

2019-2020 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY

GOAL: EXPAND ACCESS TO MATERNAL, INFANT AND EARLY CHILDHOOD HOME VISITING PROGRAMS, SO THAT EVERY ELIGIBLE FAMILY THAT WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE RECEIVES SERVICES



Why: Evidence-based home visiting is designed to support new and expecting families with young children, with comprehensive supports including health, parenting, education, and other services tailored to each family's unique needs. These programs have proven benefits for children and families, and have been shown to improve birth outcomes, increase high school graduation rates, lower dependence on welfare services, and reduce the incidence of child maltreatment.¹ Home visiting is also cost-effective, yielding savings over the course of a child's life.²

At present, evidence-based home visiting services are not available in every county.³ In fact, when measured based on the number of young children living in poverty, only about 5% of eligible children across New York are able to participate in evidence-based programs.⁴

Supporting Policies & Initiatives:

- **Implement the Recommendations of the First 1,000 Days on Medicaid Workgroup.** Because Medicaid covers 59% of children 0-3 and more than half of all births in New York it has a special interest in improving outcomes related to children's health and well-being. New York should support the Workgroup's recommendations, including:
 - Identify opportunities for increased Medicaid payment for evidence-based, evidence-informed, and promising home visiting programs.
 - Implementing pilots in 3 high-risk communities to scale up evidence-based home visiting.
- **Strengthen State investment in evidence-based and evidence-informed home visiting.** An array of options – including programs that serve children of different ages and differ in approach – is key to ensuring families have access to a program that meets their needs. To address this, and expand access to home visiting statewide, we urge the State to invest in a diversity of program models.

Parent Child Home Program: Invest \$2M to bring the program to currently unserved areas.

Parents as Teachers: Invest \$3M to reduce waiting lists at current sites and expand to currently unserved areas.

Healthy Families NY: Increase investment by \$2.5M, for a total of \$25.8M, to serve 500-520 more families annually.

Nurse-Family Partnership: Invest \$6M to enable growth in underserved communities.

Power of Two: Invest \$1.5M to help 800 children in New York's vulnerable communities reach their full potential.

- **Invest \$200,000 in the NYS Home Visiting Coordination Initiative** which aims to provide cutting-edge information, build cross-program relationships, and offer additional opportunities for cross-systems operations.

¹ Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy. (2016). Home Is Where The Start Is: Expanding Home Visiting to Strengthen All of New York's Families. www.scaany.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Home_Is_Where_the_Start_Is-Expanding_HV-06-2016.pdf

² Ibid.

³ NYS Council on Children and Families. NYS Home Visiting – the Big Picture. <http://arcg.is/H5OnD>

⁴ <http://www.scaany.org/policy-areas/maternal-infant-and-early-childhood/numbers-tell-a-story-new-york-state-home-visiting-data-snapshots/>
