

Washington State Home Visiting Goals and Objectives

Excerpted from the Washington State Home Visiting Updated State Plan, June 2011

The State Plan for a Home Visiting Program provides **high-level goals** and a set of clearly prioritized, feasible and **actionable objectives** that are necessary to foster a home visiting system in Washington. These priorities were identified through a collaborative process that involved stakeholders who are the most knowledgeable about the needs of at-risk populations and communities in our state. These goals and objectives are the critical next steps our system must take to continue building a comprehensive home visiting system, as well as contribute to the development of Washington’s comprehensive early learning system.

The goals and objectives for Washington’s State Plan for a Home Visiting Program fall within five strategic “buckets”: Governance and Planning; Finance and Sustainability; Service Delivery and Access; Quality and Accountability; and Public Engagement.

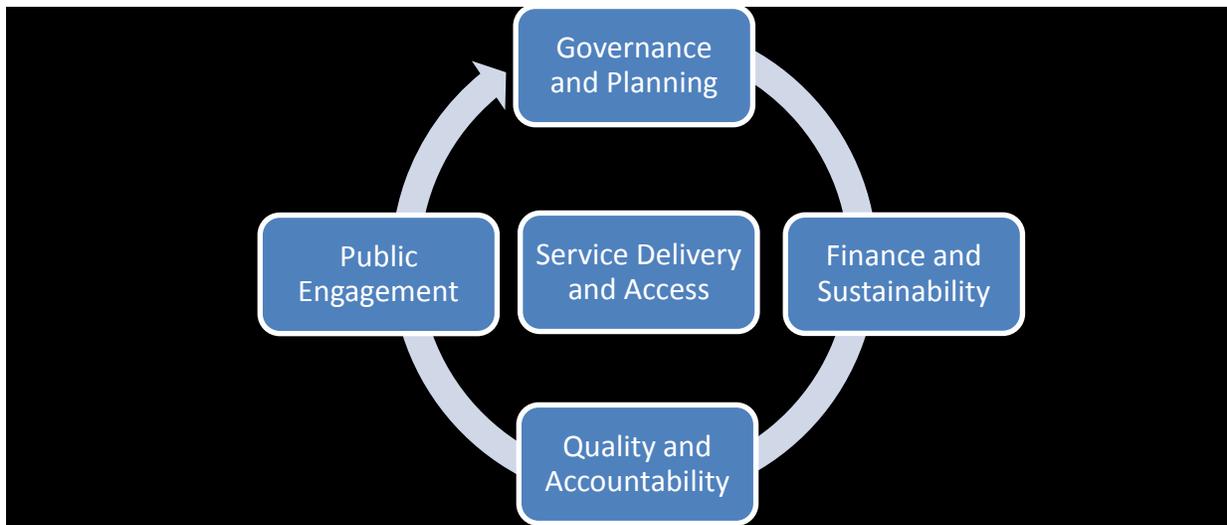


Figure 4: The Five Strategic “Buckets” for the Goals of the State Home Visiting Program.

1. GOVERNANCE AND PLANNING

Washington is in the process of developing a collaborative governance structure over the next two to three years, as outlined in the state Early Learning Plan. A federal grant for continued development of the Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) will be used to build a long-term, integrated governance and planning structure at both the state and local levels. Over the long-term, home visiting will be integrated into the broad early learning governance structure.

Goal 1: Integrate the home visiting system as part of the broader early learning planning and governance structure, encourage collaboration at the state and local levels, and engage and reflect the communities served.

Objectives:

A. Use the current home visiting planning structure to provide ongoing input and strategic direction in the development of the home visiting system. This structure includes ELAC, the Home Visiting Advisory

Committee, the Home Visiting Partnership Group, and the Home Visiting Executive Team (formerly the Cross Agency Governance Structure or CAGS).

B. Encourage strong local planning structures.

C. Link with partners in health, human services and K-12 to plan for a comprehensive approach to home visiting and linkages to other services and supports for families.

D. Listen to diverse local communities' views about culturally competent home visiting services, and use their input and local programs' expertise to assess the cultural competency of promising, research-based and evidence based home visiting models.

E. Ensure that home visiting work is informed and influenced by families, consumers and stakeholders, and aims to reflect the diversity of communities served at the local, regional and state levels.

2. FINANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY

To enhance and expand home visiting benefits prenatal through age 5 requires alignment of current funding and development of new funding resources. Many young children in Washington are living in families that are low-income or living in poverty, as described in our ELP. Funding for home visiting services is not commensurate with the demonstrated need. The 2010 Legislature created a Home Visiting Services Account (HVSA) to align and leverage public funding with matching private funding to increase the number of children and families being served by home visiting.

