

# PRESERVE AND PROTECT VOLUNTARY HOME VISITING: SUPPORTING THRIVING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Voluntary home visiting programs connect Washington families with the education and supports they need to thrive – especially in times of hardship. Home visiting is a voluntary, proven program that makes it possible for trained educators and families to work together to identify and meet the needs of our state's youngest families.

## WHAT IS HOME VISITING?

Home Visitors develop trusting relationships with parents during in-home visits, bringing engaging activities and information about prenatal and infant care, child development, and ideas to support parents' new skills and relationships to their children.

Research shows this close partnership between parents and home visitors results in positive early learning experiences and parent-child interactions. This multi-generational approach has the power to positively change the trajectory of an entire family.



**Home visiting focuses on birth to age three. More than 85% of children served by HVSA funded home visiting services are under the age of three (Source: [DCYF](#)).**

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF HOME VISITING?

Voluntary home visiting programs contribute to improved child and family outcomes, such as:

	Early detection of developmental delays		Improved coordination to other community service		Strengthened parenting skills
	Improved family self-sufficiency		Improved birth outcomes and maternal/infant health		Improved school readiness

## WHO QUALIFIES FOR HOME VISITING?

Eligibility is currently defined as families at or below 200% of the federal poverty level (\$53,300 for a family of three), with a child age 5 or younger. Less than 10% of eligible families receive home visiting from federal, state and local funding sources.

"My home visiting program not only focuses on the development of the child, but also the mom. Our relationship with our home visitor Jessica is really unique ... she's very engaged and she's just there in the sense that she's always gone above and beyond for us ... Home visiting has set me up for success in the future because it has provided me with the proper tools and knowledge to pass on to my daughter Michelle for her development. I will forever and eternally be grateful, and it's something that I'm going to take away forever."

- Parent

## HOW IS HOME VISITING FUNDED IN WASHINGTON STATE?

Created in 2010, the Home Visiting Services Account (HVSA) is a dedicated account where all federal and state home visiting funds are deposited. Today, the HVSA supports a total of 8 community-based, research-based and evidence-based home visiting models. This portfolio approach of models focusing on early learning, child welfare, health and other prevention programs help meet the varying needs of families with young children.

### TOTAL YEARLY FUNDING

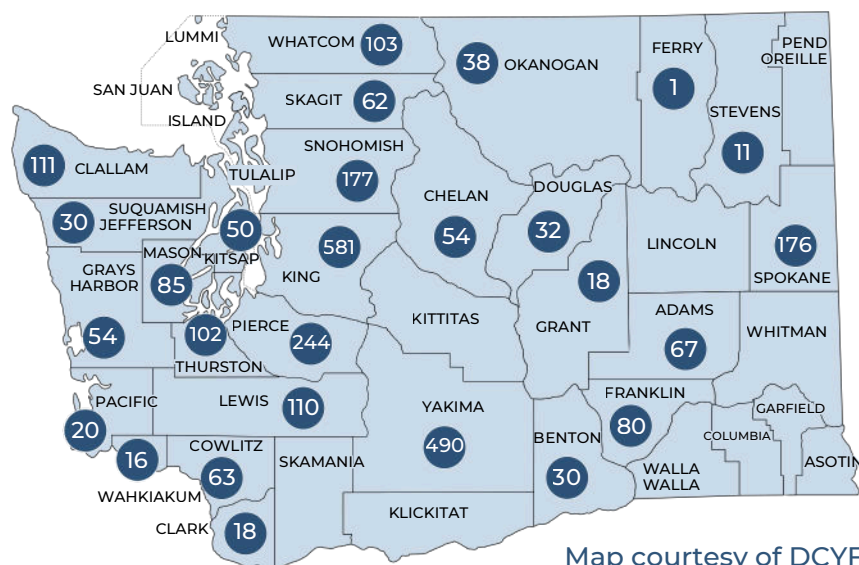
**State: \$17.2 million\***

**Federal: \$12 million**

**Total: \$29.2 million**

\*Various sources

## FEDERAL AND STATE FUNDED HOME VISITING SLOTS IN WASHINGTON



Map courtesy of DCYF

**Total Families:**

**2,823\***

\*Another 6,000+ families receive home visiting services outside of the HVSA

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For more information, please contact Erica Hallock at [ehallock@startearly.org](mailto:ehallock@startearly.org)

**Organizations supporting the Home Visiting Advocacy Coalition:** Barnard Center for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health, Benton-Franklin Health District, Children's Alliance, ChildStrive, Clark County Public Health, Nurse-Family Partnership, Partners for Our Children, Perigee Fund, Snohomish County Early Learning Coalition, Start Early Washington, Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials, Washington State Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence, Whatcom County Health and Community Services, WithinReach