



July 1, 2019

RE: **Early Impact Virginia 2019 Annual Report**

Early Impact Virginia is pleased to submit the following Annual Report for activities completed in state fiscal year 2019 as required by:

Budget Bill - HB5002 (Chapter 2)

Bill Order » Office of Health and Human Resources » Item 346

Department of Social Services

Authority: Title 2.2, Chapter 54; Title 63.2, Code of Virginia; Title VI, Subtitle B, P.L. 97-35, as amended; P.L. 103-252, as amended; P.L. 104-193, as amended, Federal Code.

Item 346

N. Out of this appropriation, \$250,000 the first year and \$600,000 the second year from the federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families block grant shall be provided to contract with Early Impact Virginia to continue its work in support of Virginia's voluntary home visiting programs. These funds may be used to hire three full-time staff, including a director and an evaluator, and to continue Early Impact Virginia's training partnerships. Early Impact Virginia shall have the authority and responsibility to determine, systematically track, and report annually

on the key activities and outcomes of Virginia's home visiting programs; conduct systematic and statewide needs assessments for Virginia's home visiting programs at least once every three years; and to support continuous quality improvement, training, and coordination across Virginia's home visiting programs on an ongoing basis. Early Impact Virginia shall report on its findings to the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees by July 1, 2019 and annually thereafter.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

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Executive Director
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**HOME
VISITING
WORKS**

WE HELP MAXIMIZE
THE IMPACT

Our goal is to help make the best possible impact on Virginia's young families, as early as possible. The known, best strategy for this goal is home visiting.

LEADERSHIP

COLLABORATION

INNOVATION

EXCELLENCE

Early Childhood Home Visiting in Virginia

The foundation for lifelong health and well-being is built in pregnancy and early childhood. The evidence is conclusive and grows daily. The absolute best opportunity to build healthy, safe communities begins with families. Supporting families from the start creates multi-generational change and the pathway to true population health.

For more than 25 years, Virginia Early Childhood Home Visiting programs have partnered with local communities throughout the Commonwealth to strengthen families and improve child health and well-being. Virginia has a proud history of strong support for evidence-based home visiting. Leaders consistently demonstrate an unyielding commitment to achieving the absolute best outcomes for young children. This commitment has never been more evident than over the past several years as the investment in early childhood home visiting has increased significantly. Today, nearly 10,000 families partner with local providers in 120 communities all across the Commonwealth to build parenting skills, enhance family functioning and support healthy child development. Supporting families from the start through effective two-generation approaches like home visiting builds a healthier, more productive future for parents and their young children.

Virginia's home visiting system serves as an example of the important role that public-private collaboration can play in building effective, innovative approaches to service delivery. Sustaining and expanding home visiting services to achieve the promise of prevention requires a higher level of coordination across early childhood systems. While evidence-based programming is essential to strong outcomes, so too is the need for comprehensive, integrated early childhood systems. Optimizing the Commonwealth's investment in early childhood home visiting and building a strong foundation for the future can only be achieved through deliberate planning and strong, committed leadership.

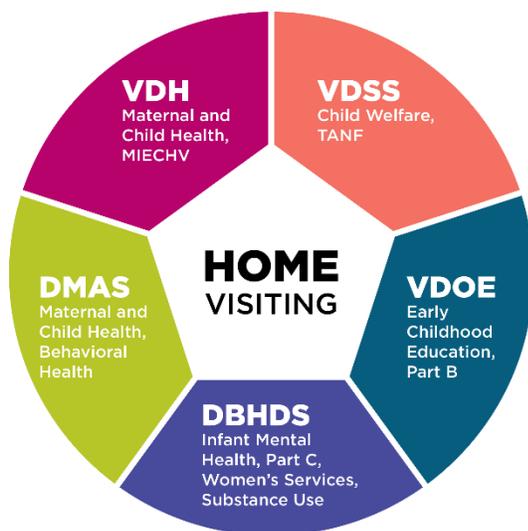
Early Impact Virginia (EIV), the Alliance for Early Childhood Home Visiting, has been leading this effort for more than 13 years. Formerly known as the Home Visiting Consortium, EIV began as an informal coalition bringing together state home visiting and early childhood leaders to enhance collaboration and facilitate system building at the state and local level. In 2014, as part of a comprehensive strategic planning process, early childhood leaders identified the need for Early Impact Virginia to become a formal intermediary organization. State leaders quickly coalesced around an aspirational vision and mission for the organization. Recognizing that a strong foundational framework is essential to long term growth and sustainability, the EIV mission is to advance the delivery of high quality, efficient services that improve health, social and educational outcomes for new and expecting parents, young children, and their families within safe homes and connected communities so that children grow up healthy and ready to learn. EIV effectively leverages resources through public-private partnership and collaboration to create a more comprehensive, coordinated system while driving innovation to continuously improve program efficiency, service quality and reach.

