

Maryland Medicaid's §1115 HealthChoice Waiver Home Visiting Services (HVS) Community Health Pilot

Summary

As part of Maryland's HealthChoice §1115 Waiver Renewal, the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) offered local governments the opportunity to request matching federal funds for evidence-based home visiting services for high-risk pregnant women and children up to age 2 (HVS). Each HVS Pilot program will be managed locally by a lead local governmental entity (Lead Entity) that has the ability to fund fifty percent of total HVS Pilot costs with local dollars, provide leadership, and coordinate with key community partners to implement the Pilot. Each Lead Entity may also identify other entities that will participate and assist the Lead Entity in providing services in the HVS Pilot (Participating Entities).

Funding Opportunity

HVS Pilot funding was available beginning July 1, 2017, and is effective through December 31, 2021; for the 4 ½ years duration of the waiver. Specifically, up to \$2.7 million in matching federal funds are available annually, and when combined with the local non-federal share, pilot expenditures may total up to \$5.4 million annually. HVS Pilots are required to report on performance measures and share data for evaluation purposes in order to receive funding.

Target Population and Evidence-Based Models

The intent of the Pilot funding is to expand evidence-based home visiting services to Medicaid eligible high-risk pregnant women and children up to age 2. The HVS Pilot program is aligned with two evidence-based models focused on the health of pregnant women.

- a. [Nurse Family Partnership \(NFP\)](#): The NFP model is designed to reinforce maternal behaviors that encourage positive parent child relationship and maternal, child, and family accomplishments. The HealthChoice §1115 demonstration NFP pilot program will adhere to the NFP national program standards and services will be suspended once the child reaches two (2) years old.
- b. [Healthy Families America \(HFA\)](#): The HFA model targets parents facing issues such as single parenthood, low income, childhood history of abuse, substance use disorder (SUD), mental health issues, or domestic violence.

Funding Update

In November 2017, MDH approved Harford County Health Department for federal matching funds in support of a HVS Pilot. Harford County was awarded funding to serve up to 30 families.

Maryland Medicaid also worked successfully with its Public Health-Maternal and Child Health Program partners to attain Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA's) concurrence for local entities to pair other federal maternal and child health funding in support of the Medicaid HVS Pilots.

In January 2018, MDH issued a second round HVS Pilot Request for Applications (RFA) anticipating that additional Pilot awards would go into effect in July 2018.

In April 2018, MDH approved Garrett County Health Department for federal matching funds in support of a HVS pilot. Garrett County was awarded funding to serve up to 13 families. The application and review process for the HVS Pilot is now closed.