

MAINE: EARLY HEAD START INITIATIVES

DECEMBER 2012

SUMMARY

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

- **FUND FOR A HEALTHY MAINE** – Since 2001, Fund for a Healthy Maine has provided tobacco settlement money to existing Head Start and EHS programs to expand the number of children who receive full-day, full-year services. Local programs have the option of using these funds for EHS, depending on the needs in the community. While funds are generally used to expand the day and year of existing slots, some programs have used Fund for a Healthy Maine dollars to add new slots.
- **SUPPLEMENTAL** – Since the 1980s, Maine has provided state general revenue funds to all Head Start programs to add additional slots, some of which may be used for EHS.

MAINE'S APPROACH TO BUILDING ON EHS

- Extend the day and/or year of existing Head Start/EHS services and expand numbers of children/families served. (Fund for a Health Maine)
- Increase the capacity of existing Head Start and EHS programs to serve additional children and pregnant women. (Supplemental)

STATE PROGRAM

What is the eligibility for children and their families?

- **FAMILY INCOME:** 65 percent of children must be from families earning below the federal poverty level; 35 percent may be over that level
- **PARENTAL WORK STATUS:** No requirement
- **CHILD AGE:** Children are eligible for EHS from birth to age 3 and eligible for Head Start from age 3 to school age 5.
- **OTHER RISK FACTORS:** Status as a foster child
- **LENGTH OF ELIGIBILITY:** Follows the federal guidelines
- **EXPECTANT MOTHERS SERVED:** Yes

Who are the eligible providers?

- Federal Head Start grantees (this includes all federal EHS grantees)

Is there a co-pay?

- No co-pay required

What are the program standards?

- FEDERAL HEAD START PROGRAM PERFORMANCE STANDARDS REQUIRED? The Fund for a Healthy Maine initiative contract requires that Head Start Program Performance Standards apply and that services are provided full-day, full-year.

The Supplemental initiative contract requires that all programs meet the federal Head Start Program Performance Standards.

- ARE THERE ADDITIONAL STATE STANDARDS? All Head Start sites must be enrolled in the Maine Quality Rating and Improvement System, Quality for ME. State child care licensing requirements are required in both initiatives. The state also specifies some other basic requirements, including that participating programs participate in a Collaborative Community Assessment and Planning Process to meet the child care and early education needs of their service area.

NUMBER SERVED BY STATE INITIATIVE

In FY 2010-2011, 303 children birth to age 5 were served by non-Administration for Children and Families (ACF) funds.

NUMBER SERVED BY FEDERALLY FUNDED EARLY HEAD START

In FY 2010-2011, 1,128 EHS children were served using both federal and state funds in 11 Early Head Start programs throughout the state. All 11 programs are federally funded.



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

Depending on the program's EHS service option, other children may benefit from the services.

What is the length of the day/year?

Fund for a Healthy Maine funding is intended to support full-day, year round services.

The Supplemental funding does not specify length of day/year, and most slots are part-day, school year.

FUNDING AND SUPPORTS

What are the funding sources and budget for FY 2011?

Maine made \$3.8 million available in FY 2011 for both initiatives, children birth to age 5:

- \$2.4 million in state general revenue is available for children birth to age 5 in the Supplemental initiative (figures for birth to age 3 not available).
- \$1.3 million for the Fund for a Healthy Maine program for children birth to age 5, is financed with tobacco settlement dollars (figures for birth to age 3 not available).

In both initiatives, programs receive 1/12th of their annual grant amount each month, as long as they are in compliance and are delivering services. They receive the full contract amount if they serve at least 90 percent of the number of children planned for in that contract year.

What support and technical assistance does the state offer?

All participating programs are federal grantees and therefore may receive technical assistance and professional development for the state-funded services as they do for their federally funded services.

Maine has a state-funded Infant-Toddler Specialist who works with EHS programs paid for with federal Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) infant and toddler set-aside funds.

What incentives are there for child care providers to participate?

Not applicable to the Fund for a Healthy Maine initiative

In the Supplemental initiative, local programs determine what, if any, incentives to offer community partners, including child care providers. Each local program submits a statement of need as part of its application for the funding, which includes the necessary incentives for its community partners.

