

Federal Funding Alert

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Fiscal Year 2010 and 2011 Funding Opportunities for Home Visitation

The President's proposed FY2011 Budget creates new and expands existing funding opportunities for States, non-profits and other local entities to support Nurse-Family Partnership's effectiveness in promoting improvements in the health, development, well-being and educational advancements of the children and families we serve. Given the national focus on economic recovery, NFP is emphasizing its importance to the prosperity of children and families by eliminating chronic barriers to employment. NFP is also highlighting its economic force as an employer of nurses, administrators and allied health professionals in county and State health departments, hospitals and community agencies in 29 states and almost 400 counties nationally. Common themes across the President's budget include saving scarce taxpayer resources for economic recovery, investing in proven and promising programs, and rigorously evaluating new programs. NFP plans to partner with new allies to advance innovative, evidence-based approaches to social problems. Our continued goal is to make a compelling case that home visiting is an important component of health care improvement, educational advancement, and economic development. Below is a comprehensive list of existing FY2010 and potential FY2011 funding opportunities for Nurse-Family Partnership:

- **Fatherhood, Marriage, and Families Innovation Fund** – The President's FY2011 Budget proposes **\$1 billion over 10 years in mandatory TANF funds** for programs that effectively remove barriers to employment and improve child outcomes by removing barriers for parents' self sufficiency. Over the first 5 years, the Fund is composed of a \$250 million competitive grant program for States to fund fatherhood and healthy marriage initiatives and \$250 million for States to fund programs geared toward helping high-risk, hard-to-reach populations of single women and their children who face significant barriers to gainful employment. Funded activities in this second bucket could include home visitation, subsidized employment, transitional jobs and mental health and substance abuse treatment. This initiative replaces the \$150 million Healthy Marriage and Fatherhood Grant Program established by the Bush Administration, so the remaining \$350 million must be offset by cuts in other spending.

This Fund specifically identifies home visitation programs that remove barriers to self-sufficiency as a component of economic development, allows funds to States to be used for statewide or community-specific initiatives, and prioritizes activities supported by strong evidence although evidentiary tiers are not contemplated. Because of historic difficulties in reauthorizing TANF, the Administration envisions Congressional passage of this new initiative as part of a one-year extension of TANF.

- **Early Learning Challenge Fund** – President Obama's FY2010 Budget proposed a new Early Learning Challenge Fund creating competitive grants to States for results-oriented standards reform to ensure that more disadvantaged children enter kindergarten ready for success. This program, along with the home visitation grant program, comprised the President's proposed Zero-to-Five initiative to strengthen families and give children a strong start in life. Although State grants are focused on strengthening educational systems, grant funds can be used for home visitation and States have flexibility in determining the agency home for these funds.

In July 2009, the House passed provisions establishing the Early Learning Challenge Fund, funded at \$1 billion annually for 8 years (\$8 billion in total), as part of the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act (SAFRA). Because SAFRA reforms the student loan programs by reducing the fees charged for federally-subsidized student loans, this bill provided a ready offset to pay for the Early Learning Challenge grants. The Senate has not yet debated the legislation but advocates hope that the Senate will pass this legislation as part of Budget Reconciliation.

The President's FY2011 Budget supports the legislation that passed the House and is pending in the Senate, and includes an additional \$625 million in grants to States for the Early Learning Challenge Fund. While there is no specific designation that funds should be used for home visitation, it is implied through the target population and how this fund complements other early childhood programs, such as Early Head Start, Head Start, etc.