Goal 2: Build finance strategies and generate resources to sustain and grow the home visiting system in Washington state.

Objectives:

A. Seek funding from current sources, and new public (including local government) and private sources. Explore opportunities for leverage and to braid and blend funding sources through the HVSA.

B. Build finance strategies to support evidence-based, research-based and promising practice home visiting programs.

C. Secure resources to fund home visiting services and the infrastructure to support quality in local programs and at the state level.

D. Develop strategies to build long-term sustainability of high-quality home visiting programs.

E. Ensure that the finance strategies are informed and influenced by families, consumers and stakeholders, and aim to reflect the diversity of communities served at the local, regional and state levels.

3. SERVICE DELIVERY AND ACCESS

The Washington State Home Visiting Needs Assessment identified 32 geographic areas and five racial/ethnic groups as being at-risk compared to the state. The needs assessment found that four evidence-based and nine other home visiting programs are in use in the state, but only an estimated 2 to 11 percent of at-risk children and families are receiving these services. Through the U.S. Census and Washington Kids Count, there is ample evidence that to develop an early learning system that meets the

needs of all children requires explicit attention to a number of current gaps that exist—by income, race/ethnicity, language, and culture—both in child outcomes and opportunities and system capacity and response. Washington continues to build off a strong foundation of work that has been done at the state and local level to provide high-quality home visiting programs and models to support families with young children get a good start in life.

Goal 3: Ensure that high-quality, culturally competent home visiting services that meet the needs of local communities are available and accessible to at-risk families across the state.

Objectives:

A. Make evidence-based, research-based and promising program models more widely available and accessible to local communities.

B. Build capacity to increase access to home visiting services in rural, tribal and other underserved communities.

C. Identify and support effective intake and referral processes at the community, regional and state levels with organizations/entities that work closely with families.

D. Conduct culturally competent outreach to recruit and retain families in home visiting programs in underserved communities.

E. Work with communities and developers/representatives of evidence-based, research-based and promising home visiting models to ensure the cultural competency of home visiting services.

4. QUALITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Funders and policymakers want their investments to improve children’s outcomes and overall readiness for school. This calls for programs to be accountable. In Washington, we are responding to accountability in diverse ways as outlined in our Early Learning Plan. For home visiting there is an emphasis on continuous quality improvement of the home visiting programs. Efforts also are under way in Washington to evaluate evidence-based home visiting programs in terms of the outcomes for healthy parenting and child development, early literacy and children’s school readiness.

Goal 4: Ensure high-quality services and effective implementation of home visiting models and programs.

Objectives:

A. Increase the capacity to collect and analyze meaningful data at the program, model and systems levels for use in home visiting program improvement efforts.

B. Support communities in using these data for continuous quality improvement and on-going learning in their organizations.

C. Support communities in ongoing evaluation of promising/innovative practices to develop stronger evidence of effectiveness.

D. Ensure that the processes for assuring the quality of home visiting are informed and influenced by families, consumers and stakeholders, and aim to reflect the diversity of communities served at the local, regional and state levels.

E. Build professional development opportunities, training, and technical assistance for specific models/programs to support quality implementation of home visiting services.

F. Identify opportunities to share information and collaborate across home visiting programs and with partners in health, education and human service systems.

G. Build an integrated accountability system that meets local, state and federal needs, is consistent with program models and is cost-effective.

5. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Nationally and in Washington, interest has been growing in using home visiting to enhance parenting, and promote the optimal growth and development of young children. Research has shown the effectiveness of home visiting to buffer the effects of multiple risk factors and benefit children's health and development. Organizations and agencies supporting children and families are engaging the public in support of home visiting and building a coordinated early learning system.

Goal 5: Build community and public will for a home visiting system that provides high-quality services to families in local communities.

Objectives:

A. Educate the public about home visiting services and provide information about home visiting services offered in Washington.

B. Cultivate champions to support local home visiting services and programs, and provide information about ways to get involved.

C. Build off of existing public awareness campaigns that focus on early childhood health, development and learning, in order to inform parents, families and communities about home visiting.

D. Ensure that public engagement efforts are informed and influenced by families, consumers and stakeholders, and aim to reflect the diversity of communities served at the local, regional and state levels.

Read the complete Home Visiting State Plan here:

<http://www.del.wa.gov/publications/development/docs/HVUpdatedStatePlan.pdf>