

Home Visiting in Colorado: A Brief Overview

How is Home Visiting Defined in Colorado?

The Colorado Home Visitation Coalition defines home visiting as an effective service delivery strategy that promotes healthy child development, provides parenting support, and facilitates linkages to critical community services. Home visiting programs begin with the premise that the parent is the child's first and most important teacher and the home is the most influential learning environment.

Programs/Models Active in Colorado's Home Visitation Coalition

Program or Model <i>*=National Home Visiting Model</i>	# Sites/Reach	Current # Served	Year Began (in CO):
Promotion <i>(Programs that provide a limited number of visits to share important resources with families.)</i>			
Colorado Bright Beginnings	14 Regional Affiliates/All 64 Counties	17,000 Children	1995
Prevention: <i>(Programs that provide home visits for an extended period of time and include more intensive relationships between the home visitor and the family and have higher expectations for long term outcomes.)</i>			
Family Visitor Programs	1 Program/3 Counties	428 Families	1983
Baby Bear Hugs	1 Program/9 Counties	465 Families	1989
*HIPYP: Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters	6 Sites/8 Counties	796 Children	1989
*PAT: Parents as Teachers	35 Sites/36 Counties	2,689 Children	1989
*NFP: Nurse-Family Partnership	18 Sites/52 Counties	2,640 Children	1999
Intervention: <i>(Ongoing, intensive programs that typically involve actual treatment and address very high risk behaviors.)</i>			
FACES: Family Advocacy, Care, Education and Support	1 Program/6 Counties	428 Children	1974

How are State Systems for Home Visiting Defined in Colorado?

- Colorado has an active early childhood systems building initiative that is guided by the **Early Childhood Colorado Framework**. Home visiting is part of a broad continuum of services working across multiple domains to ensure that all of Colorado's young children are valued, healthy, and thriving.
- System level work of the CHVC includes advocacy for home visiting as an effective service delivery model for reaching hard-to-reach families; cross-program/model communication; cross-program/model coordination as appropriate.

Administration and Funding

- 1 Program Model (NFP) has a designated line item of State funding, which is administered through the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.
- All other Programs/Models are administered through statewide or local/regional organizations. There is no single dominant system for home visiting at the local level. Programs are housed in school districts, family resource centers, child care and Head Start agencies, early childhood councils, institutions of higher education, hospitals, divisions of local government, and other community-based nonprofit organizations. These programs receive funding from a variety of public and private sources (foundations, state and federal government grants, local public monies, and individual donors. Most local programs are juggling five to twelve different funding sources from a variety of funding agencies annually.

Key Stakeholders

- Colorado Home Visitation Coalition
- Colorado Early Childhood Partners (statewide/state level early childhood groups)
- Colorado's Early Childhood Funders
- Office of the Lt. Governor and Various State Agencies (Education, Health, Human Services)

State System Strengths

- **Early Childhood Colorado Framework** and **Framework in Action State Plan** that is comprehensive and inclusive of home visiting. Home visiting has been a welcomed and valued partner at state-level tables working on early childhood and family support issues.
- Colorado has had an active home visiting coalition since the mid-1980s.
- Very strong spirit of collaboration amongst home visiting and early childhood programs. HIPYP and PAT in Colorado share a state office (the Colorado Parent & Child Foundation), which shares space with the organization advancing NFP in Colorado (Invest in Kids).
- Continuum of models and programs to support a variety of families and their needs.