

Home Visiting: A Critical Component of Missouri’s Early Childhood System

Home Visiting (HV) is an essential component of a comprehensive early childhood system (<http://dss.mo.gov/cbec/pdf/strategic-plan.pdf>). The Missouri Coordinating Board for Early Childhood (CEBC) defines home visiting as (proposed definition):

A prenatal, infant and early childhood health and development approach in which the design assumes home visits with parents as the primary method for delivering a service or intervention, and through which an ongoing relationship is developed with enrolled families over time.

The following table highlights aspects of the 2013 CBEC Strategic Plan that can best be achieved through a strong HV system in Missouri.

| Unique Features of HV that Contribute to Goals | System Component From Strategic Plan | Strategic Plan Elements best met by HV | Desired Outcome | Vision |
|---|--|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service/visit takes place in the home: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Child’s natural setting ○ Environment influences development • Service comes to the family: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ease of access ○ Supports engagement • Services may begin prenatally • Multi-generational approach • Parent/caregiver is the focus of visit/service • Ongoing relationship with parents/caregivers • Measurable outcomes that impact family interactions and goals | Family Support | Goal 4. Families meet the basic safety and subsistence needs of the young children in their care. | Missouri’s young children have their basic needs met. | <p>All young children in Missouri are safe, healthy and capable of reaching their full potential.</p> |
| | Parent Education | Goal 3. Families have the skills and access the programs and resources they need to facilitate their child’s growth and development. | Supportive and nurturing family environments are enhanced by the integration of parenting education into the early childhood system. | |
| | Early Childhood Programs | Objective 1. Early learning programs include an array of home visiting and group care settings that meet the needs of Missouri’s young children and families. Objective 2. Policies and practices support effective transitions for children and families across programs and systems, reflecting an understanding of children’s needs throughout the continuum from prenatal development through third grade. | Missouri’s children have access to high quality early childhood programs. | |
| | Health | Goal 4. Families are health literate and actively participate in decision-making regarding the health and wellness of their children. | Missouri’s children have a source of coordinated, comprehensive and family-centered primary health care and services. | |
| | Mental Health and Social-Emotional Development | Objective 3: Missouri’s families provide a socially and emotionally healthy home environment. | Missouri’s children are socially and emotionally healthy | |