

# **Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Home Visitation Program Grant Update May 5, 2010**

The Maternal, Child and Adolescent (MCAH) Division develops various systems, with the goal to help protect and improve the health of California's reproductive age women, infants, children, adolescents, and their families. To accomplish this mission, MCAH maintains partnerships, contracts, and agreements with State, federal, and local agencies in both public and private sectors.

This is the first of many updates that MCAH will send to communicate directly with stakeholders and partners regarding the new state grant program for early childhood home visitation. MCAH plans to communicate on a regular basis, as needs and capacities are assessed, models are identified, program and grant requirements are clarified, and other issues arise.

## **FEDERAL GUIDANCE**

- Title V of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 701 et seq.) was amended by adding Section 511 regarding Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Programs. The purposes of Section 511 include strengthening and improving programs and activities of the title; improving coordination of services to at risk communities; and identifying and providing comprehensive services to improve outcomes for families who reside in at risk communities. The language of the law is found at the following link:

<http://www.amchp.org/Advocacy/Documents/Sec.%202951%20Home%20Visiting%20Program.pdf>

- The Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) has not provided guidance concerning the Home Visitation Program Grants since the signing of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act on March 23, 2010. MCAH will post the federal guidance online as soon as it becomes available.
- While awaiting grant guidance and based on the provisions of the Section 511 Title V amendment, MCAH is preparing an outline of the grant application to request federal funding for Home Visitation Programs.

## **NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

- Section 511 on home visiting programs mandates that all states assess statewide needs and identify at risk communities. This needs assessment is separate from the Title V statewide needs assessment completed every five years. Specifically, the home visiting needs and capacity assessment

will address the identification of at risk communities; the quality and capacity of existing programs or initiatives for early childhood home visitation in the state; and the state's capacity for providing substance abuse treatment and counseling services.

- MCAH, in partnership with the Department of Social Services (DSS), is collecting information from various existing state and local needs assessments including the Title V Block Grant needs assessment and making determinations about what additional information is required for the needs assessment.
- In addition, MCAH and DSS are developing a survey to be conducted jointly by each local MCAH Director in partnership with their local social services counterpart to assess the quality and capacity of existing programs and initiatives for early childhood home visitation. The survey is expected to identify: (1) the number and types of individuals and families who are receiving services currently; (2) gaps in service; and (3) the extent to which such programs and initiatives are meeting the needs of eligible individuals and families. MCAH will review the survey with appropriate stakeholders and partners prior to implementation.
- MCAH will be partnering with the California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs (ADP) to obtain the required information on the State's capacity for providing substance abuse treatment to individuals and families in need of such treatment or services, as mandated by the new law.
- The Needs Assessment must be completed by **September 23, 2010**. Therefore, MCAH will be asking stakeholders and partners for feedback on a number of important issues, with very short turn-around times. MCAH appreciates stakeholder and partner efforts to analyze and respond to State inquiries on a priority basis.

### **HOME VISITATION PROGRAM MODELS**

- A literature search is being done in an effort to determine which home visitation model or models would meet the grant requirements and be most successful with California's diverse population. In addition, information is being compiled regarding existing home visitation programs in the local health jurisdictions.

### **COMMUNICATION**

- MCAH will communicate with interested parties through the development of a California MCAH Home Visitation Web Page. Content will be uploaded shortly:

<http://cdph.ca.gov/CA-MCAH-HomeVisitation>

or

[cdph.ca.gov/CA-MCAH-HomeVisitation](http://cdph.ca.gov/CA-MCAH-HomeVisitation)

- MCAH has established a California MCAH Home Visitation Program e-mail address where you can ask questions, request information, provide input, or communicate with MCAH:

[CA-MCAH-HomeVisitation@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:CA-MCAH-HomeVisitation@cdph.ca.gov)

- MCAH developed a list of Home Visitation Program Grant frequently asked questions (FAQs). The FAQs will be posted on the MCAH Home Visitation website, and will be updated as new information is available.
- MCAH welcomes input from stakeholders. The most efficient way to submit ideas, questions, or concerns is to contact the MCAH Director of the stakeholder's local health jurisdiction (LHJ). MCAH directors will forward input to the designated State MCAH Nurse Consultant for that LHJ. A listing of MCAH Directors and local toll-free numbers can be found at:

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/mcah/Pages/MCAHDirectorsandLocalTollFreeNumbers.aspx>

## **STAKEHOLDERS**

- Home Visitation Program grant planning is on the agenda for the MCAH Action meeting, scheduled for May 19, 2010. At this meeting, MCAH directors will have the opportunity to discuss needs and concerns, as well as develop a process for receiving input from local health jurisdiction entities, and communicating that input with the State MCAH Division.
- Local MCAH directors Cathy Drusen (Fresno County), Mary Scott (Humboldt County), Cynthia Harding (Los Angeles County) and Nancy Calvo (Solano County), and Linda Nagel, President of MCAH Action, are providing input to MCAH through a collaborative workgroup about issues that may impact external home visitation stakeholders and partners.

Sherry Novick, Executive Director of the First 5 Association of California, also agreed to become a member of the workgroup, providing input to MCAH about issues impacting stakeholders.

- At the federal level, HRSA/MCHB and the Agency for Children and Families, along with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, are collaborating to establish the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program. In this spirit, and recognizing the value in partnering to

serve California's families in need, MCAH met with representatives of the California Department of Social Services (DSS) to establish a collaborative relationship, and to identify areas of mutual support and interest. There will be many opportunities for collaboration, and the two departments will explore ways that MCAH may be able to support social services efforts in at risk communities.

- MCAH provided a preliminary grant update to Judith Reigel, the Executive Director of the County Health Executives Association of California (CHEAC).