



Early Childhood Family Education Home Visiting

2010-11 Fact Sheet

Brief History

Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) initially received funding from the 1992 Minnesota Legislature for home visiting as part of the Omnibus Crime Bill. Since FY 1994, school districts have been authorized to levy \$1.60 times their birth to four population specifically for continuation of this effort. The concept of home visiting as part of Early Childhood Family Education programming did not begin with the 1992 legislation. Home visiting has been a strategy used by ECFE staff for reaching and serving families with young children since the pilot programs began in 1975.

Early Childhood Family Education Annual Reports show that over 17,000 home visits were conducted during the 2009-2010 school year by ECFE staff. Many of these were done in conjunction with other agencies. Over 6,500 one-time, in- person newborn infant contacts were made.

Home Visiting Statutes

Minnesota Statutes, 124D.13, Subdivision 4, states that a district that levies for home visiting under section 124D.135, subdivision 6, shall use this revenue to include as part of the early childhood family education programs a parent education component that is designed to reach isolated or at-risk families.

The home visiting program must use:

- (1) an established risk assessment tool to determine the family's level of risk;
- (2) establish clear objectives and protocols for home visits;
- (3) encourage families to make a transition from home visits to site-based parenting programs;
- (4) provide program services that are community-based, accessible, and culturally relevant; and
- (5) foster collaboration among existing agencies and community-based organizations that serve young children and their families.

Home visitors should reflect the demographic composition of the community to the extent possible.

How is the additional funding for Early Childhood Family Education home visiting being used?

Early Childhood Family Education programs have placed increased emphasis on home visiting as an important strategy for reaching families experiencing multiple stresses.

Examples of families who are receiving home visiting because of the additional funding include the following:

- Families without access to reliable transportation
- Families with several preschool children
- Families with children and/or parents having special medical, physical, or developmental concerns
- Families referred to ECFE by other programs and agencies
- Pregnant mothers on bed rest
- First-time parents
- Parents lacking group skills who are not yet comfortable in group settings
- Families whose schedules or life circumstances make it difficult to participate in center-based classes or other opportunities
- Parents who have special concerns that they prefer to discuss privately
- Family childcare providers, with parents in attendance

Important: Beginning in FY 2005, home visiting levy expenditures were required to be coded to UFARS Finance Dimension 328.

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