

Ready by Five Early Childhood Millage Summary

On November 6, 2018, Kent County voters approved the Ready by Five Early Childhood Millage for 0.25 mills over a six-year period. The purpose of this millage is to support families with children up to age five in Kent County to accomplish the following:

- Help expectant parents and parents of young children navigate health care and other community resources.
- Provide developmental screenings and individualized support to children with identified delays, disabilities, or emotional problems.
- Provide in-home and/or community-based support to families to improve their children's health and social-emotional development as well as the bonds between parents and children.
- Provide early learning experiences to improve children's emotional and intellectual skills, as well as impart knowledge and skills to parents and other adult caregivers.

A portion of the funding will be used to assure the effectiveness and accountability of early childhood programs, including data collection, evaluation, and quality improvement.

What will be funded?

First Steps Kent will use the following defined categories to fund services:

Navigation and Outreach. The purpose of services in this category is to inform parents and other caregivers of available resources to support the healthy development and early learning of their young children, to provide access to the service(s) of their choice that are appropriate for their level of need. Further, these services work to reach out and engage expectant parents and parents of young children, with a strategic focus on those with the highest need.

Healthy Development Programs. Services in this area offer children accessible, comprehensive, and coordinated care that maximizes their physical and emotional health. This includes regular screenings to identify developmental delays, disabilities, and emotional problems. Examples of these services include administration of developmental assessments, health care-focused programming, behavioral health services, and programs addressing environmental hazards.

Early Learning Programs. Early learning programs offer children high quality early learning experiences that nurture their cognitive, social, and emotional development. Examples of these services include play and learn groups, supports for caregivers, and linkages to early intervention services.

Parenting Education Programs. These programs support parents and caregivers in obtaining the knowledge and skills to support their child's health, development, and learning. Services provide in-home and/or community-based support and education. Examples of services include home visitation and parenting supporting and coaching programs.

Timeline (Subject to Change)

- ✓ April 26, 2019. Registration opens for Navigation and Outreach Preconference
- ✓ May 21, 2019. RFP is posted on First Steps Kent website
- ✓ May 21, 2019. 2-4PM. Preconference Workshop at Heart of West Michigan United Way
- ✓ June 3, 2019 - 5PM. Outreach and Navigation RFP Question Period Ends
- ✓ June 25, 2019 - 9AM-4PM. Ready by Five Resident Proposal Review Board Orientation
- ✓ July 2, 2019 - 1:00 PM. Outreach and Navigation RFP Proposals Due
- ✓ July 16-17, 2019. Ready by Five Resident Proposal Review Board Allocation Meetings
- ✓ July 25, 2019. FSK Commissioner Final Approval of Outreach and Navigation Allocations
- ✓ August 2, 2019. Outreach and Navigation Awards Announced
- September 12, 2019. Kent County Board of Commissioner Approval for Outreach and Navigation Allocations
- September 9, 2019. Ready by Five Navigation and Outreach Improvement Consortium Meets
- October 1, 2019. Registration opens for All Other Services Preconference
- October 3, 2019. New Ready by Five Early Childhood Millage Awardee Orientation
- October 4, 2019. Outreach and Navigation Contracts Begin
- October 15- 16, 2019. All Other Services Preconference/RFP is posted on First Steps Kent website
- November 19, 2019. All Other Services RFP Proposals Deadline
- December 9-13, 2019. Ready by Five Resident Proposal Review Board Allocation Meetings
- December 31, 2019. All Other Services RPRB & FSK approved amounts submitted.
- By January 31, 2020. Kent County Board of Commissioner Approval for All Other Services Allocations
- February 28, 2020. All Other Services Contracts Begin