

# Leveraging Home Visiting to Reach Children in Child Care Settings



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# Presentation Overview

- About CLASP's home visiting work
- Background on home visiting
- Data on children in family, friend, and neighbor (FFN) care and family child care (FCC)
- Strategies for expanding access to home visiting through partnerships with child care providers
- Examples, considerations for implementation, opportunities, and recommendations for states
- Questions and answers



# About CLASP's Home Visiting Work

# Where We Started

- Project: Extending Home Visiting to Kinship Caregivers and Family, Friend and Neighbor Caregivers
- Interviewed representatives from home visiting models, stakeholders and experts in the field
- *Home Away from Home: Reaching Children in Family, Friend and Neighbor Care through Home Visiting Partnerships*

# Background on Home Visiting

# Home visiting programs

- Traditionally deliver family support, preventive health, and developmental services to parents with young children
- Often link parents to community services
- Many varying curriculums and programs exist
- Part of a continuum of services for children birth to age five

# Goals of home visiting programs

- Increasing positive parenting practices and improving parent-child relationships
- Reducing child abuse, neglect, and injury
- Improving child health and development
- Increasing school readiness and academic success
- Improving child's emergent language and literacy skills
- Enhancing parents' self-sufficiency



# Often target specific age groups

- Pregnant women
- Infants and their families
- Toddlers and their families
- Preschool-age children and their families
- Some goals are applicable to all age groups; others tend to be more age-specific.



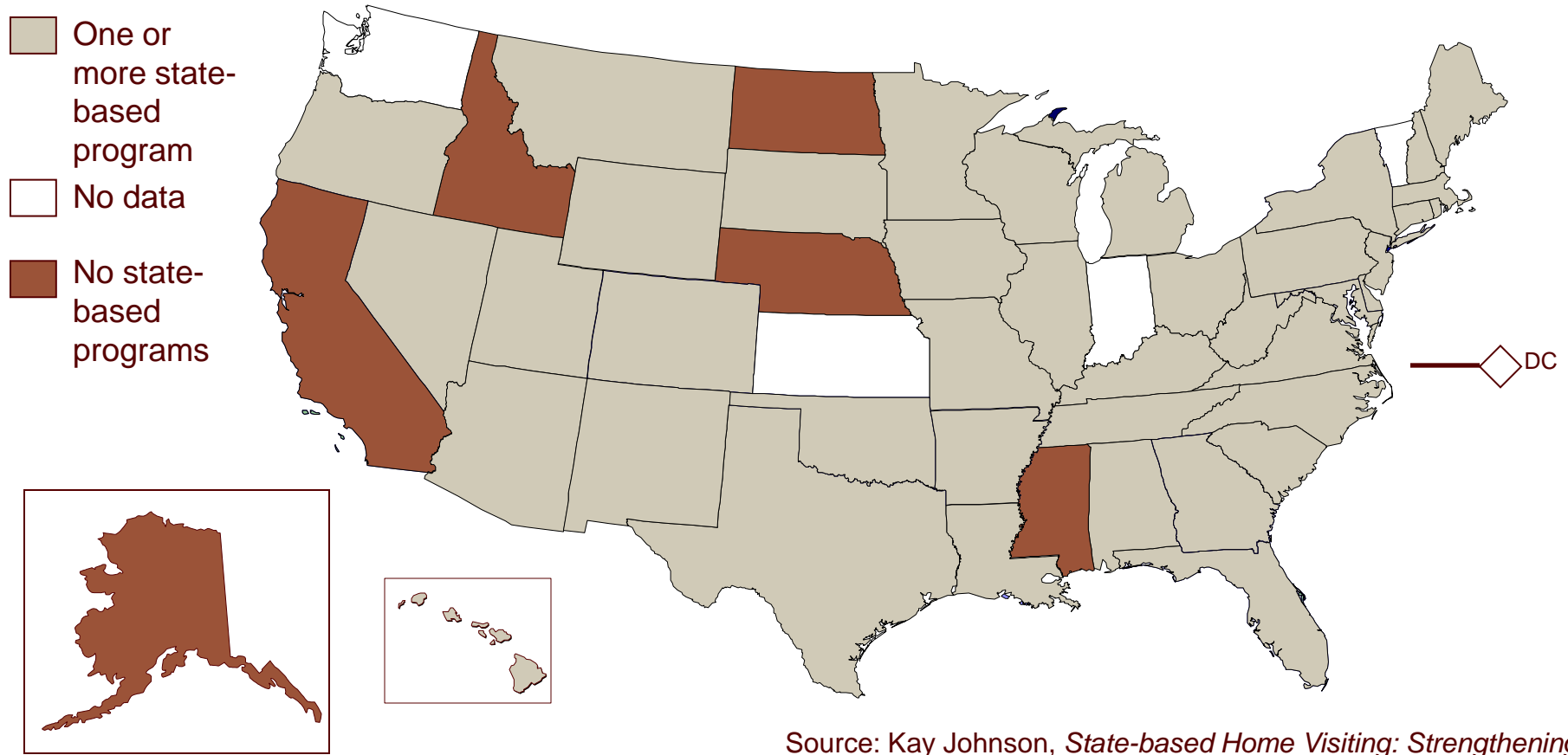
# Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV)

