

Extending Home Visiting to Family, Friend, and Neighbor Caregivers:

Barriers and Opportunities

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Session overview

- Presentation
 - Case for conducting a survey on extending home visiting to FFN caregivers
 - Data on child care usage
 - Three examples of home visiting with FFN caregivers
 - Synthesizing challenges, opportunities, implementation
- Group discussion activity
- Questions and conversation

Home visiting promotes healthy development for young children through working with parents.

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

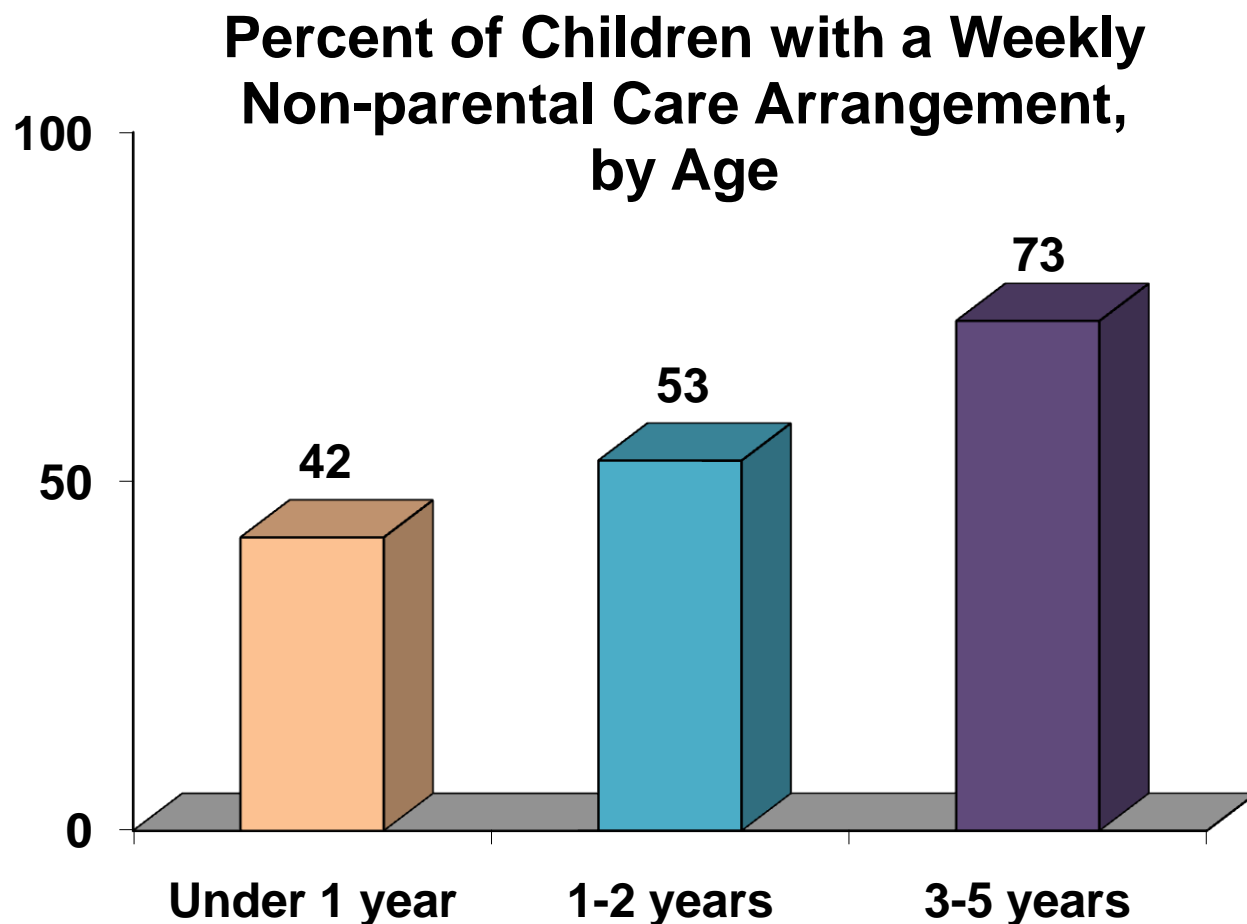
- Improve parenting skills and parent-child relationship
- Prevent child abuse and neglect
- Improve child health and development
- Increase school readiness and school success
- Improve child's emergent language and literacy skills
- Build parents' self-sufficiency

Target specific age groups

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

Many young children spend significant time cared for by someone other than a parent.

