



Ready by Five Early Childhood Millage Resident Proposal Review Board Funding Allocation Summary

Proposed for Approval to the First Steps Kent Board of Commissioners

September 30, 2021

The Ready by Five Resident Proposal Review Board (RPRB) met September 20-23, 2022, to review 23 proposals submitted under the following RFP opportunities:

- Healthy Development - Healthy Expectant and New Parents
- Healthy Development - Developmental and Social Emotional Screenings and Connection
- Healthy Development - Healthy and Safe Home Environment
- Healthy Development - Niche Parenting Support
- Healthy Development - Network Training Lead
- Parent Education and Support - Translation and Interpretation provides services for families engaged in all Ready by Five funded programs.
- Technology request for all programs funded by Ready by Five to purchase computers costing above \$1,000 for staff working in Ready by Five funded programs.

On September 23, 2022, the RPRB recommended allocating \$1.6M that will fund 19 additional proposals. This is in addition to previous RPRB recommendations to continue funding 29 programs currently under contract through December 31, 2023.

Accompanying these recommendations are expenses related to the data warehouse and third-party evaluation services underway to measure the effectiveness and accountability of the programs funded by the Ready by Five Millage. The total allocation for January 1- December 31, 2023, is \$9,838,370.00

Recommendations represent a 12-month calendar year. As Kent County transitions to an October 1 fiscal year schedule, funds for this 12-month period will be contractually committed for the first nine months (January 1 – September 30). Funds committed that fall into the next fiscal year (after October 1) will be contingent on both contract performance and approval by the Kent County Board of Commissioners and will include the remaining three months (October 1 – December 31) of the calendar year. All contracts will transition to one contracting timeline to align with the October 1 fiscal year beginning in 2024.

All expenses included below were reviewed by the Resident Proposal Review Board in September 2022. The breakdown of funding recommendations FY 2023 are as follows (Please note: the allocations FY 2022 are provided for comparison purposes):

Service Category 1: Outreach and Navigation

Within the provider network, partners funded as Outreach and Navigation providers are working towards increasing multiple entry points for families with young children and working with families to identify need and accessing services and resource to address needs.

Service Type	Agency	Program	2022 Approved Amount for Jan 1- Dec 31	2023 Allocated Funding for Jan 1 - Dec 31	Jan 1-Sep 30 2023 Allocation	Oct 1-Dec31 2023 Allocation
Outreach and Navigation						
	Health Net of West Michigan	Continuation of Early Childhood Outreach Navigation at Clinical Delivery Sites	\$ 825,712.00	\$ 825,713.00	\$ 619,284.75	\$ 206,428.25
	Kent ISD	Help Me Grow	\$ 415,865.00	\$ 411,259.00	\$ 308,444.25	\$ 102,814.75
	Family Futures	Outreach and Navigation Connections Program	\$ 1,078,431.00	\$ 870,250.00	\$ 652,688.00	\$ 217,562.00
	<i>Subtotal</i>		\$ 2,320,008.00	\$ 2,107,222.00	\$ 1,580,417.00	\$ 526,805.00

Service Category 2: Healthy Development

Healthy Development Programming follows evidence-based or evidence-informed practices that demonstrate success in supporting positive health behaviors and that drive better health outcomes for children from birth through five years, as well as expectant parents. Programming in this area will specifically focus on improving outcomes related to healthy births, child health, well-being, and ensuring children are developmentally on track. Programs will work in tandem or complement home visiting programming. (New recommendations have been noted in blue).

