

Invest In Our Future When It Matters Most: Targeting Home Visiting to Families In Need

Increase Access to Home Visiting Services Targeting High-Risk Families

Legislative Position

Increase access for community led targeted home visiting services to stabilize and support first time moms and high-risk families living in poverty with children prenatal through age five. Priority high-risk populations include, but are not limited to, pregnant and parenting teens; families experiencing violence; families experiencing isolation; families with mental health needs; families with children having special health care needs; and families experiencing homelessness.

Need

In Minnesota, there are approximately 10,000 births to Mom's receiving Medicaid each year. Additionally, there are 81,000 young children, under the age five living in poverty (up to 185% poverty). Many of these children face challenges such as homelessness, incarcerated parents, family violence and mental health issues in the family.

Family instability can create stress that has negative health effects on children and parents. Mitigating chronic stress is important since up to 85% of brain development occurs by age three, and up to 90% by age five. Targeted home visiting services are family-focused and responsive to the unique needs and challenges faced by those living in high-risk situations or with extreme challenges.

Providing high-risk families with voluntary targeted home visiting services can 1) improve health and well-being outcomes for children, 2) improve maternal outcomes such as education, workforce and health, and/or 3) improve readiness for learning and school.

How will local collaborative partnerships improve Family Home Visiting?

Community led solutions through local collaboration and partnerships are best positioned to respond to the needs of families facing multiple challenges. Local collaboration promotes responsive solutions to the changing needs of families and leverages the collective knowledge and expertise of the community.

Who is provides home visiting services?

Non-profit organizations, Community health boards, and tribal departments operate home visiting programs throughout the state.

The **Minnesota Coalition for Targeted Home Visiting** works together to support our shared vision: **All Minnesota families of children age prenatal to three who are at risk for poor mental health, physical health, social, and educational outcomes will have access to intensive, targeted home visiting services to help them succeed in school and in life.** Services will be voluntary, high-quality, outcome-focused, and tailored to the resources in each community.

Coalition participants include providers from non-profit organizations, local public health departments, health care as well as philanthropy, universities and associations serving children, youth and families.