The first step to fostering the development of this new organization was identifying a host agency. It quickly became apparent that the best fit to support long-term growth and sustainability goals would be to partner with an organization within the field itself.

However, none of the existing organizations had the capacity to adequately support the development needs of the new entity. Ultimately, Virginia’s two largest private home visiting providers, Prevent Child Abuse Virginia (PCAV) and CHIP of Virginia merged to provide a home for Early Impact Virginia. The new organization, Families Forward Virginia houses and serves as the fiscal sponsor for Early Impact Virginia. This structure provides the infrastructure needed to support EIV growth while also allowing the autonomy necessary for the organization to represent the entire field of home visiting as Families Forward VA administers three of Virginia’s seven home visiting models; CHIP of Virginia, Healthy Families, and Parents as Teachers. This highly collaborative approach is designed to support the development of a comprehensive system of support for families, not to advance any particular program model. A true example of mission, not organization, in action.

LEADERSHIP

- General Assembly invests \$850,000 over two years to strengthen Early Impact Virginia as the home visiting umbrella organization (June 2018)
- Early Impact Virginia partners with the Governor’s Office to convene public-private Leadership Council to guide the state’s investment in home visiting (November 2018)
- Children’s Cabinet endorses the Early Impact Virginia Plan for Home Visiting (May 2019)
- Governor Northam instructs relevant state agencies to implement the Virginia Plan for Home Visiting (June 2019)



In Virginia, home visiting lives at the intersection of five child serving agencies, with each agency playing a significant role in all or some part of the administration, funding, and delivery of home visiting services. While this offers certain advantages for collaboration, it also creates inherent fragmentation and adds to the complexity of an already disparate system. The opportunity to strengthen the statewide home visiting system has been clearly identified by our state and local leaders. In its 2017 report, *Improving Virginia’s Early Childhood Development programs*, the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) finds that Virginia’s home

visiting programs consistently demonstrate strong outcomes for families and communities. “However, these programs lack adequate administrative infrastructure to ensure effective coordination, evaluation, and planning across programs. The funding for voluntary home visiting programs in Virginia is unstable and difficult to predict each year, and this instability hinders the ability of these programs to operate in a consistent, strategic manner over time.” JLARC recommended that the state “take action to solidify and

strengthen Early Impact Virginia as the lead entity for the state's voluntary home visiting programs."

Our Virginia leaders acted swiftly during the following legislative session to address these recommendations by including legislation to support this work. The 2019-2020 budget signed into law by Governor Northam grants Early Impact Virginia *the authority and responsibility to determine, systematically track and report annually on the key activities and outcomes of Virginia's home visiting programs; conduct systematic and statewide needs assessments for Virginia's home visiting programs at least once every three years; and to support continuous quality improvement, training, and coordination across Virginia's home visiting programs on an ongoing basis.*

In response to this legislation, Early Impact Virginia partnered with the Governor's office to convene a Leadership Council charged with developing the plan to guide the state's investment in home visiting that is driven by a clearly articulated vision for the Commonwealth's young families. First Lady Pamela Northam convened and chaired the inaugural Leadership Council meeting in November 2018.

Through public-private partnership, the Leadership Council not only guides the development of the statewide plan for home visiting, but also determines how success will be measured while working together to address barriers to success.

The role of the Leadership Council is to:

- design the Virginia plan to drive all current and future investments in early childhood home visiting,
- define how home visiting will contribute to achieving the Commonwealth's goals for the health and wellness of young children and stronger families,
- facilitate cross system strategies to advance the work, and
- make policy recommendations to Virginia's Children's Cabinet for statewide adoption.

Current Leadership Council composition is primarily state policy makers. This is intentional. As a primary prevention service, home visiting is not a revenue generating enterprise. Ninety percent (90%) of funding for home visiting is public funding that is administered across multiple state agencies. It is imperative that state leaders affirm a vision to direct this work.

