



Initiative:	Healthier Beginnings
Project Name:	<i>Growing Great Kids</i> TM Parenting & Childhood Development Program (Year 4)
Funding Period:	November 1, 2013 – October 31, 2014
Date of Funding:	October 23, 2013
Project Coordinator:	Kathleen Richard, LMSW
Project Administration:	Life Choices of North Central Louisiana
Total Funding Approved:	\$ 127,000.00

Program Summary

The *Growing Great Kids*TM program is a nationally recognized voluntary home-based visitation program that utilizes and deploys educational curriculum for intensive parenting and childhood education services targeted at critical points in a child's development. Beginning prenatally, *Growing Great Kids* provides a "how to" guide, or roadmap, for supporting parents and developing parenting competencies. It provides a structure for each home visit or group, and takes the "guess work" out of parent contacts and supervision.

*Growing Great Kids*TM puts difficult concepts into simple language by offering examples of practical "how-to's" in the following areas:

- Building relationships with families that focus on program goals
- Growing parental empathy and nurturing relationships
- Doing activities that support childhood health, growth and development
- Integrating the latest information on supporting early brain development into daily parenting practices
- Gaining an understanding of parental/family values
- Communicating to facilitate open discussion and parental empowerment
- Making age-appropriate toys from common household items
- Enhancing family relationships

- Extending families' support systems
- Addressing concerns and exploring solutions
- Cultivating critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- Promoting parental self-care and health

Growing Great Kids™ program objectives are as follows:

- **Prevention of Child Maltreatment** through parenting skill development and monitoring of home environments.
- **Facilitation of Positive Pregnancy and Child Health Outcomes** by teaching proper prenatal and postnatal care.
- **Improving Family Functioning** through the development of parenting and problem solving skills.
- **Optimization of Child Growth and Development** by enhancing parental knowledge of child development and linking with relative community resources.

Year 4 objectives are as follows:

- **Obtain Tier 1 Certification Training for New Employees** – A new part-time home visitor was added to the staff in August of 2013. Tier 1 certification training will be completed at the beginning of the new grant cycle. The new part-time visitor and a Registered Nurse will be trained and Tier 1 certification obtained, followed by Tier 2 certification.
- **Complete Tier III Certification Training** – For the existing two (2) home visitors who have been with the GGK program since its beginning, Tier III training and certification will be conducted and obtained. Mastery of six competencies will be mastered by these personnel.
- **New Home Visitor to Obtain Full Case Load** – A third home visitor who was hired in the 4th quarter of the prior year grant period will have hours increased from 15 to 30 hours per week beginning November 1, 2013. This increase in hours will enable the addition of ten (10) families to the GGK program.
- **Addition of Wellness Event** – Due to limited transportation and/or health care coverage by GGK participants, a wellness event will be conducted by a medical professional to include blood pressure checks, flu shots, and information about cold and flu season.
- **Show Positive Influence on Health Factors** – Existing measures of success of the GGK program involve delivery at full term (at least 37 weeks), healthy birth weights (at least 5 pounds, 8 ounces), and those clients who choose to breastfeed

their infants. Other significant success factors will be measured to include pre-delivery emergency room visits, post-delivery emergency room visits, childhood immunizations, subsequent pregnancies, medical home, and prenatal dental visits.