GOVERNANCE AND COORDINATION

What state agency administers the funding for this initiative?

The Maine Department of Health and Human Services



How does the funding flow to local providers?

Fund for a Healthy Maine dollars are divided equally so each federal grantee in Maine receives the same amount based on available funding for the year. Each program has a contractual agreement with the state that specifies the amount of money they will receive, and the local programs indicate the number of children they can serve for that amount, which is determined by its federal grant cost per child. Programs must report on performance measures on a quarterly basis, and they receive 1/12th of their total funds each month. Programs must keep 90 percent of the slots filled at all times.

Supplemental funds are allocated to each federal Head Start grantee using a needs-based formula developed when the initiative originated in the 1980s. Local programs have contractual agreements with the state specifying how many children the program will serve for each age group.

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

Yes

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

Maine has an agreement with the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) regional office that state-funded Head Start and EHS slots be monitored as part of the federal review process. Programs may receive technical assistance and professional development for the state-funded services as they do for their federally funded services.

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

The Head Start-State Collaboration Officer is part of the division that houses the program manager for the two initiatives, as well as the CCDBG Child Care Administrator. Consequently, planning, program selection, technical assistance, and professional development activities are coordinated.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

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

The Maine Department of Health and Human Services Contract Compliance Managers monitor the required reporting of performance measures. The state Program Director reviews the performance measures for compliance. Formerly, the Department of Health and Human Services visited state-funded Head Start programs annually, but due to a reorganization that resulted in fewer staff, this practice has been discontinued. The Department plans to reinstate this practice.

In addition, all programs must have a Maine child care license, and the Maine Licensing and Regulatory Services division within the Department of Health and Human Services monitors grantees once a year.

Are there specific measurement tools used to monitor services provided?

All Head Start programs must report on the performance measures outlined in the contract agreement on a monthly basis to receive funding.

Maine Licensing and Regulatory Services uses a site visit checklist to determine if programs are in compliance with licensing regulations.

Are programs monitored by federal agencies?

Maine has an agreement with the federal ACF regional office that state-funded EHS slots operated by federal Head Start grantees undergo the federal review process every 3 years.

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

No formal evaluation has been completed. The Maine Department of Health and Human Services compiles an annual report on how the Fund for a Healthy Maine funds were used in the previous year.

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

To receive Supplemental and Fund for Healthy Maine funding, programs must report on a subset of Program Information Report (PIR) data points, including enrollment, immunizations, provision of a medical home, and access to preventative medical services. Additional measures are reported on child cognitive and socio-emotional outcomes and physical development. The specific measures are outlined in the contract agreement.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

CONTACT INFORMATION

- Interviewed in 2008 for original profile - [Carolyn Drugge](mailto:Carolyn.Drugge@maine.gov) (Carolyn.Drugge@maine.gov), Maine State Child Care Administrator, Maine Head Start-State Collaboration Director, Early Childhood Division – Child Care and Head Start, Maine Department of Health and Human Services; June 2007 (updated April 2008)
- Interviewed in 2011 for updated profile - [Patti Woolley](mailto:patti.woolley@maine.gov) (patti.woolley@maine.gov), Director of the Early Childhood Division, Maine Head Start-State Collaboration Director, Early Childhood Division – Child Care and Head Start, Maine Department of Health and Human Services (March 2012)

ONLINE INFORMATION

- The Maine Department of Health and Human Services maintains a website on [Early Childhood Information](#).
- The Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) has individual [state profiles](#) analyzing the Head Start Program Information Report (PIR) data from 2010.

AUTHORS: CENTER FOR LAW AND SOCIAL POLICY (CLASP) AND ZERO TO THREE

This profile was updated in 2012. An earlier version was written in 2008 as part of the report, *Building on the Promise: State Initiatives to Expand Access to Early Head Start and their Families*.

CLASP develops and advocates for policies at the federal, state, and local levels that improve the lives of low-income people, focusing on policies that strengthen families and create pathways to education and work.

ZERO TO THREE is a national, nonprofit organization that informs, trains, and supports professionals, policymakers, and parents in their efforts to improve the lives of infants and toddlers.



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