The Promise of Home Visiting: Transforming Practice, Maximizing Impacts

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Policy research that benefits children, families, and their communities
Main Points

- Current interest in home visiting is the logical consequence of over 100 years of experimentation and program improvement.
- The President’s home visiting policy offers a unique opportunity to use this strategy to leverage significant systemic and contextual change.
- Realizing this change requires new thinking in what we expect from government, what we expect from ourselves, and what we expect from each other.
The Appeal of Early Home Visiting
Promising Characteristics of Home Visiting

- Reduces some barriers to service engagement.
- Allows one to target and shape the intervention to a family’s specific needs.
- Facilitates contact with other family members and care providers.
- Provides a “window” into the child’s most proximate environment.
- Models “relationship building”.
Factors Facilitating Home Visiting Expansion

• Convergence of political interests, clinical knowledge and empirical research.

• Success of Nurse Family Partnership and other home visiting efforts in achieving key outcomes – there was evidence the strategy worked.

• Hawaii’s statewide expansion of Healthy Start – there was evidence you could do this “to scale”.

• Established a promising pathway for reaching the most challenged families.
Documented Outcomes of Home Visiting

**Initiated During Pregnancy/Birth**
- Better birth outcomes (if offered during pregnancy)
- Enhanced parent-child interactions
- Positive maternal life and health choices
- More efficient use of health care and community services
- Enhanced child development and early detection of developmental delays

**Toddlers**
- Early literacy skills
- Social competence
- Parent involvement in learning
Why are the best programs working?

- Theoretical integrity and focused content.
- Focusing intervention efforts on the earliest stages of the developmental process.
- Employing persistent, but respectful, outreach methods to engage multi-problem families.
- Systematically assessing the needs of the target population across a number of domains that impact relevant risk and protective factors.
- Providing participants access to a core body of knowledge and skills and facilitating access to other community resources as needed.
Federal Investments in Early Home Visiting
Maternal, Infant, Early Childhood Home Visiting

• **Goal**
  - Included in the 2010 Affordable Care Act
  - Assists states in building a comprehensive early childhood system to promote the health and safety of pregnant women, children 0-8 and their families

• **Investments**
  - $1.5 billion allocated to states FY 10 to FY14 on a formula and competitive basis
  - $11.2 million for Technical Assistance
  - $40 million for a national evaluation, to document participant outcomes and program implementation
Maternal, Infant, Early Childhood Home Visiting

- **Opportunities for program innovation**
  - *Formula Grants* to all states
    - 75% of funds allocated to 12 evidence-based home visiting models
    - 25% of funds allocated to promising approaches
  - *Competitive Grants* to build or expand service capacity

- **Current investment levels (FY 10, 11, 12)**
  - Almost $700 million for formula grants to 55 states and territories and competitive grants to 37 states.
  - An additional $20 million provided to 26 tribal entities

- **Expansion plan**
  - $15 billion over ten years, beginning in FY 15.
Creating a Policy and Program Context for Success
Using MIECHV as an “Agent of Change”

• **Technical solutions for strengthening prevention – doing more**
  – Expand and diversify funding for home visiting programs.
  – Build partnerships among key stakeholders.
  – Mobilize residents to better support service expansion.

• **Adaptive solutions for transforming prevention – doing better**
  – Create an integrated mission to produce collective impact.
  – Focus on infrastructure development and create robust community service delivery systems.
  – Invest in innovation and continuous learning.