Childhood Begins at Home

Home Visiting Works.

Evidence-based home visiting programs recognize parents are children's first teachers, but sometimes even parents and others raising children look for help. Far too many of Pennsylvania's youngest children live in poverty and experience poor education and health outcomes. Voluntary home visiting programs help parents and others raising children with the supports necessary to improve health, safety, literacy and family self-sufficiency. During home visits, nurses or other trained professionals visit with women, families and children – some as early as pregnancy to promote positive birth outcomes – to provide parent education and support, ultimately promoting child health, well-being, learning and development.

In 2020, six evidence-based home visiting models were operating in Pennsylvania using public (state and/or federal) and private funds to support their programs. Each model has distinct characteristics and meets families' unique needs in different ways:

- **Early Head Start (EHS)** – Nurtures healthy attachments for low-income families parenting infants and toddlers, and for pregnant women and their families, through intensive comprehensive child development and family support services.
- **Family Check-Up® (FCU)** – Supports strategies to better engage parents and parent-centered intervention for reducing problem behaviors in children from toddlers through adolescence.
- **Healthy Families America (HFA)** – Strengthens families by promoting positive parenting, enhancing child health and development, and preventing child abuse and neglect.
- **Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP)** – Pairs first-time, low-income pregnant women with nurses to improve pregnancy/birth outcomes, child health and development, and family economic self-sufficiency.
- **Parents as Teachers (PAT)** – Builds the capacity of parents to understand and support optimal healthy child development, develop effective parenting practices that strengthen the family foundation, and promotes school readiness.
- **SafeCare Augmented®** – Aims to prevent and address factors associated with child abuse and neglect through motivational interviewing and additional training to identify and respond to imminent child maltreatment and risk factors.

About Childhood Begins at Home

Childhood Begins at Home is a statewide campaign to help policymakers and the public understand the value of evidence-based home visiting and support public investments in the programs. Since 2017 when the campaign began, we have won funding increases more than doubling the state investments. This has helped serve many more Pennsylvania families, yet it represents only a fraction of those who could benefit the most.

Growing the State Investment

The campaign is calling on policymakers to build upon the commonwealth's expanded state investments in evidence-based home visiting by allocating an additional $6.3 million within the Department of Human Services budget ($3.9 million in the Community-Based Family Centers line and $2.4 million in the Nurse-Family Partnership line) to serve a greater proportion of pregnant women and families with young children eligible for evidence-based home visiting services.

Pennsylvania

877,769
CHILDREN UNDER 6 YEARS OF AGE

329,650
(40% of all under 6)
LOW-INCOME* CHILDREN UNDER 6 YEARS OF AGE

17,161
CHILDREN SERVED BY PUBLICLY FUNDED, EVIDENCE-BASED HOME VISITING PROGRAMS

2% OF ALL CHILDREN UNDER 6

5% OF LOW-INCOME* CHILDREN UNDER 6

Blair County

Nurse-Family Partnership, Parents as Teachers

(publicly funded, evidence-based home visiting models operating in the county)

8,699

CHILDREN UNDER 6 YEARS OF AGE IN THE COUNTY

3,380

(44% of all under 6)

LOW-INCOME* CHILDREN (<200% FPIG) UNDER 6 YEARS OF AGE

277

CHILDREN SERVED BY PUBLICLY FUNDED, EVIDENCE-BASED HOME VISITING PROGRAMS

3% **OF ALL CHILDREN UNDER 6 IN THE COUNTY**

8% **OF LOW-INCOME* CHILDREN UNDER 6 IN THE COUNTY**

*In 2021, a family of four falls in the "low-income" category if its annual income is below $53,000 (200% Federal Poverty Level)

STRONG FAMILIES, STRONG KIDS

Growing the state investment in publicly funded, evidence-based home visiting programs in the 2021-22 state budget would help more pregnant women, children and families in Pennsylvania build the foundation for a successful future.

@ChildhoodBeginsAtHome

www.childhoodbeginsathome.org

@ChildBegin_Home