

17 March 2025 | HIPPY US | [Request for Support](#)

Nikki's Corner

Greetings All:

HIPPY US and the Conference Committee are gearing up to welcome you at the National HIPPY Conference. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with peers from across the country, share experiences, and gain valuable insights that will help us continue to grow in our roles and better serve the families we work with.

Why This Is So Important

Attending this conference gives us a chance to step away from the day-to-day routine and reflect on our work, gain new perspectives, and learn how others are overcoming challenges in their communities. It's also a time to recharge and find fresh inspiration to bring back to families and communities.

What If I'm Not Attending

After the conference, we plan to make select conference sessions available virtually. We'll also be sharing some of the key learnings from the conference through follow-up emails and team discussions, so no one misses out on valuable information. This is a great chance to spark collaboration and ensure that everyone benefits from the experience. Additionally, we encourage you to stay connected and engaged on social media by reviewing the hashtags #ConnectAndIgnite, #HIPPLYConference and #HIPPLYOnTheHill to get real-time updates and highlights from sessions.

We are proud to be part of this community who is making a real difference in the lives of families across the country. Together, we can continue to build on this momentum and further elevate the important work we do each day. We can't wait to connect with you in Baltimore, Maryland! Until we speak again, may you take the time to do something that serves your highest good and always reach out [here](#) if you would like to connect.

Nikki Martin-Bynum,
National Program Director

Announcing National Home Visitor Appreciation Week, April 21-25, 2025

Let's shower our home visitors with appreciation this April! HIPPY is excited to partner with the Institute for the Advancement of Family Support Professionals, the National Home Visiting Coalition, the National Alliance of Home Visiting Models, and LIAs and states across the country to recognize National Home Visitor Appreciation Week, April 21-25.

HIPPY looks forward to celebrating the contributions of home visitors on social media, but we can't do it without your help! If you have photos or stories showcasing the impact of home visitors in your community, we'd love to feature them this April (and hope you will too!). Share your stories and photos through the [photo submission portal](#).

[Download our social media toolkit with this link](#). Share about the event on social media and tag us in your posts with @HIPPLY on [LinkedIn](#) and @HIPPLYnetwork, on [X](#) using the hashtags #HIPPLYHeartsHomeVisitors | #ThankAHomeVisitor | #HomeVisitorAppreciation these images: [Thank a Home Visitor](#), [HIPPY Hearts Home Visitors](#).



HIPPY
UNITED STATES

**THANK YOU
HOME VISITORS**

Home Visitor

Appreciation Week

April 21-25, 2025



#ThankAHomeVisitor



Until the 2025 HIPPY
US National
Conference

HIPPY US National Conference Update

The conference committee is thrilled to announce this year's HIPPY Alumni Speaker, Hillary Torres-Hernandez! Hillary's journey is a powerful example of how HIPPY transforms lives, and we know her story will connect hearts and ignite minds across our community. Her experiences and insights will inspire and energize us all—don't miss this special moment at the Dr. Avima Lombard Gala!

With just a few weeks to go, we can't wait to welcome everyone to Baltimore for the 2025 HIPPY US National Conference! This year's theme, "Connecting Hearts, Igniting Minds," will come to life through engaging sessions, meaningful discussions, and opportunities to build lasting connections. The conference app will be available for download two weeks before the event, providing access to the agenda, speaker details, and more. In the meantime, keep an eye on [the conference website](#) for continued updates as we get closer to the big event. See you soon!

Registration is now Closed

Conference Swag is Available Now!

Get ready to show your HIPPY pride! **Starting today**, you can [order](#) your exclusive HIPPY Conference Swag to wear at the event and beyond. Don't miss out on these **limited-edition items** that celebrate the spirit of the HIPPY community.

Planning to order during the conference?

There will be samples available on-site, and you'll receive a **10% discount** on your order from **April 6-9, 2025!**

Can't order until after the conference? No problem! All swag will be **available for purchase** on [HIPPY US website](#) until **May 21, 2025.**

Check-out Sample Items below:



campfire mug



hoodie



laser cut
stickers

CONFERENCE T-SHIRT SALE

CONNECTING HEARTS, IGNITING MINDS

GET YOUR HANDS ON THE EXCLUSIVE 2025 HIPPY US NATIONAL CONFERENCE T-SHIRT!

Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to grab your very own limited edition conference t-shirt! Designed exclusively for the 2025 HIPPY US National Conference, this stylish and comfortable tee is the perfect way to commemorate the event and showcase your conference spirit.



TIME IS RUNNING OUT

Hurry, the preorder deadline is fast approaching! Be sure to place your **order by March 21st** to guarantee your shirt, and pick it up at your state's registration desk!

Wear it with pride and be part of the excitement!

Please note, these **t-shirts** will **only be available for preorder** and will not be sold on-site. Featuring the official conference logo, it's not just a souvenir—it's a wearable memory of an unforgettable experience. Whether you're attending the conference or simply want to show your support from afar, this t-shirt is a must-have!

[Order Now](#)

Is Title I funding for ed. programs like HIPPY in danger of being eliminated?

The Trump Administration and the Republican-controlled Congress are actively searching for cost saving opportunities, including funding cuts, across the whole of the federal budget. We won't sugarcoat it-- in this tough fiscal environment, all federal funding streams are under heightened scrutiny and potential risk for cuts. Additionally, the President ran on a number of campaign promises related to reducing government spending and oversight to include abolishing the Department of Education. All of this makes funding for education programs across the board more uncertain.

However, when it comes to Title I specifically, we have reason to be cautiously optimistic that the funding levels will remain at or close to where they currently stand. In February, when recently confirmed Secretary of Education Linda McMahon was called before the Senate for nomination hearings, she was asked specifically where she stands on funding for Title I. Encouragingly, Secretary McMahon responded that she had no intention of eliminating or cutting Title I funds.

Relatedly, many of you have been anxiously tracking the conversation around the Administration's desire to "dismantle" or "abolish" the Department of Education. Many conservatives have long believed since the department was created in 1979 that this work is best left to the States and the agency should not exist. We expect that over the next four years the Administration will continue to push for ways to accomplish this goal. However, the only legal way the Department of Education can be abolished is through an act of Congress. That means this is not a decision the Administration can unilaterally make, and Congress must pass legislation for this to take effect. In a Congress with very narrow majorities in both the Senate and House, it is difficult to imagine a scenario at this time where they are able to successfully do so.

HIPPY US's advocacy team in Washington, DC, is closely monitoring things and working with partner organizations to protect these critical funding streams. We will continue to keep you updated as we learn more and please reach out if you have any specific questions.



We Want to Hear from You for the Townhall!

Do you have questions you'd like answered during the HIPPY Town Hall at the conference? Let us know by completing this brief [Town Hall](#) questionnaire by March 28, 2025. Your input is important to us!

Even if you are not attending we'd still love to hear from you!



Understanding the Endorsement Scoring Rubric

How can I use the scoring rubric? We are updating our practice of assessing model fidelity by using an [endorsement scoring rubric](#) that details examples and requirements for meeting and exceeding each HIPPY standard. You will notice that the descriptions for “Meets Standard - 1 point” reflects exactly the standard, no more, no less. We are challenging our sites to reflect on each element of their HIPPY program and identify how implementation looks at their site, including any creative strategies, innovations or enhancements they add. Regardless of whether your site is engaged in the endorsement process, the scoring rubric is an excellent tool for you to identify areas of strength and weakness in your HIPPY program, and the Exceeds Expectation column includes a variety of winning strategies to explore.

In general, a scoring rubric allows us to clarify expectations, and be more systematic and objective in assessing fidelity of implementation. The rubric also increases accountability, by describing what successful implementation looks like. This will support better program adherence and continuously improve quality across all sites.

Our rubric aligns with the endorsement standards, assigning up to two points for each standard. Zero points are assigned if the standard is not met, one point is assigned if the standard is met, and two points are assigned if the site exceeds the standard. When awarding additional points, by either by the self-assessment team or Specialist, there must be a detailed rationale describing how the site exceeds the standard.

The rubric provides concrete examples to help the observer assess how the site meets the standard. The descriptions in the rubric help the observer create a picture of overall implementation of the program model. They are examples, not criteria. Not all of the items in the descriptions for 0 or 2 points are required to be in place/missing for points to be awarded. The descriptions for meeting standards are precisely the same as in the MGRA. Especially for the Exceeds Expectations column, the site may implement other creative strategies that are not listed. While these descriptions are a guide, actual points will be assigned based on the Specialist’s professional judgment.

