

# Oregon

## VOLUNTARY IN-HOME VISITING AND PARENT EDUCATION

Home visiting programs help new and expectant parents develop the skills and confidence it takes to raise healthy families. Home visiting prevents adversity and builds resilience during a child's most critical years of development, shown by reduced child abuse and neglect, fewer low birth weight babies, and improved school readiness for children.

Healthy Families America® (HFA) is the nationally-recognized, evidence-based home visiting program of Prevent Child Abuse America®. HFA focuses on building nurturing, safe and secure relationships between parent and child to maximize opportunities for all children –and parents– to reach their full potential.

**49%**

49% fewer substantiated child protective service reports among young, first-time moms who enrolled early in pregnancy with children between 5-7 years old.

**1/3**

Reduction in the recurrence of child maltreatment by 1/3.



More positive discipline with less yelling and less physical punishment.

- ↑ Increased school readiness
- ↑ Increased self-sufficiency for parents
- ↑ Improved maternal and newborn health
- ↓ Reduction in crime or domestic violence
- ↓ Reduced low birthweights
- ↓ Decreased hospitalizations for child abuse

Child Maltreatment is Common

**1 IN 7 CHILDREN**

HAVE EXPERIENCED CHILD ABUSE AND/OR NEGLECT IN THE PAST YEAR.<sup>i</sup>

Child Maltreatment is Costly

**\$2 TRILLION**

LIFETIME ECONOMIC BURDEN IN U.S. <sup>ii</sup>  
Cost rivals stroke or type 2 diabetes

**Healthy Families Oregon in 2019:**

# of HFO sites  
**16**

# of families that received a home visit  
**2,306**

# of families who could benefit from home visiting  
**132,800<sup>iii</sup>**

**Healthy Families Oregon participants:**

**878** have a primary participant who is a 1st time parent.

**1,545** have a primary participant who is eligible for Medicaid.

**176** have a primary participant who is in need of substance abuse treatment.

**957** have a primary participant who was abused or neglected as a child.

Child maltreatment and neglect alone cost Oregon an estimated **\$202.7 MILLION** in total state and local Child Protection expenditures in SFY2016.<sup>iv</sup>

By investing in upstream prevention programs, like Healthy Families America®, we can prevent child abuse and neglect before it can begin. This not only saves taxpayer dollars, but also helps strengthen families and create thriving communities in Oregon.

<sup>i</sup>Finkelhor, D., Turner, H. A., Shattuck, A., & Hamby, S. L. (2015). Prevalence of childhood exposure to violence, crime, and abuse: Results from the National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence. *JAMA Pediatrics*, 169, 746-754.

<sup>ii</sup>Peterson, C., Florence, C., & Klevens, J. (2018). The economic burden of child maltreatment in the United States. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 86, 178-83.

<sup>iii</sup>Sandra Bishop, Ph D, Chief Research Officer, Council for A Strong America, 3/8/2021

<sup>iv</sup><https://www.childtrends.org/research/research-by-topic/child-welfare-financing-survey-sfy-2016>

# Healthy Families Oregon

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- In 2020, nearly 600 eligible families requesting services were left out of Healthy Families Oregon (HFO) due to a lack of funding to the program.
- A \$10 million investment would expand the number of families the program serves and prepare for growth (e.g., secure a database, address home visitor pay parity, and more.)
- Prepare for anticipated new referrals as Family Connects Oregon, a universally offered home visiting program through OHA, rolls out statewide.

*For these reasons, we support a \$10 million dollar biennial increase in the Healthy Families Oregon budget.*



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