

New Funding Opportunity for Evidence-Based Home Visiting in North Carolina



Prevent Child Abuse
 North Carolina
NFP Project

On March 23, 2010 Congress and President Obama enacted a new federal program called the *Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program*. This program is designed to: 1) strengthen and improve the programs and activities carried out under Title V, the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant; 2) improve coordination of services for at risk communities; and 3) identify and provide comprehensive services to improve outcomes for families residing in at-risk communities.

Programs operating in North Carolina that have a home-visiting component include Nurse Family Partnership (NFP), Parents as Teachers (PAT), Healthy Families and Early Headstart. There are other home-visiting programs not currently offered in North Carolina which also may qualify for this funding.

The intent is “that the home visiting program will result in a coordinated system of early childhood home visiting in every State that has the capacity and commitment to provide infrastructure and supports to assure high-quality, evidence-based practice.”

HRSA Funding Opportunity Announcement
 June 10, 2010

Estimated Timeline

There is a multi-step process for states to participate in the new federal evidence-based home visiting program:

• Funding Opportunity Advisory (FOA)	Released 6/10/10
• NC’s Initial State Plan	Due 7/9/2010
• Needs Assessment FOA	Release Late June 2010
• NC’s State Needs Assessment	Due 9/1/2010
• Updated State Plan FOA	Release Mid-August 2010
• NC’s Updated State Plan	Due early FFY 2011

Funding

- \$2.1 million is slated for North Carolina in 2010 if the initial state plan is approved.
 - Funds released on July 15, 2010.
 - All but \$500,000 of 2010 funding is restricted until the state submits its needs assessment.
- Funding increases over time.
- No new money - state or local - is required to match or draw down the grant.
- Congress allocated annual home visiting funding for each year from 2011-2014.
 - NC must submit Updated State Plan and achieve benchmarks to receive this funding.

1. Initial State Plan for Funding Deadline July 9, 2010

Each state must apply to receive their share of home visiting program funding. This initial application is a statement of intent to apply for future funding and an outline of plans for how the state will proceed. The federal legislation requires collaboration between public health, social services and early childhood education agencies in the application process.

- The Governor shall select the state agency that will lead the application process.
- The State Plan must Include:
 - Assessment of capacity of existing home visiting programs
 - Needs assessment design and data collection plan
 - Technical assistance needs
 - Support and coordination with other State agencies

2. Statewide Assessment of Needs Deadline September 1, 2010

Every state must conduct an assessment of maternal and young child needs, and of resources available to high risk families. Later in June 2010, the US Health Resources and

Services Administration (HRSA) is to issue guidance – an FOA – regarding the requirements for the needs assessment.

- The NC Division of Public Health is conducting North Carolina's needs assessment.
- Representatives from 18 public and private agencies plus two parents comprise a needs assessment advisory committee.
- Each state is to coordinate the needs assessment with other assessments already done for maternal and child health, welfare and early education.

3. Update of State Plan – Due early in Federal Fiscal Year 2011

In mid-August HRSA plans to issue a third FOA providing more detail regarding the State Plan.

States must submit an updated home visiting state plan in the early part of the 2011 federal fiscal year which starts October 1, 2010. (Early FFY 2011 may mean before December 31, 2010.)

This updated plan is where the state will designate which specific home visiting programs will receive federal funding.

Additional State Plan Guidance

HRSA will publish proposed regulations for the new Home Visiting Program using the federal rulemaking process. Proposed regulations are published in the Federal Register and comments and input accepted. The regulations will provide more detail and be of a long-term nature. They will define evidence criteria, help states identify evidence-based models eligible for Home Visiting Program funding; and define other aspects of the program such as measuring outcomes and benchmarks

More Information

June 10 Funding Opportunity Announcement from HRSA at www.hrsa.gov Look under News.

NFP National Service Office Summary of June 10 FOA at www.nursefamilypartnership.org/public-policy