

Home Visiting is Essential—Information for Families During COVID-19

Early childhood home visiting can help you support your child and family

As your child's first teacher, you are the most important person in their world.

During this uncertain time, you can help your child feel comforted and secure by finding ways to support their healthy development. **You've got this! But you don't have to do this alone!**

- Even before the current health crisis, home visitors were already a critical link for new and expectant parents, providing one-on-one support at no cost to eligible families.
- **Now, virtual home visiting can be an important lifeline as you navigate the new challenges brought on by this current health crisis.**
- Home visiting is available for families beginning prenatally and continuing up to age five.
- **Home visiting activities can support the bond between you and your child to encourage their development.** Home visiting can also help you build strategies to cope with the unique stress of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Virtual home visiting is available during the COVID-19 pandemic

- Enroll in a program and connect with your home visitor virtually through phone calls, FaceTime, Google Duo, and more. Your home visitor can drop off handouts on activities to do with your child.
- Home visits are designed to meet the needs and desires of your family. Home visitors can do developmental screenings, provide information on children's developmental milestones and early learning, connect you to important community resources, and more.

Visit [www. http://igrowillinois.org](http://igrowillinois.org) to learn more and find a program

1. Search for local programs in your area using the iGrow website, at <http://igrowillinois.org/find-a-program>. Local programs will have details on how to enroll in home visiting services. Some programs have eligibility requirements; by calling the home visiting program in your area you can learn more about which options may be the best fit for you and your family.
2. In some communities, Coordinated Intake (CI) workers can guide families to the right programs. Check the attached table to find contact information for CI workers in your area. You can call these numbers to connect to a CI worker to discuss your home visiting options.
3. Email Gov.HomeVisiting@illinois.gov or contact MIECHV Project Director Lesley Schwartz at (312) 324-4420 with questions on home visiting.



Additional Supports for Families with Young Children

Resource	Contact	Website
Emergency Child Care	To find emergency child care in your area, call 888-228-1146	Visit the COVID-19 Emergency Provider Search at https://emergencycare.inccrra.org/
Public Health Information	Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH.illinois.gov) has a statewide, 24-hour COVID-19 hotline (1-800-889-3931)	Visit the Illinois Department of Public Health at http://www.dph.illinois.gov/
Mental Health services for parents and caregivers of young children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Call the Erikson Institute intake line at 312-709-0508 (English) or 312-934-6446 (Spanish) If you or a loved one are struggling with stress related to the COVID-19 pandemic and need emotional support, text TALK to 552020 for English or HABLAR for Spanish. This service is free and available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. 	Visit the Erikson Institute at https://www.erikson.edu/center-children-families/
Urgent Essential Needs & Benefits	Call the IDHS Help is Here toll-free line at 1-833-2-FIND-HELP or the ABE hotline at 1-800-843-6154	Visit the Application for Benefits Eligibility (ABE) portal at https://abe.illinois.gov/abe/access/

Looking for other supports during this challenging time?

Visit the Governor's Office of Early Childhood COVID-19 page at <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/OECD/Pages/COVID-19-For-Families.aspx> for a list of resources on:

- Emotional Well-being Toolkit
- Essential Resources
- Emergency Child Care
- Resources for Immigrant Families
- Protection for My Family & Household
- Resources for Children with Special Needs

Visit the Shriver Center for Poverty Law's resource page at <https://www.povertylaw.org/article/covid-19-resources-for-individuals-and-families-in-illinois/> for useful resources to aid communities seeking support during the COVID-19 pandemic on the following issues:

- Child Care
- Food
- Criminal Justice
- Healthcare
- Disability
- Housing
- Domestic Violence
- General Lists of Resources
- Economic Impact Payments
- Immigrant Communities/Public Charge
- Employment/Unemployment
- Legal Aid
- Compensation
- LGBTQ

Approved by the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development, the Illinois Department of Human Services, the Illinois Head Start Association, and the Chicago Department of Family & Support Services.



Coordinated Intake (CI) in your area



CI workers know home visiting program eligibility criteria for all agencies in their community area and can connect families with the program best meeting their needs. If a CI position for your area is vacant, contact the supervisor.

