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Policy

Home Visiting: More Than A Program - A Hope For Change

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Home Visiting as an Intervention

- Meet the family where they are
- Provide education about child development and demonstrate positive parenting approaches
- Depending on program, provide other information and skill building
- Provide information about, and hopefully connection to, services and supports available in the community
- Decrease social isolation and increase trust

Home Visiting as an Approach

- Family is at the center – family identifies needs and how to meet them with appropriate assistance
- Strength-based – not a deficit model but one that assumes parents want to do right by their children but may need additional tools
- Connects supports and services so families with challenges can more easily access them

Diagram of Traditional Service Delivery

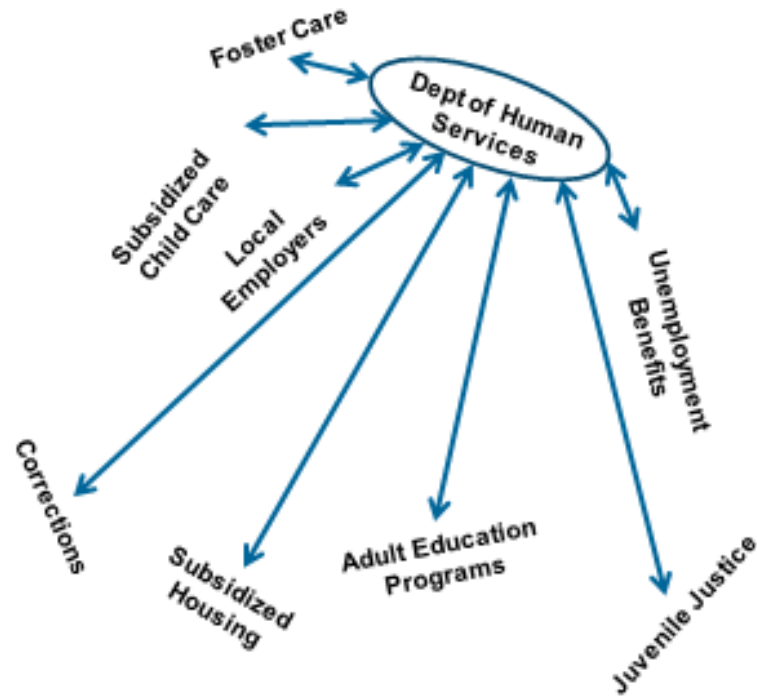


Diagram of Home Visiting Approach

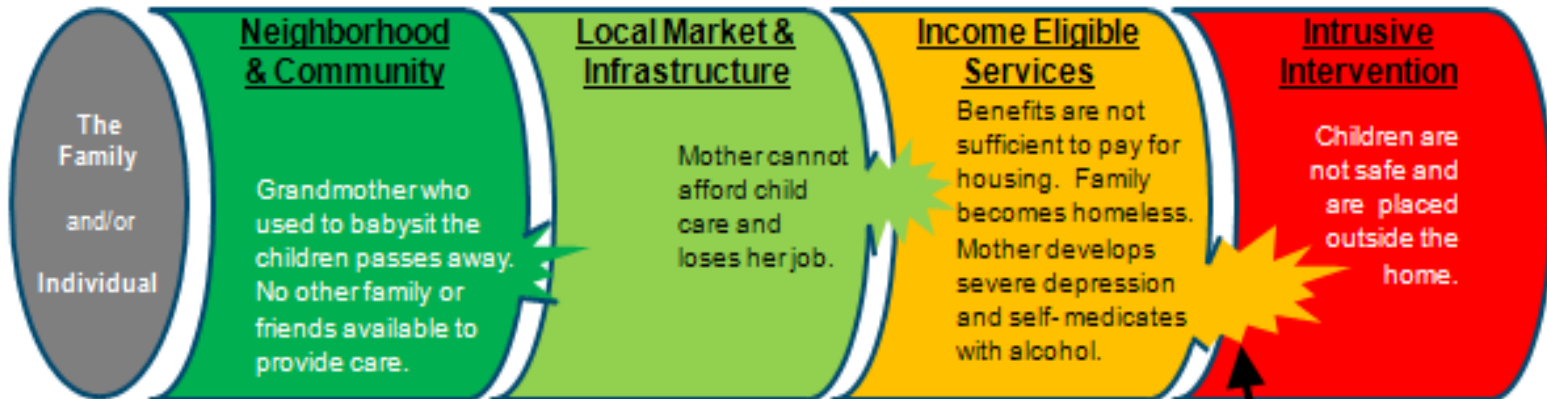


Why Does the Approach Matter?

- Evidence from a variety of sources suggests that a subset of families use particular services more than others AND that those same families tend to use more services in multiple systems
- Creating competing case plans, goals and objectives for these families is a set up for failure – which will cause the need for services to continue
- Creating a coordinated response that builds upon the strengths of the family and combines services and supports in complementary ways will be more successful – earlier, less expensive interventions with better outcomes

How A Systemic Approach Works

Negative events can cause an individual or family to “break through” the wall and require services at the next level – but with the proper support, they can rapidly return to their status quo



With a small amount of support, these families can be more self-sufficient and not rely on government services

These families require urgent assistance to avoid needing more dramatic action (foster care, incarceration)

The goal is to prevent the barriers from “breaking”, making a family require support from the next level

How To Use Home Visiting as Leverage

- Needs assessment requirements, joint application requirements, requirement to achieve benchmarks that cannot be achieved by one system set the stage for better cooperation across systems
- Most of this “stage setting” occurs whether or not your state wins the grant
- Well implemented, good quality home visiting programs will increase demand for better cooperation across systems

But, You Want Us to Do This in This Economic Environment?

- Prevention and early intervention costs less, at least over the long run
- Coordination and integration stretch the available dollars by making the services offered more effective and avoiding the need for more expensive services
- Coordination and integration does NOT mean simply requiring one worker to do three jobs
- Be creative in looking for funding – beyond state and local dollars

Potential Federal Funding for Home Visiting

- Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program
- Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act Funds – Title II Community Based Grants
- Title IV-B – subpart 1 and 2 (Promoting Safe & Stable Families)
- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)
- Medicaid – e.g. Targeted Case Management
- Social Services Block Grant

Private Funds

- Don't forget philanthropy – particularly new entrepreneurial funders – some of them see their role as priming the pump
- Businesses who see value in investing in young children think long term – home visiting approach should appeal to them for short and long term worker benefits
- Role for community and faith-based organizations?

For More Information:

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- See our website at:
 - Summary - <http://www.clasp.org/admin/site/publications/files/home-visiting-detailed-summary.pdf>
 - Resources and Helpful Links - http://www.clasp.org/federal_policy/pages?id=0024