

# **Extending Home Visiting Programs to Family, Friend, and Neighbor Caregivers and Family Child Care Providers**



**Danielle Ewen**  
**Director, Child Care and Early Education**

**Stephanie Schmit**  
**Policy Analyst**

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# Presentation Overview

- About CLASP's project
- Background on home visiting
- Data on children in family, friend, and neighbor (FFN) care and family child care (FCC)
- Project findings: examples, considerations for implementation, opportunities, and recommendations for states
- Federal Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting and FFN caregivers
- Questions and answers

# About CLASP's Project

# Project methods

- Project generously supported by the Birth to Five Policy Alliance
- Exploring how home visiting can be used in settings where vulnerable children are every day, regardless of who is caring for them
- Interviewed representatives from home visiting models, stakeholders and experts in the field
- Focused on kinship caregivers and FFN caregivers
- Some programs also reported serving FCC

# Note on defining FFN and FCC

- Project definition of FFN: a caregiver providing regular child care who is legally exempt from state licensing requirements
- However, child care licensing rules on home-based care and support for these caregivers vary greatly by state
- 10 states require a caregiver caring for one unrelated child in the home to be licensed
- In other states, adults may provide home-based child care for two to 12 unrelated children before they must be licensed or regulated

# Note on defining FFN and FCC

- In some states, there may be little practical difference between licensed (FCC) and unlicensed (FFN) home-based child care providers
- Further, fluidity often exists between these groups as providers move in and out of the licensing system
- FCC providers without much support may benefit from the kinds of home visiting we explore with FFN

# Interviewed for this project

- Healthy Families America (HFA)
- Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY)
- Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP)
- Parents as Teachers (PAT)
- The Parent-Child Home Program (PCHP)
- Early Head Start re: the home-based program option
- Stakeholders and experts in the field

# Background on Home Visiting



# Home visiting programs

- Traditionally deliver family support services to parents with young children
- Often link parents to community services
- Part of a continuum of services for children birth to age five
- Significant interest in new federal program; see CLASP's detailed summary:

<http://www.clasp.org/admin/site/publications/files/home-visiting-detailed-summary.pdf>

