



## PROJECT ABSTRACT

Project Title: Rhode Island's Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program  
Applicant Name: Rhode Island Department of Health  
Address: 3 Capitol Hill, Room 302, Providence, RI 02908-5097  
Contact Person: Kristine Campagna  
Phone Number: 401.222.5927 Fax Number: 401.222.1442  
Email Address: Kristine.Campagna@health.ri.gov  
Web Address: <http://www.health.ri.gov/>

Rhode Island's Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program will implement Evidence Based Home Visiting in six communities in Rhode Island for pregnant women and families with young children at high risk for poor outcomes. Priority criteria for enrollment will be maternal age less than 21, low maternal education and low incomes. The program will also serve pregnant women and families with young children at increased risk for maltreatment due to prior involvement with the child welfare system or history of mental health issues.

The Rhode Island Department of Health Division of Community, Family Health and Equity has supported home visiting for the past 20 years. The current home visiting program focuses on screening and referring children from birth to three years of age to appropriate services. The capacity of evidence-based home visiting programs for families at risk for poor outcomes, although recently expanded, remains insufficient to serve the population that would benefit from such programs, this is particularly true for pregnant women and children at highest risk for poor outcomes. Over the past several years the department has worked in conjunction with Successful Start and other state and local partners to implement more intensive long-term evidence based home visiting interventions. RI will build on the existing system of home visiting to create a more comprehensive set of programs.

Rhode Island will support a Home Visiting Leadership Council and Local Implementation Teams to guide infrastructure development and program implementation. A needs assessment, conducted in 2010 demonstrated that there were over 400 children in 4 communities at highest risk (maternal age <21, maternal education < high school graduation and, enrolled in Medicaid). RI received funding sufficient to meet the needs of approximately 1/3 of the eligible children. This opportunity will allow RI to expand the number of families served, and broaden the eligibility criteria (to include mothers with a high school diploma and/or involvement with the child welfare system) and geographic reach (to include Newport and West Warwick). RI is proposing to expand Nurse Family Partnership by 100 slots and Healthy Families America by 250 slots. The funding would also allow RI to make needed enhancements to the systems designed to identify and follow families through the program, support coordination of services, and provide data for evaluation activities.

The Department of Health will engage in this work in partnership with other state and community stakeholders and coordinate efforts with RI's early childhood comprehensive systems building work Successful Start. Expanding the capacity of evidence based home visiting programs in Rhode Island is an important step in the effort to build quality comprehensive statewide systems for pregnant woman, parents and caregivers, and young children.