



Discovery Station Early Head Start Annual Report Program Year 2016 July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017



Discovery Station Early Head Start by the Numbers

The 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 upper Montgomery County, Maryland. The Discovery Station Child Development Center in Gaithersburg provides child care for 36 children, many of whom have teen parents in area high schools. EHS also provides weekly home visiting services to 111 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 2016 that covers the period of July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017.

Program Enrollment

- Total pregnant women and children served: **243**
- Average monthly enrollment: **147**
- Average enrollment in the Home-based: **111**
- Average enrollment in Center-based: **36**
- Children receiving early intervention services: **18%**
- Families listing Spanish as primary language spoken in the home: **179 (74%)**
- Percentage of eligible children served: **Less than 8%**
 (2010 Census indicates 3,186 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 2016	89%	89%	76%	88%	92%	88%
SPRING 2017	92%	93%	80%	93%	96%	71%

Building School Readiness from 0- 3years

The overall goal of the 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 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, and our children made great strides from the first to the fourth quarter (see summary on page 3).

Developmental screens 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 disabilities. If a concern is identified, 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, 18% 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 child care settings when their child turns three years old. Written transition plans include activities to help parents understand what to expect in a new environment, adjust to another preschool program, adapt to changes in routine, and visit 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. 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 EHS families have regular opportunities to engage in parenting workshops, parent-child learning activities, and social events. Each year program participants are elected to serve on the EHS Policy Council; members play a key role in program decision making.

The Keys to Success

The 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 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

- The Comprehensive Services and School Readiness onsite review was conducted February 2-4, 2016 with one non-compliance item identified. The non-compliance was corrected and after a review of the action taken on September 14, 2016, the program was deemed in full compliance on September 24, 2016.
- The A-133 audit report for Program Year 16 will be completed in February 2018. The A-133 audit report for Program Year 15 was completed in January 2017 and did not include any findings for EHS.

Financial Report-July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017

<u>Public and Private Funding</u>	Budgeted	Actual
Grant – Federal (HHS ACF)	\$1,889,179	\$1,922,365
Food reimbursement program (MSDE)	34,000	34,751
Grants – State (MSDE)	25,153	62,889
Grant – City of Gaithersburg	15,000	18,780
Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation	20,000	26,751
Sharing Montgomery Fund - MCCF	10,000	1,052
Other Foundation Support (Lever Fund)	10,000	25,000
In-Kind Support	291,500	178,304
Total Revenue and Support	\$2,294,832	\$ 2,269,892
<u>Program Expenses</u>		
Personnel (salaries, benefits, taxes)	\$1,483,583	\$1,542,822
Facility and occupancy	193,532	190,636
Other Direct Costs	218,963	242,233
Training and Technical Assistance	43,460	45,500
In Kind Support	204,000	100,000
Subtotal Expense	\$ 2, 143,538	\$ 2,121,191
Indirect/ Administrative costs (Reimbursed)	\$ 151,294	\$ 148,701
Indirect/ Administrative costs (Actual)	253,729	257,983
Total Program Expenses	\$2,397,267	\$ 2,379,174
Deficit on federal award	- \$102,435	- \$109,282

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