

Fund Home Visiting



Early childhood home visiting matches expectant parents and caregivers of young children with a designated support person—typically a trained nurse, social worker, or early childhood specialist—who guides them through the early stages of raising a family. Services are voluntary and include caregiver coaching on child development, connecting families to needed services, and supporting families to reach their goals. Support can occur in the family's home or another location.

The Issue

Oregon faces an unprecedented crisis: mental health challenges and addiction rates are surpassing national trends. While not often recognized, these challenges have a huge impact on Oregon's infants and toddlers.



By the Numbers

29%

of Oregon mothers with infants & toddlers face mental health challenges — 6% above the national average.

43%

of women age 18 to 25 experiencing homelessness are pregnant or parenting.

17%

of children experience 4 or more adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), which dramatically increases risk of depression, substance use, and other health concerns later in life. **Half of ACEs are experienced by a child's third birthday.**

Home visits help!



Home Visiting Works

- Negative experiences in the early years of life can profoundly affect young children because their brains are still developing. But negative experiences can be prevented and healed.
- **Positive childhood experiences prevent harm and promote healing.** Home Visiting fosters resilience, strengthens bonds, and increases positive childhood experiences.
- Research shows home visits leads to better physical and mental health outcomes, improved parenting skills, increased self-sufficiency, and a safer home environment.
- Unfortunately, Oregon is currently **servicing only 8% to 18% of the families with children ages 0-5** who are potentially eligible for home visiting services.

Solution: Expand Home Visiting Programs

- **Only when we start early – by working with babies and their parents – will we bend the curve on the need for adult behavioral health services.**
- By investing in home visiting, we support parents to create a better future for their children, break cycles of poverty and addiction, and foster resilience.
- In order to work, home visiting programs need stable funding, living wages, and resources to reach more families.



Take Action! Expand Family Support Services

In 2025, children and families need Oregon leaders to support investments in home visiting programs above CSL to support staff and expand services.

- **Babies First! and CaCoon.** Babies First! is Oregon's public health nurse home visiting program for pregnant women, children ages 0 through 4 years and caregivers. CaCoon supports children with special health needs through nurse home visiting. Together, they reach **8,000 families**. An additional **\$6.2 million to OHA** will improve wages, stabilize programs, and increase reach.
- **Family Connects Oregon** is an evidence-based nurse home visiting program is for all families with newborns and currently reaches **3,400 families**. An additional **\$700,000 at OHA** will maintain all existing pilot sites.
- **Healthy Families Oregon** reduces child abuse and neglect, decreases low infant birth weight, increase access to primary medical care services, and improves a families economic self-sufficiency. It reaches **4,600 families**. An additional **\$6 million at DELC** will raise wages and increase access in multiple languages.
- **Nurse-Family Partnership** empowers **842** first-time parents experiencing economic and social barriers. An additional **\$6.32 million at OHA** will continue state payment of required Medicaid match.
- **Oregon Pre-Kindergarten** serves **14,500** families with high-quality preschool, infant, and toddler care in settings including home visiting, and seeks **current service level**.
- **Relief Nurseries** offers **1,722** families support with child development and prevents foster care, with resources including outreach workers. An additional **\$4.9 million at DELC** will serve an additional 300 families.
- **Family First Prevention Plan** supports prevention activities including **in-home parenting programs**. **\$7.5 million at ODHS** would match Federal Families First funding.

This approach is supported by Oregon's Early Childhood Coalition, comprised of more than 70 organizations advocating for a stronger statewide early childhood system. **Learn more at bit.ly/OregonECC** or scan the QR code.

