

Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

April 15, 2025

Dear Co-Chairs Steiner and Sanchez, Vice-Chairs Girod and Smith, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Home Visiting Funders Partnership, I write to urge your continued and increased investment of \$31.62M above current service levels in Oregon's early childhood home visiting programs in the 2025–27 biennium. ***Please see the list of funding requests below.***

Oregon's home visiting programs represent a vital, evidence-based approach to supporting families with young children. These voluntary services begin prenatally or shortly after birth and provide families with individualized support from trained professionals. The goal is simple and profound: to ensure children are safe, healthy, and thriving—and that parents and caregivers feel confident and supported.

The effectiveness of home visiting is well-documented; I have attached a brief summary of key evidence supporting the impacts of these programs. In sum, however, and as outlined by the American Academy of Pediatrics and validated by decades of rigorous studies, these programs lead to:

- Improved birth outcomes and reductions in low birthweight and preterm births,
- Decreased rates of child maltreatment and neglect,
- Improved school readiness, parenting practices, and maternal mental health, and
- Long-term cost savings through reduced emergency department use, juvenile justice involvement, and special education placements.

In Oregon, the state supports a diverse array of home visiting models—including Babies First!, CaCoon, Nurse-Family Partnership, Healthy Families Oregon, Family Connects Oregon, Parents as Teachers, Relief Nurseries, and others—that allow local communities to offer culturally and linguistically responsive services tailored to family needs. However, current capacity falls far short of meeting the need. **Fewer than 5% of families with children under five are being reached, and even among higher-risk families, fewer than one in five have access to these services.**

We ask that you take meaningful steps this session to expand funding for home visiting. Doing so aligns with our state's commitment to child well-being, racial equity, and smart, cost-effective public investments. These programs support families through the earliest and most formative years of life—when well-timed connection and guidance can change the trajectory for children and their caregivers.

Thank you for your leadership and for your deep commitment to Oregon's children and families. We stand ready to partner with you in ensuring every family has access to the tools they need to thrive.

On behalf of the Home Visiting Funders Partnership,



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List of related bills and funding requests for your consideration:

- **[HB 5025](#) Babies First! and CaCoon.** \$6.2 million to OHA to improve wages, stabilize programs and increase reach
- **[SB 1033](#) Nurse Family Partnership.** \$1.23 million to OHA to continue state payment of required Medicaid match
- **[HB 5025](#) Family Connects Oregon.** \$700 thousand to OHA to maintain all four existing pilot sites to provide universally offered home visits.
- **[SB 420](#) Healthy Families Oregon.** \$6 million to DELC to stabilize staffing, and increase access in multiple languages.
- **[HB 3993](#) Relief Nurseries.** \$4.9 million to DELC to increase service capacity.
- **[SB 5526](#) Parents as Teachers and Family Spirit.** \$7 million to ODHS to support service delivery, leveraging expanded federal investments through the Family First Prevention Services Plan.

