

2023 READY BY FIVE FUNDED PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

(Key: * = 2023 renewed contracts, + = 2023 new funding)

-- OUTREACH AND NAVIGATION --

Outreach and Navigation services educate parents about resources available to support healthy child development and early learning and connect them to programs in the community. They engage expectant parents and parents of young children, with a strategic focus on those with the highest needs.

These organizations can direct any family looking for local early childhood resources or programs:

- **Family Futures Outreach & Navigation Connections Program**
- **Health Net of West Michigan**
- **Help Me Grow Kent**

-- HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS --

Healthy Development programs and services ensure expectant parents and those with young children have access to comprehensive, coordinated care that maximizes the child's physical and emotional health and regular screenings to identify developmental delays, disabilities, and emotional concerns. Examples of services include developmental screening tools, healthcare-focused programming, behavioral health services, and programs addressing environmental hazards.

- **Arbor Circle's Keep Early Education Positive (KEEP)** is a program that offers comprehensive support and consultation to child care providers, teachers, and parents when a child from birth through five years of age is facing any kind of social-emotional difficulty in child care or preschool.
- **Arbor Circle's Infant Toddler Developmental Services (ITDS)** is a home-based service that helps parents/care providers build strengths and skills, bond with their children, and create a sense of safety and emotional security in their family. Arbor Circle provides guidance for a variety of behavioral concerns and parental issues, including depression and anxiety.
- * **Bethany Christian Services and the Hands Connected Network** is a unique approach to providing quality child care to refugee children while training program-eligible adults to become licensed child care providers.
- + **Cherry Street Services' Improving Access to Early Childhood Assessments and Treatment Services** will focus on providing outreach and assistance to families with children/patients at Cherry Health's Heart of the City Center, who have been referred for further developmental assessment and treatment.
- + **Early Learning Neighborhood Collaborative's Empowering Parents Impacting Children (EPIC)** supports the specific disability-related needs of children and provides parents education and resource connections, partnering with parents to increase their ability to advocate for and support their children's educational and developmental needs.

- **Easterseals Michigan's Healthy Development** program intervenes with children and families to create more positive outcomes and includes treatment for behaviors such as trauma specific infant mental health, intergenerational trauma-treatment, and child-parent psychotherapy.
- * **Family Futures provides Learning Kits** with age-appropriate learning materials to 1,500 Kent County three- and four-year old children who are participating in its Connections program, as well as other partners' programs.
- * **Family Promise of Grand Rapids** supports families with children that are experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness are supported and connected to community resources using a trauma-informed approach.
- * **The Hispanic Center of Western Michigan** supports expectant mothers and parents with children from birth through five years of age by providing them with opportunities to access resources and programs to enhance the development of their children.
- * **Kent County Health Department leads the Fetal Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) Network** is a collective community effort using an approach that is community-based and action-oriented to ensure Kent County is addressing the social, equity, economic, and health factors that contribute to healthy births in Kent County.
- * **West Michigan Partnership for Children's Parent Engagement Program** equips, engages, and involves parents to prevent re-entry into the foster care system and support timely reunification.

Environmental Home Health

Environmental health hazards in the home can contribute to lead poisoning in young children, which can lead to birth defects, delays, and more. These Ready by Five providers work on the issues related to lead and other environmental hazards that children can be exposed to in Kent County.

- **Healthy Homes Coalition of West Michigan's NIDO Home Screening Project** provides in-home support to address lead hazards and reduce asthma triggers. Services are provided in the home and with a trained Healthy Homes Specialist completing a more comprehensive home assessment for lead, asthma, and accidental injury risk.
- **The Kent County Health Department's Environmental Home Health** screenings to pregnant residents and families with children from birth through five years of age. This service assesses potential health hazards in a home and then educates families on what to do if your family has been exposed as well as ways to limit future exposure.

+ Network Training Lead

Organizations funded under Healthy Development – Network Training Lead will increase knowledge in the Ready by Five network. Training will be for all direct service professionals funded by Ready by Five and their direct supervisors.

- + **Family Promise** will provide Early Childhood Based Trauma-Informed Training
- + **Health Net of West Michigan** will provide two training series - The Care Model Training Series and the Supervisor Learning Cohort

-- PARENTING EDUCATION AND SUPPORT --

Child Safety Initiatives

Services support child safety – specifically safe sleep and automobile safety for children from birth through five years of age who are currently living in Kent County and meet income requirements.

- **Bethany Christian Services' Child Safety Initiative** provides one-on-one parent safety education to the culturally diverse families they serve with a focus on Safe Sleep recommendations and car seat safety.
- **Cherry Street Services provides the Child Safety Passenger Program** that offers parents with young children the resources and education they need to ensure their children have safe, age-appropriate car seats and offers one-on-one, personalized instruction to families on how to properly use car seats.
- **Family Futures' Child Safety Initiative** provides education to parents on current evidence-based practices and protective factors associated with safe sleep environments for infants, aligned to American Academy of Pediatrics guidelines.

Home Visiting Services

Home Visiting Services are when trained providers, such as nurses or parent educators, regularly visit families in the home or a comfortable meeting place to offer a variety of one-on-one education and support. Millage-funded Home Visiting programs include:

- **Cherry Health's Maternal Infant Health Program (MIHP)** is a parent support and coaching program for pregnant mothers and infants. The MIHP team provides education, support, developmental assessment, referrals to community, medical resources, and coordination of prenatal and infant care.
- **D.A. Blodgett – St. John's Early Attachment Services** increases the attachment between newborns, infants, and toddlers with parents and caregivers using the Infant Mental Health model.
- **Easterseals Michigan's Incredible Years Home Coaching** conducts home visiting services to Kent County families that help parents feel more confident and effective and helps children learn problem-solving and strengthen their social-emotional skills.
- **Family Futures' Kent County Healthy Families** home visiting program works to monitor and model parent-child interactions. Families will establish personal goals as a part of the program and will have at least one active goal at a time.
- **Kent ISD's Bright Beginnings Home Visiting** is a Blue-Ribbon Model Affiliate of the Parents as Teachers program which "promotes the early development, learning, and health of young children by supporting and engaging the parents and caregivers."
- **MomsBloom's Hands-on Postpartum Support** provides practical and emotional support for parents of newborns in Kent County, particularly those in underserved communities.
- **Spectrum Health's Baby Scholars** is a child development program in which a certified Parent Coach will come to the home weekly and show how positive parent and child interactions can help a baby's language, social, and brain development.
- **Spectrum Health's Strong Beginnings** has a team of community health workers, nurses, and counselors who visit soon-to-be parents to help them have a healthy pregnancy, provide personal support, share information, help handle the stress that comes from pregnancy and parenting, to enhance the health and wellbeing of African American and Latinx mothers, fathers, and babies.

- **Vibrant Future's Little Scholars Program** is a one-on-one coaching service to parents and relative caregivers with young children delivered in homes.

Translation and Interpretation

To support families enrolled in all Ready by Five funded services, these agencies provide interpretation and translation services through requests from the programs (in-person, telephone, and written). Languages include, but are not limited to, Spanish, Nepali, Kinyarwanda, Serbo-Croatian, Swahili, Burmese, American Sign Language, Vietnamese, and Karen.

- * **Bethany Christian Services**
- * **Hispanic Center of West Michigan**
- * **Liaison Linguistics**

-- EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS --

High-quality early learning experiences nurture a child's cognitive, social, and emotional development. Examples of services include play and learn groups, supports for caregivers, and linkages to early intervention services.

- **Ready for School is the Reach Out and Read West Michigan Affiliate** offering the evidence-based national literacy program giving young children in Kent County a foundation for success by incorporating books into pediatric care and encouraging families to read aloud together.

Play and Learn Communities

Play and Learn Communities are facilitated play groups that guide parents and/or caregivers with young children through group and individual play activities that model learning opportunities and build an understanding of child development. Ready by Five Play and Learn providers include:

- **Comprehensive Therapy Center's Therapeutic Play and Learn Groups** are structured play groups, tailored specifically to be effective for the families of children with developmental disabilities.
- **Grand Rapids Community College's Early Learning Communities Play and Learn Groups** are a collaborative, community-based partnership that strengthens the skills of early childhood caregivers and educators.
- **Kent ISD's Bright Beginnings Playgroups** are hosted throughout Kent County to provide further support to caregivers and age-appropriate activities to nurture the development of children.
- **Vibrant Futures Little Learners** is a playgroup-centered service delivered to caregivers, parents, and children in various child care, schools, and community-based settings.



Supported by the Kent County Ready by Five Millage.