



## What is Voluntary, Proven ‘Home Visiting’?

Home visiting is a **voluntary, proven support and coaching service that strengthens families** during critical times of early life development. Trained home visitors, such as nurses or trained parent educators, work with expecting parents and parents of children under age 5 to provide necessary resources and skills to raise physically, socially, and emotionally healthy children.



Through the trusting relationships formed with home visitors, vulnerable Idaho parents are empowered to build self-sufficiency and achieve stable, healthy futures for their families.

## Home Visiting Outcomes for Idaho Families

Participating in voluntary, evidence-based home visiting programs during pregnancy and the first years of life has been proven to improve maternal and child health, prevent child abuse and neglect, increase positive parenting, and enhance child development. Home visiting programs offer returns on investment ranging from \$1.26 to \$5.70 for every dollar spent, based on the level of risk the family faced.<sup>1</sup>



Improved Parenting Practices



Early Detection of Developmental Delays



Reduced Child Abuse & Neglect



Improved Maternal & Child Health



Improved Coordination with Community Services



Improved School Readiness



Reduced Crime & Domestic Violence



Improved Family Economic Self-sufficiency

## Current Landscape of Home Visiting in Idaho

In Idaho, local public health agencies and nonprofit organizations provide home visiting services using three evidence-based models: Nurse-Family Partnership, Parents as Teachers, and Early Head Start-Home Based. In 2018, 704 Idaho children were served by Parents as Teachers and Nurse-Family Partnership and 1,515 Idaho children were served by Early Head Start-Home Based.





## Need for Additional State Funding for Home Visiting in Idaho

Home visiting in Idaho is funded primarily with federal dollars through the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program and Early Head Start grants. The Idaho State Legislature provided a one-time appropriation of \$1.6 million in state general funds in both SFY19 and SFY20 for home visiting services delivered locally through Idaho's Public Health Districts. With these funds, home visiting services expanded from being available in 12 counties to over 30 counties, with an additional 218 families receiving home visiting services in SFY20.

While home visiting services are tailored to address local needs, not all counties are eligible or able to be served by federal funding. According to the National Home Visiting Resource Center, only 1.3 percent of the pregnant women and families in Idaho who could benefit from home visiting received services in 2018.<sup>2</sup>

Supplementing Idaho's current federal grants with state dollars will allow current services to continue and better meet the needs of local communities not currently served by home visiting. Additionally, exploring opportunities to leverage other funding sources for home visiting, such as billing Medicaid for certain home visiting services and local philanthropic funds, will allow the state to stretch state investments to serve even more families.

### Leveraging Other Funding Sources to Serve More Families in Need

Medicaid offers a significant opportunity for increased home visiting funding. A number of states already finance part of their home visiting programs using Medicaid, but it remains a greatly underused option. Because most children or pregnant women served by home visiting programs are enrolled in Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program, Medicaid can help to expand capacity of programs and reduce unmet need, in concert with other federal and state dollars. Medicaid allows states considerable flexibility in designing their approaches for covering home visiting, either in whole or in terms of differences services or procedures provided during a home visit.

### Home Visiting Funding Requests

- ✓ Support Governor Little's \$1 million budget recommendation to maintain the current reach and impact of local home visiting services.
- ✓ Secure an \$840,000 appropriation to leverage with federal Medicaid dollars to enhance the capacity of local home visiting services and reduce unmet need.
- ✓ Direct the Idaho Department of Health & Welfare to pursue a state plan to bill Medicaid for services or procedures provided during a home visit.



<sup>1</sup> Karoly, L., Kilburn, M. R., Cannon, J. Proven results, future promise. RAND Corporation 2005.

<sup>2</sup> National Home Visiting Resource Center, retrieved from [https://nhvrc.org/state\\_profile/idaho-2019/](https://nhvrc.org/state_profile/idaho-2019/)