# Goals of home visiting programs

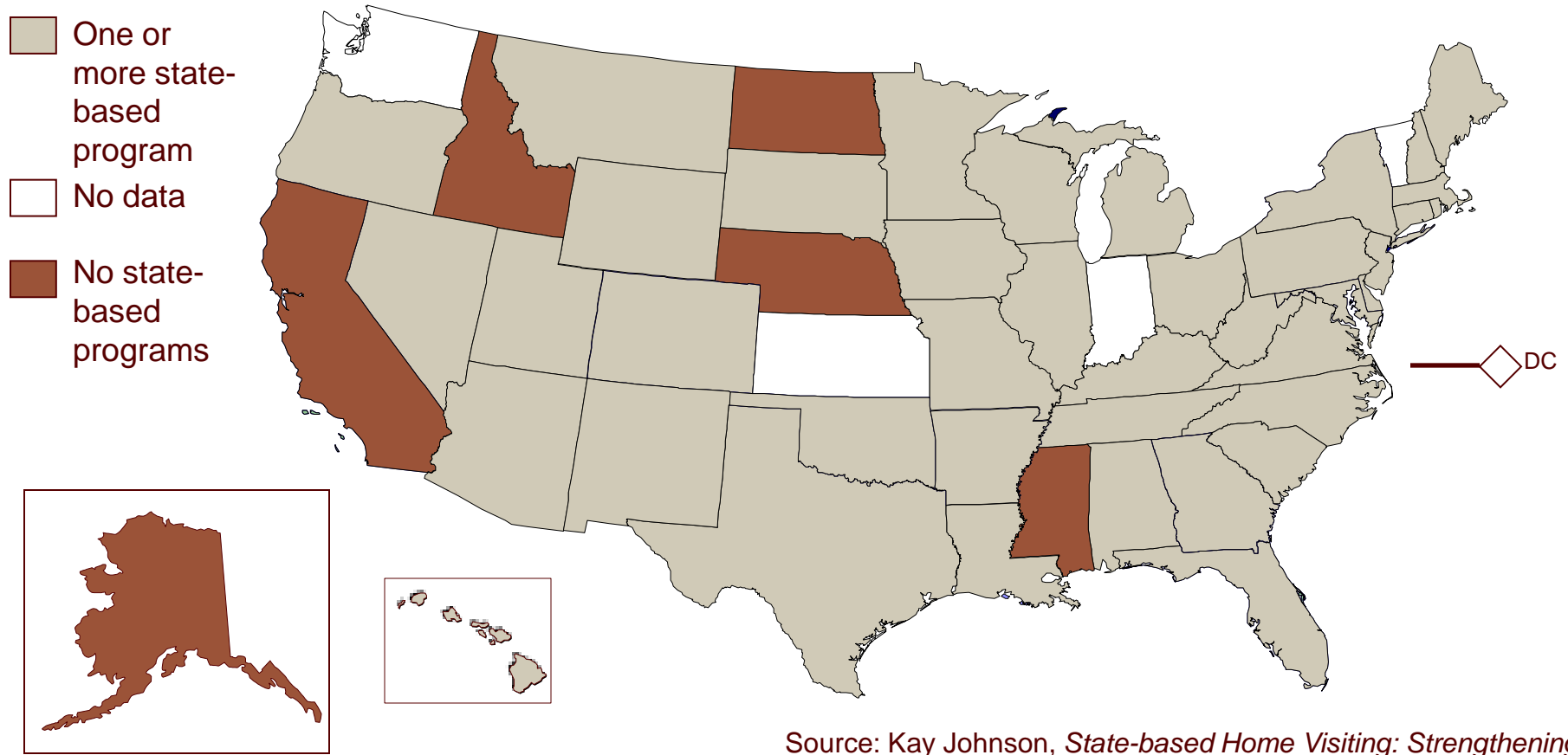
- Increasing positive parenting practices and improving parent-child relationships
- Reducing child abuse, neglect, and injury
- Improving child health and development
- Increasing school readiness and academic success
- Improving child's emergent language and literacy skills
- Enhancing parents' self-sufficiency