- On March 23, 2010, the President signed into law the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (Affordable Care Act) (P.L. 111-148)
- Provides federal funding to state home visiting programs
- Amounts vary based on number of children in the states and whether states received supplemental grants
- Most states are now in the implementation stage

# Thirteen Evidenced-Based Models

- Child FIRST
- Early Head Start-Home Visiting
- Early Intervention Program for Adolescent Mothers (EIP)
- Early Start (New Zealand)
- Family Check-Up
- Healthy Families America
- Healthy Steps
- Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY)
- Nurse-Family Partnership
- Oklahoma's Community-Based Family Resource and Support (CBFRS) Program
- Parents as Teachers
- Play and Learning Strategies (PALS-infant only)
- Project 12-Ways/SafeCare (SafeCare Augmented Only)

# State-based home visiting programs



Source: Kay Johnson, *State-based Home Visiting: Strengthening Programs through State Leadership*, NCCP, 2009.

# Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) Care

# FFN and FCC

- Defining FFN: a caregiver providing regular child care who is legally exempt from state licensing requirements.
- What we learned about FFN may translate to small licensed family child care (FCC) and unlicensed FFN serving non-subsidized children.
- Any providers without much support may benefit from quality initiatives with FFN and FCC.



# Vulnerable children are in FFN care

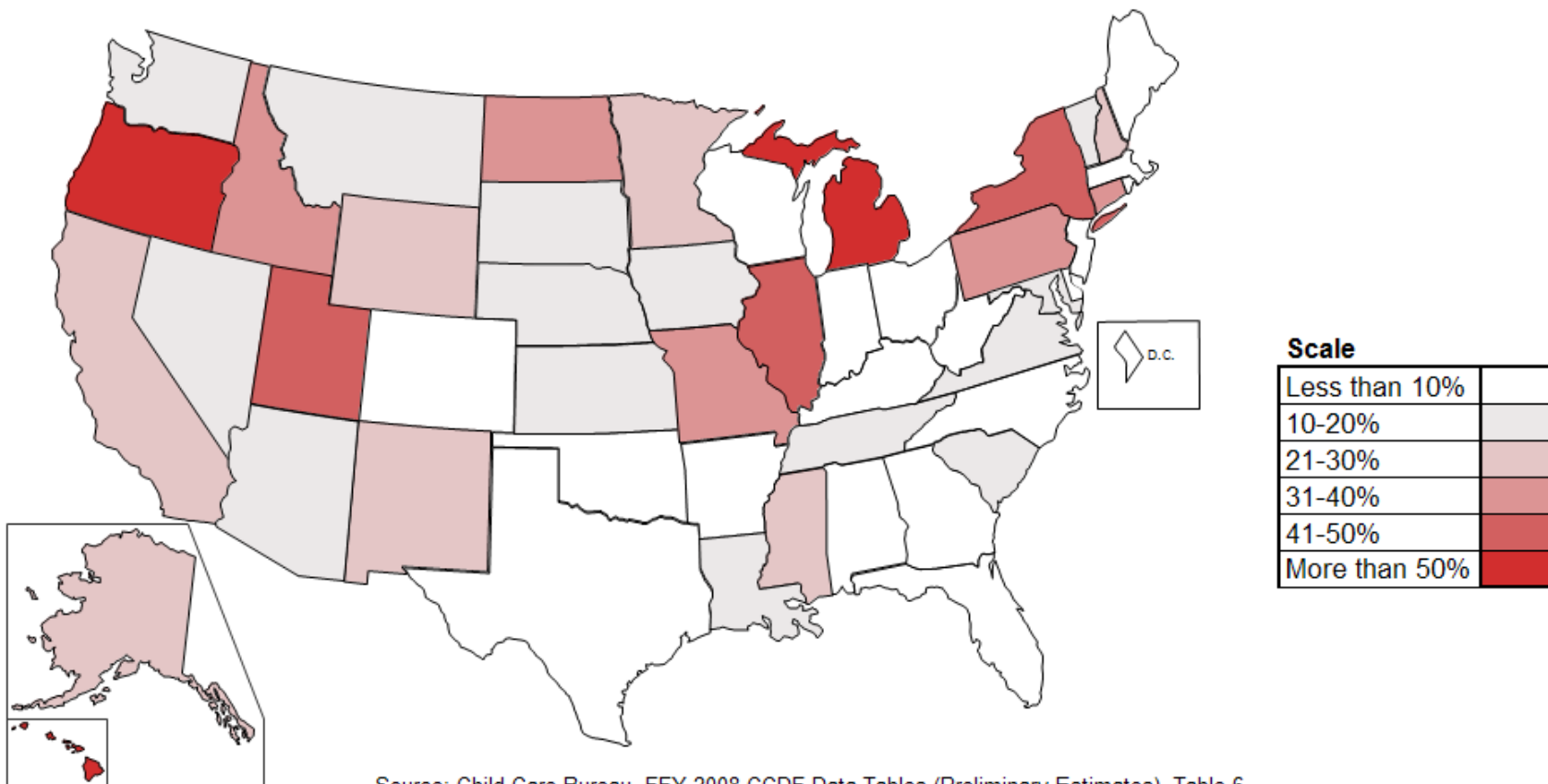
- Infants and toddlers and children of immigrants are more likely to be in FFN care
- Nationally, about one-fifth (21 percent) of children receiving CCDBG subsidies were served in legally unregulated care, although it varies by state

Sources: NSAF 2002 data and FFY2008 CCDF Data Tables (Preliminary Estimates).

