

CCOHVS

Center for Coordinating
Oregon Home Visiting Systems



Early Childhood Home Visiting: Foundational Supports for Families & Babies

February 27, 2025

What is Early Childhood Home Visiting?

**Provides Early,
Voluntary Supports**

For all Parents

Earliest Developmental
Stage of Life

In Home Settings

By Trusted Nurses and
Other Skilled
Professionals

**Promotes Positive
Outcomes**

Parenting & Strong Early
Relationships

Physical & Mental Health
for Parents & Babies

Connects Families &
Babies to Community
Resources Early in Life

Saves Money Long-Term

Prevents Low Birth
Weight & Preterm Birth

Prevents Child Welfare
Involvement

Supports Family
Economic Self-Sufficiency

Home Visiting in Action

Hearing From Parents
& Home Visitors



DECADES OF RESEARCH SHOWS:

Prenatal & early childhood home visits help improve child and family outcomes, including:¹



Health



Safe, Nurturing
Families



Parenting



Mental Health



Family Self-sufficiency

Reduces impacts of early adverse experience & toxic stress

Builds resilience and positive early experiences

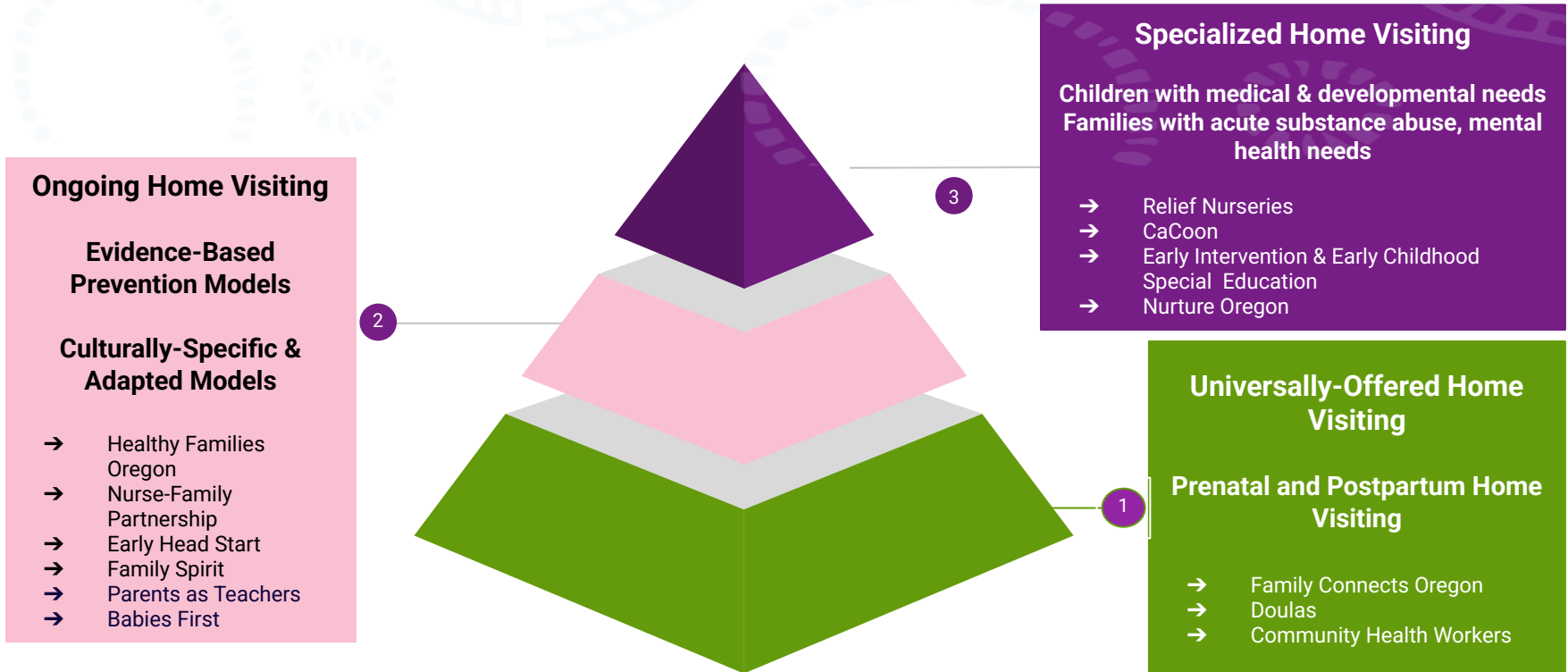
Supports parent-child attachment and infant mental health

Reduces social isolation, connects families to other supports as early as possible

Early benefits lead to long term success for children and families

¹ U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Home Visiting Evidence of Effectiveness, <https://homvee.acf.hhs.gov>

Diverse Families, Diverse Needs for Support



Ongoing Home Visiting

Evidence-Based Prevention Models

Culturally-Specific & Adapted Models

- Healthy Families Oregon
- Nurse-Family Partnership
- Early Head Start
- Family Spirit
- Parents as Teachers
- Babies First

Specialized Home Visiting

Children with medical & developmental needs
Families with acute substance abuse, mental health needs

- Relief Nurseries
- CaCoon
- Early Intervention & Early Childhood Special Education
- Nurture Oregon

Universally-Offered Home Visiting

Prenatal and Postpartum Home Visiting

- Family Connects Oregon
- Doulas
- Community Health Workers

Home Visiting in Oregon

~9100 Oregon families received Early Childhood Home Visiting in 2022-23



This is fewer than 1 in 20 families with children age 0-5



This is fewer than 1 in 5 families with 2 or more risk factors (e.g., poverty, teen parent, single parent, etc.)

Connecting Families With Home Visiting



4 Barriers to Access



1. AWARENESS & STIGMA

Families and partners don't know about or are suspicious of home visiting programs.



2. COMPLICATED SYSTEMS

Services are hard to find. There's no simple, clear entry point.



3. UNDER RESOURCED PROGRAMS & WORKFORCE

Programs lack capacity and struggle to hire and retain qualified staff.



4. INFORMATION GAPS

Funders lack data on family needs, making it hard to expand programs equitably.

"Make the service available to all families and promote it. I meet some moms who don't know anything about it and after I told them it's already too late for them to apply..."

— Parent in Oregon

"Parents are often isolated and feel like they are in this alone..."

— Parent in Oregon

"I wasn't sure I wanted someone coming into my house - were they going to judge me?"

— Parent in Oregon

"Our community needs more people out there showing other community members the services."

— Parent in Oregon

"Making more people aware of what [home visiting] actually means and does, so it's not intimidating."

— Parent in Oregon

2025 Home Visiting Priorities

Oregon Early Childhood Coalition
advocates for \$25.6 million
investment in home visiting to:

- Stabilize programs
- Reach more families

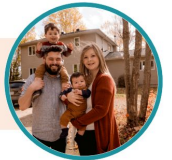
Fund Home Visiting



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.

Home visits help!
●●●●

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 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.

CCOHVS

Center for Coordinating
Oregon Home Visiting Systems

To Learn More Visit

The Center for Coordinating Oregon Home Visiting Systems (CCOHVS)

<https://sites.google.com/pdx.edu/ohvscc/home>

Oregon Health Authority (OHA) Nurse Home Visiting Programs

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/ph/healthypeoplefamilies/babies/homevisiting/pages/index.aspx>

Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) Home Visiting Programs

<https://www.oregon.gov/delc/programs/pages/default.aspx#Programs>

The Children's Institute

<https://childinst.org/homevisiting/>