



In 2013, President Barack Obama proposed extending and expanding evidence-based, voluntary home visiting because it works.

Home visiting programs enable nurses, social workers and other professionals to connect families to services and educational support that will improve a child's health, development and ability to learn.

In New York State, more than 278,000 children under age five live below the poverty line, yet less than 13,000 home visiting slots exist. This more than 95 percent unmet need statewide is consistent with statistics for Long Island.

Evidence shows that when families receive home-based support:

- Children are healthier.
- Parent-child bonds are stronger.
- Abuse and neglect are less likely.
- Children are better prepared for school.

\$1 spent on home visiting can generate a \$2.24 return on investment.

Home visiting interventions, including referrals and family-strengthening approaches such as modeling positive parenting techniques, have been shown to reduce child maltreatment by up to 50%.

FAMILIES, CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROGRAM:

HOME VISITING— A HEALTHY START TO BUILD BETTER FAMILIES & MORE PRODUCTIVE FUTURES

SOME OF OUR NATION'S COSTLIEST SOCIAL PROBLEMS—child abuse and neglect, school failure, poverty, unemployment and crime—are rooted in early childhood. Home visiting matches parents with trained professionals to provide information and support during pregnancy and throughout their child's first three years, a critical development period. This quality interaction not only improves birth outcomes but also results in fewer children in social welfare programs and in mental health and juvenile corrections systems.

Since 85 percent of a child's brain development takes place before age five, it is vital that families receive the skills, services and support they need during these early years. The Hagedorn Foundation, recognizing this indisputable fact, funds a range of programs supporting children and families, and partners with other private funders to aggressively advocate for universal home visitation. Early intervention in the form of home visitation provides families with the tools they need to significantly improve children's well-being and ensure a successful start in life. Yet in New York State, the fragmented "system" of government-funded, eligibility-based home visiting programs and the patchwork of funding from private funders aren't reaching all the families who want and need the support.

Statistics show that parenting can be made easier with home visiting services and supports, which often connect parents to community resources during pregnancy and through their child's first three years. Research and studies consistently show that home visiting helps improve literacy, language, problem solving and social awareness skills for children.

The positive effects of home visiting are many:

- improved children's and parents' health, development and overall well-being;
- reduced costs associated with foster care placements, unintended pregnancies, hospitalizations and emergency room visits;
- increased involvement with their children's schools and teachers;
- building of positive parenting skills and parent-child interactions, thereby helping prevent child abuse and neglect;
- helping identify domestic violence, substance abuse and other problems;
- increased school readiness and school success.

"Make greater investments in young children to see greater returns in education, health and productivity. Early childhood education is an efficient and effective investment for economic and workforce development. The earlier the investment, the greater the return on investment."

– James Joseph Heckman, Economist and Nobel laureate



Mom and son working toward academic success and well-being with home visitor.

Since 2005, the Hagedorn Foundation has granted \$13.7 million to programs focused on Families, Children and Youth, including \$2.63 million since 2009 to organizations working to educate Long Islanders, New York State residents and government representatives about the importance of home visiting for pregnant women and families with newborns and young children, with a focus on building a New York State home visiting system. Grantee partners working in this include:

Build Initiative: Provides resources and technical assistance to providers, organization and government officials to build a coordinated system of programs, policies and services for children, 0 to 5 years old, and their families in New York State.

Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP): Works with the New York State home visiting coalition to produce reports on the financing of a statewide prenatal, post-partum universal home visitation system of care.

Council for a Strong America: Trains and organizes business leaders and law enforcement officials to advocate at local and state levels on the importance of high quality early childhood development programs, including home visitation.

DOCS for TOTS: Works to ensure developmental screenings are provided for babies and toddlers by partnering across early childhood settings to ensure easy access to screenings; advocating and promoting the importance of developmental screenings on a local, state and national level; and empowering parents to ensure that their children are screened.

New York State Association of Infant Mental Health: Supports the developmental and emotional well-being of infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and their parents, and works to implement standards and competencies for professionals in child-serving disciplines throughout New York State.

Parent Child Home Program: Provides a high quality home visitation program locally and nationally; advocates for the importance of home visiting to local, state and national public officials; and accesses new federal funding opportunities for home visiting programs in New York State and nationwide.

Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy: Produces reports and studies, and works with the statewide home visiting coalition to advocate for stateside universal screening and home visiting systems for new parents.



Fight Crime: Invest in Kids New York members, including former Nassau County, DA Kathleen Rice speaking in support of home visiting programs for children.



Nature and play provide positive social, emotional and academic learning for children.

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