

Home Visiting

CHILDREN THRIVE WHEN THEY HAVE SECURE ATTACHMENTS WITH ADULTS, AND STABLE, LOVING INTERACTIONS.

Home Visiting is a powerful, evidence-based approach to promote family resilience and connection. Home visiting matches parents with trained professionals who provide tailored, one-on-one parenting and health care education along with connections to community resources.

Orange County's current home visiting system has the capacity to support one in three families with home visiting related services. The capacity of the home visiting system is insufficient. There is a gap of about 10,000 moderate to high need newborns annually in OC who could benefit from home visiting related services.



THE FACTS

Home visiting is designed to support families where they are and be responsive to the needs and challenges that the families identify as most important. As a result, home visiting programs have far-reaching benefits including:



Pregnant women are more likely to access prenatal care and carry their babies to term



Women are less likely to demonstrate symptoms of depression and report an improved mental outlook



Children show improved language development, school performance and attendance, and gross motor skills



Families have fewer Child Protective Services reports and show more positive parenting practices and interactions with their children

Home visiting has a return on investment of \$1.80 to \$5.70 for every dollar spent (Michalopoulos et al., 2017)

"Home visiting has helped me identify the stages of development, my child's needs, the changes that occur because each child is different and, lastly, how to deal with daily challenges. There can be instances when you experience different things and they [home visitors] are there to support, listen to you, and let you know that you are not alone."

OC Home Visiting Participant

"Orange County home visitors provide a lifeline into a whole world of resources that families don't know are available, building lasting connections and walking alongside each family on their unique journey."

OC Home Visiting Provider



California recognizes home visiting as a critical component of the state's comprehensive early childhood system.

Since 2019, California has expanded access to home visiting through creation of the CalWORKs Home Visiting Program, dedication of state general funds to match federal funding, and the inclusion of home visiting as one of the evidence-based models in the California Prevention Act, California's answer to the federal mandate under the Families First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA).

THE NEED

According to the Roadmap for Resilience, the best-supported interventions for improving child and family outcomes are high-quality, voluntary home visiting programs for new parents to ensure they have the community support and services they need during a significant time of transition. Even with the significant expansion in state and local funding, home visiting remains a challenge for some families.

30% to 40% of all births in OC are moderate to high risk when considering an array of social and economic factors

Source: 2021 Strong Start Index (based on 2019 data and available community data.)

Orange County's current home visiting system has the capacity **1 in 3** of those families with home visiting related services

Source: First 5 OC staff projection based on available data.

Home visiting provides pregnant women and families, particularly those considered at-risk, necessary resources and skills to raise children who are physically, socially, and emotionally healthy and ready to learn.

To reach more families with the services they need, home visiting programs must be coordinated and integrated into other child development and family support systems.

STRATEGIES AND SOLUTIONS

OC Home Visiting Provider

First 5 Orange County is working with partners to:



- Support shared messaging to increase recruitment and marketing activities to broaden awareness and access to home visiting
- Elevate the voice of families in communicating the value of home visiting
- Recruit, train, and retain a quality workforce
- Invest in workforce training and development to meet the diverse needs of Orange County families
- Promote coordination amongst home visiting providers to build a county-wide home visiting system that can match families to the program best suited to their needs and evaluate countywide impact

We need your support with the following:



- Renewal and continued funding of the CalWORKs Home Visiting Program
- Continued investment in home visiting across multiple state programs (e.g., California Home Visiting Program, CalWORKs, Mental Health Services Act, California Youth Behavioral Health Initiative, etc.)
- Expansion of eligibility criteria to reach families that cannot access services due to eligibility barriers (e.g., based on income, geography, age, and/or risk profile)



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