



Supported by the Kent County Ready by Five Millage

## Ready by Five Early Childhood Millage

# Resident Proposal Review Board Funding Recommendation Summary

Proposed for Approval by the First Steps Kent Board of Commissioners

July 27, 2023

The Ready by Five Resident Proposal Review Board (RPRB) met June 22-29, 2023 to review 45 proposals submitted under the following RFP opportunities:

- Outreach and Navigation Services
- Healthy Development Services
- Healthy Development Training
- Parent Education and Support Language Services
- Early Learning Services
- Parent Education and Support Services

The total recommended allocation for October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024 is \$11,006,189.

This amount includes:

- On June 29, 2023, the RPRB recommended allocating \$8,900,511 that will fund a total of 34 services for the upcoming fiscal year.
- In 2022, the RPRB had recommended funding 39 services for a total of \$2,105,678 for services that are currently under contract through December 31, 2023. There is an overlap with contract dates due to the County changing their fiscal year start date to October 1 beginning this year. The contract start dates have been modified accordingly and are noted for each allocation.

The breakdown of funding recommendations FY 2023-2024 are as follows:

*Please note: the allocations for January 1 - December 31, 2023 are provided for comparison purposes.*

## Outreach and Navigation

Ready by Five millage funding has allowed for the creation of an Outreach and Navigation network by developing a multi-agency strategy to reach and engage families in a coordinated way. This network serves as the “right door” for families to find available resources, information, and programs.

Outreach aims to increase the usage of early childhood programs and community resources by engaging future parents and families with young children who are not currently engaged in services or are unaware of services. As families are engaged, programs work to identify the needs of families through formal screening as well as conversation with the individuals served. As needs are identified, navigation will address barriers to accessing services, information, and resources to ensure families are successfully connected to referrals and information.

One agency will be selected to develop enhanced infrastructure that will provide up to date information about the current child care openings available in Kent County ensuring families are accessing available child care spaces. Programming in this area will leverage technology to foster better connections between families and child care providers. Agencies applying under this program type will develop an online “Platform” that will organize and provide access to information related to current child care openings in Kent County.

<b>Outreach and Navigation</b>	<b>2023 Approved Funding (Jan-Dec)</b>	<b>FY 2023-2024 Agency Requests</b>	<b>FY 2023-2024 Recommendations</b>	<b>Contract Funding Period</b>
Outreach and Navigation Technology - Childcare Navigation (Kent ISD) (New Program)		\$ 784,864.00	\$ 486,092.00	October 1, 2023- Sep 30, 2024 (New Allocation)
Outreach and Navigation Services (Health Net)	\$ 825,712.00	\$ 879,389.00	\$ 771,387.00	Jan 1, 2024 - Sep 30, 2024 (New Allocation)
<a href="#">Outreach and Navigation Services (Health Net)</a>			\$ 206,428.00	<a href="#">Oct 1, 2023 - Dec 31, 2023 (Continuing)</a>
Family Futures Outreach and Navigation Connections Expansion (Family Futures)	\$ 870,250.00	\$ 1,079,468.00	\$ 902,442.00	Jan 1, 2024 - Sep 30, 2024 (New Allocation)
<a href="#">Family Futures Outreach and Navigation Connections Expansion (Family Futures)</a>			\$ 217,562.00	<a href="#">Oct 1, 2023 - Dec 31, 2023 (Continuing)</a>
<a href="#">Help Me Grow (Kent ISD)</a>			\$ 102,815.00	<a href="#">Oct 1, 2023 - Dec 31, 2023 (Continuing)</a>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,695,962.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,743,721.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,686,726.00</b>	

## Healthy Development

Healthy Development programming will focus on improving outcomes related to healthy births, child health, and well-being as well as ensuring children are developmentally on track. Programming will demonstrate success in supporting positive health behaviors that drive better outcomes for children from birth through five years, as well as expectant parents.

One agency will be recommended to provide services that focus on analyzing the social, equity, economic, and health factors that contribute to healthy births in Kent County. Ready by Five is requesting proposals to select one (1) organization to lead the implementation and ongoing management of the Fetal Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) Network for Kent County.

