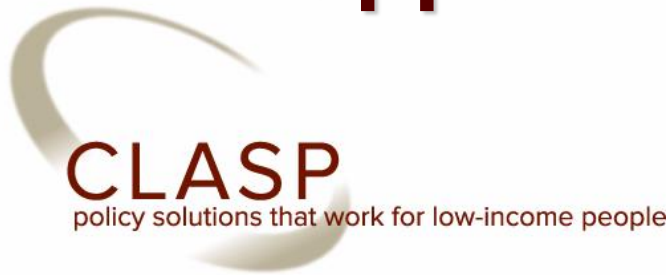


Extending Home Visiting Programs to Nonparental Caregivers: Opportunities and Barriers



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National Training Institute (NTI)
December 4, 2009

Session overview

- Background on home visiting
- Data on children in kinship care and family, friend, and neighbor (FFN) care
- Project findings
- Examples
- Challenges, opportunities, and recommendations
- Discussion and questions

Background on home visiting

Home visiting programs

- Traditionally deliver family support services to parents with young children
- Often link parents to community services
 - Health and mental health
 - Child abuse and neglect prevention
 - Early care and education
- 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

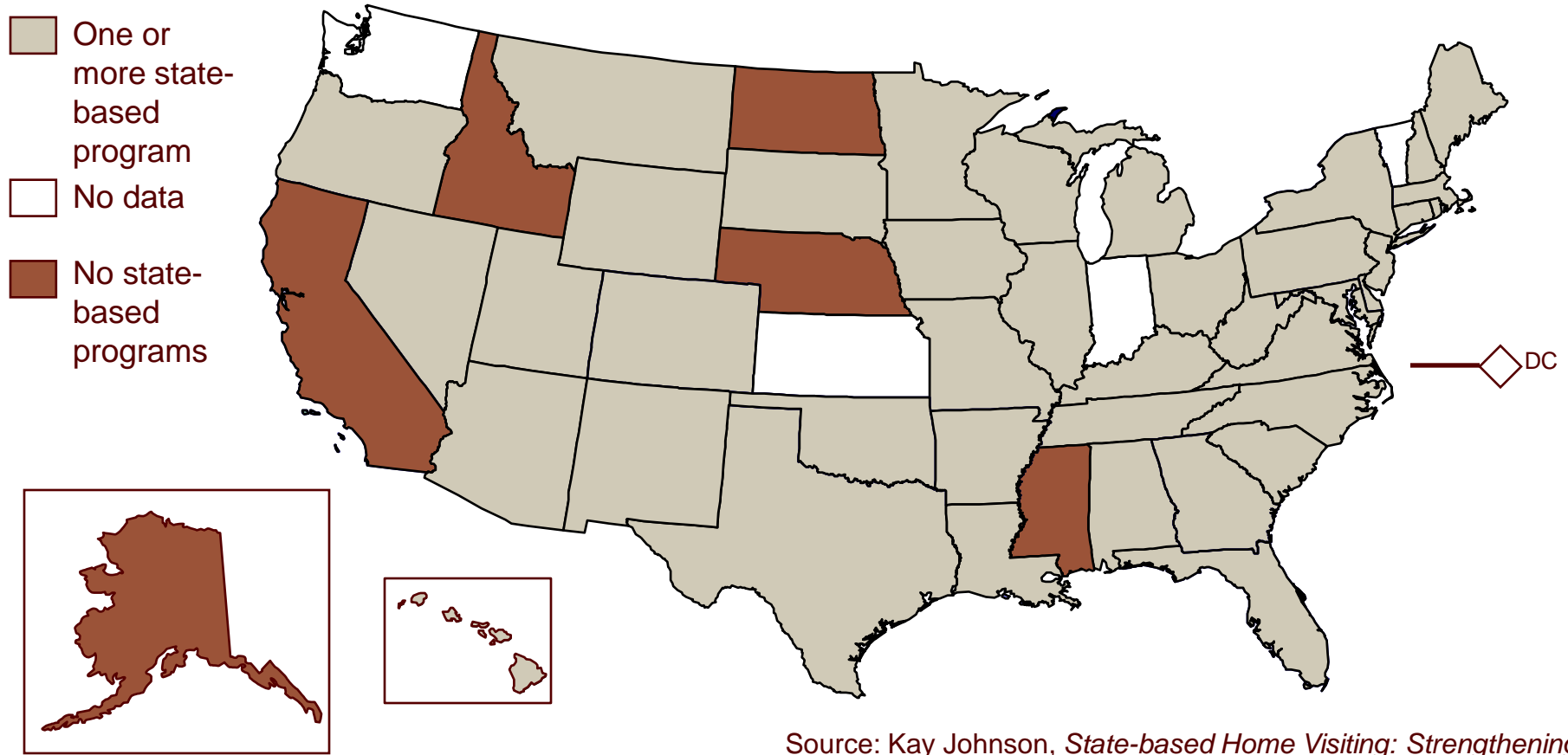
Often target specific age groups

- 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

National home visiting models

- 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, home-based program option

