

New York State Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Initiative Home Visiting Resources for Referrals

Introduction: This resource packet contains information on maternal, infant and child health evidence-based home visiting programs. It is intended for use by health care or human service providers who work with pregnant and/or postpartum women and families.

Purpose: The purpose of these materials is to encourage referrals of those women and families who may benefit from home visiting services as a source of additional support through pregnancy and the early years of a child's life. Maternal, infant and family health and well-being is a complex interrelationship of individual, family, community and societal factors. While no single program can resolve these complex issues, well-designed home visiting programs can guide at-risk families during the critical prenatal, infancy and early childhood periods, benefiting women, infants, children, families and communities.

Evidence: Evidence-based home visiting programs have been shown to improve maternal health, child health, and reduced child maltreatment outcomes. Examples of such programs are Nurse-Family Partnership and Healthy Families New York.

Benefits: Through regular home visits, home visitors assess pregnant women's and families' health and social support needs; provide information to promote positive birth outcomes; and make referrals to needed services. The goal is to:

- Improve pregnancy outcomes for high-risk women and babies;
- Improve children's health and development; and
- Strengthen family functioning.

Home visitors can complement the care you provide by:

- Assisting women with keeping health care appointments.
- Making referrals to needed health and social services.
- Providing information on healthy nutrition.
- Encouraging initiation of breastfeeding.
- Providing information on child health and development.
- Providing information on health parent-child interaction.

Call to Action: Please consider referring your high-risk pregnant and postpartum women and families to these important services.