# 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

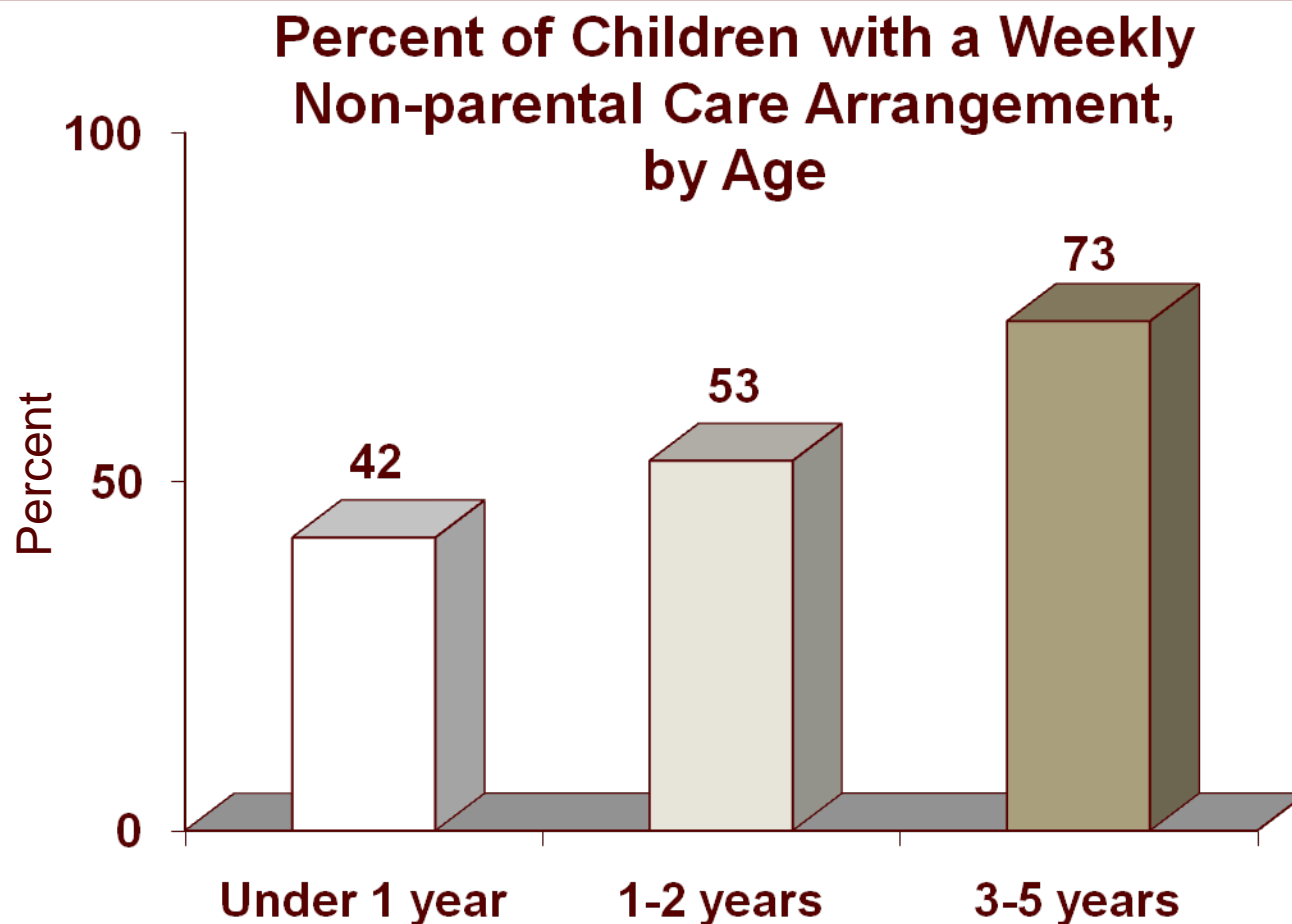
# State-based home visiting programs



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

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

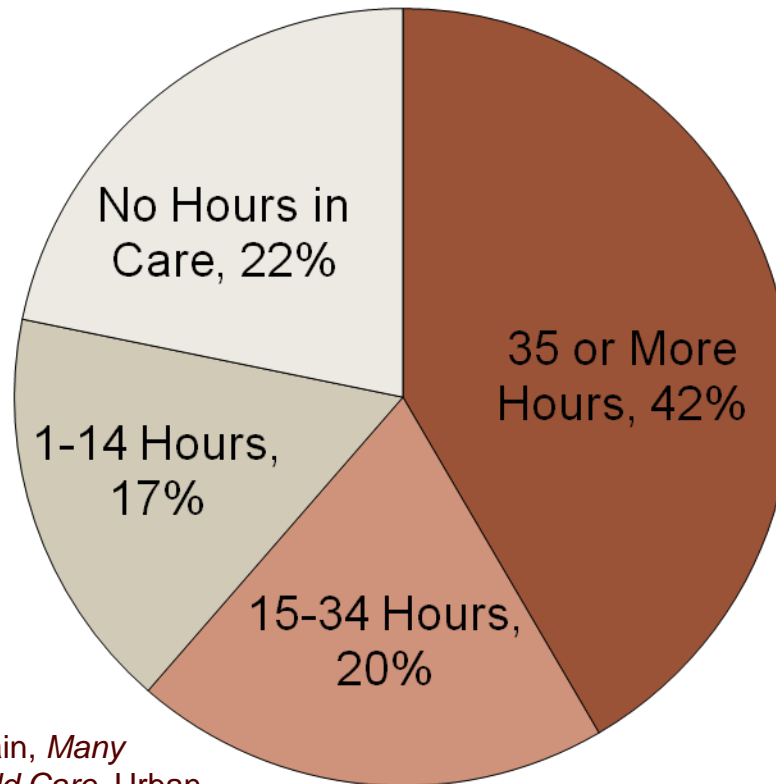
# Young children are in child care...