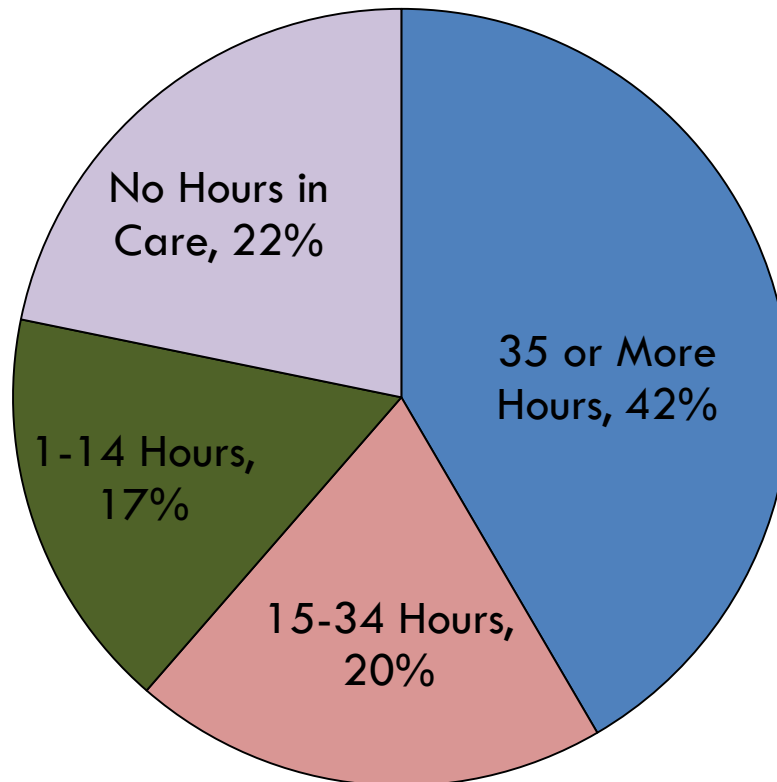
Young children are in child care...



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

...for significant portions of time

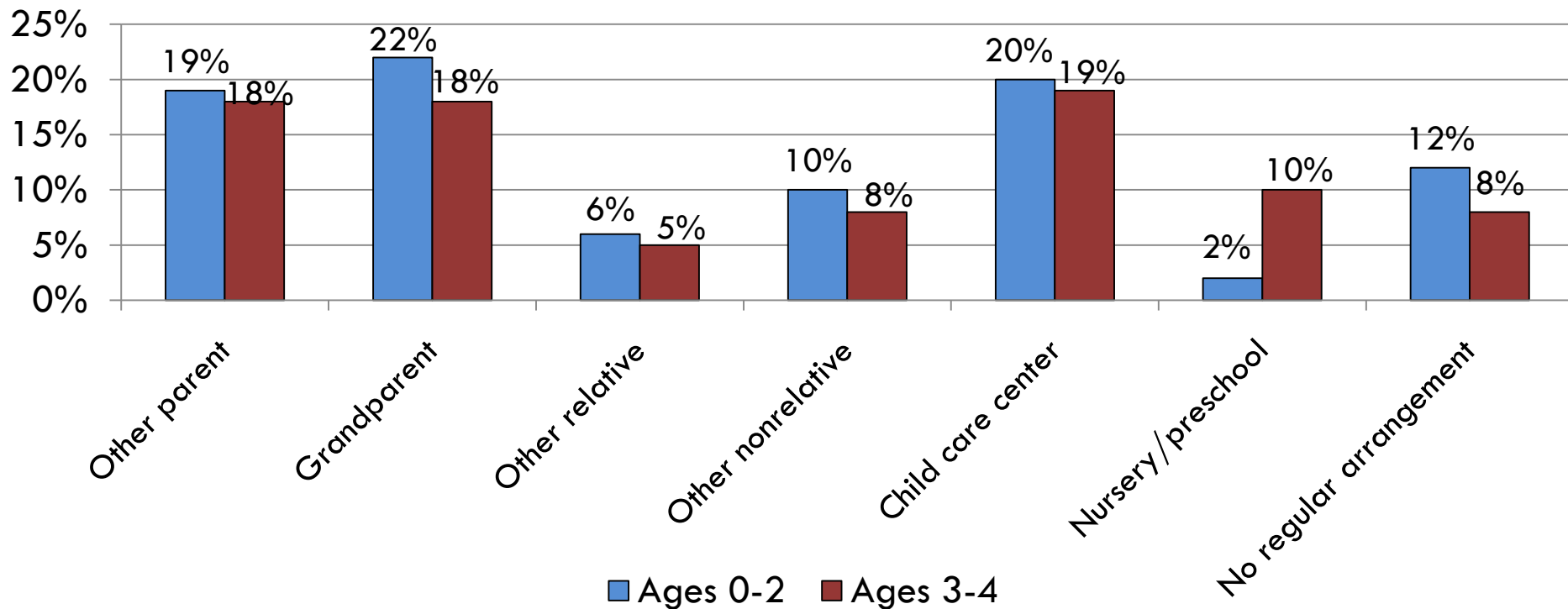
Hours Spent in Nonparental Care by Children Under 5 with Employed Mothers, 2002