State-based home visiting programs



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

Data on kinship care and family, friend, and neighbor (FFN) care

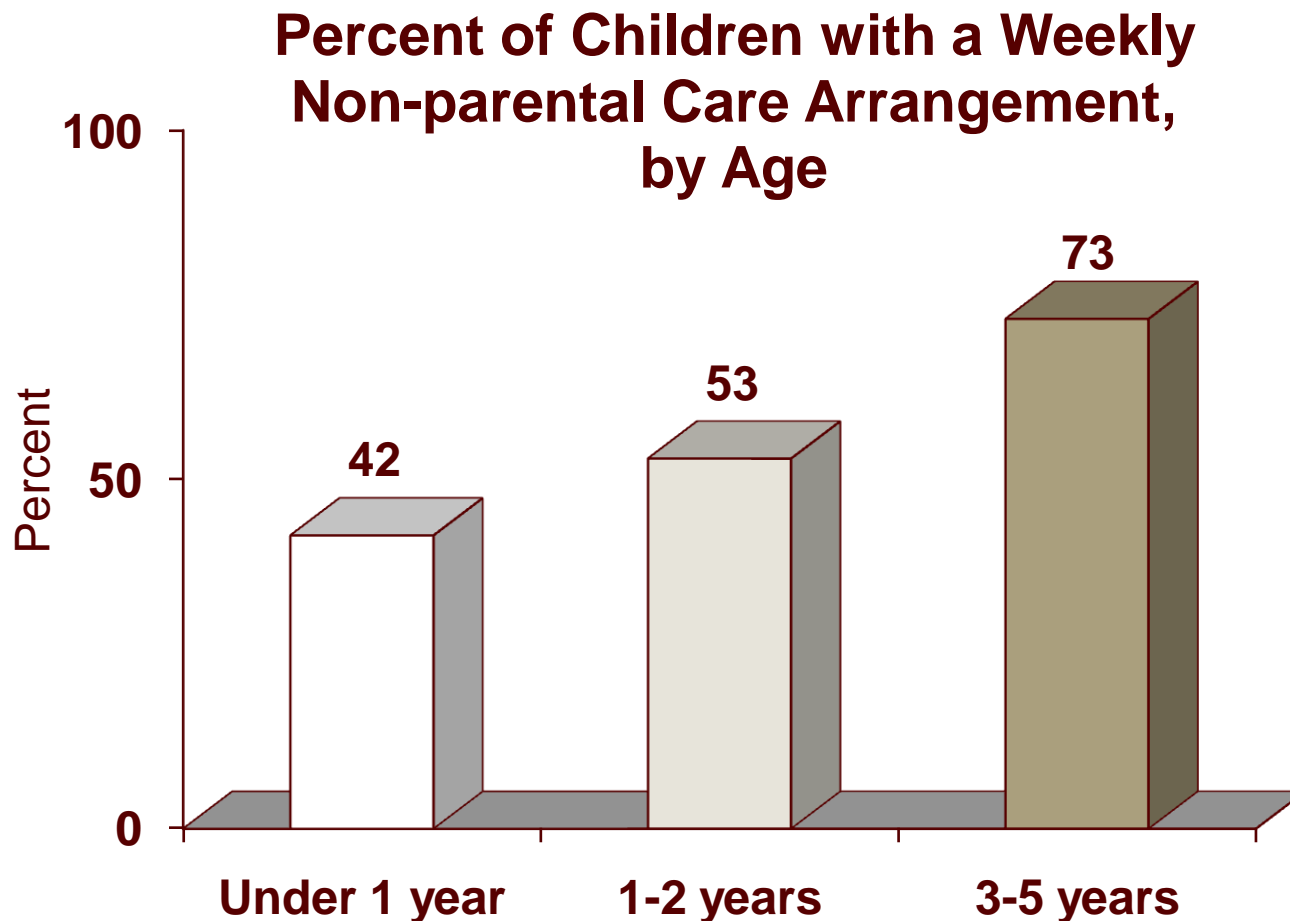
Children are in kinship care

- Kinship caregivers are relatives raising related children when parents are unable to do so
- Approximately 2.5 million children under age 18
- Between 120,000 and 200,000 children in foster care living with relatives
