

Home Visiting is Essential—Information for Families During COVID-19

Early childhood home visiting can help you support your child and family

As your child's first teacher, you are the most important person in their world.

During this uncertain time, you can help your child feel comforted and secure by finding ways to support their healthy development. **You've got this! But you don't have to do this alone!**



- Even before the current health crisis, home visitors were already a critical link for new and expectant parents, providing one-on-one support at no cost to eligible families.
- **Now, virtual home visiting can be an important lifeline as you navigate the new challenges brought on by this current health crisis.**
- Home visiting is available for families beginning prenatally and continuing up to age five.
- **Home visiting activities can support the bond between you and your child to encourage their development.** Home visiting can also help you build strategies to cope with the unique stress of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Virtual home visiting is available during the COVID-19 pandemic

- Enroll in a program and connect with your home visitor virtually through phone calls, FaceTime, Google Duo, and more. Your home visitor can drop off handouts on activities to do with your child.
- Home visits are designed to meet the needs and desires of your family. Home visitors can do developmental screenings, provide information on children's developmental milestones and early learning, connect you to important community resources, and more.

Visit [www. http://igrowillinois.org](http://igrowillinois.org) to learn more and find a program

1. Search for local programs in your area using the iGrow website, at <http://igrowillinois.org/find-a-program>. Local programs will have details on how to enroll in home visiting services. Some programs have eligibility requirements; by calling the home visiting program in your area you can learn more about which options may be the best fit for you and your family.
2. In some communities, Coordinated Intake (CI) workers can guide families to the right programs. Check the attached table to find contact information for CI workers in your area. You can call these numbers to connect to a CI worker to discuss your home visiting options.
3. Email Gov.HomeVisiting@illinois.gov or contact MIECHV Project Director Lesley Schwartz at (312) 324-4420 with questions on home visiting.



Additional Supports for Families with Young Children

Resource	Contact	Website
Emergency Child Care	To find emergency child care in your area, call 888-228-1146	Visit the COVID-19 Emergency Provider Search at https://emergencycare.inccrra.org/
Public Health Information	Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH.illinois.gov) has a statewide, 24-hour COVID-19 hotline (1-800-889-3931)	Visit the Illinois Department of Public Health at http://www.dph.illinois.gov/
Mental Health services for parents and caregivers of young children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call the Erikson Institute intake line at 312-709-0508 (English) or 312-934-6446 (Spanish) • If you or a loved one are struggling with stress related to the COVID-19 pandemic and need emotional support, text TALK to 552020 for English or HABLAR for Spanish. This service is free and available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. 	Visit the Erikson Institute at https://www.erikson.edu/center-children-families/
Urgent Essential Needs & Benefits	Call the IDHS Help is Here toll-free line at 1-833-2-FIND-HELP or the ABE hotline at 1-800-843-6154	Visit the Application for Benefits Eligibility (ABE) portal at https://abe.illinois.gov/abe/access/

Looking for other supports during this challenging time?

Visit the Governor's Office of Early Childhood COVID-19 page at <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/OECD/Pages/COVID-19-For-Families.aspx> for a list of resources on:

- Emotional Well-being Toolkit
- Emergency Child Care
- Protection for My Family & Household
- Essential Resources
- Resources for Immigrant Families
- Resources for Children with Special Needs

Visit the Shriver Center for Poverty Law's resource page at <https://www.povertylaw.org/article/covid-19-resources-for-individuals-and-families-in-illinois/> for useful resources to aid communities seeking support during the COVID-19 pandemic on the following issues:

- Child Care
- Criminal Justice
- Disability
- Domestic Violence
- Economic Impact Payments
- Employment/Unemployment
- Compensation
- Food
- Healthcare
- Housing
- General Lists of Resources
- Immigrant Communities/Public Charge
- Legal Aid
- LGBTQ