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 family, friend, and neighbor care while parents work

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



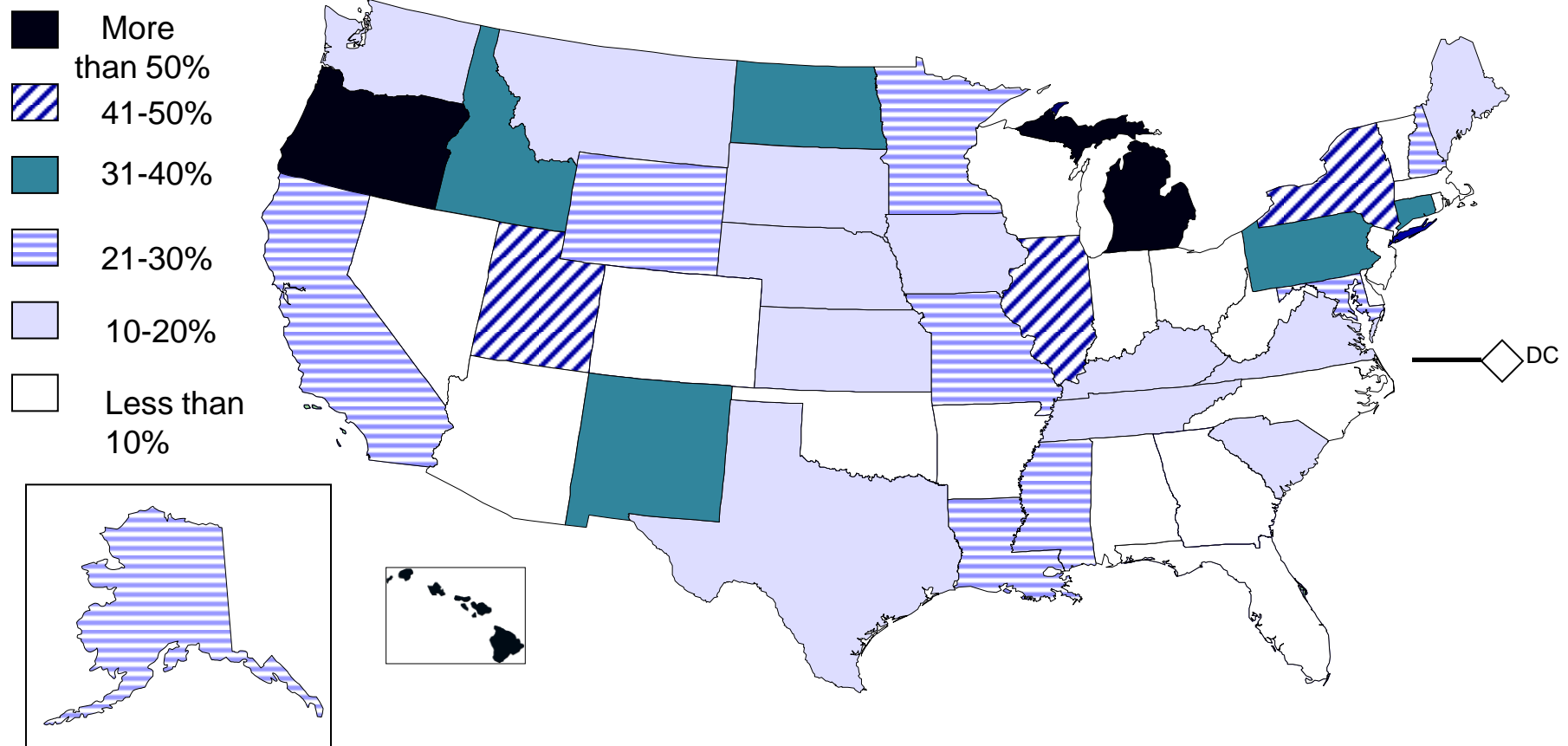
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, SIPP Data, *Who's Minding the Kids? Child Care Arrangements, Spring 2005 Data*. **Note:** Families were asked to report on child care arrangements used regularly, defined as at least once in a week in the past month. Multiple arrangements could be reported. Thus percentages 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

