



MISSOURI



BUILDING ON THE PROMISE: PROFILES OF STATE INITIATIVES TO BUILD ON EARLY HEAD START

INITIATIVE SUMMARY

Missouri's Early Head Start/Child Care Partnership Project expands access to Early Head Start (EHS) services for children birth to age three by developing partnerships between federal Head Start and EHS grantees and child care providers. Head Start and EHS grantees that participate in the initiative provide services through community child care providers to both increase the number of children receiving EHS services and also to improve overall child care quality. 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.

APPROACHES USED TO BUILD ON EHS

- ✓ Increase the capacity of existing Head Start and EHS programs to serve additional EHS 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.

PROGRAM

Child and Family Eligibility

- **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 three
- **Other Risk Factors:** Follow federal Head Start Program Performance Standards
- **Length of Eligibility:** Follow federal Head Start Program Performance Standards
- **Expectant Mothers Served:** Yes

Number Served by State Initiative: 574 children birth to age three and expectant mothers in FY 2007. An additional 1,300 children in partner child care facilities were also impacted by the additional training and resources provided through this initiative.

Number Served by Federally Funded Early Head Start: In comparison to the state initiative, federally funded EHS served 1,300 children birth to age three and expectant mothers (according to federal Program Information Report data for 2006).

Eligible Providers

- Federal Head Start grantees
- Federal Early Head Start grantees

Co-pay

No co-pay required

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.
- **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 1,300 additional children are benefiting beyond the EHS children being served.

Length of Day/Year

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

FUNDING AND SUPPORTS

Sources and Budget for Fiscal Year 2007 (unless otherwise noted)

\$4.2 million of state gaming revenues; \$500,000 of Child Care and Development Block Grant subsidy funds.

In FY 2009, funding for the initiative will increase by \$1 million.

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 quarterly meetings of federal and state EHS grantees 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 grantees.

What incentives are there for child care providers to participate?

The EHS grantees use varied incentives based on the needs in their community to encourage child care providers to participate in the partnerships, including additional funding per child, 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. Grantees 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, grantees then contract with a variety of child care entities to deliver services.

The initiative does not mandate that the grantees provide funds to partnering child care providers. At the program level, grantees 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 correct education and credentials. Grantees 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 for the time they are being 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 do joint monitoring, 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, select programs to participate, and provide professional development. While the Head Start-State Collaboration Office does not provide technical assistance directly to grantees, they do work with the state to ensure that the technical assistance being provided to the grantees is coordinated among agencies. Additionally, the Head Start-State Collaboration Office takes part in quarterly meetings of federal and state EHS grantees 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 grantees. On-site monitoring occurs at intervals dependent upon the amount of money the grantee 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 grantee contract.

Are programs also 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 research of the federal Early Head Start Research and Evaluation Project to show effectiveness.

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

Yes, grantees 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. Grantees are also required to file a report on their progress of meeting the initiative's outcomes with the Department of Social Services every six months.

SOURCES

Interviewed

[Stacey Owsley](#), Missouri Head Start-State Collaboration Office, and [Doris Hallford](#), Missouri Department of Social Services; May 2007 (updated April 2008)

Online Information

- The Missouri Department of Social Services has a website for the [Missouri Early Head Start/Child Care Partnership Project](#).
- The Missouri Department of Social Services has developed a [Request for Proposals](#) for the Early Head Start/Child Care Partnership Project. They have also developed [Early Head Start Core Outcomes](#) that must be met by grantees and a state-based [monitoring tool](#).
- The Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) has individual [state profiles](#) analyzing the Head Start Program Information Report (PIR) data from 2006.

*This profile was written by [Elizabeth DiLauro](#), ZERO TO THREE, and [Rachel Schumacher](#), Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) as part of the **Building on the Promise: State Initiatives to Expand Access to Early Head Start and Their Families** report.*

To download the full report and view other state profiles, visit <http://www.zerotothree.org/stateEHS> or http://childcareandearlyed.clasp.org/state_ehs.html.