

# Family Foundations Home Visiting Program 2022 Annual Report

Division of Safety and Permanence

October 2023



## What is the Family Foundations Home Visiting Program?

Wisconsin's Family Foundations Home Visiting 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 local Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) provider, medical provider, human service provider, or through word of mouth.

### Number of:

**Local Implementing Agencies – 35**

**Counties – 40 out of 72**

**Tribes – 6 out of 11 Federally Recognized**

**Families Served – 2,305**

**Home Visits Provided – 28,559**

**Evidence Based Models – 4**

- Early Head Start—Home Based (EHS)
- Health Families American (HFA)
- Parents as Teachers (PAT)
- Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP)



Wisconsin Department of  
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# What is Home Visiting and Why it Matters

## What is Home Visiting?

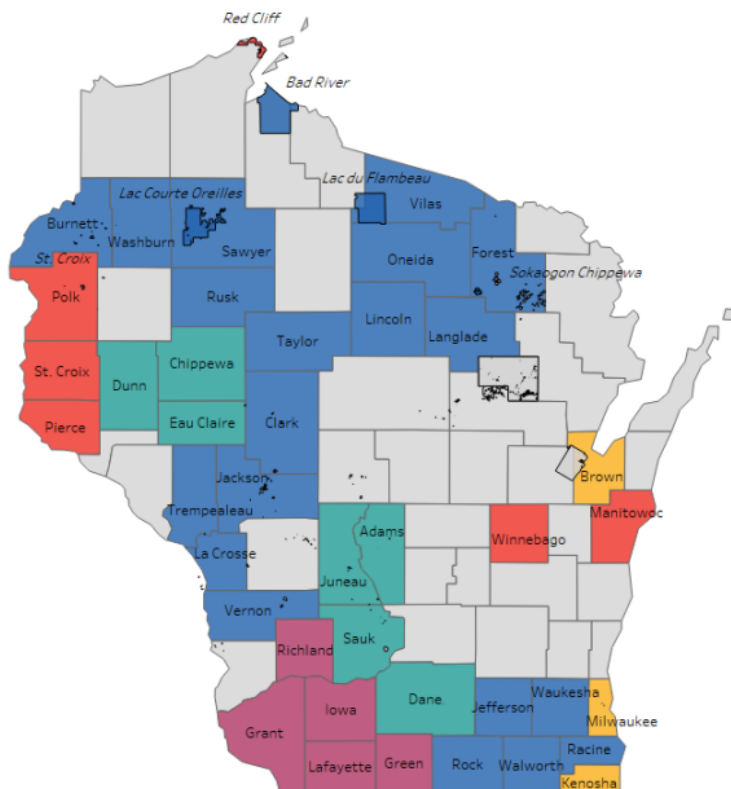
Home visiting is a service delivery strategy that aims to support the healthy development and well-being of children and families. All the FFHV Models (EHS, HFA, NFP, PAT) are unique in their service delivery. However, these Models also share common intervention activities such as:

- One on one interactions between home visitors and families.
- Families self-determining areas of focus
- Providing opportunities for education
- Use of evidence-based assessments
- Offering referrals to community resources

## Why Home Visiting Matters

Home visitors and families build strong, supportive relationships that fosters 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. FFHV 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.

## County and Tribal Map of Programs Funded by FFHV in 2022



### 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 (NFP)
- Early Head Start (EHS)
- More than one Evidence-Based Model
  - Brown County (HFA & PAT)
  - Kenosha County (NFP & PAT)
  - Milwaukee County (EHS, HFA, & PAT)



## Accessing Maternal and Child Health Services in 2022

Well-child visits are an important opportunity for health care providers to evaluate children’s physical, social, and emotional development and to provide essential preventive care including regular immunizations.



**68.8%**

of caregivers received a post-partum visit from a health care provider as compared to 65.7% in 2021



**82.8%**

of children received their last recommended well child visit compared to 81.2% in 2021

## Using Evidence-Based Tools to Better Understand Family Needs in 2022

Evidence-based home visiting advances health equity by addressing social and community factors that can negatively impact families’ well-being.



