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Director

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor

June 16, 2010

Dear Stakeholders:

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), signed into law on March 23, 2010, established a new Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting grant program under the federal Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) and Agency for Children and Families (ACF). For further information about the Home Visiting Program, please refer to the communication dated May 5, 2010, located on the Home Visiting Program website, listed at the bottom of this page.

The Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health (MCAH) Program received the federal guidance regarding the needs and capacity assessment and grant implementation. The first of three Funding Opportunity Announcements was released by HRSA on June 10, 2010, and requires states to outline a plan for conducting the needs assessment and assuring compliance with the requirements of the ACA. The state application for funding is due on July 9, 2010. The Federal fiscal year 2010 funds for home visiting programs will be awarded to states, with restrictions, in mid-July 2010. Please see the Home Visiting Grant Update that is attached for details about this first announcement and related web-links.

California MCAH, in collaboration with other state agencies and multiple state and local partners, is moving forward with conducting the mandated needs and capacity assessments. The full needs assessment Funding Opportunity Announcement is expected in late June 2010, and is due on September 1, 2010.

The third Funding Opportunity Announcement for the updated state plan to implement the home visiting program should be published in mid-August 2010, and is due sometime in October or November 2010.

Further guidance and information will be posted to the Home Visitation Program website, as available.

The website is located at:

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

Questions and comments related to the home visitation program can be submitted to the following email address:

CA-MCAH-HomeVisitation@cdph.ca.gov

Thank you for your continued partnership. We look forward to working closely and collaboratively with you in this exciting grant endeavor.

With best regards,

Shabbir Ahmad, DVM, MS, PhD
Acting MCAH Division Chief

Home Visitation Program Grant Update June 16, 2010

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) regarding implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program. The language of the announcement can be downloaded from the following website:

<https://grants.hrsa.gov/webExternal/DisplayAttachment.asp?ID=BE1C8B53-A857-4B48-ADC9-1D7C2F03A875>

Background

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and Administration for Children and Families (ACF) believe that home visiting should be viewed as one of several service strategies embedded in a comprehensive, high-quality early childhood system that promotes maternal, infant, and early childhood health and development, and that relies on the best available research evidence to inform and guide practice.

HRSA and ACF believe that this legislation provides an unprecedented opportunity for Federal, State, and local agencies, through their collaborative efforts, to effect changes that will improve the health and well-being of vulnerable populations by envisioning child development within the framework of life course development and a socio-ecological framework. Life course development points to broad social, economic, and environmental factors as underlying contributors to poor health and development outcomes for children, as well as to persistent inequalities in the health and wellbeing of children and families. The socio-ecological framework emphasizes that children develop within families, families exist within a community, and the community is surrounded by the larger society. These systems interact with and influence each other to either decrease or increase risk factors or protective factors that affect a range of health and social outcomes.

Funding Application Process

The process for fulfilling requirements necessary to use FY 2010 ACA Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program funding will include three steps:

1. The first step is submission of an application for funding, which includes submission of a plan for completing the needs assessment

and a plan for developing the program in order to meet the criteria identified in the legislation.

2. The second step is submission of the needs assessment itself.
3. The third and final step is submission of an updated plan for addressing the needs identified in the assessment. The third submission will include an updated description and justification for the proposed program design, including submission of documentation showing how proposed models meet the evidence-based criteria as part of the plan for addressing identified needs, and how the State will implement the selected program/s effectively and with fidelity to the model(s).

First Funding Opportunity Announcement

The first FOA provides instructions for States to submit an application for 2010 funding. It provides instructions for States in:

- assessing the availability of data presently available in the State for completing the needs assessment
- identifying the additional information that will need to be collected
- specifying how the State plans to go about conducting the needs assessment overall, and
- meeting the requirements for ACA Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting funding, including designating the entity or entities within the State that will administer funds under the program; describing the lead entity's capacity to carry out the program; describing the process to be used in identifying the populations to be served; describing the process to be used in selecting the most effective model(s) to be implemented; and making specific assurances as outlined in the FOA.

The State's response to the first FOA is due **July 9, 2010**.

The first FOA requires that eligible entities submit applications by July 9, 2010 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 Fiscal Year (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.

Second Funding Opportunity Announcement (Pending)

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 second step in the application process, submission of a full needs assessment **by September 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 the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), and the unmet needs of at-risk communities. This FOA will be released later this month.

Third Funding Opportunity Announcement (Pending)

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. 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 2010 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.

Summary of Funding

The FY 2010 funds will be distributed to States using a formula determined by:

- 1) an equal base allocation of \$500,000 for each State
- 2) an amount equal to the funds, if any, currently provided to a State or entity within that State under the Supporting Evidence Based Home Visiting (EBHV) Program administered by the Children's Bureau of the Administration for Children and Families; and,
- 3) an amount based on the number of children in families at or below 100% of the Federal poverty level in the State as compared to the number of such children nationally.

The approximate federal fiscal year 2010 funding level designated for California is \$7.8 million for a project and budget period of July 15, 2010 through September 30, 2012. (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.)