

La Vida Felicidad, Inc
New Mexico Early Childhood Funders Group
Home Visiting Advocacy
Request for Proposals-October 2017

Narrative:

Our vision for the partnership, aims to organize the entities within our communities who impact young children with the goal of creating more community champions for Home Visiting within New Mexico. As a new recipient of a CYFD Home Visiting grant funding in FY18 we recognize the confusion that continues to exist at multiple levels regarding the importance of Home Visiting and how it is an additional component for families and not a duplication of services with other programs. New Mexico is 50th overall in child well-being and is in great need of communities rising to the challenge to embrace our children. The strategic community based approach is needed particularly in New Mexico as the State is varied in geography, community types, resource availability and population. What works in a county with easy access to resources could be more challenging in a county that is more isolated. There are different models, different curriculums all being used toward the end of creating healthy family units. Our project is designed to educate at a grass roots level and the legislative level. Both are important as a community can become very knowledgeable about benefits of home visiting while the voices in the legislative body do not understand the needs or knowledge of their constituents. This creates a situation where funding may not be appropriated as needed thus families receive less support. Recognizing the importance of key stakeholders along the community spectrum is important to educating the community itself.

Due to the short timeline of the project, it will be imperative that we stay focused on two areas of advocacy and education: Community and Legislative. La Vida Felicidad, Inc. is a recognized and respected piece of the early childhood community. We partner frequently with Part B, Head Start, Child Care Centers, Pre-K, tribal home visiting, New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (NMSBVI), New Mexico School for the Deaf (NMSD), parent advocacy groups, pediatricians, WIC, etc. As a recognized and respected leader within our community, our plan is to organize agencies, organizations and state entities we are already working with to begin the education process for championing home visiting. This will be expanded to other entities as new contacts and face to face meetings occur with key stakeholders at the local and legislative level.

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Step 1: Identify all programs/entities which impact our children. This includes not only home visiting, but the other areas that provide services and or support for our children. Such as, early intervention, Child Care, before and after school care, Early Head Start, NM PreK, public school system, income support division, CYFD-Protective services including foster parents. This will allow us to create an Early Childhood Community Partnership (ECCP). Each member of the Partnership will complete a questionnaire regarding their knowledge of Home Visiting within New Mexico. In one on one meetings we have found many persons who work within the early childhood system do not have full knowledge of what Home Visiting is about and often feel threatened by the program. **Step 2:** The ECCP, through a facilitated discussion, will bring together local stakeholders and discuss accurate information, clear up myths, explain differences within various programs such as early intervention and home visiting. The same discussions will occur with our Legislative partners and/or their staff as confusion on duplication of services continues and has potential to impact monies received through the Legislature. **Step 3:** Once these meetings have occurred, a document with the most frequently asked questions will be produced with answers to serve as a guide to our professional and legislative stakeholders. A crosswalk will also be developed to give a quick snap shot of how Home Visiting is not a duplication of other services but often is the lifeline service needed by parents who have not “qualified” for more rigid eligibility programs. **Step 4:** Once these tools are developed they will be distributed to stakeholders with a follow up to answer any questions or concerns. The follow up is essential to ensuring information has been received and understood. **Step 5:** A roundtable will be convened with all persons identified as stakeholders within the community and all legislators (or staff) within the areas served. This meeting will serve to review again the “State of our Children” and the importance of investing in the children within their communities at an early age. This meeting will serve as an evaluative piece based on the focused discussion and understanding of why it is imperative we have strong, knowledgeable and effective advocates for our children.

Goal: Increase Community and Legislative awareness of New Mexico Home Visiting

Activity: Identify all programs/entities which impact our children. This includes not only home visiting, but the other areas that provide services and or support for our children

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Time Line: December 2017

Activity: Contact with all Legislators and/or staff (in person if available) within service area for La Vida regarding Home Visiting and it's importance/value to the State's well being

Time Line: December 2017

Activity: Community Round Table-facilitated discussion with local stakeholders and discuss accurate information, clear up myths, explain differences within various programs such as early intervention and home visiting.

Time Line: January 2018

Activity: Attendance at Day of the Young Child-Round House-Speak with each legislator in Valencia and Cibola County regarding Home Visiting and need for continued funding and expansion as well as request Round Table Attendance in February.

Time Line: January 2018

Activity: Legislative Round Table-facilitated discussion with Legislative stakeholders regarding home visiting and it's importance. Clarifying as needed information needed for better understanding of its continued funding and expansion.

Time Line: February 2018

Activity: Development of Frequently Asked Questions Document and Cross Walk for Home Visiting for key stake holders. Development of Crosswalk snap shot of Home Visiting compared to other "in home" services.

Time Line: February 2018

Activity: Distribution of Frequently Asked Questions and Cross Walk once vetted by funding sources identified in Documents to ensure accuracy

Time Line: March 2018

Key Staff All Activities: Kathey Phoenix-Doyle, MA Executive Director

Impact of activities will be determined by knowledge gained from all stakeholders regarding the importance of Home Visiting and willingness to positively share home visiting information. While Pre/Post could be completed, the value of the Frequently Asked Questions will ascertain what level of knowledge is held and ultimately the agreement of legislators to champion home visiting for the State of New Mexico as well as local support advocating for Home Visiting and increased referrals to programs will be the truest picture of impact.