



2022

Annual Report

The District of Columbia
Home Visiting Council

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INTRODUCTION

About Us

The DC Home Visiting Council (the HV Council) is a coalition of home visiting providers, child advocacy partners, local District agency representatives, and stakeholders. Since 2016, DC Action has chaired the Home Visiting Council.

The Home Visiting Council's primary goal is to support home visiting programs to achieve positive child and family outcomes in the District of Columbia. By improving coordination between home visiting programs, agencies, and early childhood partners, the Home Visiting Council aims to build a stronger system for expectant families and families with young children to safely rely on.

The 2022 Home Visiting Annual Report provides a quick snapshot of the home visiting landscape in the District and a summary of the Home Visiting Council's progress towards their goals this past year.

As the Home Visiting Council reflects on their 2022 experience and enters the final leg of our three-year strategic plan, we want to applaud the complex and quiet work of DC's home visiting programs. They have been able to navigate a tricky third year of supporting families in a pandemic, while constantly evolving to the ongoing workforce and funding challenges. We hope 2023 is a year that the District recognizes home visiting as an effective and all-encompassing strategy for the early childhood system to better support DC's expectant parents and families with young children.

Nisa Hussain, Home Visiting Council Chair

Home Visiting Definition

Home visiting is a service delivery strategy that serves as a prevention and early intervention support for expecting parents and families of young children from before birth until kindergarten entry. In these voluntary programs, trained home visitors and participants regularly meet in the home or another comfortable setting designated by the family.

A key characteristic of these programs is that each implements a model for addressing specific maternal, family, and child outcomes through education, counseling, coaching, and other services. Home visitors also provide families with connections to community-based services and resources relevant to their goals.

Why the District Needs Home Visiting



Home visiting programs have a unique role in the broader early childhood system of DC. These programs credit their effectiveness to the long-term and trusting relationship between the home visitor and family, which allows participants to feel comfortable with a home visitor's guidance on certain challenges and their referrals to other health or social services they may need. Few services can offer this holistic and personal approach to families the way home visiting can.

[Studies](#) have shown that home visiting increases school readiness, positive maternal outcomes, optimal child's health and development, family economic self-sufficiency, and the parent's confidence to [care for their child](#). Home visiting [decreases child abuse](#) and neglect, intimate partner violence, [preventable childhood health conditions](#) like low-weight births and preterm births.

Home visiting programs also address issues outside of the traditional maternal and child wellness markers. While the curriculum can often focus on getting a child ready for kindergarten or ensuring a pregnant parent makes it to their prenatal visits, home visitors often deal with complex issues within the community of their participants. Navigating the next steps after a car accident, translating complex immigration paperwork, seeking out safer housing options, or supporting a parent through a domestic violence incident are just several scenarios that a home visitor may handle.

One real participant, Yolanda, shares her experience working with her home visitor: "She has gone way above her job duties. She has provided food and diapers for me and my family. And she even went out of her way to set us up with an organization to set my children up with a laptop, so they can do their online schoolwork. She has really helped me a lot. I feel very comfortable talking to her. She let me understand that I'm not alone in this. Without this program, I don't know where I would be right now."

While the District invests in the region's youngest residents through a variety of early childhood strategies, home visiting programs continue to carry out that mission by helping families create a stable and safe foundation for a child's first few years of life.

HOME VISITING COUNCIL OVERVIEW

Home Visiting Council Strategic Plan



VISION

All families in the District of Columbia have full access to responsive systems that facilitate quality education, safety and stability, and the resources they need to flourish in their communities.



MISSION

The Home Visiting Council convenes, mobilizes, and informs DC families and early childhood stakeholders to strengthen home visiting to support the needs and outcomes of families with expectant parents or young children.



THEORY OF CHANGE STATEMENT

Expectant parents and families with young children across the District have the strong will to care for their children and support their development. Yet all families need extra support during this strenuous period to parent and prosper in a safe and secure environment. Some families are also further burdened by external factors such as economic and racial injustices.

Home visiting supports families to have healthy babies and young children who receive the care they need to meet their highest potential, and guides parents and caretakers to address their own challenges so that they are better able to meet their goals and do the important work of caring for their young children.