EIV Leadership Council Membership includes high level administration decision makers, including Virginia's First Lady, Deputy Secretaries (Health/Human Resources and Education) and Deputy Commissioners (Behavioral Health, Health, and Medicaid) the Social Services Director of Innovation and Strategic Initiatives and the Director of Davenport Institute for Early Childhood Development (VA Community College System). Additionally, one Families Forward Board Member serves in a dual role, representing both organizations.

Key to the successful implementation of the Virginia Home Visiting plan is the need for state adoption of the plan. To facilitate this process, the Leadership Council submitted the plan to the Children's Cabinet for endorsement. As a holistic, two generation approach, true integration of home visiting requires a cross agency, cross secretariat commitment.

The Children’s Cabinet is designed to *encourage state agencies to collaborate across government and non-governmental entities on collective goals to optimize and align local, state, and federal resources, and public-private partnerships to enhance current and prospective programs and services for Virginia’s children and their families, particularly those at higher risk* making it the ideal entity to advance successful implementation.

On May 14, 2019, the plan for home visiting was endorsed by Virginia’s Children’s Cabinet (see Attachment A). With this milestone accomplished, the EIV Leadership Council is now focused on adopting the key elements of the plan. As this work progresses over the next year, Leadership Council membership will expand to include additional private partners, including health care organizations and philanthropies, for full implementation. The plan for home visiting establishes critical Medicaid reimbursement requirements, including provider qualifications and service definitions.

COLLABORATION

- The Virginia Department of Health partners with Early Impact Virginia to co-lead the administration of the federal MIECHV program and align with EIV legislation (October 2018)
- EIV dedicates a full-time position to strengthening partnerships across the state through the Alliance structure (August 2018)
- EIV develops statewide, community-based needs assessment to drive the development of a sustainable growth plan based on need, capacity and fit while also collaborating with other relevant needs assessment activities to better inform the needs of Virginia’s families and their young children. (June 2019)

As further demonstration of the state’s commitment to streamlining administration across the home visiting system, the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) entered into a unique partnership with Early Impact Virginia to co-lead the implementation of the Maternal, Infant, Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program. Since 2012, the EIV Alliance has served as the Advisory Board for MIECHV. Now, in a clear display of public-private

Virginia’s Plan for Home Visiting

Qualified service providers

- Core Competencies
- Required Training
- Certification

Quality Service Delivery

- Core standards and outcomes
- Monitoring framework

Quality Assurance

- Shared data collection
- Statewide reporting
- Needs Assessment

Sustainability

- Infrastructure investment
- Funding diversification
- Stable, predictable revenue streams
- Leverage relevant statewide programs

System Building

- Identify eligible families at the earliest possible point
- Promote cross-sector collaboration
- Reduce duplication and advance common goals

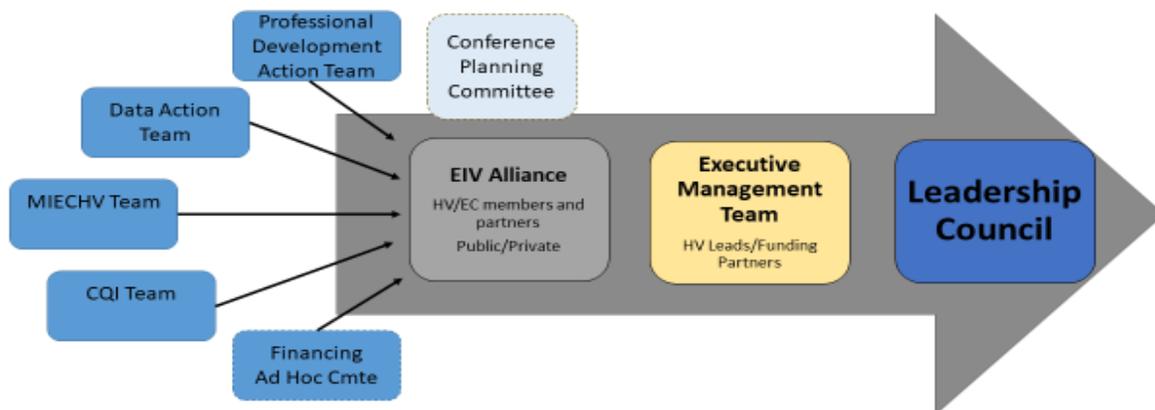
The Plan for Home Visiting is designed to create the structure and expectations needed to support long-term sustainability, including meeting Medicaid requirements. In this way, Virginia will capitalize on the system that is in place and build a sustainable approach for the future that will yield the greatest return on investment and the best possible outcomes for Virginia’s most vulnerable young children.