# Data on Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) Care and Family Child Care (FCC)

# Subsidy receipt for FFN care, by state

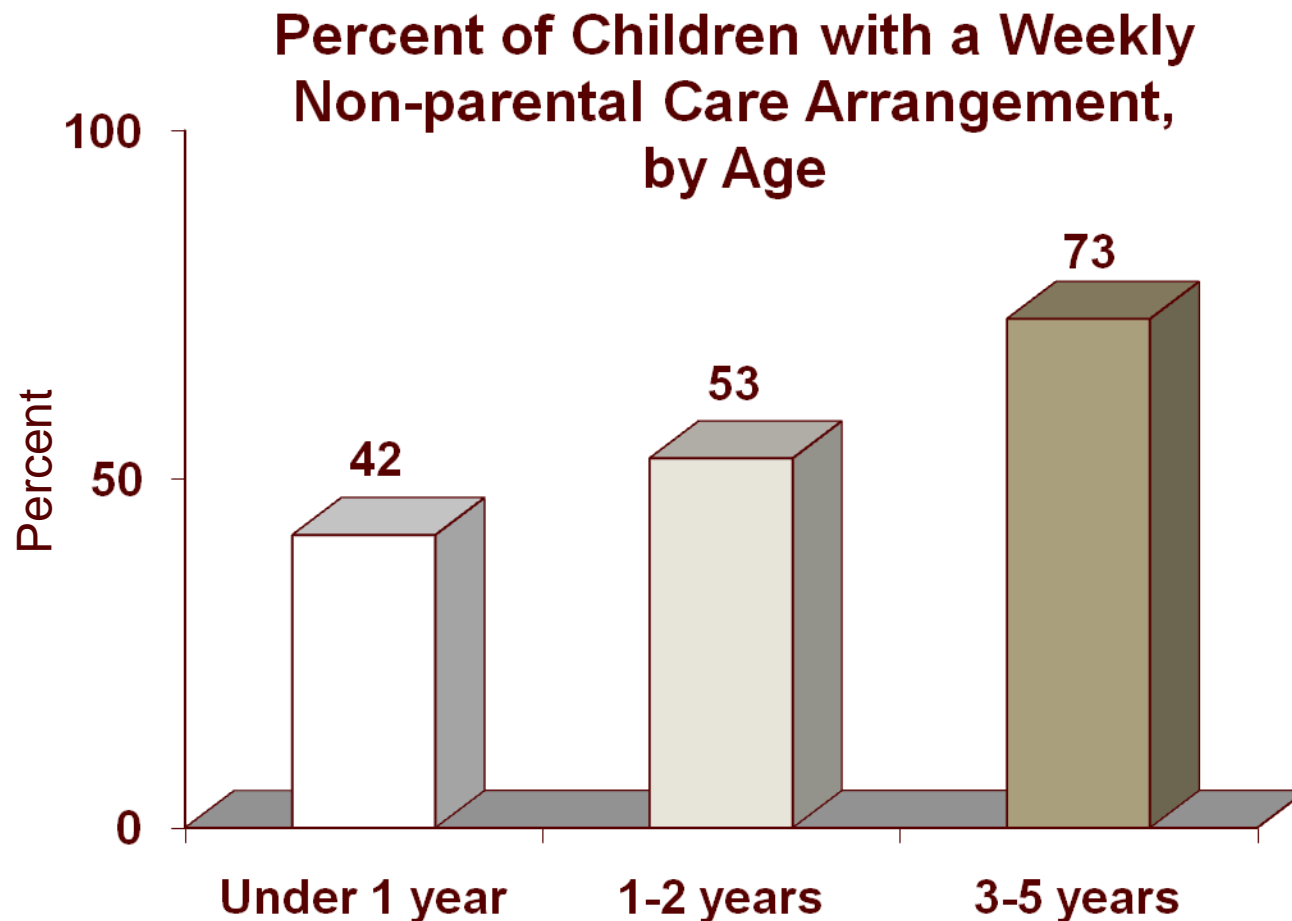
### Percentage of children receiving subsidies in legally unregulated, home-based care



