

Home Visiting is Essential—Referral Guidance for Providers Supporting Families During COVID-19

What is Early Childhood Home Visiting?

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, to promote infant and child health, foster educational development and school readiness, and help prevent child abuse and neglect.

Now more than ever, home visiting is an essential service for families as they navigate social isolation, economic uncertainty, the challenge of balancing work without childcare, and other unique and heightened stressors brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.



Home visiting is available for parents of young children, starting prenatally and continuing up to age five.

Home Visiting is Available During the COVID-19 Pandemic

While our state moves through the phases of the [Restore Illinois](#) Plan, home visits cannot occur face to face until it is deemed safe. However, home visiting programs in Illinois are doing our part to prevent the spread of coronavirus by supporting families through virtual home visits. Home visiting programs across the state are connecting with parents and caregivers virtually through a variety of different platforms including FaceTime, Google Hangouts, Duo, phone calls, and more.

Families already enrolled in home visiting can continue to receive services, and many programs are still conducting recruitment to enroll eligible families in available home visiting slots. Through virtual visits, home visitors can still do developmental screenings, provide information on children’s developmental milestones and early learning, provide linkages to community resources, screen for and provide referrals for maternal depression and intimate partner violence, and reduce social isolation for parents. Virtual home visiting can be a lifeline for families during COVID-19.

How can I refer a family to home visiting?

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.
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 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 | Information | 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 | Call the Erikson Institute intake line at 312-709-0508 (English) or 312-934-6446 (Spanish) | 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/ |
| Local service provider search tool | The Service Provider Identification & Exploration Resource (SPIDER) application allows family-serving providers across the state to search for early childhood, parenting, health and mental health, substance use, domestic violence, and other services by geography. | Visit https://spider.dcf.illinois.gov/Search/SearchAgency |
| Governor's Office of Early Childhood COVID-19 Resources for Families | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emotional Well-being • Emergency Child Care • Protection for My Family & Household • Essential Resources • Resources for Immigrant Families • Resources for Children with Special Needs | Visit the Governor's Office of Early Childhood COVID-19 page at https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/OECD/Pages/COVID-19-For-Families.aspx |
| Shriver Center for Poverty Law resources to aid communities seeking support during the COVID-19 pandemic | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 | 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/ |

Approved by the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development, the Illinois Department of Human Services, the Illinois Head Start Association, and the Chicago Department of Family & Support Services.



Coordinated Intake (CI) in your area



CI workers know home visiting program eligibility criteria for all agencies in their community area and can connect families with the program best meeting their needs. If a CI position for your area is vacant, contact the supervisor.

CI is available in the following Illinois communities: **Chicago (pregnant and prenting teens); Cicero; DeKalb County; DuPage County; East St. Louis; Englewood; Kane County; Kankakee County; Lake County; Macon County; McLean County; North Lawndale; Oak Park/River Forrest; Peoria/Tazewell; Stephenson County; South Suburban Home Visiting Network (see zipcodes); Vermilion County; and Winnebago County.**

| Region | Agency | Name | Role | Email | Phone |
|---|---------------------------------|---------------------|------------|--|---------------------|
| Chicago (pregnant and parenting teens) | Lurie Children's Hospital | Liz Gonzalez | CI | ConnecTeen@luriechildrens.org | 833-262-8336 |
| Cicero | Family Focus Nuestra Familia | Guadalupe Contreras | CI | guadalupe.contreras@family-focus.org | 708-652-0900 |
| Cicero | Family Focus Nuestra Familia | Mariana Osoria | Supervisor | mariana.osoria@family-focus.org | 773-276-0940 |
| DeKalb County | Children's Home + Aid | Earl Kloppmann | Supervisor | Ekloppma@childrenshomeandaid.org | 309-834-5226 |
| DeKalb County | Children's Home + Aid | Fanya Mojica | CI | Fmojica@childrenshomeandaid.org | 815-748-0190 x 7405 |
| DuPage County | DuPage County Health Department | Lenny Rivota | CI | Lenny.Rivota@dupagehealth.org | |
| East St. Louis | Comprehensive Behavioral Health | Gia Moore | Supervisor | gmoore@cbhc1.org | 618-482-7354 |
| East St. Louis | Comprehensive Behavioral Health | Rachel Linzy | CI | rlinzy@cbhc1.org | 618-482-7654 |
| Englewood | Children's Home + Aid | Stacy Mirro | Supervisor | Smirro@childrenshomeandaid.org | |
| Englewood | Children's Home + Aid | Sintia I. Morales | CI | smorales@childrenshomeandaid.org | 773-918-7909 |

