

## HOME VISITING IN NEW MEXICO

Update: November 2018

The [Bernalillo County Home Visiting Work Group](#) presented an update on current and new home visiting programs.

[CHI St. Joseph's Children](#) fields the largest home visiting program in the state and nation, helping to reach the 7% of NM's Medicaid population receiving home visiting services. The program provides services in English and Spanish in seven counties, with the capacity to serve 750 families, including 500 in Bernalillo County. The organization recently partnered with UNM to launch a longitudinal study to compare families receiving home visiting with those who do not, a first for the nation. Children will be followed from enrollment to age 18, tracking key outcomes, including the prevention of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). The research is recruiting participants, who will receive a stipend.

**Welcome Home Baby** is a new home visiting program to be launched soon by NM Dept. of Health. This evidence-based program follows the [Family Connects](#) model developed by Duke University in North Carolina. A public health nurse provides a limited number of home visits to families with a newborn, regardless of the family's income, family composition or risk factors. Using a tested screening tool, the nurse evaluates newborn and maternal strengths and needs and links the family to community resources. In some cases, the nurse will recommend and provide a "warm hand-off" to one of NM's home visiting programs to providing ongoing support

**Medicaid Home Visiting** is a pilot program involving all three Centennial Care providers in New Mexico: Blue Cross Blue Shield, Presbyterian Health Services, and Western Skies. The program will use two evidence-based programs, [Nurse Family Partnership](#) and [Parents as Teachers](#), in Bernalillo County and in the eastern part of the state.

**Home Visiting and Opioid Prevention** is an important focus of the work underway by the [Bernalillo County Community Health Council](#), and Christine the new prevention specialist, would like to see more home visitors involved in the effort. Specifically, Christine Minz is looking for input on how to talk to families about prevention of and treatment for opioid misuse to avoid stigmatizing and encourage family involvement. The Council offers training as well as support groups for opioid prevention and treatment.

For more information about home visiting in Bernalillo County, visit the [Bernalillo County Home Visiting Work Group's homepage](#), attend one of the monthly meetings, or contact [Cathy Sanchez](#), the group's coordinator.