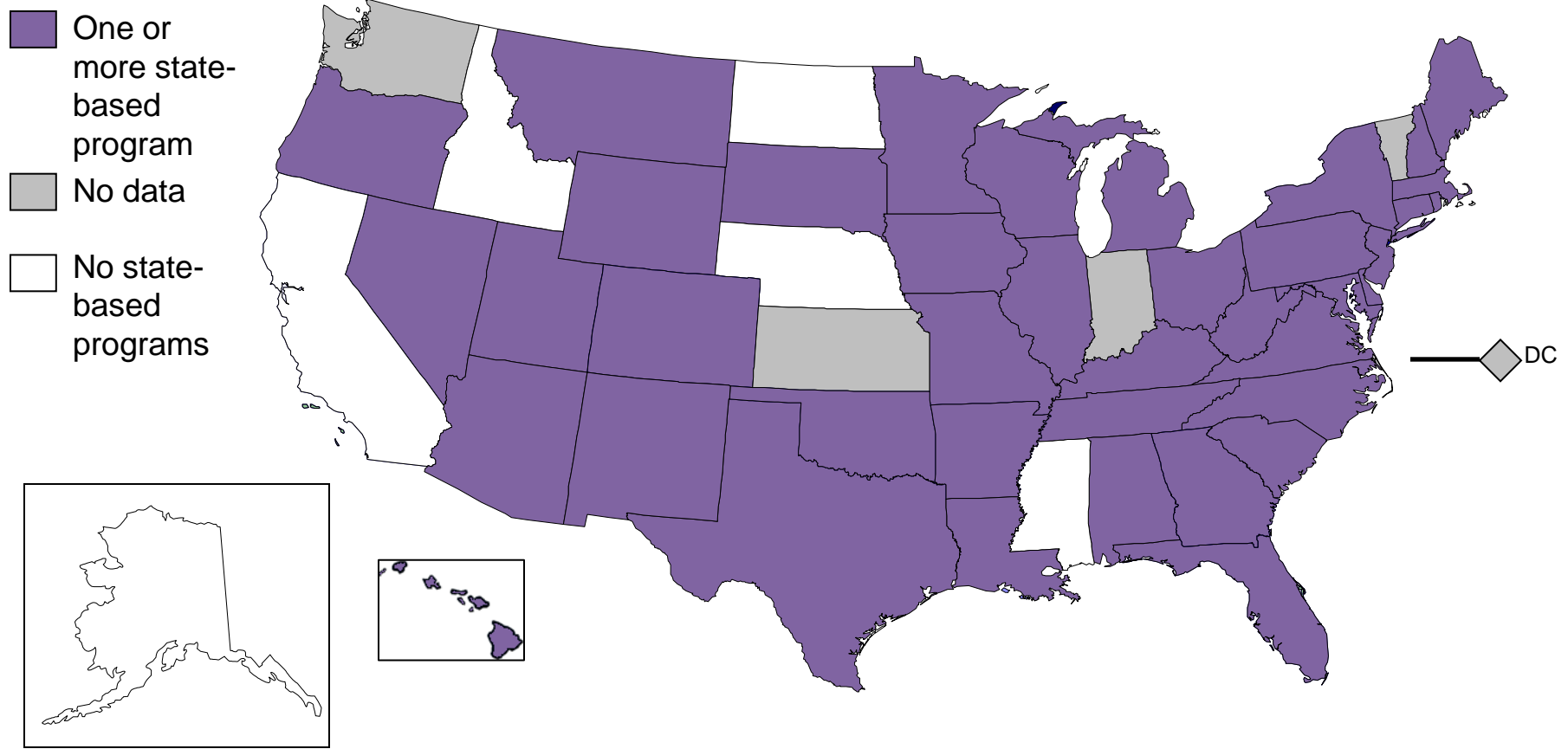
Subsidy receipt for FFN care, by state

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



Recognizing this data, states are increasingly looking for ways to support children in family, friend, and neighbor child care.

