintained accreditation through the Maryland State Department of Education as well as a level 4 in Maryland EXCELS, the state's Quality Rating and Improvement System. The center is scheduled to renew its accreditation in February 2023 and its Maryland EXCELS level in May 2023.

Discovery Station Early Head Start Annual Report

July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022

PY2021

Financial Report-July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022

<u>Public and Private Funding</u>	Budgeted	Actual
Grant – Federal (HHS ACF)	\$2,120,522	\$2,005,125
COVID Funds-Federal	185,686	97,350
Food reimbursement program (MSDE)	37,146	43,392
Grants – State (MSDE)	53,262	69,999
Grant – City of Gaithersburg	19,206	18,526
Other Foundation Support	45,462	22,808
In-Kind Support	249,605	309,033
Total Revenue and Support	\$2,710,889	\$ 2,566,233
<u>Program Expenses</u>		
Personnel (salaries, benefits, taxes)	\$1,803,243	\$1,594,185
Facility and occupancy	165,190	180,663
Other Direct Costs	312,735	185,285
Training and Technical Assistance	45,500	45,500
In Kind Support	249,605	309,033
Subtotal Expense	\$ 2,576,273	\$ 2,314,666
Indirect/ Administrative costs (Reimbursed)	\$ 296,875	\$ 255,858
Indirect/ Administrative costs (Actual)	350,373	314,795
Total Program Expenses	\$2,926,646	\$ 2,629,049
Deficit on federal award	- \$215,757	- \$62,816

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