

A photograph of three young children in a playroom, overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The children are standing around a table with various toys, including alphabet blocks, an abacus, and a ball. The text 'Home Visiting Investment Task Force Recommendations' is centered over the image in a white, bold, sans-serif font.

# Home Visiting Investment Task Force Recommendations



**COLORADO**  
Department of Human Services



## Home Visiting Investment Plan

### Purpose

To strengthen family capacity and maximize children's development potential across Colorado.

### Method

The plan will scale a continuum of culturally and linguistically appropriate evidence-based home visiting services and other family - strengthening supports. Colorado families will have access to the home visiting services that most benefit them and their communities.

### Outcome

When fully implemented and funded, a minimum of **1700 additional families will receive home visiting services (a 20% increase)** over the next five years.



# Defining **Home Visiting**

**Home Visiting programs are national evidence-based programs that support families and children from birth to age six in their own home.**

**Families enrolled in home visiting programs demonstrate:**

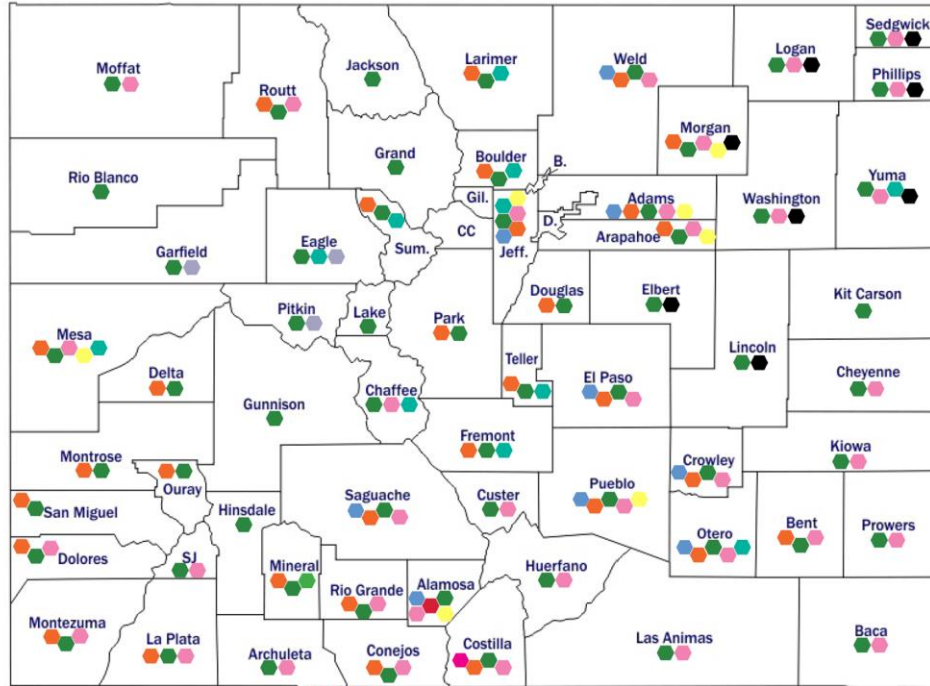
- Reduced child maltreatment
- Improvements in child health
- Increased maternal health
- Improved positive parenting practices
- Increased knowledge of child development
- Improved financial health and economic self sufficiency
- Less family violence

# Home Visiting Landscape

- Colorado has seven evidence-based home visiting models being implemented.
  - SafeCare Colorado
  - Nurse-Family Partnership
  - Parents as Teachers
  - Early Head Start and Home-Based Head Start
  - HealthySteps
  - Home Instruction for the Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY)
  - Healthy Families America
- There are also several locally developed home visiting programs.
- In addition, there are efforts underway to bring two additional evidence-based programs - *Child First* and *Family Connects*.
- These programs are all different based on who they serve, duration, content covered, and intended outcomes.



