



EARLY HEAD START PUBLIC INFORMATION REPORT

January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2016

Pursuant to the Head Start Act as amended in 2007, Head Start and Early Head Start grantees must make available to the public an annual report. The following is the 2016 calendar year report for Meeting Street's Early Head Start Program.

Funding

Meeting Street receives funding for a home based Early Head Start program to serve 72 children and families residing in Providence, RI.

Meeting Street received \$746,758 in Early Head Start grant funds from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for the period January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016. Expenditures were allocated as follows:

Operations

- \$478,983 for personnel and benefits
- \$42,207 for program supplies
- \$132,538 for other expenses
- \$81,719 for indirect expenses

Of the total funding for other expenses, \$11,311 was designated for staff training and technical assistance.

In addition, Meeting Street provided \$192,148 in federal matching funds. These matching funds were generated by services to children dually enrolled in our Early Intervention and Early Head Start programs, volunteer services provided by parents and community members in addition to curriculum extension activities completed by parents and/or caregivers of program participants.



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The projected budget for 2017 is \$1,063,751 with \$851,000 in federal funds and \$212,751 in matching funds. Projected expenditures are as follows:

Operations

- \$597,835 for personnel and benefits
- \$26,900 for program supplies
- \$ for contractual expenses
- \$ for equipment expenses
- \$132,403 for other expenses
- \$74,039 for indirect expenses

There is \$19,823 designated for staff training and technical assistance. A portion of the funds will be used to provide professional development around improving fidelity to the curriculum and enhancing overall knowledge of child development. In addition, a focus on home visitor safety and community violence will be provided. This is in addition to a wide array of other content areas determined to be of high priority through the collaborative efforts of EHS staff, management, and Policy Council members.



Total number of children and families served

During the period August 1, 2015 through July 31, 2016, Meeting Street Early Head Start served 74 families comprised of 91 children and 6 prenatal mothers. For the duration of the program year the Meeting Street Early Head Start program maintained compliance with full enrollment.

In addition, Meeting Street Early Head Start served 24 children with disabilities. Sixteen children were determined eligible to receive early intervention services prior to enrollment in Early Head Start and entered the program with an active IFSP in place. Eight children were determined eligible during the program year though the use of developmental screenings, ongoing monitoring and staff observation.

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Medical & Dental Updates

During the program year August 1, 2015 through July 31, 2016, many efforts were placed on the managing of children's medical and dental needs. It was a great accomplishment that 100% of clients completed the program year with a reliable medical home in place, in addition to 99% of families holding health insurance. The nurse consultant worked diligently to support families in ensuring their children were up to date with their medical and dental needs. Despite starting the year with only 78% of children meeting all of the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) age-related requirements, 91% of children were up to date when completing the program. In addition to 98% of children who were determined to be up to date on immunizations applicable to their age at the end of the program year. Compliance with dental regulations was an area identified for improvement at the start of the program year with only 50 children entering with a dental home. The nurse consultant placed a great deal of emphasis on better educating the staff on the importance of early dental care in order to ensure they were confident in relaying this information to parents. Efforts proved to be worthwhile as we closed out the program year with 80 of the 91 children having a secure dental home and 82% of clients being up to date with routine dental care.

Parent Engagement Activities

The Meeting Street Early Head Start Program is keenly aware of the impact of engaging families on overall program success. As we continue to work towards improving the quality of our Parent Committee meetings, encouraging increased participation of male role models, and empowering parents to have a voice in programmatic offerings, we are confident our efforts have been beneficial as we have seen a significant increase in overall parent participation. One factor that contributed to the improvement was the willingness of the members of the Parent Committee to convene more frequently to brainstorm around how parent engagement could be improved.

Parent Committee, Policy Council, and Program Staff collaborated to organize and execute the following events during this program year; a Welcome Event in October, a Harvest Fest in November, a workshop on managing parental stress in April, a community resource fair in May, and a Health and Nutrition workshop in June. In order to organize the above events the Parent Committee held 5 meetings throughout the year. We had an average of 3 parents who participated in the Parent Committee meetings, our hope is to increase the number of parent participants in the next program year. We are pleased to report that the average number of families' in attendance at events has risen from 9 families to 15 families this program year. Our most well received event was the Harvest Fest with 29 families in attendance.

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In addition to the improvements made in attendance at family events, efforts to improve attendance at the socialization opportunities have also been successful. A contributing factor to this was most definitely the addition of a curriculum coordinator to the staff. The purpose of this role was to allow for additional time to be spent in enhancing the socialization experience in all facets from more individualized curriculum to enhancing the physical space where the groups are held. Socialization groups were held twice a week at Meeting Street and once a week in a community setting. It is evident the improvements were well received as we had a total of 39 families attend at least one socialization experience throughout the program year. In addition, many families attended consistently on a weekly basis. During the socialization groups' staff are working diligently to provide learning experiences which encourage the parent child relationship while also fostering relationships among parents in an attempt to improve social interactions for both the children and the parents alike.



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School Readiness

Meeting Street’s home based Early Head Start program utilizes the Growing Great Kids curriculum. This comprehensive, evidence based curriculum addresses all early childhood domains of learning and development and coincides with the Early Learning Outcomes Framework. It is strength based and interactive thereby consistently fostering a positive parent-child relationship. Home visitors work diligently to engage parents in being active participants in their child’s learning both during the home visits and far beyond. Home visitor’s work with parents to collect data on a weekly basis throughout the program year. This data is entered in an online assessment tool. The data is aggregated at 3 points during the program year to evaluate each child’s progress towards school readiness. The following chart outlines the results obtained during the 2016 program year.

Teaching Strategies Gold Checkpoint Data			
	Fall	Winter	Spring
Social Emotional	70%	85%	88%
Gross Motor	79%	88%	97%
Fine Motor	95%	94%	100%
Language	65%	70%	74%
Cognitive	74%	91%	90%

Data reveals significant improvements in outcomes from the start of the program year to the end. This promising data confirms the efforts towards furthering the understanding of the importance of building capacity in the area of school readiness have been recognized by staff and parents alike. In exploring the date while we are celebrating our successes we are also being mindful of recognizing areas of growth opportunity.

