

PROJECT ABSTRACT

Project Title: The Massachusetts Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Initiative

Applicant Name: The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH)

Address: 250 Washington Street, 5th Floor, Boston, MA 02108

Web Site: www.mass.gov/dph **Project Web Site:** www.mass.gov/dph/homevisiting

In 2010 the Massachusetts Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIEHCV), known in the state as Massachusetts Home Visiting Initiative (MHVI) conducted a Home Visiting Needs Assessment. Based on the results of the 2010 Needs Assessment, the Commonwealth identified 17 cities and towns with the poorest outcomes in the domains of maternal and infant health, child development and school readiness, child maltreatment, violence, and economic self sufficiency and would benefit from home visiting services.

To address these needs, MHVI established the program goals of: 1) strengthening and improving the programs and activities carried out under State Title V Agency, 2) identifying and providing comprehensive evidence-based home visiting services to pregnant and parenting families to improve outcomes for families in high need communities, and 3) improving coordination of services for families by building and enhancing a statewide system of care for families and young children. To address goal one MHVI is providing integrative trainings and other collaborative efforts that focus on Title V activities including medical/dental home, maternal and child health and nutrition, mental health, substance use, and domestic violence. To address goal two MHVI is continuing to support home visiting services through the Early Head Start, Healthy Families, and Healthy Steps programs, to families in the 5 Formula communities. Recruitment efforts are focused on high need families such as first time parents, those involved with the child welfare system, recent immigrants, homeless families, and low income families. To decrease social isolation and address maternal depression, MHVI is implementing parent support groups and Moving Beyond Depression which provides in-home cognitive behavioral therapy (funded through the Expansion grant). Finally, to address goal three, MHVI is supporting and enhancing agency and community collaboration to avoid duplication and provide additional training and supervisor services for all home visiting programs. MHVI is also enhancing statewide early childhood systems of care through the Welcome Family (WF) program. WF is a universal one-time nurse home visit for all women giving birth to identify their needs and link them to formal and informal supports (funded through the Expansion Grant).

The following communities are served by the Formula Grant: 1) Chelsea, 2) Holyoke, 3) Fall River, 4) Lynn, and 5) Southbridge. Massachusetts' total service capacity (with these five programs) is 757 the current number of families enrolled is 495, the total number of continuing families proposed to be served with FY14 (during FY14) formula funds is 493, and the total number of new families proposed to be served with FY14 formula funds (during FY14) is 404.

In FY13, MHVI continued to collaborate with the Children's Trust, Department of Children and Families, Department of Early Education and Care, Department of Transitional Assistance, Executive Office of Health and Human Services, Executive Office of Education, MA Association of Head Start, and the Office of Medicaid (MassHealth).

Massachusetts is continuing to expand evidence-based home visiting programs to improve the health of families and developmental outcomes of children in high need communities. The expansion of home visiting, partnered with MHVI efforts in community collaboration-building, workforce development and community-of-practice activities, and systems-building will continue to strengthen Massachusetts' early childhood system of care. Massachusetts looks forward to continuing its contribution to the body of knowledge for evidence-based practices and improving outcomes for Massachusetts families and children.