



# MARYLAND

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



### INITIATIVE SUMMARY

Maryland has two initiatives that build on Early Head Start (EHS):

- **Supplemental** - Since 2000, Maryland has provided state supplemental funds to Head Start and EHS programs to improve access and quality. Local EHS programs may use funds to increase the number of children under three who are served either in their program or through child care partnerships, to extend the EHS day or year, or implement a range of quality improvement initiatives, including professional development activities and accreditation. Some programs use the funding for: summer programs, developmental assessments, assisting teachers in meeting CDA requirements, providing the required 90 clock hours of professional development, workshops, training staff to work with English Language Learner (ELL) children, increasing the capacity to provide literacy enrichment in classrooms, safety training for staff, family field trips, and college tuition. More recently, the state allotted Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) subsidy funds to be used in the Supplemental initiative to extend the day/year for some participating children.
- **Extend the Day/Year** - Since 2005, Maryland has used additional CCDBG quality set-aside dollars to award funds to a set of EHS programs to extend the day or year of services for children in their care.

### APPROACHES USED TO BUILD ON EHS

- ✓ Increase the capacity of existing Head Start and EHS programs to expand services, including serving additional eligible children for the extended day/year (Supplemental).
  - Funding may also be used to improve the quality of existing slots through professional development, accreditation, or other quality enhancement initiatives.
- ✓ Develop partnerships between EHS and community-based child care providers to provide EHS services to additional children in child care settings (Supplemental).
- ✓ Extend the day or year of existing EHS services (Both initiatives).

## PROGRAM

### **Child and Family Eligibility**

- **Family Income:** Follow federal Head Start Program Performance Standards
- **Parental Work Status:** Follow state child care subsidy rules that require a parent to be working or in a job training or educational activity when CCDBG subsidy dollars are being used to extend the day/year in the Supplemental 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

**Number Served by State Initiative:** No exact number available for the Supplemental initiative.

98 children in the Extend the Day/Year initiative for FY 2007.

**Number Served by Federally Funded Early Head Start:** In comparison to the state initiative, federally funded EHS served 845 children birth to age three and expectant mothers (according to federal Program Information Report data for 2006).

### **Eligible Providers**

- Federal Head Start grantees (Supplemental)
- Federal Early Head Start grantees (Both initiatives)

### **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 who are 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.

No co-pay required for the Extend the Day/Year initiative.

### **Program Standards**

- **Federal Head Start Program Performance Standards Required?** Both initiatives do not explicitly require standards, but 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.

The Extend the Day/Year initiative does not require that Head Start Program Performance Standards apply to the extended hours.

- **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 Head Start, they may be eligible to receive Head Start services even if not directly enrolled. This is left to the discretion of local programs.

**Length of Day/Year**

Local discretion for Supplemental initiative.

An average of four additional hours a day beyond the federally funded EHS day for the Extend the Day/Year initiative.

## FUNDING AND SUPPORTS

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

\$285,777 goes to support EHS in the Supplemental initiative (the total budget is \$4 million). 75 percent is from state general revenue and 25 percent is from CCDBG subsidy funding.

\$417,789 is made available from the CCDBG quality set-aside for the Extend the Day/Year initiative (FY 2005).

**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 to child care partners. Each local program submits a statement of need as part of their application for the funding, which includes the necessary incentives for their 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 Head Start-State Collaboration Director.

The Extend the Day/Year initiative is administered by MSDE, under the Office of Child Care.

**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 their Supplemental grant, each local Head Start or EHS grantee must complete an application detailing how the funds will be used.

For the Extended Day/Year initiative, four local EHS contracts were awarded after responding to a Request for Proposals issued by the MSDE. Child care partners are invited to participate by the EHS grantees.

**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 is also the Head Start State Collaboration Office Director, who conducts planning for the initiative, monitors program quality, offers technical assistance, and provides professional development.

## MONITORING AND EVALUATION

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

The MSDE Office of Head Start—State Collaboration 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.

The MSDE Office of Child Care monitors the Extend the Day/Year initiative.

**Are there specific measurement tools used to monitor services provided?**

Standard budget and program forms are provided to Supplemental programs.

**Are programs also 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.

Evaluations are required under the Baltimore City Early Head Start contract.

**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.

## SOURCES

**Interviewed**

[Linda Zang](#), Head Start – State Collaboration Director, Maryland State Department of Education; [Jean Mitchell](#) and [Faith Miller](#), Friends of the Family (local grantee); [Maureen Hussey](#), Martin Luther King Jr. Early Head Start (local grantee)  
June 2007 (updated April 2008)

**Online Information**

- The [Maryland Division of Early Childhood Development](#) has information on the Head Start and Early Head Start [supplemental initiative](#) on their website.
- 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 [Rachel Schumacher](#), Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) and [Elizabeth DiLauro](#), ZERO TO THREE, 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://childcareandearlyed.clasp.org/state\\_ehs.html](http://childcareandearlyed.clasp.org/state_ehs.html) or <http://www.zerotothree.org/stateEHS>.*