

Project Eagle Early Head Start

Early Head Start Grantee Annual Report

JULY 1, 2015-JUNE 30, 2016

University of Kansas Medical Center

PROJECT EAGLE EARLY HEAD START

OVERVIEW

MISSION

Project Eagle's mission is to nurture the healthy growth and development of the most vulnerable young children and families in Wyandotte County, Kansas, by providing a foundation for school readiness and strengthening family engagement.

KEY FEATURES

Project Eagle is a model early education program offering both home-based and center-based Early Head Start services at its Educare Kansas City center as part of the national Educare Learning Network. Key features leading to the program's success include:

- Individualized services through a variety of program options that meet the unique and diverse needs of expectant women and children ages birth to five within the context of their families.
- Evidence-based curriculum and practices that are shown to support the success of young children and their parents.
- Innovation and creativity as well as the willingness to explore and try new approaches and new ideas.
- A culture of curiosity amongst staff and parents by gathering and utilizing data from observations and assessments to inform our daily practice.
- Reflective practice as the foundation for ongoing staff growth and development.
- Partnerships with other providers to connect parents and children to the services from which they will benefit.
- Sharing the results of our work in an effort to inform others both within and beyond the early education.

LOCATION

Project Eagle is located at the Children's Campus of Kansas City (CCKC) in Kansas City, KS. The CCKC is the result of a successful public-private partnership in which private dollars financed the construction of a state-of-the-art facility where agencies, sustained by public dollars, provide quality programming for children and families. The three partners at the CCKC integrate their work through research and evaluation efforts, professional development, and programming for young children and families. The CCKC partners are committed to collectively impacting the early education system.

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JULY 1, 2015 - JUNE 30, 2016

GOALS

Project Eagle's Early Head Start goals align with the four Early Head Start cornerstones: child, family, staff and community. Across the Early Head Start home-based and center-based options these four goals remain constant.

1. Children ages birth to three experience healthy development across all domains (social-emotional, language and literacy, physical development and health, approaches to learning, cognitive and general knowledge).
2. Parents (mothers, fathers and guardians) succeed as the primary caregivers and teachers of their children.
3. Project Eagle implements ongoing and effective program design and management.
4. Project Eagle cultivates and sustains community partnerships within a comprehensive early childhood system of services.

ELIGIBILITY

To enroll in Project Eagle Early Head Start families must:

- Live in Wyandotte County, KS.
- Have a total household income at or below the federal poverty line.
- Have a pregnant woman or child less than three years of age living in the home.

PROGRAM OPTIONS

Center-based Early Head Start: Educare Kansas City

Educare Kansas City is a school in the national Educare Learning Network. It serves as a model of excellence to illustrate to both the public and private sectors the importance of providing the highest quality outcome-based learning environment for young children vulnerable to poor academic outcomes.

- Full-day, full-year early education for 148 infants, toddlers, and preschoolers in 14 classrooms (94 EHS children).*
- Ten classrooms for infants and toddlers (ages birth to three) where each child is assigned a primary caregiver to assure healthy social and emotional development and a secure attachment to a significant adult.
- Four classrooms for preschoolers (ages three to five) with a strong emphasis on early language and literacy. These four classrooms were operated in partnership with USD 500 during the 2015-2016 school year.
- Healthy, safe, and stimulating classroom spaces to encourage learning, curiosity, problem solving, exploring, and playing.
- Two or three teachers in each classroom: a lead teacher with a minimum of a Bachelor degree, an assistant teacher with a minimum of an Associate degree, and a teacher aide float with a minimum of a CDA. All infant classrooms have the required ratio of three teachers to eight infants.
- Natural playground area to extend experiential learning outside.

- Intensive family engagement.

Home-based Early Head Start

Project Eagle provides home-based Early Head Start services to the families of 211 children and pregnant women through weekly home visits with a Home Visitor.

- 90 minute home visits with an emphasis on child development, parenting education, and positive family outcomes.
- One Home Visitor for every 12 families with undergraduate and graduate degrees in social work, early childhood education, psychology, and human development.
- Interpretation for non-English/non-Spanish speaking families.
- Team of multi-disciplinary coordinators to support and enhance the work of home visitors.