**75.2%**

of families received a depression screening as compared to 65.6% in 2021



**86.7%**

of families received an intimate partner violence screening compared to 79.3% in 2021

## Supporting Child Development and School Readiness in 2022

To promote school readiness, families engage in activities designed to improve child functioning across developmental areas, educating parents about child development and strategies to enhance school readiness, and promote positive parent-child interactions.



**67.4%**

of children with a potential developmental delay received services in a timely manner as compared to 68.2% in 2021



**99.2%**

of home visits included discussion of child development compared to 99.4% in 2021



**69.5%**

of children have a family member who reported they read, told stories, and/or sang songs with their child every day as compared to 67.7% in 2021



## Who is Served through FFHV Funding

While all new parents and caregivers can 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	54%
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	64%

In 2022, 58% of households newly enrolled in Family Foundations Home Visiting programs were experiencing three or more federally 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.

MIECHV dollar amount: \$8,594,377

TANF dollar amount: \$6,212,000

GPR dollar amount: \$1,985,700



## Family Voice

Wisconsin FFHV programs focus on elevating the voices of families within their programs. Growing evidence shows when partnering with families improvement in outcomes are accelerated. In addition to family voice being elevated in all evidence-based models utilized in Wisconsin, many innovative practices are also being implemented ensuring the inclusiveness of all families. Some examples of family voice being elevated in FFHV programs include:

- Engaging families in Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) efforts
- Supporting and connecting with Family Leadership Groups that provide input on home visiting services and programming
- Utilizing funds to support a client's desires and goals
- Administering surveys to family members to gather input on practice improvement and approaches used within the home visiting program
- Ensuring the evidence-based home visiting models' use of family voice to drive service planning practices and service delivery

## Changes in Home Visiting

Home visiting has become more versatile and better positioned to meet the needs of families throughout Wisconsin through the offering of virtual home visits. Virtual home visits provide autonomy to families who would otherwise need to cancel appointments due to transportation, sickness, or other things that interfere with attending appointments in person. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, virtual home visits were not an option for home visits but are a welcomed adaptation that has assisted in meeting the needs of families.

