

RESTORE HOME VISITING FUNDING



Virginia leaders have long recognized the value of early childhood home visiting as an effective strategy for improving the health and well-being for families and their young children. Advances in the science of early brain development and the negative impact of childhood trauma and toxic stress on lifelong health have increased our understanding of the importance of investing in effective prevention strategies and ensuring equal access to critical health and wellness supports.

Home Visiting is **PROVEN**

- Improve maternal and infant health
- Promote equity and reduce health disparities
- Increase school readiness and social-emotional development
- Build healthy, nurturing relationships
- Cost effective – proven to save up to \$5.70 for every dollar invested

PLEASE Support Budget Items to **RESTORE** Funding for Home Visiting

House Item 313 #33h

Senate Item 313 #2s

These budget requests restore funding to create a home visiting Medicaid benefit that was un-allotted due to COVID 19—leaving significant federal matching dollars unspent.

With a generous federal match rate of nearly 3:1, creating a home visiting Medicaid benefit is a **smart investment!**

During COVID-19, local home visiting providers continued to provide essential health, social and behavioral health supports to nearly 10,000 Virginia families and their young children and effectively mitigating the impact of the pandemic for thousands of families and freeing up resources for crisis response.

Home Visiting is a **critical LIFELINE** for families during COVID 19:

- Healthcare Access
- Basic Needs (food, supplies, technology, housing, unemployment/benefits)
- Emotional Support
- Healthy Interactions
- Stress Management

#Home Visiting Works

A retrospective analysis found a **40% reduction** in preterm birth rates among **Virginia** women who received home visiting versus a comparison group. An average savings of **\$30,000 per birth.**

Feasibility Study on the Development of a Home Visiting Pay for Success Pilot Program, Virginia Department of Health, 2018

For more information:
EarlyImpactVA.org

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Issue Brief: What is home visiting?

Home visiting connects expectant parents and families with young children to a trained, family support professional who provides customized coaching and guidance through the early stages of a child’s development. Home visitors help parents understand their role as their child’s first, and most important, teacher. Home visitors help families realize their strengths, and unlock their child’s potential.

Home visiting benefits moms, families, children, and the community.

- Moms and babies are healthier
- Children are better prepared for school
- Children are safer
- Families are more self-sufficient
- Home visiting programs save money in the long run

To meet the diverse needs of families and communities throughout the Commonwealth, Virginia is home to eight evidence-based models of home visiting. Those programs are CHIP of Virginia, Early Head Start, Healthy Families, Healthy Start/Loving Steps, Nurse Family Partnership and Parents as Teachers. While these programs cover 123 of 133 localities, we are serving less than 10% of families that would benefit from home visiting.



What is Early Impact Virginia?

In 2018, budget language from the General Assembly granted Early Impact Virginia the authority and responsibility to determine, systematically track and report annually on the key activities and outcomes of Virginia’s home visiting programs. Early Impact Virginia partnered with the Governor’s office to convene a Leadership Council charged with developing the plan to guide the state’s investment in home visiting, and chaired by First Lady Pamela Northam. In May 2019, the Children’s Cabinet adopted Virginia’s Plan for Home Visiting, which called for funding strategies that create stable, predictable revenue streams and leverage relevant statewide programs, including Medicaid.

Early Impact Virginia represents all eight home visiting models across the state, and convenes those partners regularly to develop and implement strategies that support continuous improvement, professional development and sustainability of home visiting programs.

For more information:
EarlyImpactVA.org

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