*Project Eagle also serves an additional sixteen infants and toddlers in Early Head Start center-based services in partnership with The Family Conservancy's Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership Grant.

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ENROLLMENT

FUNDED ENROLLMENT

Project Eagle is funded to provide Early Head Start services to children ages birth to three and/or pregnant women. Project Eagle also provides services to the family of the child or pregnant woman. During the 2015-2016 program year, Project Eagle was funded to serve 94 children through the center-based option and 175 children and/or pregnant women through the home-based option. Project Eagle was funded to serve a total of 269 children and/or pregnant women.

Federal Early Head Start Funding	205 children/pregnant women
<u>Kansas Early Head Start Funding</u>	<u>64 children/pregnant women</u>
TOTAL	269 children/pregnant women

An additional 36 slots were funded by KDHE through the Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV).

TOTAL NUMBER SERVED

Project Eagle's average monthly enrollment was 97%.

Children served	474 children
<u>Pregnant women served</u>	<u>45 pregnant women</u>
TOTAL	519 children/pregnant women
Total families served	328 families
Single Parent Families	135 families
Two Parent Families	193 families

DEMOGRAPHICS

The ethnic, racial, and linguistic diversity of the 519 children and/or pregnant women served is a reflection of the diversity of the community.

Ethnicity

Hispanic or Latino Origin	50%
Non-Hispanic or Non-Latino Origin	50%

Race

White	59.2%
Black or African American	28.1%
Biracial/Multi-racial	5.9%
Asian	6.8%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0%
American Indian	0%

Primary Language of Family at Home

English	46.6%
Spanish	45.4%
African Languages	2.7%
Middle Eastern and South Asian Languages	3.2%
East Asian Languages	2.1%

HEALTH AND DENTAL SERVICES

Percent of children with medical homes	88%
Percent of children with health insurance	86%
Percent of children up-to-date on immunizations	75%
Percent of children up to date with EPSDT visits	20%*
Percent of children up-to-date on dental screens	73%

DISABILITIES

Percent of children with IFSP	14%
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*EPSDT percentage is based on the medical provider's determination, as verified by the medical record. Parent reported compliance with the recommended schedule is higher. Barriers for Project Eagle families in this area include difficulties in obtaining lead testing, a component of the 12 and 24 month visits, and cost and timeliness in acquiring medical records.

PROJECT EAGLE EARLY HEAD START

KINDERGARTEN READINESS/ACADEMIC PREPAREDNESS

To assist parents during the transition of their children from Early Head Start into appropriate preschool programs, Project Eagle worked during the past year with the Kansas City Kansas School District, the local Head Start grantee. For children enrolled in the Educare School, efforts are made to provide continuity of care up to age five through Project Eagle's partnerships with USD 500. Throughout their enrollment, children are evaluated in each developmental domain and screening and assessment results are used to individualize instruction and goals for each child.

Project Eagle has an internal work group committed to School Readiness. This group, in partnership with parents, established School Readiness Goals in the Head Start Early Learning Domains of Social and Emotional Development, Language and Literacy, Approaches to Learning and Cognition/General Knowledge and Physical Development and Health. In addition, Project Eagle works with parents and their children in a variety of ways to support future school readiness:

- Use of evidence-based curriculums: during the 2015-2016 year primary curriculums included *Growing Great Kids* for the home-based option and *HighScope* for the center-based option.
- Weekly lesson plans for home-based children that support parent and child interaction and promote the child's development of fine and gross motor skills, early language and literacy skills, cognitive skills such as problem solving and experimentation, and social-emotional development. In all areas, support is provided for dual language learners.
- Classroom schedules, activities, and environments that include time for daily gross motor play, foster language and literacy development, promote cognitive development through explorative play and problem-solving activities, and encourage healthy social-emotional development through the primary caregiver model. Again, in all areas support is provided for dual language learners.
- Individual child data is shared by teachers and home visitors with parents and informs the individual child and family goal-setting process.
- Support for parents in assuring that children are current with well-child visits, immunizations, and dental visits.
- Co-case management meetings and shared home visits with Infant Toddler Services for children receiving Part C services.
- Arts programming to support learning in the Educare School.

