



Community Grant Outcome Report

Name: Allied Drive Early Childhood Initiative

Grantee: Dane County Department of Human Services

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Academic Partner: Roseanne Clark, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry, UW SMPH

Program: Implementation

Grant Duration: 04/01/2005 to 03/31/2008 (36 months)

Expenditures: \$439,161 of \$450,000 (98% expended)

Use of Funds: Develop and evaluate a family-based intervention

► **Description:** The partners developed and tested an evidence-based home visitation model entitled Early Childhood Initiative (ECI). The program included integrated home-based services, early childhood teams, peer support, and family intervention strategies for expectant mothers and caregivers of infants in the Allied Drive community. Addressing health disparities and promoting behaviors that lead to healthy birth outcomes is a key ECI goal. The ECI's focus on a healthy infant parent relationship as the foundation for future success in school for the child and success in the workforce for the parent is the ultimate objective. The long-term goal was to test and develop a home visitation model that could be replicated in other high-poverty neighborhoods.

► **Results:** The ECI enrolled approximately 85 families during the grant period, exceeding the goal of 75 families. These families received comprehensive home visitation and social support services. To evaluate progress in short-term outcomes, the project established 57 social and economic benchmarks in health access, housing, employment, early childhood education, mental health and social support. At the end of the grant, the program either met or nearly met 48 of the 57 objectives for enrolled families.

The project also included a research component to assess parenting skills, age-appropriate childhood development, and family stability at 12-month intervals. Only 12 of the 85 families were reassessed after one year in the program due to delays in

program startup and difficulty obtaining data. For the 12 families, significant improvements were observed in employment rates and parent skills assessment, suggesting the possible impact of the ECI. This research component will continue in the renewal grant.

The program staff attributed their success to support from political leaders, particularly the County Executive, and to the relationships forged between the ECI staff and participating families.

► **Met Objectives:** Project completed

► **Baseline Progress on State Health Plan Objectives:** Yes—Access to Primary and Preventive Health Services

► **Academic Partner Role:** Community-based participatory research.

► **Matched Dollars (cash or in-kind):** \$823,049

► **Dissemination:**

- The National Governor's Association designated the ECI as a pilot site under the Wisconsin Service Integration Initiative
- Two presentations (state/national conferences)

► **Sustained:** The program continues under an OAC renewal grant—\$474,988 for an additional three years until 2010. The project also received \$500,000 in state and local funds to replicate the EIC in two other Dane County locations.