



## Summary of the Funding Opportunity Announcement for the Tribal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program

On June 24, 2010, the Administration for Children and Families' Office of Family Assistance, in partnership with the Health Resources and Services Administration, released a funding opportunity announcement for the new Tribal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program ("Tribal Home Visiting Program"), enacted into law under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA). A copy of this funding announcement can be found [here](#) or go to: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/open/foa/view/HHS-2010-ACF-OFA-TH-0134>.

The new Tribal Home Visiting Program offers 5 year competitive grants to Tribes (or a consortium of Tribes), Tribal Organizations, or Urban Indian Organizations to support a high quality, evidence-based home visiting strategy that addresses critical maternal and child health, development, early learning, family support, and child abuse and neglect prevention needs. The following summary highlights important information from the funding announcement and outlines the assistance that the Nurse-Family Partnership National Service Office (NFP-NSO) is offering to Tribes, Tribal Organizations, Urban Indian Organizations and other interested parties regarding the Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) model to fulfill the requirements of this grant program. NFP Regional Program Developers are available for individual consultation with eligible entities interested in applying for these funds. NFP-NSO hosted a webinar on July 7 that offered potential applicants information regarding the outcomes of the NFP model which fulfill the goals of the Home Visiting Program. To view a replay of the webinar, please click [here](#) or go to: <http://wcc.webeventservices.com/r.htm?e=225198&s=1&k=B5F3D5811839F42DDDA880F878B65404&cb=blank>.

### I. Eligible Activities and Important Dates

The Tribal Home Visiting Program will support grants (or cooperative agreements) to Federally recognized Indian Tribes or consortium of Tribes, Tribal Organizations, and Urban Indian Organizations to conduct needs assessments, develop the necessary infrastructure to implement and sustain evidence-based maternal, infant, and early childhood home visiting programs and provide services to Tribal populations. Specifically, funds may be used to support:

- Conducting a needs assessment of one or more targeted Tribal communities that identifies at-risk communities, including communities with high rates of premature births, low birth weight, infant mortality, or risky prenatal, newborn and child health conditions, poverty and use of public assistance, among other risk factors; determines the quality and capacity of existing home visiting services and other supports; ensures coordination with other needs assessments such as Title V or Head Start/Early Head Start; and involves relevant community stakeholders;
- Collaborative planning efforts through infrastructure building and capacity development to fully plan, adopt, implement and sustain high quality, evidence-based home visiting program models with fidelity to the evidence-based models;

- Providing high quality, evidence-based home visiting services to pregnant women and families with children from birth to kindergarten; and
- Rigorous local evaluations which may include examining the effectiveness of home visiting models serving Tribal populations; adaptations of home visiting models for Tribal communities; or questions regarding implementation or infrastructure necessary to support evidence-based home visiting models in Tribal communities.

### **Important Dates:**

- **NFP-NSO Webinar for Tribes, Tribal Organizations, and Urban Indian Organizations – July 7, 2010 2pm EST**
- **Optional Letter of Intent – Deadline July 9, 2010**  
The FOA strongly encourages but does not require potential applicants to notify the Administration for Children and Families of their intention to submit an application. Because **the letter of intent is optional**, failure to submit a letter of intent will not impact eligibility or disqualify an application.
- **Application Deadline – July 28, 2010**

## **II. Background and Program Goals**

Like the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program for States and Territories, the Tribal Home Visiting Program is intended to improve the early health, well-being and life course development of children and families in need. The Tribal Program will support the implementation of culturally relevant home visiting programs through models that demonstrate evidence of effectiveness. HRSA and ACF will publish for public comment criteria for determining the effectiveness of home visiting models that are likely to result in improvements in the benchmark areas, including maternal and prenatal health, infant health, and child health and development; reduced child maltreatment; improved parenting practices related to child development outcomes; improved school readiness; improved family socio-economic status; improved coordination of referrals to community resources and supports; and reduced incidence of injuries, crime, and domestic violence for families in Tribal communities. The funding announcement for the Tribal Home Visiting Program stresses the need to expand and strengthen the evidence-base for home visiting programs serving Tribal populations and communities and calls for additional research and evaluation regarding the implementation and effectiveness of evidence-based programs in Tribal settings. The Tribal program supports home visiting services to families within at-risk communities, including pregnant women, expectant fathers, parents, and primary caregivers of children aged birth to kindergarten, which may include grandparents or other relatives, foster parents, or non-custodial parents.

## **III. Grant Application Phases and Requirements**

### **Phase 1: Needs Assessment, Planning and Capacity Building (Year 1)**

The FY 2010 application for Tribal program funds should describe the approach the applicant intends to take during Phase 1 or Year 1 of the proposed project. In Phase 1 of the cooperative agreement, grantees must:

- Conduct a comprehensive community needs assessment; and
- Develop a plan and build capacity to respond to the needs assessment findings.

Prior to the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter after the Year 1 award date, HRSA and ACF will provide grantees with detailed guidance on the needs assessment and implementation plan. Grantees must also include a description of how they will develop and implement evidence-based home visiting programs that meet the criteria for evidence of effectiveness among Tribal populations. HRSA and ACF are expected to issue proposed criteria for evidence of effectiveness for public comment for the larger Home Visiting Program for States in early FY 2011. Tribal applicants should consider these criteria in planning activities during Phase 1.

The needs assessment requirements include:

- Identifying at-risk communities within the grantee's target area by collecting data on the health and well-being of Tribal populations in these communities;
- Identifying the quality and capacity of existing early childhood home visiting programs, initiatives, or services;
- Assessing the community(ies)'s capacity for providing substance abuse treatment and counseling; and
- Coordinating the Tribal needs assessment with other needs assessments conducted by Federal, State, Tribal, local, and private entities within the community related to public health, education, and social services that may also be providing services to Tribal populations.
- Grantees are expected to submit their respective needs assessments and plans within 10 months of the Year 1 award date.

