



College of Education
& Human Development

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
& FAMILY SCIENCES

New Directions Early Head Start
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New Directions Early Head Start

New Directions Early Head Start (NDEHS) is an interagency program committed to empowering and supporting pregnant women, infants and toddlers, and their families. The New Directions Early Head Start Consortium consists of the Department of Human Development and Family Sciences (HDFS); Delaware Early Childhood Center; Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center Inc.; Early Learning Center-Newark, University of Delaware; Early Learning Center- Wilmington, University of Delaware in partnership with Neighborhood House Inc.. The program was funded in October 1997 during the third national wave of federal support to develop Early Head Start programs across the nation and received expansion funding in September 2001 and December 2009. The NDEHS consortium of agencies represents an innovative collaborative model bringing together the university with a diverse group of non-profit community agencies to provide direct services to 195 children and families in the New Castle and Kent Counties. The consortium also works to have an impact on many more families and service providers by way of its capacity-building approach in the areas of childcare, disability support, training, and coordination of services.

Roles of Consortium Agencies:

University of Delaware – As the grantee, the primary administrative and programmatic office of NDEHS is located within the Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood (DIEEC) within the Department of Human Development and Family Studies (HDFS) at the University of Delaware. This office coordinates the program activities of the entire consortium. In addition, the University serves children, families and pregnant women through home based services and via partnerships with the two *Early Learning Centers* operated by the University of Delaware.

Home-Based at UD- University of Delaware (NDEHS) provides home-based services **for at least 67 - 69** pregnant women and families with infants and toddlers throughout New Castle County.

Early Learning Center- Newark at the University of Delaware- ELC childcare and education facility which also provides a research, teaching and practicum site for faculty and students **serves 16 NDEHS children** in an integrated center-based child care partnership with NDEHS in the Newark area. The Early Learning center provides ongoing child development services and care for infants and toddlers focusing on the needs of the child. NDEHS provides the family support and collaborates with classroom staff to provide at least nine (9) “home visits” per year. Home visits are based on a traditional home based visit, providing the child and family with additional supports and focusing on the parent as the child’s most important teacher. These visits occur in the home and at the child care center. The center operated five days a week, year-round providing full-day care in conjunction with Purchase of Care dollars.

Early Learning Center- Wilmington at Neighborhood House, Inc/University of Delaware Partnership. – Early Learning Center – Wilmington a University of Delaware partnership with Neighborhood House Inc. serves **30** children and their families in an integrated center-based child care partnership model in the Southbridge section of Wilmington. The Early Learning Center is a teaching and practicum site for faculty, students and community providers. NDEHS provides the family support component placing a family advocate (s) at the site full time. In collaboration with classroom staff the family advocate provide(s) at least nine (9) “home visits” per year. Home visits are based on a traditional home based visit, providing the child and family with additional supports and focusing on the parent as the child’s most important teacher. These visits occur in the home and at the child care center. The center operated five days a week, year-round providing full-day care in conjunction with Purchase of Care dollars.

Delaware Early Childhood Center – DECC provides home based services for **60 pregnant women and families with infants and toddlers** throughout Kent County focusing on the Dover metropolitan, Harrington & Milford area.

Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center – Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center serves **22 children** and their families in an integrated center based childcare partnership in the Hilltop neighborhood of Wilmington. NDEHS will provide funding to Hilltop for a family advocate to provide all the family support components of EHS. The center operates five days a week, year-round providing full-day care in conjunction with Purchase of Care dollars. The family advocate provides at least nine (9) home visits per year based on a traditional home base visit, providing the child and family with additional support and focusing on the parent as the child’s most important teacher. These visits occur in the home and at the child care center.

NDEHS provides at least 235 days of service in our center based child care partnership model. Given the holidays and vacation days provided by the University and the Lake Forest School District, in addition to our need to have some time each year to reorganize for the next program year, NDEHS provides 44 home visits a year in our home based model. In keeping with our philosophy to provide services that best meet the child and families needs, NDEHS serves children in families as outlined above with some variation in the number of children served at each site depending on families needs. We provide services to at least 10 pregnant women.

Locally Designed Child Care Partnerships Service Delivery Model:

Provided by the University of Delaware (U of D). This model partners with Center-based Child Care Centers. This partnership consists of technical assistance to the programs and providers and other resources (i.e. materials, equipment, developmental screenings) provided by NDEHS. The Center provides ongoing childcare for the infant and toddler focusing on the needs of the child. NDEHS conducts monthly home visits with the family in addition to the child care support. Home visits are designed and planned to build on child and family strengths and to promote parent/child interactions.

