

Family Service Agency wins grant

Family Service Agency of San Mateo County has been awarded a \$1.9 million Early Head Start stimulus grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families' Office of Head Start.

The grant took effect on Monday. The San Mateo-based nonprofit will create an Early Head Start Program under the management of its existing Child Development and Education Program and will enhance the overall quality of its child development services to at-risk children and their families, while also providing them with critical health and social services, according to a press release issued last week.

Family Service's increased program reach will also extend outside the walls of its child development centers in benefiting low-income pregnant women, homeless children and families, teenage mothers, and families impacted by domestic violence in San Mateo County.

Coinciding with the news of the stimulus grant, Family Service is announcing the opening of its First Step Child Development Center in San Mateo, a center that cares for the children of homeless families and which will be among the centers benefiting from the new Early Head Start stimulus grant.

Family Service's stimulus grant and new First Step Child Development Center collectively offer excellent news for some of San Mateo County's most vulnerable people, as well as for the community as a whole.

The Family Service Agency offers a variety of programs for the entire family. There are literacy programs, infant-toddler centers and child development centers across the county. The agency also offers senior services and family counseling.

— from staff reports