Project Title: Oregon Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program Expansion Grant
Applicant Name: Oregon Health Authority, Public Health Division, Maternal and Child Health
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Abstract
The Oregon Health Authority's Maternal and Child Health Section (MCH) is seeking Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) funds to support the expansion of evidence-based home visiting models and to advance home visiting, early learning and health care systems development in 13 counties with high percentages of families of young children with significant risk factors. As identified in the 2011 State Home Visiting Needs Assessment these counties experience high rates of the federally mandated risk indicators and have population percentages above the median of racial and ethnic communities experiencing health inequities. These counties experience high rates of child maltreatment, a lack of evidence-based prenatal home visiting services, and/or long waitlists for families to enter into an evidence-based home visiting program. In addition, there is a need to continue advancing state and local infrastructure to effectively improve and sustain Oregon's home visiting system in alignment with the early learning and healthcare transformation initiatives. This proposal addresses the identified problems of system capacity, sustainability, service capacity, and service array.

This grant will serve 551 new and 250 continuing families with the Early Head Start (EHS), Healthy Families America (HFA) and Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) evidence-based home visiting models. EHS, with its proven impact on child development, will serve 125 eligible children who are currently on waitlists due to insufficient program capacity. HFA, with its evidence in child maltreatment risk reduction, will expand from serving eligible first birth families only to eligible families of subsequent births. HFA will serve 301 families. NFP is selected for expansion in counties that have a greater need for improving pregnancy outcomes and family self-sufficiency, areas in which NFP has proven impact. NFP will serve 125 new families and continue serving 250 families who began services under Oregon's MIECHV Development Grant.

This project is part of a larger Governor-prioritized effort to strengthen state and local home visiting system capacity to effectively respond to the needs of pregnant women, children and families in a more coordinated, culturally responsive, and cost effective manner. This grant will support increased levels of community engagement and family participation; establish structures for professional development including cross disciplinary training with early care and education providers; improve interoperability of data sets to look more holistically at children and families and to inform decision making; and establish continuous quality improvement systems for communities. Long-term results will include a more coordinated and effective home visiting system that is aligned and integrated with the early learning and healthcare systems. This proposal also includes an external evaluation that will assess the outcomes and lessons learned from Oregon's unique approach of implementing three MIECHV evidence-based models within the context of an emerging coordinated early childhood system across the diverse communities in our state.