



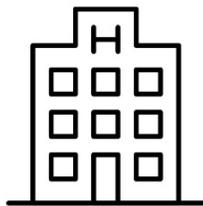
Family Connects

Family Connects is an **evidence-based** model that uses short-term nurse home visits to bring together families, healthcare providers, and communities to improve maternal and child health and wellbeing. Research indicates:

- ❖ Infants had 50% fewer emergency room visits, and hospital overnight stays in the first year of life.
- ❖ Substantiated cases of child maltreatment were reduced by 44%.
- ❖ Mothers were more likely to complete their six-week postpartum health checkups.
- ❖ Mothers were 28% less likely to report clinical anxiety.
- ❖ Mothers reported increased positive parenting behaviors.
- ❖ Home environments strengthened—safety improved and learning materials increased.
- ❖ Community connections increased.
- ❖ Families used higher-quality childcare.

Family Connects Recommendations

To decrease maternal morbidity and mortality and ensure children have strong health outcomes supported by early intervention, TexProtects proposes scaling Family Connects in existing communities operating the program. In 2019, 1,239 families were served in five Texas counties. At an average of \$600/birth, an investment of \$23.6M—\$35.1M could help scale the program in existing hospital sites plus cover an additional 25% of births in operating counties, growing the program from 1,239 births to 34,946—50,820 families respectively if funded over two years. **This program has been demonstrated to save \$3.17 for every \$1 spent in reduced Emergency Room costs alone.**



\$23.6M

Cost to increase to capacity at existing hospitals.



\$35.1M

Cost to increase capacity by 25% in existing counties.



1,239

Number of families served in 2019.



50,000

Number of families to be served by additional funding.

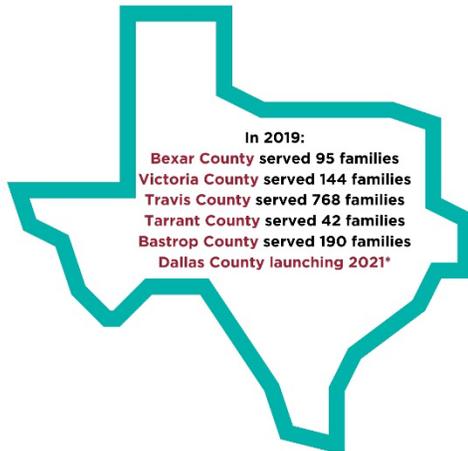


\$3.17 FOR EVERY \$ SPENT

The return on investment of Family Connects.

Families Served

Family Connects is an evidence-based model that uses short-term nurse home visiting to bring together families, healthcare providers, and community agencies to give babies the best start possible.



- ❖ Maternal and child health care screening and connection to primary care providers.
- ❖ Education on newborn care, child care options and building a strong parent-child relationship.
- ❖ Family, home and community strength needs and risk assessment.
- ❖ Connection to services to strengthen parent wellbeing, including substance use programming and mental health services.
- ❖ Referrals to critically needed services with follow-through to ensure enrollment.



378,624 births in Texas each year



7.9% of infants and toddlers are low income and uninsured



17.5% of mothers report less than optimal mental health



18% of confirmed child maltreatment occurs before age 1

Recommendations

Expand access to short term nurse home visitation for newborns (i.e. Family Connects) to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity, reduce child abuse, and increase efficiency in resource and referral systems for families.



1. Support [HB2333](#) (Rep. Howard) and [SB1520](#) (Sen. Seliger) to create a competitive grant program that would serve as the administrative home for Family Connects expansion and be capable of accepting and distributing funds from multiple payors including, but not limited to, HSI investments.
2. Direct HHSC to pursue a Health Services Initiatives (HSI) Project to expand Family Connects in existing sites/counties (Article II Budget Rider).

For More Information

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