



Home Visitors' Monthly Resource Bulletin December 2024

Highlights:

- Registration is open for the 2025 Alaska Home Visitor's Alliance Virtual Summit! Summit is scheduled for Friday January 24, 2025 9:00-4:00pm!
- Home Visiting as Part of a Holistic Approach to Supporting Unhoused Families This article was shared by the National Home Visiting Resource Center.
- Holiday Supports for Alaskan Families

Upcoming Events:

- Home Visitor ECHO Series! This series is all about supporting the home visiting workforce in adapting best practices, promoting equity, and increasing client engagement and retention. Registration link below!

See Resource Sections Below for Families and Home Visitors!

[Click Here](#) - Help Me Grow AK Developmental Screening Training: A Tool for Family Engagement and Tracking Healthy Growth

Have something that you want to highlight or celebrate in the monthly HVA Bulletin? Please send them to: hva@a2p2.org or rqueja@a2p2.org

NEW THIS MONTH:

AK HOME VISITORS' ALLIANCE SUMMIT 2025

JANUARY 24, 2025 | 9 AM - 4 PM | VIRTUAL

REGISTER TODAY



Together for Families. Together for Growth.

FREE TO PARTICIPATE

QUESTIONS?
CONTACT REANNE HONEMANN-QUEJA
AT HVA@A2P2.COM OR
907.885.4012.



Alaska Home Visitor's Alliance Virtual Conference January 24, 2025 9:00-4:00pm

We are excited to announce the Home Visitor's Alliance Virtual Conference, on Friday January 24, 2025, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM! Our conference theme is *"Together for Families. Together for Growth."*

Join us for sessions on "You Matter", "The 5 C's of Home Visiting", Wellness Moments, Behavior Supports, Supervision Supports, and more! Special guest speakers include Gwendolyn Gabbert, Melissa Pickle, LaVerne Demintieff, David Westlake, Chris, Strum, Angela Rau, and others! The afternoon sessions will have various presentation options to choose from!

Register Today!

Home Visiting as Part of a Holistic Approach to Supporting Unhoused Families

Unhoused families may struggle to access health care, childcare, food assistance, and other government programs that rely on participants having a fixed address. This service gap is especially concerning for families with young children because rapid brain development during the first 3 years of life sets the stage for future learning, health, and behavior.

Click on the button below to read more of the brief from the National Home Visiting Resource Center

[Read More](#)

Holiday Support for Families

Looking for ways to support families with food and gifts this holiday season? Check out the resources below!



Statewide Angel Tree Locator



www.threadalaska.org

Additional Statewide Holiday Resources

Thread has a wonderful cumulative list of additional statewide agencies that are supporting families in various ways around Alaska

Holiday Self-Care Tips



Make space for messy feelings like grief.



Learn to say "no" without feeling guilty.

Create your own holiday traditions.



Keep your stress levels in check. Step back or delegate.



Set realistic expectations for yourself and the holiday.

Get organized! Make a plan and try to stick to it.

Keep up with your self-care and make time to relax.



Give yourself permission to just let it be an average day.



BlessingManifesting

UPCOMING EVENTS:



Join the Home Visiting ECHO for FY25!

September 17 | October 15 | November 19 | December 10 | January 21 | February 18 | March 18 | April 15

8:30am - 10:00am (AKST)

8 Sessions on the 3rd Tuesday of the month (exception in Dec)

Free Zoom Event

Free Continuing Education Offered

The Home Visiting ECHO is a virtual learning network intended for Home Visiting professionals to interface with each other and a team of experts in Alaska. This series is all about supporting the home visiting workforce in adapting best practices, promoting equity, and increasing client engagement and retention. Each session will include a brief presentation followed by Q&A, and guided discussion or Home Visiting Story as an integral part of the learning experience. This

series is intended for Home Visiting Professionals, Early Intervention/Infant Learning Program, and families with home visiting experience. Please note the new session time and the date exception in December!

This activity is jointly provided by the State of Alaska DOH Division of Public Health and the UAA Center for Human Development. This project was made possible by funds from Preschool Development Grant – Birth through Five (PDG B-5) grant number 90TP0103.

*Download a calendar ics file to save this series event. This file will serve as a placeholder on your calendar. A personalized Zoom link will be sent via email 60 minutes before the session begins.
<<https://chd.box.com/s/yug3hm1yq5z26s29tvk0j248pzzvjihw>>*

**To participate in this live event you must sign up for a free iECHO account and register for the series. Learn more about iECHO at www.iecho.org*

If you have any questions or require accessibility accommodations to attend these sessions, please contact chdecho@alaska.edu.

**Register for the ECHO Series
Here!**



FAMILY RESOURCES:



Division of Public Assistance



New Mobile Friendly Online Alaska SNAP application now available online!

In Alaska, the **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program** is administered by the DoH, Division of Public Assistance, and provides food benefits to low-income families to supplement their grocery budget so they can afford the nutritious food essential to health and well-being.

