

Update on Arizona's Plan for the ACA Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program

September 26, 2011

Many changes have occurred since our last posting. First of all, the new Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program Manager, Laura Gestaut, started at the beginning of July. She was previously the Lead Safety Project Manager/ Policy Analyst for the Florida Department of Health Lead Poisoning Prevention and Healthy Homes Program. She received her Master's in Public Health epidemiology from Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. She has experience in maternal child health, policy development, stakeholder building, and a strong evaluation background.

In August we received approval of the [Updated Plan](#) which frees us to begin contracting. This Update Plan would permit us to initiate an interagency agreement with ADES to implement Healthy Families in Casa Grande, Coolidge and parts of Tucson, of releasing an RFP for Nurse Family Partnership in parts of Tucson and a government to government agreement with the White Mountain Apache Tribe to support a promising practice model of home visiting.

In early July however, the Inter Agency Taskforce met to discuss the [Fiscal Year 2011 application](#). The additional funds will allow the program to serve a few additional communities (fewer than the competitive funds) and also will help us build additional program capacity in communities. Based on the decisions of the Inter Agency Leadership Team we planned to meet with Holbrook and Winslow to determine the level of interest of the community in implementing one of these models. These funds have now been approved.

In addition, the Inter Agency Leadership Team submitted a [competitive grant application](#) at the end of June and we received word last week that Arizona is one of the successful applicants. The major focus of these highly competitive funds will enable us to serve the additional 25 high risk communities identified in the [Needs Assessment](#) with evidence based home visiting models. The funds would also help us work on developing a system to track statewide benchmarks.