- **Investing in Innovation (I-3)** – The President's FY2011 Budget proposal includes \$500 million to promote the development and expansion of innovative practices for which there is evidence of effectiveness. Eligible grantees include Local Educational Entities (LEAs), public school districts, and public school districts and nonprofit organizations working in collaboration with districts or a consortium of schools that have demonstrated improved student achievement and reduced disparities in achievement. Grantees have flexibility to choose subcontractors, which could include for-profits for services or goods such as curricular materials, technology, professional development services, etc. Funds would be awarded based on a tiered system, placing priority on those programs with the strongest evidence; and promising programs that are willing to undergo rigorous evaluation. Nothing has been finalized yet regarding how this program will be administered. The Department of Education as issued a notice of proposed priorities but not yet a final notice nor an application.
- **Choice Neighborhoods** -- Congress provided \$65 million in FY2010 Appropriations for the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative that sought to broaden programs providing housing assistance to low-income populations by incorporating early childhood, economic development, and community vitalization programs. Administered through the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), this initiative seeks to improve high poverty neighborhoods through transformative investments in distressed public and assisted housing and closer linkages with school reform and early childhood interventions. The FY2011 Budget proposes \$250 million for this program.
- **Promise Neighborhoods** - The FY2010 Omnibus Appropriations bill included \$10 million for the Promise Neighborhoods initiative for 1-year planning grants to non-profit, community-based organizations to develop plans and establish partnerships for the development of comprehensive neighborhood programs for children and youth, from birth through college, to help them succeed in education and life. Promise Neighborhoods is administered by the Department of Education and the President's FY2011 Budget proposes \$210 million to expand this program.
- **Teen Pregnancy Prevention** - Congress provided \$75 million in FY2010 Appropriations for the teen pregnancy prevention initiative to replicate programs that have been shown through rigorous evaluation to have positive effects on teens' behavior, and \$25 million for research and demonstration on promising programs. The provision also includes \$10 million for technical assistance, training, and other supportive activities to assist the newly-established U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Adolescent Health in effectively running the program, and an additional \$4.5 million for program evaluation. The FY2011 Budget proposes a \$19 million increase for this initiative.
- **Race to the Top** - Created as part of last year's stimulus package, this \$4 billion initiative is intended to fund State reforms of their school systems, but allows States to fund home visiting programs that improve school readiness and academic achievement. The FY2011 Budget includes \$1.35 billion in additional funding and signals an intention to allow school districts to apply for grants in addition to

States. Although this initiative encountered opposition from Republicans and a number of States that chose not to compete for the funding, 40 States and the District of Columbia completed applications. The first round of awards is expected to be announced in April.

➤ **Miscellaneous FY2011 Budget increases**

- **Administration for Children & Families Child Abuse Discretionary Funding** – This account received a \$10 million increase in the President’s FY2011 budget over the \$29 million enacted level for FY2010. This additional funding will be used to establish a new competitive grant program for States to support increased use, and high quality implementation, of evidence-based and evidence-informed child maltreatment prevention programs and activities. The competitive grant program is intended to encourage states to use existing funding streams to support community-based prevention activities rooted in a strong evidence base. The agency’s budget justification for this account does not indicate that the plus-up is intended to provide stop-gap funding for the eliminated ACF discretionary grant program for home visitation; however, NFP would certainly be an eligible activity/service under the described purpose of funds.
- **Title V Maternal & Child Health Block Grant** – \$11 million increase over the \$662 million FY2010 enacted level.
- **Healthy Start** – \$5 million increase over the \$105 million FY2010 enacted level.
- **Community Health Centers** - \$290 million increase over the \$2.2 billion FY2010 enacted level.

We anticipate that the majority of the administering agencies for these funding opportunities will announce requests for applications by March/April 2010 with application deadlines most likely in May/June 2010.

We encourage existing and potential implementing agencies to consider if these federal funding opportunities are a good fit for your agency while maintaining fidelity to the NFP model. If you have any questions regarding this funding alert, please contact your Program Developer and/or Sarah McGee of the Policy & Government Affairs Department at 303.865.8384 or sarah.mcgee@nursefamilypartnership.org.

You can also view additional information regarding Nurse-Family Partnership’s public policy priorities, legislation, public funding opportunities, and advocacy materials on our website: www.nursefamilypartnership.org/public-policy.