# Home Visiting Coverage Map



County Coverage: Denver (D) ●●●●●  
 Gilpin (Gil) ●●  
 Clear Creek (CC) ●●  
 Broomfield (B) ●●

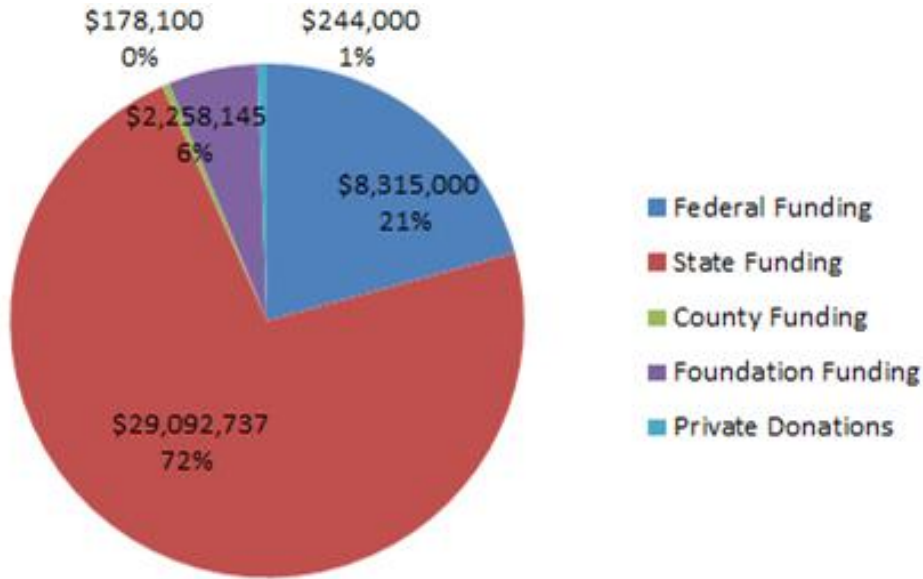
Note: Seven metro counties, including Denver County, have been discussing ChildFirst®.

Home Visiting programs are available in all Colorado counties and reach over **10,000** families per year.

Even with these programs, only a small percentage of families (3-8% of families at any time) are served due to lack of resources, eligibility criteria, and difficulty accessing the right services at the right time based on family need.

- The home visitation programs funded by the State of Colorado are:
- Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters ([HIPPY](#)) ●
  - Parents as Teachers ([PAT](#)) ●
  - Nurse Family Partnership ([NFP](#)) ●
  - [SafeCare® Colorado](#) ●
  - [HealthySteps®](#) ●
  - Early Head Start, Early Head Start-Home Based Option ([EHS-HBO](#)) ●
  - [Healthy Families America](#) ●
  - [Baby Bear Hugs](#) ●

# Existing Funding Landscape



Total: \$40,087,982

In 2019, the investment amount of \$40,087,982 is aggregated funding (Government - Federal, State, and Local - and Foundation) for evidence-based home visiting models and other known programs.

*This baseline number is comprehensive but not exhaustive. The estimate did not include all Medicaid reimbursements for all programs or county investment in locally developed home visiting programs.*

# Task Force Process

- Created by the Early Childhood Leadership Commission (ECLC) **to address the scaling of home visiting services in Colorado**
- Meetings occurred twice-monthly from November 2020 through April 2021
- **Six subcommittees were created** to develop the recommendations within the plan
- Parent representatives were invited to participate in the task force
  - A survey (in English and Spanish) **received 1,431 responses**
  - A focus group consisting of **13 parent participants** was held
- All materials, the final plan and the charge are available on the [ECLC website](#).