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

# ...for significant portions of time

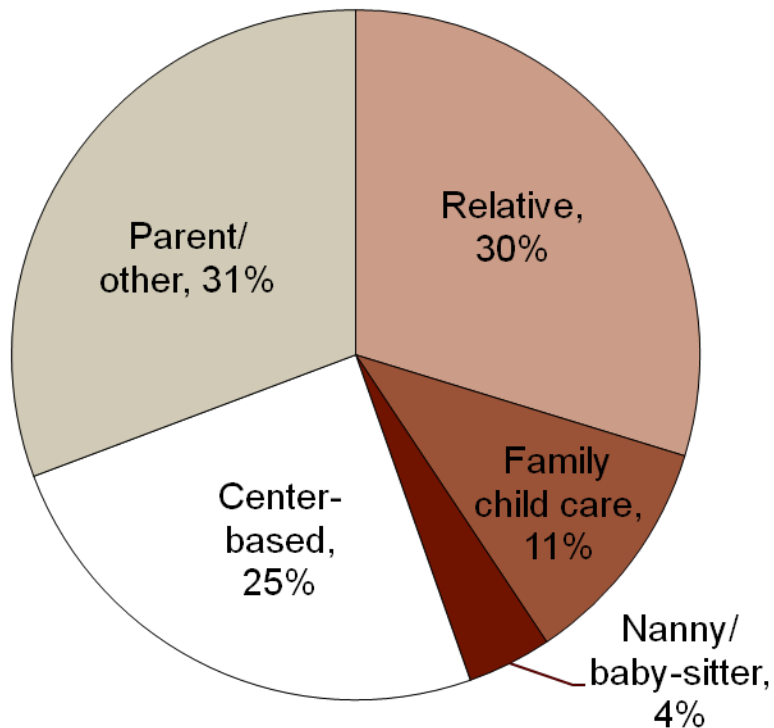
## Hours Spent in Nonparental Care by Children Under 5 with Employed Mothers, 2002



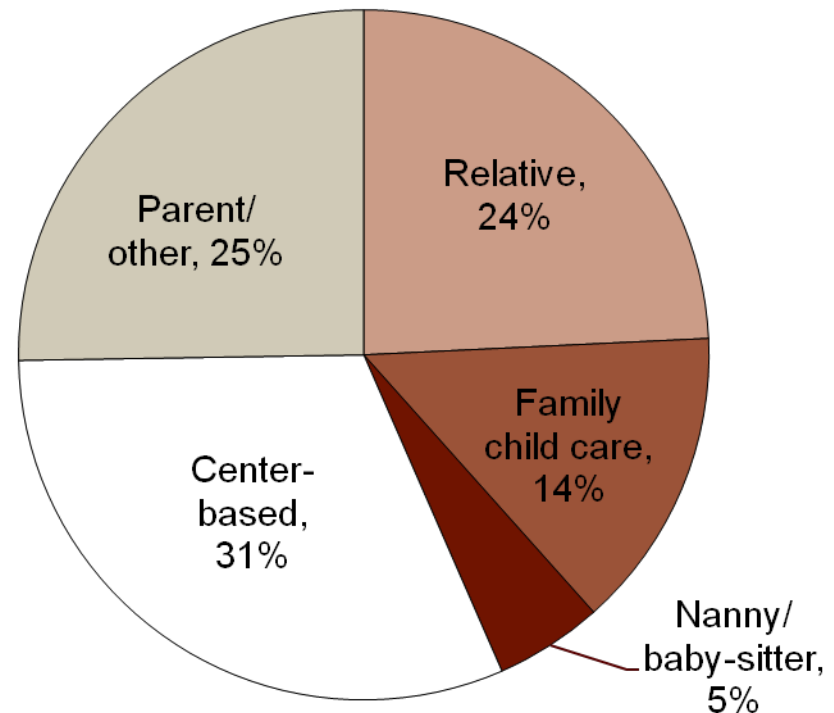
Source: Jeffrey Capizzano and Regan Main, *Many Young Children Spend Long Hours in Child Care*, Urban Institute, 2005. Analysis of 2002 NSAF Data.

