

**2019 Policy Position**

**Prevent Abuse through Home Visiting**

Voluntary, research-based maternal, infant, and early childhood home visiting programs provide services and supports to families that reduce child abuse and neglect, promote school readiness, improve child health and development, promote family self-sufficiency, and strengthen social attachments. Prevent Child Abuse New York supports the following models: Healthy Families New York; Nurse-Family Partnership; Parents as Teachers; The Parent-Child Home Program, Inc.; Early Head Start; and Power of 2.

Each of these programs serves a particular population and has specifics strength, but all provide the strong, trusting relationships that are necessary to produce these outcomes. Investments along the continuum of programs would provide much-needed continuity and stability for at-risk families.

Unfortunately, **while there are an estimated 279,600 children who could benefit from a program, only 5% are receiving services.**[[1]](#endnote-1) In addition, resources are not coordinated across programs, resulting in duplication of effort and costly gaps.

**PCANY supports investing in expanding access while increasing coordination.**

New York State should:

* Invest $200,000 in the NYS Home Visiting Coordination Initiative, which aims to provide cutting-edge information, build cross-program relationships, and offer additional opportunities for cross-systems operations. Ultimately, it will help programs increase staff retention and serve more families.
* Invest in the 1,000 Days of Medicaid home visiting pilot sites.
* Invest adequately in all research-based programs.

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1. *Harness the Power of Home Visiting: A Proven and Cost-Effective Tool to Prevent Child Maltreatment*; New York State Citizen Review Panels 2017 Annual Report; 2017. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)