



Expansion of Home Visiting

GRANTEES FEATURED

Georgia

Vermont

In December 2013, **Georgia, Kentucky, Michigan, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Vermont** became the newest states to receive Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge (ELC) grants. Although they, like the 14 states that received awards before them, do not plan to use a significant portion of their grants to fund initiatives targeting infants and toddlers specifically, their efforts to strengthen the systems that support all young children and families have potential to improve outcomes for babies if their needs are intentionally addressed. This excerpt from *Meeting the Challenge: How the Newest Early Learning Challenge Grantees Can Meet the Needs of Infants and Toddlers* [www.zerotothree.org/public-policy/state-community-policy/elc-grantees-2014.pdf] discusses grantees' plans to expand home visiting.

A growing body of research demonstrates that home visiting can improve outcomes for maternal and child health, home and child safety, school readiness, family economic self-sufficiency, and linkages to community resources. Home visiting can also be an effective way of enhancing parents' abilities to support their infants' and toddlers' healthy cognitive, language, social-emotional, and physical development. Recognizing this fact, **Georgia** and **Vermont** included proposals in their ELC applications to strengthen their home visiting systems.

- **Georgia** plans to pilot an innovative center-based home visiting initiative in the E³Zs it is creating to target resources to high-need communities. Child care programs with the highest QRIS star ratings will be selected to participate. Each will employ a coordinator and multiple home visitors who will deliver voluntary prevention services at the child care center and in families' homes. They will also facilitate group meetings modeled after Early Head Start activities. Through the pilot, **Georgia** hopes to determine the specific drivers to higher outcomes for children and families so that they can be sustained beyond the ELC grant period.

- **Vermont's** application outlines plans to implement an evidence-based statewide home visiting system by expanding models already operating (Nurse-Family Partnership, Early Head Start, and Parents as Teachers) and initiating new ones (Early Start and Maternal Early Childhood Sustained Home Visiting). Technical assistance, training, and quality assurance measures will be used to ensure model fidelity. The proposal builds off work being done through the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) and Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children's Health (Project LAUNCH) grants.

This series explores six strategies the newest ELC grantees are pursuing: developing and integrating Early Learning Guidelines for infants and toddlers; professional development of the infant-toddler workforce; expansion of home visiting; building capacity in high-need communities; engaging and supporting families; and connecting families to appropriate services. Download all of the strategy briefs and full paper, as well as other ELC resources, at www.zerotothree.org/elc.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

ZERO TO THREE has developed a number of resources related to the ELC, including a toolkit outlining how states can use the ELC to benefit infants and toddlers and articles detailing how the 2013 and previous ELC grantees targeted very young children. View them all at www.zerotothree.org/elc