



## NCSL Fact Sheet on Health Reform

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**Issue:** STATE AT RISK COMMUNITIES ASSESSMENT

**Citation:** Title I, IV, Sec. 2951

**Statutory Directive:** Mandates that each state conduct a statewide needs assessment identifying at risk communities.

**Expected Completion Date:** September 2010

**Funding:** No federal funding is provided to support this activity.

**Summary:**

- Mandates that each state conduct a statewide needs assessment identifying at risk communities.
- Completion of this assessment will be a condition for receipt of each state's MCH block grant.
- The assessment must be completed within six months of the enactment of the Affordable Care Act and identify the following:
  1. Communities with a concentration of premature birth;
  2. low birth weight infants;
  3. at-risk for infant death due to neglect, or prenatal, maternal , newborn or child health;
  4. poverty; crime; domestic violence;
  5. high rates of high-school drop-outs;
  6. substance abuse; unemployment, or
  7. child maltreatment,
  8. The quality and capacity of existing programs or initiatives for early childhood home visitation in the state including:
    - I. the number and types of individuals and family who receive services under the programs;
    - II. the gaps in early childhood home visitation in the state, and
    - III. the extent to which the initiatives are meeting the needs of eligible families in the state, and
  9. The state's capacity for providing substance abuse treatment and counseling services to individuals and families in need of treatment or services.
- Directs each state to coordinate with other assessments including the assessment for the Maternal Child Block grant, the communitywide strategic planning and needs assessment for the Head Start Act, and inventory of current unmet needs.
- Directs each state to submit with their assessment a description of how the state intends to address the needs identified, which may include an application for a grant to conduct an early childhood home visitation program.



### Additional Information & Resources:

- Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs: Home Visitation Resources  
[<http://www.amchp.org/Advocacy/Home-Visitation/Pages/default.aspx>]
- **Child Welfare Information Gateway:** A service of the Children's Bureau, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.  
[<http://www.childwelfare.gov/preventing/programs/types/homevisit.cfm>]
- **National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCP) Report:** State-based Home Visiting *Strengthening Programs through State Leadership* [[http://www.nccp.org/publications/pdf/text\\_862.pdf](http://www.nccp.org/publications/pdf/text_862.pdf)]
- **Center on the Developing Child, Harvard University:** Do Nurse Home-Visiting Programs Have Lasting Benefits for Mothers and Children? (2008) [<http://developingchild.harvard.edu/index.php?cID=159>]