



Meeting Street

Meeting Street compassionately and innovatively empowers children and their families to thrive by fostering the development of the whole child.

## EARLY HEAD START PUBLIC INFORMATION REPORT

*January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017*

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 2017 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 \$851,000 in Early Head Start grant funds from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for the period January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017. Expenditures were allocated as follows:

#### *Operations*

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

Of the total funding for other expenses, \$19,823 was designated for staff training and technical assistance.

In addition, Meeting Street provided \$212,751 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 as well as curriculum extension activities completed by parents and/or caregivers of program participants.

Respect Compassion Integrity Inclusivity Excellence

1000 Eddy Street, Providence, RI 02905 401.533.9100 [www.meetingstreet.org](http://www.meetingstreet.org)

Where every child thrives





The projected budget for 2018 is \$1,043,764 with \$835,010 in federal funds and \$208,753 in matching funds. Projected expenditures are as follows:

*Operations*

- \$600,604 for personnel and benefits
- \$23,766 for program supplies
- \$120,384 for other expenses
- \$70,684 for indirect expenses

There is \$19,573 designated for staff training and technical assistance. In the allocation of training funds special consideration will be given to planning professional training around both leadership development in addition to self-care and team building in order to address the concerns relating to staff retention. This will be in addition to required trainings as well as 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, 2016 through July 31, 2017, Meeting Street Early Head Start served 82 families and 101 participants comprised of 97 children and 4 prenatal mothers. For the duration of the program year the Meeting Street Early Head Start program maintained compliance with full enrollment of 72 children on a monthly basis. In addition, in October of 2016 Meeting Street’s New Bedford Massachusetts location was awarded a MIECHV grant to service 36 children.

The RI Meeting Street Early Head Start served 21 children identified as having a disability. Seventeen of the 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. Four children were determined eligible during the program year though the use of developmental screenings, ongoing monitoring and staff observation.

### Medical & Dental Updates

The following is an overview of participant's medical and dental needs and compliance with requirements during the program year August 1, 2016 through July 31, 2017.

As a program we are pleased that 97% of program participants completed the program year with a reliable medical home in place, in addition to 99% of families holding health insurance. Home visitors and the nurse consultant worked tirelessly to support families in ensuring their children were up to date with their medical and dental needs. Despite starting the program year with only 74% of clients meeting Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) age-related requirements, through dedication and a commitment to assisting families with overcoming barriers to addressing medical needs 91% of children completed the program up to date. In addition, 94% of children 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 of strength as well, additional supports provided to home visitors proved to be worthwhile as we closed out the program year with 88% of children having a secure dental home and 85% of clients being up to date with routine dental care.





### Parent Engagement Activities

Engaging families in the services provided by the Meeting Street Early Head Start program is an ever-changing area of continuous improvement in which we are heavily invested. There is undoubtedly a connection between the overall success of our program and the emphasis placed on engaging the families we serve. An area of particular interest has been improving the participation of male role models in both home visits and programmatic offerings. Through the implementation of a tracking system we were able to monitor our progress a bit more closely in this area during this program year. We established that there were 45 families that identified as having the presence of a male role model present. Data collected showed that 33% of fathers or male role models participated in the completion of the family assessment, 35% participated in the creation of child development and family goals, and 53% were active participants in home visits. In an attempt to further understand the level of participation or barriers to participation there were a few focus groups held throughout the program year in which fathers or male role models were invited to share their thoughts on strategies for improving involvement. While we were pleased with the data collected and the improved presence of male figures in the lives of the children we serve we recognize there is much work to be done. It is our intention to utilize information gained through the focus groups and work towards organizing a consistent father's group in the next program year.

In addition to the focus on further engaging fathers the Parent Committee, Policy Council, and Program Staff also collaborated to organize and execute the following events during this program year; a Welcome/Elections event in October with 19 families in attendance, a Teddy Bear Clinic in February with 14 families in attendance, and a Resource Fair in May which brought in 19 families. In order to organize the above events the Parent Committee held 6 meetings throughout the year with an average of 3 participating parents. The above information points towards continued progress towards our programmatic goal of improving families' knowledge of and participation in programmatic offerings.



