

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



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Webinar 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
- Questions and answers
- Thanks to the Annie E. Casey Foundation for their generous support of today's webinar

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

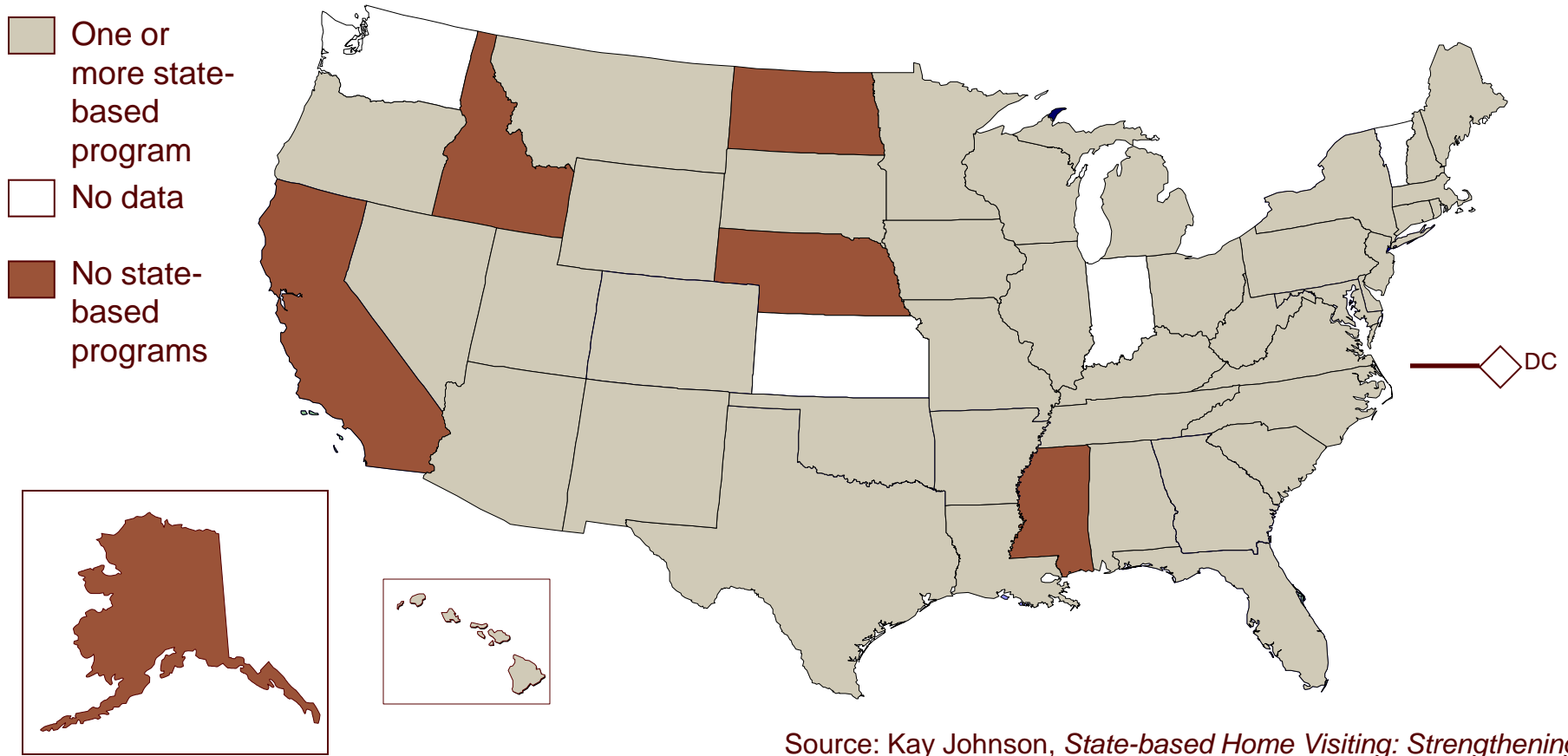


Often target specific age groups

- 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

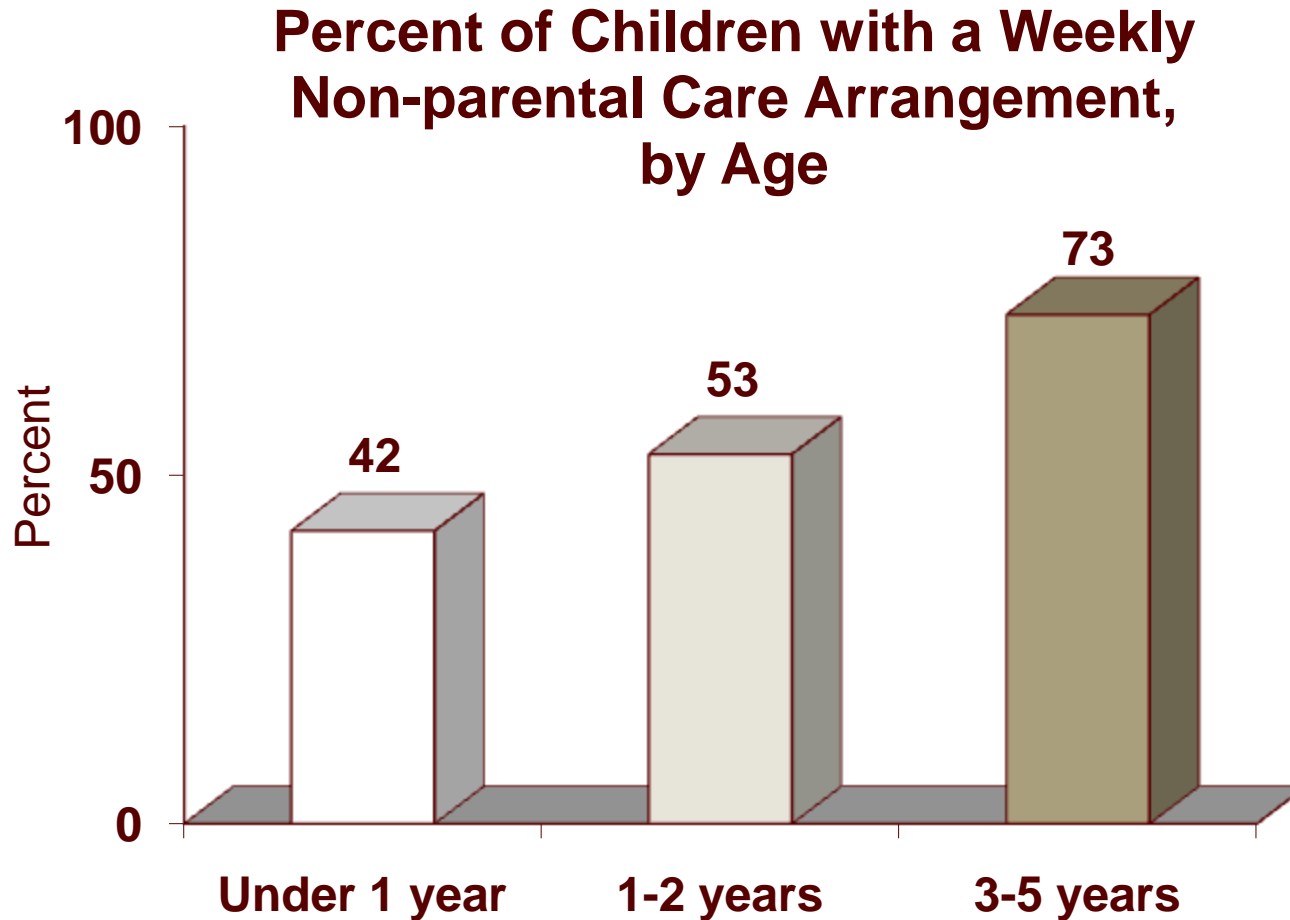
State-based home visiting programs



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)

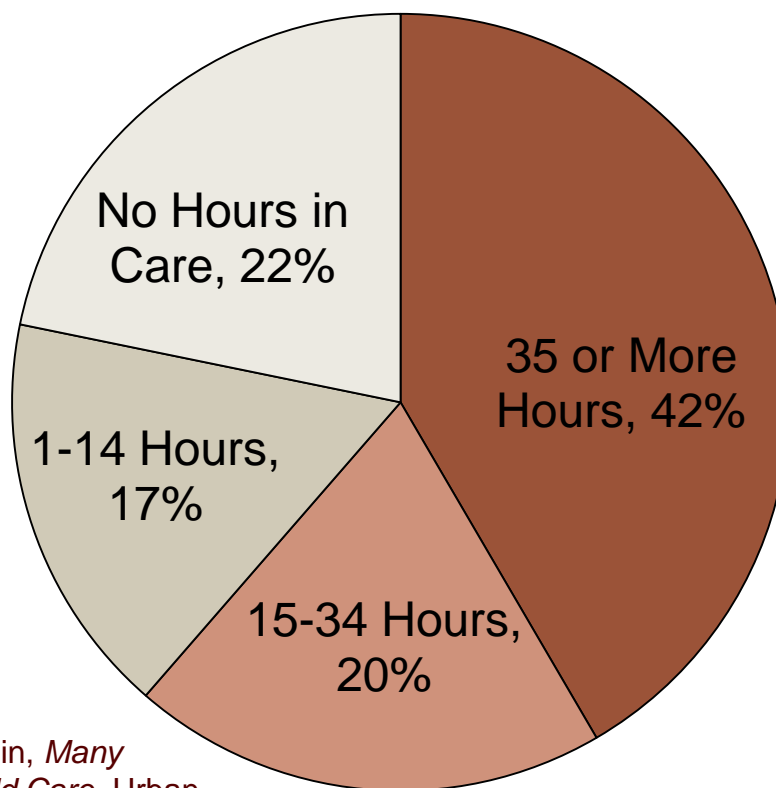
Young children are in child care...



