

HHS ALLOCATES \$88 MILLION FOR HOME VISITING PROGRAM TO IMPROVE THE WELLBEING OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

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Affordable Care Act Initial Funding for Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Grants

Congressman Danny K. Davis today welcomed the announcement extracted below by HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius. Davis stated, "I am pleased that HHS has moved decisively to implement funding for these provisions of the Affordable Care Act providing for home visiting programs. This is a program which will have an immediate positive impact on the health and well being of our children."

HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius today announced the award of \$88 million in grants, provided under the Affordable Care Act, to support evidence-based home visiting programs focused on improving the wellbeing of families with young children. Through the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program, nurses, social workers, or other professionals meet with at-risk families in their homes, evaluate the families' circumstances, and connect families to the kinds of help that can make a real difference in a child's health, development, and ability to learn - such as health care, developmental services for children, early education, parenting skills, child abuse prevention, and nutrition education or assistance.

Based on strong research evidence on the effectiveness of such programs in improving maternal, infant, or early childhood health and development, the Affordable Care Act provides a total of \$1.5 billion for these initiatives over the next five years.

Forty-nine states, the District of Columbia, and five territories applied and were awarded funding under this program, demonstrating the broad support that exists for these efforts. States are conducting a statewide assessment to identify existing home visiting programs and areas of high need. This assessment will then inform how they use these funds to assure effective coordination and implementation of high quality home visiting programs that are designed to improve maternal and child health, foster healthy child development, and prevent child maltreatment.