Service Type	Agency	Program	2022 Approved Amount for Jan 1- Dec 31	2023 Allocated Funding for Jan 1 - Dec 31	Jan 1-Sep 30 2023 Allocation	Oct 1-Dec31 2023 Allocation
Healthy Development						
	KCHD	Lead Program Expansion	\$ 547,030.00	\$ 582,720.00	\$ 437,040.00	\$ 145,680.00
	Arbor Circle	Infant Toddler Developmental Services	\$ 177,871.00	\$ 183,865.00	\$ 137,898.75	\$ 45,966.25
	Arbor Circle	Keep Early Education Positive	\$ 470,835.00	\$ 591,823.00	\$ 443,867.25	\$ 147,955.75
	Healthy Homes	NIDO Home Screening Project	\$ 240,710.00	\$ 240,710.00	\$ 180,532.50	\$ 60,177.50
	Easterseals	Health Development	\$ 150,130.00	\$ 159,735.00	\$ 119,801.25	\$ 39,933.75
	Family Promise	Families with Children at Risk of Experiencing Homelessness	\$ 234,103.00	\$ 206,325.00	\$ 154,743.75	\$ 51,581.25
	Health Net of West Michigan	Fostering Connections	\$ 128,205.00		\$ -	\$ -
	Healthy Development Contract Performance Payments		\$ 36,167.00	\$ 35,177.00	\$ 26,382.75	\$ 8,794.25
	Bethany Christian Services	Hands Connected Early Childhood Navigation Services	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 110,450.00	\$ 82,837.50	\$ 27,612.50
	Cherry Street Services	Improving Access to Early Childhood assessments and treatment services.		\$ 63,835.00	\$ 47,876.25	\$ 15,958.75
	Early Learning Neighborhood Collaborative	Empowering Parents Impacting Children (EPIC)		\$ 206,453.00	\$ 154,839.75	\$ 51,613.25
	Family Futures	Learning Kits	\$ 37,300.00	\$ 57,537.00	\$ 57,537.00	
	Hispanic Center of Western Michigan	Family Support Services	\$ 34,536.00	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 33,750.00	\$ 11,250.00
	West Michigan Partnership Children	Parent Engagement Program	\$ 305,976.00	\$ 221,000.00	\$ 165,750.00	\$ 55,250.00
	Family Promise West Michigan	Early Childhood Based Trauma-Informed Training		\$ 21,000.00	\$ 15,750.00	\$ 5,250.00
	Health Net of West Michigan	Health Net Care Model Training Series		\$ 36,000.00	\$ 27,000.00	\$ 9,000.00
	Health Net of West Michigan	Ready by Five Network Supervisor Learning Cohort		\$ 26,000.00	\$ 19,500.00	\$ 6,500.00
	Kent County Health Department	Fetal and Infant Mortality Review Coordination Renewal	\$ 138,962.00	\$ 132,835.00	\$ 99,626.25	\$ 33,208.75
	<i>Subtotal</i>		\$ 2,601,825.00	\$ 2,920,465.00	\$ 2,204,733.00	\$ 715,732.00

Service Category 3: Parent Education and Support

This area focuses on parental support including parent education through home visiting, as well as ancillary support addressing the preventable causes of infant mortality. It also includes translation and interpretation services to ensure all parents have access to services and resources. As a result of services, expectant parents and parents 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. (New recommendations have been noted in blue).

Service Type	Agency	Program	2022 Approved Amount for Jan 1- Dec 31	2023 Allocated Funding for Jan 1 - Dec 31	Jan 1-Sep 30 2023 Allocation	Oct 1-Dec31 2023 Allocation
Parent Education and Support						
	Bethany Christian Services	Child Safety Initiative - Hands Connected Refugee Parent Education	\$ 98,880.00	\$ 89,615.00	\$ 67,211.25	\$ 22,403.75
	Cherry Street Services	Child Safety Initiative - Child Safety Passenger Program	\$ 99,018.00	\$ 99,005.00	\$ 74,253.75	\$ 24,751.25
	Family Futures	Child Safety Initiative - Safe Sleep Programming	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 33,750.00	\$ 11,250.00
	Cherry Street Services	Home Visiting - For Pregnant Women and Mothers with Infants (MIHP)	\$ 288,591.00	\$ 293,619.00	\$ 220,214.25	\$ 73,404.75
	D.A. Blodgett - St Johns	Home Visiting - Early Childhood Attachment	\$ 103,164.00	\$ 111,585.00	\$ 83,688.75	\$ 27,896.25
	Easterseals	Home Visiting - Incredible Years	\$ 135,349.00	\$ 137,328.00	\$ 102,996.00	\$ 34,332.00
	Family Futures	Home Visiting - Healthy Families	\$ 195,520.00	\$ 198,512.00	\$ 148,884.00	\$ 49,628.00
	Kent ISD	Home Visiting - Bright Beginnings	\$ 263,180.00	\$ 274,532.00	\$ 205,899.00	\$ 68,633.00
	Momsbloom Inc	Home Visiting - Postpartum Support	\$ 144,110.00	\$ 219,410.00	\$ 164,557.50	\$ 54,852.50
	Spectrum Health	Home Visiting - Baby Scholars	\$ 126,702.00	\$ 129,312.00	\$ 96,984.00	\$ 32,328.00
	Spectrum Health	Home Visiting - Strong Beginnings	\$ 692,376.00	\$ 707,939.00	\$ 530,954.25	\$ 176,984.75
	Vibrant Futures	Home Visiting - Little Scholars	\$ 143,226.00	\$ 143,226.00	\$ 107,419.50	\$ 35,806.50
	Home Visiting Contract Performance Payments		\$ 41,844.00	\$ 44,309.00	\$ 33,231.75	\$ 11,077.25
	Bethany Christian Services	Translation and Interpretation Services	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 11,250.00	\$ 3,750.00
	Hispanic Center of Western Michigan	Translation and Interpretation Services	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
	Liaison Linguistics	Translation and Interpretation Services	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 26,250.00	\$ 8,750.00
	<i>Subtotal</i>		\$ 2,481,960.00	\$ 2,623,392.00	\$ 1,967,544.00	\$ 655,848.00

Service Category 4: 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. Programs will be responsive to the varying circumstances and diverse families and children residing in Kent County.

