HOME VISITING: IMPROVES LIVES, SAVES MONEY

2021 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET REQUEST

Invest $3 million in state funding to expand home visiting to an additional 400 families.

WHAT IS HOME VISITING?

Home visiting is a voluntary, proven way to support and strengthen families in the first years of life. Trained home visitors and parents develop a relationship and work together over a couple of years to address prenatal care, infant care, child development and parenting skills. Home visitors also provide valuable community services and ensure coordination of resources. It’s a multi-generational approach that has the power to positively change the trajectory of an entire family.

HOME VISITING OUTCOMES

Research has proven the benefits of home visiting, including:

- Improved Birth Outcomes
- Early Detection of Health Issues and Developmental Delays
- Improved Coordination and Referral for Other Community Services
- Improved Parenting Practices
- Improved Kindergarten Readiness
- Improved Family Self-sufficiency
- Reduced Child Abuse and Neglect
- Reduced Crime and Domestic Violence

EXPANDING HOME VISITING ACCESS

In spring 2019, DCYF released a report to the Legislature with ways to expand home visiting in Washington, so that it reaches more families in more counties.

Informed by a statewide needs assessment and data about current services, the plan focuses expansion in rural communities and communities with risk factors such as low kindergarten readiness and higher-than-average incidences of infant deaths, teenage pregnancies, homelessness, domestic violence, etc. It also values serving communities with approaches that are tailored to their needs.

Right now, the demand for home visiting far exceeds current resources – only four counties are able to serve more than 15% of eligible families.
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Only 7,329 of Washington state’s 125,800 eligible families receive home visiting from federal, state and local funding - leaving 118,471 families unserved. Eligibility is currently defined as families at or below 200% of the federal poverty level ($42,660 for a family of three), with a child age 3 or younger.

The Home Visiting Coalition supports the availability and funding of a portfolio of home visiting models.

AVAILABLE HOME VISITING SLOTS IN WASHINGTON

For more information, please contact:
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COALITION MEMBERS: Benton-Franklin Health District • Children’s Alliance • Children’s Home Society of Washington • Fight Crime: Invest in Kids Washington • Foundation for Healthy Generations • Mission: Readiness • Nurse-Family Partnership • Parent Child Home Program • Program Trust for Washington Children • Parents as Teachers • Partners for our Children • Patrick Dunn & Associates • Public Health – Seattle & King County • ReadyNation • Save the Children • Save the Children Action Network • Thrive Washington • United Way of King County • United Ways of Washington • Washington Chapter America Academy of Pediatrics • Washington Communities for Children • Washington State Association of Head Start and ECEAP • Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials • WithinReach