Reminder: Your HIPPY US and State Office team is here to help answer any questions you have. We are also collecting questions and concerns [via this form](#). Please reach out!

MGRA Corrections

We've made a correction to the MGRA (updated in the HUS Library). The correction was to language in Home Visit Standard 5, on pages 41-42. This applies to every program because it clarifies how you calculate retention. The definition for enrolled is "completed application requirements and received up to 3 home visits with role play packets." Served is defined as "received more than 3 home visits with role play packets". Completed is defined as "finished 26+ weeks of home visits with role play packets." To calculate the retention rate, divide the number of children who completed 26 weeks of the curriculum by the number of children served x 100. For example, If you enrolled 102 families, served 87, and 75 of those completed 26 or more weeks, then $(75 \text{ divided by } 87) \times 100 = 86.2\%$ retention.



Your
ROADMAP
to Endorsement!

Curriculum Updates

Curriculum Printing

We truly appreciate your patience and feedback as we work to improve and refine our materials. Our priority has always been to provide high-quality resources that remain both effective and affordable. Over the past several years, we have worked diligently to be proactive in keeping curriculum costs stable. In collaboration with S&S Worldwide, we have once again committed to absorbing rising costs, including those influenced by inflation and the significant increases to raw paper costs from potential tariffs for the upcoming program year. This decision to absorb these increases reflects our dedication to the program and our recognition of the challenges sites have faced during the past year.

One of the key adjustments we've made is the transition to double-sided printing, which helps streamline materials while also reducing paper usage—an environmentally and fiscally responsible change. As we refine these materials, we are actively reviewing feedback and making improvements. During the initial updates, we made significant efforts to identify and mitigate instances where double-sided printing might impact instructions for related activities. While pullout pages may occasionally contain content on the back, they have been designed so that this should not interfere with activities. In other cases, where necessary, a blank reverse side was added to prevent disruption. Although every effort was made to identify all such instances, we recognize that some may still need adjustments. To address this, we are working closely with dedicated coordinators to track and update any affected content. Another approach to keeping costs stable was to use a slightly thinner paper stock this year. As always, we are reviewing all options to maintain quality and be mindful of rising costs. Your feedback is invaluable, and we encourage you to continue sharing insights to help us make further refinements.

Looking Ahead: Preview the Updates

We know that seeing these updates firsthand is important, and we're excited to share them with you at the upcoming HIPPY US conference. There, you'll have the opportunity to preview the new activity packets in a convenient booklet format, which will be implemented for the first 15 weeks of the next program year. Going forward, weeks 1-15 will have a heavy cover stock and improved paper, with Weeks 16-30 receiving the same quality updates for 2026. You'll also get a first look at the newly designed HIPPY supply material boxes. We are eager to hear your thoughts and appreciate your continued partnership as we enhance our program together.

Plan Ahead for Summer with the Bridge Curriculum!

Plan for summer with the Bridge Curriculum ([order form here](#))! Secure your materials now to engage families in meaningful learning experiences that reinforce skills and prevent learning loss. HIPPY Texas reports ([survey here](#)) positive feedback on its ease of use, colorful materials, and cultural learning opportunities. If you missed our latest webinar on February 12, don't worry—the recording is now available in [the HIPPY Library](#) on the curriculum page! Additionally, the HIPPY US National Conference will feature sessions on implementation and best practices for the Bridge Curriculum. Enhance parent engagement and learning this summer!

Special Announcement

Recruitment Resources

Great news!

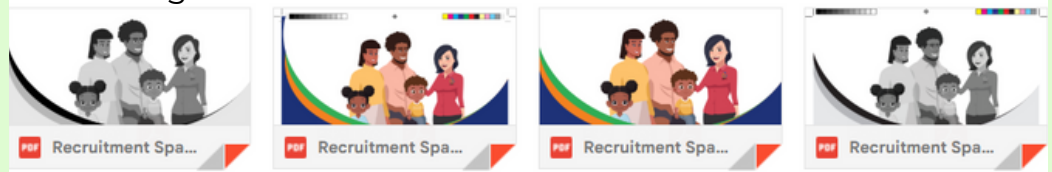
If you're looking to add more core recruitment tools to your recruitment toolkit, we have another fantastic resource for you: the Recruitment Story Books and Coloring Books (created by USF).

