



DCYF Home Visiting Rural Exploration Community Webinars - January 26th and 31st, 2023 Summary and Questions

Overall, 15 stakeholders participated in the two webinars offered with the following breakdown based on the counties they serve:

Asotin	Columbia	Garfield	Klickitat	Skamania
2	1	3	6	3

The findings presented from the 2022 Start Early Rural Exploration report to DCYF resonated with those attending. Many noted that within these five counties, there are little to no resources available for families. Limited access to health and child care were specifically raised. Additionally, a few discussed challenges in achieving family buy-in and trust. In an effort to move forward, several attendees also expressed interest in hearing from currently funded home visiting providers.

Questions (and Answers):

Q: Would this opportunity be split across all five counties?

A: No, the aim is to fund one or two communities, based on proposals and available resources. In the end, the definition of community will be defined by the applicants, and may encompass one or more counties, or consist of a smaller geographic area than a full county.

Q: How much would be needed to establish and run a home visiting program?

A: Part of the planning grant would be to determine the amount needed to establish and run a home visiting program. The planning process would encompass the community need, an estimation of the number of families to be reached, and the home visiting model to address that need. The home visiting model will define staffing and supervision ratios as well as the qualifications of staff. Technical assistance will be available to support development/determination of costs for the program in the community.

Q: Who are the typical 'hosts' of these home visiting programs-health care providers, schools, community action teams, early learning coalitions?

A: Organizations that house home visiting programs range across communities. Currently, the HVSA funds programs in County Health Departments, Hospitals, Nonprofit Community-Based Organizations, School Districts, and Refugee Service Agencies. Communities are the best determiners of which organizations are best equipped and suited to host. It is expected that this would be an outcome of the exploration planning process.

Q: Will there be conditions around outcomes to the grant?

A: All home visiting programs are required to participate in data collection and work towards the aims of the HVSA to improve children's readiness for school, reduced child abuse and neglect, and enhanced parent-child interactions. The exploration planning grant would support a community process to determine whether or not home visiting is a good fit for communities to address these goals, and then in particular what model should be implemented to work best in that community at this time. The planning process will offer opportunity to explore the expected outcomes in greater depth; and more information is available on the DCYF home visiting web page (<https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/child-dev-support-providers/home-visiting>); some information will be presented at the exploration planning funding opportunity bidders' webinar.

Q: Will we have to identify the model we want to implement in the bid?

A: No, it is expected that communities will use the time during exploration planning to determine the home visiting program model to meet their community needs.

Q: Is it necessary for the staff to be in the community that is served? What if the office is nearby and serves the county that is on the list?

A: There is no requirement, and it is expected that the planning process will explore and then determine the staffing plan that will work best for the community to be served. To achieve success, program staff should strive for strong linkages and connection with the community to be served.

Q: What is the first step with this process? Who gets the community together to start the conversation?

A: Part of the home visiting exploration planning funding is to support communities in coming together to begin and continue conversation and planning. It is hoped that applicants would begin those conversations now to determine whether you are ready to apply for exploration planning funding. In the end, that funding will support the community planning process to include bringing partners and stakeholders together.

Q: It is important to hire and retain staff that reflect the populations that our organizations serve. Will the grant provide a supplemental amount for staff that are reflective of the population served?

A: Staffing is critical to a home visiting programs. During the exploration process, communities will identify the staffing needs for the model and community that would inform the development of a home visiting program.

Q: If an organization does not apply or does not receive the grant, but they are still interested in advocating for home visiting in their community, how can they?

A: The DCYF Web Site regularly updates funding opportunities when they are released (<https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/child-dev-support-providers/home-visiting/funding-opportunities>); in addition, we publish a monthly newsletter on home visiting and introduce funding opportunities there as well. To get on the distribution list, there is a signup link at the bottom right of the DCYF home visiting page <https://dcyf.wa.gov/services/child-dev-support-providers/home-visiting>.