



**BETTER WORLDS
START WITH
GREAT
FAMILIES**

AND GREAT FAMILIES START WITH US



Testimony before the
Children, Families, Health, and
Human Services Interim Committee
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What is Home Visiting?

Voluntary, proven service

Trained home visitors, such as nurses or parent educators

Expecting parents and parents of young children

Build self-sufficiency and stable, healthy futures



Montana Home Visiting Programs and Outcomes

- Early Head Start, Home-Based Option
- Family Spirit
- Healthy Families America
- Nurse-Family Partnership
- Parents as Teachers
- SafeCare Augmented



Improved Parenting Practices



Early Detection of Developmental Delays



Reduced Child Abuse & Neglect



Improved Maternal & Child Health



Improved Coordination with Community Services



Improved School Readiness



Reduced Crime & Domestic Violence



Improved Family Economic Self-sufficiency

Home Visiting During COVID-19

- Home Visitors have pivoted to telehealth and virtual visits
- Program report strong retention and continued enrollment
- Crucial link of support for families facing economic challenges and increased isolation





Nurse-Family Partnership

- Evidence-based, community health program
- Key goals of
 - Improving pregnancy outcomes
 - Improving child health and development
 - Improving economic self-sufficiency for families

How It Happens

EXPERTS:

BSN nurses with over 100 hours of additional education

INTENSIVE:

Pregnancy through age 2

PROVEN:

Extensive and compelling evidence

TIMELY:

First 1000 days



NFP Outcomes on Child Welfare

- 48% reduction in state-verified cases of child abuse and neglect
 - 56% reduction in emergency room visits for injury/ingestion
 - 39% fewer healthcare encounters for injuries or ingestions in the first two years of life among children born to mothers with low psychological resources
 - 59% reduction in arrests by child age 15
 - 33% fewer arrests among female children at age 19
 - 46% increase in father presence in household by child age 4
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NFP Outcomes in Montana

For every 1,000 families served in MT, NFP is predicted to produce the following outcomes:



- Smoking in pregnancy ↓25%
- Pregnancy-induced hypertension ↓33%
- Closely spaced births (15 months postpartum) ↓25%



- Emergency department use for childhood injuries ↓34%
- Full immunization ↑14%
- Language delay ↓41%



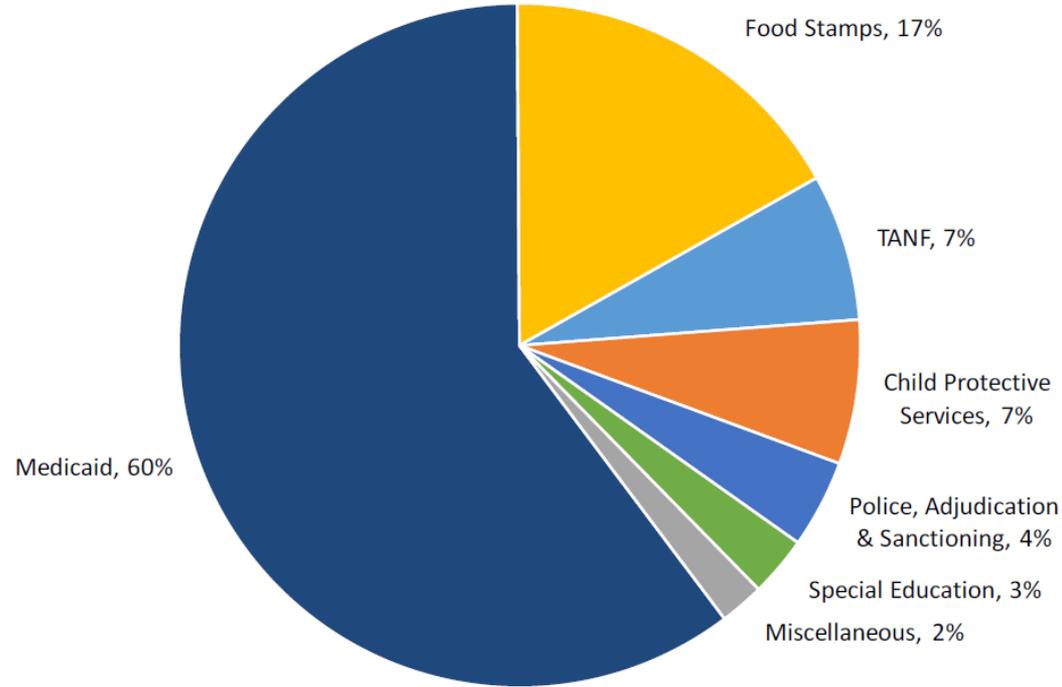
- First pre-term births ↓15%
- Infant mortality ↓48%
- Moms who attempt breastfeeding ↑12%



- TANF payments ↓7% (13 years post-partum)
- Person-months on Medicaid ↓8% (15 years post-partum)
- Costs if on Medicaid ↓12% (through age 18)

NFP Return on Investment in Montana

By a child's 18th birthday, state and federal cost savings due to NFP are predicted to average **\$32,091 per family served** or **3.7 times the cost of the program**



Need for State Funding for Evidence-Based Home Visiting

- Funded primarily with federal dollars
- 1,478 Montana families were served through home visiting in 2018. This is only **2.6% of the 56,000 pregnant women and families** who could benefit from home visiting.
- State dollars will allow services to expand to counties and families not currently served.
- Potential to **leverage state dollars to increase federal funding through Medicaid**





QUESTIONS?

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