

Family Foundations Home Visiting Program 2021 Annual Report

Division of Safety and Permanence

July 2022



What is the Family Foundations Home Visiting Program?

The Family Foundations Home Visiting Program (FFHV) is offered to pregnant and parenting families. Participants enroll voluntarily. Home Visitors meet one-on-one with pregnant or parenting families preferably in home; however they are also available to meet virtually. Home visitors work in partnership with mothers and fathers to promote social, emotional, and physical development and overall family well-being.

Our Mission

Promote parent, infant, and early childhood health and well-being, in partnership with families facing adversity, through home-based support, information, and connection to community.

Our Vision

All Wisconsin families have a strong beginning to be healthy, connected, and successful.

Serving Families Across Wisconsin

Families learn about home visiting services through several avenues, such as referrals from their health care provider, Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), human service provider, or through word of mouth.

Number of:

Local Implementing Agencies – 30

Counties – 40 out of 72

Tribes – 6 out of 11 Federally Recognized

Families Served – 2,165

Home Visits Provided – 27,058

Evidence Based Models – 4

- Early Head Start—Home Based
- Health Families American
- Parents as Teachers
- Nurse-Family Partnership



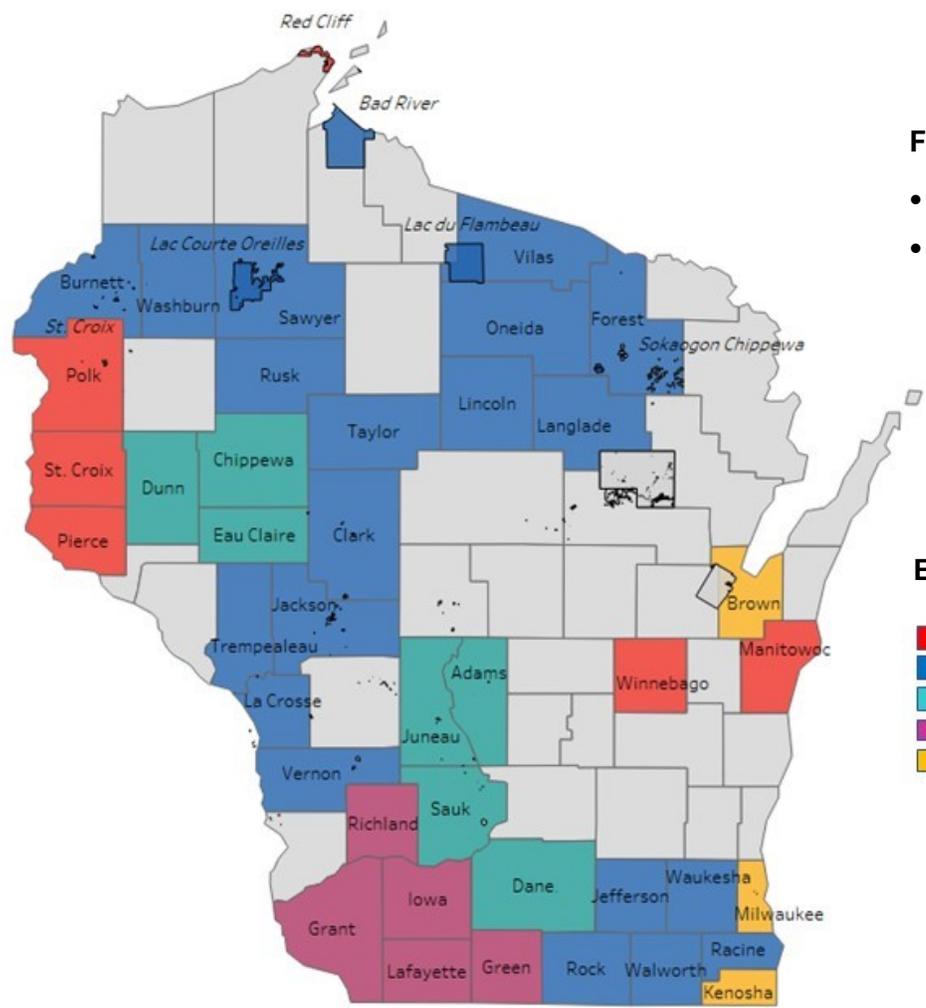
Wisconsin Department of
Children and Families



Why Home Visiting Matters

Home visitors and families build strong, supportive relationships that foster positive growth and development in the lives of children. Mothers, fathers, and caregivers work collaboratively and voluntarily to develop goals for their families with the intent on helping the family enhance the health and well-being of their children and themselves. Family Foundations Home Visiting prioritizes funding for services in priority communities, where there are higher numbers of families facing adversity. All home visiting services are voluntary. By meeting the families where they are, home visitors have been able to demonstrate positive impacts on the health, safety and school-readiness of children.

Counties and Tribes Funded by FFHV in 2021



FFHV Funding Supports

- 40 out of 72 counties
- 6 out of 11 federal recognized tribes

Evidence-Based Models

- Parents as Teachers (PAT)
 - Health Families of America (HFA)
 - Nurse Family Partnership (NFA)
 - Early Head Start (EHS)
 - More than one Evidence-Based Model
- Brown County:**
PAT and HFA
- Kenosha County:**
PAT and NFP
- Milwaukee County:**
PAT, HFA, and EHS



Accessing Maternal and Child Health Services



65.7%

of caregivers received a post-partum visit from a health care provider



81.2%

of children received their last recommended well child visit

Using Evidence-Based Tools to Better Understand Family Needs



65.6%

of families received a depression screening



79.3%

of women received an intimate partner violence screening

Supporting Child Development and School Readiness



86.2%

of children with a potential developmental delay received services in a timely manner



99.4%

of home visits included discussion of child development



67.7%

of children have a family member who reported they read, told stories, and/or sang songs with their child every day during a typical week



Who the FFHV Program Serves

While all new parents and caregivers benefit from support, it is particularly essential for those who are parenting as a young person, struggling with their mental health, living in a lower income household or facing other challenges. For this reason, the FFHV Program prioritizes serving families who are facing adversity.