Source: Child Care Bureau, FFY 2008 CCDF Data Tables (Preliminary Estimates), Table 6.



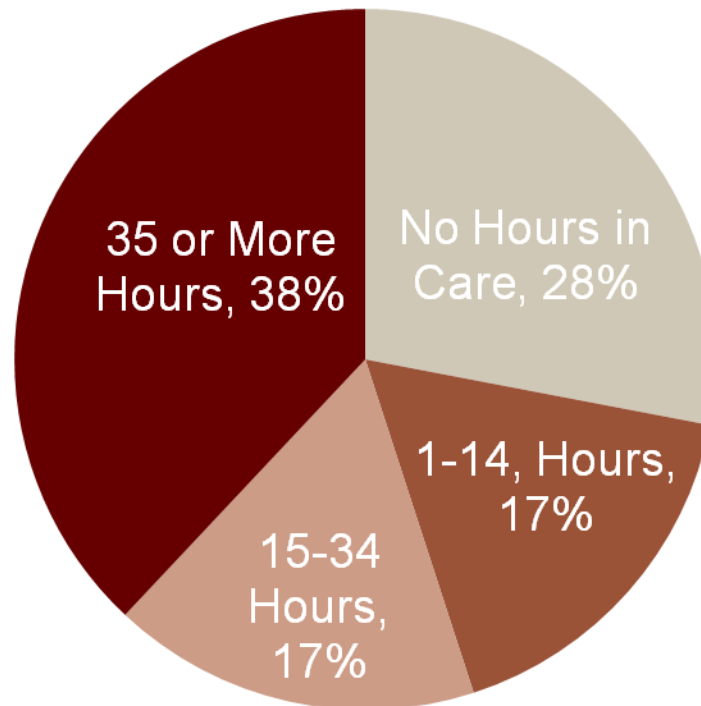
# Young children are in child care...



Source: National Center for Education Statistics, 2005  
National Household Education Survey.