- Vast majority of children in kinship care outside of the context of the child welfare system

Vulnerable children are in kinship care

- Predominant precursors of kinship care include parental substance abuse, mental health issues, and incarceration
- Children in kinship care may have experienced maltreatment by parents
- Yet, research suggests that when children cannot be raised by their parents, relatives are often the best option

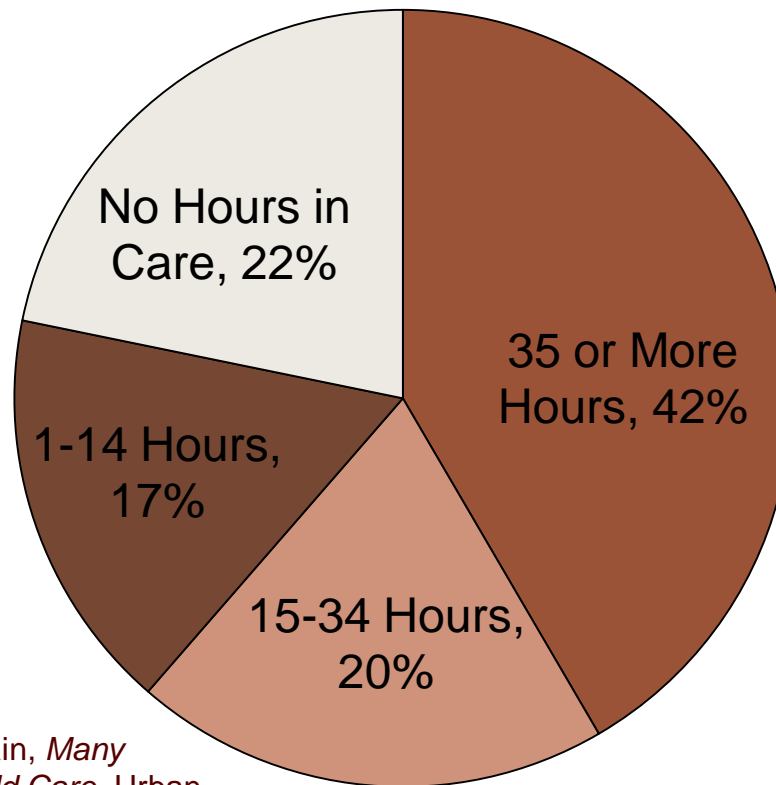
Young children are in child care...