collaboration, VDH redesigned its approach to MIECHV administration to fully align with the EIV legislative mandate. This approach creates the opportunity for full statewide alignment of legislative priorities for home visiting, including standardized workforce development, continuous quality improvement, accountability, needs assessment and strategic planning.

MIECHV funding currently supports three evidence-based models serving 1100 families through 18 local programs. This represents a fraction of the overall services delivered in the state. Aligning MIECHV funding with state administered funding presents a clear path for increasing efficiency and effectiveness. Virginia is the first state to co-administer this large federal grant. While other states contract out for services, Virginia has elected to enter into a true collaboration for implementation with VDH continuing to administer funding for local service delivery and EIV supporting the critical system building work. To facilitate this work, EIV and VDH have redesigned their MIECHV team to include all members of each organization’s early childhood team.

As a collaborative, EIV works with partners across the early childhood system. With the development of the Leadership Council, EIV has achieved its organizational vision. The graphic below illustrates the breadth and depth of the organizational structure and demonstrates the extent to which EIV not only embraces an inside/outside government approach, but truly lives it.

EIV Organizational Structure



As both a convener and partner in implementation, EIV has well established relationships at the local and state level. Member organizations represent an early childhood workforce of more than 750 providers serving 10,000 families in 120 of Virginia’s 135 localities. In addition to this reach, as the Alliance for Early Childhood Home Visiting, EIV partners closely with early childhood providers across the system, including early intervention, preschool special education, infant/early childhood mental health, substance use services, early care and learning, child welfare, food/income security, health care providers, insurers and academic institutions.

Key to any EIV led project or activity is the engagement of those in the field. To be effective, EIV must represent the entire field in meaningful, relevant ways. EIV relies on the

expertise of local providers and stakeholders as well as state leaders in all of its work. Action Teams provide the vehicle for including the provider voice in decision making. The Alliance informs the broader agenda of the Executive Management Team which is made up of home visiting state leaders and funders, those directly connected to the work. And, the Executive Management Team serves as the home visiting experts to support the Leadership Council agenda. The Leadership Council sets the course, but it is the Alliance that will advance the work through collaboration with both existing and new partners.

