



For Immediate Release

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## **Developmental screenings and parent workshops coming to the community** *Grant enhances Before 3 to Succeed campaign*

**Pontiac, Mich. (Oct. 12, 2016)** – Oakland Family Services will be able to help more children with developmental delays improve or overcome those challenges before they reach kindergarten, thanks to a \$50,000 grant from the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan.

The grant will expand and enhance Before 3 to Succeed, an early childhood initiative the agency created to inform the public about the importance of development in the early years, assess children’s level of development and offer programming for children who are developmentally delayed and their families.

Oakland Family Services can now provide parent education workshops at libraries throughout the county by hiring a child development specialist. The specialist will assist parents in completing developmental screenings and schedule time to answer questions live on Periscope and/or Facebook. The grant also will bolster the Agency’s promotional efforts to help Oakland Family Services reach parents with critical educational information.

Kris Kasperski, director of Early Childhood Services at Oakland Family Services, said the child development specialist will present information about developmental milestones and behaviors in children from birth to 3 years old.

“We will have iPads and all the necessary materials available to complete a developmental screening on-site with a parent and a child,” she said. “Completing these screenings can assist in identifying children who may have developmental delays and help families access the appropriate resources. Many families in Oakland County use the library to socialize with other families, support their child’s literacy skills and find out about their child’s learning. The library is an excellent location for this outreach.”

Developmental delays can be found in such areas as speech, social/emotional development and gross or fine motor skills. Children with mild to moderate developmental delays that go undetected are likely to underperform academically. Research shows as adults these children will have a higher incidence of inter-personal conflicts, drug dependency, fewer skills to support themselves and are more likely to become dependent on public assistance or be incarcerated. This path often can be avoided if the delay is identified early and appropriate services are provided.

“Through the generous support of the Community Foundation, Before 3 to Succeed will be able to better educate families in the community about the critical importance of the first three years of children’s lives and development,” said President and CEO Jaimie Clayton. “This grant will help us ensure that children with developmental delays have them identified and are assisted in improving or overcoming them before they reach kindergarten, so they can be successful in school and life.”

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*The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan is a full-service philanthropic organization leading the way to positive change in our region. As a permanent community endowment built by gifts from thousands of individuals and organizations, the Foundation supports a wide variety of activities benefiting education, arts and culture, health, human services, community development and civic affairs. Since its inception, the Foundation has distributed more than \$870 million through more than 58,000 grants to nonprofit organizations throughout Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Monroe, Washtenaw, St. Clair and Livingston counties. For more information, please visit [www.cfsem.org](http://www.cfsem.org).*

*Oakland Family Services is a private, nonprofit 501 (c) (3) serving the community since 1921 and dedicated to providing individuals and families the opportunity to build brighter futures. The agency's prevention, education and treatment services touch the lives of more than 40,000 individuals throughout southeastern Michigan. The agency has offices in Pontiac, Berkley, Rochester Hills and Walled Lake. For more information, go to [www.oaklandfamilyservices.org](http://www.oaklandfamilyservices.org).*

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