

HOME VISITING

PPC Goal: Ensure each child in Pennsylvania has the opportunity to grow up in a stable and healthy home environment.

Voluntary, evidence-based home visiting programs help parents and others raising children with the supports necessary to improve maternal and child health, including mental health, improve child development and school readiness, promote family economic self-sufficiency, promote positive parenting practices, reduce abuse and neglect, and address substance use disorders. With far too few Pennsylvania families receiving these services, we are working to expand its reach especially for those new to parenthood and/or with limited resources.

POLICY PRIORITIES:

1. Increase the number of children and families receiving evidence-based home visiting services.

- a. Expand evidence-based home visiting financing and strategies using data analysis and research findings for the highest-risk families with young children, including low-income families and those with limited resources.
- b. Support expansion of state appropriations through the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) to reach more families and ensure backfilling of federal MIECHV funds due to sequestration and for loss of one-time federal stimulus funds provided through Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention funds to maintain the level services provided to families.
- c. Support the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program and ensure Pennsylvania is maximizing their share of increased federal funding, including leveraging state matching opportunities.
- d. Support the Medicaid Maternal Home Visiting Program in DHS, work on report recommendations to improve program transparency, and track referrals to evidence-based home visiting in order to maximize the intent of the program of expanding new services to families enrolled in Medicaid.
- e. Support leveraging the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) to allow more counties to overcome barriers accessing funding for evidence-based home visiting programs.
- f. Monitor DHS' implementation of the statewide resource and referral tool (PA Navigate) and explore tracking of referrals to evidence-based home visiting and other programs relevant to our campaigns.



- 2. Support the home visiting workforce and program sustainability by ensuring adequate levels of staffing correspond with service expansion and by building and retaining a qualified and culturally informed workforce to meet families' needs.**
- 3. Explore more opportunities for crossover and coordination as part of the broader work of services and supports for families with young children since home visiting has an expansive reach (i.e. early intervention, maternal health, nutrition, housing, children's physical and mental health).**