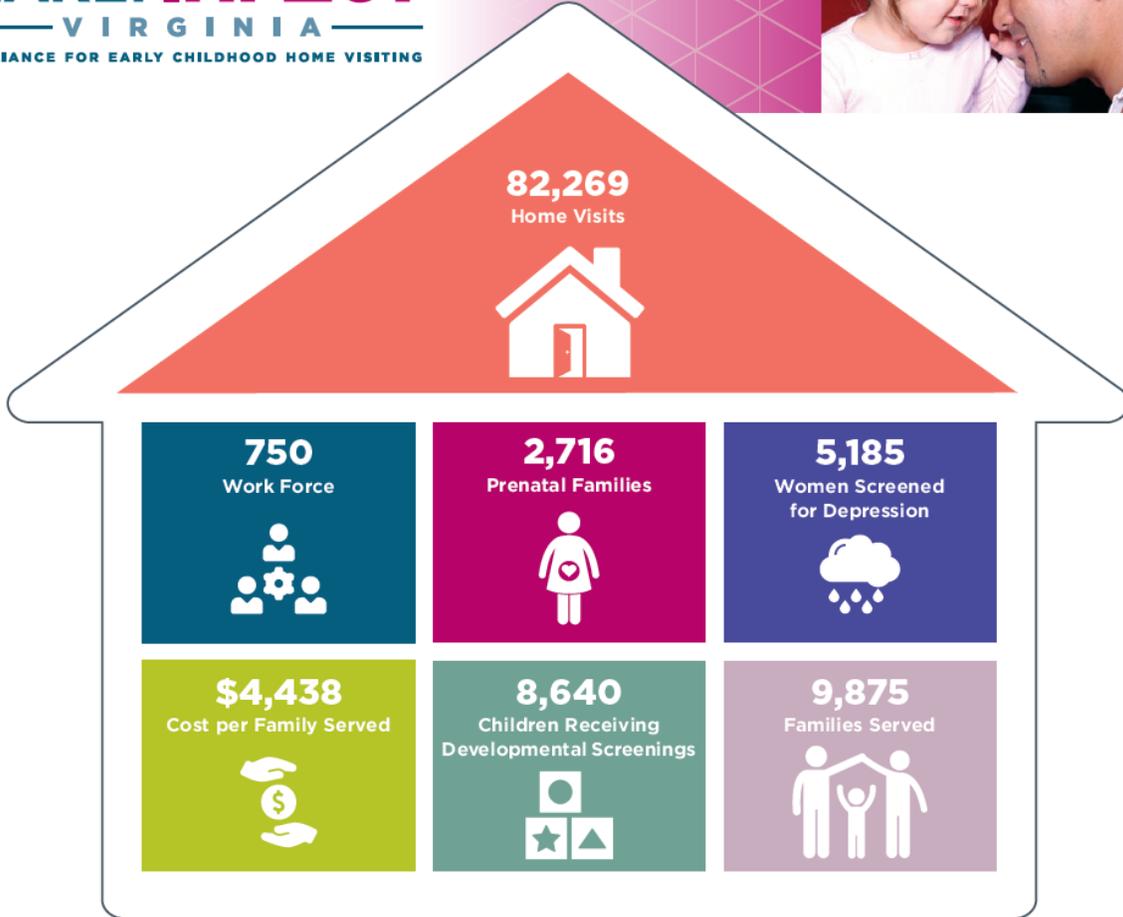
In addition to engaging stakeholders in designing field related activities, EIV is beginning a statewide, community based needs assessment that is designed to facilitate the use of collected data to identify emerging needs of families, home visitors, and home visiting programs, identify current resources to address those needs, and develop and prioritize strategies to address the gaps. Needs assessment activities will include focus groups with providers in all parts of the state as well as key informant interviews with stakeholders in localities with and without services. All activities will meet MIECHV requirements for identifying 'at-risk' communities while also informing Virginia's broader goal to develop targeted growth strategies based on local need, interest and capacity.

Collaboration in Action

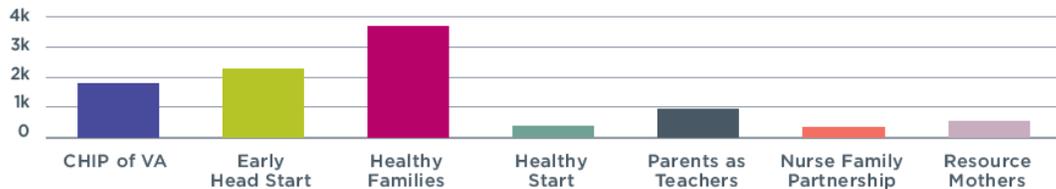
As part of the Early Impact Virginia Child Abuse and Neglect Training Series, EIV partnered with the Virginia Department of Social Services to create Virginia's Mandatory Reporter on-line training. This redesigned on-line training will replace the current mandatory reporting training in Virginia and will be hosted on both the EIV and the VDSS training systems so data can be shared across the organizations and meet the VDSS mandated reporter training requirements.

INNOVATION

- Collects statewide data to illustrate scope and impact of home visiting services (December 2018)
- Launches Continuous Quality Improvement Learning Community on Child Development Screening and Referrals (May 2019)
- Develops new print and digital public awareness materials to increase awareness and enrollment in home visiting programs across the state (January 2019)
- Establishing uniform home visiting indicators (January 2019)
- Developing statewide home visiting data solution for reporting and integration with state level data systems, including VLDS (January 2019)
- Participates in VDH led workgroup to make recommendations regarding the development of a *Pay for Success* financing model for prenatal home visiting in response to legislative request (August 2018)



Virginia's Seven Unique Home Visiting Models Served 9,875 At-Risk Families in 2018



From the start, home visiting program models have been built on evidence and have used data to drive improvement. Collecting reliable data is essential to accountability, quality assurance and improvement. Early Impact Virginia recognizes the value of defining and collecting common data across all programs and is working to develop unified data collection and reporting systems to share the impact of our work.

