



University of Pittsburgh

Family Foundations

Early Head Start

annual report 2010-11

University of Pittsburgh Early Head Start (Family Foundations) is a 15-year program that serves families in low-income communities in the city of Pittsburgh and in Allegheny County. The program provides intensive home visiting or center-based services to families with children aged 0–3 years and pregnant mothers. Services include health and development for infants and toddlers and the promotion of parents' abilities to support their child's cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development. The program has increased its expertise in infant mental health and predominantly works with families to promote healthy parent-child relationships in order to accomplish program standards for child development.

The program has doubled its size with an award of ARRA funds which have become permanent this year to provide services to 310 eligible expectant families, infants and toddlers with an average monthly enrollment of 310. This has provided home-based sites and services to additional families particularly in the North Side and TriBoro Communities.

In addition, through collaborations with Childrens Hospital Dental Clinic, all EHS/FF children over the age of 12 months now have access to early dental exams and care. The program serves 295 children or expectant families through a home-based model and 15 infants and toddlers through two partner centers: Matilda Theiss Child Development Center and Eastminster Child Care Center.

Health and development of enrolled children aged 0–3 is a primary goal for EHS/FF and was success-



fully met with 100% of our children having up-to-date immunizations, a medical home to receive treatment and well child visits, and a health insurance provider.

The FY10–11 budget includes \$2,416,946 (main grant), \$1,570,257 (expansion) and \$181,026 through the generous support of The Heinz Endowments. \$3,455,492 is budgeted for sub awards for six sites. The remainder is budgeted for OCD compensation, supplies, travel and space rental.

The program continually serves 295 children in a home-based environment so that parents spend time with their young child while working with the home visitor on learning and relationship-based activities. There are 16 children enrolled in center-based EHS programs and parents receive home visits and the same learning materials on a regular basis. This year 9 children transitioned into the Head Start program and 8 entered a private pre-school program.

EHS/FF holds themed socializations twice a month. The photo below shows a socialization at the Clairton site that focussed on Nutrition. Parents and kids are pictured trying new foods while April Randolph-Miller, the EHS/FF Nutritionist and Bruce Kelly, a home visitor look on.



Home Visitors Build Relationships that Change Lives for the Better.

Lily was isolated. She had moved recently and didn't have any friends or family around to give her emotional support, help or guidance. When Lily found out she was pregnant she dreaded the prospect of giving birth and raising her baby alone. One day, she saw a Family Foundations flyer at the doctor's office. She called the number to enroll and Suzanne became her home visitor. When it came time to deliver her baby, Lily asked Suzanne to go with her to the hospital. Suzanne was there to support Lily and help her celebrate the birth of her son.

Through Family Foundations Early Head Start, Lily learned that good parenting is about building a good relationship with your child. And she began to develop friendships with other mothers she met at the socializations she took her son to twice a month. Lily even joined the Family Foundations Early Head Start Policy Council. The support system that Lily found at Family Foundations Early Head Start helped her to grow as a confident member of the community and she continued to be an active member of her community as her child grew.

Family Foundations Early Head Start is part of the Service Demonstrations Division of the Office of Child Development, which is part of the University of Pittsburgh's School of Education. Our offices are located at 400 North Lexington Street, Suite LL104, Pittsburgh, PA, 15208. We can be reached by phone at 1-877-233-9231.