The School Readiness Outcomes for the 2015-2016 program year are listed below. The percentages listed represent the percentage of children (without IFSPs and enrolled in the program longer than ninety days) at the end of the year who met benchmarks in these domains as assessed by IGDIs (Individual Growth and Development Indicators).

- Motor = 87%
- Language = 86% (English = 91%, Spanish = 87%)
- Social = 93%
- Cognitive = 82%

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PARENT ENGAGEMENT

Project Eagle is committed to effective and innovative ways to foster parent engagement in the lives of children. Project Eagle has a work group dedicated to developing strategies and measuring progress in the area of Family Engagement. Parent engagement and involvement opportunities for both mothers and fathers during the past year included:

- Opportunities to participate in Policy Council, Parent Committee, program advisory boards, the Project Eagle Governance Committee, Kansas Head Start Association meetings, and state leadership and advocacy trainings.
- Opportunities to participate in the interview process for program staff.
- Opportunities to train future Home Visitors by participating in Growing Great Kids Curriculum training four times per year
- Parent-child socializations (playgroups) occurring two times per month.
- Center-based parent and child activities throughout the year that support family wellness, language and literacy, and parent-child attachment.
- Classroom parent meetings that cover topics related to classroom activities or topics identified as of interest to families.
- Participation in parent/teacher conferences conducted throughout the year.
- Opportunities to volunteer in the classroom by reading, sharing a skill, or administrative support.
- Support for parents in daily interaction and engagement with their children in the classroom setting and in the home environment through the encouragement of the *Talk, Read, Play* campaign.
- Referrals to programs throughout the community to support family well-being, parental education and employment, and other supports.

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AGENCY AND FISCAL INFORMATION

Grantee: University of Kansas Medical Center Research Institute, Inc.
Governing Body: University of Kansas Medical Center
Address: 444 Minnesota Avenue, Suite 100, Kansas City, KS 66101
Director: Heather Schrotberger, 913-281-2648, hschrotberger@kumc.edu
Project Service Area: Wyandotte County, KS

For the 2015-2016 year, Project Eagle received Federal and Kansas Early Head Start funds.

<i>Awarded Budget</i>	<i>Federal EHS</i>	<i>Kansas EHS</i>	<i>Total</i>
Personnel/Fringe	\$2,221,580	\$621,959	\$2,843,539
Contractual	160,636	-	160,636
Other Costs	394,023	104,676	498,699
TOTAL DIRECT COSTS	\$2,776,239	\$726,635	\$3,502,874
Indirect Costs	321,509	72,663	394,172
TOTAL BUDGET	\$3,097,748	\$799,298	\$3,897,046
Non-Federal Share	774,437	-	774,437
TOTAL COST	\$3,872,185	\$799,298	\$4,671,483

<i>Expenditures</i>	<i>Federal EHS</i>	<i>Kansas EHS</i>	<i>Total</i>
Personnel/Fringe	\$2,208,624	\$620,968	\$2,829,592
Contractual	160,663	-	160,663
Other Costs	393,081	96,640	489,721
TOTAL DIRECT COSTS	\$2,762,368	\$717,608	\$3,479,976
Indirect Costs	318,212	71,761	389,973
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$3,080,580	\$789,369	\$3,869,949
Non-Federal Share	770,145	-	770,145
TOTAL COST	\$3,850,725	\$789,369	\$4,640,094

Most Recent Review: Project Eagle’s Health and Safety Monitoring Review was in October 2015. Project Eagle’s ERSEA and Fiscal Monitoring Review was in April 2016. The program had no findings or areas of non-compliance in either review.

Audit: The fiscal agent is the University of Kansas Medical Center Research Institute, Inc. which is audited annually. The audit is available upon request.