State-based home visiting programs



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 major national models of home visiting
- Interviewed stakeholders and experts in the field
- Focused on family, friend, and neighbor child caregivers and kinship caregivers

How programs include FFN

- Local programs are serving FFN caregivers
 - May include in visits with parents
 - May visit separately
- May be a perceived difference between national program models and local implementation
- Distinction between FFN and FCC gets blurry
- States vary in their definitions of and supports for FFN caregivers

Three examples of home visiting with FFN caregivers

Caring for Quality, Rochester, NY

- Project of Family Child Care Satellites of Greater Rochester and Crestwood Family Resource Centers
- Home visits delivered to 38 licensed and 36 informal home-based caregivers
- Visits twice monthly for 9-12 months, plus group networking meetings
- 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*

- Random assignment evaluation by Cornell
- 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 (PCHP)

- PCHP focuses on literacy, verbal interactions, and school readiness
- Home visitors model behavior to parents, bring books and toys for family to keep
- Intense services: twice-weekly half-hour visits for two years (typically when child is age 2 and 3)
- Have historically included primary caregivers
 - Example: if aunt cares for child full-time during week while mom works, one visit with aunt and one with mom

PCHP pilot with child caregivers

- Discovered that parents in program with own child were often caring for other children
- Parents receiving program also wanted their child caregivers to have same knowledge
- Pilot project: recruit providers accessing the child care food subsidy – most licensed, some not licensed
- Project seen as skill development for caregivers, but information also transmitted to parents
- Found that children then ask to be read to at home

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

- Evaluated by Mathematica and Urban Institute
- Found that home visits, services, and materials were meeting the needs and interests of caregivers
- Caregivers responded well when activities were presented “for the good of the child”
- Pilot benefitted both EHS and non-EHS kids in the FFN care setting
- Parent-caregiver communication is essential and can be challenging to navigate

Synthesizing challenges, opportunities, and implications

Challenges to home visits with FFN

- 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

Challenges (continued)

- Children in FFN care may not have one consistent caregiver: several different family members and friends may share caregiving responsibilities
- Recruitment
- Building trusting relationships
 - Critiquing caregiver's relationships and livelihood
 - Cultural and linguistic differences in caregiving
- Identifying a neutral space for visiting services with certain populations that can't be reached in homes

Opportunities for home visits with FFN

- Parents have expressed wishes to include caregivers
- 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)

- Serve at-risk, hard-to reach children and families
 - Many low-income children and children of immigrants are in FFN care
 - Can reach a child whose parent may not have time for parental home visits while juggling work, school, etc.
- Build caregiver skills effectively through one-on-one mentoring and coaching
 - May lead to licensure *if* interest by FFN caregiver

What can states do?

- Provide funds for appropriate training and to hire new home visitors, in order to serve FFN caregivers as well as parents
- Create pilot programs and partner with immigrant-serving organizations and others to provide home visits to FFN caregivers in underserved communities
- Invest in expanding Early Head Start

What can states do? (continued)

- Purchase home visiting curricula that has been created/adapted for FFN caregivers
- Coordinate home visiting programs in the state and integrate home visiting into the state's Early Childhood Advisory Council
- Award credit toward licensure for FFN caregivers who complete home visiting programs

Group discussion activity

Questions for group discussion

- What are the child care settings of low-income children in your community/state? Which children are in family, friend, and neighbor care?
- What are the home visiting programs in your community/state? How do they reach and include FFN caregivers?

Questions (continued)

- What would pose the biggest challenge(s) to serving FFN caregivers through home visiting in your community/state?
- What are the greatest opportunities?
- What additional data and information would you need to make the case for serving FFN caregivers through home visiting in your community/state?

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Visit our website:

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