

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

CHILDREN'S DIVISION

P.O. BOX 88

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

JULY 21, 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: CHILDREN'S DIVISION
FROM: TIM DECKER, DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: FY18 HOME VISITING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

DISCUSSION:

This memorandum is to introduce the FY18 Home Visiting Program to the Children Division as well as provide a mechanism to refer families for Home Visiting Services. Our Home Visitors are comprised of Community Partnerships and Competitive Contractors. The Community Partnerships will begin serving families effective July 1, 2017 and the Competitive Contractors will begin serving families after the contracts are awarded. Our Home Visitors are required to receive seventy percent (70%) of their referrals from Children's Division as a means of ensuring our families are receiving top priority in accessing this valuable service

The Home Visiting Program is a voluntary service for our most vulnerable families. The Home Visiting Program's primary focus is on Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention. This program is available to families beginning with prenatal up to the child turning age three (3). When the youngest child approaches age three (3), the Home Visiting program should be transitioning the child and family to Head Start or another early learning program in their area.

The partnership between our Home Visitors and Children's Division is designed to provide additional benefits to our families as well as our front line staff. The Home Visitors are an excellent resource in the home to provide overall parenting skills for our children which aids in the reduction of Child Abuse and Neglect. Front Line staff are strongly encouraged to make referrals for all newborn assessments. As an additional support for cases in which there is a child under the age of 3 in the home;

investigations/assessments, Family Centered Services, and Alternative Care cases moving towards trial home placement should also be referred to assist the family and the worker. By utilizing a Home Visitor in the home, the Home Visitor can address many areas of concern through the resources they have available, the home visiting model that was chosen, and additional training skills in the area of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention. Home Visiting can also be utilized as the child is transitioning back into the home after being in alternative care as an additional service in the home to assist with parent/child attachment, parenting skill development, appropriate discipline/behavior management, child development, and overall well-being of the entire family.

All Home Visiting Providers are required to create a multi-disciplinary team, and are highly encouraged to have a Children’s Division member on the team, which will meet at a minimum quarterly as a mechanism to providing wrap-around services and referral sources for families.

All the contractors and partnerships will be utilizing Strengthening Families as well as a Trauma-Informed approach to working with families.

Attached you will find a map indicating the eleven (11) regions in the State of Missouri where the eight (8) Community Partnership that offer Home Visiting Services are located. Each region will receive a Competitive Home Visiting Contractor; the contractor identities and contact information will be provided as soon as award evaluations are completed.

If there are any additional questions regarding Home Visiting in your area, or if you would like someone to come to your circuit to provide additional information on the value of the home visiting program, please contact Nancy Reid or Tasha Toebben.

Attached is a Referral form to utilize when referring a family for Home Visiting Services.

NECESSARY ACTION

1. Review this memorandum with all Children’s Division Staff.
2. All questions should be cleared through normal supervisory channels and directed to:

PDS CONTACT Nancy Reid 573-522-2316 Nancy.L.Reid@dss.mo.gov	MANAGER CONTACT Tasha Toebben 573-526-3899 Tasha.Toebben@dss.mo.gov
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CHILD CARE SUBSIDY MANUAL REVISIONS N/A	
FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS Referral Form for Home Visiting	
REFERENCE DOCUMENTS AND RESOURCES Home Visiting map indicating the eleven (11) regions where the Community Partnerships are located.	
RELATED STATUTE N/A	