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Advocate

March 2018

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Home Visiting

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Home Visiting 101: What Is It and Why Does It Matter?

Parenting is not easy, and it can be especially overwhelming to families struggling to make ends meet. According to the Annie E. Casey Foundation, 10 million low-income U.S. families with young children face daily obstacles that threaten their family's stability and can lead to lifelong difficulties for kids.

Home visiting programs have been effective in supporting expectant and new families. These health and parenting services have lasting impacts on families and child health.

Early childhood home visiting programs consist of trained professionals providing regular, voluntary home visits to expectant and new parents over time to assess child and family risks, provide health and developmental screenings and guidance and provide referrals to other supports and services offered in the community. Evidence-based home visiting programs have resulted in improved maternal and child health in the early years; long-lasting, positive impacts on parental skills; and enhanced children's cognitive, language, and social-emotional development; all necessary for children to thrive during the early school years and throughout life.

Home visiting is a critical component of a two-generation approach that puts the whole family on a path to economic security as it is one of the only programs that focuses both on children and adults simultaneously. Because physical and mental health have a major impact on a family's ability to thrive and succeed, home visitors are uniquely positioned to address parents' immediate health and well-being needs while fostering positive growth and development of their children. Home visiting has been shown to positively influence a parent's economic situation by focusing on not only job attainment, but also planning for a career and supporting further educational attainment. By helping parents create a better future for their children, home visiting programs are supporting parents to become greater contributors to society, build their own strong and stable families, and bolster communities and the economy.

Child Trends, *5 Things to Know About Early Childhood Home Visiting*, <http://bit.ly/2CiTCCY>.

NOTE: Kaila Gilbert contributed this article.

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Funding Extended for the Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program

In February, Congress approved funding for the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program in a bipartisan agreement. The legislation provides \$400 million in funds per year for states to support programs that help guide low-income, at-risk mothers in parenting and getting community supports. The programs served about 160,000 families nationally in FY 2016. If implemented correctly, this investment may yield up to \$5.70 in returns for every \$1 invested in the highest risk families. States will be held accountable for achieving benchmarks for areas such as maternal health, child injuries, emergency department visits and school readiness. You can read more about it [in this report from Nurse-Family Partnership](#).

Nurse-Family Partnership, *Congress Passes Funding for Federal Home Visiting Program*, <http://bit.ly/2oxruiZ>.

NOTE: Kaila Gilbert contributed this article.

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Virginia's Comprehensive Health Investment Project Breaks New Ground and Integrates Workforce Solutions

The Comprehensive Health Investment Project, or Chip, prides itself on "changing lives, two generations at a time."

Partnering with families caught in the cycle of poverty, the program delivers consistent health care to families until children reach the age of six. What makes the Comprehensive Health Investment

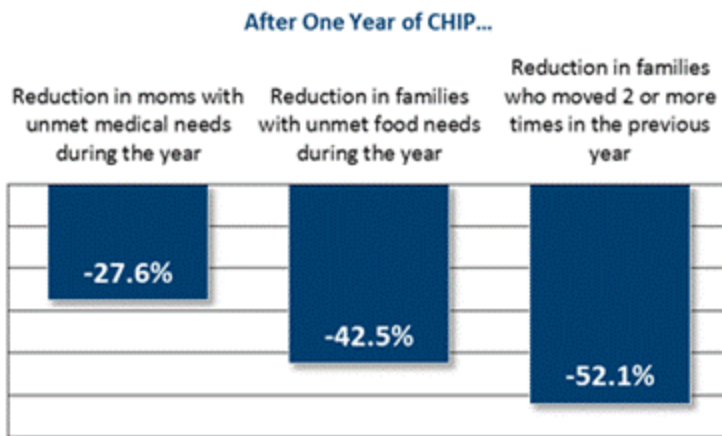
Project different from so many other home visiting programs is that it offers workforce and education solutions as well. For instance, the program also educates families on these non-health-related practices:

- 1 Creating routines;
- 2 Managing families;
- 3 Bolstering self-sufficiency through coaching and support.

While it provides health services, the program has workers who also assist families with tasks such as obtaining a driver's license or completing a GED. After one year, the program achieved staggering results:

- 1 40 percent increase in the number of families with one or both parents working;
- 2 60 percent reduction in babies born with low birth weight.

You can read [more information](#) and some [success stories](#).



Source: Chip of Virginia

Comprehensive Health Investment Project of Virginia: <http://bit.ly/2oxTCCY>.