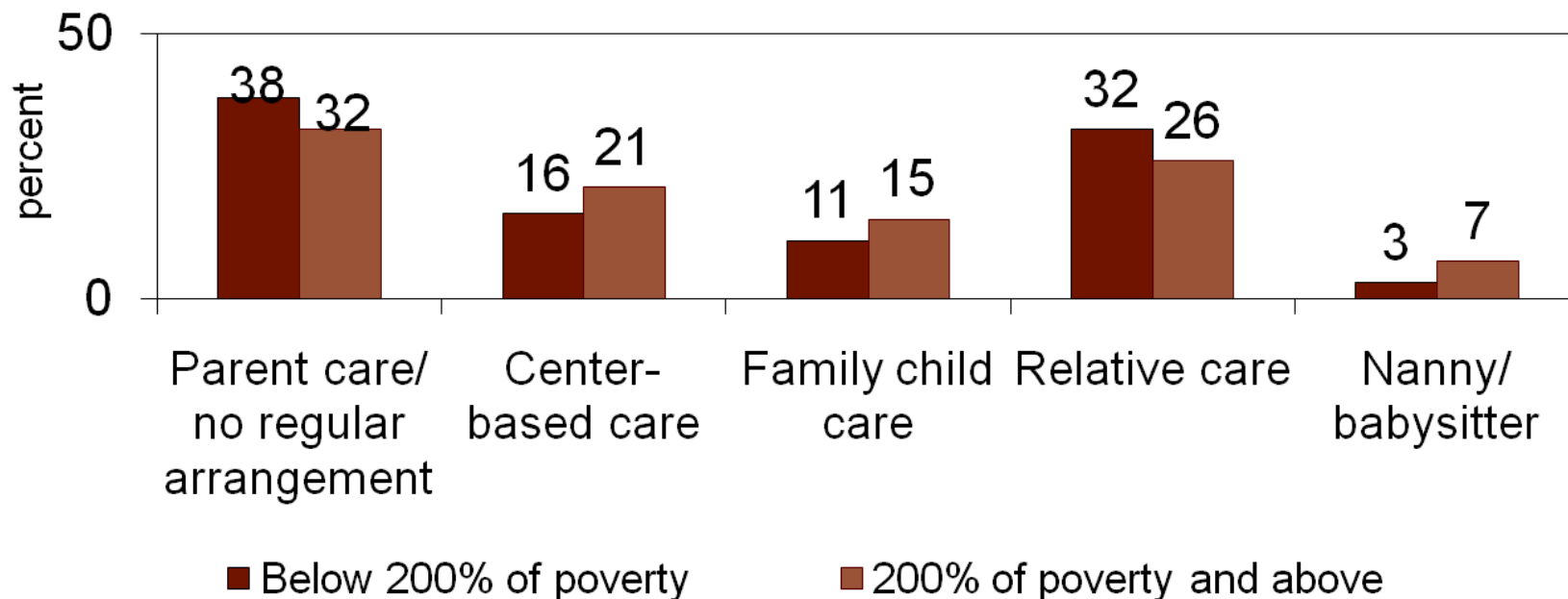
# ...for significant portions of time

## Hours Spent in Nonparental Care by Children Under 3 with Employed Mothers, 2002



Source: Jeffrey Capizzano and Regan Main, *Many Young Children Spend Long Hours in Child Care*, Urban Institute, 2005. Analysis of 2002 NSAF Data.

# Primary child care arrangements for children birth to 3 with employed mothers



Note: Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding. Source: Jeffrey Capizzano and Gina Adams, *Children in Low-Income Families are Less Likely to be in Center-Based Care*, Urban Institute, 2003.

# Supporting Babies in Child Care

- When cared for in a home-based child care setting, babies benefit when their providers have specialized training in child development.
- Relative caregivers often are not considered part of the formal child care system, but they may still be interested in and benefit from support and information.
- States can support babies by supporting their caregivers.