# Primary child care arrangements for children under age 5 with employed mothers

**Low-Income Children  
(under 200 percent FPL)**



**Higher-Income Children  
(200 percent of FPL and above)**



Source: National Survey of America's Families 2002  
Data. Jeffrey Capizzano and Gina Adams, *Children in Low-Income Families are Less Likely to be in Center-Based Child Care*, Urban Institute, 2003.



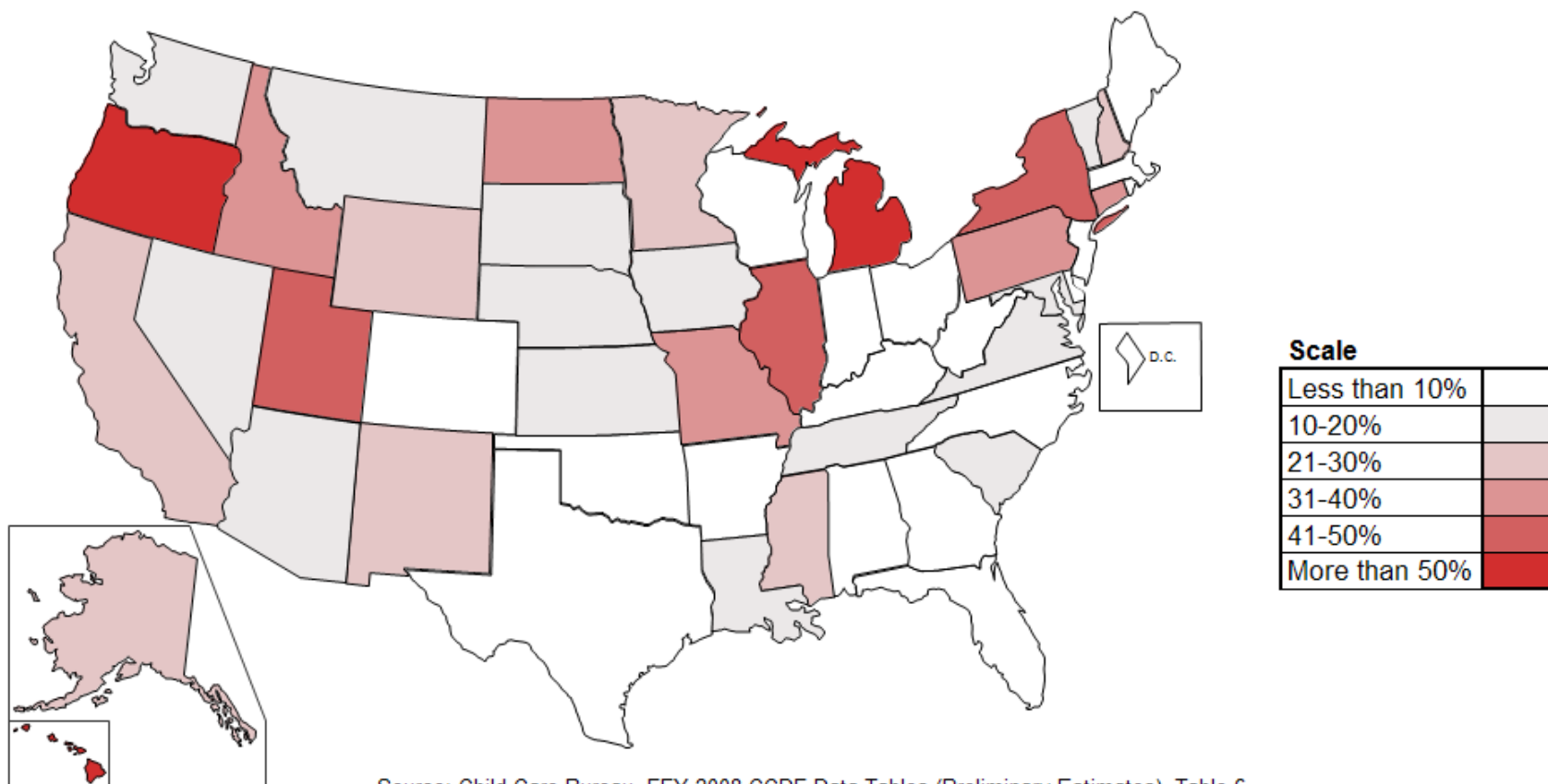
# Vulnerable children are in FFN care

- Low-income children (living below 200% of the poverty level) are more likely to be in FFN care
- 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).

