

DRAFT HOME VISITATION BILL

Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2013*) (a) The State of CT shall establish a system of home visitation. Such as system shall include the development of: (1) a common referral process for families requesting home visitation and parenting education programs; (2) a common set of competencies and required training for all home visitors; (3) a common set of standards and outcomes for all program, to include requirements for model fidelity and a monitoring framework; (4) a family assessment to be used upon enrolment to determine the family and children needs, prioritizing the family's goals and intentions; (5) a system of universal, simple health and development screening for all young children; (6) a central location for all home visitors and their collaborators to find information on training, workshops, materials which would include a system for regular communication among models programs and staff; (7) collaborated, coordinated training for the home visitation and early care and education providers on issues such as child trauma, poverty and family supports, family stressors, mental health, special health care needs, early literacy and language acquisition; (8) a tracking system for common outcomes; and (9) a shared reporting system to the appropriations committee and the committees of cognizance for all home visitation programs, including a breakout of results from the various programs.

(b) The research-based home visitation models and the providers of home visiting services, in consultation with one or more research experts, shall: (1) jointly develop an outcome measurement plan to monitor outcomes for children and families receiving services through state and federally-funded home visiting programs; (2) develop indicators that measure each outcome area, which shall include, but not be limited to, father engagement, parental depression, violence reduction, early language/literacy, motor, cognitive, and social-emotional development, and poverty reduction; and (3) create a report that documents the collective impact of home visiting program outcomes across all indicators selected as well as data on cost per family served, number of families served, demographic data on families served and outcomes.

(c) Incentives shall be developed for community collaboratives that create a continuum of prenatal to age five services for young families with intentional integration of home visitation, family support programs, housing, health and early care and education.

(d) "Home visitation" means an effective early childhood service delivery strategy that promotes healthy child development, provides parenting support, and facilitates linkages to community resources.