

What is Home Visiting?

Home visiting is an early childhood intervention that supports pregnant women and parents in their role of raising children by bringing services to them in their natural setting: their home.

Over 25 years of research and home visiting program delivery have demonstrated that home visiting programs improve parenting skills, help parents understand child development, reduce the potential for child abuse and neglect, and improve the family's wellbeing.



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REFER
A FAMILY FOR HOME VISITS, CONTACT:

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HOME VISITING
QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

To find the Home Visiting Council online, visit:
www.DChomevisiting.org.

PRODUCED BY THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
HOME VISITING COUNCIL



Research demonstrates that every \$1 invested in home visiting saves \$5.70.

WHY IS HOME VISITING NEEDED?

- ▶ **MANY CHILDREN IN DC ARE BORN INTO FAMILIES WITH MULTIPLE RISK FACTORS.** More than 6 in 10 DC children live in single-parent families. More than 2 in 10 DC children are born to a mother who didn't complete high school. More than 1 in 10 DC children are born to a mother still in her teens. More than 1 in 10 babies born in DC have low birth weights.
- ▶ **THE MOST VULNERABLE FAMILIES OFTEN HAVE TROUBLE ACCESSING OUT-OF-HOME SERVICES.**

HOME VISITING SUPPORTS DC'S EARLY SUCCESS FRAMEWORK

By reaching parents during pregnancy or soon after the birth of their child, the strategy of home visiting ensures that families at risk of poor parent and child outcomes are linked with a home visitor who can help them to connect to a medical home, screen their child for development delays, link them to early childhood programs and show them how to prepare their child for school.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- Parents and other primary caregivers who are:
- ▶ Pregnant and/or have a child up to 5 years old
 - ▶ At social, economic or health risk for themselves and their children
 - ▶ In need of information about parenting and early childhood education and
 - ▶ Residents of the District of Columbia

WHAT DO HOME VISITORS DO?

Home visitors are trained to implement an evidence-based approach that includes:

- ▶ Educating parents about their children's **DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES**
- ▶ Teaching parents how to foster **STRONG PARENT-CHILD ATTACHMENT**
- ▶ Making sure parents know how to **OBTAIN MEDICAL CARE** for their children
- ▶ Identifying **CHILDREN WHO NEED TREATMENT** for developmental delays
- ▶ **HELPING PARENTS ACCESS** mental health support, drug treatment, or any other services they need to enhance their parenting abilities

HOW IS HOME VISITING FUNDED?

Evidence-based home visiting programs in DC are currently supported by local and federal dollars. The federal dollars are through time-limited formula and competitive grants under the Affordable Care Act. The availability of federal dollars in the future is not guaranteed.

HOW GREAT IS THE NEED FOR HOME VISITING?

Home visiting programs in DC currently have the capacity to serve approximately 500 families. We estimate that over 3,500 young children in DC would benefit from home visiting.

RESOURCES NEEDED TO SUSTAIN HOME VISITING IN THE DISTRICT

In order to maintain home visiting after the federal grants end, DC will need other sources of funding. Some possibilities are:

- ▶ Reimbursement through Medicaid for Targeted Case Management (a State Plan Amendment would be needed)
- ▶ Title IV-E waiver funds through CFSA if DC is granted the waiver
- ▶ Local funding

WHAT ROLE DOES THE HOME VISITING COUNCIL PLAY?

The Home Visiting Council works to strengthen the District's implementation of home visitation strategies that support families and their communities. Membership in the Council includes a cross section of community and District agencies, child advocates, education groups and early childhood programs.