Collecting data across multiple models of service delivery is challenging. Add in countless data management systems, varying data definitions, nuances in service delivery, staffing, community priorities, and limited resources and this work can seem insurmountable. However, because of our shared commitment to a common mission, Early Impact Virginia

member organizations are working together to develop a system that works for each organization while also demonstrating the collective impact of services across the state.

For the past three years, EIV has partnered with local providers to collect program level data to demonstrate the scope and impact of service delivery. Annually, 45 local organizations representing **83 local programs** voluntarily report data to EIV for shared reporting. Our focus has been to conduct this work in a way that is manageable for local program providers while also informing broader goals to streamline reporting, ensure accountability, demonstrate impact and frame our story. In addition to streamlining data collection this year, Early Impact Virginia collected additional qualitative data to begin identifying emerging trends and issues. Early Impact Virginia is committed to transparency and accountability. Coordination of statewide data collection and reporting remains a top priority.

To achieve this goal, EIV is developing a shared measurement data solution to automate shared reporting and allow for full integration of data from each of Virginia's seven home visiting models with relevant statewide data systems, including the VA Longitudinal Data System (VLDS) and Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS). VLDS, the state's existing K-12 data system, provides a powerful tool for extracting and analyzing education and workforce development data. EIV is participating in the VA Early Childhood Foundation led ECIDS project to inform policies, programs and practice. EIV is working with public partners to not only share data, but also to develop strategies to connect with relevant participant and cost data. Finally, EIV is working together with state leaders and local providers to develop uniform reporting requirements including program level data (workforce, funding, community collaborations, etc.), participant level data and dashboard reporting.

To lay the groundwork for long-term success, EIV partnered with Virginia's largest home visiting provider, Healthy Families Virginia, to develop a new data solution for the state model, moving from the use of an antiquated, Access based system to a full scale, secure case management system capable of data integration of the highest order. The Healthy Families VA data system is scheduled to go live in September 2019. With this system advancement in place, EIV is now focused on the development of a statewide shared data solution.

Virginia's home visiting system has a long history of using data to drive improvement. Local programs have embraced a culture of quality and EIV is leading statewide quality improvement efforts. Working together with state program TA/QA staff, EIV is implementing a Child Development Screening Learning Community over the next year. Building the data infrastructure to support this work has been a critical focus over the last several years. And, supporting local providers to effectively use real time data will continue to be a major part of this work.

As demonstration of innovation in action, several years ago, two Virginia Home Visiting models, CHIP of Virginia and Healthy Families Virginia, participated in a *Pay for Success* Feasibility Study to determine the cost effectiveness of prenatal home visiting for improving birth outcomes. The Feasibility Study demonstrated strong results—women receiving home visiting services during pregnancy were 40% less likely to have a pre-term birth. The fiscal analysis indicates average cost for each pre-term infant is approximately \$30,000, demonstrating significant cost savings to the state for Medicaid enrollees.

Legislation requiring the Virginia Department of Health to study and make recommendations regarding the development of a *Pay for Success* financing model for prenatal home visiting was passed during the 2018 session. EIV worked together with VDH as part of the VDH sponsored public-private workgroup studying the issue and ultimately recommending the development of such a project. Those recommendations were submitted to the General Assembly this year with work continuing to determine the feasibility of a home visiting focused Pay for Success project. As part of the framework for home visiting, EIV Leadership Council will continue to explore innovative financing models to support efficiency, sustainability and performance based results.

E XCELLENCE

- Developed 10 new e-learning modules in partnership with the James Madison University Health Education Design Group and updated 2 e-learning modules to reflect new best practice standards
- Developed and launched a new, innovative training program, *The Learning Lab*, designed to effectively leverage digital content with hands-on learning (March 2019)
- Sponsored bi-annual statewide home visiting conference (March 2019)
- Produced three video award packages to highlight excellence in the field (March 2019)
- Coordinated two-year Reflective Supervision Learning Community (June 2019)

Early Impact Virginia Workforce Development: Numbers to Know (SFY'19)	
37	On-line training modules
6	Classroom based trainings
1002	Home Visitors and Early Childhood Professionals participated in Virginia trainings
502	Hours of classroom training provided
47	Classroom trainings provided
8771	On-line trainings completed by Virginia professionals
20	Graduates of Early Impact Virginia 2-year Reflective Practice Learning Community
19	Scholarships for Virginia Infant Mental Health Endorsement
373	Local Providers attend 2019 EIV Conference

