



Healthy Start  
Virtual Grantees' Meeting

Federal Activities  
Complementary  
to Healthy Start Efforts

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June 24, 2020



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# Serving At-Risk Infants, Toddlers, and their Families through the Courts

Overview of the Infant-Toddler Court Program

*June 24, 2020*

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**Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB)**

**Vision: Healthy Communities, Healthy People**



# MCHB - Home Visiting and Early Childhood Systems

- MCHB Mission: To improve the health and well-being of America's mothers, children, and families
- Division of Home Visiting and Early Childhood Systems (DHVECS)
  - Vision: Communities where all families are thriving and children are healthy, nurtured, learning and ready to succeed.
  - Mission: To support improvements in the overall health and well-being of pregnant women and families with young children through evidence-based home visiting and early childhood systems.



# Early Childhood Systems (ECS)

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- The ECS portfolio aims to bring the science of early development to national, state, and local systems by:
  - Supporting the processes, strategies, policies, partnerships and other infrastructure required to systematically improve the lives of families and communities for generations
  - Moving from program to place, building on existing assets and addressing localized needs
  - Focusing on upstream approaches to accelerate population level impact
  - Building collective impact around early development and supports focused cross-sector coordination and alignment such as between health and early learning



# Infant-Toddler Court Program (ITCP) Goals

**The overall goal of the ITCP is to improve the health, well-being, and development of infants, toddlers, and families in the child welfare system.**

- Improve infants' and toddlers' developmental health
- Promote the implementation of two-generation, trauma-informed, evidence-based early interventions in the court and child welfare systems and across child- and family-serving systems
- Advance the ability to address parents' past trauma and immediate service needs
- Strengthen child welfare practices and early childhood systems to support the parent-child relationship and optimize the well-being of infants and toddlers
- Promote the spread of evidence-based infant-toddler courts to other jurisdictions
- Build the evidence base for infant-toddler courts



# Structure & Major Activities

- The National Resource Center for ITCP, at ZERO TO THREE, serves as a central hub of expertise, best practices, resources, and technical assistance activities to support uptake of the Safe Babies Court Team (SBCT) approach and evaluation of infant-toddler courts
- Dual approach of court teams:
  - Direct service level (Family Team)
  - Community/Systems level change (Active Community Team)
- Significant expansion in process to increase state-level capacity (5 states), # families served (6 sites), and capacity/expertise in family engagement, racial equity, or service access (10 sites)



# Multiple Levels of Action

- ❖ *Community Level*: Public-private collaborations, championed by judicial and child welfare leaders, that bring together stakeholders to effect change
- ❖ *Direct Service Level* : Cross-sector teams that proactively collaborate to address the urgent needs of infants, toddlers, and their families



## *Systems- and Capacity-Building Objectives:*

- ✓ Strengthen and align systems to optimize young children's well-being, parent protective capacities and well-being, and improve the community's response to child abuse and neglect
- ✓ Promote the use of two-generation, trauma-informed, evidence-based services across child- and family-serving systems
- ✓ Intensive focus on racial equity in child welfare and child and parent health outcomes



# A Public Health Approach

- Emphasis on infants and young children to maximize upstream impact
- Engaging underserved or “hard-to-reach” populations, through a focus on:
  - Equity
  - Family-centered care
  - Early identification and access to services
- Explicit attention to social determinants of health & care coordination
- Moving beyond service delivery to change the systems surrounding care
- Forging robust, cross-sector partnerships



# Aligned MCH Performance & Outcome Measures

- Engaging priority populations, incl:
  - Child abuse/neglect history
  - Substance use history
  - Low-income
  - Pregnant/parenting youth in CWS care
  - Risk of developmental delay or low achievement
- Screening & referral for
  - Developmental delay or disability
  - Maternal depression
  - Intimate partner violence
  - Child behavior concerns
- Access to medical home
- Well-child visits
- Postpartum and well-woman visits
- Immunizations
- Safe sleep
- Prevention or reduction in child maltreatment and injury



