

MISSOURI: EARLY HEAD START INITIATIVE

DECEMBER 2012

SUMMARY

Missouri's Early Head Start/Child Care Partnership Project expands access to Early Head Start (EHS) services for children birth to age 3 by developing partnerships between federal Head Start, EHS contractors, and child care providers. Head Start and EHS contractors that participate in the initiative provide services through community child care providers to both increase the number of children receiving EHS services and improve the overall quality of care. The services delivered through the child care providers must meet federal Head Start Program Performance Standards, state child care licensing requirements, and other state requirements. The initiative was created in 1998 when the Missouri state legislature set aside a portion of gaming revenue to create a fund for early childhood programs. The Missouri Department of Social Services then made an administrative decision to use these funds to expand EHS services.

MISSOURI'S APPROACH TO BUILDING ON EHS

- Increase the capacity of existing Head Start and EHS programs to serve additional children and expectant mothers
- Develop partnerships between EHS and community-based child care providers to provide EHS services to additional children in child care settings

STATE PROGRAM

What is the eligibility for children and their families?

- FAMILY INCOME: Follow federal Head Start Program Performance Standards
- PARENTAL WORK STATUS: Parent must be employed, attending school, or in job training
- CHILD AGE: Birth to age 3
- OTHER RISK FACTORS: Follow federal Head Start Program Performance Standards
- LENGTH OF ELIGIBILITY: Follow federal Head Start Program Performance Standards
- EXPECTANT MOTHERS SERVED: Yes

Who are the eligible providers?

- Federal Head Start grantees
- Federal Early Head Start grantees

Is there a co-pay?

No co-pay required

What are the program standards?

- FEDERAL HEAD START PROGRAM PERFORMANCE STANDARDS REQUIRED? Yes, both the Head Start and EHS grantees and the partnering child care providers must meet federal Head Start Program Performance Standards.
- ARE THERE ADDITIONAL STATE STANDARDS? Participating programs must meet state child care licensing requirements and also meet state EHS core outcomes.

Do other children besides those enrolled in the EHS model benefit when services are delivered in child care settings?

The initiative requires that the full range of EHS services only be delivered to EHS eligible children. However, all classrooms must meet the federal Head Start Program Performance Standards, and the impact does extend beyond eligible children. Currently, at least 1,514 children are benefiting from the EHS initiative.

What is the length of the day/year?

All state-funded slots are full-day, full-year.

NUMBER SERVED BY STATE INITIATIVE

1,211 children birth to age 3 and 324 expectant mothers in FY 2012. All together, 1,514 children in partner child care facilities were impacted by the additional training and resources provided through this initiative.

NUMBER SERVED BY FEDERALLY FUNDED EARLY HEAD START

Federally funded EHS served 3,719 children birth to age 3 and expectant mothers (according to federal Program Information Report data for 2011).

FUNDING AND SUPPORTS



What are the funding sources and budget for FY 2011?

\$4.3 million of state gaming revenues and \$1.4 million of Child Care and Development Block Grant subsidy funds.

What support and technical assistance does the state offer?

The Missouri Department of Social Services provides technical assistance and professional development opportunities to grantees, as well as organizes federal and state EHS contractor meetings two times per year to discuss the needs of the community and program. The Missouri Department of Social Services also partners with the federal Administration for Children and Families (ACF) Region VII Office, the Missouri Head Start-State Collaboration Office, and other state professional development initiatives in offering education and training opportunities and resources to the EHS contractors.

What incentives are there for child care providers to participate?

The EHS contractors use varied incentives based on the needs in their community to encourage child care providers to participate in the partnerships, such as: access to EHS professional development and technical assistance, grants and other support to meet federal Head Start Program Performance Standards, and additional health and family support services for the children and families they serve.

GOVERNANCE AND COORDINATION

What state agency administers the funding for this initiative?

Missouri Department of Social Services

How does the funding flow to local providers?

Any federal Head Start or EHS grantee may apply for state funding through a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) process. Contractors are selected by a team composed of staff from the Department of Social Services, the Head Start-State Collaboration Office, and the regional ACF office. Once selected, contractors then contract with a variety of child care entities to deliver services.

