

Home Visiting Support Available for Virginia Families

RICHMOND, Va. (Oct. 16, 2023) – As new [U.S. Census Bureau data](#) reveals child poverty rates have more than doubled across the country, early childhood development experts in Virginia are reminding families about an important support resource: Voluntary home visiting.

Child poverty is at 12.4% nationwide, jumping up from a historic low of 5.2% in 2022, driven by the end of pandemic-era benefits like the expanded child tax credit. For comparison, Virginia's child poverty rate is at 8.6%.

Studies highlight how childhood poverty is associated with numerous poor outcomes including developmental delays, toxic stress, chronic illness, and nutritional deficits and often leads to poverty into adulthood.

Leaders with [Early Impact Virginia](#), a statewide collaboration of early childhood home visiting programs, are encouraging families to sign up for no-cost home visiting programs in their community.

A proven strategy to boost school readiness and family economic self-sufficiency, voluntary home visiting programs connect expectant parents and caregivers with young children to local support specialists trained in early childhood development as well as accessing safety net resources. Home visiting works to ensure that every parent has the resources and skills to be their child's first and most important teacher.

Early Impact Virginia is dedicated to ensuring that all pregnant and parenting families have access to high-quality, early childhood home visiting, how and when they choose. The organization maintains a directory of home visiting programs on its [website](#).

“Home visiting works and is a highly effective prevention strategy that can disrupt generational poverty, while helping kids become prepared for school,” said Laurel Aparicio, Early Impact Virginia Executive Director. “Home visiting professionals care deeply about the success of Virginia families and are trusted members of their communities. If you are looking for parenting support and guidance, please consider engaging with a home visiting program in your area.”

Studies demonstrate how home visiting supports a child's social-emotional development, increases access to community-based services and strengthens families. Additional research highlights how home visiting supports improvements in the health and well-being of young children and new parents.

Home visitors also support timely access to healthcare leading to healthy pregnancies, births and early development, which are all critical to building strong foundations for lifelong health and well-being, according to Early Impact Virginia

In 2022, the state's 72 home visiting programs served 6,700 families.

Virginia is a nationwide home visiting leader. Early Impact Virginia and its partners launched the [Institute for the Advancement of Family Support Professionals](#) in 2018 to provide online training for home visiting professionals to learn new skills to support families. Today, the training modules are used by more than 30,000 human service providers across the country and will continue to grow with the Institute leading national workforce development as part of the HRSA Institute for Home Visiting Workforce Development and Jackie Walorski Center for Evidence-Based Case Management.

To learn more about Early Impact Virginia, visit www.earlyimpactva.org.

About Early Impact Virginia

Early Impact Virginia is a statewide collaboration of early childhood home visiting programs and partners that serve families with children, from pregnancy through age five. Across Virginia, there are eight home visiting models with 72 local programs. In 2022, 572 family support professionals served nearly 7,000 families and children through 65,000 home visits.

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