

MINNESOTA: EARLY HEAD START INITIATIVE

DECEMBER 2012

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 3. Although this earmark was removed from state statute in 2003, the Minnesota Department of Education allows 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.

MINNESOTA'S APPROACH TO BUILDING ON EHS

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

STATE PROGRAM

What is the eligibility for children and their families?

- FAMILY INCOME: Follow federal Head Start Program Performance Standards
- PARENTAL WORK STATUS: No requirement
- CHILD AGE: Birth to age 3
- OTHER RISK FACTORS: Follow federal Head Start Program Performance Standards
- LENGTH OF ELIGIBILITY: Follow federal Head Start Program Performance Standards
- EXPECTANT MOTHERS SERVED: Yes

Who are the eligible providers?

- Federal Head Start grantees
- Federal Early Head Start grantees

Is there a co-pay?

No co-pay required

What are the program standards?

- FEDERAL HEAD START PROGRAM PERFORMANCE STANDARDS REQUIRED? Yes, all participating programs must comply with the federal Head Start Program Performance Standards.
- ARE THERE 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.

What is the length of the day/year?

All participating programs must comply with the federal Head Start Program Performance Standards in regard to length of day and year.

NUMBER SERVED BY STATE INITIATIVE

568 children birth to age 3 and 324 expectant mothers in FY 2012.

NUMBER SERVED BY FEDERALLY FUNDED EARLY HEAD START

Federally funded EHS served 2,808 children birth to age 3 and expectant mothers (according to federal Program Information Report data for 2011).

FUNDING AND SUPPORTS



What are the funding sources and budget for FY 2011?

Approximately \$6.2 million of the total \$20.1 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 when it is requested, as well as professional development opportunities. Most technical assistance is provided by the federal technical assistance network.

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/EHS enrollment (calculated by the number of children under age 5 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). 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 assist in 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. Programs get one desk review, one on-site visit, and one federal visit in a three-year period. There is one Field Monitor for 36 sites.

Are there specific measurement tools used to monitor services provided?

The state uses the federal OHS Monitoring Protocol.

Are programs 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 Head Start Enterprise System 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.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

CONTACT INFORMATION

- Interviewed in 2008 for original profile - [Mary Vanderwert](mailto:Mary.Vanderwert@state.mn.us) (Mary.Vanderwert@state.mn.us) and [Wayne Kuklinski](mailto:Wayne.Kuklinski@state.mn.us) (Wayne.Kuklinski@state.mn.us), Minnesota Head Start-State Collaboration Office; May 2007 (updated April 2008)
- Interviewed in 2011 for updated profile - [Mary Vanderwert](mailto:Mary.Vanderwert@state.mn.us) (Mary.Vanderwert@state.mn.us), Head Start State Collaboration Director and [Avisia Whiteman](mailto:Avisia.Whiteman@state.mn.us) (Avisia.Whiteman@state.mn.us), Research and Evaluation Specialist at the Minnesota Department of Education; 2011

ONLINE INFORMATION

- The Minnesota Department of Education maintains a website on its [Early Learning Services](#).
- 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.



WWW.CLASP.ORG
1200 18th Street NW
Suite 200
Washington, DC 20036
TEL: 202.906.8000

WWW.ZEROTOTHREE.ORG
1255 23rd Street NW
Suite 350
Washington, DC 20037
TEL: 202.638.1144