Percent of households considered low-income	62.9%
Percentage of parents that had health insurance	88%
Percentage of parents that had a High School Diploma or less	63%
Percentage of families that enroll during pregnancy	60%

Prior to 2021, the definition of low income by Family Foundations Home Visiting was 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL) and/or qualifying for various support programs. In 2021, HRSA required a modification to 100% FPL, hence while the number of families in need in Wisconsin remains at a similar level, the number moving forward will represent a segment of that population.

In 2021, 52% of households enrolled in FFHV programs were experiencing three or more federal priority population characteristics (from a list of eight), including substance abuse, low student achievement, and/or raising children with developmental delays.

MIECHV dollar amount	\$8,594,377
TANF dollar amount	\$6,212,100
GPR dollar amount	\$1,985,700



There is no way to be a perfect mother but there are a million ways to be a good one. ~Jill Churchill

Parenting does not come with a manual that gives you all the right way to do things, you learn as you go, in hopes that you always made the best choices for your children. As a young teenage mother, Jane was unsure, confused, and angry, simply hoping to find a new outlook for her future. This led her to the home visiting program, hoping she could find a mentor that would support her along her journey, and she found just that. At first, a bit skeptical of the program and trusting that the home visitor would guide her along her path, she did not fully engage. However, the home visitor saw something in Jane and through consistent, positive interactions, Jane started to become more curious and begun to slowly engage. Jane was provided helpful infographics to show where she was in her pregnancy, and information about how the baby was growing. Over time, Jane's engagement increased, she developed trust in her home visitor and started working towards setting some personal goals for herself and her future. Jane successfully gave birth to a healthy baby girl, remained enrolled in school, and continues to attend regularly hoping to graduate with her high school diploma. A reflection of Jane's experience that she wanted to share was, "I was never doing things the wrong way, I was a good parent, I just needed to learn that."

Sometimes, it takes a difficult moment to show us what we are truly capable of. ~Unknown

Cindy, a mother of one started receiving home visiting services when early in her pregnancy. She had hopes of obtaining better housing for herself, her unborn child, and her boyfriend. The couple was not eligible for housing assistance due to their past, yet they continued to persevere towards obtaining housing. They are both employed, which provides enough income for them to rent a small apartment for their family. Despite their best efforts, it is difficult for them to maintain a house, employment, childcare, and other necessities of supporting a family and often are left with little to nothing for income after all the bills are paid. They applied for the forgiveness program and waited many months to hear back, but after following up, learned the application was lost and they would have to resubmit their paperwork. While this was a major setback, and very discouraging, the mother decided she would not let this stop her from success. She resubmitted the forgiveness application and continues to wait on a decision. In the meantime, her family was approved for help through American Rescue Plan funding which helps with rent and utilities, providing them with some short-term relief. While this family continues to face obstacles, they refuse to let these obstacles stop them from turning their lives around and giving their daughter a better future. Cindy wishes the assistance programs would see her, get to know her, and understand that she is trying to make a better life for her and her daughter, like the home visiting program has. But until then, she will continue to work towards her goals."

**The names in these stories have been changed to protect the confidentiality of the individuals referenced.*



Family Voice

There is growing evidence that engaging or partnering with parents accelerates improvement in outcomes. Parents need to be involved and at the forefront of policy development, decision making, and overall program progression. Currently, all evidence-based models utilized within the home visiting programs are inclusive of family voice. The goal is not to reinvent the wheel, but rather expand upon that framework that has already been established.



In 2021, home visiting programs focused on elevating family voice through a continuous quality improvement project focused on early language and literacy. Families shared their childhood experiences with early language and literacy activities as well as their desire for representative literacy materials. Home visiting programs listened to family needs, which influenced ideas that were tested out to improve program services focused on literacy. Home visiting programs look forward to continuing to elevate family voice in future continuous quality improvement projects.

American Rescue Plan (ARP) Funding

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) issued ARP awards to states with current MIECHV Formula Award grants to support activities directly related to COVID-19 public health emergency response. In alignment with allowable uses of funds HRSA intends for these funds to support home visiting activities to address immediate needs of parents, children, and families related to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Round One: \$964,349 from 05/01/2021 to 9/30/2023

1. Emergency supplies of diapers and other essential supplies to families enrolled in MIECHV programs in at-risk communities as defined in the 2020 needs assessment.
2. FFHV will use the ARP funds to provide additional training opportunities for home visitors built on the FFHV values of Trauma-informed practices, Culturally responsible, and Workforce support

Round Two: \$1,911,876 from 12/01/2021 to 9/30/2024

1. Hazard pay or other staff-related costs. Specifically, funds will be made available to be used to provide incentive pay for existing home visitor staff that continued to provide home visiting services to families during the COVID 19 pandemic.
2. Prepaid grocery cards to families to increase access to food and other essential supplies.



Wisconsin Department of
Children and Families

**Learn more about the Family Foundations Home Visiting
Program**

Contact: dcfhomevisiting@wisconsin.gov

Visit: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cwportal/homevisiting>
<https://wellbadger.org>

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