In partnership with parents and families, home visiting uses evidence-based strategies to improve parent-child attachment, child school readiness, health care utilization, family health outcomes, address challenges that affect parenting capacity, identify and support children with developmental concerns, and reduce child abuse and neglect.

The Home Visiting Council is committed to supporting home visiting programs to provide families with the resources, access, information, and autonomy to navigate DC's early childhood system and the services they need to flourish in their communities by addressing the systemic needs of DC home visiting programs, their staff, and the families they support.

The Home Visiting Council convenes maternal and early childhood stakeholders to develop programmatic support for home visiting programs, identify and advocate for systems improvements and sustainable investment in home visiting, lead the development of quality referral pathways to home visiting, and disseminate home visiting data.



VALUES

- We believe in a strengths-based approach that honors the knowledge and skills of communities we work alongside.
- We will direct the knowledge and skills of home visiting programs and Home Visiting Council to inform systems change that eases the burdens on families navigating institutional barriers such as sexism, discrimination, capitalism, racism, etc., and their intersections.
- We commit to developing a home visiting workforce that is well-supported, fairly compensated, and reflects the communities we work alongside.
- We commit to support home visiting programs in being accessible; in language, location, ability, and more.
- We commit to a continuous effort of reconciliation and accountability, by addressing the traumatic experiences that health care, nonprofits, advocates, and governmental services have inflicted on certain communities.
- We commit to developing ethical standards of engagement with partners and funders in both success and dilemma.

Home Visiting Council Membership

The following organizations participated as members of the HV Council in 2022:

AmeriHealth Caritas District of Columbia

Bright Beginnings

CentroNía

Children's National Hospital

Children's Law Center

Community Family Life Services

Community of Hope

DC Action

DC Child and Family Services Agency

DC Department of Health

DC Fiscal Policy Institute

Generation Hope

Georgetown University Center for Child
and Human Development

Healthy Babies Project Inc.

Howard and Geraldine Polinger Family
Foundation

Mamatoto Village

Martha's Table

Mary's Center

Office of the State Superintendent of
Education

Parents as Teachers National Center

Rosemount Center

SPACeS In Action

The Family Place

Trusted Health Plans

United Planning Organization



Work of the Home Visiting Council in 2022

The Home Visiting Council embarked on its second year of their 2021-2023 strategic plan goals, listed out on the [DC Home Visiting Council website](#). Several of the main accomplishments included:

- Restructuring the committees to better accommodate the members' interests and engagement. In mid 2022, the HV Council's Programs Committee renamed itself to the "Home Visitor Compensation and Support Committee" to narrow in on the specific goal of raising home visitor salaries and reducing administrative burden.
- Collecting new home visiting data on home visitor salaries, turnover trends, and staffing challenges
- Hosting a home visiting program town hall to better understand the current workforce challenges and the ongoing COVID-19 impacts on families
- Launching the official C-Intake process in June 2022 and adding new questions to the Help Me Grow DC database to strengthen the Help Me Grow Care Coordinators' ability to refer families to the right services
- Writing a policy recommendations brief to outline activities for stronger home visitor retention
- Leading a robust advocacy approach to the FY23 budget season by engaging home visitors and family participants and leading the Home Visiting Storytelling Project

Home Visitor Compensation and Support Committee

- Brainstormed and discussed policy approaches to home visitor compensations, including a salary scale, minimum salary requirement, and more.
- Began planning stages of a home visitor and home visiting supervisor Community of Practice to encourage more support for the workforce
- Wrote the policy recommendations brief, due to be published in early 2023

Advocacy Committee

- Led the Home Visiting Storytelling Project and collected videos from participants and families
- Created a budget toolkit of advocacy talking points and instructions
- Facilitated an advocacy and budget training session for home visitors
- Hosted an in-person home visitor engagement session
- Coordinated a social media event tweetstorm with a social media toolkit

**The Advocacy Committee works independently from the full HV Council*

C-Intake Committee

- Partnered with DC Health to create a centralized, coordinated intake process through [Help Me Grow DC](#). Launched the pilot of the C-Intake process in early 2022 and launched the official C-Intake process in summer 2022
- Finalized the universal referral form and gathered feedback on instructional materials for the form's implementation with programs