# Task Force Members

**Rebecca Alderfer** - Zoma Foundation

**Carsten Baumann** - Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

**Melissa Buchholz** - Assuring Better Child Health & Development

**Megan Burch** - Eagle County Human Services

**Katherine Casillas** - Kempe Center

**Alexa Chenoweth** - Parent Representative

**Heather Craiglow** - Colorado Department of Human Services

**Deborah Daro** - Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago

**Kelly Dougherty** - Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

**Kendra Dunn** - Colorado Department of Human Services

**Samantha Espinoza** - Colorado Children's Campaign

**Courtney Everson** - Colorado Evaluation and Action Lab, University of Denver

**Senator Rhonda Fields** - Colorado Senate, Co-Chair

**Brooke Greenky** - Colorado

Department of Health Care Policy and Financing

**Scott Groginsky** - Office of the Governor

**Kristina Heyl** - Early Childhood Leadership Commission

**Lisa Hill** - Invest in Kids

**Katelyn Lammie** - Caring for Colorado

**Jenny Lerner** - Colorado Department of Education

**Lesa Nesbit** - Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation

**Ida Rhodes** - Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Pueblo, Co-Chair

**Christy Scott** - Colorado Department of Human Services

**Ruth Seedorf** - Baby Bear Hugs

**Amanda Smith** - Parent Representative

**Sandra Swanson** - Family Visitor Programs

**Kellie Teter** - Denver Health

**Heather Tritten** - Parent Possible

**Sherri Valdez** - Early Childhood Council San Luis Valley

**Jade Woodward** - Illuminate Colorado





# Parent Feedback

Results of the survey and focus group included the following areas of improvement identified by families:

- Help **building social capital** would be appreciated
- Desire for **system coordination** so that data gathering did not have to be repeated
- Parents were primarily offered home visiting through medical facilities, reporting the **trusted relationships** at those facilities was beneficial
- There is a need for **marketing to increase awareness**
- Recommended **including fathers, partners, spouses and other family members** in programming and visits.



# Strategies

## Availability and Collaboration

Expand capacity by 20% to reach additional families based on an analysis of gaps and opportunities for expansion

Extend access to culturally and linguistically appropriate family services by using diverse means of service delivery

Create systems to provide all new parents the opportunity to discuss concerns and learn about resources by capitalizing on formal and informal sources of support.

## Coalition and Advocacy

Establish a broad coalition of home visiting support across the early childhood system in Colorado

Advocate for the expansion of MIECHV funding during reauthorization

Develop consistent messaging stakeholders can use to educate and raise awareness of home visiting needs and services

Host an annual “Home Visiting Awareness Day” at the Colorado State Capitol

# Strategies

## Financing and Funding Opportunities

Grow and diversify investments in home visiting utilizing private, local, state and federal resources

Explore tax and fee structures to support early childhood and family outcomes

Align COVID-19 stimulus funding with implementation plan

## Innovation and Learning from COVID-19

Expand virtual home visiting service delivery and improve access for families

Link existing efforts and identify strategies for cross-agency data sharing for families receiving home visiting services

Bring together existing evidence-based models and emergent home visiting practices to better meet multiple family needs

# Strategies

## **Outreach, Marketing and Awareness**

Hire an outreach and engagement coordinator to increase family and partner knowledge

Create home visiting family advocates to increase the capacity of parents to build social capital

