

**641—87.2(135) Definitions.** For the purpose of these rules, the following terms shall have the meaning indicated in this rule:

*“Accreditation”* means national recognition of compliance with Healthy Families America standards through a peer review process.

*“Applicant”* means a governmental or nonprofit agency that received grant funds in the previous fiscal year, is fully accredited by Healthy Families America, and applies to the department during a competitive year. In any year in which expansion funds are available for the HOPES-HFI program, the department shall award new grants, subject to annual renewal, to selected applicants in a competitive process.

*“Competitive grant”* means the competitive grant application process to determine the grant awards for a project period.

*“Contractor”* means a governmental or nonprofit agency that holds a contract with the department to provide HOPES-HFI services.

*“Department”* means the Iowa department of public health.

*“Family support”* means community-based services to promote the well-being of children and families.

1. Family support programs have the following characteristics:

- Family-driven, meaning there is a true partnership with families.
- Comprehensive, flexible, and individualized for each family based on the family’s culture, needs, values and preferences.

- Build on strengths to increase the stability of family members and the family unit.

- Utilize informal and formal support networks.

2. Family support programs produce the following results:

- Increased parent confidence and competence in parenting abilities.

- Safe, stable, and supportive families who are connected to their communities.

- Enhanced health, growth, and development of children and adults in the family unit.

*“Healthy Families America”* or *“HFA”* means a research-based national program model designed to help overburdened families. HFA is a family support program that provides services to families and children during the prenatal to preschool years through home visitation.

*“Healthy families Iowa”* or *“HFI”* means the state family support program that provides services to families and children during the prenatal to preschool years through home visitation.

*“Home visitation”* means a face-to-face interaction that occurs between the participant(s) and home visitor. The goals of the home visit are to promote positive parent-child interaction and healthy childhood growth and development and to enhance family functioning. Typically, home visits occur in the home, lasting a minimum of an hour, and the child is present.

*“HOPES-HFI”* means the healthy opportunities for parents to experience success—healthy families Iowa program. The HOPES-HFI program is intended to promote optimal child health and development; improve family coping skills and functioning; promote positive parenting skills and intrafamilial interaction; and prevent child abuse and neglect and infant mortality and morbidity.

*“Nonprofit”* means an entity that meets the requirement for tax-exempt status under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4).

*“Participant”* means a family voluntarily enrolled in and receiving services from the program.

*“Project period”* means the period of time the department intends to support the project without requiring competition for funds.