<b>Healthy Development</b>	<b>2023 Approved Funding (Jan-Dec)</b>	<b>FY 2023-2024 Agency Requests</b>	<b>FY 2023-2024 Recommendations</b>	<b>Contract Funding Period</b>
<b><u>Fetal Infant Mortality Review Network</u></b>				
Fetal Infant Mortality Review Network Lead ( Kent County Health Department)	\$ 132,835.00	\$ 113,300.00	\$ 108,866.00	Jan 1, 2024 - Sep 30, 2024 (New Allocation)
Fetal Infant Mortality Review Network Lead ( Kent County Health Department)			\$ 33,209.00	Oct 1, 2023 - Dec 31, 2023 (Continuing)
<b><u>Developmental, Social Emotional Screenings &amp; Referral</u></b>				
Family Education Advocates ( Early Learning Neighborhood Collaborative)	\$ 206,453.00	\$ 298,045.00	\$ 259,749.00	Jan 1, 2024 - Sep 30, 2024 (New Allocation)
Family Education Advocates ( Early Learning Neighborhood Collaborative)			\$ 51,613.00	Oct 1, 2023 - Dec 31, 2023 (Continuing)
Health Development (Easterseals)			\$ 39,934.00	Oct 1, 2023 - Dec 31, 2023 (Continuing)
Improving Access to Early Childhood Developmental Assessments & Treatment Services for the Underserved (Cherry Street Services, Inc)	\$ 63,835.00	\$ 48,045.00	\$ 48,045.00	Jan 1, 2024 - Sep 30, 2024 (New Allocation)
Improving Access to Early Childhood Developmental Assessments & Treatment Services for the Underserved (Cherry Street Services, Inc)			\$ 15,959.00	Oct 1, 2023 - Dec 31, 2023 (Continuing)
Infant Toddler Development Services - ITDS (Arbor Circle Corporation)	\$ 183,865.00	\$ 216,689.00	\$ 196,121.00	Jan 1, 2024 - Sep 30, 2024 (New Allocation)
Infant Toddler Development Services - ITDS (Arbor Circle Corporation)			\$ 45,966.00	Oct 1, 2023 - Dec 31, 2023 (Continuing)
Keep Early Education Positive - KEEP (Arbor Circle Corporation)	\$ 591,823.00	\$ 629,851.00	\$ 579,133.00	Jan 1, 2024 - Sep 30, 2024 (New Allocation)
Keep Early Education Positive - KEEP (Arbor Circle Corporation)			\$ 147,956.00	Oct 1, 2023 - Dec 31, 2023 (Continuing)
<b><u>Niche Family Supports</u></b>				
Hands Connected Early Childhood Navigation Services (Bethany Christian Services)	\$ 110,450.00	\$ 92,125.00	\$ 91,063.00	Jan 1, 2024 - Sep 30, 2024 (New Allocation)
Hands Connected Early Childhood Navigation Services (Bethany Christian Services)			\$ 27,613.00	Oct 1, 2023 - Dec 31, 2023 (Continuing)
Healthy Development - Niche Family Supports (Family Promise)	\$ 206,325.00	\$ 467,415.00	\$ 252,536.00	Jan 1, 2024 - Sep 30, 2024 (New Allocation)
Healthy Development - Niche Family Supports (Family Promise)			\$ 51,581.00	Oct 1, 2023 - Dec 31, 2023 (Continuing)
Family Support Services (Hispanic Center of Western Michigan)	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 41,250.00	\$ 40,625.00	Jan 1, 2024 - Sep 30, 2024 (New Allocation)
Family Support Services (Hispanic Center of Western Michigan)			\$ 11,250.00	Oct 1, 2023 - Dec 31, 2023 (Continuing)
Parent Engagement Program (West Michigan Partnership for Children)			\$ 55,250.00	Oct 1, 2023 - Dec 31, 2023 (Continuing)
<b><u>Healthy and Safe Home Environment Programming</u></b>				
Lead Program Expansion (Kent County Health Department)	\$ 582,720.00	\$ 1,189,160.00	\$ 1,081,160.00	October 1, 2023- Sep 30, 2024 (New Allocation)
Healthy Homes Nido Home Screening Project (Healthy Homes Coalition West Michigan)	\$ 240,710.00	\$ 445,592.00	\$ 379,083.00	October 1, 2023- Sep 30, 2024 (New Allocation)
Milestone Payments for Qualifying Healthy Development Programs	\$ 26,383.00	\$ 45,345.00	\$ 45,345.00	Jan 1, 2024 - Sep 30, 2024 (New Allocation)
Milestone Payments for Qualifying Healthy Development Programs			\$ 8,794.00	Oct 1, 2023 - Dec 31, 2023 (Continuing)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 2,390,399.00</b>	<b>\$ 3,586,817.00</b>	<b>\$ 3,570,851.00</b>	