# 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.

# Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program

# 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)
- Through a provision authorizing the creation of the Affordable Care Act Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program, the Act responds to the diverse needs of children and families in communities at risk and provides an unprecedented opportunity for collaboration and partnership at the Federal, State, and community levels to improve health and development outcomes for at risk children through evidence-based home visiting programs.

# Seven Evidenced-Based Models

- Early Head Start-Home Visiting
- Family Check-Up
- Healthy Families America
- Healthy Steps
- Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY)
- Nurse-Family Partnership
- Parents as Teachers

# Project Findings and Examples

# Visiting with FFN caregivers

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



# *Caring for Quality, Rochester, NY*

- Project of Family Child Care Satellites of Greater Rochester and Family Resource Centers of Crestwood
- Used curriculum adapted by Parents as Teachers, titled “*Supporting Care Providers through Personal Visits*,” and parts of Family Development Credential



# Evaluation of *Caring for Quality*

- Participating child care providers increased their scores on the Family Day Care Environmental Rating Scale (FDCERS)
- Control group providers scores decreased
- Child care providers who were most engaged had largest quality improvements
- Group networking meetings not as helpful as home visits in improving quality

# Parent-Child Home Program pilot for in-home child care

- Launched pilot project: sites across four states recruited FFN caregivers and FCC providers
- Project develops caregiver skills, but parent communication and involvement also required
- Preliminary findings from pilot: skills/activities introduced in child care are translating to home
  - Example: children asking to be read to at home
- Led to new formalized program model, which will include evaluation of implementation

# EHS Enhanced Home Visiting Pilot

- Early Head Start (EHS): 41% in home-based option
- Pilot: 23 programs across country serving infants and toddlers and their parents in home-based EHS, added visits to FFN caregivers
- Goals:
  - Improve quality of FFN care
  - Increase consistency of care
  - Improve parents' and caregivers' communication
  - Address caregivers' needs



# Evaluation of EHS Pilot with FFN

- Found that home visits, services, and materials were meeting the needs and interests of caregivers
- Quality of FFN care and interactions with children improved
- Home visitors improved communication between caregivers and parents
- Pilot benefitted both EHS and non-EHS children in the FFN care setting

# 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

# Evaluation of Early Learning Communities

- Child/Home Environmental Language and Literacy Observation (CHELLO)
  - 97% of caregivers evaluated had a positive increase in their Literacy Environment score
  - caregivers increased their provision of age appropriate reading materials
- Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test (PPVT-IV)
  - Children enrolled in the program for 6 months gained more than typical in the language development category
  - 100% of parents surveyed reported noticeable changes in their child's skill level since becoming involved in the FFN 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
- Ripple effects between child, caregiver, parent
  - Caregivers serve more children
  - Caregivers interact with more parents
  - At home, children request activities done in care



# Opportunities from visiting with FFN caregivers and FCC providers

- 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
- 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
- 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 FFN providers a part of your updated state plan for the MIECHV program

# Resources & Contact Information

Full report available at:

<http://www.clasp.org/admin/site/publications/files/homevisitingkinshipffn.pdf>

MIECHV program Guidance:

[http://www.clasp.org/federal\\_policy/pages?id=0024](http://www.clasp.org/federal_policy/pages?id=0024)

MIECHV program SIR Analysis:

<http://www.clasp.org/admin/site/publications/files/SIR-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

Danielle Ewen  
(202) 906-8004  
[dewen@clasp.org](mailto:dewen@clasp.org)

Stephanie Schmit  
(202) 906-8008  
[sschmit@clasp.org](mailto:sschmit@clasp.org)