

# RHODE ISLAND'S Maternal and Child Home Visiting System

2013

## Program Report



## Rhode Island's Maternal and Child Home Visiting Programs

Rhode Island's maternal and child home visiting system offers a variety of programs to families with young children across the state. Federal evidence-based Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) programs are designed to improve the health and development of children and families that are facing multiple challenges to success, including:

- Poverty
- Teenage parenting
- Parents who have not completed high school
- Families with prior involvement in the child welfare system
- Families struggling with chronic health and mental health issues

HOME VISITING PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	AVAILABLE
Early Head Start*	Provides weekly home visits and twice monthly group meetings for pregnant and parenting families with children ages birth to three. Some Early Head Start programs provide center-based early care and education programs.	Statewide except Cumberland, Lincoln, Woonsocket and Washington County. Cranston offers only center-based services.
Early Intervention	Provides ongoing services and supports to families of infants and toddlers, ages birth to three, who have developmental delays and disabilities or who are at high-risk for atypical or delayed development. Most services are provided through home visits.	Statewide
First Connections	Short-term program for pregnant women and families with young children, ages birth to three, to discuss family needs and link families with resources in their community.	Statewide
Healthy Families America*	Provides regular home visits for pregnant women and families with children ages birth to three. Families must enroll before their child is two weeks of age.	Central Falls, Newport, Pawtucket, Providence, West Warwick, Woonsocket
Nurse-Family Partnership*	Enrolls pregnant women expecting their first child and provides regular home visits until the child turns two. Families must enroll by the 28th week of pregnancy. All home visitors are nurses.	Central Falls, Newport, Pawtucket, Providence, West Warwick, Woonsocket
Parents as Teachers*	MIECHV funded sites provide regular home visits to pregnant women and families with children ages birth to three. Families must enroll before their child is six months old. There are other PAT programs in Rhode Island, each with their own eligibility requirements.	Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, Woonsocket†
Youth Success	Serves pregnant and parenting teens without a high school diploma. Teens receiving cash assistance from the state are required to participate in Youth Success or an approved alternative program.	Statewide

\* Federally-Recognized Evidence Based Home Visiting Program

† MIECHV communities only

## Early Head Start\*

Early Head Start is funded by the federal government as an extension of the preschool Head Start program, enabling younger children, ages birth to three, and pregnant women to receive services. In Rhode Island, 67% of Early Head Start slots are home-based and 33% are center-based. Home-based Early Head Start programs provide weekly visits with comprehensive services designed to foster school readiness of low-income children by building parenting skills, helping

families meet day-to-day challenges, and connecting families with needed nutrition, medical, dental, social, and mental health services.

Proven Outcomes:

- Improved child development and school readiness
- Increased positive parenting practices
- Improved family economic self-sufficiency

Capacity in 2012-2013	357 home visiting slots**
Children Enrolled as of October 2012	357
Implementing Agencies	CHILD Inc., Children's Friend, East Bay Community Action Program, Meeting Street, Tri-Town Community Action Program. Comprehensive Community Action Program offers only center-based Early Head Start services.

\*\* Federal sequester funding cuts have eliminated 14 Early Head Start slots for the 2013-2014 program year.

## Early Intervention

Early Intervention is authorized under Part C of the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*. Early Intervention provides comprehensive and coordinated services and supports to help families meet the needs of their children (ages birth to age 3) with significant developmental delays or disabilities. In Rhode Island,

infants and toddlers who have a high-probability for atypical or delayed development due to medical issues or early life experiences may also qualify for Early Intervention. Services are provided through home visits and in other natural, community-based settings (e.g., child care, relatives' homes, etc.).

Capacity in 2013	N/A
Children Enrolled in Calendar Year 2012	3,967
Implementing Agencies	Children's Friend, Easter Seals – RI, Family Resources Community Action, Family Services of RI, The Groden Center, Hasbro Children's Hospital, James L. Maher Center, J. Arthur Trudeau Memorial Center, Looking Upwards, Meeting Street, Seven Hills

## First Connections

First Connections is a short-term referral program that identifies family and child needs and links families with services that promote positive outcomes. About 60% of babies born each year receive a referral to

First Connections at time of birth. Any pregnant woman or family with children up to age three can request a First Connections visit.

Capacity in 2013	N/A
Children Served in Calendar Year 2012	3,088
Implementing Agencies	Children's Friend, Family Resources Community Action, VNS Home Health Services, VNS of Newport and Bristol Counties

## Healthy Families America\*

Healthy Families America promotes positive parent-child relationships, supports growth and development in children, and builds the strengths of families and their protective factors. The program model offers regular home visits, beginning prenatally or within the first two weeks after a child's birth and continuing until age three.