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Tennessee Home Visiting Research Makes International Waves

At the International Family Nurses Association in Spain in January 2018, Vanderbilt presented research about the impact home visiting had on isolated populations. This celebrated report demonstrated that mothers who participated in the home visiting program revealed:

- 1 Greater social and emotional support;
- 2 Fewer depressive symptoms and less parenting stress;
- 3 Safer sleep practices and better bonding with child.

These findings were also presented at the National Home Visiting Summit and will soon be published in a leading journal of children's research.

Vanderbilt's program, the Maternal Infant Health Outreach Worker (MIHOW), targets families that may not have normal access to home visit services. By partnering with local organizations and the medical center, Vanderbilt University's MIHOW program hopes to extend its reach.

"In our next study, we will build on this research," said Tonya Elkins, a representative of the MIHOW program. "We will be looking at even more outcomes in addition to the ones before. The next study will take place in Clarksville, where we are engaging a similar population for replicability."

Vanderbilt Maternal Infant Health Outreach Worker Program Video: <https://youtu.be/pCj3O0d6mhE>.

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NOTE: Kaila Gilbert contributed this article.

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Building Strong Brains TN Video Series

The Building Strong Brains TN initiative partnered with WCTE-22, Cookeville public television, to create a series of video explaining the impact of adverse childhood experiences and how the community can mitigate them. Public service announcements are also available.

The series has been presented by WCTE, which is sharing them with other stations. The videos are on the statewide public television channel. Check with your local public station for information on local showings.

Building Strong Brains; **ACEs Episode 1**, <http://bit.ly/2oxTCCY>.

Building Strong Brains TN PSAs and Short Videos, <https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/tccy/ace/tccy-ace-building-strong-brains/ace-wcte-videos.html>.

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TCCY is Excited About Children's Advocacy Days Line Up

Mark your calendars for **March 13-14** for Children's Advocacy Days at War Memorial Auditorium in Nashville. Thanks to help from the Memphis ACE Awareness Foundation, Dr. Vince Felitti, the principal researcher of the original Adverse Childhood Experiences Study, will be speaking on Tuesday afternoon, and Dr. Roy Wade of the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, who is working on addressing an expanded list of adverse experiences in his city, is on Wednesday morning's agenda. Wednesday will also include a gubernatorial forum.

TCCY is busy preparing for everything you need for a successful event, including a packet of helpful information. Please be sure to register at <http://bit.ly/2ETCCYcad> by 12 midnight Thursday, March 8.

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2018 Legislative Guidance Available

TCCY's governing Commission approved a statement with information regarding issues being addressed by bills in the Tennessee General Assembly this session. The [2018 Legislative Guidance](#) is available on the TCCY website.

NOTE: Most state website links were changed in December to improve maintenance of the site. New links are listed below:

2018 Legislative Guidance, <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tccy/documents/leg/leg-guidance2.pdf>.

2018 State of the State Address, <http://bit.ly/2npTcCy>.

Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2018, <http://bit.ly/2nkTcCy>.

2018 Budget Recommendations: <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tccy/documents/leg/leg-budget.pdf>.

Legislative Report: <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tccy/documents/leg/legislat.pdf>.

2017 Legislative Guidance: <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tccy/documents/leg/leg-guidance1.pdf>.

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Update



O'Neal

TCCY Executive Director Linda O'Neal was honored with the United Ways of Tennessee and Tennessee Afterschool Network Lifetime Children's Champion Award. The award was presented by Ben Landers, president and CEO of the United Way of Greater Knoxville, at the annual United Ways/Afterschool Day on the Hill.

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Mark Your Calendar

March 1, **TN Department of Economic and Community Development Center for Economic Research** hosts **Grant Writing Class**, Snodgrass Tennessee Tower, 312 Rosa Parks Ave., 3rd Fl. Multi-Media Room, Nashville, March 1-2, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info: <http://bit.ly/tccyIOW>. Fee: \$455.

March 5, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., **Music City Tackles Mental Health, A One-Day Summit Addressing Decriminalization of Mental Illness**, CST, Vanderbilt Student Life Center, Ballrooms A & B, 310 25th Avenue South, Nashville. Registration fee: \$99. Register at <http://bit.ly/2E7tCCY>.

March 7, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., **Straight Talk: Behavioral Health Day on Capitol Hill**, War Memorial Auditorium, Nashville. Sponsored by TN Coalition for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. Register at <http://bit.ly/2E9tCCY>.

March 7, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., **Healthy Tennessee East Tennessee Symposium**, Discussion of Shared Goals on Community Health Across Tennessee, Millennium Centre. 2001 Millennium Place, Johnson City, Speakers include health professionals; former Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey; and gubernatorial candidates Randy Boyd, Karl Dean and Bill Lee. RSVP to thomas@myhealthytennessee.com.

