

Quick Guide: Early Childhood Family Education Home Visiting

The purpose of this document is to provide a brief history and overview of home visiting in ECFE.

Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.13, subdivision 4, states:

Home Visiting Program. A district that levies for home visiting under section 124D.135, subdivision 6, shall use this revenue to include as part of the ECFE program a parenting education component that is designed to reach isolated or at-risk families.

Brief History

Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) initially received funding from the 1992 Minnesota Legislature for home visiting as part of the Omnibus Crime Bill. In fiscal year 1994, school districts were authorized to levy \$1.60 times their birth to four population specifically for continuation of this effort. This amount remained the same until fiscal year 2018, when school districts were authorized to levy \$3.00 times their birth to four population. The concept of home visiting as part of Early Childhood Family Education programming did not begin with the 1992 legislation. Home visiting has been a strategy used by ECFE staff for reaching and serving families with young children since the pilot programs began in 1975.

Home Visiting Statutes

An ECFE home visiting program must:

The home visiting program must:

1. Incorporate evidence-informed parenting education practices designed to support the healthy growth and development of children, with a priority focus on those children who have high needs;
2. Establish clear objectives and protocols for home visits;
3. Encourage families to make a transition from home visits to site-based parenting programs;
4. Provide program services that are community-based, accessible, and culturally relevant;
5. Foster collaboration among existing agencies and community-based organizations that serve young children and their families, such as public health evidence-based models of home visiting and Head Start home visiting; and
6. Provide information about and assist in making arrangements for an early childhood health and developmental screening when the child nears his or her third birthday.

The home visiting program should be provided by licensed parenting educators, certified family life educators, or professionals with an equivalent license that reflect the demographic composition of the community to the extent possible.

How is Early Childhood Family Education home visiting revenue being used?

Early Childhood Family Education programs have placed increased emphasis on home visiting as an important strategy for reaching families experiencing multiple stresses. Examples of families who are receiving home visiting because of the additional funding include the following:

- Families without access to reliable transportation.
- Families with several preschool children.
- Families with children and/or parents having special medical, physical, or developmental concerns.
- Families referred to ECFE by other programs and agencies.
- Pregnant mothers on bed rest.
- First-time parents.
- Parents who are not yet comfortable in group settings.
- Families whose schedules or life circumstances make it difficult to participate in center-based classes or other opportunities.
- Parents who have special concerns that they prefer to discuss privately.
- Parents identified in the ECFE community needs assessment.
- Family childcare providers, with parents in attendance.

If you have further questions, contact the Minnesota Department of Education, Early Learning Services: MDE.ELS@state.mn.us; (651) 582-8412.