

Dear Prevention Initiative Grantee,

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) engaged the Vander Weele Group^{u.c.} (VWG) to perform monitoring assessments for FY22. Quality reviews for home visiting programs include the Home Visit Rating Scales (HOVRS3). The VWG PI Assessment team is trained with reliability on the newest available version of the HOVRS tool. Earlier versions are no longer available for training or practice unless expressly granted by contract with the tool creators.

Changes to the HOVRS3 compared to earlier versions of the tool aim to make scoring easier and reflect a strengths-based approach. The changes include structural or wording changes to increase clarity and the ability for Assessors or other users such as Program Supervisors to score with improved accuracy and to differentiate between the scoring items and points for designating (1) needs support, (3) adequate, (5) good or (7) excellent for each subscale item.

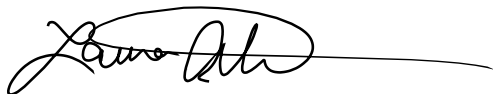
According to Roggman, et al. (2018), the updates to the HOVRS3 are described as follows: “A series of further conceptual and structural changes increased clarity and consistency... Wording is now more consistent and parallel between indicators within each item. Other wording changes more explicitly emphasize a relationship-based approach in the Relationship Scale, a strengths-based approach in the Responsiveness Scale, direct support of parent-child interaction in the Facilitation Scale, and collaborative process in the renamed Collaboration Scale (previously, Non-Intrusiveness).”

The changes to the HOVRS3 benefits programs and Home Visitors as the tool is less subjective and easier to score. VWG Assessors find the addition of adverbs of frequency (rarely, frequently, occasionally) helpful for reliable scoring. Programs that employ best practices in home visiting as outlined in the book *Developmental parenting: A guide for early childhood practitioners* (Roggman et al., 2008) will be familiar with the practices outlined in the HOVRS3.

To address concerns for programs that do not have access to the HOVRS3, the Vander Weele Group^{u.c.}, with approval from ISBE, has developed a crosswalk between the HOVRS3 and the readily available HOVRS A+ V2.1 (available by internet search). The HOVRS authors have approved the crosswalk for sharing with ISBE funded PI Programs. The crosswalk shows scale title changes and rearrangements in scale or item order. Programs can also find examples of wording changes to the tool in the crosswalk.

Programs have access to the HOVRS Crosswalk included in this email. VWG Assessors will also supply a copy of the crosswalk during the Grantee’s monitoring window in each program’s orientation materials. Grantees can contact ISBE with questions by emailing earlychildhood@isbe.net.

Sincerely,



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References

- Roggman, L.A., Boyce, L.K., Innocenti, M S., & Raikes, H.H. (2008). *Developmental parenting: A guide for early childhood practitioners*. Paul H. Brookes Publishing Co.
- Roggman, L., Cook, G., Innocenti, M., Jump Norman, V., Boyce, L., Christiansen, K., Olson, T. (2018). *The Home Visit Rating Scales-3*
- Roggman L.A., Cook G.A., Innocenti M.S., et al. The Home Visit Rating Scales: Revised, restructured, and revalidated. *Infant Ment Health J.* 2019; 40:315–330.
<https://doi.org/10.1002/imhj.21781>