



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

On June 10, 2010, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and Administration for Children and Families (ACF) released the initial Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) for the new Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (“Home Visiting Program”), enacted into law under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. A copy of the FOA can be found at <http://www.nursefamilypartnership.org/public-policy/Federal-HV-Funding-Guidance>.

The purpose and activities funded under the new Home Visiting Program focus on strengthening and improving the programs and activities carried out under Title V; improving coordination of services for at risk communities; and identifying and providing comprehensive services to improve outcomes for families who reside in at risk communities. The new Home Visiting Grant Program offers grants to States, Indian Tribes and Tribal Organizations, Territories, and in limited circumstances, non-profit entities to fund evidence-based home visitation program models to assure effective coordination and delivery among Federal, State, and local agencies on critical health, development, early learning, child abuse and neglect prevention, family support services, and life course development and economic self-sufficiency of at-risk families and communities. This new grant program is part of the Department of Health and Human Services’ (HHS) national effort to establish a comprehensive continuum of services for pregnant women, parents, other caregivers, and children from birth to 8 years old.

The following summary highlights important information from the recently released FOA and outlines the assistance that the Nurse-Family Partnership National Service Office (NFP-NSO) is offering to States regarding the Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) model to fulfill the requirements of this grant program.

I. FY 2010 Timeline and 3-Step Application Process

The FOA outlines the following three-step process by which HHS will provide guidance to States and States will submit their applications and supporting information/documentation for funding.

➤ HHS Estimated Timeline

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| • Initial FOA released | June 10, 2010 |
| • State initial application for funding deadline | July 9, 2010 |
| • Full Needs Assessment FOA released | Late June 2010 |
| • FY 2010 funds awarded to States (restricted) | July 15, 2010 |
| • Updated State Plan FOA released | Mid-August 2010 |
| • State Needs Assessment deadline | September 1, 2010 |
| • Updated State Plan deadline | Early FY 2011 |

NOTE A separate FOA will be issued for Indian Tribes and Tribal Organizations.

➤ **Initial Application for Funding – Deadline 7/9/10**

The first FOA requires that eligible entities submit applications by 7/9/10 to state their intent to apply for funding and to outline their plans regarding how they intend to complete the needs assessment and fulfill the implementation requirements. Applications must include the following:

- Capacity of existing home visiting programs
- Needs assessment design and data collection plan
- Technical assistance needed
- Governor’s designation of lead State agency
- Support and coordination with other State agencies that administer Head Start, other Title V grants and programs, and CAPTA initiatives
- Assurances in accordance with the requirements of the statute

Upon the successful submission and approval of the applications, States will receive a notice of grant award for the State’s allocation for FY 2010 only. All but \$500,000 of the allocation will be restricted until the State submits an approvable needs assessment and updated state plan for home visiting. States may use the unrestricted \$500,000 on planning and implementation activities for the Home Visiting Program.

➤ **Statewide Needs Assessment – Deadline 9/1/10**

HRSA intends to issue its second FOA regarding the full requirements of the needs assessment in late June 2010. Following the release of the Needs Assessment FOA, eligible entities will be required to complete the 2nd step in the application process: submission of a full needs assessment by 9/1/2010. Although the Home Visiting Program needs assessment is separate from the Title V Maternal & Child Health Block Grant Program requirements, States must submit their needs assessments as a condition of receiving their FY 2011 Title V Maternal and Child Health Block Grant funding. In addition, the home visiting needs assessment must be coordinated with other needs assessments measuring the capacity of existing early childhood programs (such as Head Start and programs funded under CAPTA) and the unmet needs of at-risk communities. This FOA will be released later this month.

➤ **Updated State Plan – Deadline Early FY 2011**

HRSA intends to do two things to assist States and Eligible Entities in completing the third step of the application process:

- HRSA will soon publish proposed evidence-related criteria for public comment through the Federal Register. This guidance is intended to assist States in identifying the evidence-based home visitation models eligible to provide services as part of the eligible entities’ Home Visiting Program. After rulemaking, HRSA will issue the promulgated rules or guidelines regarding the criteria for evidence of effectiveness; and
- HRSA will issue an FOA by mid-August regarding the requirements for an Updated State Plan and the criteria of evidence for the home visitation program models.

Following HRSA’s issuance of its third FOA, States and eligible entities must submit a final State plan in early FY 2011 and receive approval in order to spend the remaining portion of

their FY 2010 funding allocation. The Updated State Plan must meet the criteria presented in the third FOA, including appropriate benchmarks and indicators; and indicate the applicant's selection of home visiting program models that address the needs identified in the needs assessment.

II. ALLOCATION OF FUNDING

➤ **\$90 Million in Formula Funding for FY 2010 for Approximately 56 Awards**

Formula funding is based on the number of children in families with income at or below 100% of the federal poverty line as compared to the number of such children nationally. View the chart of [FY2010 Funding Allocations by State and Territory](#) on the Public Policy section of the NFP website.

