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For more information about
home visiting in Washington,
visit [www.del.wa.gov/
development/visiting/](http://www.del.wa.gov/development/visiting/)

and

[www.thrivebyfivewa.org/
hvsa.html](http://www.thrivebyfivewa.org/hvsa.html)

What is home visiting?

Home visiting matches parents with trained professionals (or paraprofessionals) to provide information and support related to children's healthy development, to strengthen the parent-child relationship, and to promote early learning. The visits in the family's home happen during pregnancy and throughout their child's first three years of life. These voluntary visits support the child and family by buffering the effects of risk factors and stress in the family.

Why home visiting in Washington?

Evidence shows that when families receive home-based support, their children are born healthier and are less likely to suffer from abuse or neglect. The strategy also has shown a strong return on the investment of funds in this area of prevention and early learning support. www.pewcenteronthestates.org/initiatives_detail.aspx?initiativeID=55676

Early childhood stakeholders prioritized home visiting in both the Washington State Early Learning Plan (Strategy #5), and in the Washington State Birth to Three Plan (Strategy #2). Washington is building a coordinated home visiting network through several planning and funding efforts:

Home Visiting Services Account (HVSA)

Created in the 2010 legislative session, the HVSA matches public and private dollars to support and evaluate evidence-based, research-based, and promising home visiting programs. DEL partners with Thrive by Five Washington to leverage state funding with private funding. Four programs serving 571 families in five counties will share \$355,000 in grants from the new account. State funding = \$500,000

Federal Funding Opportunity

The federal Health Care Reform Act provides \$1.5 billion over five years for a state-based early childhood home visitation grant program serving families with young children and those who are expecting children. The law is the first of its kind and calls for states to invest in evidence-based programs in order to be eligible for grant funding. The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) completed the required needs assessment to identify at-risk communities and populations, and map existing capacity of home visiting programs. DEL is leading the development of a plan for home visiting for submittal as part of the federal funding request. Federal Fiscal Year 2011 funding= \$1.3 million

Home Visiting Plan Development

DEL is working within a cross-agency governance structure and partnership group to develop a statewide plan for a comprehensive home visiting system. Partners at the Department of Social and Health Services, DOH, Thrive by Five Washington, and the Council for Children and Families are developing a plan to be submitted in spring 2011 to be eligible for federal funding over the next five years. The plan will describe how Washington will bring home-based services to families and communities at highest risk, and how funding sources will be used to build a coordinated system to support our youngest children. Additionally, plans for enhancing technical assistance to support program effectiveness and measuring key outcomes will be developed in this process.