CI is available in the following Illinois communities: **Chicago (pregnant and prenting teens); Cicero; DeKalb County; DuPage County; East St. Louis; Englewood; Kane County; Kankakee County; Lake County; Macon County; McLean County; North Lawndale; Oak Park/River Forrest; Peoria/Tazewell; Stephenson County; South Suburban Home Visiting Network (see zipcodes); Vermilion County; and Winnebago County.**

Region	Agency	Name	Role	Email	Phone
Chicago (pregnant and parenting teens)	Lurie Children's Hospital	Liz Gonzalez	CI	ConneCTeen@luriechildrens.org	833-262-8336
Cicero	Family Focus Nuestra Familia	Guadalupe Contreras	CI	guadalupe.contreras@family-focus.org	708-652-0900
Cicero	Family Focus Nuestra Familia	Mariana Osoria	Supervisor	mariana.osoria@family-focus.org	773-276-0940
DeKalb County	Children's Home + Aid	Earl Kloppmann	Supervisor	Ekloppma@childrenshomeandaid.org	309-834-5226
DeKalb County	Children's Home + Aid	Fanya Mojica	CI	Fmojica@childrenshomeandaid.org	815-748-0190 x 7405
DuPage County	DuPage County Health Department	Lenny Rivota	CI	Lenny.Rivota@dupagehealth.org	
East St. Louis	Comprehensive Behavioral Health	Gia Moore	Supervisor	gmoore@cbhc1.org	618-482-7354
East St. Louis	Comprehensive Behavioral Health	Rachel Linzy	CI	rlinzy@cbhc1.org	618-482-7654
Englewood	Children's Home + Aid	Stacy Mirro	Supervisor	Smirro@childrenshomeandaid.org	
Englewood	Children's Home + Aid	Sintia I. Morales	CI	smorales@childrenshomeandaid.org	773-918-7909

Region	Agency	Name	Role	Email	Phone
Kane County	Kane County Health Department	Theresa Heaton	Supervisor	heatontheresa@co.kane.il.us	630-208-5149
Kane County	Kane County Health Department	Aracelli Mendez	CI	homevisitation@co.kane.il.us	630-208-5150
Kankakee County	Aunt Martha's of Kankakee	Pia Green	Supervisor	pgreen@auntmarthas.org	815-937-5430
Kankakee County	Aunt Martha's of Kankakee	Nicole Estrada	CI	niestrada@auntmarthas.org	815-937-5935
Lake County	Lake County Health Department	Edna Pompilus	CI	igrow@lakecountyil.gov	Phone: 847-377-8112 Fax: 847-984-5575
Macon County	Macon County Health Department	Karen Shiflett	Supervisor	kshiflett@maconcountyhealth.org	217-423-6988 x 1343
Macon County	Macon County Health Department	Lynley Young	CI	igrow@maconcountyhealth.org	217-423-6988 x 1140
Macon County	Macon County Health Department	Yocelyng Stark	CI	igrow@maconcountyhealth.org	217 423 6988 x 1332
McLean County	Children's Home + Aid	Shontelle Hunt	CI	shunt@childrenshomeandaid.org	309-824-0374 x 4301 Cell: 309-532-9700
McLean County	Children's Home + Aid	Earl Kloppmann	Supervisor	Ekloppma@childrenshomeandaid.org	309-834-5226
North Lawndale	Illinois Action for Children			nlearlylearning@actforchildren.org	312-823-1108
Oak Park/River Forest	Collaboration for Early Childhood	Jennifer Little	CI	jlittle@collab4kids.org	
Peoria/Tazwell Counties	Children's Home Association of Illinois	Jennifer Graham	Supervisor	jgraham@chail.org	309-687-7501
Peoria/Tazwell Counties	Children's Home Association of Illinois	Christopher Heider	CI	cheider@chail.org	309-687-7615

Region	Agency	Name	Role	Email	Phone
Stephenson County	Stephenson County Health Department	Barbara Davis	Supervisor	barbara.davis@aeroinc.net	815-235-8356
Stephenson County	Stephenson County Health Department	Devan Wallace	CI	devan.wallace@aeroinc.net	
Zip Codes: 60445, 60472, 60477, 60452, 60471,60484, 60426,60469, 60428, 60406, 60453, 60415, 60411,60409, 60462, 60805 60453, 60803	South Suburban Home Visiting Network			shomevisiting@gmail.com	708-752-9039
Vermillion County	Danville School District 118	Niah Hamilton	CI	HamiltonN@danville118.org	217-483-2229
Vermillion County	Danville School District 118	Kathy Schluter	Supervisor	SchluterK@danville118.org	217-444-3248
Vermillion County	Danville School District 118	Katie Gibson	CI	GibsonA@danville118.org	217-444-1014
Winnebago County	Winnebago County Health Department	Cheryl Floyd	Supervisor	cfloyd@wchd.org	815-720-4315
Winnebago County	Winnebago County Health Department	Charaine Boyd	CI	CBoyd@wchd.org	815-720-4262