Service Type	Agency	Program	2022 Approved Amount for Jan 1- Dec 31	2023 Allocated Funding for Jan 1 - Dec 31	Jan 1-Sep 30 2023 Allocation	Oct 1-Dec31 2023 Allocation
Early Learning						
	Ready for School	Reach Out and Read	\$ 496,256.00	\$ 589,825.00	\$ 442,369.00	\$ 147,456.00
	Early Learning Neighborhood Collaborative	Play to Learn	\$ 241,263.00			
	Comprehensive Therapy Center	Therapeutic Playgroups	\$ 17,550.00	\$ 17,550.00	\$ 13,162.50	\$ 4,387.50
	Vibrant Futures	Little Learners	\$ 159,994.00	\$ 162,513.00	\$ 121,884.75	\$ 40,628.25
	Kent ISD	Bright Beginnings Playgroups	\$ 97,591.00	\$ 101,013.00	\$ 75,759.75	\$ 25,253.25
	GRCC	Early Learning Communities Play and Learn Groups	\$ 502,959.00	\$ 506,500.00	\$ 379,875.00	\$ 126,625.00
	<i>Subtotal</i>		\$ 1,515,613.00	\$ 1,377,401.00	\$ 1,033,051.00	\$ 344,350.00

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.

Additional							
	Family Futures	Technology Equipment Request	\$	31,850.00		\$	31,850.00 \$ -
	Family Promise	Technology Equipment Request for Outreach and Navigation Services	\$	11,349.00		\$	11,349.00 \$ -
	Health Net West Michigan	Technology Equipment Request for Outreach & Navigation Supports	\$	31,808.00		\$	31,808.00 \$ -
	Kent ISD	Technology Equipment Request for Kent ISD Programs	\$	5,200.00		\$	5,200.00 \$ -
	Momsbloom Inc	Technology Equipment Request for Postpartum Support	\$	2,660.00		\$	2,660.00 \$ -
	Vibrant Futures	Technology Equipment Request	\$	2,145.00		\$	2,145.00 \$ -
	TBD	Future EC System State Dollars - Parent Empowerment Initiatives	\$	464,878.00		\$	464,878.00 \$ -
	KCHD	Data Services	\$	60,000.00	\$	60,000.00	\$ 45,000.00 \$ 15,000.00
	Advancing Communities for Equity	Evaluation Support	\$	47,240.00	\$	50,000.00	\$ 37,500.00 \$ 12,500.00
	Basis Policy Research	Evaluation Support	\$	146,000.00	\$	150,000.00	\$ 112,501.00 \$ 37,499.00
	<i>Subtotal</i>		\$	253,240.00	\$	809,890.00	\$ 744,891.00 \$ 64,999.00

In September 2022, the RPRB recommended the allocation of resources that will be more readily available to agencies to apply for. These funds will further agency responsiveness to immediate need as well as support initiatives that specifically ensure young children and their family’s voice are prioritized in Kent County in the coming year.

Funding was also allocated for programs already funded by Ready by Five to purchase computers costing above \$1,000 for staff working in Ready by Five funded programs. Since there are additional tracking requirements for technology equipment purchased with Ready by Five funding, technology above \$1,000 is not an allowable cost in the regular proposal request process.

Technology request recommendations by the RPRB have been noted in blue.

Total FY 2023 (Jan 1- Dec 31) Allocation: \$9,838,370

January 1-September 30, 2023 Allocation: \$7,530,636

October 1, - December 31, 2023 Allocation: \$2,307,734

Proposals Not Recommended for Funding

During this most recent round of funding, the following four (4) proposals were not funded.

RFP Service Category	Agency Name, Proposal	Request	Reason for Non-Funding
Healthy Development Programming	Family Futures Connections Continuation	\$133,744	Duplicative of Connections programming currently funded FY 2023.
Healthy Development Programming	Family Futures Targeted Outreach	\$154,927	Proposal was more outreach focused and not aligned with Healthy Development specifications outlined in RFP.
Healthy Development – Training Network Lead	Family Futures, Ready by Five Training and Education	\$175,700	Training curriculum and outcomes are not fully developed, and cost is significantly higher than other proposals.
Healthy Development – Training Network Lead	Vibrant Futures, Network Training Leader	\$54,126	Most training topics included in the series may be redundant or not applicable to all types of staff Ready by Five funds currently.