[Apply Here](#)

Divisions of HealthCare Services (program and policy administration) and Public Assistance (program eligibility)



Apply for Denali KidCare and DenaliCare!

The only way to know for sure if you are eligible is to apply!

Children up to the age of 19 and **pregnant women** may be eligible if you meet the income guidelines.

For ease, peace of mind and to receive a confirmation number, click below.

You can also apply at HealthCare.gov or with a paper application available for download [here!](#)

Submit documentation and changes

Keep Your Child's Future Bright
Visit your Healthcare Provider
on Time Every Time

Well Child Schedule

3-5 DAYS	1 MONTH	2 MONTHS	4 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	9 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	15 MONTHS	18 MONTHS	24 MONTHS	30 MONTHS	36 MONTHS	Yearly
												From
												Ages
												4-20 years

Children on Denali KidCare, young adults on DenaliCare, ages 19 up to age 21, and pregnant women on DenaliCare **may be eligible for transportation services to get to and from medical appointments** under the Early Periodic Screening Diagnosis Treatment (EPSDT) Medicaid service provision administered by the DoH, [Division of Health Care Services \(DHCS\)](#).

[Click here for more Information on EPSDT Transportation Services](#)

online and find your closest DPA Office [here](#).

Apply online for Denali KidCare or DenaliCare here!

As of February 1, 2024, the Alaska DoH will now provide 12 months of postpartum Medicaid coverage to:

- Medicaid recipients whose pregnancy ended or will end on or after February 1, 2024;
- Medicaid recipients who are no longer pregnant but who are still within a 12-month postpartum period; and
- Individuals that are no longer receiving Medicaid benefits but had a pregnancy end in the last 12 months.

Action for beneficiaries:

- The individuals affected above do not need to submit a Medicaid application to receive these extended postpartum Medicaid benefits. Previously, postpartum coverage ended at 60 days.

Additionally, the income limit for Medicaid coverage will increase to include pregnant women with countable income under 225% of the federal poverty level:

Apply to Know for Sure!

EPSDT services recommended by AAP and BF for children and adolescents at periodic well child visits:

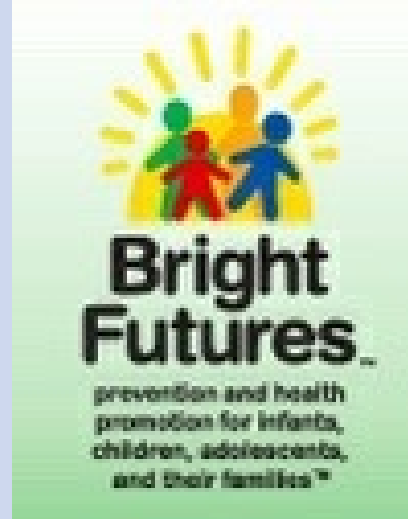
A screenshot of a large, multi-column table titled "Recommendations for Preventive Pediatric Health Care". The table is organized into several columns representing different age groups and categories of services. The rows contain detailed information about various preventive health care services, including immunizations, screenings, and counseling. The table is color-coded with different background colors for different sections or categories of services.

[Click here - AAP/BF Recommendations for Preventive Pediatric Health Care](#)

American Academy
of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



WHAT IS BRIGHT FUTURES?

Bright Futures is a vision and a philosophy of children's health care. It is also a set of up-to-date guidelines, offering a practical, strength-based approach to children's health and well-being, birth through adolescence.

Bright Futures is dedicated to the principle that every child deserves to be as healthy as possible. The best health care involves a trusting relationship between a child and family, a health care provider, and their community.

Bright Futures For Families

Families' roles are essential in the health of their children. What families do every day plays a huge role in the health and well-being of children, including those with special health care needs. Partnership with health care providers is invaluable. When families and health care providers work together, sharing their knowledge and experience, children—and their families—thrive.

The *Family Pocket Guide* guides all families including families with Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN).

[Download the Bright Futures Family Pocket Guide](#)

Division of Senior and Disabilities Services (DSDS)

**Alaska Medicaid Home and Community Based Waiver (HCBW)
Services General Overview**

[Click Here for Alaska DSDS HCBW](#)

According to [Medicaid.gov](https://www.medicaid.gov), Alaska offers four Medicaid Waivers, two of which are for children and/or youth. You can read a synopsis of them [here](#).

States seeking additional flexibility in design of their Medicaid programs may apply for formal waivers of some statutory requirements from the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The Alaska HCBWs represent a set of services Alaska Medicaid developed under provisions of Section 1915(c) of the Social Security Act. **Home and community-based services (HCBS): Section 1915(c) waivers.** Section 1915(c) waivers authorize states to provide Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) as an alternative to institutional care in nursing homes, intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities, and hospitals.