## Healthy Development Training

Funding under this RFP will increase knowledge in the Ready by Five professional network. Training will be for all direct professionals funded by Ready by Five and their direct supervisors. First Steps Kent requests the delivery of training by professionals with expertise in each topic.

<b>Healthy Development - Network Training Lead</b>	<b>2023 Approved Funding (Jan-Dec)</b>	<b>FY 2023-2024 Agency Requests</b>	<b>FY 2023-2024 Recommendations</b>	<b>Contract Funding Period</b>
Healthy Communities Training (Family Futures) (New Program)	\$ -	\$ 23,200.00	\$ 23,200.00	Jan 1, 2023 - Sep 30, 2024
Care Model Training Series (Health Net of West Michigan)	\$ 36,000.00	\$ 32,400.00	\$ 24,400.00	Jan 1, 2023 - Sep 30, 2024
<a href="#">Health Net Care Model Training Series ( Health Net of West Michigan)</a>			\$ 9,000.00	<a href="#">Oct 1, 2023 - Dec 31, 2023 (Continuing)</a>
Supervisor Learning Cohort (Health Net of West Michigan)	\$ 26,000.00	\$ 14,250.00	\$ 14,250.00	Jan 1, 2023 - Sep 30, 2024
<a href="#">Ready by Five Network Supervisor Learning Cohort (Health Net of West Michigan)</a>			\$ 6,500.00	<a href="#">Oct 1, 2023 - Dec 31, 2023 (Continuing)</a>
<a href="#">Early Childhood Based Trauma-Informed Training (Family Promise)</a>			\$ 5,250.00	<a href="#">Oct 1, 2023 - Dec 31, 2023 (Continuing)</a>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 62,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 69,850.00</b>	<b>\$ 82,600.00</b>	

## Parent Education and Support Language Services

Translation and Interpretation Supports offer the opportunity for agencies that specialize and provide interpretation and translation services (in-person, telephone, and written) to apply for Ready by Five millage funding. Services are intended for families enrolled in all Ready by Five funded services. Language needs include, but are not limited to Spanish, Nepali, Kinyarwanda, Serbo-Croatian, Swahili, Burmese, American Sign Language, Vietnamese, and Karen.

<b>Translation and Interpretation Support</b>	<b>2023 Approved Funding (Jan-Dec)</b>	<b>FY 2023-2024 Agency Requests</b>	<b>FY 2023-2024 Recommendations</b>	<b>Contract Funding Period</b>
Bethany Christian Services	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	Jan 1, 2024 - Sep 30, 2024 (New Allocation)
<a href="#">Bethany Christian Services</a>			\$ 3,750.00	<a href="#">Oct 1, 2023 - Dec 31, 2023 (Continuing)</a>
Hispanic Center of West Michigan	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 60,000.00	Jan 1, 2024 - Sep 30, 2024 (New Allocation)
<a href="#">Hispanic Center of West Michigan</a>			\$ 20,000.00	<a href="#">Oct 1, 2023 - Dec 31, 2023 (Continuing)</a>
<a href="#">Liaison Linguistics</a>			\$ 8,750.00	<a href="#">Oct 1, 2023 - Dec 31, 2023 (Continuing)</a>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 95,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 75,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 107,500.00</b>	

## Early Learning

Early childhood research substantiates the rapid development of emergent literacy and language skills that occur in a child’s first three years of life. In combination with key skills in the socio-emotional, physical, and cognitive domains, these skills are the foundation for lifelong learning beginning in kindergarten and continuing into subsequent school years. Programming in this area will ensure all children have access to quality early learning programming. (Note: this category does not fund child care or preschool programming.)

