

MARYLAND: EARLY HEAD START INITIATIVE

DECEMBER 2012

SUMMARY

Since 2000, Maryland has provided state supplemental funds to Head Start and Early Head Start (EHS) programs to improve access. Local EHS programs may use funds, through child care partnerships, to extend the EHS day or year.

STATE PROGRAM

What is the eligibility for children and their families?

- **FAMILY INCOME:** Follow federal Head Start Program Performance Standards
- **PARENTAL WORK STATUS:** Not applicable to this initiative
- **CHILD AGE:** Birth to age 3
- **OTHER RISK FACTORS:** Follow federal Head Start Program Performance Standards
- **LENGTH OF ELIGIBILITY:** Operating schedules are determined at the discretion of the local grantee for both initiatives.
- **EXPECTANT MOTHERS SERVED:** No

Who are the eligible providers?

- Federal Head Start grantees
- Federal Early Head Start grantees

Is there a co-pay?

The Supplemental initiative requires eligible families to follow state child care subsidy program rules. Families are assigned a co-payment based on their income and facility size. Local Supplemental grantees may use an emergency fund to assist families unable to make co-payments. In Maryland, families currently enrolled in the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program are not required to make co-payments. A freeze on subsidy services for non-TANF families is currently in place.

MARYLAND'S APPROACH TO BUILDING ON EHS

- Increase the capacity of existing Head Start and EHS programs to expand services for the extended day/year
- Develop partnerships between EHS and community-based child care providers to provide EHS services to additional children in child care settings
- Extend the day or year of existing EHS services

What are the program standards?

- **FEDERAL HEAD START PROGRAM PERFORMANCE STANDARDS REQUIRED?** The Supplemental grant requires curricular and instructional alignment with the Head Start Child Outcomes Framework. Child care partners are not required to meet federal standards by the state, although local agreements could stipulate this provision.
- **ARE THERE ADDITIONAL STATE STANDARDS?** Participating programs must follow state child care licensing requirements as applicable to that type of provider.

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

If children in child care partner settings are eligible for Early Head Start, they may be eligible to receive Early Head Start services even if not directly enrolled. This is left to the discretion of local programs.

What is the length of the day/year?

Local discretion

NUMBER SERVED BY STATE INITIATIVE

There is no exact number available as the funds do not add additional children to Early Head Start, but instead extend the day or year for children who are already enrolled.

NUMBER SERVED BY FEDERALLY FUNDED EARLY HEAD START

Federally funded EHS served 2,079 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 2012?

\$213,274 supports EHS in the Supplemental initiative (the total budget is \$1.8 million). One-hundred percent is from state general revenue.

What support and technical assistance does the state offer?

Technical assistance is available from the initiative administrator in the Supplemental initiative. Additionally, the Baltimore City Early Head Start initiative receives support from the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) Office of Child Care.

What incentives are there for child care providers to participate?

In the Supplemental initiative, local programs determine what, if any, incentives to offer child care partners. Each local program submits a statement of need as part of its application for funding, which includes the necessary incentives for its community partners.

GOVERNANCE AND COORDINATION

What state agency administers the funding for this initiative?

The Supplemental initiative was first administered in 2000 by the Governor's Office for Children, Youth, and Families (now the Office of Children). It was moved to the MSDE in 2002 and is administered by the Collaboration and Program Improvement Branch of the Division of Early Childhood Development.

How does the funding flow to local providers?

For the Supplemental initiative, the MSDE provides grants directly to local EHS and Head Start grantees. Grants are distributed based on funded enrollment. To be eligible, programs must have provided EHS or Head Start services for at least one year. To receive its Supplemental grant, each local Head Start or EHS grantee must complete an application detailing how the funds will be used.

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

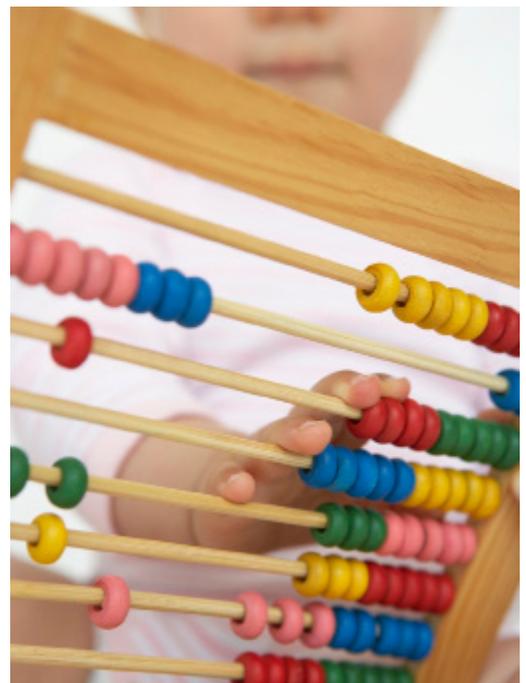
If children need care outside of EHS hours, they may receive a child care subsidy. In some cases, programs can keep children in the same setting for the entire day by blending subsidy and EHS funds.

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

Yes, the state coordinates with federally-funded Head Start agencies to provide technical assistance. For example, state administrators regularly meet with federal training and technical assistance officials. They may coordinate to provide professional development.

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

The state grant project manager for the Supplemental initiative conducts planning for the initiative, monitors program quality, and offers technical assistance. This position is supervised by the Head Start State Collaboration Office Director.



MONITORING AND EVALUATION

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

The MSDE Head Start-State Collaboration Office monitors the Supplemental initiative. The MSDE requires local grantees to submit interim and final reports annually and visits centers that require technical assistance based on their interim report or if programs specifically request it.

Are there specific measurement tools used to monitor services provided?

Standard budget and program forms are provided to Supplemental programs.

Are programs monitored by federal agencies?

All grantees also receive federal funds and must participate in the triennial federal review, but there is no formal agreement to ensure the services funded with state dollars are reviewed.

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

The Supplemental initiative requires that annual grantee reports contain evaluations that include child development outcomes (measurement tools include the Ounce Scale and the Ages & Stages Questionnaire). The MSDE compares the annual report to the original grantee proposal to see if programs are meeting their stated and approved goals.

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

Grantees submit data with their application and complete an interim and final report annually detailing how funds were used. In addition, they must report on whether child outcomes were met.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

CONTACT INFORMATION

- Interviewed in 2008 for original profile - [Linda Zang](mailto:lzang@msde.state.md.us) (lzang@msde.state.md.us), Head Start – State Collaboration Director, Maryland State Department of Education; [Jean Mitchell](mailto:jmitchell@friendsofthefamily.org) (jmitchell@friendsofthefamily.org) and [Faith Miller](mailto:fmiller@friendsofthefamily.org) (fmiller@friendsofthefamily.org), Friends of the Family (local grantee), June 2007 (updated April 2008)
- Interviewed in 2011 for updated profile - [Linda Zang](mailto:lzang@msde.state.md.us) (lzang@msde.state.md.us), Chief, Collaboration and Program Improvement Branch, Early Childhood Development; [Jean Mitchell](mailto:jmitchell@friendsofthefamily.org) (jmitchell@friendsofthefamily.org) and [Faith Miller](mailto:fmiller@friendsofthefamily.org) (fmiller@friendsofthefamily.org), Friends of the Family (local grantee), 2011

ONLINE INFORMATION

- For more information, visit the [Maryland Division of Early Childhood Development](#).
- 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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