

Family Foundations Home Visiting Program 2023 Annual Report

Division of Safety and Permanence

October 2024



What is the Family Foundations Home Visiting Program?

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 local hospitals, Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) office or medical provider.

Number of:

Local Implementing Agencies (LIA) – 32

Counties – 40 out of 72

Tribes – 6 out of 11 Federally Recognized

Families Served in 2023 – 2,189

Families Served in 2022 – 2,305

Home Visits Provided in 2023 – 30,377

Home Visits Provided in 2022 – 28,559

Evidence Based Models – 4

- Early Head Start–Home Based (EHS)
- Health Families American (HFA)
- Parents as Teachers (PAT)
- Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP)
- Family Spirit (approved for use by DCF, but not currently used in Wisconsin by any LIA)



Wisconsin Department of
Children and Families



What is Home Visiting and Why it Matters

What is Home Visiting?

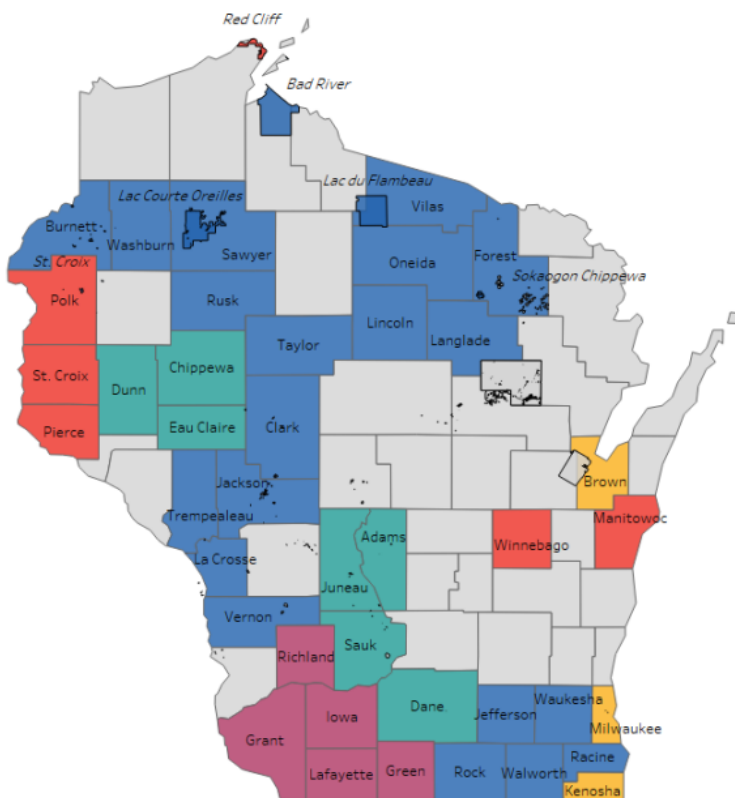
Home visiting is a service delivery strategy that aims to support the healthy development and well-being of children and families. While each home visiting model has its unique aspects, in general, home visiting involves three main intervention activities conducted through one-on-one interactions in a mutually comfortable space between home visitors and families:

- Assessing family needs,
- Educating, and supporting parents,
- And referring families to identified services in the community.

Why Home Visiting Matters

Home visitors and families build strong, supportive relationships that foster growth and development in the lives of children. Mothers, fathers, and caregivers work collaboratively and voluntarily with their home visitors to develop goals for their families with the intent of enhancing the health and well-being of their children and themselves. Wisconsin's FFHV Program 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 2023



FFHV Funding Supports

- 40 out of 72 counties
- 6 out of 11 Federally 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 (HFA & PAT)
 - Kenosha County (NFP & PAT)
 - Milwaukee County (EHS, HFA, & PAT)



Accessing Maternal and Child Health Services

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.



72%

of caregivers received a post-partum visit from a health care provider as compared to 69% in 2022.



84%

of children received their last recommended well child visit compared to 83% in 2022.

Using Evidence-Based Tools to Better Understand Family Needs

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



82%

of families received a depression screening in 2023, compared to 75% in 2022.



91%

of families received information about intimate partner violence in 2023, compared to 87% in 2022.

Supporting Child Development and School Readiness

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.



66%

of children with a potential developmental delay received services in a timely manner in 2023, compared to 67% in 2022.



99%

of home visits included discussion of child development in 2023, compared to 99% in 2022.



70%

of children have a family member who reported they read, told stories, and/or sang songs with their child every day in 2023, compared to 70% in 2022.



Who is Served through FFHV Funding

While all new parents and caregivers can benefit from support, it is particularly crucial 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 ¹	57%
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	60%

All households enrolled in a FFHV Program reflect at least one of federal priority criteria which include substance use, low-income households, military families, pregnant under the age of 21, history of child abuse or neglect, tobacco use, child with developmental delays, or low-student achievement.

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.

Annual MIECHV award: \$9,876,553

Annual TANF amount: \$6,212,000

Annual GPR amount: \$1,985,700

Total Annual FFHV Investment: \$18,074,253



¹ A household whose total annual income before taxes is equal to, or less than, 100% of the Federal Poverty Threshold; and/or if a household is receiving SSI or if household qualifies for Head Start, WIC, childcare subsidy, free/reduced lunch, TANF, Food Share, or Badger Care



Federal Site Visit

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program conducted an operational site visit with the Department of Children and Families in March 2023. A federal site visit provides an objective assessment of the MIECHV program awardee's status in meeting statutory, administrative, programmatic, and fiscal requirements. The site visit is also intended to support state-level oversight and quality improvement efforts.