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

...for significant portions of time

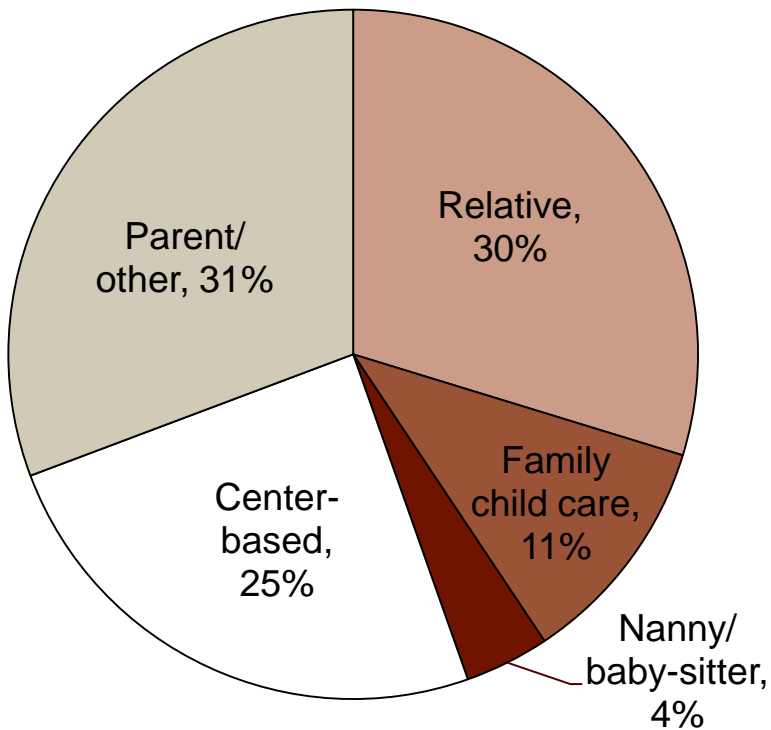
Hours Spent in Nonparental Care by Children Under 5 with Employed Mothers, 2002



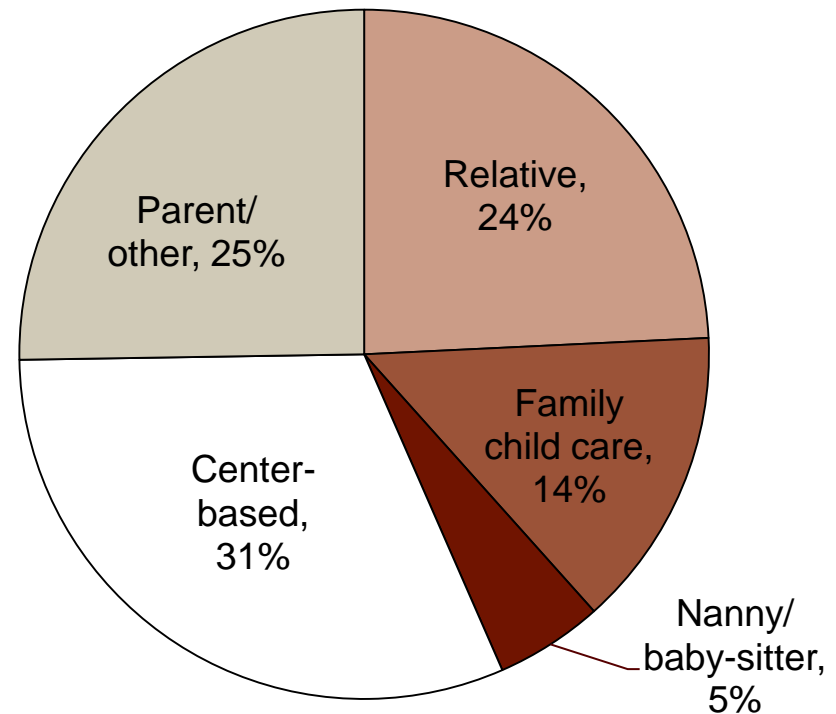
Source: Jeffrey Capizzano and Regan Main, *Many Young Children Spend Long Hours in Child Care*, Urban Institute, 2005. Analysis of 2002 NSAF Data.

