



Home Visiting in Massachusetts

2026

Providing families with the home visiting services and supports they need to thrive.

Since 2012, the Massachusetts Home Visiting Initiative has received funding through the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV) to provide voluntary, evidence-based home visiting services to families. Using two evidence-based models, Healthy Families Massachusetts (HFM) and Parents as Teachers (PAT), trained family support workers build trusted relationships with families from pregnancy through early childhood. These programs strengthen the whole family unit, including fathers, by providing guidance on parenting, healthy infant and child development, and connections to community resources, ensuring the long-term well-being of families throughout Massachusetts.

Who we serve

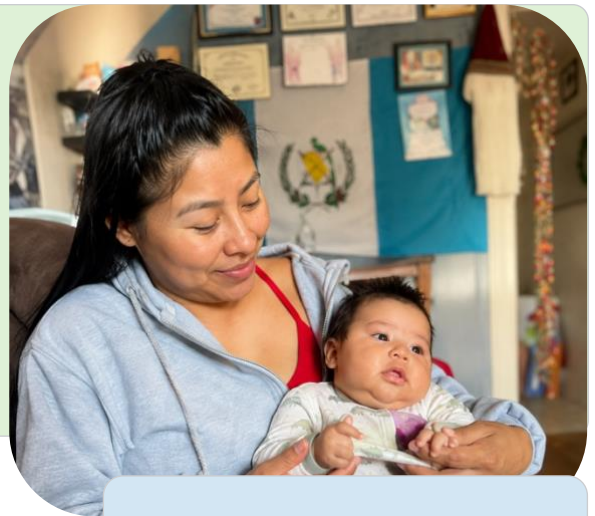
While eligibility depends on the model, programs serve families from the prenatal period through kindergarten.

What Home Visitors Do

- Provide support and education focused on family well-being
- Plan activities to support parent-child interaction and promote child well-being
- Help families set and work towards goals
- Identify needs early and often, referring families to support services and resources in their community as needed
- Build a foundation of trust

Promoting childhood learning and school readiness

Home visiting programs support early learning by helping families create reading routines that promote early literacy and foster social emotional learning. Home visitors support the transition to the school system and bridge a crucial service gap for children aged 3-5 and helping them make a smooth transition to the school system. Through partnerships with Raising a Reader, home visitors support families to develop reading routines to promote early literacy skills and inspire a lifelong love of reading.



OVERVIEW

In Massachusetts, home visiting:

- Improves early literacy and school readiness
- Equips parents with the confidence and skills to interact with their children in age-appropriate ways
- Screens for developmental concerns, maternal depression, and intimate partner violence
- Links families to preventative health and community services
- Coordinates resources and support across the early childhood system

Program Stats

1,812
Households served

24,116
home visits completed

124
Home visitors

Supporting families every step of the way

Every family's journey is unique. Home visiting provides individualized support from pregnancy through early childhood to help families thrive. Home visitors act as trusted partners, guiding new parents through healthy pregnancies, breastfeeding, safe sleep practices, and healthcare visits. For families impacted by substance use, PAT Parent Educators, trained as peer recovery coaches offer dedicated support. Moreover, home visitors connect families directly with doula services, WIC, and local healthcare systems to strengthen maternal and infant well-being statewide.

Creating a seamless early childhood system of care

The Massachusetts Home Visiting Initiative has a strong commitment to continuous quality improvement and strives to serve families in the most impactful way. We continuously seek opportunities to expand services and are committed to building a robust statewide system of home visiting services to meet the needs of all families. In alignment with the federal Title V Maternal and Child Health Block Grant, we are working towards a vision that every family have access to the type of home visiting support they need, when and where they need it. Driven by comprehensive services and partnerships, home visiting strengthens families and helps young children across Massachusetts get the best possible start in life.

Program Details

Program detail	Information
Service area	Services are focused in 18 communities identified through statewide needs assessment and reach surrounding areas. Focus communities include: Boston, Brockton, Chelsea, Everett, Fall River, Fitchburg, Holyoke, Lawrence, Lowell, Lynn, North Adams, Pittsfield, New Bedford, Revere, Southbridge, Webster, Springfield, and Worcester.
Who delivers services	Home visitors are trained family support workers who are familiar with the community and populations served. Some home visitors have additional certification and licensure (e.g., CLCs, MSW, peer recovery)
Visit format	In-home or a mutually agreed upon location. Virtual services are available if necessary.
Cost	Free/No cost to families
Eligibility	HFM: First-time pregnant and parenting families with children through age three PAT: Pregnant and parenting families through kindergarten



Get connected

Learn more or refer a family:
<https://www.mass.gov/mhvi>

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Home Visiting in Massachusetts | Learn more at [mass.gov/mhvi](https://www.mass.gov/mhvi)



Spotlight on Success

After the birth of her son, Athaniel, Francheska faced many challenges of becoming a first-time mother and new homeowner, all while coping with postpartum depression. Through it all, Francheska remained committed to caring for herself and her son. During her transition into motherhood, she says the MIECHV-funded Parents as Teachers (PAT) Program and her Parent Educator, Nancy, were an incredible source of support, helping her access the educational and baby materials she needed. Nancy's support encouraged her to seek help through therapy. While participating in Massachusetts Home Visiting through PAT, Francheska tackled two life-changing milestones, becoming a homeowner and mother, remaining steadfast in supporting her and Athaniel's ability to thrive.

Home visitors provide families with the services and supports they need to thrive.