Overall, the results of the site visit found Wisconsin's FFHV Program was both mindful and intentional in program development and implementation responsibilities. Examples of the FFHV Program's intentional focus on teamwork was evidenced by collaborative partnerships with the following key partners:

- University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, which provides training and professional development,
- University of Kansas, which provides a database that supports data collection, analysis, and reporting; and
- Wisconsin's Department of Health Services (DHS), which employs the nurse consultant as part of the FFHV State Team and serves to ensure strong connections with the DHS Title V program team and other important health-related initiatives, programs, and services described in more detail below.

In addition, the state's FFHV Program was noted to have demonstrated a principled understanding and integration of family voice and use of reflective practices as evidenced in the leadership, supervision, and staff support at the state and local levels.

Integration and Inclusion of Family Voice

In 2023, the FFHV State Team, in collaboration with Local Implementing Agencies providing home visiting services throughout Wisconsin made significant strides in the elevation of family voice within the FFHV Program. Some notable accomplishments related to integration and inclusion of family voice by the LIAs and the state FFHV Program were:

- Seeking regular feedback sessions with families
- Development and implementation of Parent Advisory Councils
- Gathered insights for program improvement through survey's and focus groups
- Inclusion of families' voices in the formal state-level evaluation processes
- Regular participation from families in state-supported continuous quality improvement (CQI) projects implemented by LIAs

The inclusion of family voice in all aspects of the state's FFHV Program, from local-level program implementation efforts to state-level evaluation and CQI initiatives, ensures that family perspectives are directly influencing program assessment, implementation, and evaluation. By prioritizing transparency and open communication, the FFHV Program ensures that the perspectives and needs of families are at the forefront of our efforts, leading to more responsive and effective service delivery.



Using Data Driven Insights

In 2023, the LIAs administering home visiting services as part of the state's FFHV Program provided over 30,000 home visits to 2,189 Wisconsin families. Through the implementation of four different evidence-based home visiting models, home visitors provided families living across 40 counties and six federally recognized Tribal nations located in Wisconsin with parenting education and support, as well as access to community resources.

The FFHV Program supported families by helping parents and their children to get and stay healthy. Over 70% of child-bearing parents received a post-partum visit from a health care provider and 84% of children received their last recommended well child visit. These percentages suggest that the majority of families who receive home visits while being served through the FFHV Program are adequately accessing health care services despite barriers, such as a lack of insurance and transportation.

Likewise, the FFHV Program supported families in helping their children grow and develop. Approximately 99% of home visits delivered to families covered topics of child development, suggesting that parents and caregivers were provided with opportunities to learn, reflect, and ask questions about their child's development. Additionally, 69% of families who received home visiting services as part of the FFHV Program reported reading, telling stories, and/or singing songs with their child on a daily basis, helping their children develop foundational literacy skills.

Together, the FFHV program supported Wisconsin families to be healthy, connected, and successful.

Collaboration and Coordination with the State's Health Services Agency

Wisconsin's DHS Maternal and Child Health program (Title V) serves the same populations as the those that are served through the FFHV Program. Wisconsin's DHS and the FFHV Program focuses on joint endeavors and alignment of activities to strengthen the respective national crosswalks and measures between the two state departments.

Title V objectives are in alignment and collaboration with federal MIECHV performance measures, inclusive of health equity and social connections, are as follows:

- Promotion of lactation, human milk, and breastfeeding
- Promotion of high-quality perinatal care
- Promotion of reproductive health
- Promotion of developmental screening



Continuous Quality Improvement

The FFHV State Team actively participated in the Home Visiting Collaborative Improvement and Innovation Network Health Equity Continuous Quality Improvement project. This initiative focused on enhancing health equity within home visiting programs by systemically addressing disparities and promoting equitable access to health resources for all families.

Through collaborative efforts, the FFHV Program worked to implement evidenced-based strategies, collect, and analyze data, and share best practices with other participants. Their involvement in this project underscored their commitment to improving health outcomes for underserved communities and advancing equity in home visiting services across the State.

American Rescue Plan (ARP) Funding

Family well-being was supported as part of the FFHV Program use of ARP funding by LIAs purchasing and distributing of grocery cards. These cards are delivered by Home Visitors during their scheduled visits, ensuring that families receive direct and timely support. Feedback gathered by the FFHV Program staff during site visits highlights the significant positive impact these grocery cards have on families. LIAs have expressed their gratitude for the vital support these funds provide to the families they serve.





“The world cares very little what you or I know, but it does care a great deal about what you or I do.” - Booker T. Washington

This quarter, a new mom in the program joined a support group and shared that she was very anxious, uncomfortable making new friends, and uneasy in large social situations. She mentioned that the support group was small and safe enough for her to step out of her comfort zone. After attending just three sessions and building relationships with the other attendees, she agreed to join the planning committee for Hispanic Heritage Month. By the end of October, she had volunteered to dance at the event. With the support of her Parent Educator and the other parents in the group, she was able to come out of her comfort zone and enjoy the spotlight.



“Excellence is to do a common thing in an uncommon way” - Booker T. Washington

The need for Spanish interpretation continues to grow. While an interpreter attends all monthly family events, the demand for interpretation has surpassed what one person can manage effectively. In exploring options, a home visitor suggested considering a peer interpreter. The home visitor had a dual language speaking client willing to test this out. Most of the interpretation involves simple instructions on what each activity station is and directions on what to do next. It was made clear to the peer interpreter that the regular interpreter would take over as needed. This arrangement worked extremely well. We were able to provide an incentive for the peer interpreter, enhancing understanding for our Spanish-speaking clients. Additionally, the peer interpreter made many connections with other moms by taking a more active role in the event. The peer interpreter is now interested in obtaining the necessary credentials to become a professional interpreter.



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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