The initiative does not mandate that the contractors provide funds to partnering child care providers. At the program level, contractors may choose to do so. However, the RFP does contain language about setting aside enough funding for staff and child care providers to be able to obtain the needed education and credentials. Contractors are also told they must allow for the cost of child care services to be included in the budget. Finally, the RFP recommends that the child care provider staff salaries be comparable to Head Start salaries, and that funds are set aside for training and staff development.

Can a child in the state initiative also have a child care subsidy?

A child may not receive a state child care subsidy while they are served by the state EHS initiative. However, if there is a need above the full-day, full-year EHS services, such as a parent working on a weekend, the child is eligible to receive a subsidy for that time.

Does the state coordinate with federally funded Head Start agencies to conduct any of the activities?

The regional ACF office was involved in the original RFP process to select programs. The state also coordinates with the ACF regional office to provide technical assistance and professional development.

Does the state coordinate with the Head Start-State Collaboration Office to conduct activities?

The state coordinates with the Head Start-State Collaboration Office to plan the initiative, develop application/selection process, and provide professional development. While the Head Start-State Collaboration Office does not provide technical assistance directly to contractors, they do work with the state to ensure that the technical assistance being provided to the contractors is coordinated among agencies and with technical assistance providers. Additionally, the Head Start-State Collaboration Office takes part in the meetings of federal and state EHS contractors to discuss the needs of the programs and community.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

What state agencies are responsible for monitoring, and how often is on-site monitoring conducted in a year?

The Department of Social Services monitors all contractors. On-site monitoring occurs at intervals dependent upon the amount of funding the contractor receives. Additionally, the state receives a copy of the federal review conducted by the Office of Head Start every three years.

Are there specific measurement tools used to monitor services provided?

The Department of Social Services uses a state-based tool that is based on the requirements in the contract.

Are programs monitored by federal agencies?

Yes, programs are monitored every three years by the Office of Head Start using the federal review process.

Has the state evaluated the effectiveness of the state EHS initiative?

The state has not evaluated the effectiveness of the initiative. Since programs are required to meet the federal Head Start Program Performance Standards, the state relies on the federal Early Head Start Research and Evaluation Project's research to show effectiveness.

Are state funded programs required to report data to the state?

Yes contractors must submit monthly status reports to the Department of Social Services on the number of children served and the number of children on the waiting list. Contractors are also required to file a report on their progress toward meeting the initiative's outcomes with the Department of Social Services annually.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

CONTACT INFORMATION

- Interviewed in 2008 for original profile - [Stacey Owsley](mailto:owsleys@missouri.edu) (owsleys@missouri.edu), Missouri Head Start-State Collaboration Office, and [Doris Halford](mailto:Doris.Halford@dss.mo.gov) (Doris.Halford@dss.mo.gov), Missouri Department of Social Services; May 2007 (updated April 2008)
- Interviewed in 2011 for updated profile - [Stacey Owsley](mailto:owsleys@missouri.edu) (owsleys@missouri.edu), Missouri Head Start-State Collaboration Director and [Cindy Reese](mailto:Cindy.A.Reese@dss.mo.gov) (Cindy.A.Reese@dss.mo.gov), Social Services Manager, Early Childhood & Prevention Services, Missouri Children's Division; 2011
- [Stacey Owsley](mailto:owsleys@missouri.edu) (owsleys@missouri.edu), Missouri Head Start-State Collaboration Director and [Alicia Jenkins](mailto:Alicia.Jenkins@dss.mo.gov) (Alicia.Jenkins@dss.mo.gov), Social Services Manager, Early Childhood & Prevention Services, Missouri Children's Division; 2012

ONLINE INFORMATION

- The Missouri Department of Social Services has a website for the [Missouri Early Head Start/Child Care Partnership Project](#).
- The Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) has individual [state profiles](#) analyzing the Head Start Program Information Report (PIR) data from 2010.

AUTHORS: CENTER FOR LAW AND SOCIAL POLICY (CLASP) AND ZERO TO THREE

This profile was updated in 2012. An earlier version was written in 2008 as part of the report, *Building on the Promise: State Initiatives to Expand Access to Early Head Start and their Families*.

CLASP develops and advocates for policies at the federal, state, and local levels that improve the lives of low-income people, focusing on policies that strengthen families and create pathways to education and work.

ZERO TO THREE is a national, nonprofit organization that informs, trains, and supports professionals, policymakers, and parents in their efforts to improve the lives of infants and toddlers.



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