

Voluntary home visiting gives parents and children a boost, even before birth.



Data-driven policies and investments in high-quality parent education start a positive chain reaction resulting in stronger families.

Some of our nation's costliest social problems—like child abuse and neglect, school failure, poverty and crime—are rooted in early childhood. Increasingly, states are turning to proven strategies like high-quality home visitation to prevent them.

Nearly all states have some investment in home visiting programs, which match new parents with trained professionals to provide information and mentoring during pregnancy and through their child's first three years: a critical developmental period.

In FY10, states made available more than \$1.4 billion to home visitation. Over the next five years, states investing in the highest quality home visiting programs will be eligible for \$1.5 billion in federal grants.

Are families and taxpayers getting their money's worth?

With scarce public dollars at stake—and growing pressure to invest in what works—state leaders must adopt a data-driven policy approach to home visiting funding, administration and accountability to provide the best outcomes for families and returns for taxpayers.

The highest quality home visiting programs, over time, yield returns of up to \$5.70 per public dollar spent. These savings are realized as reduced mental health and criminal justice costs, decreased dependence on welfare and increased participant employment.

The Pew Home Visiting Campaign promotes smart state and federal policies and investments in high-quality, home-based programs for new and expectant families. In 2011, we are partnering with policy makers and stakeholders in Iowa, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Ohio, South Carolina and Tennessee to help America's most vulnerable families help themselves by gaining access to proven home visiting services.

www.pewcenteronthestates.org/homevisiting