<b>Early Learning</b>	<b>2023 Approved Funding (Jan-Dec)</b>	<b>FY 2023-2024 Agency Requests</b>	<b>FY 2023-2024 Recommendations</b>	<b>Contract Funding Period</b>
<b><u>Early Literacy and Learning Programming</u></b>				
Learning Kits (Family Futures)	\$ 57,537.00	\$ 103,553.00	\$ 47,973.00	Jan 1, 2024 - Sep 30, 2024 (New Allocation)
Reach Out and Read (Ready for School)	\$ 589,825.00	\$ 489,707.00	\$ 317,081.00	Jan 1, 2024 - Sep 30, 2024 (New Allocation)
<a href="#">Reach Out and Read (Ready for School)</a>			\$ 147,456.00	<a href="#">Oct 1, 2023 - Dec 31, 2023 (Continuing)</a>
<b><u>Play and Learn Community Programming</u></b>				
Therapeutic Playgrounds (Comprehensive Therapy Center, Inc)	\$ 17,550.00	\$ 16,725.00	\$ 16,725.00	Jan 1, 2024 - Sep 30, 2024 (New Allocation)
<a href="#">Therapeutic Playgrounds (Comprehensive Therapy Center, Inc)</a>			\$ 4,388.00	<a href="#">Oct 1, 2023 - Dec 31, 2023 (Continuing)</a>
Little Learners (Vibrant Futures)	\$ 162,513.00	\$ 136,376.00	\$ 128,376.00	Jan 1, 2024 - Sep 30, 2024 (New Allocation)
<a href="#">Little Learners (Vibrant Futures)</a>			\$ 40,628.00	<a href="#">Oct 1, 2023 - Dec 31, 2023 (Continuing)</a>
Bright Beginnings Playgroups (Kent ISD)	\$ 101,013.00	\$ 300,836.00	\$ 131,505.00	Jan 1, 2024 - Sep 30, 2024 (New Allocation)
<a href="#">Bright Beginnings Playgroups (Kent ISD)</a>			\$ 25,253.00	<a href="#">Oct 1, 2023 - Dec 31, 2023 (Continuing)</a>
GRCC Early Learning Communities Play and Learn Groups (Grand Rapids Community College)	\$ 506,500.00	\$ 432,451.00	\$ 404,170.00	Jan 1, 2024 - Sep 30, 2024 (New Allocation)
<a href="#">GRCC Early Learning Communities Play and Learn Groups (Grand Rapids Community College)</a>			\$ 126,625.00	<a href="#">Oct 1, 2023 - Dec 31, 2023 (Continuing)</a>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,434,938.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,479,648.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,390,180.00</b>	

## Parent Education and Support

Parent Education and Support programming ensures parents have the knowledge and skills to support their children’s health, development, and learning. Services provide in-home and/or community-based support and education. This RFP will fund programs offering parent education through home visiting as well as ancillary support that addresses the preventable causes of infant and child mortality. As a result of services, expectant parents and families with young children will have access to the information, resources, and social support they need to be more confident and empowered to make informed choices for themselves, their children, and their families.

