

In-Home Family Education Available to More Families in 2009

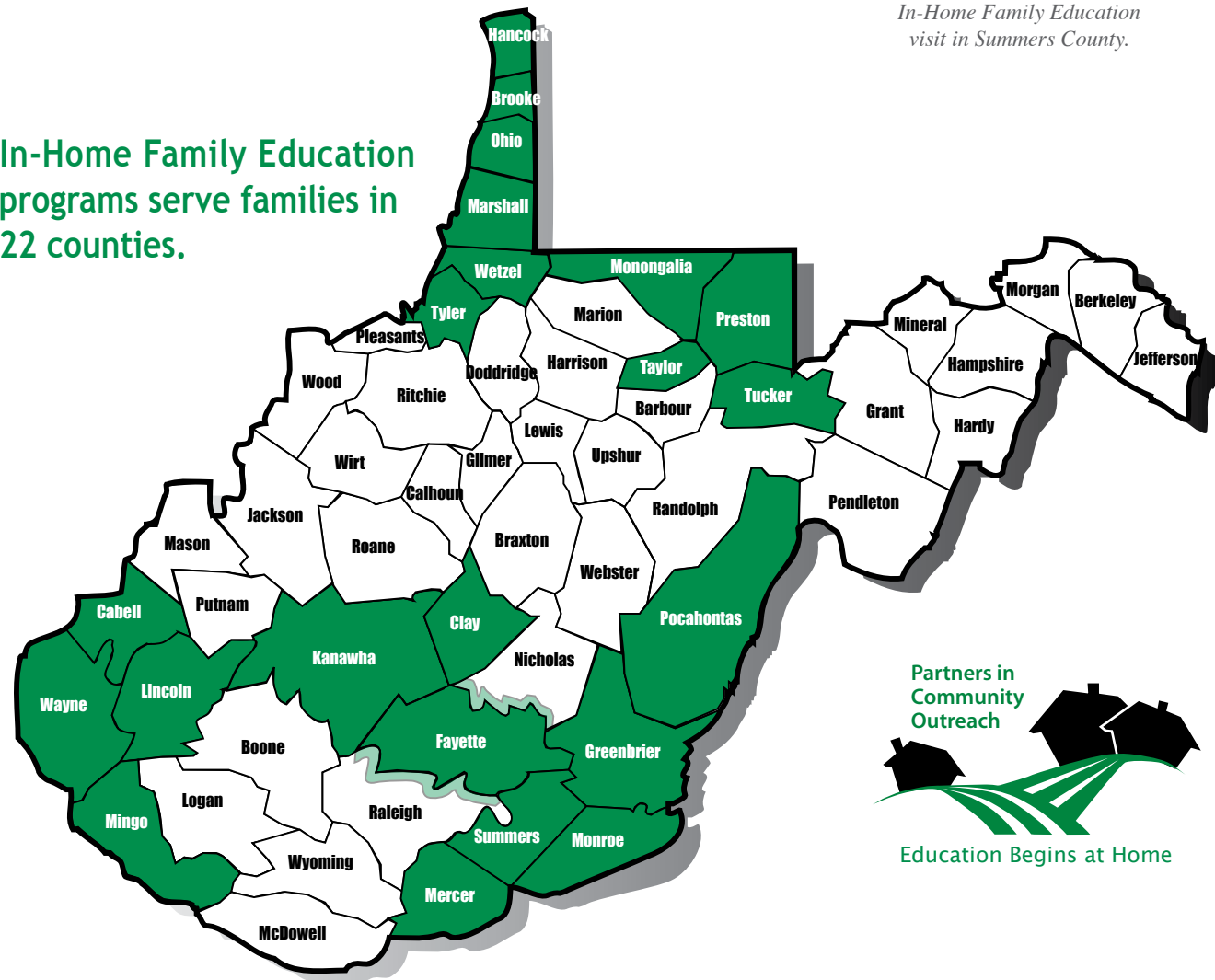
Because of the assistance of the West Virginia Legislature and other funders, more West Virginia families were provided In-Home Family Education services in 2009.

FY07	FY08	FY09
737 families served in 14 counties	911 families served in 19 counties	1,103 families served in 22 counties



In-Home Family Education visit in Summers County.

In-Home Family Education programs serve families in 22 counties.



Congress Considers Funding Support for In-Home Family Education

When this went to print, the House and Senate versions of health care reform both contained the first ever federal funding stream for In-Home Family Education, also known as early childhood home visitation.

Supplemental Appropriation Activities



To advance the quality and availability of In-Home Family Education and move toward a statewide system, funding from the supplemental appropriation in FY10 was awarded to TEAM

for WV Children/Partners in Community Outreach through a contract with the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources: Bureau for Children and Families.

