

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

- **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**



Supporting Evidence-Based Home Visiting to Prevent Child Maltreatment

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

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



Background

- **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

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.)

- 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

- **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

- **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.)

- **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

- **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

- **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.)

- **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

- **Read the research brief**

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

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



Discussion Questions

- **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?**