

Early Head Start Report to the Public 2018-2019

Explanation of Budgetary Expenditures 2018-2019

Program Year: September 1st, 2018 through August 31, 2019

Budget Summary:

Starpoint provides services for First Steps Early Head Start in Fremont County, Colorado for continued refunding for the period of September 1, 2018 through August 31, 2019. Per the intent to fund letter from ACF the base funds for First Steps EHS is \$779,409. Training and technical assistant funds available are \$18,708. There is a cost of living allowance (COLA) at this time of \$20,265, for a total grant amount of \$ 818,382. The goal of the organization is to maintain high quality, comprehensive services to children and families and ensure their health and safety.

Personnel, \$ 477,054 + Fringe \$138,016 = \$615,070

Supplies, \$15,055

Contractual, \$0

Local Travel, \$9,950

Other, \$179,494

Training and Technical Assistance \$18,708

Cost of Living Allowance \$20, 265

Total Ongoing Federal EHS Funds Requested: \$779,409 +

\$ 18,708 (T&TA) + \$20,265= \$818,382

Total Non-federal Share = \$204,597

Number of Children & Pregnant Women Served: 75

Number of Children Served: 131

Number of Pregnant Women Served: 22

Average monthly enrollment: 98%

Eligible children served: 35%

The completed audit can be reviewed on the Starpoint website: www.starpointco.com, a material weakness was identified in fiscal reporting due to fiscal staff turnover.

The percentage of children that have received medical exams is: 84%

The percentage of children that have received dental exams is: 79%

Service Options:

a. Home-Based for 65 children

46 weekly home visits of 1½ hours per visit, and 24

Socialization experiences offered two times per month for 1½ –2 hours each

b. Center-Based for 10 children

The center is open for 11.5 hours per day, 5 days per week for 252 days per year. The weekly requirement for this center-based program is at a minimum 28 hrs./wk. for 52 weeks to meet the required 1380 annual hours of planned class operations. Parents are able to design what services are needed to meet their family's needs. The center-based option classrooms have two teachers and no more than eight children in the classroom. The teachers are required to have a minimum of an Infant and Toddler Credential Development Associate. The program highly encourages and presently has staff with AA or BA degrees. Diapers and wipes are provided for children in the center-based option program as required.

Pregnant Women Services:

Pre-Natal and Post-Natal RN Visits: A registered nurse visits mothers in their home both before and after they have their babies. The Nurse is also available for follow up visits in the home if

requested by Home Visitors and parents. The Parents as Teachers Curriculum is used and has specific information for pregnant women.

All 2018-2019 funds were expended. In-kind match requirements were met. Early Headstart continued quality center and home-based

Parent Involvement

Many parent involvement activities were planned specifically for Early Head Start families through the EHS program. These include; group socializations, parent educational workshops, parent committees and meetings, field trips and other opportunities as requested by the parents. Families also had access to other activities through the Fremont County Family Center including playgroups and four times per year Family Events. Families received a variety of family services such as emergency crisis intervention, housing assistance health education and other needed services.

The Fremont County Family Center which housed Early Head Start has been providing parent education and support services to families for three decades. Through a longstanding collaboration with the ECHO & Family Center Early Childhood Network, parents of children birth to kindergarten age are provided information on child development, community connections and supports. These ongoing services help build parent and child resilience. Throughout the program year 240 individuals have received a variety of services; 87 families with 240 children participated in home visits through the First Steps Parents As Teachers home visitation program.

Comprehensive Reviews:

From October 1, 2018 to October 5, 2018, the Administration for Children and Families conducted a Focus Area 1 monitoring review of the Developmental Opportunities Inc. Early Head Start program. There were no areas of non-compliance and there were two program highlights about our program's unique or innovative service delivery which included:

Family well-being: One of the most significant highlights of this grantee was their use of the Circle of Security program, and evidence-based early intervention initiative to promote secure attachments among young children and their caregivers. As a part of this program, the grantee established mental health partnerships and worked directly with staff regarding knowledge of trauma-informed practices. The Early Head Start program was a pilot site for this model. In the interview with parents and staff, they explained the benefits of the Circle of Security Program, which included training on social and emotional topics such as trauma and bonding, less separation anxiety from young children and increased awareness of how to make young children feel safe and secure.

Effective and Intentional Approach to Teaching Practices: The grantee used reflective supervision to guide practice, to engage staff in self-reflection, and develop a learning community. One aspect of the learning community involved home visitors receiving a minimum of one session per month for reflective supervision; twice monthly, they met as group to reflect on practice and discuss trends in families. Center-based teacher also received reflective supervision through the Infant/Toddler Mental Health consultant (MH) and a "Tippy Toes"

consultant. In addition, the Home Visiting Rating Scale (HOVRS) was conducted twice a year to guide professional development and determined areas where additional training may be needed. These approaches were used to help staff assess their practices to see if there were resulting in positive outcomes and making continuous quality improvements. All staff, including management team, continues to engage in reflective supervision.

Reflective Supervision (RS):

All Starpoint Children Services have been implementing a positive practice in 2015 and wanted to share how it is going for us. Reflective Supervision means stepping back from the immediate intense experience of hands on work and taking the time to wonder what the experience really means- Reflective Supervision is not therapy-it is focused on experience, thoughts and feelings directly connected with the work we do. Staff well-being and quality of services go hand in hand. RS is focused on creating an environment where people do their best thinking!

Coordinators and Managers who directly supervise individuals have been participating in bi-weekly Reflective Practice and Reflective Supervision sessions. It has been a journey that we have been taking to better ourselves as critical thinkers so we can support the staff in the work they do so they can better support children and families!

“How You Are Is As Important As What You Do” Jeree Pawl