# Infant-Toddler Court Program National Network

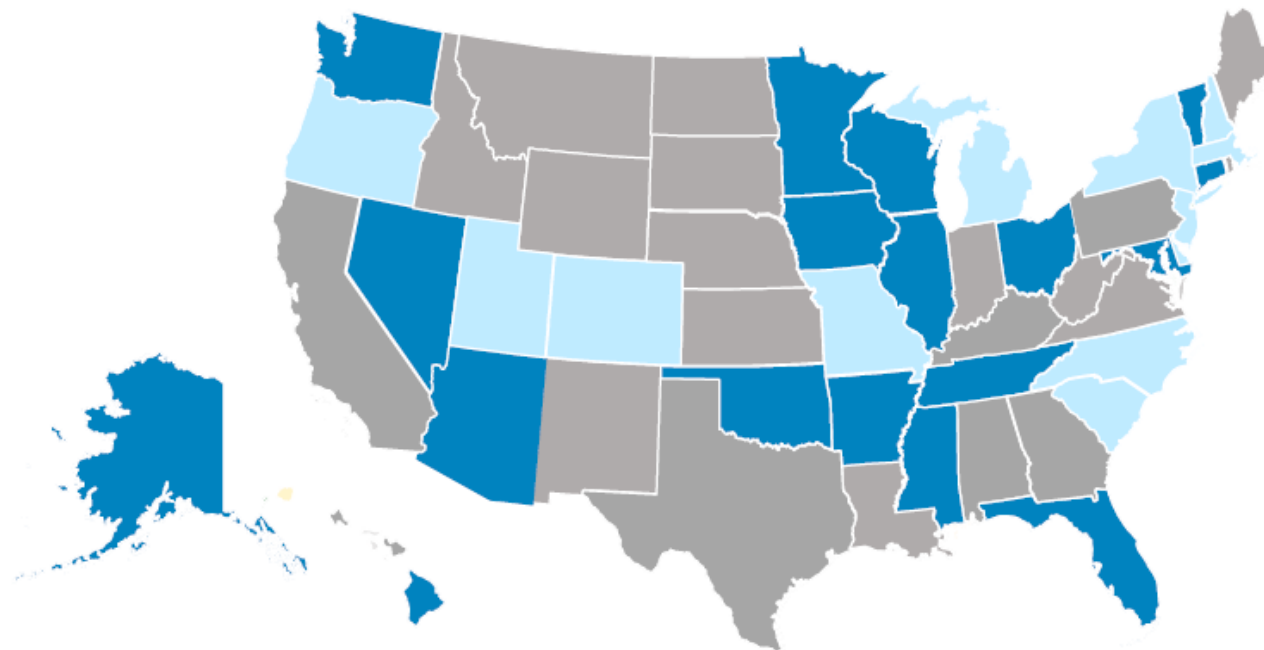


**ZERO to THREE**  
Early connections last a lifetime

**100 SITES TOTAL and 29 STATES**

**57 Active  
Sites**

**2 Statewide:  
Tennessee &  
Florida**



**43 Outreach  
Sites**

**with Statewide  
Exploration in 6  
States**

Current site list: <https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/3115-hrsa-infant-toddler-court-program-sites>

# For More Information

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- MCHB's Early Childhood Systems website:  
<https://mchb.hrsa.gov/earlychildhoodcomprehensivesystems>
- HRSA Federal Project Officer:  
Lynlee Tanner Stapleton, Ph.D.  
[lstapleton@hrsa.gov](mailto:lstapleton@hrsa.gov)
- National ITCP website: <https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/series/national-infant-toddler-court-program>
- ZERO TO THREE's ITCP Project Director:  
Janie Huddleston  
[jhuddleston@zerotothree.org](mailto:jhuddleston@zerotothree.org)



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# Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood

Office of Family Assistance

*HMRF for Healthy Start*



# About the Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood (HMRF) Programs



- **A Brief History of the OFA HMRF Programs:**
  - Incorporated into US Law at 42 U.S.C. §603(a)(2); originally authorized in 2005; reauthorized in 2010
  - Congress authorized \$150 million for HMRF promotion activities
  - Funding equally divided between HM and RF
  - First three cohorts 2006, 2011, 2015; 5-yr project periods
  - New cohort will be competed summer 2020. This will be the 4<sup>th</sup> cohort of HMRF funding

