NURSE-FAMILY PARTNERSHIP IN INDIANA

Nurse-Family Partnership® (NFP) is an evidence-based, community health program that helps transform the lives of vulnerable mothers pregnant with their first child. Each mother served by NFP is partnered with a registered nurse early in her pregnancy and receives ongoing nurse home visits that continue through her child’s second birthday. Independent research proves that communities benefit from this relationship — every dollar invested in Nurse-Family Partnership can yield more than five dollars in return.

NURSE-FAMILY PARTNERSHIP GOALS
1. Improve pregnancy outcomes by helping women engage in good preventive health practices, including thorough prenatal care from their healthcare providers, improving their diets and reducing their use of cigarettes, alcohol and illegal substances;
2. Improve child health and development by helping parents provide responsible and competent care; and
3. Improve the economic self-sufficiency of the family by helping parents develop a vision for their own future, plan future pregnancies, continue their education and find work.

Positive Outcomes for Clients Served by Indiana’s Nurse-Family Partnership

93% of children received all recommended immunizations by 24 months
88% of babies were born full term
88% were born at a healthy weight — at or above 2500g (5.5 lbs)
88% of mothers initiated breastfeeding
59% increase in employment for clients over 18 years of age from intake to graduation (24 months)

CLIENT PROFILE
At intake
Median age: 20
88% Unmarried
Cumulative data as of Dec. 31, 2015.
Race
22% White
16% Declined to self-identify
50% Black or African-American
7% Multi-racial
3% Asian
2% American Indian/Alaska Native
Ethnicity
71% Non-Hispanic/Latina
20% Hispanic/Latina
9% Declined to self-identify
All data is client self-identified.
In Indiana, Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) is operated and implemented by Goodwill Industries of Central Indiana. The partnerships among Goodwill, NFP and public and private sector organizations aim to improve Indiana’s maternal and child health outcomes.

IMPLEMENTING AGENCY CONTEXT

NFP in Indiana is the only NFP program implemented by a Goodwill organization. It began serving families in Marion County in November 2011 and expanded to Delaware, Madison, Tippecanoe, White and Lake Counties in 2015. The unique relationship between Goodwill and NFP helps provide a continuum of support and services to NFP families. Goodwill of Central Indiana works collaboratively with NFP to help families find employment, increase educational attainment and obtain high-quality resources necessary to achieve financial independence. The Indiana NFP program also integrates its operations with high-value health systems to achieve greater health outcomes and lower healthcare costs.

FUNDING CONTEXT

In addition to the direct support of Goodwill Industries of Central Indiana, the majority of funding for Nurse-Family Partnership program in Indiana comes from the federal Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program, as well as Title V funding, through the Indiana State Department of Health. Indiana University Health, a major healthcare system in the state, is funding NFP Indiana in two counties. Additionally, private donors fund nurses to provide services focused on high-risk zip codes in Indianapolis.

NATIONAL RECOGNITION

- “Programs such as the Nurse-Family Partnership - in which nurses visit first-time, low-income mothers to provide information on nutrition and parenting — may be a more focused (and cost-effective) way to increase the school readiness of at-risk kids.” - Michael Gerson, “Discipline, With Love,” The Washington Post, Oct. 2, 2014.
- The RAND Corporation showed that every public health dollar policymakers and communities invest in Nurse-Family Partnership could realize more than five dollars in return for the highest-risk clients.
- “...the Nurse-Family Partnership, one of my favorite groups fighting poverty in America. It sends nurses on regular visits to at-risk first-time moms, from pregnancy until the child turns 2. The nurses warn about alcohol or drug abuse and encourage habits of attentive parenting, like reading to the child. The results are stunning: at age 15, these children are less than half as likely to have been arrested as kids from similar circumstances who were not enrolled.” - Nicholas Kristof, “Cuddle Your Kid!,” The New York Times, Oct. 20, 2012.
- “...Our findings affirm that home visiting using the NFP program model makes major differences in the lives of low income families. It reduces intimate partner violence, child maltreatment, and youth crime and substance abuse, increases independence, and saves both money and lives. Expanding MIECHV [the federal home visiting program] and other public funding for NFP thus seems a wise investment...” - Ted R. Miller, Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation.