

# READY BY FIVE

Early Childhood Millage  
Provider Network



## Ready by Five Early Childhood Millage Highlights

May 2019 -  
First Steps Kent  
officially named the  
administrator of the  
millage funds



September 2019 -  
Kent County Board of  
Commissioners  
approves first round of  
funding for \$2.4 million



January 2020 -  
Kent County Board of  
Commissioners approves  
second round of  
funding for \$7.6 million



June 2020 -  
Data sharing agreements  
between First Steps Kent,  
Kent County Health  
Department, and service  
partners went into effect



December 2020 -  
Kent County Board of  
Commissioners  
approves \$2.6 million to  
12 additional programs



November 2018 -  
Kent County  
voters approved the  
Ready by Five Early  
Childhood Millage  
for 0.25 mils for six  
years



June 2019 -  
Resident Proposal  
Review Board  
established



Ready by Five  
funded services  
begin



May 2020 -  
First Steps Kent and  
Kent County work  
with providers to  
reach families during  
COVID-19



August 2020 -  
Evaluation assessment  
team established

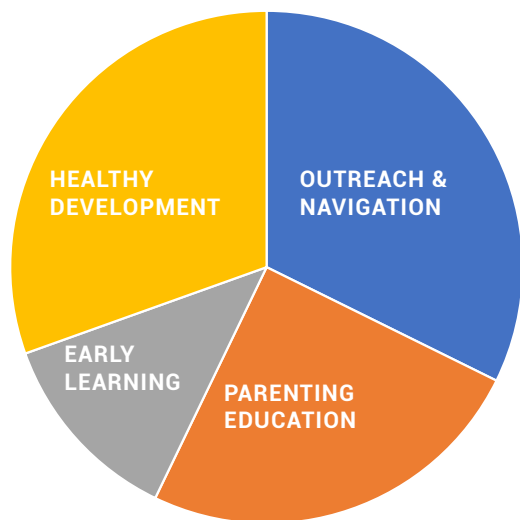


January 2021 -  
Contracts begin for  
additional navigation  
services, translation  
services, and healthy  
development  
programs



# The Ready by Five Early Childhood Millage Provider Network

As of April 2021, **\$13 Million** has been awarded to **21 organizations** across **36 programs**.



**OUTREACH AND NAVIGATION** services connect expectant parents and parents of young children to early childhood information and programs. Outreach and Navigation service providers have been awarded \$4.1 million.

*These Ready by Five providers work as a network to ensure families receive the services they need:*

- Family Futures
- Family Promise of Grand Rapids
- Hands Connected Network
- Help Me Grow Kent (Kent ISD and Great Start Collaborative)
- Health Net of West Michigan
- Hispanic Center of Western Michigan
- West Michigan Partnership for Children

**PARENTING EDUCATION PROGRAMS** ensure parents have the knowledge and skills to support their children's health, development, and learning. Services provided include in-home and/or community-based support and education. Parenting Education providers have been awarded \$3.2 million.

*Ready by Five Home Visiting providers include:*

- D.A. Blodgett - St. John's
- Easterseals Michigan
- Early Learning Neighborhood Collaborative
- Family Futures
- Kent ISD (Bright Beginnings)
- MomsBloom
- Spectrum Health System (Baby Scholars and Strong Beginnings)
- Vibrant Futures

*These groups provide Translation and Interpretation Services to fellow Ready by Five agencies to allow a broader reach:*

- Bethany Christian Services
- Hispanic Center of Western Michigan
- Liaison Linguistics



Supported by the Kent County Ready by Five Millage.

**HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS** ensure expectant parents and those with young children have access to comprehensive, coordinated care that maximizes the child's physical and emotional health. Healthy Development providers have been awarded \$3.9 million.

*Ready by Five Healthy Development providers include:*

- Arbor Circle
- Cherry Health
- Early Learning Neighborhood Collaborative
- Family Futures
- Family Promise of Grand Rapids
- Kent County Health Department (Fetal Infant Mortality Review)
- Ready for School

*Programs that address environmental concerns include lead awareness and screenings. Ready by Five Healthy and Safe Home providers include:*

- Cherry Health
- Healthy Homes Coalition of West Michigan
- Kent County Health Department

**EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS** nurture a child's cognitive, social, and emotional development. Examples of services include play and learn groups, supports for caregivers, and linkages to early intervention services. Early Learning providers have been awarded \$1.6 million.

*Ready by Five Early Learning providers include:*

- Cherry Health
- Comprehensive Therapy Center
- Early Learning Neighborhood Collaborative
- Grand Rapids Community College
- Vibrant Futures

Learn about the Ready by Five Provider Network and what each organization can offer families in Kent County at [www.firststepskent.org/providers](http://www.firststepskent.org/providers)