# Statutory HMRF Activities

## Healthy Marriage

- Public Advertising Campaigns
- Education in High Schools
- Marriage and Relationship Education/Skills (MRES)
- Pre-Marital Education
- Marriage Enhancement
- Divorce Reduction
- Marriage Mentoring
- Reduction of Disincentives to Marriage

## Responsible Fatherhood

- Promote or Sustain Marriage
- Responsible Parenting
- Economic Stability



# Grantee Organization Types, Distribution, Service Provision Settings

- Organization Types
  - Community-based non-profits (including faith-based)
  - Colleges and universities
  - States, local governments, Tribes, Tribal organizations
- Distribution
  - 27 states
  - 1 territory (Guam)
- Service Provision and Settings
  - 50% community-based (community action organizations, non-profits)
  - 30% high schools (HM)
  - 12% faith-based
  - 8% residential facilities (e.g., recovery or correctional facilities)

# Healthy Start Organizations that receive HMRF Grants

## Responsible Fatherhood



- *Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition, Inc. (Jacksonville, FL)*
  - **Target populations:** fathers who are incarcerated or returning to families and communities; low-income, unemployed or underemployed fathers from 5 NE Florida counties
  - **Services provided:** curriculum- and group-based responsible parenting, economic stability, and healthy relationship education workshops
  - **Supportive services:** case management, peer mentorship, job readiness training

## Healthy Marriage and Relationship Education



- *Pee Dee Healthy Start, Inc. (Florence, SC)*
  - **Target populations:** At-risk youth, families with young children, high-school students, incarcerated or ex-prisoners, low-income rural populations, and couples
  - **Services provided:** parenting, relationship and pre-marital education skills, financial management, conflict resolution, job and career advancement, and marriage enhancement skills
  - **Supportive Services:** case management

# HMRF Grantee Partnership with a Local Healthy Start Program

- Pathways' Inc. (Toledo, OH) – Current RF grantee
  - **Program:** *Brothers United*
  - **Target population:** low-income fathers ages 16+; incarcerated and ex-prisoners
  - **Services provided:** curriculum-based parenting education, relationship skills, employment training, and case management
  - **Healthy Start Partnership:** Brothers United partners with the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department to:
    - *Provide Healthy Start participants with information about fatherhood program and services*
    - *Additionally, partnership efforts include support to a local Family First Coalition's programming, work to determine the level of program impact in the community, and helping to identify problems, barriers, and solutions for participating families*



# National Resource Center for Healthy Marriage and Families



- [HealthyMarriageandFamilies.Org](https://HealthyMarriageandFamilies.Org)
- **Information Repository:** tools, tips, and training for practitioners, individuals and couples, researchers and other stakeholders on a variety of topics (communication, conflict resolution, dating, DV and IPV)
- **Technical Assistance:** TA to states interested in integrating healthy marriage and relationship education into targeted safety-net systems (e.g., TANF, Child Support, Child Welfare)

# National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse

- [Fatherhood.gov](http://Fatherhood.gov)
- Participated in national Healthy Start Association conferences
- National Media Campaign
  - Strong Partnerships
    - *Ad Council*
    - *Pro Sports: WWE, NBA, NFL, ESPN, NASCAR*
    - *Social Media, Motion Picture, and TV Industries*
  - “Take Time To Be A Dad Today”
  - #MakeAMoment
  - #DanceLikeADad



# New Cohort of HMRF Competitive Grants (Summer 2020)



## Administration for Children and Families Funding Opportunity Announcements

**CLOSING DATE: JULY 1, 2020**

- [Fatherhood FIRE](#) (Adult Fathers) HHS-2020-ACF-OFA-ZJ-1846
- [FRAMEWorks](#) (Adult Couples/Indvd'ls) HHS-2020-ACF-OFA-ZB-1817
- [READY4Life](#) (Youth) HHS-2020-ACF-OFA-ZD-1838
  - In high school (grades 9-12)
  - High-school aged (ages 14-17); and/or
  - Late adolescence/Early adulthood (ages 18-24)
- Successful applicants may be coming to a community near you!

# Contact Information

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## Day 1 Wrap-up

