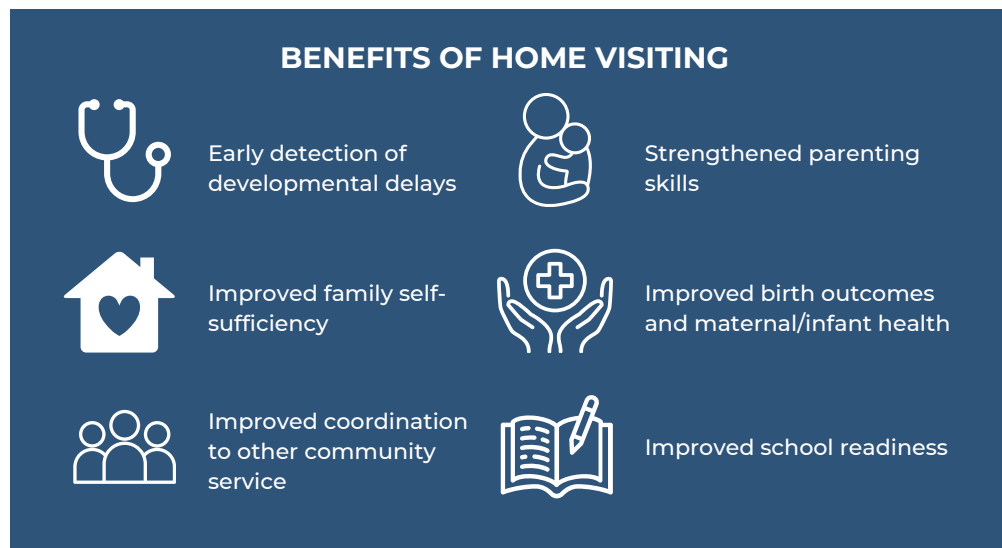


# BUDGET REQUEST: INCLUDE \$7.8M IN THE 2025-27 BUDGET SO THE TWO LARGEST HOME VISITING MODELS CAN CONTINUE SERVING FAMILIES

## WHAT IS HOME VISITING?

Home visiting is a voluntary, proven program where trained home visitors and parents work together to strengthen and support families in a child's first years of life.



## HOW DOES THE HOME VISITING SERVICES ACCOUNT WORK?

Created in 2010, the Home Visiting Services Account (HVSA) is a dedicated account where all federal and state home visiting funds are deposited. Today, the HVSA supports a total of 8 promising practice, research-based and evidence-based home visiting models.

Until July 1, 2024, the HVSA did not operate with a rates-based contracting system. Instead, individual home visiting programs negotiated a program-specific funding amount that largely stayed static from the time the program entered the HVSA. Because this approach was inequitable and made scaling home visiting services challenging, the Legislature directed the Home Visiting Advisory Committee to develop recommendations for sustainable funding for home visiting.

- **Inequitable.** The former contracting processes meant that programs were paid differently for doing the same work. Smaller, BIPOC-led, and organizations that serve the most diverse families, were often funded at the lowest amount without the ability to negotiate adjustments over time.
- **Unsustainable.** Further, the static nature of the contracting approach did not provide for reliable funding increases to support compensation adjustments to address workforce recruitment and retention challenges and to help organizations keep up with typical business expenses.

## WHY IS THIS FUNDING NEEDED?

In response to the sustainable funding recommendations, the Legislature provided a down payment of \$8.56M (\$2.02M state/\$6.54M federal) in the 2023-25 budget as an estimate of the true cost to provide home visiting services. Since 2023, the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) has undertaken a process of establishing rates in partnership with the home visiting models.

Starting July 1, 2024, three of the home visiting models have transitioned to rates-based contracting. This approach has enabled much needed contract adjustments, greater equity in compensation, and more scalable program administration.



DCYF's rate-setting process found a gap of \$7.8 million in biennial funding for the two largest home visiting models in our state – serving over 80% of families in Washington's home visiting system – Nurse-Family Partnership and Parents as Teachers to move to rates.

Without this funding, these home visiting programs may need to **reduce services to families** or the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) may need to **re-procure or restructure services** if programs are unable to continue serving families under the current inadequate funding structure. Because home visiting is a multi-year commitment, either scenario would lead to a **disruption in services to families**.

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**Organizations in Support:** Akin · Barnard Center for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health · Child Welfare Advocacy Coalition · Children's Alliance · ChildStrive · Foundation for Healthy Generations · HopeSparks · Kitsap Public Health District · Open Arms Perinatal Services · Parents as Teachers National Center · Partners for Our Children · Start Early Washington · Tacoma Pierce County Health Department · The National Service Office for Nurse-Family Partnership and Child First · Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence · WithinReach · WSALPHO