

Public Policy Update

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1900 Grant Street, Ste. 400 Denver, CO 80203 866.864.5266 www.nursefamilypartnership.org

Home Visitation Program Update:

President Obama's FY2010 Budget was released May 7 and outlines significant federal funding for a new evidence-based Home Visitation Program for low-income families. The FY2010 request is for \$124 million in new mandatory funding to establish a program "which will create long-term positive impacts for children and their families, as well as to generate long-term positive impacts for society as a whole."

- **Highlights of the President's Home Visitation Program include:**

- \$8.6 billion in Federal funding over 10 years
- \$124 million in FY2010 to serve an estimated 50,000 families
- Mandatory funds (as opposed to discretionary funds which are subject to annual approval)
- Matching grants to States and Territories
- Formula grants distributed to all States and Territories (as opposed to competitive grants to individual grantees)
- Target population is low-income mothers, pregnant women and young children (with support indicated for including fathers in programs)
- Program located in the Administration for Children and Families
- Program supports a wide range of home visitation models, and will give priority to models that have been rigorously evaluated and shown to have positive effects on critical outcomes for families and children.
 - Grant funds will primarily fund program models that have strong research evidence demonstrating effectiveness. Technical assistance, monitoring and evaluation for these programs would focus on ensuring fidelity to the models, and evaluating effectiveness of these models as conditions change over time.
 - Additional funds will support promising programs, such as programs based on models with some research evidence of effectiveness and adaptations of previously evaluated programs.
- Includes maintenance of effort requirement to ensure that Federal funds do not replace existing State spending.
- Grantees must demonstrate how they will ensure fidelity to the proven model they choose to implement.
- Program includes a set-aside of not less than 5 percent for training and technical assistance, research and evaluation, monitoring, and administrative support.
- Notably, the budget identifies \$664 million in savings to Medicaid over 10 years from this Program, including \$189 million in 2019, resulting from NFP's reduction in pre-term births, emergency room use, and subsequent births. When this Program is scored by the Congressional Budget Office, they will have the opportunity to identify additional offsets to pay for the Home Visitation Program, including savings from Food Stamps and additional savings from Medicaid.
- Program is expected to scale up gradually to reach an estimated 450,000 families in FY2019.

More details on the Home Visitation Program can be found on the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) web site at:

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/olab/budget/2010/sec3f_nhv_2010cj.pdf



Nurse-Family Partnership® applauds President Obama’s home visitation initiative to provide mandatory funding for evidence-based home visitation programs that have been rigorously evaluated and shown to have positive effects on critical outcomes for families and children. Nurse-Family Partnership also commends the President’s initiative for providing research and development funds to incentivize all home visitation programs to improve the effectiveness of their services to meet the growing needs of vulnerable children and families. This bold initiative will have a lasting impact on millions of pregnant women and children, giving them a healthy beginning in life and guiding them and their families along a healthy and more prosperous course that will yield benefits to their communities and our nation.

As the relevant Congressional Committees design legislation to authorize the new Home Visitation Program, Nurse-Family Partnership looks forward to serving as a resource to policy makers in fleshing out how the program will be structured. We believe that President Obama’s bold initiative will have a lasting impact on millions of pregnant women and children, giving them a healthy beginning in life and guiding them and their families along a healthy and more prosperous course that will yield benefits to their communities and our nation.