

April 10, 2020

#### HVSA Home Visiting Programs –

This week began with the Governor’s announcement of schools remaining closed for in-person classes through the end of the school year. While this announcement provided some certainty of what families can expect over the next few months, it also undoubtedly caused new levels of parental stress about how they will manage through this pandemic. Parents and caregivers are being stretched to new limits and likely not able to parent in their preferred or hoped-for way, due to this pandemic. Thank you for holding each team member and home visiting participant with grace and care and seeing their strengths during this time. We are all in this together.

Washington State leaders continue resolute measures to “flatten the curve” and initial trends are showing promising results. Thank you for your contributions to the “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” order! While we know you face many new uncertainties and challenges each week, we also continue to hear the successes and resilience of home visitors and families in our state. In our office hours this week, we heard of past participants reaching out to touch base with their home visitor and express gratitude for all the materials and ideas gained through participation that have been great tools during this time. We also heard worries about kindergarten readiness for rising kindergarteners for fall 2020 and ways that communities of color may be experiencing this pandemic, such as significant industry-specific increases or decreases in work. We continue to hold these concerns with you and appreciate your efforts in helping children and families navigate these uncertain times.

**Question:** Is there a possibility to purchase things such as printers for staff as they work from home under the "program supplies" budget line item? Is there a possibility to purchase concrete goods for families during COVID-19? *[March 27, 2020, amended April 3 and April 10, 2020]*

**Response:** Organizations may purchase program supplies to support remote operations and family engagement, with some exceptions.

- Program Supplies: Supplies may include tablets, WiFi hotspots, printers. Each LIA should maintain a policy for how these supplies will be used, maintained, monitored and/or returned. It is important to abide by usage and security standards for technology supplies and client records.
- Family Incentives: Supplies may include resources for families, such as diapers or formula. These supplies may be incorporated as incentives to continue participating and should be reasonable (and non-coercive). Supplies may also include gift cards (reasonable amounts), ensuring the organization has a gift card policy that describes the intent of the gift card and limitations (no alcohol, tobacco products or firearms should be purchased). Programs should maintain documentation of how supplies are inventoried and distributed to program participants.
- Family Typical Living Expenses: HSVA funds (MIECHV or otherwise) may not be used for typical living expenses such as utilities or rent during general or emergency times.

**Question:** How do the new laws being implemented by the United States Department of Labor impact contracting and invoicing for HVSA Contractors? *[April 10, 2020]*

**Response:** While DCYF has not yet determined the financial/invoice impact at this time, we are looking into what guidance we can provide. In the interim, we have identified several resources for organizations related to [Implementing New Paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave](#)

[implementation](#) (*Families First Coronavirus Response Act Helps Americans Overcome COVID-19 Workplace Challenges*).

- Paid Leave [Infographic](#) for Washington State.
- [IRS - Apply for COVID-19 Related Business Tax Credits](#).
- [U.S. Department of Treasury - Resources of Paycheck Protection Program](#)

**Question:** Can home visitors/supervisors access eJAS from home computers for communicating with CSOs about status of referrals or services for TANF home visiting? What options do home visiting program staff have for reporting updates to CSO staff? *[April 10, 2020]*

**Response:** Below are the terms and conditions based on the data sharing agreements between LIAs and DSHS that allow for access into eJAS (Special Terms & Conditions, Section 4.b. Data Access & Sections 7.b. Access to eJAS) on personal computers using secure internet connections (See contract reference below).

**Special Terms & Conditions, Section 4.b Data Access:** In order to enter specific client data and review existing caseload information as described above, under this Agreement data shall be accessed through:

- (1) Personal computers attached to a Local Area Network (LAN) or the State Governmental Network (SGN) using a unique sign in login ID and a complex password, (changed every 90 days), or
- (2) Internet access secured through the Fortress server using a unique sign in login ID and a complex password, (changed every 90 days).

**Special Terms & Conditions, Sections 7.b. Access to eJAS (2)** The Contractor shall access eJAS through on-line personal computers attached to a Local Area Network (LAN) or dial-up connection on a secured Internet connection. All transactions shall be secured through the Washington State Fortress server.

Otherwise, providers must abide by all other data security measures outlined in their agreements with DSHS, including Special Terms and Condition Section 9 – **Security of Data - which speaks to retainment and storage of data, specifically that storage of client personal information on personal or company issued portable devices/media for the provision of services ... is prohibited.**

**In addition, providers should be aware that the use of personal computers means that anything on that computer becomes subject to public disclosure.**

**Trainings, Tips, Tricks shared by partners and LIAs:** *[April 10, 2020]*

- Supporting Mental Health in COVID-19 Webinar: **April 15, 1:30-3 p.m.**
  - During this uncertain time, mental health is more important than ever for all of us – especially families that may be experiencing increased social or financial stress. We are excited to partner with **Mia Edidin** from [Perinatal Support Washington](#) to offer a webinar focused on supporting family mental health during this time of COVID-19. We encourage both home visitors and supervisors to attend. The webinar will be recorded and shared widely. This webinar will cover:
    - Making sense of common emotional responses to fear, stress, and crisis
    - Supporting family mental health and wellness virtually
    - Virtual PHQ-9 screening and response
    - Information on virtual mental health resources
    - Supporting our own mental health and wellness

If you have any questions, please contact Elisa Waidelich – [ewaidelich@ounceofprevention.org](mailto:ewaidelich@ounceofprevention.org)

## **Zoom**

Time: April 15 1:30 p.m. Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/155454267>

Meeting ID: 155 454 267

- Updated ParentChild+ [Guidance](#) for Virtual/Remote Home Visit
- WorkFirst Information: [Changes to WorkFirst & ABAWD required activities in Response to COVID-19](#)
- Operations Changes: [Online Community Services Office \(CSO\)](#)
- ORIA Resources: [ORIA COVID-19 Translated Resource Directory](#) [Organized by language]
- Customers can get help from WorkSource staff toll free at 833-572-8400 and through the Live Chat feature on [WorkSourceWA.com](#)
- Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) who used to operate WTAP. The UTC now directs people to the Federal Lifeline Program. Here is a helpful link to a Lifeline support website that discusses eligibility, the national verifier, cell phone companies to choose a provider, and how to apply.
  - <https://www.utc.wa.gov/consumers/telephone/Pages/telephoneAssistanceProgram.aspx>
  - <https://www.lifelinesupport.org/>

## **Other Items and Office Hours Reminder:**

We will continue to host office hours April 15 and then re-assess cadence of calls. We have heard that there have been challenges with the link to the WebEx call, please use the link below and our apologies for challenges with the WebEx meeting links.

HVSA COVID-19 Open Office Hours WebEx meeting (April 15 12-1 p.m.)

Meeting link:

<https://wadcyf.webex.com/wadcyf/j.php?MTID=m0a9abf5252a4cf0f86c7d29c34c96267>

Meeting number: 281 060 995

Password: h83iHdhECs3

## **National Survey Feedback Request: By Monday, April 13:**

The Home Visiting Applied Research Collaborative (HARC) has partnered with the National Home Visiting Model Alliance to launch a Rapid Response to COVID-19. HARC is supporting data collection to understand our field needs to understand what local programs are experiencing as quickly as possible. HARC would like only one person from each program to respond. The survey can be accessed here: [LINK TO SURVEY](#)

Thank you for all you are and do for children and families in Washington.