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.

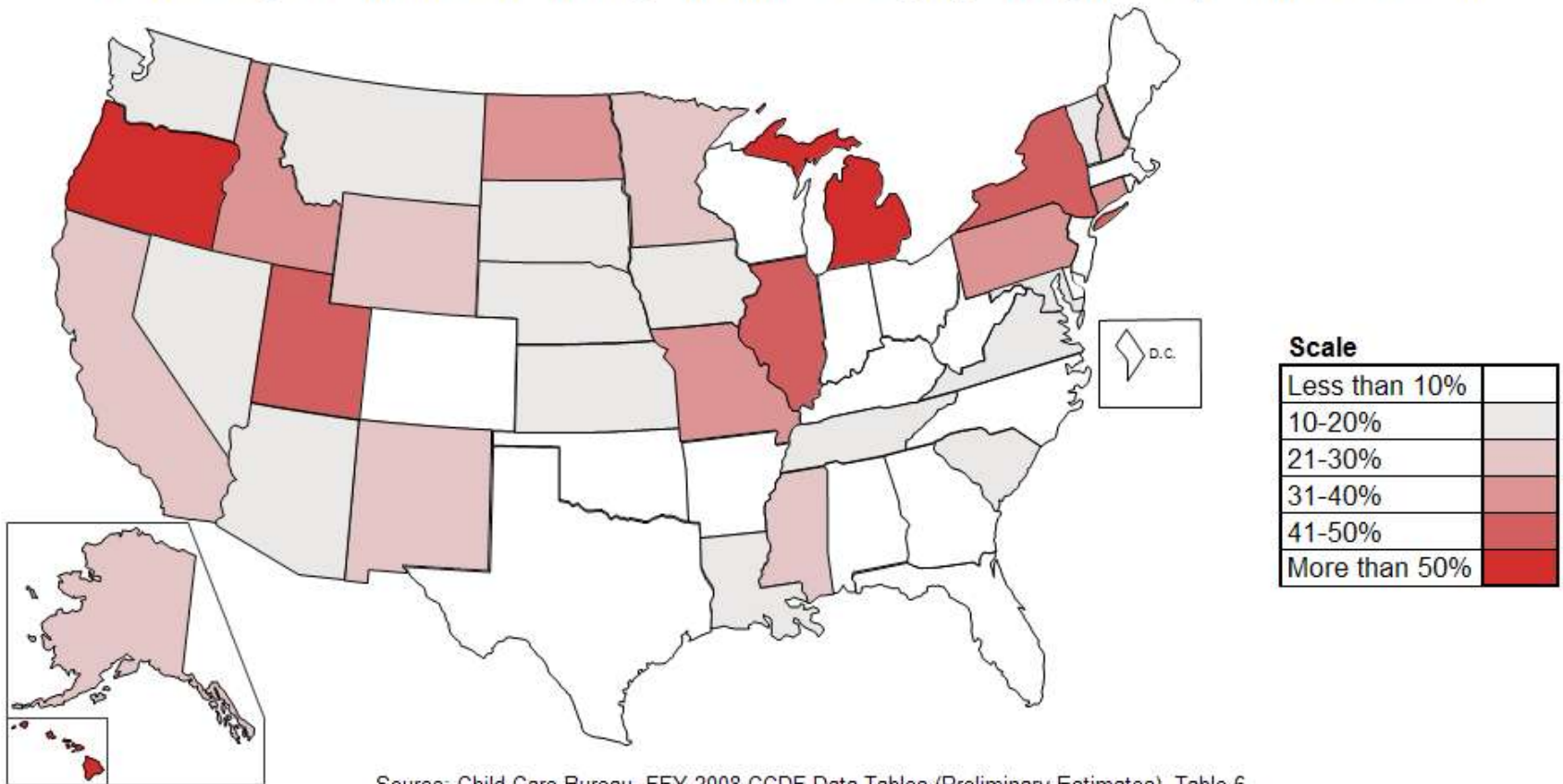
Vulnerable children are in FFN care

- 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



Project Findings and Three 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

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

Questions and Answers

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Full report available at:
<http://www.clasp.org/admin/site/publications/files/homevisitingkinshipffn.pdf>