



LB22 | Funding for Evidence-Based Nurse Home Visiting Programs

POLICY BRIEF 2025

What is Nurse Home Visiting?

Nurse home visiting is an evidence-based service that supports the health and well-being of families with young children. It pairs newborns and mothers with licensed health professionals who tailor services to meet the family’s specific needs and work to form trusting relationships with families to help them reach their goals in child development, family health, parent-child relationships, school readiness and more. The voluntary program is provided at no cost to families.

How Does Nurse Home Visiting Work?

In Lancaster County, the Family Connects program provides home visits by a registered nurse. The nurses are there to lend a hand, answer questions and offer support and resources to ensure mom and baby are off to a healthy start. The following services are offered to families at discharge from labor and delivery and concluded in three to four visits:¹

- ▶ Comprehensive health assessment of newborns.
- ▶ Postpartum maternal health assessment.
- ▶ Breastfeeding support.
- ▶ Education and guidance on the needs of newborns and mothers.
- ▶ Assistance with connecting families to a medical home and scheduling routine wellness appointments.
- ▶ Connections to other local services and resources.

In 2022, more than 1,200 families and nearly 1,500 children in Nebraska received home visiting services.



But less than 1% of families who could benefit from home visiting are being served.²

LB22: Funding for Evidence-Based Nurse Home Visiting Programs (State Senator George Dungan, District 26)

LB22 allows providers of evidence-based nurse home visiting to bill Medicaid for their services using targeted case management as the billing code. This would help ensure that mothers with low incomes receive support from a nurse in their home following birth.

“We know what outcomes taxpayers can expect from our investments in MIECHV because funding is only provided for models and interventions that have proven results... [MIECHV is] fact-based and evidence based, and I think it’s a model for other parts of government.”

Representative Adrian Smith
Nebraska 3rd Congressional District

ROI

The personal and societal benefits makes home visiting highly cost effective, producing a

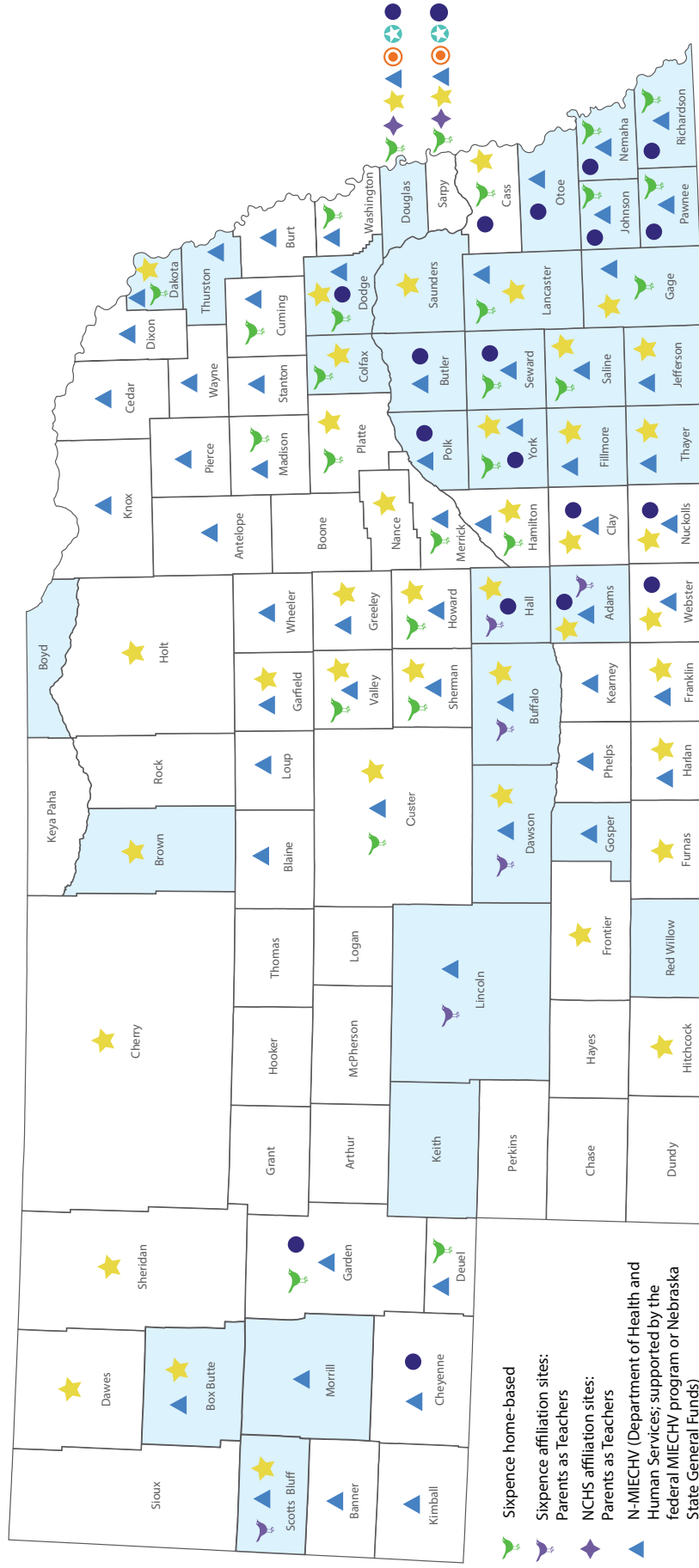
\$1.80 - \$5.70

return for each dollar invested³

Conclusion

LB22, a bill proposed by State Senator Dungan, will help support access to crucial nurse home visiting services for new mothers in Nebraska. By allowing Medicaid billing for these evidence-based programs, LB22 helps ensure that more families receive essential support during a critical time in a baby’s early development.

Statewide Home Visiting Initiatives⁴



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Delivering Home Visiting Services in Nebraska

About 71% of Nebraska's 93 counties are served by home visiting initiatives, primarily through three key organizations/entities:

- N-MIECHV (Nebraska Maternal and Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting)
- Head Start/Early Head Start
- Nebraska Early Childhood Education Endowment Fund (Sixpence)

¹ City of Lincoln Health Department. "Family Connects Home Visitation." <https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/City/Departments/Health-Department/GHS>.

² Meisch, A. D., & Brennan, K. (2021). Investing in home visiting: Partnering with parents to build strong families [Policy Brief]. James Bell Associates.

³ National Home Visiting Resource Center. (2023). 2023 Home visiting yearbook. James Bell Associates and the Urban Institute.

⁴ Landers, P.A. (2022). Estimates of Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program funding allocation under a draft reauthorization proposal [Memorandum]. Congressional Research Service.