

Build the foundation for a lifetime of health and well-being

A child's first years of life are a critical period of rapid development when lifetime health and well-being is shaped. Strengthening families of young children improves children's education, health, social, and employment outcomes, allowing them to grow and develop to their full potential.

Postpartum Health Coverage

Ensure every family in Washington has an opportunity to build strong attachments and a foundation for lifetime health by extending Medicaid coverage from 60 days to one year postpartum.

In Washington, Medicaid pays for pregnancy, delivery and 60 days post-partum care for pregnant individuals up to 198% of the federal poverty rate. Under current law, an estimated 10,000 people lose this coverage each year after 60 days post-partum. This leaves new moms at risk when they need access to care to recover from complications, identify and address behavioral health problems, and form strong bonds with their babies. Extending coverage to one year post-partum will help to ensure every new family in our state has a chance to establish healthy bonds and give their children a strong start in life. *HB 2381 (Stonier)/SB 6128 (Randall)*



Help Me Grow

Advance Help Me Grow, a statewide referral and linkage system for families of young children, by investing \$350K in ongoing funding. This funding will allow families with young children to more effectively link with community resources through a centralized access point. WCAAP supports the integration of Help Me Grow into a unified early learning system.

From birth to age five a child's brain develops faster than at any time in their life, building the foundation for future learning, behavior, and health. And yet, families with young children struggle to connect with resources to help their children thrive. Help Me Grow is a community-driven, statewide resource to connect families to appropriate services and supports. This improves efficiency rather than creating new infrastructure or duplicative programs, ultimately serving more families more effectively.

Reach Out and Read Washington

Improve parent-baby attachment and early child development by restoring funding for Reach Out and Read with an investment of \$150k for the supplemental budget.

Reach Out and Read sets the stage for children's success in school and life by giving children books at health care appointments and equipping parents with tools to support language, literacy and math skills at home. The statewide, evidence-based program served 131,000 children (48% children of color) and distributed 220,914 books to families last year. Seventy percent of families served are low income; 27% speak a language other than English at home.

Nurse Home Visiting

Invest \$300m in the supplemental budget to increase nurse home visiting capacity to serve an additional 400 families.

Home visiting is a voluntary, proven way to strengthen families in the first years of life, as trained home visitors and parents work together on prenatal care, infant care, child development and parenting skills. It's a multi-generational approach that has the power to positively change the trajectory of an entire family.