



HOME VISITING SERVICES ACCOUNT



Over the past decade, and especially in the past four years, Washington has increasingly prioritized home visiting to meet the needs of our most vulnerable children and families. Evidence shows that when families receive home-based support:

Children are healthier and better prepared for school
Parent-child bonds are stronger | Abuse and neglect are less likely

Keys to Washington's Home Visiting System

In a unique and successful public-private partnership, Thrive by Five Washington and the Department of Early Learning collaborate to administer the Washington Home Visiting Services Account (HVSA). There are four key functions in the HVSA.

- **Serve families:** With home visiting, families are better equipped to give their children a great start in life. The HVSA continues to expand to serve more families; it has **36 grantees** with the capacity to serve approximately **2,100 families** statewide in state fiscal year 2015. We know that the earliest years are most important for development, and to have the greatest impact, the HVSA invests in our youngest learners. About **95 percent** of children served are under age 3.
- **Ensure high quality:** The HVSA is focused on **maintaining and improving quality** by building capacity and focusing on accountability. Important investments in quality assurance and evaluation enable the use of data to inform policy and practice. Measuring success requires the HVSA to invest in evaluation and continuous quality improvement initiatives.
- **Centralize program support:** Training and technical assistance benefit home visitors and the families they serve. The HVSA provides individualized and targeted coaching and training that will add up to **more than 750 hours** in state fiscal year 2015.
- **Empower communities:** The HVSA portfolio opens the door to diverse models and programs, to meet diverse community needs. Three programs in rural areas were launched as the result of a yearlong community-specific planning process. In state fiscal year 2015, the HVSA funding is reaching at least **21 Washington counties**, plus a tribal-specific home visiting program in the coming year.

What is Home Visiting?

Either before their child's birth or in their child's first few years of life, families are voluntarily matched with trained professionals who provide information and support related to children's healthy development, the parent-child relationship, and the importance of early learning in the home. The benefits of home visiting span more than one generation.

Investing in Families

Pivotal Moment in Home Visiting

Federal funding is in year four of a five-year grant. State and federal funds are leveraged with private dollars. Maintaining existing public and private investment in home visiting will sustain current services but not enable expansion. DEL and Thrive are developing a finance and sustainability strategy for the HVSA.

HVSA Funding Streams

State Fiscal Year 2014-15 *Projected*

Private:	18%
Federal:	71%
State:	11%

Total Investment: \$15 million

HOME VISITING BENEFITS FAMILIES STATEWIDE

One Family's Story

For young parents who have a history of abuse, it can be challenging to achieve enough stability to give their children a great start in life. Carrie* is one such mother, who was homeless and struggling with heroin addiction when she became pregnant. She had a harrowing childhood, with a history of emotional, physical and sexual abuse, and all of her immediate family members suffered from addiction or mental health problems.

Carrie stopped using heroin when she learned she was pregnant, but her baby was born early and addicted to methadone. Carrie joined parent support groups and received some support from a transitional housing program before

enrolling in home visiting.

After only a few months of home visiting, Carrie and her daughter are demonstrating positive changes in their relationship. The home visitor brings a book to every visit, and offers information about daughter Rachel's developmental stages and milestones.

"The handouts help me to have more realistic expectations about what Rachel can do," Carrie says. "And I can practice the activities with her and look forward to what she will be able to do in the next stage."

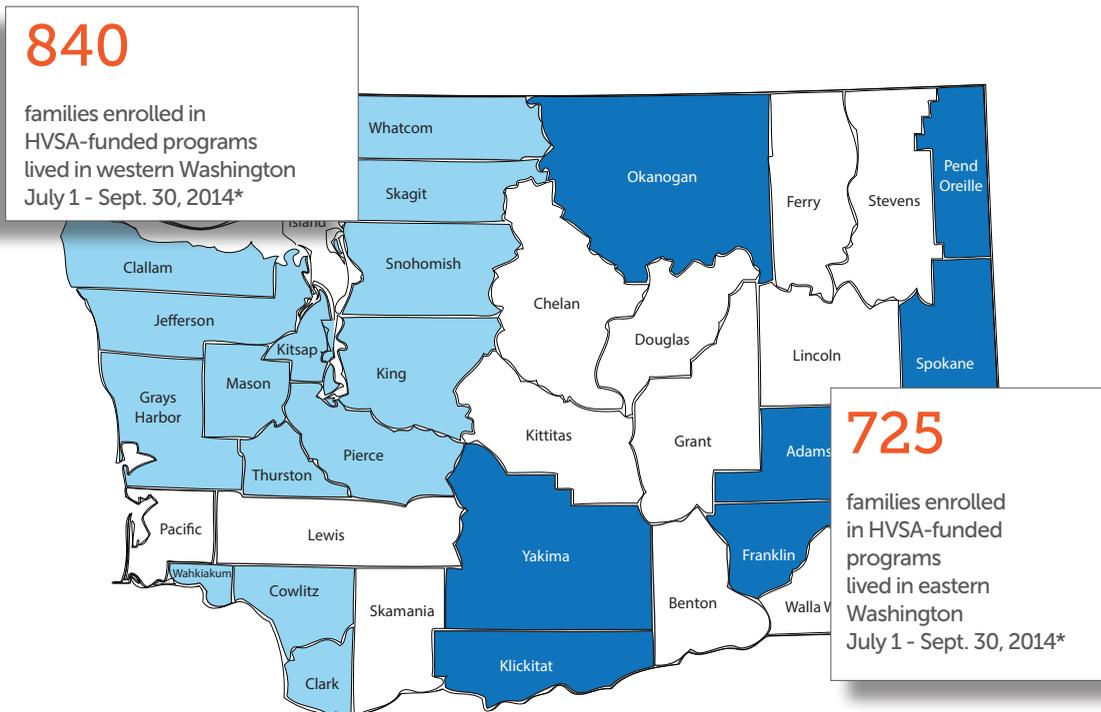
In the open and trusting relationship that the home visitor developed with Carrie, she was able to guide Carrie to play and bond with Rachel. Mother and daughter read together every day, and Rachel is reaching

or exceeding all her developmental milestones. She's a happy toddler, social and learning to self-regulate – skills that will be foundational for success in school and life. For now, she carries books with her wherever she goes and turns the pages herself, babbling to pretend like she's reading.

"Now I see she does all kinds of things ahead of schedule," Carrie says.

Carrie is also taking an impressive leadership role, volunteering to have a state lawmaker visit her home and show how home visiting has changed the trajectory for her family's life.

*Names changed to maintain confidentiality



Families Enrolled, By Geography

Washington is geographically diverse, and its many regions have different communities, needs, and resources. The HVSA values investing funds in communities across the state—especially in those communities that are under-resourced. For a complete list of programs, visit thrivebyfivewa.org/hvsa-wa

* Latest figures available from July 1, 2014, to Sept. 30, 2014. Some programs are new, and because of the intensive nature of home visiting, it can take months to reach full enrollment. Full enrollment of all current HVSA-funded slots would be about 2,100 families.

MORE INFORMATION

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