

Early Childhood Services

Bright Beginnings/Promising Futures



FAQ

What is ECS?

Early Childhood Services is a comprehensive integrated system of services designed to give all young children (prenatal through age eight) from families of low income in Douglas and Sarpy Counties access to what they need in the early years to set them up for success in school and in life.

What are the goals of ECS?

A task force made up of over one hundred community volunteers met for nearly two years to develop goals and recommendations based on experience, research, and science that would have the greatest impact on outcomes for early childhood care and education. The five overarching goals are:

- Enable parents to be their child's first effective teacher through home visitation services in the first 12 months.
- Promote every child's healthy growth and development through comprehensive health care.
- Provide effective early learning through high quality early care and education programs.
- Give children at risk the opportunity to participate in high quality early childhood programs through scholarships.
- Enhance opportunities for children through strong partnerships between schools and families and between schools and community based early childhood programs.

How are children & families benefiting from ECS?

Children and families benefit through services provided in the ECS Educational Network of Excellence and the Pregnant and Parenting Teen Support Services.

How is ECS benefiting our community?

Services provided through ECS are evidence-based and research driven. ECS works to utilize existing community resources in new and collaborative ways to best serve children and families. The impact of ECS is being evaluated through Munroe-Meyer Institute-University of Nebraska Medical Center.

What is the ECS Educational Network of Excellence?

The Educational Network of Excellence is a network of community resources and support for early care and education providers in Douglas and Sarpy Counties.

Who can be a part of the ECS Educational Network of Excellence?

The Educational Network of Excellence is open to any provider of child care and education services in Douglas and Sarpy Counties who seeks to continually learn and enhance the quality of care and education children receive in the early years.

I have heard you are specifically targeting support to child care programs that accept Title XX. What is Title XX?

Title XX is a federal block grant and another name for child care assistance or the child care subsidy. Title XX offers support for families who are working or attending school. Nebraska families who qualify for Title XX are at or below 120% of the Federal Poverty Level (\$26,460 for a family of 4).

How do I become a part of the ECS Educational Network of Excellence?

For more information, contact Penny Gildea at (402) 559-1079 or p.gildea@buildingbrightfutures.net

How does ECS connect to schools?

The Educational Network of Excellence strives to promote learning from prenatal through age eight so children enter school ready to learn. Health and Family Support Services work collaboratively with high schools and middle schools in Douglas and Sarpy Counties.

What is ECS Pregnant & Parenting Teen Support Services?

BBF-ECS Pregnant & Parenting Teen Support Services is a comprehensive, integrated system of early health, academic and family services to support pregnant and parenting teens and their children. The Pregnant and Parenting Teen Program will provide an array of services to support young men and women who have not graduated from high school and who are currently expecting a child or are parenting a child prenatal through age eight. Services include, but are not limited to: pregnancy testing, pregnancy counseling and support, parenting classes, programs for dads, child birth education, play groups, tutoring, study groups, incentive programs and more.

Who is eligible for referral to Pregnant and Parenting Teen Support Services?

Eligible clients are pregnant or parenting teens of low-income in Douglas and Sarpy counties who have not yet graduated from high school.

How does the intake work in the Pregnant and Parenting Teen Support Services?

ECS is the single point of entry for the Pregnant and Parenting Teen Support Services. When a client is referred to ECS, an intake is completed to gather demographic info as well as information related to their social and educational situation. The needs of the client are then assessed and referred to one of 4 collaborating agencies providing services to pregnant and parenting teens. The 4 collaborating agencies are Child Saving Institute, Lutheran Family Services, Nebraska Children's Home Society and Visiting Nurse Association.

How does ECS "track" the referred pregnant teen to ensure they are being adequately serviced through existing agencies?

The client's information will be entered into a central database for tracking purposes. The client will be case managed by the collaborating agency providing direct service. The BBF Health and Family Support Manager will also provide case management through regular follow-up with the agency providing the service, the client and regular case record reviews.

How can I learn more about who qualifies or how I can make a referral to help get the word out on ECS Pregnant and Parenting Teen Support Services?

For more information, contact Elaine Adams at (402) 559-1077 or e.adams@buildingbrightfutures.net