

# **Planning and Conducting a Comprehensive and Collaborative Community Needs Assessment**

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**Tribal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting  
Program Grantee Kick-Off Meeting**



# Needs Assessment Requirements

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- **Identify and characterize the targeted at-risk community(ies)**
- **Identify the quality and capacity of existing early childhood home visiting programs**
- **Assess community capacity for providing substance abuse treatment and counseling services**
- **Assess community capacity to integrate home visiting services into an early childhood system**



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## Supporting Evidence-Based Home Visiting to Prevent Child Maltreatment

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# Assessing the Need for Evidence-Based Home Visiting: Experiences of EBHV Grantees

Diane Paulsell  
January 18, 2011

Tribal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting  
Program Grantee Kick-Off Meeting



# Background

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- **Telephone interviews with 8 EBHV grantees**
  - 4 state agencies
  - 3 nonprofit organizations
  - 1 nonprofit hospital
- **EBHV grantee needs assessments designed to meet two overarching goals:**
  - Assessing the need for home visiting services
  - Assessing community capacity to implement evidence-based programs



# Expected Uses

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## 1. Identify needs

- Target populations
- Geographic areas of high need
- Target outcomes

## 2. Create an inventory of existing home visiting programs

- Enrollment capacity
- Characteristics of enrolled families
- Services and curriculum
- Program needs and gaps in services



## Expected Uses (cont.)

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- 3. Assess infrastructure capacity**
  - Agency capacity
  - Workforce issues
  - Access to technical assistance and supports
- 4. Educate stakeholders**
- 5. Select an evidence-based program model**
- 6. Prepare applications to national or university-based support offices**



# Assembling a Planning Team

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- **Advisory and stakeholder committees**
  - Representatives of home visiting programs
  - ECCS grantees
  - CBCAP leads
  - United Way and other local funders
  - Researchers and epidemiologists from state agencies and local universities
  - State agency staff



# Data Sources

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- **Existing Assessments**
  - Head Start community needs assessment
  - Title V Maternal and Child Health inventory
  - CAPTA inventory of needs and programs
  - KIDS COUNT Data Book
  - Community Action Agency annual reports
  - Other state and local assessments





# Data Sources (cont.)

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- **Collecting New Data**

- Data requests to state, county, and local agencies and Medicaid managed care plans
- Interviews and focus groups with state and local stakeholders
- Surveys of existing home visiting programs, Head Start programs, Community Action Agencies, and other partners
- Follow-up telephone and in-person interviews with service provider staff



# Facilitators and Barriers

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- **Facilitators**
  - Collaborative relationships
  - Broad participation in planning
  - Dedicated staff resources
  - Existing data sources
- **Barriers**
  - Trust
  - Gaining cooperation
  - Availability of data
  - Lack of standardization across data sources



# Lessons Learned

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- **Planning the Needs Assessment**
  - Establish a planning group with broad representation
  - Obtain buy-in at all levels
  - Examine examples of existing assessments
- **Collecting the Data**
  - Draw on existing collaborative relationships
  - Involve county-level administrators
  - Use multiple methods



# Lessons Learned (cont.)

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- **Analyzing the Data**
  - Plan for substantial effort and an iterative process
  - Use secondary data to identify high-risk areas
  - Use program inventories to assess capacity
- **Using the Results**
  - Compare high-risk areas to assessments of community capacity and anticipate mismatches
  - Convene stakeholders to review results
  - Narrow down results to the essential findings on which decisions must be made



## For More Information

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- **Read the research brief**

Assessing the Need for Evidence-Based Home Visiting: Experiences of EBHV Grantees

**<http://www.supportingebhv.org/crosssite>**



# Discussion Questions

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- **What experiences do you have conducting needs assessments, and what lessons did you learn?**
- **What existing data sources are available in your community that may be helpful for the needs assessment?**
- **How will you collect additional data in your community to support the needs assessment?**
- **What challenges do you anticipate?**