## Success quotes from families

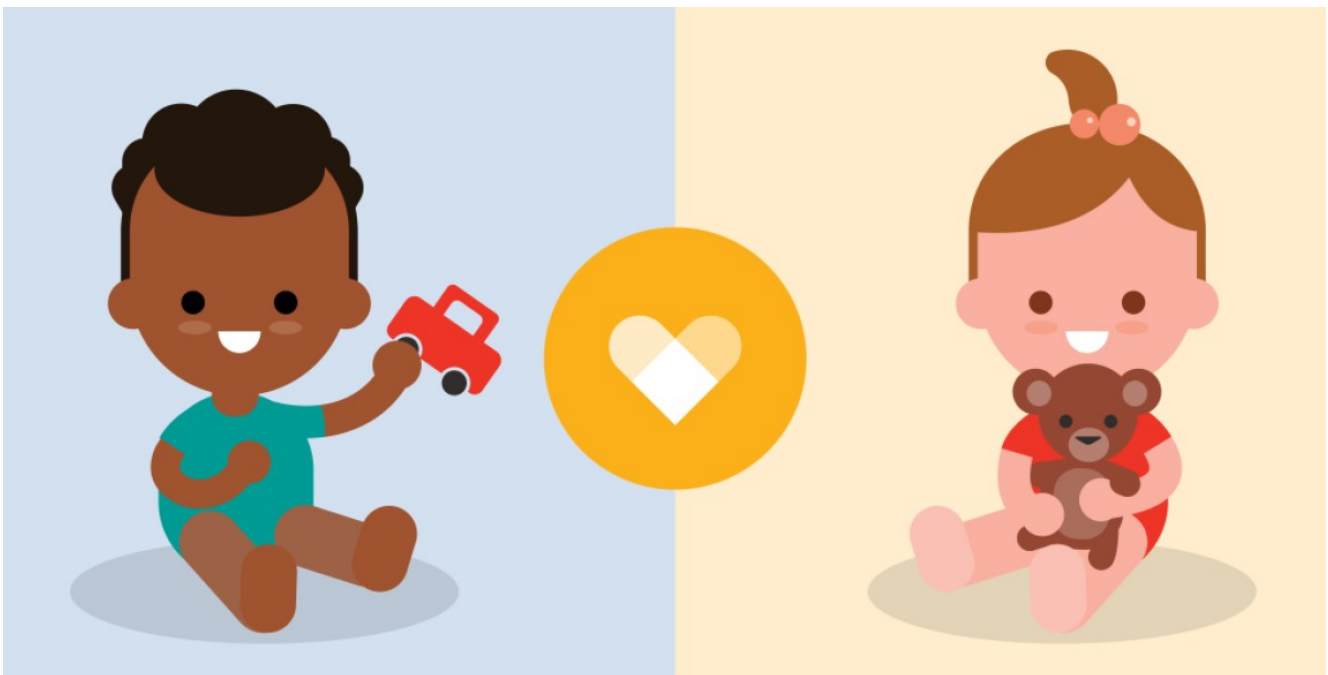
- "I like that my home visitor stays involved with me and checks on me. I also feel like she is respectful of my culture and tries to understand things from a different perspective. She also meets with me in the evening when it works for my schedule, and I really appreciate that."
- "The program helped me be a better father. I grew a lot with my home visitor!"
- "I would like to say thank you for having this program and helping parents learn how to be the best parents."
- "Home Visiting is the best thing that ever happened to me and my daughter."





### **“In the heart of every struggle lies an opportunity to grow.” - Melanie M. Koulouris**

Home Visiting has the power to change lives! One example of this is from a family that had a limited support system. Cindy and Carl both knew that they wanted to raise their children in a loving and supportive home. With the support of their home visitor, Cindy and Carl learned how to address problem behaviors and reinforce all the good things their children were doing. Home visiting wasn't just a support for their parenting. Cindy and Carl were able to build relationships with other parents in their area, which has helped them in feel supported in so many ways. The family intends to continue services with the home visiting program. This support will help the family thrive as their children grow!



### **“It always seems impossible until it is done.” - Nelson Mandela**

Home visiting has many tools available to families that help in understanding a child's growth and development. One of the tools is the Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) which measures development in 5 different areas for children aged 5 and under: communication, gross motor, fine motor, problem solving, and personal-social. Using this tool Michelle learned that her child, Joe, needed help with communication. Through daily work in the Growing Great Kids Curriculum (GGK), Joe was able to progress to normal communication limits within 2 months of the initial screening. Michelle continues to work with Joe and promote communication development and continues to be proud of the progress her son continues to make.



## Continuous Quality Improvement

Three FFHV programs participated in a national continuous quality improvement project focused on delivering universal education on healthy and unhealthy relationships to families enrolled in home visiting. Each FFHV program tested out the *Connected Parents, Connected Kids* curriculum from Futures Without Violence and home visitors used a prepared script to discuss the curriculum with families. At the end of the project, based on positive feedback from home visitors and families, all three FFHV programs adopted the use of the curriculum for all families that enroll in their home visiting services.



## 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 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. FFHV dispersed funds to provide 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 is using 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. FFHV has made funding available for hazard pay or other staff-related costs. Specifically, funds have been 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. FFHV dispersed funds for prepaid grocery cards to families to increase access to food and other essential supplies.



## Learn more about the Family Foundations Home Visiting Program

Contact: [dcfhomevisiting@wisconsin.gov](mailto:dcfhomevisiting@wisconsin.gov)

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

<https://wellbadger.org>



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