

University of Pittsburgh



**Family  
Foundations**  
.....  
**Early Head Start**

# annual report 2009-10

**University of Pittsburgh Early Head Start (Family Foundations)** is a 15-year project 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 continues to increase 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.

This year EHS/FF has received ARRA funds to expand the currently existing program to service 140 additional pregnant women, infants and toddlers. After extensive community assessments over the past several years, it was determined to expand the communities served by EHS/FF to include Northside and Tri-Boro communities. ARRA grant was used to open two additional program sites within these two communities. A "site" includes infant-toddler rooms for socialization activities (groups) and office and meeting space for program staff and a coordinator. This expansion opportunity allowed the program to promote and add additional professional staff members. A total of 18.5 new staff were employed this year.



The last triennial review in 2009 again yielded outstanding comments and results of services to children and families. Service is provided to 310 children, including pregnant mothers, and enrollment throughout the year is always 100%, with waiting lists in the communities served. According to data collected throughout Allegheny County, the percentage of families served by EHS/FF compared to the number of eligible low-income families is very low, and it is planned that expansion funds will help more families throughout Allegheny County.

Health and development of enrolled children aged 0–3 is a primary goal for EHS/FF and was successfully met with 98% of our children having up-to-date immunizations, a medical home to receive treatment and well child visits, and a health insurance provider.

Accessible dental care was provided to 91% of our young children. Also this year the program has entered into an agreement with Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh for dental care and assessments for EHS/FF children and their siblings. This continues to be successful in supporting families in obtaining quality dental services for their very young children.

The FY09–10 budget includes \$2,397,846 (main grant), \$133,250 (COLA, ARRA, & QI) \$1,069,331 (expansion) and \$201,000 in private funds. \$3,088,081 is budgeted on sub awards for six sites. The remainder is budgeted for OCD compensation, supplies, travel, and space rental.

The FY10–11 budget includes \$2,416,946 (main grant), \$1,570,257 (expansion) and \$181,026 in private funds. \$3,471,383 is budgeted on sub awards for six sites. The remainder is budgeted for OCD compensation, supplies, travel and space rental.



The *Safety Materials for Homes* has been noted as a strength for EHS/FF. All families receive a safety check in their homes with safety supplies provided individually as needed.

The Policy Council and Governing Board meet on a regular basis to provide input and oversight for the program. They continue to meet together twice a year in May and October.

The program continually serves 290 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 20 children enrolled in center-based EHS programs and parents receive home visits and the same learning materials on a regular basis. Of the children who were old enough to transition out of the program 19% entered a Head Start program or other private pre-school program.