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Contact: Jenn O'Connor, Prevent Child Abuse New York, 518/817-1107,
joconnor@preventchildabuseny.org

NYS Home Visiting Coordination Initiative to Launch with Assembly Member's Support

Assembly Member Andrew Hevesi (AD 28), chair of the Social Services Committee, has secured a \$100,000 legislative award to fund the New York State Home Visiting Coordination Initiative, which will launch on October 1st.

Voluntary maternal, infant, and early childhood home visiting programs pair a nurse or paraprofessional with a family to help guide them through the earliest days and (sometimes) years of their child's life. These two-generational, comprehensive programs have shown decreases in child abuse and neglect, increases in school readiness, and better health outcomes.

Unfortunately, although a number of both research-based and home-grown home visiting programs are currently providing valuable services and supports to families across New York State, only 5% of eligible children are receiving those services.

The Initiative is a platform for information, education, and conversation. The intent is to provide cutting-edge information, build cross-program relationships, and offer additional opportunities for cross-systems operations. Ultimately, it aims to help programs increase staff retention and serve more families.

According to Tim Hathaway, Executive Director of Prevent Child Abuse New York, the organization that is housing the Initiative, "The power of this work is in the sense that all families need support around the time of the birth of a child and the critical early years. But not all families need the same levels of support. This Initiative is about trying to find the right level

of support for each family by providing resources that home visitors can use in their daily work—regardless of what home visiting program they work for—as well as helping create a system that has real continuity across the State.”

"I look forward to Prevent Child Abuse New York's implementation of the New York State Home Visiting Coordination Initiative. This Initiative aims to enhance the proven effectiveness of home visiting programs through cross-program connections, information sharing, and increasing the number of children and families being served. Early intervention, increased support, and access to services are crucial to the successful development of a child," said Assembly Member Hevesi.