Community Planning Grants were awarded to organizations in the following counties:

- Barbour
- Morgan
- Raleigh
- Webster
- Wood

The funding will be used to increase their capacity to implement a quality In-Home Family Education program in their community. Grantees will bring together local community partners to conduct a needs assessment and write a plan for implementation.

In other activities, the capacity of staff providing In-Home Family Education will be enhanced by several cross-model training opportunities in 2010. Because In-Home Family Education services are voluntary, the families and community partners need to be aware that such support services are available in their communities. Materials and technology tools will be created to attract new participants and strengthen the experiences of current participants in the programs.



Partners in Community Outreach is a coalition of West Virginia evidence-based In-Home Family Education programs serving families during pregnancy and until children are at least three years old. In-Home Family Education programs use community-based and strength-based models, including Healthy Families America, Maternal Infant Health Outreach Worker and Parents as Teachers.

The mission of Partners in Community Outreach is to build a statewide system of In-Home Family Education that assures program quality and accountability - helping programs to improve child health; increase school readiness; enhance parenting skills and reduce child maltreatment.



All West Virginia families can benefit from access to the services provided by In-Home Family Education.



PLANNING FOR HEALTHY PREGNANCIES AND BABIES PROJECT

In the spring of 2009, six In-Home Family Education programs participated in a demonstration project with the WV Perinatal Partnership to expand pregnancy planning education efforts. The goal of this project was to reduce unintended pregnancies by educating parents regarding the health and social benefits of spacing pregnancies. Other partners in the demonstration project included: WV Family Planning, Right from the Start, WV Chapter of the March of Dimes, and WV Healthy Start/HAPI Project.

At the end of the 6-month project period, a total of 591 women were served. Of the women who had recently given birth, 95% reported use of some type of family planning method.



“A mom has registered for her first on-line class! I have been encouraging her to begin some type of further education for some time. This is a short course schedule, and could lead into other fields for this mom.”

*-Melanie Claypool
In-Home Family Educator, Fayette County*

Partners in Community Outreach is committed to In-Home Family Education being a part of the comprehensive state system of early care and education.

Core Competencies and Core Knowledge areas for In-Home Family Educators have been incorporated into the WV State Training and Registry System (STARS) for Early Care and Education professionals.

The PIECES Council is undergoing some restructuring, due to the impetus of Head Start Reauthorization. In-Home Family Education is one representative of the twenty-member council that will be appointed by the Governor of West Virginia.

Partners in Community Outreach is committed to:

- 1) Building capacity and sustainability of existing programs.
- 2) Expanding In-Home Family Education to under-served areas of West Virginia.
- 3) Increasing the visibility of In-Home Family Education.
- 4) Strengthening program evaluation and accountability.
- 5) Increasing opportunities for staff development and recognition.
- 6) Strengthening community, state, and federal partnerships.



PARTNERS IN COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Partners in Community Outreach is recommending the establishment of a statewide system of In-Home Family Education to provide high quality home visiting services to families with young children.

Partners in Community Outreach is requesting an increased appropriation of \$1.25 million (bringing the total state investment to \$2 million) to continue expansion of In-Home Family Education programs to serve approximately 2,000 families statewide. This total represents approximately 1 out of every 10 children born in WV during the upcoming year.

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Building Healthier Families

Partners in Community Outreach embarked on its *Healthy Lifestyles Campaign* to give In-Home Family Education programs additional training and resources to address some of West Virginia's most troubling statistics. In 2006, low-birth weight babies were 9.5% of WV births. Rates for mothers who smoked during pregnancy are the highest in the country. In 2006, 36% of the population was characterized as overweight and 31% obese.

In-Home Family Education state leaders developed educational materials to enhance current curricula. Topics included the following healthy lifestyles issues:

- Early childhood development
- Nutrition
- Obesity
- Physical Activity
- Healthy Pregnancy
- Alcohol and Other Drug Use
- Smoking

Home visitors from fourteen programs were trained on the materials in April 2009. They are presenting initial information and education, as well as follow-up information and activities to families. Families are also being invited to participate in group meetings and activities. A baseline data collection survey was conducted in July 2009, covering campaign efforts in May and June of 2009.

Data was collected on 525 participating families with the following findings:

- Home visitors observed positive changes in attitudes and beliefs about specific lifestyle issues among a majority of family members who were exposed to the information and activities related to that issue.
- All families served were given face-to-face presentation and discussion of the materials. One third of the families served also attended an out-of-home group activity designed to encourage and support healthy lifestyles.

