



## CONVERSATIONS WITH ADVOCATES AND FUNDERS

Early engagement with families and expectant mothers yields more prepared parents, healthier babies, and developmentally strong children. Every dollar invested in home visiting yields up to a \$9.50 return to society.

### What is home visiting?

Home visiting pairs expectant and new families with trained and trusted professionals to ensure parents receive support and babies get off to a good start. Home visits are free to families.

### What does a home visit look like?

Home visits are regular meetings with a trained family-support professional or volunteer in the family's home or at a place and time that is convenient for the family. The frequency of visits depends on the family's needs — they can be weekly or as little as once a month, and usually last about an hour. As a home visitor gets to know the family, they provide information about local services and provide materials that can help meet the family's needs. They can also answer questions about pregnancy and parenting and help the family prepare for a new baby.

### What are the benefits?

The cost savings and return on investment (ROI) for evidence-based home visiting programs are significant. According to a Pew Charitable Trusts study, every dollar invested in home visiting yields up to a \$9.50 return to society. Early experiences shape brain development in the first years of life, forming the foundation on which everything else is built. Home visiting in a baby's life can improve her lifelong health, educational and economic outcomes. Home visiting has been shown to increase school readiness, improve maternal and child health, reduce incidents of child abuse and neglect, decrease the incidence of low birth weight babies, keep families together, and promote family self-sufficiency.

### What are the qualifications of home visitors?

All home visitors are trained to help families with young children. Training subjects include child health and safety, pregnancy preparation, infant and child development, parent-child interaction, etc. Each home visiting program has training and educational requirements ranging from a high school diploma to a college degree. All home visitors have a criminal background check before being hired.

### What can the advocate or funder do to help?

- Consider Kansas Home Visiting programs when making funding decisions
- Assist Kansas Home Visiting in sustainability planning
- Let the funding you provide make a profound future impact on your community
- Spread the word and advocate for home visiting programs

### Contact us for more information:

