



Next Door Foundation Awarded Stimulus Grant To Help 137 Milwaukee Families

Funds will expand early childhood care and education programs and support for low income families with infants and toddlers

MILWAUKEE – The [Next Door Foundation](#) today announced that it has been designated to receive funding to provide services to close to double the number of families currently served in Early Head Start Program. Next Door Foundation will use the funding, awarded through the [U.S. Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009](#), for new classrooms and home based services for 137 children and families in Milwaukee. Carol Keintz, Executive Director of the Next Door Foundation, a non-profit that serves more than 700 Milwaukee central city children, youth, and their parents, said the new program will provide services to child welfare families, support for underserved immigrant and refugee populations, and assist young mothers living in poverty with prenatal care. Next Door is the first organization in Milwaukee County to receive an Early Head Start grant from the stimulus program.

“This grant will help us expand our already-successful efforts to reach out to other neighborhoods and non-profit groups with the similar goals of supporting children and families living in poverty in central city Milwaukee.” said Keintz. Next Door Foundation will partner with [Jo’s Daycare Academy](#) to serve 16 infants and toddlers at their North Ave. location.

Early Head Start is aimed at low-income families with infants and toddlers and pregnant women. The program will hire skilled staff to partner with families promoting healthy prenatal care, parent education to enhance the physical, emotional and mental health of their children and provide resources to develop healthy school and nutritional habits.. Children with disabilities will be enrolled and will receive special education services through the Next Door Foundation’s Birth to Three service model.

. The [Educare Center](#) of Milwaukee, a national model for early childhood education is located at the Next Door Foundation and will provide the leadership for this expansion through their exemplary Early Head Start program. Carol Howard, the Educare and Early Head Start Director said,

“All of these programs operate under stringent national standards, and demonstrate when quality early care is coupled with research based teaching practices, the results are happy successful children and parents committed to advocating for their continued success in school.

“Our home-based services help build and support the bond between parent and child and give families the support and encouragement they need during some of the most crucial stages in their children’s development,” said Howard..

Begun in 1969, Next Door is supported by volunteers from the greater Milwaukee community and carries out its mission through a combination of public and private funding, volunteers, collaborators and a highly trained and dedicated staff. Next Door Foundation provides Head Start programming for at risk three year olds, and has a very successful K4 and K5 charter school. In addition, services for after school children, high school degree programs, Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin’s pediatric clinic, and “Books for Kids,” a library providing family literacy and books to community families - are all services located on the campus and are easily accessed by enrolled families. This year Next Door Foundation celebrated its 40th anniversary of service to Milwaukee’s children and families.