

EARLY HEAD START SUMMARY

Early Head Start (EHS) is a comprehensive family focused child development and family engagement program for income eligible pregnant mothers, infants and toddlers. In addition to a child development program, the EHS program provides both directly and through community partners, services in: nutrition, mental health, physical and oral health, parenting activities and social services. Early Head Start is proposing to serve 426 income eligible families throughout Genesee County. EHS in the Beecher service area is provided through a contract with the school district from GCCARD, the grantee. EHS is provided through a contract with Mott Community College, as well.

The Early Head Start child development center-base model operates full day, Monday through Thursday, full year, a minimum of 7.5 hours per day. Each classroom has 8 infants and toddlers with a child care teacher for every four children. 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-base program. The Creative Curriculum Gold Assessment is used for both the home-base and center-base models.

In the home-base 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.

The proposed program assists parents and expectant mothers in fulfilling their roles and provides a holistic approach to family development. This is done through an individualized family partnership agreement that involves goal setting, implementation and evaluation. The GCCARD Early Head Start Program has strong community resources to assist families in attaining their goals and help children to begin school ready to succeed.