	2023 Approved Funding (Jan-Dec)	FY 2023-2024 Agency Requests	FY 2023-2024 Recommendations	Contract Funding Period
<b>Parenting Education and Support</b>				
<i>Child Safety Initiatives</i>				
Hands Connected Refugee Parent Education (Bethany Christian Services)	\$ 89,615.00	\$ 166,951.00	\$ 161,300.00	Jan 1, 2024 - Sep 30, 2024 (New Allocation)
Hands Connected Refugee Parent Education (Bethany Christian Services)			\$ 22,404.00	Oct 1, 2023 - Dec 31, 2023 (Continuing)
Child Safety Passenger Program (Cherry Street Services, Inc)	\$ 99,005.00	\$ 89,209.00	\$ 89,209.00	Jan 1, 2024 - Sep 30, 2024 (New Allocation)
Child Safety Passenger Program (Cherry Street Services, Inc)			\$ 24,751.00	Oct 1, 2023 - Dec 31, 2023 (Continuing)
Child Safety Initiative - Safe Sleep Programming (Family Futures)			\$ 41,837.00	Oct 1, 2023 - Dec 31, 2023 (Continuing)
<i>Home Visiting</i>				
Maternal Infant Health Program: Home Visiting for Pregnant Women and Mothers with Infants (MIHP) (Cherry Street Services, Inc)	\$ 293,619.00	\$ 220,744.00	\$ 213,829.00	Jan 1, 2024 - Sep 30, 2024 (New Allocation)
Maternal Infant Health Program: Home Visiting for Pregnant Women and Mothers with Infants (MIHP) (Cherry Street Services, Inc)			\$ 73,405.00	Oct 1, 2023 - Dec 31, 2023 (Continuing)
Early Childhood Attachment (D.A. Blodgett - St Johns)	\$ 111,585.00	\$ 96,131.00	\$ 96,131.00	Jan 1, 2024 - Sep 30, 2024 (New Allocation)
Early Childhood Attachment (D.A. Blodgett - St Johns)			\$ 27,896.00	Oct 1, 2023 - Dec 31, 2023 (Continuing)
Incredible Years (Easterseals)			\$ 34,332.00	Oct 1, 2023 - Dec 31, 2023 (Continuing)
Healthy Families (Family Futures)	\$ 198,512.00	\$ 151,438.00	\$ 126,730.00	Jan 1, 2024 - Sep 30, 2024 (New Allocation)
Healthy Families (Family Futures)			\$ 24,342.00	Oct 1, 2023 - Dec 31, 2023 (Continuing)
Bright Beginnings Home Visiting (Kent ISD)	\$ 274,532.00	\$ 670,893.00	\$ 620,893.00	Jan 1, 2024 - Sep 30, 2024 (New Allocation)
Bright Beginnings Home Visiting (Kent ISD)			\$ 68,633.00	Oct 1, 2023 - Dec 31, 2023 (Continuing)
Postpartum Support (Momsbloom, Inc)	\$ 219,410.00	\$ 255,000.00	\$ 187,580.00	Jan 1, 2024 - Sep 30, 2024 (New Allocation)
Postpartum Support (Momsbloom, Inc)			\$ 54,852.00	Oct 1, 2023 - Dec 31, 2023 (Continuing)
Baby Scholars (Corewell Health)	\$ 129,312.00	\$ 99,662.00	\$ 96,441.00	Jan 1, 2024 - Sep 30, 2024 (New Allocation)
Baby Scholars (Corewell Health)			\$ 32,328.00	Oct 1, 2023 - Dec 31, 2023 (Continuing)
Strong Beginnings (Corewell Health)	\$ 707,939.00	\$ 556,505.00	\$ 537,670.00	Jan 1, 2024 - Sep 30, 2024 (New Allocation)
Strong Beginnings (Corewell Health)			\$ 176,985.00	Oct 1, 2023 - Dec 31, 2023 (Continuing)
Little Scholars (Vibrant Futures)	\$ 143,226.00	\$ 121,406.00	\$ 113,406.00	Jan 1, 2024 - Sep 30, 2024 (New Allocation)
Little Scholars (Vibrant Futures)			\$ 35,806.00	Oct 1, 2023 - Dec 31, 2023 (Continuing)
Milestone Payments for Home Visiting Programs	\$ 33,232.00	\$ 37,995.00	\$ 37,995.00	Jan 1, 2024 - Sep 30, 2024 (New Allocation)
Milestone Payments for Home Visiting Programs			\$ 11,077.00	Oct 1, 2023 - Dec 31, 2023 (Continuing)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 2,299,987.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,465,934.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,909,832.00</b>	

Additional Funding Recommendations

The Ready by Five Evaluation is examining data collected by all programs funded with millage funds and will provide information about the impact of Ready by Five services on health and academic outcomes, including what types of services work, for whom, and under what conditions. The results will provide local early childhood leaders with information about the types of services that need to be retained or expanded in Kent County and evidence of impact on health and academic outcomes that contribute to the cost-effectiveness of early childhood services, as well as the overall community value of the Ready by Five Early Childhood Millage.

