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What We Do

We provide national, state and community advocates with sound policy information and outreach strategies with a goal of promoting greater investment in effective home visiting services for young children and families across our nation. The Community of Practice (CoP) convenes every other month for webinars and discussions on pressing topics, and keeps members informed through advocacy alerts and other resources.

Membership Snapshot

The 2023-24 CoP cycle kicked off with an effort to deepen our understanding of who our members are and how they support the home visiting field.

- The CoP maintains an email list of over 1,300 home visiting professionals, advocates, systems leaders, state administrators, and other policy constituents across the country.
- In February 2023, the CoP completed a membership survey.
- The majority of respondents positively view participation in the CoP:
 - 94% reported being given access to resources
 - 91% reported being provided new tools, methods 94%
 - reported new skills and knowledge
 - 83% reported making professional connections
 - 93% reported being provided activities/interactions relevant to their work
- Only 13% of respondents identified themselves primarily as advocates, with respondents reporting they did direct service as home visitors or doulas, worked for state agencies, were funders, or were involved with research/academia.
- Almost half of respondents operate at the local level (versus state).
- Approximately half reported doing advocacy in their roles. About 63% reported participating in a network or coalition dedicated to advancing home visiting, including in state and local contexts.

Spotlight on Key Lessons Learned

Each year, the CoP works to build a series of webinars that meet the ever-changing needs of the home visiting advocacy field. There were a handful of stand-out takeaways from the 2023 webinar cycle. If you missed any of last year's sessions, you can catch up on all the recorded content on Start Early's CoP website.



May 2023: Fiscal strategies including cost modeling, and fiscal mapping with Courtney Moore, Senior Policy Associate, and Amelia Vaughn, Co-Director of Research Capacity, from the Children's Funding Project



July 2023: Family First Prevention Services Act and opportunities for state systems with Kelly Woodlock, Vice President of National Home Visiting at Start Early and Clare Anderson, Senior Policy Fellow at Chapin Hall



January 2023: Strategic messaging and tactics for communicating about 0-3 issues with conservative lawmakers with Allyson Frazier from Voices for Healthy Kids.

Celebrating Policy Wins from CoP Member States

In August 2023, CoP members convened to cheer on legislative and administrative policy wins from the last year that have helped strengthen their state home visiting systems and services. Here are just a few highlights shared during the celebration:



Michigan gained new school aid funding for home visiting and produced a comprehensive fiscal analysis that focused on home visiting called the True Cost of Early Childhood that will drive policy and budgetary asks for FY25.



Washington saw a new partnership between Seattle/King County's Best Starts for Kids (BSK, the City of Seattle, and United Way of King County) to support the Home-Based Services across King County, WA with a 3-year, \$34 million investment.



Georgia won \$1.7 million to support a home visiting pilot in Northeast and Southeast rural Georgia to integrate medical care into home visits using community health workers.



Illinois codified the state's home visiting program under the Department of Human Services and secured a \$5 million for evidence-based home visiting programs.



Pennsylvania advocates worked on legislation to support student parents who need to pump milk while in school and launched the Coalition for Lactation-Friendly Schools.



California codified the California Home Visiting Program, a voluntary program originally created administratively under the State Department of Public Health.



Oregon committed to statewide expansion of universally offered nurse home visits for new parents (Family Connects).



New Jersey passed a new law to provide universal newborn home visits (Family Connects) and increased funding for existing intensive home visiting services.

Launching the CoP Advisory Group

In 2023, the CoP launched an advisory group to strengthen the CoP experience through brainstorming content and engagement activities. The advisory helps design annual programming and supports the CoP by shaping the vision for learning opportunities, recommending webinar topics and key speakers, and serving as ambassadors for new members. CoP members who are interested in participating in the 2024-2025 Advisory Group cohort can reach out by email to Kayla and Michelle, CoP facilitators.

Mapping Home Visiting Coalitions

Throughout 2023, CoP worked to catalog home visiting advocacy organizations and coalitions/networks/taskforces that support coordination in state home visiting policy efforts. Our survey yielded 27 responses covering 13 states. Among respondents, 71% percent of respondents participate in a statewide coalition; 14% participate in a local coalition; and 15% participate in a regional or county specific coalition. You can still fill out the survey by scanning this QR code:

