



New Directions Early Head Start 2016-2017 Impact

New Directions Early Head Start provides pregnant women, infants, toddlers and their families with quality care and family services that support families in providing the best for themselves and their very young children, in order to promote children's success and families' self sufficiency, through community collaboration and partnerships.

New Directions Early Head Start Impact –

Service description: New Directions Early Head Start (NDEHS) is an interagency program, operated by the University of Delaware, committed to empowering and supporting pregnant women, infants, toddlers and their families. NDEHS supports children's emotional, physical and cognitive development, and involve parents as the child's first teacher, while helping parents and guardians meet their children's and families' needs. Families are provided with home visits, family education and support services, health and nutrition education, referral services, prenatal education and parent involvement activities, including special programs for fathers.



Home Based Option: provides enrolled families with 90-minute weekly home visits designed to build on child and family strengths and to promote parent/child interactions. Also offers parent and child group activities and prenatal services.

Center Based Option: provides full day, full year childcare, nutritional meals, and quality infant & toddler program with individualized attention and parental involvement through three community based partnerships. In addition, families are provided with a monthly home visit.

Family Partnerships and Services

All, 235 families (100% of all families) participated in a family goal setting process which resulted in an individualized family partnership agreement in 2016-2017. All families received at least two-family services during the program year.

One hundred and five families (447%) received emergency/ crisis intervention (addressing an immediate need for food, clothing shelter). All, two hundred and thirty-five, families received parent education services and two hundred and thirty –two received health education. Nineteen families (8%) received a mental health referral or assistance.

There were regularly scheduled male involvement events and fathers were encouraged to participate to all family activities within the program. Throughout the program year 58 fathers/father figures participated in the family assessment, 69 in family goal setting, 101 were involved in the Head Start experience, 33 in parenting education workshops, and 2 in the Policy Council.



During the course of the year, parents had an opportunity to participate in a variety of activities. These activities included Play and Grow events held at Shortlidge Academy, the Boy's and Girl's Club, Colwyck Center, and local parks. NDEHS provided 44 socialization opportunities during the year.

Community Impact:

- Partnered with four programs to provide EHS services to children and families: Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center; Delaware Early Childhood Center; UD Early Learning Centers; Neighborhood House Inc.
- Worked with over 50 early care and education providers in four partnering programs to implement quality Early Head Start (EHS) Services: Provided technical assistance, professional development, mentoring and coaching.
- Sponsored a coat and holiday toy drive - distributed over 100 coats to children and siblings of children in the program and provided over 200 holiday gifts to children in the program and a few siblings.
- Provided 50 opportunities for parents to come together with other parents to socialize, allow their children to socialize and learn valuable information about child development, nutrition and health issues.
- NDEHS staff participated in over fifteen different community advisory committees and councils.



Student impact:

- Provided two graduate student assistantships and two 50-hour undergraduate internships.
- Provided two 50-hour internships to undergraduate students.
- Provided work-study opportunities to two undergraduate students.
- Provided field experiences for HDF5 470: 160 students participated in a home visit, to enhance their learning.
- Worked with SAEYC to provide volunteer opportunities to their members.

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