The Recruitment Story Books are:

- Free to print
- Available in both English and Spanish
- ADA compliant
- Available with and without "cut marks" (for printing purposes)

You can now find these in the [HIPPY US Library](#), under the Curriculum folder, and in the Program Administration - Recruiting section.

Happy recruiting!



The National Home Visiting Summit (NHVS) in the eyes of HIPPY Representatives

It was my first HV Summit, and I thoroughly enjoyed the experience. I was pleasantly surprised to see Miriam, Nikki, and Sapphire in attendance!"

If they had to describe their summit experience in one word, what would it be and why? What HIPPY connections did they make at the summit?

Their summit experience was described as pleasurable, as it included so many special moments. They arrived on Wednesday and had a seamless transition from the airport to check-in at the beautiful host hotel. It was their first time attending a Poster Session and Reception, and they found it very interesting. During the event, they ran into Mariam and Nikki! They were also invited to a HIPPY Huddle, which turned out to be an amazing experience. They enjoyed fellowshipping with HIPPY participants and felt truly connected to the "tribe." **The most rewarding part of the NHVS was making in-person connections with other HIPPY programs.**

It was a wonderful opportunity to learn from one another and build relationships.



HIPPY at NHVS



Assistant Coordinator Job Description

Management of a HIPPY program is done by a full-time (or full-time equivalent) professional coordinator, who is responsible for a maximum of 180 children. Additional support will be needed if implementing more than 3 years (see [Administrative Checklist](#) Item 3). As a site grows in complexity or number of families served, many agencies look to hiring an assistant coordinator, sometimes called a lead home visitor (this role may have a different job title, established by an agency's human resources department). This new document, developed by HIPPY US in collaboration with the HIPPY State Offices uses the terms lead home visitor and assistant coordinator interchangeably, and provides guidance and templates that can be used to establish and supervise this position. If you have any questions about this position, contact your State Office, or [Carla Mowell](#) at HUS if you're an Independent Site.

Preservice

Exciting Updates: HUS Preservice Training Relaunch!

We're thrilled to announce the relaunch of **Supervisor Preservice** on **June 1, 2025!** This comprehensive training is designed to equip supervisors with the knowledge and skills needed to effectively support their HIPPY program. The training includes self-paced online modules in the Learning Management System (LMS) and optional webinar sessions. [View the Supervisor Preservice Flyer with this link.](#)

For those enrolling in **Coordinator Preservice**, the LMS will relaunch on **May 5, 2025**, allowing participants to begin their self-paced training online. The in-person session will be held from September 22-25, 2025 in Little Rock, Arkansas. This session will provide valuable hands-on learning and networking opportunities with fellow coordinators. View the [Coordinator Preservice Flyer with this link.](#)

Registration is now open!

To secure your spot, complete your registration and submit payment as soon as possible. To register, [access our registration form with this link.](#) We look forward to supporting you on this journey!

Stay Connected

Newsletter Request

If you or someone you know would like to be added to the list of newsletter recipients click [this](#) link to complete a request.

Library

For additional resources, visit the [HIPPY library.](#)
Library Password:
Connecting

Request for Support

If you would like support, have feedback or want to ask a questions go [here](#) to connect with a HIPPY US team member today!

**DON'T!
FORGET!**

- [Order](#) your limited edition conference t-shirt
- Mark your calendars for [Home Visitors Appreciation Week](#)
- [Review](#) update on Curriculum Printing
- [Order](#) your Summer Bridge Curriculum
- [Visit the HIPPY Store](#) for your exclusive swag
- Review and Register for Preservice
 - [Supervisor Preservice](#)
 - [Coordinator Preservice](#)
- [Visit the HIPPY Library](#) for additional resources including:
 - Corrections to the MGRA
 - Understanding the Endorsement Scoring Rubric
 - Recruitment Coloring Book and Story Book
- [Subscribe/Unsubscribe](#) to the Bi-monthly Newsletter
- [Submit your request for support](#) for individualize help from a HIPPY US Team Member
- Check out the [MGRA On-Demand Webinar](#) learn more about endorsement.

Paying by Check

If you are paying for **HIPPY US related products and services** and would like to pay by check, **remit checks** to:

HIPPY US
2727 Palisade Ave, Suite 6J
Bronx, NY 10463

If you have any questions or run into issues, reach out to us through the [Request for Support](#) board for personalized assistance.



HIPPY US National Conference
Baltimore, Maryland