

Family and Community Partnerships for Ethiopian Children's Development

Tserha Aryam Kidist Selassie (TAKS) CSF Project

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Introduction	Intergenerational Program at TAKS	Key Challenges & Successes
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Tserha Aryam Kidist Selassie (TAKS) is a nonprofit faith-based organization that has been a central part of the Ethiopian community in Minnesota since 2014. TAKS's mission is to promote health and wellness of the community we serve through holistic growth of individuals' and families' spiritual, physical and mental dimensions.

Program Description

TAKS is one of 23 grantees of the Minnesota Department of Health's Community Solutions Fund (CSF) grant program, which was created by the Minnesota Legislature in 2019 to reduce racial disparities in the health and development of children from prenatal to grade 3.

TAKS's CSF program is designed to establish early childhood development and school readiness.

Program Activities include:

- Family home visits
- Parent and community health education
- Individual health screening/counseling
- Advocacy for culturally relevant developmental screening tools
- Intergenerational program

TAKS's intergenerational model is about: Working across generations; Cultivating relationships among elders, other adults, and children; Acknowledging and encouraging their contributions and what they can offer to each other; and, Holding events that bring together generations and actively involving them in the planning and implementation of these events.



Using a **whole family-centered** approach to health care services involves partnering with the family (included extended family) in all aspects of a family member's care. Honoring their decisions and choices also involves respect to shared beliefs and values.

Benefits of using an intergenerational approach: Older generations can offer their

experience, wisdom, knowledge, and skills developed from their many years, while the younger generation can offer their energy, enthusiasm, and a wider world views.

Program evaluation findings show the effectiveness of this approach. For example, in a survey of 25 program participants, 100% reported that they have seen an improvement in parent-child interaction, safety of their home environment, staying up-to-date on childhood immunizations, and understanding of child developmental milestones.

We held the following four events :

- 1st - Program launch participants : 41
- 2nd - Western vs. Ethiopian Christmas : 31
- 3rd - Agape lunch program : 92
- 4th - Traditional coffee making : 125



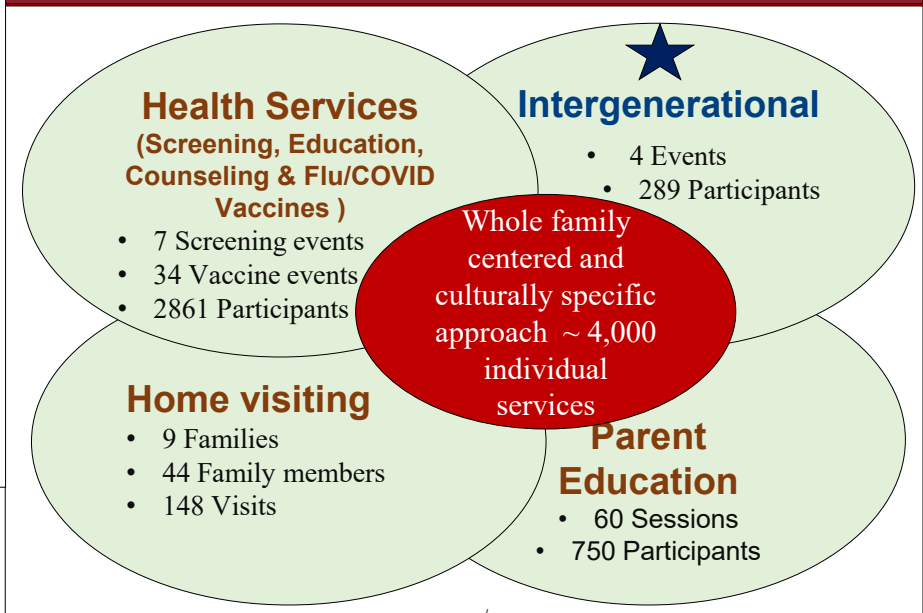
Challenges:

- COVID-19 disrupted regular programming
- Absence of parent education curriculum in Amharic
- Lack of funding and heavy reliance on volunteers

Successes:

- High participation and interaction among elders, adults, and children
- Provided home visiting service in native Amharic language
- Conducted weekly & monthly parent education in native language
- Expanded health screening program by adding hemoglobin, vision, and hearing screening
- Hosted several flu and COVID-19 vaccines clinics
- Provided personalized health education and counseling based on health screening results

Program Activities & Numbers 10/2020 – 05/2023



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