



Healthy Opportunities for Parents to Experience Success (HOPES)

Healthy Opportunities for Parents to Experience Success - Healthy Families Iowa (HOPES-HFI) is an evidence-based home visiting program for families that begins during pregnancy or at the birth of a child and can continue until the child reaches preschool age. The program follows the national Healthy Families America model of home visiting. A standard tool is used to identify level of risk and screens for the family conditions and characteristics that impact child

Healthy Families Iowa (HFI) Program Goals:

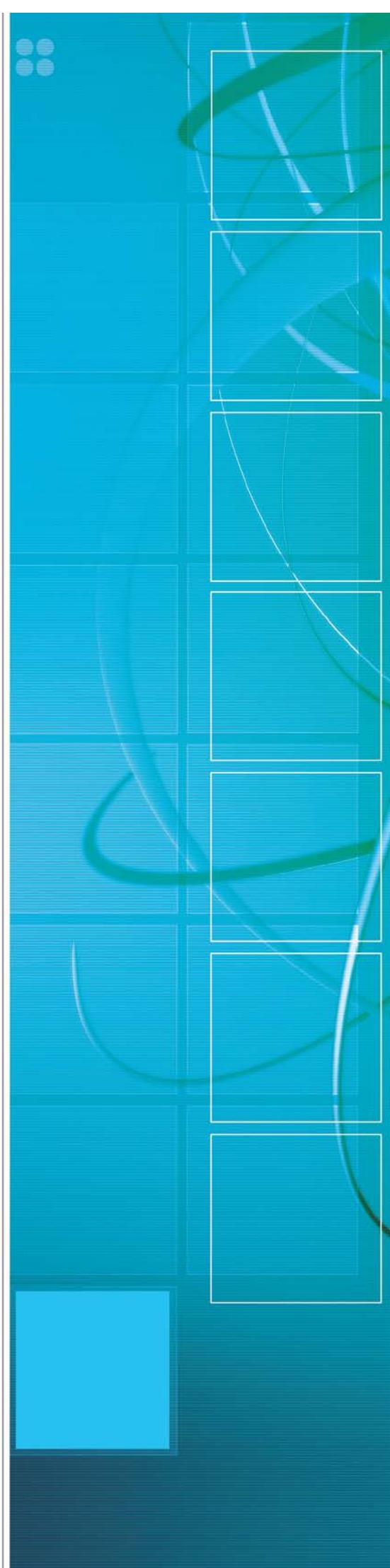
1. Promote optimal child health and development.
2. Improve family coping skills and functioning.
3. Promote positive parenting and family interaction.
4. Prevent child abuse and neglect, as well as infant mortality and morbidity.

HOPES-HFI is available in nine Iowa counties: Black Hawk, Polk, Woodbury, Scott, Lee, Hamilton, Clinton, Buchanan, and Muscatine. All eleven programs providing HOPES-HFI with state grant funds have been awarded national accreditation by Healthy Families America.

Funding and support for HOPES-HFI was established in 1992 through legislation with funds distributed to ten counties identified as having the highest needs. State funds at that time were allocated to the Iowa Department of Public Health for contract management. In FY04 the Department of Human Services initiated a contract with the Iowa Department of Public Health for \$200,000 of federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds to expand the HOPES-HFI grant after a reduction in state grant allocation for HOPES-HFI. As an effort to promote collaborative efforts to integrate all Early Childhood programs, in FY06 legislation was changed requiring transfer of funds from IDPH to the Office of Empowerment. In FY14 funds were once again allocated to the Iowa Department of Public Health for contract management.

Program Specifics

- Voluntary home visiting program following HFA standards (critical elements).
- Provides support to overburdened (high risk) families with children during the prenatal to preschool years.
- Identifies families through a standardized screening process.
- Identifies barriers and develops an individual family support plan (family goals) based on the family's strengths and needs.





Program Progress

How are we doing? The state adopted a new data collection system in FY14 that impacted the validity of reporting trend data from previous years. New measures of progress will be provided in subsequent reports.



For more information about the HOPES HFI program please contact PJ West at pj.west@idph.iowa.gov

