



MHSA Annual Plan Update FY18/19 Amendment – Prevention and Early Intervention: School Readiness/Connect the Tots

School Readiness/Connect the Tots Programs	FY 17/18	FY 18/19	FY 19/20
Estimated number to be served in	1,900	4,398	4,398
Annual Budgeted Funds in	\$1,800,000	\$2,800,000	\$2,800,000
Estimated Annual Cost Per Person in	\$1,091	\$915	\$915

At the April 30, 2018 Steering Committee Meeting, a second proposal was presented for the expansion of the **School Readiness/ Connect the Tots Programs** by an annual amount of \$600,000. This program was identified for expansion based on identified need using mapped **Early Development Index (EDI)** data and existing servicesⁱ. The EDI captures data on Kindergartners' physical health, language and cognitive development, communication skills, emotional maturity and social competence, and the data is analyzed at a group level indicating the percent of children ready for Kindergarten within a geographic region. This data was mapped for Orange County using 2016 census tract data showing areas with high unmet needs. The highest need areas indicate that only 38.9% or less of the children in a region were ready for Kindergarten.

The proposed service expansion including screening/assessment, case management and parent education for families with children from birth to age 8, would serve an estimated 600 additional children, increasing the program's reach and combined annual budget to \$2,800,000. The EDI data indicates many areas with high social-emotional vulnerability ranging from 12.8 % to 28.6% for children from birth to 8 years of age putting them at risk of school failure. Existing services data when mapped on to the EDI data by census tract, indicates many areas of unmet need. This service expansion was brought to the MHSA steering committee as an opportunity to expand existing PEI programs with relatively quick implementation to address the present community need.

The **School Readiness/ Connect the Tots Program** was brought to the MHSA steering committee as an opportunity to expand existing PEI programs with relatively quick implementation to address the present community need. The Steering Committee approved the proposal on April 30, 2018.

ⁱ EDI maps will be available upon request.