One of the most fundamental roles that EIV plays in supporting the home visiting system is through professional development. A national leader in this work, EIV has developed a comprehensive, competency based professional development system for home visitors and supervisors. EIV offers 37 e-learning foundational training modules and 7 applied learning classroom based advanced trainings. All trainings are specially designed for home visitors and are developed together with early childhood partners, experts and local providers. All trainings are free and accessible regardless of provider location. As part of an innovative effort to advance workforce development nationwide and streamline the home visitor experience, EIV partnered with the Iowa Department of Public Health to develop the [Institute for the Advancement of Family Support Professionals](#). Guided by a National Expert Panel including four representatives from the National Home Visiting Model Alliance, The Institute has developed a National Competency Framework and offers over 50 high quality e-learning modules on a shared training platform that allows for nationwide accessibility. The Institute is continuing to build features to support workforce development by creating a digital learning map for users to streamline training, National Certification, low-cost Undergraduate degree credit (University of Kansas), CEU credits

(James Madison University) and has established multiple reciprocal agreements with certifying organizations like the CDA for Home Visitors.

The Early Impact Virginia Bi-annual Home Visiting Conference took place on Friday, March 22, 2019 at the Hilton Short Pump Hotel in Richmond, Virginia. The Conference, *Putting the*



Pieces Together: Virginia's Premier Conference on Home Visiting, attracted a total of 373 home visitors, supervisors, and early childhood partners from across the Commonwealth.

Keynote Speakers touched on the topics of trauma-informed care, lifetime impacts of early childhood partnerships, and the personal home visiting journey of one Virginia family. Tamara Slife, a home visitor with CHIP of New River Valley, Healthy Families of Central Virginia at HumanKind, and Governor Ralph Northam were recognized with the EIV 2018 Expanding Horizons Awards during the luncheon awards ceremony. Please visit the [EIV website](#) to view the videos honoring each of the awardees and the full [Conference report](#)

Practice Spotlight: Reflective Supervision and Infant Mental Health

Five years ago, EIV partnered with Virginia's Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health Association to build a pathway to IMH endorsement. To support this work and begin building the pipeline for local providers, EIV developed an extensive Reflective Supervision training and coaching program. EIV is currently wrapping up the second, two-year Learning Community that includes quarterly face-to-face training, group and individual reflective supervision, and monthly coaching calls meeting IMH Reflective Supervision requirements. As the current Learning Community ends this spring, more than 40 local supervisors will have completed the training program. To further support this workforce development effort, EIV is providing up to twenty-five scholarships for supervisors to complete endorsement this year.

The Reflective Journey

"guidance in allowing each individual and family to reflect on their situation and search within themselves. This is our role. Helping our home visitors see what is already there so that they can support their families to do the same in moving forward."

Five years ago, Virginia's I/ECMH system was largely non-existent. Early Childhood partners from across the field have worked together to begin building necessary infrastructure. Home visiting plays a critical role and EIV has been a partner in this work from the beginning. At their core, home visitors are infant mental health specialists. This work is happening in communities throughout the state, but it is not recognized or supported as such. Building awareness to support effective strategies to meet the

individualized needs of families and young children is essential. Together with other ECCE providers, like early intervention and early care providers, EIV is building provider skills to identify and address infant mental health needs by promoting healthy parent-child interactions and nurturing, secure relationships to build social-emotional capacity and resilience among young children. With appropriate training and support, traditional early childhood providers can address the basic needs of the majority of families through targeted prevention and early intervention activities. EIV continues to work together with Virginia's IMH Association to develop strategies to identify and support high-risk families in need of intensive services.

What's Next: The Virginia Home Visiting Landscape

There are several major barriers to scaling and sustaining services for early childhood home visiting. While limited funding is an obvious challenge, it is certainly not the only one. Virginia's early childhood system is fragmented at all levels. There is little continuity across any part of the system, leaving families and providers with limited ability to readily access available resources and even less ability to track and measure need. For home visiting this is particularly problematic as local programs spend significant time and resources identifying eligible families for services. Complicating matters further, the lack of dedicated services for this vulnerable population means that families who may need more targeted interventions are often enrolled in home visiting services because there are no other options available. This undermines service delivery at all levels, with the most obvious impacts seen in engagement and retention challenges, increased costs, and diffuse outcomes among evidence based models.