Medicaid waiver programs offer people who meet an institutional level of care the opportunity to receive care in the home or community instead of in an institution. **In Alaska**, there are **two Medicaid HCBWs available to children and/or youth** who meet Medicaid eligibility and level of care requirements. They are:

1. **The Child with Complex Medical Conditions (CCMC) Waiver - (AK Children with Complex Medical Conditions Waiver (0263.R06.00))**
2. **Intellectual and Developmental Disability (IDD) Waiver - (AK Individualized Supports Waiver (1566.R01.00))**

To be determined eligible for one of these waivers, **a person must be found to be eligible for Alaska Medicaid and be enrolled with the Alaska Division of Medical Assistance (DMA).** The eligible person must also meet the Level of Care. A Plan of Care must be developed and agreed upon between the consumer, or parent/guardian, and providers of service. Furthermore, there must be a provider agency with the capacity to provide the desired service in a safe responsible manner.

As a "Point of Entry" and to obtain more information on the IDD Waiver, you can reach out to the Developmental Disabilities Resource Connection (DDRC) and click Roster found [here](#).

To find out more about the CCMC Waiver, contact the Aging and Resource Disability Center (ARDC). More information and locations found [here](#).

HOME VISITOR RESOURCES:



Touchpoints are periods in the first years of life, during which children's spurts in development result in disruption in the family system. The succession of touchpoints in a child's development is like a map that can be identified and anticipated.....

Learning Opportunities

Trainings and
Workshops

New Brief! A Conceptual Framework for Family Engagement in Early Childhood Home Visiting

[Download Brief Here](#)



The Home Visiting Evidence of Effectiveness (HomVEE) review is a thorough assessment of home visiting models that target families with pregnant women and children from birth to kindergarten entry (up to age 5).

The review determines which models have enough evidence to meet the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) criteria for an “evidence-based early childhood home visiting service delivery model”.

HomVEE's work helps policymakers and program administrators understand which models are effective.

NEW - [Home Visiting Evidence of Effectiveness \(HomVEE\) Systematic Review - Handbook of Procedures and Evidence Standards: Version 2.2 - April 2024](#)

This updated version of the handbook includes procedures related to HomVEE's review of virtual home visiting research. It also includes updates to clarify HomVEE's definition of subgroups, limits the eligibility of certain findings for review, and strengthens standards for validity.

[Download Version 2.2 Handbook Here](#)

NEW BRIEFS FROM HOMVEE

New briefs on prioritization and public comments.

HomVEE is also releasing two new briefs:

1. The first **summarizes the updated process for prioritizing models for review.**
2. The second **summarizes public comments received in response to HomVEE's request for comment in summer 2023.**

[Brief 1](#)

[Brief 2](#)

**Build Research
Knowledge**



With Online Training

The Mothers and Babies research team at Northwestern University has released an [online training to build home visitors' knowledge and confidence](#) partnering on research projects. The free, self-paced training is available via the Home Visiting Applied Research Collaborative website.



NEW - What We're Reading—Home Visiting, Mental Health and Nursing - May is National Mental Health Awareness Month and National Nurses Month!

- [Effect of a Community Agency–Administered Nurse Home Visitation Program on Program Use and Maternal and Infant Health Outcomes: A Randomized Clinical Trial](#)
- [Implementing Goal Mama: Barriers and Facilitators to Introducing Mobile Health Technology in a Public Health Nurse Home-Visiting Program](#)
- [A Program Evaluation of the Nurse-Family Partnership: How Therapeutic Relationships Foster Resiliency in First-Time Mothers](#)
- [Risk Assessment Practices Among Home Visiting Nurses and Child Protection Caseworkers in Colorado, United States: A Qualitative Investigation](#)
- [Perinatal Mental Health Support and Early Childhood Home Visitation During COVID-19](#)

Subscribe to NHVRC Mailing List

Professional Development Offerings for Early Childhood Leaders and Staff

Building thriving organizations that create positive staff, family and child outcomes.

Click [here](#) for the **Essentials of Home Visiting Self-Paced, Online Learning - High quality learning to Enhance Family Professionals.**

What the Field Is Saying

- 94% of participants report satisfaction and 91% would recommend The Essentials of Home Visiting to a colleague
- 76% of participants report applying what they learned within one week of engaging with The Essentials of Home Visiting experience

*"(The Essentials of Home Visiting) allows **rural home visitors** to attend trainings and not use excessive time and money traveling. This is so important in the current financial climate. The interactive components ... also allow (participants) to form relationships and feel part of ... a learning community."*

....Start Early snippets to ensure a System of Care that is family-centric, equitable, and transparent....

In short, a successful family-centric early childhood system is one that *practices* authentic and inclusive family engagement and *results* in positive, equitable, and supportive experiences for families.

Rather than focusing on preparing families to engage with the system, prepare the system to include families as co-designers.

[Click here for Start Early Professional Development](#)

Home Visitor Professional Learning Path - Online

Missed a webinar? Find online training resources at link below!



[Learn More](#)

If you have any questions, need more information, or have a resource to share, please reach out to hva@a2p2.org, we'd love to hear from you!

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