➤ **FY 2010 funds are available on a 27-month budget and a project period through the end of FY 2012.**

➤ **Formula grants to States include:**

- FY 2010 allocation of \$500,000 per State for planning or implementation activities; and
- Additional allocations to States that have an existing grantee under the Evidence-Based Home Visiting Program (EBHV) administered by the ACF Children's Bureau.
- All funds over \$500,000 of the State's FY2010 allocation are restricted, and cannot be spent until the applicant's needs assessment and Updated State Plan for the Home Visiting Program are approved.

➤ **FY 2011-2014 Funding**

Funding allocations for FY 2011-2014 will include two components, with details still to be provided. Some amount will be distributed by formula each year. In order to incentivize quality implementation and effective programs, HHS plans to allocate the increase in funds in subsequent fiscal years based upon States' capacity and commitment to improve outcomes for at-risk families.

III. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

➤ **Eligible applicants include States and Territories. Separate FOA to be issued for Indian Tribes and Tribal Organizations.**

The Governor has the authority to designate the lead entity (or entities) that will implement the plan on behalf of the State. Initial applications must demonstrate eligible entities' capacity to fulfill the requirements outlined in the federal statute and FOA(s) for the Home Visiting Program. Any eligible entity that does not respond to the FOA requirements by the deadlines will not be considered for FY 2010 funding. If the State has not submitted a successful application by FY 2012, a non-profit organization with the capacity to carry out the requirements of the Home Visiting Program may apply on behalf of the State.

➤ **Maintenance of Effort**

Eligible entities must maintain the level of non-federal funding (State General Funds) for grant activities at no less than the funding level(s) for home visiting services as of March 23, 2010 (date of legislation enactment).

➤ **Support and Collaboration of other State agencies**

Applicants must demonstrate buy-in or support of key State-level agencies through letters of support. These agencies include:

- Title V agency;
- Title II CAPTA agency;
- Single State agency for Substance Abuse Services; and
- Head Start State Collaboration Office.

IV. KEY APPLICATION COMPONENTS

➤ **Application Assurances**

Within the initial FOA application, States and eligible entities must include assurance that their intended plans will:

- Place priority on serving low-income families and at-risk communities as identified in the Statewide needs assessment;
- Obtain & submit documentation from the oversight organization for the chosen service delivery model(s) that verifies that the State or eligible entity has committed to implementing the chosen model(s) with fidelity (for example, NFP-NSO can provide this documentation);
- Ensure voluntary enrollment and participation by the family;
- Submit annual reports to the Secretary regarding program implementation;
- Participate in data collection necessary to complete the national evaluation requirements; and
- Provide funding to any of the 17 ACF funded EBHV projects located with the State or eligible entity.

➤ **Administration of Awards**

Successful applicants will receive written notification that their FY 2010 application has been approved and should expect to receive their FY 2010 allocation by July 15, 2010. As noted above, funds above the \$500,000 baseline allocation are restricted until all 3 steps of the application have been submitted and approved. The agency guidelines also emphasize the importance of cultural competency related to providers' ability to deliver quality services that address the language needs and diversity of target populations.

➤ **Anticipated Technical Assistance Needs**

The agency intends to provide ongoing technical assistance and training in an effort to build States and other eligible entities' capacity to build quality, comprehensive systems of early childhood home visiting services. The agency guidelines recognize that many States will utilize model-specific technical assistance, data collection and evaluation, and other necessary functions for successful implementation of the Home Visiting Program. Within

FY 2010 applications, eligible entities should plan on including a forecast of technical assistance needs in order to efficiently execute their proposed plan. NFP-NSO will offer boilerplate or technical assistance language related to the NFP (see below).

V. WHAT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WILL NFP-NSO PROVIDE TO STATES?

- **For States interested in including NFP in their plans for evidence-based home visiting, we have several resources available now on the NFP website <http://www.nursefamilypartnership.org/public-policy/Federal-HV-Funding-Guidance>. These available 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 and evidence for sustained effects.
 - Contact information for the NFP Program Developer assigned to your state (also see below) who can assist States with:
 - Estimating the current service capacity of existing NFP programs in operation (if any); and
 - Potential eligible population in your state or in targeted high need communities.
 - A description of available NFP-NSO services and technical assistance for States on how to implement the NFP model with fidelity. States may choose to outline these services within their applications as part of the necessary technical assistance to assure effective implementation of the NFP model.

- **NFP-NSO will provide expanded guidance and ongoing consultation on the following topics:**
 - Recommendations for States interested in building multi-site home visiting initiatives;
 - Job descriptions for key personnel critical to Statewide and/or local NFP implementation;
 - A comprehensive statement addressing NFP-NSO's commitment to diversity and cultural competency;
 - 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 for evaluation of NFP initiatives and outcomes for small scale and larger scale program implementation;
 - Guidance for partnering with NFP-NSO and meeting the contractual requirements of the NFP application process;
 - Template(s) for an approach States 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;
 - A process for obtaining documentation from NFP-NSO that a State is currently implementing NFP with fidelity to the model, or for States who are new to NFP, a written agreement expressing a commitment to implement NFP with fidelity.

➤ **Upcoming NFP-NSO Webinars**

NFP-NSO will provide multiple webinars over the next few months to assist States and eligible entities in organizing their FY 2010 applications. We will offer national, regional, and State-specific webinars as needed or requested. A schedule of upcoming webinars will be circulated shortly.

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