Wisconsin’s Family Foundations Home Visiting Program (FFHV) is a voluntary home-based program in which home visiting professionals partner with parents and caregivers to promote healthy social, emotional, and physical child 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 a number of avenues, such as referrals from their health care provider, human service provider, or through word of mouth. In 2019, the program served 2,256 families, compared to 2,005 families in 2018 and 1,595 families in 2017.

- Local Implementing Agencies: 31
- Counties: 31
- Tribes: 5
- Families served in 2019: 2,256
- Home Visits Provided: 27,747
- Evidence-based Models: 4
  - Early Head Start
  - Healthy Families America
  - Parents as Teachers
  - Nurse-Family Partnership
Who We Serve

- 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 Family Foundations Home Visiting Program prioritizes serving families who are facing adversity.
- In 2019, 59% of households enrolled in Family Foundations Home Visiting programs were experiencing three or more federally-identified risk factors, including substance abuse, low student achievement, and raising children with developmental delays.

Family Foundations Home Visiting Funding

FFHV receives Federal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, and State General Purpose Revenue funds to support families served by evidence-based home visiting programs. Additional funding in the 2019-2021 state biennial budget will allow Family Foundations Home Visiting to further expand home visiting services in 2020 to two new programs serving seven additional counties. The FFHV state team is currently planning further expansion in 2021.

Family Success Story

Indianhead Community Action Agency: In Sawyer County, a home visitor works with a mom, dad, and their two-year-old who are involved in Child Protective Services. The toddler is also enrolled in the Birth to 3 program early intervention services for multiple developmental delays. The home visiting program, Child Protective Services, and Birth to 3 program staff meet monthly to help the family work on their goals, including stable housing, money management, and child development. In 2019, the mom found a job she loves, and the family found stable housing, where the dad provides maintenance to reduce rental costs. Both parents are also taking a more active role in their child’s development, including reading books provided by the home visitor and repeating sounds with the child. Recently, the family was discharged from child protective services and continues to make strong progress toward their other goals.
Family Success Story

Northwoods Healthy Families: A mom lives on her own with her 15-month-old daughter and works part-time. After the childbirth, the mom experienced some medical issues, which made it difficult for her to do her job. The mom decided that she wanted to go back to school to pursue a new career and her home visitor supported her in developing a plan to achieve this goal. A barrier she identified was the need to petition the school to re-register for classes; she had been enrolled previously and done poorly due to her pregnancy and health concerns. The home visitor supported the mom in building up her confidence in preparation for the meeting with the school. The school approved her to re-enroll in classes and she is expected to graduate in Spring 2020! The mom is proud that she is pursuing her dreams and feels that she is becoming a positive role model for her daughter.

Why Home Visiting Matters

Engaging families prenatally up to the child’s fifth birthday in home visiting supports access to resources to promote maternal and child health, nurturing parent-child interaction, and overall family well-being.

Home visitors use evidence-based screenings to assess key maternal and child health factors. This information is used to partner with parents to set goals and create an effective service plan. Home visitors then provide families with information and support for what they need, such as well-child visit reminders, skill development, or referrals to community services.

Accessing Maternal and Child Health Services

74% of caregivers received a post partum visit from a health care provider compared to 73% in 2018.

87% of children received last recommended well child visit, compared to 83% in 2018.

Using evidence-based tools to better understand family

81% of families received a depression screening, exceeding the state goal of 80%

94% of women received an intimate partner violence screening, surpassing the state goal of 80%

In 2019, FFHV completed 2 quality improvement projects, which led to better services to families:

- **Home visitor support for infant safe sleep increased:** The percent of caregivers with an identified barrier to practicing safe sleep who receive additional support from the home visitor increased from 83% to 100% between May 2018 and July 2019

- **Developmental screenings increased for children with below average scores:** The percent of children with an ASQ-3 score in the monitoring zone who were rescreened within 90 days increased from 22% to 42% between May 2018 and July 2019

4 FFHV programs will participate in a continuous quality improvement project focused on well child visits starting in 2020.
In 2019, FFHV completed a strategic plan to guide program administration over the coming years. Stakeholder feedback at the state and local level supported the FFHV state team in identifying these 4 focus areas to support and guide FFHV investments.

Learn more about the Family Foundations Home Visiting Program!
Contact: dcfhomevisiting@wisconsin.gov
Visit: https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cwportal/homevisiting

This publication is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of an award totaling $8,784,020 with zero percent financed with nongovernmental sources. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.