

Healthy Families Illinois (HFI)

Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS)

OVERVIEW

Healthy Families Illinois (HFI) follows the research-based Healthy Families America program model. Through a program of voluntary home visiting, HFI helps new and expectant parents strengthen their families' functioning and reduce their risk for child abuse and/or neglect. Home visitors

Services are provided through intensive home visits, starting with bi-weekly visits during the pregnancy and increasing to weekly visits for at least six months following the child's birth. After the initial six months of weekly home visits, frequency and duration of the visits vary according to the needs of the family. Home visitation may continue at least quarterly through the first five years of the child's life. Home visitors work with parents to teach them how babies grow and develop; how to keep babies safe and healthy, and; good parenting skills.

WHO IS SERVED?

Population(s)/Age Group:

HFI provides services to pregnant women and children up to the age of 5. Service initiation, however, typically begins in pregnancy or shortly after birth.

Eligibility Criteria and Screening Tools:

Families at risk of child abuse and neglect are identified during pregnancy or at time of birth through a structured assessment that includes potential risk factors.

HOW ARE SERVICES DELIVERED?

Local Service System

Services are provided through community-based organizations throughout the state. The current listing of programs is available at www.partnerplanact.org/programinventory

Referrals into Program

HFI programs typically work with hospitals, clinics and other agencies who serve pregnant women and/or new mothers to provide assessment services. Assessments enable staff to identify family needs and refer them to supportive services such as HFI.

HFI makes persistent outreach efforts to those families who are hesitant to accept services, but have not clearly indicated an unwillingness to accept services. HFI uses these positive, persistent outreach efforts to build trust with families.

Families may also be referred through the Family and Community Resource Center.

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Data Systems Used

Information not available

STATE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR OR CONTACT

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Program Website:
<https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=30263>