### Proven Outcomes:

- Improved maternal health
- Improved child health
- Improved child development and school readiness
- Reductions in child maltreatment
- Reductions in juvenile delinquency, family violence, and crime
- Increased positive parenting practices
- Improved family economic self-sufficiency
- Improved coordination of linkages and referrals

Capacity in 2013	350
Families Enrolled as of September 2013	103
Implementing Agencies	Children's Friend, East Bay Community Action Program, Family Resources Community Action, Family Service of Rhode Island, Meeting Street

## Nurse-Family Partnership\*

Nurse-Family Partnership is designed for first-time, low-income mothers and their children. One-on-one visits begin early in the woman's pregnancy (with program enrollment no later than the 28th week of pregnancy) and conclude when the child turns two years old. During visits, nurses work to reinforce good preventive health practices for women and their children. Topics of the visits include prenatal care; caring for an infant; and encouraging the emotional, physical, and cognitive development of young children.



### Proven Outcomes:

- Improved maternal health
- Improved child health
- Improved child development and school readiness
- Reductions in child maltreatment
- Reductions in juvenile delinquency, family violence, and crime
- Increased positive parenting practices
- Improved family economic self-sufficiency

Capacity in 2013	225
Families Enrolled as of September 2013	129
Implementing Agencies	Children's Friend

\* Federally-Recognized Evidence Based Home Visiting Model

## Parents as Teachers\*

The goal of the Parents as Teachers program is to improve parents' knowledge of early childhood development and their parenting practices. The model includes one-on-one home visits and monthly group visits. The model helps parents be their child's first and most influential teacher.

Proven Outcomes:

- Improved child development and school readiness
- Increased positive parenting practices

MIECHV Capacity in 2013	140
Families Enrolled as of September 2013	37
Implementing MIECHV Agencies	Blackstone Valley Community Action Program, Connecting for Children and Families, Federal Hill House

## Youth Success

Rhode Island's Youth Success program is designed to help pregnant and parenting teens complete high school or attain a GED. Caseworkers aim to support teens' character development and build academic and daily living skills, including parenting skills. The program also seeks to reduce repeat teen pregnancy. Services are delivered through home visits (at least once per month) and through visits in the youth's community (e.g., school, work, doctor).

Capacity in 2013	N/A
Teens Enrolled in Calendar Year 2012	872
Implementing Agencies	Blackstone Valley Community Action Program, Comprehensive Community Action Program, East Bay Community Action Program, Family Resources Community Action, Family Service of RI, Community Action Partnership of Providence, South County Community Action Program, Tri-Town Community Action Agency, Westbay Community Action



# Building Rhode Island's Home Visiting System

In 2008, Rhode Island KIDS COUNT collaborated with state agencies (RI Executive Office of Health & Human Services, RI Department of Health, RI Department of Human Services, and the RI Department of Children, Youth and Families) to establish and build a cross-agency, sustainable funding stream for the Nurse-Family Partnership program in Rhode Island. Rhode Island's Nurse-Family Partnership program opened in 2010.

In March 2010, the federal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program was authorized as part of the *Affordable Care Act* to provide evidence-based home visitation services. In Rhode Island, the Governor designated the Department of Health as the agency responsible for home visiting. Beginning in 2011, Rhode Island received funding to expand Nurse-Family Partnership and Parents as Teachers and bring Healthy Families America to the state. In addition to implementing services, the funding supports developing a coordinated system for pregnant women, children, and families and a professional network for all home visitors in Rhode Island. The RI Department

of Health has begun this work with its partners at the RI Department of Human Services, the RI Department of Children, Youth and Families, and others.

In September 2013, Rhode Island was one of thirteen states awarded a competitive expansion grant. The award of \$5.9 million will support the continued improvement of state systems and coordination of services and will offer an additional 400 families the opportunity to participate in Healthy Families America.



## For More Information

Kristine Campagna  
Chief, Program Development Perinatal  
Early Childhood Development  
Rhode Island Department of Health  
kristine.campagna@health.ri.gov  
www.health.ri.gov/homevisiting

Referrals for home visiting services in Rhode Island are coordinated by the First Connections program. Anyone may refer a family for home visiting services by contacting a First Connections program or by calling the HEALTH Information Line: 401-222-5960 / RI Relay 711