<b>Additional</b>	<b>2023 Approved Funding (Jan-Dec)</b>	<b>FY 2023-2024 Agency Requests</b>	<b>FY 2023-2024 Recommendations</b>	<b>Contract Funding Period</b>
Data Services (KCHD)	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 45,000.00	Jan 1, 2023 - Sep 30, 2024
Data Services (KCHD)			\$ 15,000.00	Oct 1, 2023 - Dec 31, 2023 (Continuing)
Evaluation Support (Basis)	\$ 150,000.00		\$ 112,500.00	Jan 1, 2023 - Sep 30, 2024
Evaluation Support (Basis)			\$ 36,500.00	Oct 1, 2023 - Dec 31, 2023 (Continuing)
Evaluation Support (ACE)	\$ 50,000.00		\$ 37,500.00	Jan 1, 2023 - Sep 30, 2024
Evaluation Support (ACE)			\$ 12,000.00	Oct 1, 2023 - Dec 31, 2023 (Continuing)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 260,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 45,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 258,500.00</b>	

Total Allocation

Total 2023-2024 New Recommendations for Allocation (Oct 1, 2023 - Sep 30, 2024)	\$ 8,900,511.00
Total 2023 Previously Allocated (Oct 1, 2023-Dec 1, 2023)	\$ 2,105,678.00
<b>Total FY 2023-2024 Allocation Amount (Oct 1, 2023 - Sep 30, 2024)</b>	<b>\$ 11,006,189.00</b>

Proposals Not Recommended for Funding

During this most recent round of funding, the following ten (10) proposals were not funded.

Agency & Proposal Name	Amount	Reason for Non-Funding
Comprehensive Therapy Center, Inc – Community Developmental Screenings (New Request)	\$940.00	The proposal did not contain sufficient evidence for tracking success and the ability to adhere to Ready by Five data collection standards.
Easter Seals Michigan, Inc – Healthy Development Services (Previously Funded)	\$137,894.19	The proposal was not recommended for funding due to historical performance as well as a deficiency with community partnerships, parent engagement strategy, and referral sources included in the proposal.
West Michigan Partnership for Children – Parent Engagement Program (Previously Funded)	\$291,320.00	Not recommended for refunding due to consistent history of low engagement and retention. Cost per individual was higher compared to other proposals.
Family Promise of Grand Rapids – Health Development Training – Trauma Informed (Previously Funded)	\$14,100.00	A more robust proposal to provide training on this specific topic that was submitted by another agency was selected.
Health Net of West Michigan – Care Model Virtual Learning Collaborative (New Request)	\$10,500.00	This was a new request that was not recommended due to limited funding available.
Health Net of West Michigan – Supervisor Virtual Learning Collaborative (New Request)	\$6,400.00	This was a new request that was not recommended due to limited funding available.
Family Futures – Child Safety Initiatives (Previously Funded)	\$249,368.00	Compared to agencies and proposals submitted for this RFP this request was not recommended due to concerns of the overall program structure and staffing.
Easter Seals – Parent Education and Support Services (Previously Funded)	\$104,678.46	The proposal was not recommended for funding due to historical performance as well as a deficiency with community partnerships, parent engagement strategy, and referral sources included in the proposal.
Heart of West Michigan United Way – Help Me Grow (Previously Funded at Kent ISD – New Request under Heart of West Michigan United Way)	\$334,262.50	The RPRB determined the costs to transition the program to HWMUW should not be funded with millage funding. The proposal did not include complete details on how the proposed number to be served would be achieved.
Wimage – Wimee’s Words LIVE! (New Request)	\$423,494.00	The proposed program did not follow an evidence informed model as specified by the RFP.