

EARLY HEAD START PROPOSED EXPANSION SUMMARY

The Genesee County Community Action Resource Department (GCCARD) Head Start Program is proposing to continue its present Early Head Start Program for 104 children through age three. The proposed target areas for center based and home based programming are income eligible families living in Genesee County, particularly giving priority to the families impacted by the lead crisis.

Our program uses the center based model with 7 classrooms of eight infants and/or toddlers with a child care teacher for every four children. The classrooms operate 7.5 hours per day, four days per week to meet the needs of working families and those attending colleges while still providing ample time for the necessary bonding between children and their parents. The primary curricula used are the Creative Curriculum for the center based option, Partners for a Healthy Baby for Pregnant Mothers and Parents As Teachers for the home based program. The Creative Curriculum Gold Assessment is used for both the home based and center based models.

In the home based model, home visitors visit each family once per week emphasizing the importance of early development of literacy and numeracy skills. Home visitors model developmentally appropriate interactions between young children and adults and share individualized activities for the parent to engage in with the child. Twice per month, parents and child are involved in play groups, socialization experiences, and parent education opportunities. We will provide this to 48 children, families and pregnant mothers.

The proposed program assists parents in fulfilling their parental roles and provides a holistic approach to family development. This is completed through an individualized family partnership agreement that involves goal setting, implementation and evaluation. The GCCARD Head Start Program has strong community resources to assist families to reach their goals. These coordinated support services, along with literacy skills and job training leading to employment, allow parents to reach and sustain self sufficiency and children to begin school with a strong numeracy and literacy background. This application is being submitted as a change of scope application in an effort to merge expansion funding with continuation funding and simplify processes.