

Family Foundations Home Visiting Program 2020 Annual Report

Division of Safety and Permanence

06/2021



Wisconsin's Family Foundations Home Visiting (FFHV) Program 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 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— 38

Tribes—5

Families Served — 2,095

Home Visits Provided — 26,035

Evidence-based Models— 4

- Early Head Start—Home Based
- Healthy Families America
- Parents as Teachers
- Nurse-Family Partnership



Wisconsin Department of
Children and Families



Who the FFHV Program Serves & Funding

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: 94%

Percent of parents that had healthcare coverage: 90%

Percent of parents that have earned a high school diploma or less: 64%

Percent of families that enroll in home visiting during pregnancy: 56%

In 2020, 56% of households enrolled in FFHV programs were experiencing three or more federal priority populations, including substance abuse, low student achievement, and raising children with developmental delays.

Funding

FFHV receives Federal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and State General Purpose Revenue (GPR) funds to support families served by evidence-based home visiting programs. Additional funding in the 2019-2021 state biennial budget allowed FFHV to add two new programs in 2020, serving seven additional counties. FFHV plans to add additional home visiting programs in 2021.

MIECHV dollar amount: \$8,587,993

TANF dollar amount: \$6,212,100

GPR dollar amount: \$1,985,700



One family enrolled in FFHV had a toddler who had been having some trouble with communication. The mom shared with the home visitor that she could almost never understand what the toddler was trying to communicate. Through the home visitor's support, the mom started talking to the toddler more throughout the day. Before she did not talk to the toddler while doing chores around the house, but she saw how beneficial this would be for the toddler once the home visitor suggested it. She also started singing more songs and doing more language focused activities with her child. Recently, the mom shared with the home visitor that the toddler's communication skills had improved greatly. The toddler went from only saying one word consistently to saying several with confidence. The home visitor is so proud of the family's achievement and can't wait to see what they accomplish next!

One parent enrolled in FFHV had been struggling with her mental health after giving birth during the pandemic. This affected her engagement in her home visiting program, where she did not want to engage in virtual home visits and had inconsistent communication with her home visitor. In partnership with the reflective supervision consultant at the home visiting program, the home visitor brainstormed ways to support the parent during this difficult time and increase her engagement in the home visiting program. The home visitor tried sharing a video with the parent that talked about mental health and COVID-19. After receiving this supportive resource, the parent called her home visitor immediately and said that after watching the video, she reported feeling heard and acknowledged and requested that the home visitor continue to send her similar resources. The home visitor was happy to be able to provide this virtual support to the parent and felt that it strengthened their relationship.



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.



Resilience During the Covid-19 Pandemic

When the COVID-19 pandemic began in March 2020, home visiting programs quickly pivoted to start providing virtual home visits to families, either through phone or video call. In this new virtual world, home visitors were tasked with trying different strategies for keeping families engaged in services and completing sensitive assessments. For some families and programs, a lack of technology and internet access made it challenging to engage in virtual home visits. Additionally, some families were unable to attend preventative healthcare appointments, such as the well child visit and the postpartum visit, due to pandemic-related barriers. Further, some home visiting programs at local public health departments were reassigned to COVID-19 response duties to broadly support their communities through this challenging time. These changes impacted FFHV home visiting programs and the families they serve and as a result, performance measure outcomes are lower this year than last year.

However, the data, as shown on Page 5, does not reflect the innovative ways that home visiting programs continued to serve and support families. From connecting families with emergency resources to running continuous quality improvement (CQI) projects to improve the virtual visit experience, home visiting programs excelled at supporting families, and each other, during this unprecedented time. Home visiting staff also engaged in national and local virtual professional development opportunities to improve the delivery of virtual services. Home visiting programs reassigned to COVID-19 response duties identified creative ways to continue to connect with families and offer them support and resources. FFHV is so proud of all the home visiting programs who rose to the challenge and employed creative and supportive strategies to continue serving families through this difficult time!



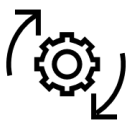
Accessing Maternal and Child Health Services



67% of caregivers received a post-partum visit from a health care provider



80.2% of children received their last recommended well child visit



Four FFHV programs participated in a national continuous quality improvement project focused on well child visits, where they focused on strengthening partnerships with local primary care providers, training home visitors on talking with families about the importance of well child visits, and supporting families in getting their questions answered at the doctor. This project also included a special focus on partnering with families in CQI work to identify ideas that might improve well child visit attendance.

Using Evidence-Based Tools to Better Understand Family Needs



73.2% of families received a depression screening



89.8% of women received an intimate partner violence screening

Supporting Child Development and School Readiness



70.3% of children with a potential developmental delay received services in a timely manner



99% of home visits included discussion of child development

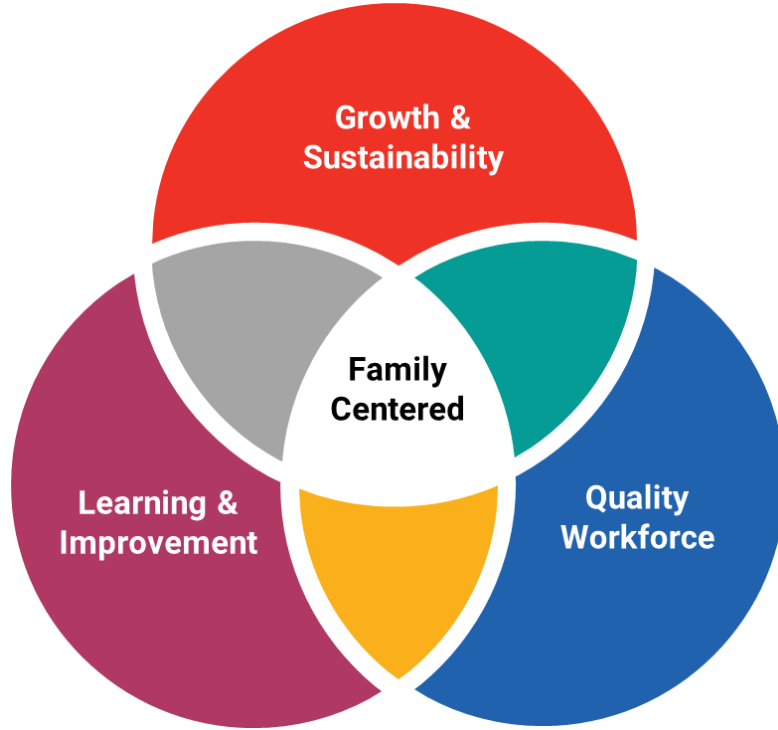


68.9% of children have a family member who reported they read, told stories, and/or sang songs with their child every day during a typical week



Why Home Visiting Matters

FFHV’s strategic planning process identified 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>



Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

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