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Media Contact:

Julian Kesner
303.865.8408

julian.kesner@nursefamilypartnership.org

Health Care Reform Creates Strong Expansion Opportunity for Nurse-Family Partnership

DENVER, CO (Mar. 23, 2010) — President Obama’s signature this morning on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (H.R. 3590) generates a new \$1.5 billion federal funding stream that can help expand Nurse-Family Partnership® (NFP), an evidence-based [community health care program](#) serving the needs of [first-time mothers](#) and their children who are living in poverty.

The home visitation grant provision in H.R. 3590 appropriates \$1.5 billion over five years (available starting this fiscal year) to states to provide proven, evidence-based home visitation programs such as NFP. States must meet certain benchmarks over time with families enrolled in these programs, such as improving maternal and child health and development, school readiness, and economic sufficiency; and reducing child abuse, neglect and injuries, juvenile delinquency, and health and educational disparities. The Nurse-Family Partnership program already has been proven to produce these outcomes through more than 30 years of testing in randomized, controlled trials across diverse settings.

“This innovative grant program adds a new element to the bipartisan political support that Nurse-Family Partnership has received for decades at the national, state and local levels,” said Thomas R. Jenkins, Jr., president & CEO. “We are grateful to members of Congress and President Obama for their support of this grant program. It will make a profound difference by enabling us to work with communities to deliver this proven program to help even more mothers and their children who are living in poverty.”

Nurse-Family Partnership is a nurse-led, [evidence-based community health](#) program that pairs registered nurses with first-time, low-income mothers for home visits from pregnancy until the child turns two. The NFP program relies on locally-employed registered nurses (RNs), and participation is voluntary for the mother. In addition to helping many more vulnerable families set and achieve their goals nationwide, this new federal funding is expected to create new jobs for RNs in hundreds of communities.

President Obama first introduced the prospect of direct federal funding for nurse home visitation in his Fiscal Year 2010 budget. NFP currently serves approximately 20,000 families in 32 states. Estimates show that every year, there are more than 500,000 first-time, low-income American families who could benefit from such services.

About Nurse-Family Partnership

The Nurse-Family Partnership National Service Office is committed to producing enduring improvements in the health and well being of low-income, first-time parents and their children by helping communities implement and sustain an evidence-based program of home visiting by registered nurses. Nurse-Family Partnership is the most rigorously tested program of its kind. Randomized, controlled trials conducted over 30 years demonstrate multi-generational outcomes that benefit society economically and reduce long-term social service expenditures. Nurse-Family Partnership is headquartered in Denver, Colorado. For more, visit www.nursefamilypartnership.org and www.twitter.com/NFP_nursefamily.

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