

Childhood Begins at Home

What is Home Visiting?

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 the health, safety, literacy and economic self-sufficiency of the family. 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 2019, 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 the 2017-18 state budget, we have won funding increases totaling \$16.5 million.

Growing the State Investment

The campaign is calling on policymakers to build upon the commonwealth's expanded state investments over the past three years in evidence-based home visiting by allocating additional funding in the Community-Based Family Centers and the Nurse-Family Partnership line items within the Department of Human Services budget to serve a greater proportion of pregnant women, young children and families eligible for evidence-based home visiting services.

Pennsylvania

877,769

CHILDREN UNDER 6
YEARS OF AGE

338,130

(40% of all under 6)

LOW-INCOME* CHILDREN
UNDER 6 YEARS OF AGE

17,158

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

2% OF ALL
CHILDREN UNDER 6
5% OF LOW-INCOME*
CHILDREN UNDER 6

Mercer County

Early Head Start, Nurse-Family Partnership, Parents as Teachers
(publicly funded, evidence-based home visiting models operating in the county)



7,283

**CHILDREN UNDER
6 YEARS OF AGE
IN THE COUNTY**

3,120

(49% of all under 6)

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

583

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

8%

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

19%

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

*In 2020, a family of four falls in the "low-income" category if its annual income is below \$52,400

STRONG FAMILIES, STRONG KIDS

Growing the state investment in publicly funded, evidence-based home visiting programs in the 2020-21 state budget would help more Pennsylvania families and children build the foundation for a successful future.

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