

Healthy Families Indiana

At the 2019 First Steps Conference on June 13–14, Christina Commons moderated an informative panel session with state partners and stakeholders who work alongside the First Steps program to provide needed services

for children and families. Each partner shared information about their program and how it intersects with First Steps. See below to read a summary of answers from Healthy Families Indiana.

A brief description of the program The mission of Healthy Families Indiana is to promote nurturing relationships as the foundation for optimized development and resiliency of strong families. Healthy Families home visitors partner with parents to develop positive beliefs about their role as parents. The Healthy Families Indiana program significantly impacts the parent-child interaction by serving the families for 3 to 5 years after the birth of the baby.

Are there common misunderstandings or misconceptions of Healthy Families Indiana that should be corrected?

Healthy Families Indiana is in all 92 counties in Indiana. The target population is pregnant or recently delivered moms/families who are low income (below 250% federal poverty level) and have risk factors associated with child abuse and neglect as the program is funded through the Indiana Department of Child Services Prevention funding.

How does Healthy Families Indiana intersect with First Steps?

Healthy Families Indiana sites accept referrals from all community providers, including First Step providers. Healthy Families Indiana sites offer at least one home visit per week for the first six months after the child's birth and meets with the family when it is convenient for the family. After those initial months, home visit frequency is based on families' needs and progress with fewer visits in a month over time. Typically, home visits last one hour.

What is one thing First Steps providers should share with families about Healthy Families Indiana?

Children in the Healthy Families program who are suspected as having a developmental concern are referred to First Steps with parents' consent and those referrals are tracked with appropriate follow up as needed. Healthy Families Indiana allows for both home visiting services (First Steps and Healthy Families Indiana) to serve the family at the same time—dually enrolled. This is unusual in terms of duplicating home visiting services but Indiana believes that the two services are complementary.

How can First Steps providers work more effectively with Healthy Families Indiana?

Several Healthy Families Indiana sites are housed within the same agency as First Steps and several more Healthy Families Indiana sites have First Steps staff on their advisory boards. These cross-collaborations allow for ongoing conversations about clients' needs and any unusual circumstances in which the family may benefit from the intensive home visiting program but may not meet the initial referral requirements. We encourage First Steps providers to contact their local Healthy Families Indiana provider to discuss cross-collaboration. See the state website for Healthy Families Indiana provider(s) in your area.

2019
FIRST STEPS
CONFERENCE

STAKEHOLDER PANEL

The mission of Healthy Families Indiana is to promote nurturing relationships as the foundation for optimized development and resiliency of strong families. Healthy Families home visitors partner with parents to develop positive beliefs about their role as parents.



Healthy Families
Indiana®

www.in.gov/dcs/2459.htm