

EARLY HEAD START SUMMARY

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

The EHS child development center-based (classroom) model operates seven and half hour days, Monday through Thursday, for the full year. Each classroom has eight infants and toddlers with one childcare teacher for every four children. The primary curricula used are the Creative Curriculum for the center-based model and Partners for a Healthy Baby for pregnant individuals and Parents as Teachers for the home-based model. 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 monthly children and parents attend a center for socialization, group activities, and parent education opportunities.

The proposed program assists parents and pregnant individuals in fulfilling their roles and provides a holistic approach to family development. This is done through individualized family partnership agreements that involve 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.