

## Project Abstract

**Project Title**           The Ohio Collaborative Early Childhood Home Visiting Initiative  
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The Ohio Department of Health (ODH), as the designated lead agency for the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program, in partnership with the Ohio Head Start Collaboration Office, CAPTA/Child Welfare/Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, and the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services proposes to enhance Ohio's early childhood system for pregnant women, children birth to age eight, and families by strengthening our home visiting system for communities at risk for poor health, developmental and social outcomes.

Ohio has a long-standing statewide system of home visiting services supported by funding from the State General Revenue Fund and the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant. The Help Me Grow Program offers home visiting services in all 88 counties, and the Ohio Infant Mortality Reduction Initiative is focused on addressing poor health and social outcomes among African American pregnant women and their infants in 13 Ohio communities. The current infrastructure (e.g., data systems, monitoring systems, technical assistance) supporting these programs will be enhanced.

Key partners and stakeholders already working together will further coordinate to integrate home visiting programs supported by the Federal, State and community levels to have a measurable impact on the health and development of children in Ohio. In our state, the Early Childhood Cabinet, the Family and Children First Cabinet, and the member state agencies and local partners are poised to participate in the national effort to build a quality, comprehensive, statewide early childhood system for pregnant women, parents and caregivers, and children from birth to age eight.

Ohio has engaged academic institutions, in addition to state agencies to design a scientifically sound approach to gather and analyze existing data to identify communities at risk; to conduct primary data collection to assess the State's capacity to offer home visiting services that meet the needs of families; and to establish measures to document the impact of home visiting services on the health and social outcomes of participating families. Partners also will build upon a review of the evidence supporting home visiting services to inform the State's selection of the most effective model(s) to meet the identified needs.

Ohio will complete all of the required elements of this FOA as well as the other two to come, to build upon the infrastructure, coordination, and evidence already in place to deliver high quality home visiting to children and their families.

## Home Visiting Needs Assessment Timeline

### **JUNE 10, 2010**

First Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) published by HRSA and ACF with instructions and timeline to apply for funding.

### **ANTICIPATED LATE JUNE**

HRSA and ACF will issue the second FOA that will provide full specifications for conducting a collaborative needs assessment.

### **JULY 9, 2010**

State applications for funding due. Applicants must submit “a plan for completing the needs assessment and a plan for developing the program in order to meet the criteria identified in the legislation.” **Completed needs assessment required as condition of receiving payment of FY 2011 Title V Block Grant funds even if state doesn’t apply for home visiting funds.**

### **ANTICIPATED MID SUMMER**

Public comment on proposed criteria for assessing evidence of effectiveness of home visiting program models.

### **ANTICIPATED MID-AUGUST**

Third FOA to provide “instructions for submitting an Updated State Plan for responding to the results of the needs assessment.” This third FOA will offer final criteria for assessing evidence of effectiveness of home visiting models.

### **SEPTEMBER 1, 2010**

Needs Assessment due. States must submit completed needs assessment by this date.

### **"EARLY" FY 2011**

Updated State Plan due. By early FY 2011 applicants must submit “an updated plan for addressing the needs identified in the assessment.” Updated State Plans must propose implementing a model (or models) that meet the final criteria for assessing evidence of effectiveness as provided in the third FOA to be released later in 2010.