



To: Wisconsin Legislature
From: Children's Hospital of Wisconsin
Nurse-Family Partnership
Wisconsin Association of Family & Children's Agencies
Date: February 19, 2025
RE: **Expanding Home Visiting in Wisconsin – A strong investment for strong families**

Our organizations encourage you to invest \$5.2 million GPR in 2025-27 state budget to serve more families through Wisconsin's Family Foundations Home Visiting Program (FFHV). Currently, this effective, high impact service is only reaching a small portion of eligible families.

Increasing state funding will grow program access for rural, tribal, and other underserved regions of the state through which parent educators, registered nurses, social workers, and family support workers offer families weekly to monthly visits to support their ability to nurture their children. The amount of visiting support provided to the family is determined by risk and strength assessments, the program design and the duration of program enrollment based on funding constraints.

Current Investment. The FFHV program is currently available to only 2,165 families in 40 counties and 6 tribes. Thousands more families could benefit from this service. The 2020 Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Needs Assessment (MIECHV) found that about 71% of families estimated to be in need are not receiving home visiting services. Currently the \$16.8 million dollar program is supported by \$6.2 million TANF and \$1.9 million GPR, with the balance funded through the MIECHV federal block grant.

Return on Investment. Outcomes research has shown that each dollar invested in evidence-based home visiting programs can yield up to **\$5.70 in savings** in the long run. Long term cost savings include: reduced health services use (including emergency department visits), reduced costs of child protection services, decreased special education placements and grade repetition, which results in higher educational attainment and economic success later in life (Source: [NCSL](#), 3/22)

Evidence-Based Standard. The Wisconsin FFHV programs are voluntary for families and use intensive, nationally proven evidence-based models. The program models must meet a national standard of performance and systems outcomes and proven research. This built-in programmatic high bar ensures families receive supportive services and outcomes are met.

Statewide Support. Over the past several years, interest in the value of home visiting has grown significantly. During numerous legislative discussions on topics such as childhood obesity, foster care, and early interventions, home visiting has consistently emerged as a key primary prevention strategy, demonstrating its effectiveness in improving school readiness, increasing economic self-sufficiency, and reducing child maltreatment.

Reaching More Families. However you measure it, the need for home visiting services in the state far outpaces the current capacity. There are rural and tribal communities in the state with no access to home visiting services and other underserved regions of the state due to insufficient funding and service providers.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request.