

Home Visiting Evidence of Effectiveness (HomVEE)

Call for Studies

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: January 6, 2012

Purpose

Mathematica Policy Research® seeks studies for a comprehensive review of the evidence base for home visiting programs. The review is being conducted for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) by Mathematica Policy Research (and subcontractor Dr. Brenda Jones Harden) and will be used to help inform policy, new initiatives, and program directions at the federal level. Submissions are due by January 6, 2012.

Background

Home visiting as a program delivery vehicle continues to expand due in part to research supporting the primacy of early experiences, social learning, and the parent-child relationship (Daro 2006; DiLauro 2009; Meltzoff et al. 2009). Increasingly, federal policymakers are funding evidence-based program models as part of efforts to make smarter investments in education, health care, and social services (ACF 2007).

In spring 2010, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the Administration for Children announced the availability of FY 2010 funding for the *Affordable Care Act (ACA) Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program*. The program emphasizes and supports successful implementation of high-quality, home visiting programs that have demonstrated evidence of effectiveness. The program is being administered by HRSA in collaboration with ACF.

To identify the home visiting programs that have evidence of effectiveness, on behalf of DHHS, Mathematica is continuing a comprehensive review of the evidence base. An initial comprehensive review was conducted in the fall of 2009 through the summer of 2011. The results of the initial review, as well as detailed information about the review standards, are available on the HomVEE website (<http://homvee.acf.hhs.gov/>). The purpose of this new Call for Studies is to continue and update the existing review.

The new Call for Studies will utilize the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program definition of home visiting. Specifically, Mathematica will limit the literature search to programs that include this approach as the primary service delivery strategy. Programs that are primarily center-based with infrequent or supplemental home visiting will be excluded. Home visiting services should be offered to most or all participants and should be integral to programmatic goals. Visits should occur solely or primarily where participating families reside but occasionally may occur elsewhere if the families are homeless or uncomfortable conducting visits in the home. Services should be offered on a voluntary basis to pregnant women, expectant fathers, and parents and caregivers of children birth to kindergarten entry.

The home visiting services in studies included in this review must occur either during the mother's pregnancy or after the child is born and prior to school entry, roughly from birth to age 5, and be focused on improving the well-being of the child(ren) and family. Therefore, the review will focus on programs that target at least one of the following outcome domains:

- Improvements in prenatal, maternal, and newborn health, including improved pregnancy outcomes;
- Improvements in child health and development, including the prevention of child injuries and maltreatment and improvements in cognitive, language, social-emotional, and physical developmental indicators
- Improvements in school readiness and child academic achievement;
- Improvements in parenting skills related to child development;
- Reductions in crime or domestic violence;
- Improvements in family economic self-sufficiency;
- Improvements in the coordination of referrals for, and the provision of, other community resources and supports for eligible families.

Eligibility

This Call for Studies is particularly aimed at identifying studies not previously reviewed by the HomVEE team including unpublished manuscripts (past or recent), conference papers, or new publications (currently in press) that are *not* included in existing research syntheses and databases. Authors may also submit new evidence or findings that build on or expand previously reviewed studies (as long as the results are reported as new, stand-alone articles).

Apart from the Call for Studies, the Mathematica team will conduct keyword searches of electronic databases, searches for studies on websites of research and policy organizations with links to home visiting, and other search activities. All relevant studies from these searches will be included in our review, supplemented with additional studies identified through this call.

Studies submitted in response to this call should:

- Focus on home visiting programs targeted to pregnant women, expectant fathers and families with or caregivers of children ages birth to 5.
- Have been prepared or published in 1979 or later.
- Provide the name and a detailed description of the home visiting program being evaluated, as well as the study methods employed.
- Target at least one of the outcome domains described above.

Submission Instructions

Submissions should be e-mailed to HVEE@mathematica-mpr.com

Submissions should include the following:

- An electronic version of the study in MS Word or PDF format
- A cover e-mail noting contact information for the lead or corresponding author, the name of the home visiting program being evaluated, and the study design—randomized control trial, quasi-experimental (comparison group, regression discontinuity, single case), non-experimental (such as pre-post or correlational), or implementation

The deadline for submissions is January 6, 2012.

Authors will receive acknowledgment of receipt of their submission but no indication of the possible inclusion of their study in the review.

REFERENCES

- Administration for Children and Families. “Guidelines for CBCAP Lead Agencies on Evidence-Based and Evidence Informed Programs and Practices: Learning Along the Way.” Working Paper. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, revised November 13, 2007.
- Daro, Deborah. “Home Visitation: Assessing Progress, Managing Expectations.” Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall Center for Children, 2006.
- DiLauro, Elizabeth. “Reaching Families Where They Live: Supporting Parents and Child Development Through Home Visiting.” *Zero to Three*, February, 2009.
- Meltzoff, Andrew N., Patricia K. Kuhl, Javier Movellan, and Terrence J. Sejnowski. “Foundations for a New Science of Learning.” *Science*, vol. 325, no. 5938, 2009, pp. 284–288.