Suggested planning and capacity building activities during Phase 1 include:

- Identifying the populations to be served based on the needs assessment;
- Selecting evidence-based home visiting models for implementation;
- Collaborating with the developers of selected evidence-based home visiting model(s) to adapt or modify model(s) if needed and establish formal agreements;
- Identifying and establishing benchmarks that could demonstrate whether families served by the Tribal Home Visiting Program show improvements in key child and family outcomes; and
- Beginning to develop a database and mechanism to track progress and report on benchmark areas.

Grantees will not fully implement their plan and/or begin serving children and families with home visiting services during Phase 1. Funds will be provided for Phase 2 (Years 2-5) provided that grantees submit a successful Phase 1 application which includes the needs assessment and approvable implementation plan. Grantees who do not submit an approvable plan within 10 months of receiving their initial award will be required to submit a revised plan before receiving Phase 2 funds.

### **Phase 2: Implementation Phase (Years 2-5)**

Grantees will implement their approved plans during Phase 2, with activities including:

- Building infrastructure to implement evidence-based home visiting programs;
- Providing high quality, evidence-based home visiting services to children and families;
- Measuring and reporting on progress in meeting benchmarks; and

- Participating in ongoing research and program evaluation activities that will build the knowledge base around home visiting services to Tribal populations.

## **IV. Funding Allocations and Award Information**

Section 2951 of the ACA authorizes a 3 percent set aside from the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program for Tribal entities, providing the following funding:

- **FY 2010 - \$3 million**
- **FY 2011 - \$7.5 million**
- **FY 2012 - \$10.5 million**
- **FY 2012 - \$12 million**
- **FY 2013 - \$12 million**

In FY 2010, ACF is expected to make approximately 15 awards ranging from \$100,000 to \$500,000. Applicants should provide a budget and budget justification only for the first 12-month budget period or Phase 1. The budget for Year 1 should include travel costs for the 2-3 day kickoff meeting in Washington, DC.

## **V. Key Application Components**

Applications for the Tribal Home Visiting Program should describe the approach the applicant will use in Phase 1 to organize the needs assessment and capacity building plan to address identified needs. The application should include the following elements:

- Identification of the lead agency responsible for completing Phase 1 activities;
- A plan to develop formal agreements with potential partners and stakeholders;
- A plan to provide management and oversight for this project with key staff that have the necessary education, training, and other resources to complete Phase 1;
- A timeline for conducting the needs assessment including a preliminary definition of the “at-risk community(ies); a list of the readily available data sources or information in order to conduct the needs assessment; a discussion of the gaps in services and any currently available information; a preliminary list of other needs assessments to coordinate and/or consider; and a general description of the applicant’s process for conducting the needs assessment;
- An anticipated process or timeline for developing infrastructure, capacity building, or implementation planning during Phase 1, describing anticipated approaches to finding populations identified through the needs assessment; building relationships or developing formal agreements with partners; and selecting the most effective model(s) to be implemented, enhanced, or expanded in response to the needs assessment findings.
- A description of the anticipated approach to data collection and tracking progress toward meeting quantifiable, measurable benchmarks which demonstrate improved outcomes for families in maternal and newborn health; child injuries, child abuse, neglect or maltreatment, and reduction of emergency room visits; school readiness and child academic achievement; crime or domestic violence; family economic self-sufficiency; and coordination and referrals for other community resources and supports.
- Anticipated technical assistance needs related to conducting the needs assessment, organizing a plan for capacity building, collecting data and evaluation, selecting home visiting model(s), and strengthening capabilities to implement selected models.

- A plan to identify partners (such as evaluators) for ongoing research and program evaluation.
- An assurance that the applicant will submit the needs assessment and implementation plan at the end of Phase 1.
- A narrative discussing how the project and its results will be evaluated.

## **VI. What Technical Assistance Will NFP-NSO Provide To Eligible Entities?**

**For Tribes, Tribal Organizations and Urban Indian Organizations interested in including NFP in their applications for the Tribal Home Visiting Program, NFP-NSO has resources available on the NFP website. Click [here](#) or go to:**

**<http://www.nursefamilypartnership.org/public-policy/Federal-HV-Funding-Guidance>.**

**These resources include:**

- A description of the NFP model and how it meets the statutory criteria for an evidence-based program proven with randomized controlled trials to have sustained effects;
- Contact information for the NFP Program Developer assigned to your state (also see below) who can assist Tribal entities with:
  - Estimating the current service capacity of existing NFP programs in operation (if any); and
  - Estimating the potential eligible population in your targeted high need communities.
- A description of available NFP-NSO services and technical assistance on how to implement the NFP model with fidelity. Tribal entities may choose to outline these services within their applications as part of the necessary technical assistance to assure effective implementation of the NFP model.
- A description of the outcome indicators and measures relevant to NFP that are included within NFP's existing data collection, evaluation, and reporting systems that correlate to the benchmark areas in the statute;
- Guidance to evaluate NFP initiatives and outcomes for small scale and larger scale program implementation; and
- A tool outlining an approach that Eligible Entities can use to assess the research evidence for NFP and other home visiting models and how well the selected model(s) outcomes match each of the benchmark areas outlined in the statute.

## **Upcoming NFP-NSO Webinars**

NFP-NSO has provided and will continue to provide webinars over the next few months to assist States, Tribes and other Eligible Entities in organizing their FY 2010 applications. We also offer individualized assistance as needed or requested. To view the schedule of upcoming NFP-NSO webinars, click [here](#) or go to: <http://www.nursefamilypartnership.org>.

## **VII. Key HHS Agency and NFP-NSO Contacts**

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