

Strengthen Families by Investing in Home Visiting

The statewide home visiting workgroup, comprised of New York State **maternal, infant and early childhood home visiting** programs and advocates, has compiled a joint budget ask to better support children and families across New York State in the 2016-17 SFY budget.

Maintain \$27.3 million and invest an additional \$10.5 million in maternal, infant, and early childhood home visiting to adequately fund a continuum of supports and services for families.

▶ Healthy Families New York (HFNY):

- **Maintain \$23.3 million** from the 2015-16 Executive Budget for sustainability.
- **Add \$4.5 million** for expansion of services and workforce development.

▶ Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP):

- **Maintain \$3 million** from the 2015-16 Executive Budget for sustainability.
- **Maintain \$1 million** added by the Legislature in 2015-16.
- **Add \$1 million** in new funding for expansion, including:
 - » \$500,000 in New York City to increase capacity by 75 slots
 - » \$500,000 Upstate to increase capacity by 100-125 slots

▶ Parents as Teachers (PAT):

- **Add \$3 million** in new funding to expand capacity to 1,000 families across the state.

▶ Parent-Child Home Program, Inc.:

- **Add \$2 million** in new funding to expand capacity to 500 additional families across the state.



Home Visiting Makes a Difference



A story about Nurse-Family Partnership

By Natasha Pennant, Nurse-Family Partnership Graduate

During pregnancy, even though my doctors kept saying everything was fine, Joanne [Nurse-Family Partnership nurse home visitor] kept checking my blood pressure and she knew this was not normal for me. She kept insisting and sent me to the ER – sure enough I had pre-eclampsia and delivered my daughter 2 months early. Joanne probably saved my life and my daughter’s life. After I delivered she visited me in the hospital and I had really bad headaches and the staff kept saying I’d be fine and they were ignoring me. Joanne wouldn’t leave it alone and she told them such severe headaches are not normal and sure enough – there were complications from my epidural! She advocated for me in so many ways, I learned how to advocate for myself and my daughter – just by watching her.

After my daughter’s birth, she needed PT [physical therapy] because she was early and I was overwhelmed, but Joanne somehow taught me how to handle it all and stay calm. And I kept saying it was too much to go back to school, but Joanne kept saying “you’re so close, you just need a few more credits, you can do it.” So I did. I finished my Bachelor’s in Judicial Studies at John Jay. Now I’m working at the Hospital for Special Surgery and Joanne has stayed in touch and she’s motivating me to go for my Masters. She’s helping me with the GRE’s and I want to get a Masters in Public Administration. And my daughter is beautiful and is growing perfectly.

Natasha with Aaron Pelzer and their daughter, Emma.