Early childhood home visiting is only as effective as the systems in which it lives. Regardless of evidence base, the strength of program outcomes is highly dependent upon the community resources available to meet the unique needs of participating families. Experience has taught us that the lack of comprehensive systems undermines home visiting effectiveness in multiple ways as local programs try to meet the complex needs of families. Realizing the promise of prevention, in both human and financial capital, requires a comprehensive approach to supporting family needs with targeted interventions driven by universal screening and assessment strategies. Much like the health care industry, our field has recognized that we must do a better job of assessing family needs and individualizing services to meet those needs. In this way, we are beginning to develop 'precision home visiting' to ensure that families receive what they need, when they need it.

As a highly dynamic, multidisciplinary field, future growth strategies must not only consider the existing complexity inherent in the home visiting system, but also be responsive to systemic changes and priorities. It is within this context that Early Impact Virginia will continue to work together with state leaders to build sustainable strategies to effectively integrate home visiting into Virginia's system of care for families and their young children. The following represent the areas in which home visiting is actively engaging to support Virginia's policy priorities.

Medicaid Expansion: This year, Medicaid expansion is allowing up to 400,000 new Virginians to access critical health care services. Chief among this population of newly

enrolled participants is young adults, including new parents. Traditionally, low income pregnant women remain enrolled in Medicaid for up to 60 days postpartum, limiting access to essential health and behavioral health services. Expansion allows low income women to continue to receive coverage, offering the opportunity to develop a holistic approach to addressing the dyadic needs of women and their infant children.

On June 5, 2019, Governor Northam announced the goal to eliminate racial disparity in Virginia Maternal Mortality by 2025. This new policy initiative requires extensive collaboration across public and private providers. As part of this new policy initiative, the Governor *“instructed relevant state agencies to implement a framework for scaling home visiting that was recently endorsed by the Governor’s Children’s Cabinet.”* The policy a new opportunity to address the unique needs of women during pregnancy and following childbirth. EIV looks forward to advancing strategies that increase enrollment of pregnant women to ensure that their health, including behavioral health, needs are met.

Behavioral Health Redesign: Virginia has just completed (January 2019) the development of a plan for redesigning its continuum of Medicaid behavioral health services. Early Impact Virginia participated as a partner in this work. The final plan, *Virginia Medicaid Continuum of Behavioral Health Services*, includes an emphasis on early childhood promotion and prevention services, specifically identifies evidence-based home visiting and recommends “significantly expanded funding and capacity for the delivery of these services”. The report further notes that “alignment of services across agencies and organizations will be key to leveraging resources for maximal impact in the early childhood and perinatal period.” Currently, accessing Medicaid reimbursement for behavioral health services delivered by evidence based home visiting programs is possible, but limited to those programs administered by a CSB. At this time, only six local programs are administered by CSBs. And, while reimbursement is possible for these six providers, the Medicaid requirements do not align easily to the service model requirements adding significant additional work and reducing caseloads.

Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA): The fundamental vision for this massive, transformational legislation is to prevent children from entering foster care and shift investments from out-of-home care to evidence-based interventions that keep families together. Virginia plans to begin FFPSA implementation this year. Already identified as a fundamental evidence-based family support and education service, home visiting is a key player in Virginia’s strategy to advance this work. Virginia is taking a Three Branch Approach to implementation and home visiting leaders are playing an active role in the design of the new system. Critical to this work will be creating the scaling strategies to both address immediate intervention activities for children at immediate risk of removal while also building capacity and scaling prevention services to mitigate future risk. EIV is working with the Virginia Department of Social Services to align the needs assessment and planning process in ways that eliminate duplication and foster coordinated growth strategies and implementation plans.

In addition to collaborating on these statewide policy initiatives to support long-term sustainability and service integration, EIV is committed to ensuring home visiting alignment with early childhood priority activities, including:

- **Preschool Development Grant** Needs Assessment and Strategic Planning
- **Coordinated Pathways to Care** (SEI/NAS Workgroup)

- Title V Universal **Developmental Screening Initiative**
- **Help Me Grow** early childhood systems building activities.

Effective collaboration across these projects will be particularly critical for building implementation strategies as opportunities to align work across these key service areas provide the path to creating community-based comprehensive systems of care.

For more information, please contact:

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