| Region | Agency | Name | Role | Email | Phone |
|-------------------------|---|--------------------|------------|--|---|
| Kane County | Kane County Health Department | Theresa Heaton | Supervisor | heatontheresa@co.kane.il.us | 630-208-5149 |
| Kane County | Kane County Health Department | Aracelli Mendez | CI | homevisitation@co.kane.il.us | 630-208-5150 |
| Kankakee County | Aunt Martha's of Kankakee | Pia Green | Supervisor | pgreen@auntmarthas.org | 815-937-5430 |
| Kankakee County | Aunt Martha's of Kankakee | Nicole Estrada | CI | niestrada@auntmarthas.org | 815-937-5935 |
| Lake County | Lake County Health Department | Edna Pompilus | CI | igrow@lakecountyil.gov | Phone: 847-377-8112 Fax: 847-984-5575 |
| Macon County | Macon County Health Department | Karen Shiflett | Supervisor | kshiflett@maconcountyhealth.org | 217-423-6988 x 1343 |
| Macon County | Macon County Health Department | Lynley Young | CI | igrow@maconcountyhealth.org | 217-423-6988 x 1140 |
| Macon County | Macon County Health Department | Yocelyng Stark | CI | igrow@maconcountyhealth.org | 217 423 6988 x 1332 |
| McLean County | Children's Home + Aid | Shontelle Hunt | CI | shunt@childrenshomeandaid.org | 309-824-0374 x 4301 Cell: 309-532-9700 |
| McLean County | Children's Home + Aid | Earl Kloppmann | Supervisor | Ekloppma@childrenshomeandaid.org | 309-834-5226 |
| North Lawndale | Illinois Action for Children | | | nlearnylearning@actforchildren.org | 312-823-1108 |
| Oak Park/River Forest | Collaboration for Early Childhood | Jennifer Little | CI | jlittle@collab4kids.org | |
| Peoria/Tazwell Counties | Children's Home Association of Illinois | Jennifer Graham | Supervisor | jgraham@chail.org | 309-687-7501 |
| Peoria/Tazwell Counties | Children's Home Association of Illinois | Christopher Heider | CI | cheider@chail.org | 309-687-7615 |

| Region | Agency | Name | Role | Email | Phone |
|---|--------------------------------------|----------------|------------|--|--------------|
| Stephenson County | Stephenson County Health Department | Barbara Davis | Supervisor | barbara.davis@aeroinc.net | 815-235-8356 |
| Stephenson County | Stephenson County Health Department | Devan Wallace | CI | devan.wallace@aeroinc.net | |
| Zip Codes: 60445, 60472, 60477, 60452, 60471,60484, 60426,60469, 60428, 60406, 60453, 60415, 60411,60409, 60462, 60805 60453, 60803 | South Suburban Home Visiting Network | | | shomevisiting@gmail.com | 708-752-9039 |
| Vermillion County | Danville School District 118 | Niah Hamilton | CI | HamiltonN@danville118.org | 217-483-2229 |
| Vermillion County | Danville School District 118 | Kathy Schluter | Supervisor | SchluterK@danville118.org | 217-444-3248 |
| Vermillion County | Danville School District 118 | Katie Gibson | CI | GibsonA@danville118.org | 217-444-1014 |
| Winnebago County | Winnebago County Health Department | Cheryl Floyd | Supervisor | cfloyd@wchd.org | 815-720-4315 |
| Winnebago County | Winnebago County Health Department | Charaine Boyd | CI | CBoyd@wchd.org | 815-720-4262 |