



Partners in  
Community  
Outreach

Education Begins at Home  
<http://www.wvpartners.org>

“Up to 40% of all child maltreatment could be prevented if home visiting was widely available.”

*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)*

“The predominant and most thoroughly researched child abuse prevention strategy is early childhood home visitation.”

*National Conference of State Legislatures*

*Partners in Community Outreach is a coalition of research-based In-Home Family Education programs currently operating in the state, including Healthy Families America, Maternal Infant Health, Outreach Workers (MIHOW), and Parents as Teachers.*

For more information, call **Nancy Tonkin at 304-345-6808** or **Laurie McKeown at 523-9587 (ext. 308).**

# *How do you reduce child abuse by 40%?*

## **Fund In-Home Family Education!**

*Partners in Community Outreach recommends the establishment of a statewide system of In-Home Family Education to provide high quality home visiting services to families with young children.*

In-Home Family Education programs provide **parenting education and support to families with young children in their homes**. Services are voluntary and are available from before birth to age three. Services are provided by trained home visitors, who are familiar with and trusted by the communities they serve. Programs are required to use a research-based model with evidence-based curriculum and be credentialed by a national or multi-state organization. **In-Home Family Education programs are an essential component of a comprehensive early child development system.**

### We are requesting:

**An increased appropriation of \$2.5 million in the State Budget to help communities establish or expand high-quality In-Home Family Education programs to serve 2,000 families statewide.**

**This total represents 1 out of every 10 children born in WV during the upcoming year.**

- **National research shows that In-Home Family Education improves child health, increases school readiness, reduces child abuse, and enhances parenting skills.**
- A legislative interim study of In-Home Family Education was completed in 2005 and concluded that these programs were of great benefit to the state, would save the state money in the long term, and should receive an *increase* in funding.
- Research indicates that a statewide system of In-Home Family Education in West Virginia could save **\$250 million/year** by reducing the number low birth weight babies, increased immunization rates, and reductions in child maltreatment.
- The Centers for Disease Control, National Conference on State Legislatures, and National Governor’s Association have all endorsed these programs for their effectiveness in preventing child abuse and neglect.
- In-Home Family Education programs have broad bi-partisan support at the state and federal level.
- Despite their effectiveness, In-Home Family Education programs are currently available in only 17 counties in West Virginia.
- To enhance program quality, effectiveness and accountability, professional standards have been established for In-Home Family Educators serving families in West Virginia.
- Additional research and authentic stories of personal transformation have been compiled and are available online at **<http://www.wvpartners.org>**.