Create shared messaging for community use

## **Qualified Workforce**

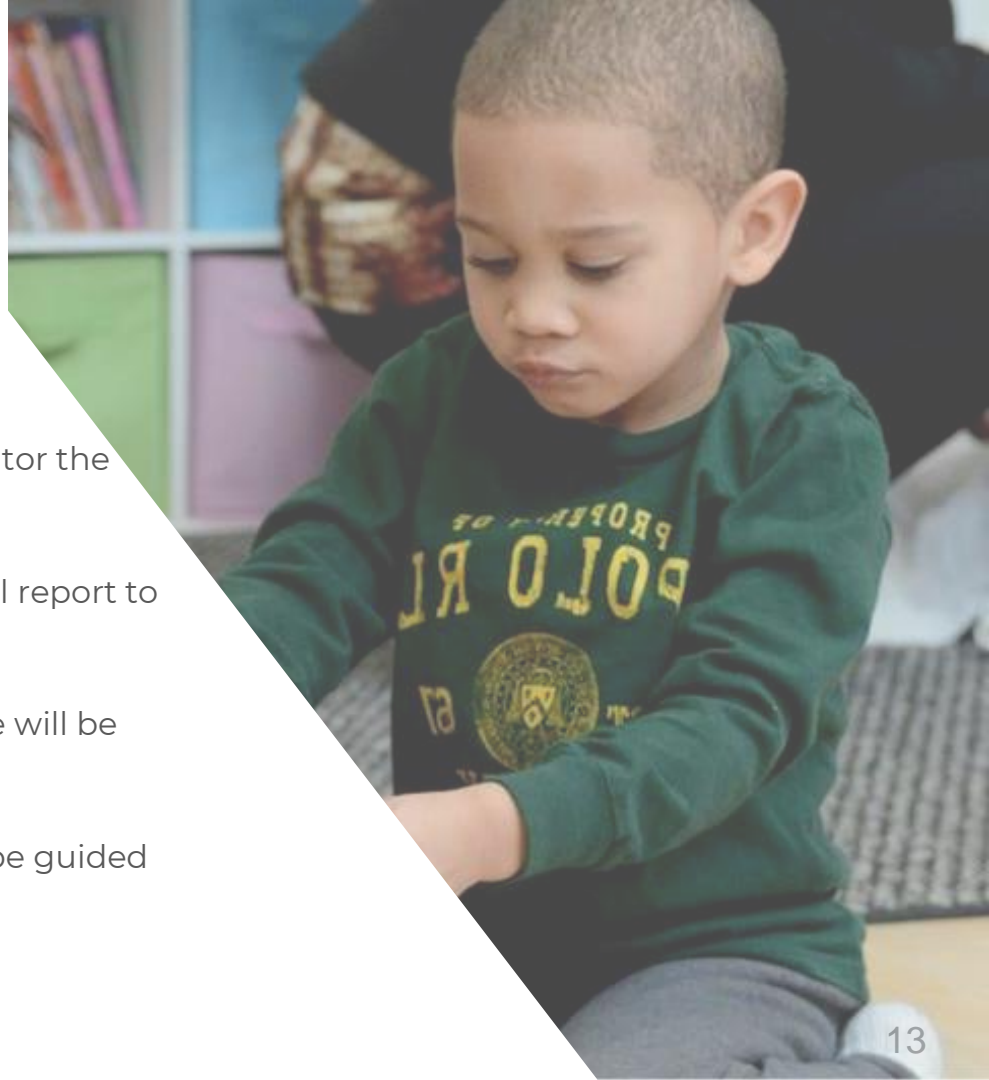
Increase the benefits and compensation for home visitors

Support efforts to recruit and train a diverse workforce

Increase workforce retention by elevating home visitor voices and expanding strategies to promote professional and personal wellbeing

# Implementation Steps

- The ECLC will annually reauthorize the home visiting task force to oversee implementation
- A robust implementation plan is being developed
- The home visiting investment task force will monitor the future implementation
- The home visiting task force will submit an annual report to the ECLC
- Staffing and facilitation support for the Task Force will be provided by CDHS
- All future state investments in home visiting will be guided by the Investment Plan



# Conclusion

When this plan has been fully implemented:

- Home visiting services will be **expanded and offered in culturally-appropriate ways**
- Increased advocacy and partnerships will result in **more consistent service provision**
- Streamlined funding will allow for **maximum utilization of funds**
- Embracing **innovations will allow for further reach and impact**
- **Consistent, shared messaging** will align Colorado behind supporting home visiting
- A minimum of **1,700 additional families** will be engaged in home visiting annually.



A photograph of three young children in a classroom. On the left, a young boy with curly hair is seen from the side, wearing a white shirt and denim overalls. In the center, a young girl with long hair and a white headband is wearing a white shirt and denim overalls, holding a pink ribbon. On the right, another young boy is seen from the side, wearing a red shirt and denim overalls. The background shows a classroom with shelves of toys, including alphabet blocks and a ball, and a wall with letters 'B' and 'D' in framed boxes. The entire image has a light blue overlay.

# Questions?

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**COLORADO**  
Department of Human Services