Family Literacy in the U.S.: Where are we in 2021?

Carol Clymer, Jungeun Lee, Beth Grinder McLean, and Tabitha Stickel
Goodling Institute for Research in Family Literacy
Penn State University

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Overview of research project
Data from survey of state directors of adult education
Data from survey of local Family Literacy (FL) programs
Takeaways and discussion
Updating Our Study of FL in the U.S.

Goodling Institute’s original report on FL programming (2017)
Overview of 2017 Report

Purpose of report was to determine if AEFLA funds were used to continue FL programming after Even Start demise.

Information gathered from 47 states plus District of Columbia (D.C.). Eleven states & D.C. fund FL at varying levels (AEFLA, state). Most states use braided funding.

Eight of 11 states and D.C. require four components (Adult education, parent education, interactive literacy activities, early childhood).
Two different surveys sent out to all state AE directors & local family literacy programs (convenience sample)

Response Totals:
State Directors: 46
Local Programs: 134
Data from State Directors’ Survey
The number of states funding some form of family literacy
Out of 46 states,

- 72% provide financial support for FL
- 65% WIOA Title II
- 7% Other state resources
- 24%: RFP for FL
- 28% no indication of financial support for FL
15

The number of states indicating they offer 4-component family literacy programming
Family Literacy: 4 Component Model

Family literacy based on Kenan’s model of 4 components:
- Adult education
- Early childhood & school-age education
- Parent education
- Interactive literacy activities
Of 33 states providing financial supports for FL:

46% offer ALL four components (n=15)
18% offer only AE component (n=6)
21
The number of states collecting & managing outcome data for FL programs
21 states collect & manage outcome data for FL programs, including data on adult and child participation.
States' Data Collection

States with funding for FL program (n= 33)

Outcome data include data on adult and child participation for FL program

Table shows the 7 most common outcome data collected by states
Data from Local Organizations’ survey
The number of organizations providing family literacy programs out of 134 local programs surveyed
Programs Overview

Number of program sites
- 1 site (n=59) 49%
- 2-3 sites (n=35) 29%
- 4-10 sites (n=15) 12%
- 11 and more sites (n=12) 10%

Number of families served
- 1-10 families (n=13) 11%
- 11-20 families (n=20) 17%
- 21-30 families (n=25) 21%
- 31-40 families (n=7) 6%
- 41-60 families (n=19) 16%
- 61-80 families (n=8) 7%
- 81 or more families (n=29) 24%

- 87% of programs have existed 3+ years
- 56% of programs have existed 11+ years
- 26% Ever received Even Start Funds
63% Percent of programs reporting they offer all 4 FL components
Of 121 local FL programs,
- 63% offer ALL four components (n=76)
- 8% offer only one component (n=9)

Number of components offered (n= 121)
3.2
Average number of funding sources for FL programs
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Funding Sources Programs Use</th>
<th>Of 121 local FL programs,</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7% do not receive funding (n=8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>60% receive 1-3 funding sources (n=72)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of funding sources (n=121)</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6 or more</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Types of funding sources mostly used

Other funding sources:
- Community Services Block Grants (7%)
- Family and Child Education (FACE) (6%)

Types of funding mostly used (n= 121)
Components & Their Funding Sources

Types of funding used for each component (n= 121)
121

The number of programs collecting & managing outcome data for FL programs
 Programs’ Data Collection

Program's data collection (n= 121)

Table shows the 7 most common outcome data collected by programs

- Adult only 21%
- Adult & child 79%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adult</th>
<th>Child</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>Attendance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hours in class</td>
<td>Hours in class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standardized tests/assessments</td>
<td>Observation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EFL gains</td>
<td>Standardized tests/assessments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school diploma equivalencies</td>
<td>Teacher-or program-created assessments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transition to post-secondary education or...</td>
<td>Teacher-or program-created assessments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher-or program-created assessments</td>
<td>Grade promotion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case notes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Programs' data collection (n= 121)
Our Takeaways
Our Takeaways

A little more than half of local programs have been in service for a decade or more, suggesting that many programs have continued to offer FL services despite a changing funding landscape.

FL programming is very diverse.

Both states and programs braid together sources to fund family literacy.
What are your takeaways from the presentation?
Thank you!

For additional information:

Carol Clymer – cdc22@psu.edu
Jungeun Lee – jpl5372@psu.edu
Beth Grinder McLean – elg6@psu.edu