Data Committee

- Strengthened the Annual Report survey with new questions for programs to enhance the data measures across home visiting programs
- Created a data analysis system to better organize the results
- Partnered with DC Health on capturing specific data needs
- Surveyed home visiting programs on compensation and benefits

DC HOME VISITING IN THE DISTRICT

Home Visiting Programs

Organization	Program	Model/ Curriculum	Target Population	Capacity	Funding Sources
Bright Beginnings Inc.	Home-Based Program	Parents as Teachers	Families, pregnant individuals, and children under age 3 experiencing homelessness	64 families at a time	Federal (Head Start), and private
CentroNía	Early Head Start	Early Head Start	Families with low incomes; pregnant women and families with children under age three; families experiencing homelessness with children under three; Bilingual and Spanish-speaking families	72 families at a time	Federal (Head Start), and private
Community Family Life Services	Parent Education and Home Visitation Program	Nurturing Parenting	Returning citizens reunified or seeking to reunify with their children; Parents experiencing homelessness or domestic violence	125 families annually	Local (CFSA)
Community of Hope	Healthy Families America Program	Healthy Families America	Pregnant individuals who live in Wards 7 and 8 or families experiencing homelessness with children under age 3	40 families at a time	Private
	Parents as Teachers Program	Parents as Teachers	Pregnant individuals who live in Wards 5, 7 and 8, or families experiencing homelessness with children under age 3	40 families at a time	Local (DC Health)
The Family Place	HIPPY Home Visiting	Home Instruction for the Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY)	Spanish-speaking and immigrant families with low incomes with children aged zero to six	50 families at a time	Federal (Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention grant)

Generation Hope	Next Generation Academy	Parents as Teachers	Student parents and their children from age zero to six	30 families annually	Private
Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development	Parenting Support Program	Parents as Teachers, Health and Wellness Curriculum	Parents with intellectual and developmental disabilities	40 families at a time	Local (DC Health)
Healthy Babies Project Inc.	Healthy Babies Project Home Visiting Program	Healthy Families America	Parenting youth with low incomes (young families under the age of 21 in the district) with children under 3 months	52 children at a time	Private
Mamatoto Village	Mothers Rising	Mothers Rising Model	Primarily Black, medicaid-eligible women and individuals living in the District and Maryland	300 families annually	Local (DC Health) and private
Martha's Table	Family Visiting	Early Head Start, Parents as Teachers	Families in Ward 7 and 8, as well as families in Wards 1-6 that may be deemed homeless	33 children at a time	Federal (Head Start)
Mary's Center	Healthy Families America Program	Nurse Family Partnership	First-time mothers with low incomes beginning before their 28th week of pregnancy	100 families at a time	Local (DC Health) and private
	Nurse Family Partnership of DC	Healthy Families America	Pregnant and postpartum families who are residents of DC and identified as high social and/or medical risk	120 families at a time	Federal (MIECHV), local (DC Health), and private
	Parents as Teachers Program	Parents as Teachers	Families throughout Washington DC with children under 5 years old, including pregnant and expecting caregivers	160 families at a time	Federal (MIECHV and Family First Prevention Services Act), Local (CFSA, DC Health)
	Father-Child Attachment Program	Parents as Teachers, 24/7 Dad®	Any caregiving masculine figure with a child under 5 years of age with no open CFSA cases	50 families at a time	Local (CFSA)

Rosemount Center	Home-Based Program	Parents as Teachers	Families with lower incomes with children under the age of three, including pregnant women and/or families who are experiencing homelessness	77 families at a time	Federal (Head Start) and private
United Planning Organization	Early Head Start Home-Based Program	Early Head Start, Parents as Teachers	Teen parents and expecting families, including families experiencing homelessness, immigrant families, families of children with special needs, and families with low incomes	84 families at a time	Federal (Early Head Start)

A green piggy bank with white daisies is on the left. On the right, a hand is dropping coins onto a white surface where many other coins are scattered. The coins are mostly silver, with a few gold ones.

