



MINNESOTA



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

INITIATIVE SUMMARY

Minnesota provides supplemental state funding to existing federal Head Start and Early Head Start (EHS) grantees to increase their capacity to serve additional infants, toddlers, and pregnant women. The initiative was started in 1997 when the state legislature earmarked \$1 million of the general state Head Start supplemental funds for children birth to age three. Although this earmark was removed from state statute in 2003, the Minnesota Department of Education allows the programs to use the general Head Start supplemental funds to provide EHS services. All participating grantees must meet the federal Head Start Program Performance Standards.

APPROACH USED TO BUILD ON EHS

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

PROGRAM

Child and Family Eligibility

- **Family Income:** Follow federal Head Start Program Performance Standards
- **Parental Work Status:** No requirement; follow federal Head Start Program Performance Standards
- **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: 531 children birth to age three and expectant mothers in FY 2007.

Number Served by Federally Funded Early Head Start: In comparison to the state initiative, federally funded EHS served 786 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, all participating programs must comply with the federal Head Start Program Performance Standards.
- **Additional State Standards:** If participating programs have a partnership with a child care program or run a center-based program, they must also comply with the state child care licensing requirements.

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

While EHS services are not required to be delivered in child care settings as part of this initiative, some grantees have chosen to partner with child care providers locally. In these cases, children enrolled with the child care partner do benefit from a higher quality program, although they do not receive EHS services.

Length of Day/Year

All participating programs must comply with the federal Head Start Program Performance Standards in regard to length of day and year. However, in some cases, Head Start programs that receive only state EHS funds have been granted waivers to operate for fewer months per year.

FUNDING AND SUPPORTS

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

Approximately \$4.5 million of the total \$19.1 million state supplemental Head Start funds are used for EHS services. All funds are state general revenue.

What support and technical assistance does the state offer?

The state provides training and technical assistance to all programs, as well as professional development opportunities.

What incentives are there for child care providers to participate?

Not applicable to this initiative; all services are delivered by Head Start or Early Head Start grantees.

GOVERNANCE AND COORDINATION

What state agency administers the funding for this initiative?

Minnesota Department of Education

How does the funding flow to local providers?

Grantees submit their application and plans to the Minnesota Department of Education for approval, but it is not a competitive process. State funding for grantees is determined by the need for services beyond the federally funded Head Start/Early Head Start enrollment (calculated by the number of children under five living in poverty less the federally funded enrollment). The decision to provide EHS services lies with the grantees.

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

Yes, if the family has a need for full day/full year care and the parents are participating in eligible activities for the Minnesota Child Care Assistance Program.

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

The Minnesota Department of Education shares monitoring information with the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) Region V and the Office of Head Start (OHS), and initiative staff meet regularly with the technical assistance networks to coordinate training and technical assistance. Initiative staff also work with the state Head Start Association on professional development activities.

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

The Minnesota Department of Education coordinates with the Head Start-State Collaboration Office to plan the initiative and offer professional development opportunities. Additionally, the Head Start-State Collaboration Director sits on the Head Start state team and is able to work with them to provide input on state funding decisions, propose legislative language, and policy development.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

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

Programs are monitored by a State Field Monitor from the Minnesota Department of Education. Monitoring is done on-site at least once per year.

Are there specific measurement tools used to monitor services provided?

The state uses the federal OHS Monitoring Protocol.

Are programs also monitored by federal agencies?

All participating programs are monitored by OHS every three years using the federal review process. Minnesota has an agreement with OHS to participate on federal reviews as a member of the review team.

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

No formal evaluation has been conducted.

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

Programs are allowed by the federal contractor Xtria and OHS to report state funded enrollment on the Program Information Report (PIR), including a separate report for Head Start programs that use state funds to deliver EHS, but do not receive federal EHS funds. State data requirements are met by reporting indirectly through the federal system or by reporting the information directly to the state.

SOURCES

Interviewed

[Mary Vanderwert](#) and [Wayne Kuklinski](#), Minnesota Head Start-State Collaboration Office; May 2007 (updated April 2008)

Online Information

- The Minnesota Department of Education maintains a website on its [Early Learning Services](#) and also has made the [FY 2008 Minnesota State Head Start Funding Application](#) available.
- 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.