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

...for significant portions of time

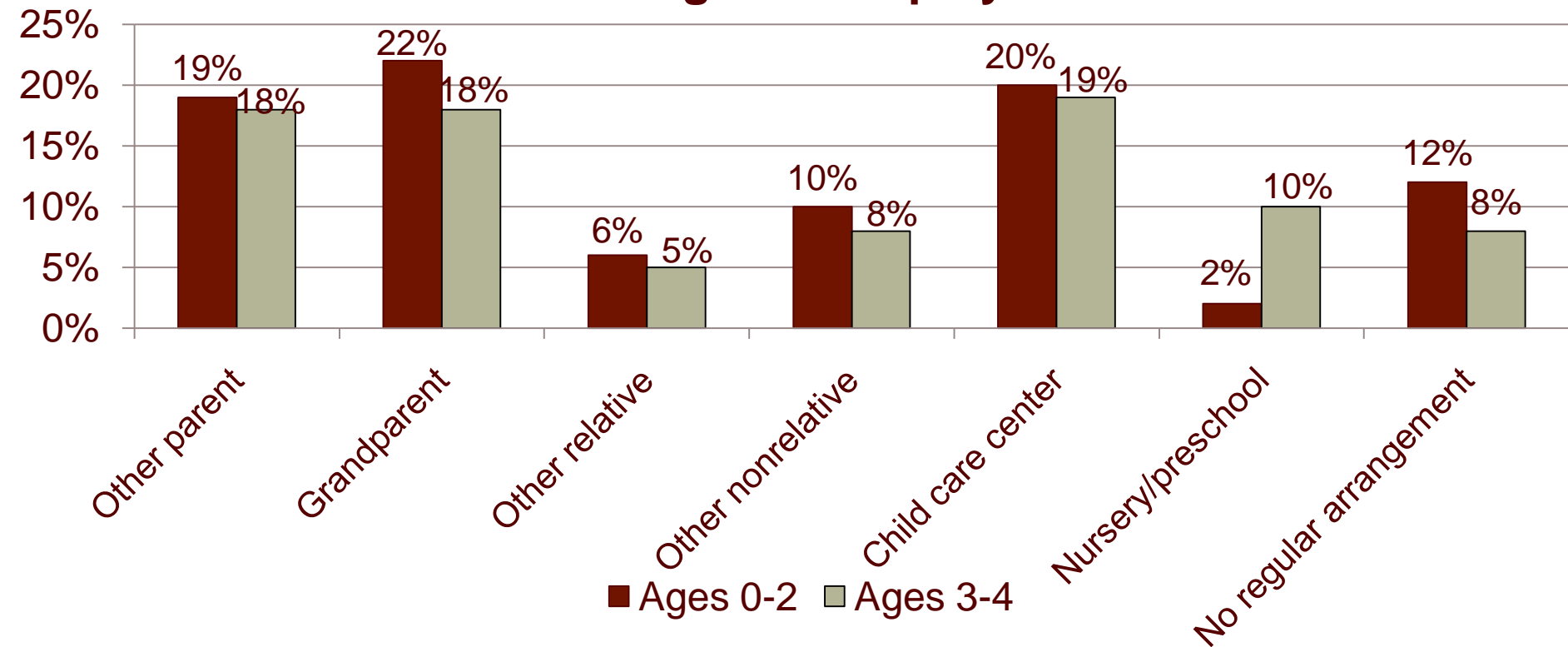
Hours Spent in Nonparental Care by Children Under 5 with Employed Mothers, 2002



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

Many children are in FFN care while parents work

Primary Child Care Arrangements of Children Under 5 Years Old Living with Employed Mothers



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, SIPP Data, *Who's Minding the Kids? Child Care Arrangements, Spring 2005 Data*.

Note: If a child had two primary care arrangements of equal hours, both were reported. Thus percentages do not add to 100%.