March 8, 11 a.m. to 12 noon CST, **Insure Our Kids Inaugural Enrollment Webinar**. Register at <http://bit.ly/2ENNIu1>.

March 10, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., **The Upper Cumberland Council on Children and Youth presents "ACEs: Building Strong Brains and Resilience,"** Regional Health Building, 1100 England Dr., Cookeville. Learn about adverse childhood experiences and their impact, resiliency, trust-based relational interventions and other therapies. No charge for current UCCCY members. Fee of \$20 for nonmembers includes UCCCY membership. Register at <http://bit.ly/2F1tcCY>.

March 13-14, 2018, **Children's Advocacy Days**, War Memorial Auditorium. Contact: John.Rust@tn.gov. Register at <http://bit.ly/2ETCCYcad>.

March 26, 9:00 a.m. - 12 p.m., Tennessee Conference on Social Welfare Pre-Conference Ethics Workshop, **"Ethical Considerations in Documentation: Not What, But Why,"** Franklin Marriott Cool Springs. Early registration ends March 16. Contact pfoster@tcsw.org. Register at <http://bit.ly/2BWTCCY>.

March 26-28, **Tennessee Conference on Social Welfare Annual Conference, "United Through Service and Social Justice,"** Franklin Marriott Cool Springs. Separate registration required for March 26 ethics training. Early registration ends March 16. Contact pfoster@tcsw.org. Register at <http://bit.ly/2BWTCCY>.

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In the News

Appleby, J, Kaiser Health News, ***Despite Changes That Undermined ACA Enrollment, Marketplaces 'Remarkably Stable,'*** February 7, 2018, <http://bit.ly/2EetcCY>.

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Research Information

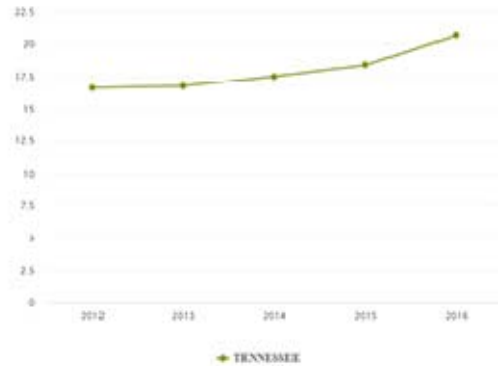
Sacks, V., et al., Child Trends, ***Adverse Childhood Experiences: National and State-Level Prevalence,*** <http://bit.ly/2F2tCCY>.

FRAC (Food Research and Action), ***School Breakfast Scorecard: School Year 2016-2017,*** <http://bit.ly/2F2tcCY>.

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Tennessee KIDS COUNT Facts

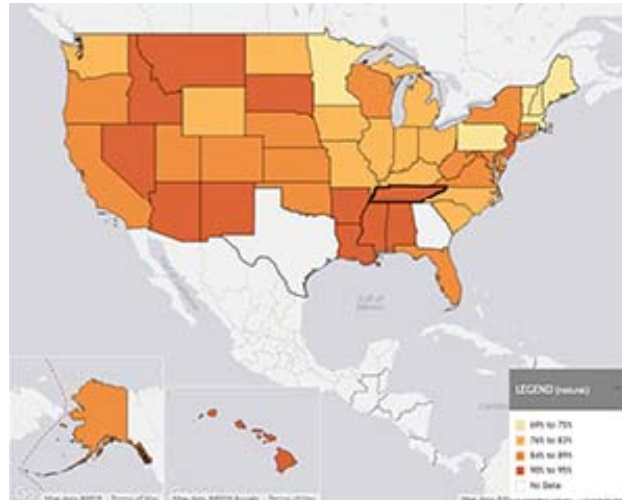
Children Ages 0-2 Participating in Tennessee Early Intervention System Per 1,000



EARLY CHILD INTERVENTION (RATE)

Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth
KIDS COUNT Data Center, datacenter.kidcount.org
A project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation

Young Children Whose Parent Did NOT Receive a New Parent Visit



<http://bit.ly/2F1tCCY>

<http://bit.ly/2EXtCCY>

More data on Tennessee child well-being are available at <http://bit.ly/15alkVu>.

No person shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, disability or ability to pay, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity operated, funded or overseen by the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth (TCCY). It is the intent of TCCY to bind all agencies, organizations or governmental units operating under its jurisdiction and control to fully comply with and abide by the spirit and intent of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

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