



STRENGTHENING STATES FOR 40 YEARS



Strengthening States for 40 Years

State Home Visiting Programs



Robyn Lipkowitz

Program Director

Children and Families Program
National Conference of State
Legislatures



What is Home Visiting?

- Visitors going to the families' homes to help expectant and new parents.
- Participation is voluntary.
- Visitors may be trained as nurses, social workers or child development specialists.
- Visits teach parents about health, child development and learning activities that foster their child's development.
- Screenings are provided to help parents identify possible health and developmental issues.



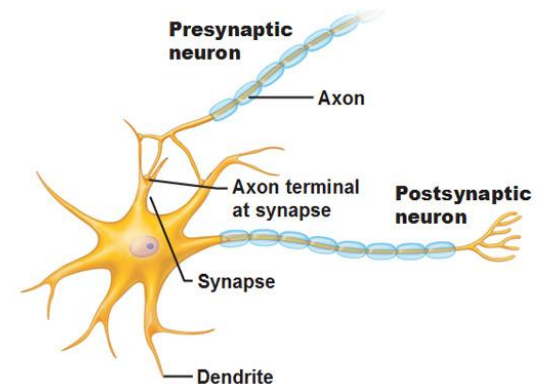
Why should legislators think about home visiting programs?

- Home visiting is already going on in every state.
- Questions about the most effective approaches and coordination between programs.
- Federal home visiting funding gives state officials an opportunity to fund new home visiting services and strengthen existing programs:
 - Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program
 - \$1.5 billion over five years (FY2010 - FY2014)

Brain Development and Home Visiting

- Early experiences shape brain development in the first two years as children's brain architecture develops.
- Cognitive skills, emotional and social competence, and physical and mental health.
- Key child and adult outcomes:
 - School readiness
 - Academic achievement
 - Juvenile justice and crime
 - Employment

Synapse – Where Two Neurons Communicate in One Direction



(a) Two neurons connected by synapses



Return on Investment

- Effects of quality home visiting:
 - cut the number of low-birth-weight babies by 50 percent
 - reduce the rate of child abuse and neglect by nearly one-half
 - increase reading and math test scores in grades 1-3 by 25 percent
 - increase children's high school graduation rates by 60 percent
- Cost-benefit studies demonstrate returns on investment from \$1.75 to \$5.70 for every dollar spent:
 - child welfare
 - K-12 special education and grade retention
 - criminal justice expenses



What Makes Home Visiting Effective?

- Evidence-based models
 - Nurse Family Partnership
 - Healthy Families America
 - Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPIY)
 - Parents as Teachers
- Locally developed approaches



Research-based Standards

- Targeted
 - First-time parents
 - Single parents
 - Teen parents
 - Substance abuse and/or maternal depression
- Intensive
 - Early
 - Frequent
 - First 2-3 years of child's life
- Specialized training
 - Nurses, social workers, early education specialists
 - Model specific training and curriculum



Key Considerations for State Legislators

- Priority goals
 - improving maternal and child health,
 - increasing school readiness
 - reducing child abuse and neglect
- Funding programs that demonstrate high-quality services and measureable results
- Shifting funding to programs with stronger evidence of effectiveness
- Sustainable home visiting programs
 - Future changes in federal funding
 - Focus investments on programs that produce clear improvement in outcomes





Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program

Legislative Purpose

- To strengthen and Improve the programs and activities carried out under Title V
- To improve coordination of services in at-risk communities
- To identify and provide comprehensive home visiting services to improve outcomes for families in at-risk communities



Legislative Requirements

- Develop statewide needs assessment
- Priority for serving high risk populations
- Improvement in benchmark areas
- Implementation of evidence-based home visiting models and ensuring model fidelity
- 75% of fund to be used towards evidence-based models; 25% for promising practices
- Annual reports



Legislatively Mandated Benchmarks

- Improved maternal and newborn health;
- Reduced incidence of child maltreatment, child injuries and ER visits;
- Increased school readiness and achievement;
- Reduced domestic violence or crime;
- Improved family economic self-sufficiency;
- Improved coordination and referrals for other community resources and supports.



Evidence-based Models

- Healthy Families America
- Child First
- Early Head Start-Home Based
- Early Intervention Program for Adolescent Mothers
- Family Check-Up
- Parents as Teachers
- Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters
- Nurse Family Partnership
- Play and Learning Strategies Infant
- The Early Start (New Zealand)
- Health Steps
- Oklahoma Community-Based Family Resource and Support Program
- SafeCare Augmented



Initial Application

- Needs assessments (September 2010)
- Updated State Plans (June 2011)
- FY 2011 Formula Applications (July 2011)
- FY 2012 Formula Awards (September 2012)
- Competitive Awards (July 2011-2013)



State Plan Development

- Benchmark Plan
 - Benchmark and demographic data reporting
- Implementation
 - Home Visiting
 - Coordinated Intake
 - Community Systems Development
- Developing State CQI and evaluation plans



National Evaluation (part of the federal legislation)

- Mother and Infant Home Visiting Program Evaluation (MIHOPE)
 - Research findings will be presented to Congress



- Further information or questions:
 - www.ncsl.org/home-visiting
 - Robyn.Lipkowitz@ncsl.org
 - 303-856-1420