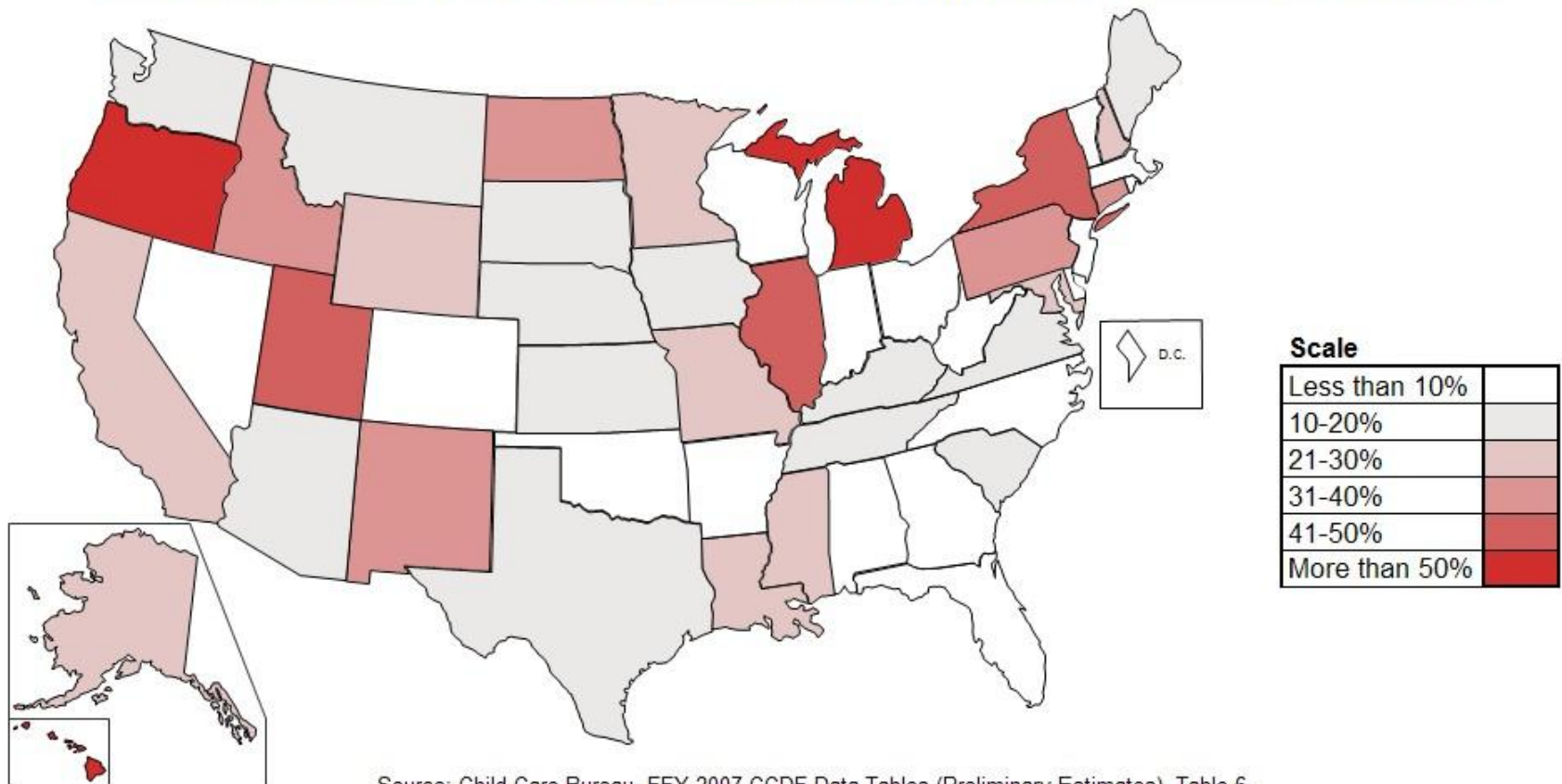
Vulnerable children are in FFN care

- 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-fourth (24 percent) of children receiving CCDBG subsidies were served in legally unregulated care, although it varies by state

Sources: NSAF 2002 data and FFY2007 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

About our project

- Exploring how home visiting can be used in settings where vulnerable children are everyday, regardless of who is caring for them
- Interviewed national models of home visiting
- Interviewed stakeholders and experts in the field
- Focused on kinship caregivers and family, friend, and neighbor caregivers

