



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 need help. Far too many of Pennsylvania's youngest children are at risk of child abuse and neglect, live in poverty, and experience poor education and health outcomes. **Home visiting programs help parents and others raising children with the support necessary to improve the health, safety, literacy and economic security of the family.** In home visits, nurses and other trained professionals visit with women, families and children as early as the beginning of pregnancy to promote positive birth outcomes and provide parent education and support, ultimately promoting child health, well-being, learning and development.

In 2018, six evidence-based home visiting models were operating in Pennsylvania using public (state and/or federal) and private funds to support their programs:

- **Early Head Start (EHS)** – Enhances the ability of low-income families to meet the developmental and early learning needs of their children at home.
- **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 care for their children, while promoting school readiness and healthy child development.
- **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. In the 2018-19 state budget, we won a funding increase of \$6.7 million.

Growing the State Investment

The campaign is calling on policymakers to build upon the commonwealth's recently expanded state investments in evidence-based home visiting by allocating an additional \$5 million in the Community-Based Family Centers line item 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

349,180

(41% of all under 6)

LOW-INCOME* CHILDREN
UNDER 6 YEARS OF AGE

15,965

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**

3,270

(48% of all under 6)

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

455

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

6% OF ALL CHILDREN UNDER
6 IN THE COUNTY

14% OF LOW-INCOME*
CHILDREN UNDER 6
IN THE COUNTY

*In 2019, a family of four falls in the "low-income" category if its annual income is below \$51,500.

STRONG FAMILIES, STRONG KIDS

Growing the state investment in publicly funded, evidence-based home visiting programs by \$5 million in the 2019-20 state budget will help approximately 800 more families and children build the foundation for a successful future.

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