How Home Visiting is Funded in DC

Home visiting programs in DC are funded through either federal, local, or private dollars (or a combination). In 2022, nine programs received private funding (typically from foundations or private donors) and fifteen programs received public funding, specifically eight programs receiving direct federal funding and nine receiving local funding or locally-administered federal funding. The breakdown of public funders is outlined below.

Local Funding

Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA)

- In FY2022, CFSA provided \$310,000 funding to two home visiting programs—Mary's Center's Father-Child Attachment Program and Community Family Life Services's Parent Education and Home Visitation Program. CFSA administered these funds through Community Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) funding. CFSA also funded \$50,000 to The Family Place's HIPPY Program as part of the Collaborative Solutions for Communities. The total local CFSA investment in home visiting is \$360,000.

Department of Health (DC Health)

- In FY2022, DC Health's locally funded home visiting programs were awarded \$1,893,260.21. Funding was granted to five home visiting programs, including Mary's Center's Nurse-Family Partnership Program, Mary's Center Healthy Families America Program, Georgetown University's Parenting Support Program, Community of Hope's Parents as Teachers Program, and Mamatoto Village: Perinatal Health Worker Training Program. Three of those five programs are funded as part of the Birth-to-Three for All DC law.
- Intra-District funds from the Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) for the amount of \$158,378 was provided to DC Health to fund Mary's Center - Parents as Teachers to support CFSA's Family First Program.

Federal Funding

Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV)

- The federal [MIECHV](#) program funds states and territories to develop and implement evidence-based home visiting programs that best meet the needs of their communities. DC Health continued to fund and oversee its DC MIECHV-funded programs: Mary's Center's Parents as Teachers and Healthy Families America. The DC MIECHV program was awarded \$1,272,298 in FY 2022 to support District families and \$22,176 in American Rescue Plan funding to support both DC MIECHV families and staff due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- At the end of FY 2022, the federal MIECHV program was reauthorized and passed by Congress to increase the amount of funding to states and territories for five years. This potential funding increase will be reflected in DC Health's budget starting in FY 2024.

Family First Prevention Services Act (Family First)

- The federal Family First Prevention Services Act ([Family First](#)) focuses on reforms to ensure children can stay safely with their families to avoid entering the foster care system. As mentioned above, CFSA diverts \$158,378 in Family First funds to DC Health, who administers a PAT program for pregnant and parenting teens.

Head Start and Early Head Start (Home-Based)

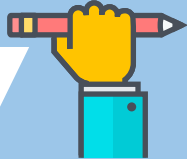
- Early Head Start programs are free, federally funded programs designed to promote school readiness for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers from families that meet income eligibility requirements. The Federal Administration of Children and Families' [Office of Head Start](#) directly funds five programs in the District, including Bright Beginning's Early Head Start Home-Based program, CentroNia's Early Head Start program, Martha's Table's Family Visiting program, Rosemount Center's Home-Based program, and United Planning Organization's Early Head Start Home-Based Program .



2022

HIGHLIGHTS OF DC HOME VISITING PROGRAMS

17



PROGRAMS
administered by
13 organizations

Programs served
1,374 families
in 2022



over
60%

HOLA!

OF PROGRAMS
can provide
services in Spanish

80%



OF PROGRAMS
experienced challenges
retaining and hiring staff



100%

OF PROGRAMS
offered a combination of
in-person and virtual
visits in 2022



Programs continue to see **changes in priorities** of families since the pandemic began, they struggled with:

FORMULA SHORTAGE

IMMEDIATE CRISIS INTERVENTIONS

INCOME FLUCTUATIONS

MENTAL HEALTH STRUGGLES

HOUSING INSTABILITY

MEDICAL CHALLENGES

HEIGHTENED NEEDS

SNAPSHOT OF WHAT PROGRAMS VIEW AS A MEASURE OF SUCCESS:



- Graduation from programs
- Goal achievement for family
- Number of completed home visits each month/multiple months / quarterly
- Successful completion of well child visits
- Graduation checklist
- Follow-up interview
- Outcomes
- Checkpoint measures on teaching strategies
- External and internal referrals
- Number of goals completed in school year