Project notes

- Fluidity between kinship caregivers and FFN caregivers in some vulnerable families
- States vary in their definitions of and supports for FFN caregivers
- Definition for this project: a caregiver providing regular child care who is legally exempt from state child care licensing requirements
- Licensed family child care (FCC) providers – thorough examination beyond project scope, but those who share characteristics with FFN may benefit

Visiting with kinship caregivers

- Largely serve kinship caregivers with same models as parents
- Some models may not initiate services with kinship family, but all would “follow the child” if change in custody or care
- Involve parents to extent possible



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
 - “Supporting Care Providers with Personal Visits” and “Supporting Infant/Toddler Providers,” by Parents as Teachers
 - “The Parent-Child Home Program for Family Child Care Providers”
 - Early Head Start Enhanced Home Visiting Pilot

Examples

Kin as Teachers

- Florida Kinship Center serves kinship families in Hillsborough County, Florida
- Worked with Parents as Teachers to adapt PAT's "Born to Learn" curriculum
- Delivers home visits, screenings, and group meetings
- Has added an intensive case management component, providing information to kin on where to go for services

Evaluation of Kin as Teachers

- Evaluation study underway
- Pre- and post-test measure of caregiver knowledge
- Home inventory measure of physical environment and interactions/relationships
- Preliminary findings—statistically significant difference between pre- and post-test scores of caregiver knowledge for participants

PCHP pilot for in-home child care

- Work with parents was impetus for starting pilot
- Launched pilot project: sites across four states recruited FFN caregivers and FCC providers
- Home visits twice weekly, materials altered to be appropriate for group play and multiple ages
- Project is skill development for caregivers, but parent communication and involvement also required

Formalizing “The Parent-Child Home Program for Family Child Care Providers”

- New program model formalized based on pilot
- Two pathways: one for FFN caregivers and one for FCC providers
- Preliminary findings from pilot sites: skills and activities introduced in child care are translating to home
 - Example: children asking to be read to at home
- Designing an implementation evaluation, to be put in place in near future

Challenges, opportunities, and recommendations

Challenges to home visits with kinship caregivers and FFN caregivers

- Program design/curricula may need modification
 - Example: service referral is key to many home visiting programs, but usually just parents have the authority to arrange services for children, not caregivers
- Staffing issues
 - Limited funding for staff
 - Some different skills required
- Recruitment



Challenges (continued)

- Building trusting relationships
 - Cultural and linguistic differences in caregiving
 - Kinship families may be uncomfortable sharing information about custody or fear seeking social services
- Identifying a neutral space for visiting services with certain populations that can't be reached in homes
- Funding



Opportunities from visiting with kinship caregivers and FFN caregivers

- Serve more at-risk, hard-to-reach children and families
- Consistency in care that child experiences
 - Particularly helpful in multi-generational families with different parenting ideas
- Ripple effects between child, caregiver, parent
 - Caregivers serve more children
 - Caregivers interact with more parents
 - At home, children request activities done in care

Opportunities (continued)

- Intentional inclusion of kinship families can better meet children's needs
 - Some models noted that the number of kinship families they are serving is increasing
- Improving FFN care can positively affect the development of children
 - Particularly if a child's parent has difficulty participating in a home visiting program while juggling the demands of work or school

Recommendations for states

- Review whether children in target populations are in kinship care or FFN care; adjust programs
- Incorporate key elements and embody inclusive practices in home visiting
- Coordinate with other services for kinship caregivers and FFN caregivers



Recommendations for states (cont.)

- Expand investments to reach more children with kinship caregivers and FFN caregivers
- Build in sufficient and appropriate training, TA, and monitoring specific to these populations
- Build research through data collection and evaluation to better understand benefits of home visiting with kinship caregivers and FFN caregivers



Recommendations for the federal government

- Facilitate information sharing and development of best practices for serving all children
- Provide guidance and TA that intentionally addresses meeting the needs of the range of populations served by home visiting
- Ensure federal funds are available to a variety of research-based home visiting models



Discussion and questions

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