



# LB903

## Home Visiting Referrals

POLICY BRIEF | JANUARY 2026

*LB903 calls for a case manager in some child welfare cases to refer a family to home visiting services when they have a child below the age of 2.*

*Including home visiting as a consideration for the case manager will ensure that 1) families get the support they need, and 2) home visiting programs are able to draw down federal funding to support young families and sustain their programs.*

**Personal and societal benefits make home visiting highly cost effective, producing a**

**\$1.80 – \$5.70**

**return for each dollar invested<sup>1</sup>**

### What is Home Visiting?

Evidence-based home visiting services support the well-being of families and promote the healthy physical, social and cognitive development of young children. These voluntary programs are free to families and pair them with trained nurses, early childhood educators and other professionals who provide tailored services to help them reach their goals in child development, family health, parent-child relationships, school readiness and more.

#### Benefits of home visiting programs include:

- Healthier pregnancies and improved maternal care.
- Fewer incidents of child maltreatment, emergency room visits and calls to the Child Protective Services hotline.
- Stronger parenting skills and parent-child relationships.
- Better academic and social outcomes for children.

### Home Visiting in Nebraska

Families and young children in Nebraska may access home visiting services through three collaborative organizations: Nebraska-Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (N-MIECHV), Head Start/Early Head Start and Sixpence. Together, these organizations deliver home visiting programs in 76 of Nebraska's 93 counties.<sup>2</sup>

The largest source of funding for home visiting in Nebraska is the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) federal grant. Additional sources of funding include Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA), Nebraska State funding and private dollars.

FFPSA funds provide significant support to keep families intact in child welfare cases - and away from involvement in the court system. However, home visiting programs have a challenge drawing down these funds because referral of a family for the program is required to come from the case manager in the alternative response case, with a referral identifying them as "at-risk" of court involvement. Only when a referral comes from the case manager can FFPSA funds be accessed to support home visiting services for a family. Therefore, this referral is crucial to the ability to access FFPSA financial support.

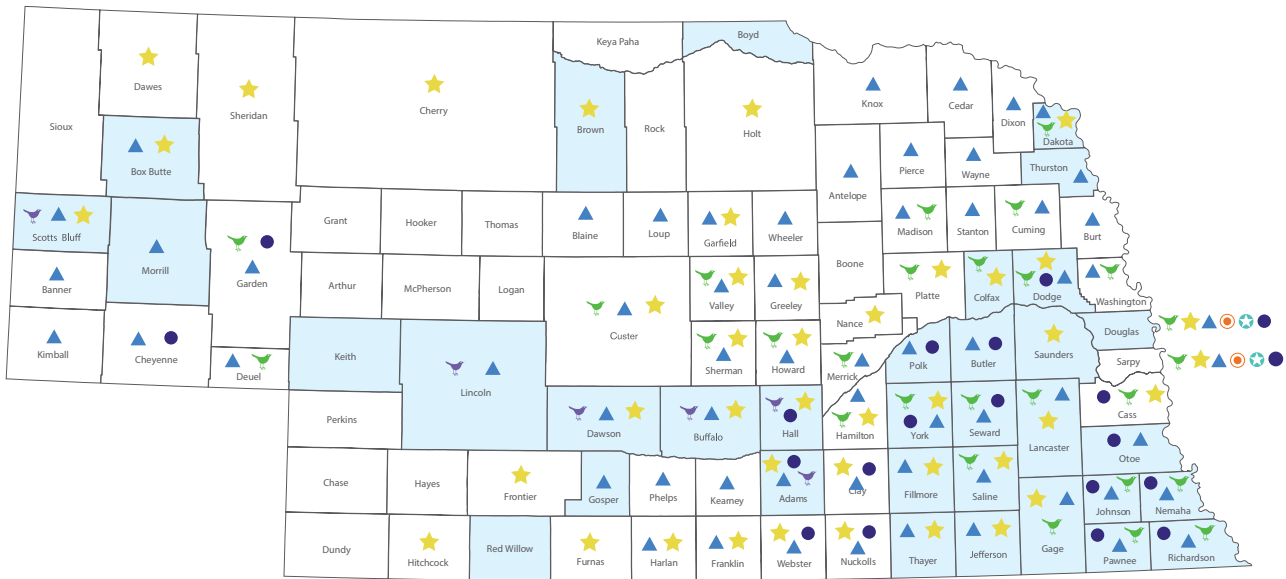
**“We know what outcomes taxpayers can expect from our investments in MIECHV because funding is only provided for models and interventions that have proven results... [MIECHV is] fact-based and evidence-based, and I think it’s a model for other parts of government.”**

Representative Adrian Smith, Nebraska 3rd Congressional District

## Why is LB903 important?

- LB903 calls for a referral to home visiting services for families at risk of court involvement by including home visiting as a consideration for the case manager for alternative response cases.
- Research shows that evidence-based home visiting programs have a positive impact on a range of health and developmental outcomes for families and young children.
- By including home visiting as an option that case managers can consider in alternative response cases, LB903 will ensure home visiting agencies are able to draw down federal funds that will help more families receive these evidence-based programs in Nebraska.

## Statewide Home Visiting Initiatives



3/Updated 9-14-202

- Sixpence home-based
  - Early Head Start/Head Start home-based
  - Sixpence affiliation sites: Parents as Teachers
  - Buffett Early Childhood Institute
  - Early Childhood Services
  - Programs Funded by other sources
  - N-MIECHV (Department of Health and Human Services; supported by the federal MIECHV program or Nebraska State General Funds)
- Nebraska ACA HV Statewide Needs Assessment (HRSA)  
31 counties at highest risk for poor outcomes:
- child welfare
  - education
  - social welfare
  - pregnancy outcomes
  - juvenile crime
  - economics
  - health outcomes
  - behaviors

## References

- Meisch, A. & Joraanstad, A. (2024). Investing in home visiting: Providing the best start for families [Policy Brief]. James Bell Associates.
- Landers, P.A. (2022). Estimates of Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program funding allocation under a draft reauthorization proposal [Memorandum]. Congressional Research Service