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Director

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



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Governor

June 15, 2011

TO: MCAH DIRECTORS AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES

SUBJECT: UPDATES FROM CALIFORNIA HOME VISITING PROGRAM

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) was designated in 2010 by former Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger as the single State entity authorized to apply for and administer Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) home visiting program funds on behalf of California. The following steps were required to complete the FY 2010 Affordable Care Act (ACA), Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV) application:

1. Submission of an Application for Funding in Response to Federal Funding Opportunity (FOA) Announcement: The FOA was issued on June 10, 2010; state applications were due July 9, 2010. The application included plans for completing a statewide needs assessment and an initial plan for program development to meet legislative criteria. CDPH, Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health (MCAH) received a response on July 27, 2010 which served as the basis for obligating FFY 2010 funds (still restricted by HRSA) for development of a statewide MIECHV program.
2. Submission of a Statewide Needs Assessment in Response to the First Federal Supplemental Information Request (SIR-1): States were required to complete a needs assessment as a condition of receiving payment of FFY 2011 Title V Block Grant funds, regardless of whether the State intended to apply for a grant to provide home visiting services. SIR-1, published August 19, 2010, provided guidance for completing the Needs Assessment; California submitted the response on September 20, 2010. SIR-1 required California to:
 - Determine how it would identify at-risk communities
 - Identify the quality and capacity of existing early childhood home visiting programs
 - Discuss California's capacity to provide substance abuse treatment and counseling services

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3. Supplemental Information Request 2 (SIR-2) Submission of an Updated State Plan for a State Home Visiting Program: SIR-2 for the Updated State Plan was released February 8, 2011. Guidance was provided for defining targeted at-risk communities, updating and providing a more detailed needs and resources assessment, and creating a specific plan for home visiting services tailored to address those identified needs. SIR-2 also identified criteria for establishing evidence of effectiveness of home visiting models and provided a listing of evidence-based models known to meet those criteria. SIR-2 provided a rolling 90-120 days for submission of the Updated State Plan.

CDPH/MCAH utilized the guidance provided by the SIR-2 as an opportunity to develop a strategic implementation plan for the California Home Visiting Program (CHVP) which defines a comprehensive, high-quality early childhood system within California. SIR-2 required detailed responses for nine sections based on an assessment of needs and existing resources in the at-risk communities.

The CHVP is pleased to announce that the Affordable Care Act, Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV) **Updated State Plan (USP) for a State Home Visiting Program**, was submitted to HRSA on June 7, 2011. CHVP extends its thanks to the Local Health Jurisdictions and for submitting information via the Request for Supplemental Information (RSI), and for your participation in several Technical Assistance calls. As defined by the HRSA Supplemental Information Request for Submission of the Updated State Plan for a Home Visiting Program (SIR-2), several counties/communities have been proposed for new or expansion of home visiting funding based on the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) Funding for 2010-2011. The list of identified counties/communities eligible for FFY Funding 2010/11 will be released upon HRSA approval of the overall plan. CHVP would also like to acknowledge the support of our State Collaborative Partners in every component of the MIECHV application.

As soon as formal approval is provided by HRSA on the USP and FOA 11-179, and funds are released/made available, CHVP will inform all interested parties which counties/communities will move forward with the implementation of a new or expanded home visiting program.

Next Steps:

On June 1, 2011, HRSA released FOA 11-170 ([HRSA-11-179 final.doc](#)) to award competitive grant funds (up to \$9.43 million) *in addition* to the MIECHV formula-based funds identified in the USP. CHVP is currently in the process of applying for this expansion grant, due to HRSA July 1, 2011, which will include a strong evaluation component.

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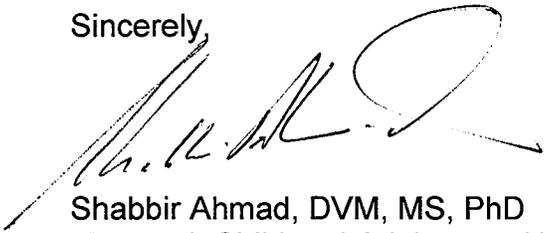
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The goal of the MIECHV competitive grant program is to award additional funding to states that have sufficiently demonstrated the interest and capacity to expand and/or enhance their evidence-based home visiting programs to improve outcomes for children and families who reside in high-risk communities. Data and information received from LHJs in response to the RSI will be used to select additional high-risk communities for implementation of the home visiting services to needy families. Of the \$224,000,000 available to support grants to eligible states and jurisdictions under the MIECHV program in FY 2011, \$99 million will support competitive grants and \$125 million will be awarded on a formula basis to eligible entities in a companion funding opportunity announcement (FOA) for the overall MIECHV program. California will receive \$11 million award under the formula-based allocation to States.

Thank you for your interest in the California Home Visiting Program! If you have any questions, please contact Laurel Cima at laurel.cima@cdph.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shabbir Ahmad', written over a horizontal line.

Shabbir Ahmad, DVM, MS, PhD
Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Division