

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HILDA L. SOLIS

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AND JANICE HAHN

Los Angeles County Home Visiting Day 2024 Proclamation

Home Visiting programs play an essential role in providing parents with the tools, navigation to resources, and a nurturing professional to partner with them on their pregnancy and parenting journey, with the goal of fostering happy and healthy families. Since September 1997, when the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health) initiated a pilot Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) program in collaboration with California Hospital Medical Center, Home Visiting programs have been providing critical services to families throughout the County. The programs further expanded in 2009, when First 5 LA launched the Welcome Baby Program to provide light-touch home visits. In recognition that some families benefit from more focused support, First 5 LA also began funding two evidence-based home visiting models in 2014: Healthy Families America (HFA) and Parents as Teachers (PAT). Today Los Angeles County has over seven home visiting models available, including NFP, HFA, PAT, Welcome Baby, and Early Head Start, serving over 36,000 families each year.

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Since 2012, the Los Angeles County Perinatal and Early Childhood Home Visitation Consortium came together to advocate for free, high-quality home visiting services to support and strengthen expectant and parenting families. Goals of home visiting are optimal birth outcomes, strengthening parent/child relationships, elimination of birth outcome inequality, and healthy infant/child development, particularly in communities facing economic hardship and/or social marginalization.

These programs are entirely free and voluntary for participants and families who enroll, never pay anything and can choose to stop participating at any time. Once enrolled, each family gets their own home visitor, a trained professional who can answer questions, provide parenting tips, and connect families to essential resources. These programs are offered in multiple formats to best support families' needs, including in-person, virtual, by phone, or any combination of these offerings. Programs range from serving first-time parents to families no matter how many children they have. Some of the programs continue to offer services beyond pregnancy until the child's fifth birthday.

For the past three years, the Board of Supervisors has uplifted the work of these critical programs with a proclamation recognizing the third Friday of April as Home Visiting Day in Los Angeles County. This day recognizes the hard work of the incredible home visitors offering life-changing services for families-in-need, and also highlights the transformative results for families participating in these free programs. Benefits associated with home visiting include reduced family stress, improved family mental health, strengthened parent-infant attachment, improved child development, reduced child abuse, and connections to community resources that help parents have healthy births and give their children the best start.

WE, THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Proclaim April 19, 2024, as Home Visiting Day in Los Angeles County. The Los Angeles County Perinatal and Early Childhood Home Visitation Consortium encourages all residents to recognize the incredibly positive impact that home visiting can have on child development, parenting, and overall health outcomes. The Los Angeles County Perinatal and Early Childhood Home Visitation Consortium encourage all expectant and parenting families to visit the e-Directory to learn more about which home visiting service is best suited for them. Additionally, the Los Angeles County Perinatal and Early Childhood Home Visitation Consortium encourage referrals through the e-Directory.
2. Direct all County Departments, particularly the Departments of Public Health, Children & Family Services, Health Services, Mental Health, and Public Social Services, to use outreach materials developed by the Los Angeles County Perinatal and Early Childhood Home Visitation Consortium and the Department of Public Health to provide clients with home visiting information and assist with client referrals to home visiting programs.

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