

# Early Childhood Home Visitation Services

Health Equity Council

## Executive statement

Home Visitation is an evidence-based approach to supporting families during pregnancy and early childhood. The city of Albuquerque can play an essential role in promoting awareness and reducing gaps.

## Background

Early childhood home visitation programs provide direct support to families by connecting them to early childhood specialists, social workers, and nurses. Services are provided at locations and hours convenient to the families to reduce access burdens.

Pregnancy and early childhood years are critical developmental stages that set the foundations for health and wellbeing through the rest of life. At such optimal stages, home visitors provide families screening, case management, support, and caregiver skills training.

Home visitation has been proven to prevent Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs); positively impact the health and wellbeing of the child and parents; increase preschool enrollment and readiness; promote healthy behaviors; help parents attain educational, professional, and personal goals; increase individual and family resilience; and increase parents' access to services. As a primary prevention tool, it helps prevent lifelong diseases and behavioral issues.

## Recommendations

### Recommendation 1: Normalizing Home Visitation

Work with medical and social services agencies to ensure all families receive referrals to home visitation services.

### Recommendation 2: Partnering with Early Childhood Experts

Partner with Bernalillo County Home Visitors Working Group (BCHVWG) to support needs assessment, data collection and impact evaluation.

### Recommendation 3: Investment in Home Visitation

Increase overall public funding to home visitation programs to meet the community's needs.

### Recommendation 4: Single Referral System

Coordinate and correlate with data recommendations from CABQ Kids Cabinet as well as BCHVWG to support 311 and direct inquiries about home visitation services to a centralized point of contact that can provide quick information and help families select the best match for their needs.

### Recommendation 5: Home Visitation Promotion Campaign

Utilize existing promotional materials, such as videos created by service providers, to create a public health communication campaign to increase awareness and promote enrollment.

### Recommendation 6: Home Visiting Workforce

Support efforts to recruit graduates out of medical, social work, early childhood and other relevant education programs; increase professional development opportunities; and provide competitive salaries.