

Health Access; Nurturing Development Services

Mission Statement:

*Kentucky's **HANDS** supports families as they build healthy, safe environments for the optimal growth and development of children.*

Vision:

Every child is wanted and cared for in a stimulating and nurturing environment.

GOALS:

Positive pregnancy outcomes

Optimal child growth and development

Children live in healthy, safe homes

Families make decisions that enhance long term independence over meeting short term or immediate needs

- Participation in the program is voluntary.
- Community outreach efforts are made to all pregnant women.
- Pregnant women are screened, as early in pregnancy as feasible, using an Universal Screening Tool for indicated "stress factors."
- Women who screen positive have a family assessment completed using a Standardized Assessment Tool. Women who have a negative screen are advised of available parenting resources, if interested.
- Services are provided by protocol home visits; intensity may be increased/decreased based on need.
- Services focus on supporting the family, family-child interaction, child development and personal responsibility.
- Services are provided in a family-centered, culturally sensitive manner.
- Each family is assisted in securing a medical provider and receives preventive health education.
- Services are provided by trained and skilled staff who assists families in making decisions regarding their children.
- Services are available for the family until the child is two years of age.
- Plans are developed with the family to transition out of the program.

ASSUMPTIONS:

- All families have strengths.
- Families are responsible for their children.
- Families are the primary decision-makers regarding their children.
- Communities recognize their roles in children's lives.
- Communities recognize that all children must succeed.
- Prevention and early intervention improves the community's well being.
- Public and private partnerships are vital to a successful program.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES: