

Finding a Marriage Education Program

It is likely that a marriage education program that is tailored for your wants and needs probably exists.

Congratulations!

You've decided that a healthy marriage or relationship education program could be a great step for your relationship. Once you and your partner have made this decision, you may begin to think of questions like these: How do we find programs in our community? Will there be a program that meets our wants and needs?

This tip sheet will help you locate a healthy marriage or relationship education program in your area.

Although not every community has a marriage education program, the number of program options available is growing. It is likely that a marriage education program that is tailored for your wants and needs probably exists. Our mission is to help improve your chances for finding multiple programs that might be right for you and your partner.

Please note that the NHMRC offers the following resources for informational purposes only, not as recommendations for, or endorsements of, specific organizations, classes, programs, or curricula.

How Do I Find a Marriage Education Program in My Area?

- ✓ Contact a Federally-funded healthy marriage or relationship education program. Healthy Marriage Initiative grantees often provide marriage education services and programs that are low cost or free to eligible participants. You can find a list of grantees by visiting http://www.acf.hhs.gov/healthymarriage/pdf/june18_list_marriageedprograms.PDF. Talk to the programs in your area for any information or referrals they might be able to provide.



- ✓ Reach out to local community centers, churches, or social services agencies that are active in your area. Often these organizations are good resources for marriage education events.

- ✓ Visit the Smart Marriages Web site (www.smartmarriages.com) to view a state directory of programs. Although this list is extensive, it may not include all programs. If you are unable to find a program in your community, try contacting the

various marriage education “headquarters” listed on the site. These “headquarters” often maintain lists of area providers. You can also search the directory of Community Healthy Marriage Initiatives (CMHIs) on the Smart Marriages website. Call those located in your area for information about upcoming workshops, classes, and special events.

- ✓ Search the National Extension Relationship and Marriage Education Network (NERMEN) Web site, which maintains a list of Cooperative Extension relationship and marriage education contacts. This directory can help you locate an Extension professional providing leadership in relationship and marriage education or general family life education in your state (www.nermen.org).

Once you’ve located a marriage education program in your area, you’ll want to consider whether the program might be right for you. To help you choose which marriage education programs might suit your wants and needs, visit our “Finding a Marriage Education Program” page of the National Healthy Marriage Resource Center (NHMRC) website at http://www.healthymarriageinfo.org/indiv_couple/marriageedu.cfm#finding.