Families have also taken advantage of opportunities to engage with their children and other parents through participating in socialization groups. Socialization groups were held for the entire program year twice a week at Meeting Street and once a week in a community setting. A total of 34 families attended at least one socialization experience throughout the program year with many families consistently attending on a weekly basis. This has been an area of significant improvement in the program. With the focus on articulating to parents and caregivers the importance of participation in socialization and the promoting of the rich school readiness and social experiences provided, home visitors have been able to more effectively motivate their parents to attend socialization thereby creating a record high in attendance. In addition to maintaining the improvements in socialization attendance we also strive to improve the home visit rate which is currently at 55% completion. We are confident that with a much more efficient tracking system in place and continued dedication to engaging families we will begin to see a rise in the completion rates. As we reflect on the past year in regards to engaging families it is important to note that 97% of the families we served received at least 1 service that they identified as a need throughout the program year. The most notable accomplishment being that we were able to successfully assist 8 out of the 11 homeless families we served in securing housing. We are pleased that the more rigorous tracking systems implemented during the year has afforded leadership the opportunity to more intently review data and utilize it in continuous program planning.





**School Readiness**

The Early Head Start program at Meeting Street utilizes the Growing Great Kids curriculum. This comprehensive, interactive, strength based curriculum coincides seamlessly with the Early Learning Outcomes Framework. The content is deeply rooted in the importance of a positive parent child relationship and has a very reflective component. Through the use of the curriculum home visitors are afforded the opportunity to utilize tools and strategies to explore school readiness, promote the recognition of strengths not only in the child but also the family unit, and support families in articulating goals for both their children and themselves. Home visitors work diligently to motivate parents to work towards their goals and to become active participants in their child’s learning both during the home visits and far beyond. In efforts to foster continued understanding of a parents impact on a child’s readiness for school home visitor’s work with parents to collect data on a weekly basis throughout the program year. This data is entered into Teaching Strategies Gold, an online assessment tool. The data is aggregated at 3 points during the program year to evaluate each child’s progress towards school readiness goals. The following chart outlines the results obtained during the 2017 program year.

The indicated percentages represent the number of children meeting or exceeding expectations at the time the data was collected:

| <b>Teaching Strategies Gold Checkpoint Data</b> |      |        |        |
|---|------|--------|--------|
|   | Fall | Winter | Spring |
| Social Emotional                                | 80%  | 80%    | 94%    |
| Gross Motor                                     | 82%  | 82%    | 91%    |
| Fine Motor                                      | 87%  | 88%    | 98%    |
| Language  | 73%  | 73%    | 86%    |
| Cognitive                                       | 84%  | 83%    | 91%    |



# Meeting Street

Meeting Street compassionately and innovatively empowers children and their families to thrive by fostering the development of the whole child.

The data above was shared with home visitors and parents and used throughout the year to facilitate the setting of appropriate developmental goals for children in the program. In addition, the collection and review of this data was instrumental in making changes to the classroom setting and curriculum implementation in order to drive continued success. Although we are encouraged by the consistent growth of children in the program we want to ensure effective norming procedures and reliable data. In order to be certain of the validity of data interpretation by staff members, going forward staff will be asked to include an interrater reliability training in their professional development plan.

We are very pleased to see the growth in language scores and even more pleased to report that in the self-assessment 100% of families surveyed indicated that “Early Head Start services have helped me understand the importance of reading to my child as much as possible” this clearly has directly impacted the increase in the scores. 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 data while we are celebrating our successes we are also being mindful of recognizing areas of growth opportunity.



Respect Compassion Integrity Inclusivity Excellence

1000 Eddy Street, Providence, RI 02905 401.533.9100 [www.meetingstreet.org](http://www.meetingstreet.org)

Where every child thrives





# Meeting Street

Meeting Street compassionately and innovatively empowers children and their families to thrive by fostering the development of the whole child.

**Respect Compassion Integrity Inclusivity Excellence**

1000 Eddy Street, Providence, RI 02905 401.533.9100 [www.meetingstreet.org](http://www.meetingstreet.org)

Where every child thrives

