



Discovery Station Early Head Start

Annual Report Program Year 2013 July 1, 2013-June 30, 2014



- *Outreach, resources and health education for pregnant mothers*
- *In-home child development activities and parenting support*
- *Discovery Station Child Development Center for eligible children whose parents are working or completing high school*
- *Health, mental health, nutrition and early intervention coordination*
- *Community resources and referrals for housing, food, clothing, health and financial assistance*
- *Culturally diverse program with services offered in English and Spanish*

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FSI's Discovery Station Early Head Start is a comprehensive early childhood development program for pregnant mothers and families with children from birth to three years of age in upper Montgomery County, Maryland. Last year we offered both home-based and center-based child development services to 138 children, as well as health, mental health, nutrition and early intervention coordination and community resource referrals. The goal is to support children's healthy development and learning that leads to success in school and family self sufficiency.

Children want to Learn!

The home-based program utilizes the *Parents as Teachers* curriculum, while the child development center uses the *Creative Curriculum*. Both are research-based and nationally recognized curricula that support children's early development and learning to prepare them for school. Ongoing child observations and assessments are conducted using the Teaching Strategies GOLD system which is also research based.



Individualized lesson plans for each child are developed based on the children's developmental needs and parent input to support the child's ongoing development of skills in language development, personal and social development, cognitive development, and physical development.

Developmental screens are conducted within the child's first few months with the program to determine if additional support or referrals in the areas of health, mental health and disabilities are needed. If any concerns are identified, EHS specialists work closely with families and early intervention specialists to make sure children have full advantage of the services that are available to them. These may include speech and language support, physical therapy, mental health services and family support. This year, 16% of the participants in the Discovery Station Early Head Start program are receiving additional early intervention services that are coordinated with the home visiting and classroom curriculum activities.

Staff also assist families as they transition into Head Start or other child care settings when their child turns three years old. Written transition plans include activities to help parents in understanding what to expect in a new environment, adjusting to another preschool program, adapting to changes in routine, and visiting the new setting. We also support parents of children with diagnosed disabilities as they enroll in new programs and transition from Infant and Toddler services to the public schools. Through our partnership with the Head Start and the Prekindergarten division at Montgomery County Public Schools, parents learn about 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, or overcoming post-partum depression. These are developed jointly with staff and each individual family enrolled in the program. Families also develop individual child development plans that help their children grow and learn.
- The majority of families (80%) participate in weekly home visits with a Family Support Worker who provides in-home child development activities and parenting support. Monthly learning parties and bilingual group activities help reduce social isolation and enhance the knowledge and skills needed for healthy child development.
- 20% of enrolled families have infants or toddlers who attend the Discovery Station Child Development Center so that they can go to work, school or job training. They participate in parent-teacher conferences and other activities for center-based parents including center orientation sessions, breakfast meetings with community representatives, parent discussion groups and transition ceremonies.
- The *Keys to Success* after school tutoring and summer career and college readiness program is offered to expectant and parenting teens. **In June 2014, all five participating seniors graduated high school and went on to further their education.**
- Families have the opportunity be elected to a leadership role in EHS Policy Council participating in the program planning, oversight and monitoring. The Council reviews all Early Head Start funding applications and participates in the annual self-assessment.



Discovery Station by the Numbers

Program Enrollment

- Total pregnant women and children served: **278**
- Average monthly enrollment: **138**
- Average enrollment in the Home-based: **110**
- Average enrollment in Center-based: **28**
- Children receiving early intervention services: **21%**
- Families listing Spanish as primary language spoken in the home: **162 (58%)**
- Percentage of eligible children served: **Less than 5%**

(2010 Census indicates 3,186 children in Montgomery County, MD, would be eligible for Early Head Start)



Healthcare Access Outcomes

- 100% of enrolled children received medical exams
- 97% of enrolled children received dental exams
- 100% of pregnant women received postpartum exams

Customer Feedback

- 100% of customers say they would recommend Discovery Station to a friend or relative.
- 99% rate the program as Excellent.
- “It’s has been a great learning experience. I never thought I’d be open to learning everything I did in this program. This kept me dedicated to stay in EHS for three years.”
- “I strongly suggest this program to any parent that cares about their children’s development. I could go on and on, but I am out of room. I love this place. Thank you. .”



Financial Report
July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014

Public and Private Funds Received

Grant – Federal (HHS ACF)	\$1,769,604
MSDC Food program	25,406
Grant – State (MSDE)	45,034
Grant – City of Gaithersburg	14,025
Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation	20,000
Richard and Nancy Marriott Foundation	10,000
Montgomery County Community Foundation	5,000
Other foundation support	3,152
In-Kind Support	222,671
Total Revenue and Support	\$ 2,114,793

Program Expenses

Personnel (salaries, benefits, taxes)	\$1,382,743
Facility and occupancy	152,266
Supplies and food	61,626
Contractual services	13,996
Other expenses (transportation, parent services)	108,463
Training and Technical Assistance	\$ 45,500
In Kind Support	\$ 222,671
Sub-total	<u>\$1,987,265</u>
Indirect/ Administrative costs (reimbursed)	\$ 127,529
Actual Indirect/ Administrative costs	\$ 257,983
Total Program Expenses	\$ 2,245,248
Deficit on federal award	-- \$130,455



On-Going Monitoring

The A-133 audit report for Program Year 12 was completed in August 2013. There were no findings in the report, but auditors noted that some in-kind reports of the time parents spend in educational activities with their child between home visits exceeded the allowable time. Auditors recommended that EHS strengthen its policies and procedures to ensure that in the future only allowable time will be reported. A new policy and procedure was put in place as recommended. The A-133 preliminary Audit Report of the PY 13 does not include any findings for EHS. As of May 1, 2015, the final report is pending the approval of the FSI Board of Directors.

The Fiscal and Enrollment, Selection, Attendance and Eligibility monitoring report for the Program Year 13 was completed on January 14, 2015 and indicates full compliance with all requirements and no areas of concern.

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