

**Update on Federal Home Visiting Program
February 2011**

- **Background:** On June 10th HRSA issued guidance on the process for fulfilling requirements necessary to use FY 2010 ACA Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program funding, noting that this involve three steps.
 1. Initial application for funding (which will include a plan for completing the needs assessment and a plan for developing the program in order to meet the criteria identified in the legislation), submitted July 9th.
 2. Submission of the needs assessment, submitted Sept 20th.
 3. Submission of an updated plan for addressing the needs identified in the assessment, including an updated description and justification for the proposed program design, including how proposed models meet the evidence-based criteria as part of its plan for addressing identified needs and how the State will implement the selected program/s effectively and with fidelity to the model/s, due “early FY 2011.”

- **Step 1 – FY 2010 Application:** Maryland submitted the initial application and received the official Notice of Grant Award on July 27th. Maryland’s allocation of \$997,636 was determined by federal formula based on 2008 U.S. census estimates of percent of children under age 5 living in poverty. Awards award to 55 eligible grantees range from \$500,000 to \$7,782,987, with average award \$1.6M. Allocations for other states in Region III: Delaware-\$1,280,893; District of Columbia- \$606,115; Pennsylvania-\$2,070,398; Virginia-\$1,411,739; West Virginia-\$\$855,628).

- Maryland subsequently received notification of a supplemental FY 2010 award for an additional \$39,071 on September 16th, bringing the total award to \$1,036,707. Expenditure of funding is restricted to \$500,000 until the required needs assessment (Step 2) and the Comprehensive State Plan (Step 3) are completed.

- A portion of the unrestricted \$500,000 is being committed to acquire contractual staff for both DHMH and GOC, to support planning activities such as stakeholders meetings, and to acquire additional technical assistance for the needs assessment and development of a comprehensive State Plan based on the needs assessment that is required for the federal FY 2011 application.

- **Step 2 – Needs Assessment:** The needs assessment submitted on September 20th was approved by HRSA. Fifteen (15) key indicators (including 13 federally required indicators) were used to map out the highest risk communities. These communities included most of Baltimore City and Dorchester Co., and parts of Prince George’s, Somerset, Wicomico and Washington counties. The needs assessment has been posted at http://fha.maryland.gov/mch/home_visiting.cfm

- DHMH and GOC hosted Home Visiting Stakeholder’s meeting on Aug 9th on the Spring Grove campus to present the preliminary data and gather input for the needs assessment. Staff from the Innovations Institute facilitated the meeting. Attendees included representatives from Children’s Cabinet agencies, ADAA, MHA, OMHDD, Maryland Family Network (the CAPTA Title II agency) and the Maryland Head Start Office, local health officers/designees departments, local management board directors/designees, and currently state-funded home visiting programs. All local jurisdictions were represented. A second stakeholders meeting was

held on November 10th to present the final needs assessment and establish workgroups for the comprehensive state plan.

- **Step 3 – Comprehensive State Plan:** In meeting with the Region III federal home visiting program project officer (Dr. Monique Fountain Hanna) on November 29th, DHMH learned that guidance for the comprehensive state plan and a list of federally approved evidence-based home visiting program are released. Federal officials indicate that it is unlikely that funding for implementation of new programs will be “unrestricted” until late spring 2011.
- **Criteria for Evidence-Based Programs:** Proposed criteria were released for public comment with closing date of August 17th. However, according to the federal project officer, final criteria and a list of federally approved program are unlikely to be released until the federal guidance for the state plan is released which may not occur until February 2011.
- **Future Funding:** The federal project officer has indicated that FY 2010 formula funding to states will be considered “base funding.” Future awards for FY 2011-2015 are likely to be competitive (among states) grants.
- **Current Activities (January 2011):** Meetings with jurisdictions which have the communities at highest risk according to the needs assessment are be scheduled to establish local planning activities based on existing federal guidance. Planning grants may be provided. However, implementation funding will only be available after the state plan is approved.
- **SIR #3-** released on 2/8/11 with an updated state plan due 90-120 days from release date.

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