# Home Visiting as an FFN Quality Strategy

# Importance of Quality

- Research shows that high quality child care and education promote healthy development and offer lifelong benefits to children.
- “Achievement gap” surfaces as early as 9 mos.
- This is particularly true for the most vulnerable children, including those who are low-income.
- High quality includes:
  - Quality adult child interactions
  - Comprehensive services
  - Basic health and safety considerations

# Focus on Quality

- Closing the achievement gap
- School readiness
- Accountability for scarce dollars
- Efficiency and effectiveness



# Goals of home visiting programs

- Increasing positive parenting practices and improving parent-child relationships
- Reducing child abuse, neglect, and injury
- Improving child health and development
- Increasing school readiness and academic success
- Improving child's emergent language and literacy skills
- Enhancing parents' self-sufficiency





# Examples

# Depending on the model and program, many different methods are used

- Joint visits with parent, child, and FFN caregiver
- Visiting with just the child and FFN caregiver
- New curricula or pilot programs
- Support and services for the caregiver, for the parent, and for the child



# Child Care Home Program

- Based out of the Westchester Jewish Community Center in White Plains, New York
- Began in 2007 as a pilot which consisted of 7 providers and 60 children.
- The program cost about \$4000 per provider
- Utilizes the Parent Child Home Curriculum
- Program is now in its 3<sup>rd</sup> year of full implementation



# CareQuilt Services: An Early Head Start Advanced Home Visiting Project (EHS-EHVP)

- A component of the Kennebec Valley Community Action Program in Waterville, Maine
- The purpose of CareQuilt is to develop and implement enhanced home visiting models which recognize that, when a caregiver of a child is not the child's parent, it is important that the caregiver has the knowledge, training and skills necessary to help the child develop to his or her highest potential.
- Throughout the 3 year pilot, the program reached 35 children and their FFN caregivers.
- Funded through Federal Head Start and Early Head Start dollars
- After the pilot, the program was able to continue due to integration of the program into the services of the agency.
- As a result, the program serves fewer children and caregivers.

# Early Learning Communities: A Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) Care Program

- Partnership with the Grand Rapids Public Schools
- Piloted in 2010—including 72 caregivers with 158 children
- Includes professional development for educators and caregivers, play groups and once-a-month home visits for caregivers.
- The one-year cost for the pilot program was under \$195,000
- The program is continuing with financial support from corporate foundations, the local United Way, and local community support through the Great Starts program

# Considerations for Implementation, Opportunities, and Recommendations

# Considerations for implementation of home visits with FFN and FCC

- Program design/curricula may need modification
  - Example: Who has authority to arrange other services for children that a home visitor may make a referral for, such as early intervention?
- Staffing issues
  - Limited funding for additional staff
  - Some different skills required
- Recruitment





# Considerations for implementation of home visits with FFN and FCC

- Building trusting relationships
  - Families and caregivers need to feel comfortable expressing their concerns, strengths, weaknesses, and problems
  - Cultural and linguistic diversity in caregiving practice
- Identifying a neutral space for visiting services with certain populations that cannot be reached in homes
- Funding





# Opportunities from visiting with FFN caregivers and FCC providers

- Serve more at-risk, hard-to-reach children and families
  - Can reach vulnerable children whose parents have difficulty participating in a home visiting program while juggling the demands of work or school
- Improved relationships between child, caregiver, parent
  - Caregivers serve more children
  - Caregivers interact more with parents
  - At home, children request activities done in care



# Opportunities from visiting with FFN caregivers and FCC providers

- Improve consistency and quality in care that children experience
  - Multi-generational families may have different parenting ideas
  - Improving care settings can positively affect the development of children



# Recommendations for states

- Expand state home visiting investments to reach more children and caregivers
  - Create incentives through subsidy policy
- Prioritize coordination of services to settings where vulnerable children are
- Provide sufficient and appropriate training, TA, and monitoring for staff conducting home visits through appropriate systems, i.e.
  - State-based home visiting programs
  - Child care licensing or child care resource and referral systems
  - Child welfare agencies

# Recommendations for states

- Facilitate links between home visiting and other state services/programs for vulnerable families and caregivers, such as CACFP.
- Collect data and evaluate programs conducting home visiting with FFN/FCC; share findings
- Include home visiting in state Early Childhood Advisory Councils
- Connect home visiting and Early Head Start
- Make home visiting with child care providers a part of your updated state plan for the MIECHV program

Questions?

# Contact Information and Resources

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CLASP Child Care and Early Education: [www.clasp.org/childcare](http://www.clasp.org/childcare)

Charting Progress for Babies in Child Care:  
<http://www.clasp.org/babiesinchildcare>

*Home Away from Home: A Toolkit for Planning Home Visiting Partnerships with Family, Friend, and Neighbor Caregivers:*  
<http://www.clasp.org/admin/site/publications/files/Home-Away-from-Home.pdf>