

# Nurse Home Visitation Medicaid Option

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## What it Means for Children and Families in Louisiana

Louisiana stands to gain \$38.9 million over 5 years and \$103.6 million over 10 years in additional federal Medicaid funding for nurse home visitation services under the Nurse Home Visitation Medicaid Option in Section 1713 of the Affordable Health Care for America Act (H.R. 3962).

### What is the Nurse Home Visitation Medicaid Option?

In many States, Medicaid covers most home visitation services performed by nurses through several different categories of service. However, in practice, States find it administratively burdensome to seek Medicaid reimbursement through multiple categories and some of the categories are not options within State Medicaid Plans. As a result, States that cover nurse home visitation in their Medicaid programs often elect to seek Medicaid reimbursement for only the subset of nurse services that fit into one category. The voluntary Medicaid Option corrects this problem by grouping all Medicaid-reimbursable nurse home visitation services into a new category that States may use to cover the full range of nurse home visitation services for first-time, Medicaid-eligible pregnant women and their infants through age 2.

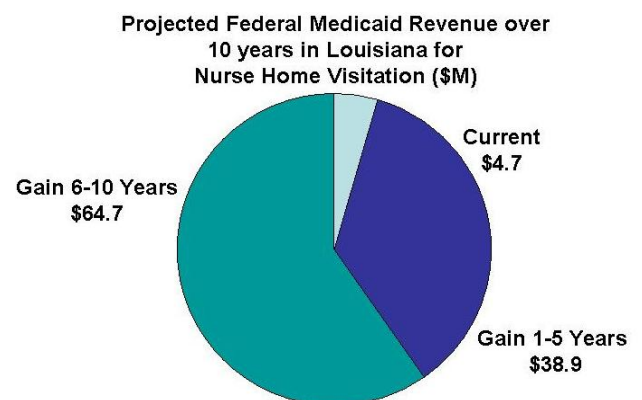
### Are Nurse Home Visitation Services Offered to Children & Families in Louisiana?

In Louisiana, Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) is administered by the Louisiana Office of Public Health (OPH), which coordinates the statewide implementation of this program in the following parishes: Acadia, Allen, Ascension, Assumption, Avoyelles, Beauregard, Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Calcasieu, Catahoula, Claiborne, Concordia, De Soto, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Evangeline, Franklin, Grant, Iberia, Iberville, Jackson, Jefferson Davis, Jefferson, Lafayette, Lafourche, La Salle, Lincoln, Livingston, Morehouse, Natchitoches, Ouachita, Orleans, Point Coupee, Rapides, Red River, Richland, Sabine, St. James, St. Helena, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne, Vermilion, Vernon, Washington, Webster, West Baton Rouge, West Feliciana, and Winn. Tulane University Department of Psychiatry is a strong State partner in implementing Louisiana's NFP program. Individual Nurse-Family Partnership sites are operated by parish health departments under the State Office of Public Health and by the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, Local Human Service Districts, Private and Parish Hospitals, and a School of Nursing. One team is operated by Medical Resources and Guidance, Inc. Louisiana currently uses Medicaid Targeted Case Management to partially fund NFP services. Louisiana has served over 6600 NFP clients since 1999; and currently has the enrollment capacity to serve 17% of the eligible first-time, at risk mothers annually. The Office of Public Health has called for expanding its statewide NFP initiative to reach 50% of eligible moms by 2013.

### What Additional Federal Medicaid Funding Could Louisiana Receive from Section 1713?

**Subject to availability of State and local matching funds, Section 1713 could provide Louisiana with \$38.9 million over 5 years and \$103.6 million over 10 years in additional federal Medicaid funds for nurse home visitation services.**

- The projections show a dramatic increase in federal Medicaid funds for nurse home visitation under this Option, more than 20 times the amount that Louisiana would receive based on its current Medicaid reimbursement, estimated at \$4.7 million over 10 years.



- These projections are based on a conservative projected increase from over 1,570 mothers enrolled in 2009 to 3,740 mothers enrolled in 2019.
- With more aggressive enrollment of families to reach 15% of Medicaid births statewide, or 5,580 mothers and children, the Medicaid Option would produce \$17.3 million annually in *additional* federal Medicaid funds for nurse home visitation services in Louisiana.

## Assumptions

1. Funding estimates are based on enrollment and cost projections for nurse home visiting services primarily provided by Nurse-Family Partnership. A range of other nurse home visiting programs may be eligible providers under the Medicaid Option, including the many nurse home visiting programs offered through State and local health departments.
2. State estimates are based on current State enrollment figures and growth projections based on the Congressional Budget Office's target Medicaid expenditures of \$800 million over 10 years for Section 1713.
3. A more generous estimate of additional federal Medicaid funding that is potentially available to States through this provision is also provided, based on more aggressive enrollment of 15% of Medicaid live births statewide. At that enrollment rate, 59% of Medicaid first-borns would be offered nurse home visiting services. Approximately 40% of Medicaid births are first births.
4. Projections of additional federal Medicaid reimbursement estimate that Medicaid will cover 65% of costs, which is higher than the percentage of costs currently covered by Medicaid in any State. Estimates of existing reimbursement rates are based on individual State estimates where available or a State average based on available data.
5. Enrollment estimates are based on the number of live births by state in 2006 and the percentage of births covered by Medicaid in 2003 (the most recent year available).
6. National average prices were adjusted to state estimates using the ACCRA price index – all items. (See US Statistical Abstract, Census Bureau.)

Source: Ted R. Miller, Ph.D., Pacific Institute for Research & Evaluation, Calverton, MD.