Home Visiting Talking Points

Background

- Home visiting relies on nurses or other trained personnel to provide regular home visits to educate expectant and new parents about prenatal care, infant care, child development and parenting skills and work with parents to create language and literacy-rich home environments.
- Research shows that home visiting helps prevent child abuse and increases school readiness.
- Home visitors work with parents to ensure their continued family success throughout life, and home visiting has been proven to not only promote child well-being and development, but to help lift families out of financial instability.

Impact of Budget Cuts on Programs

- While there are a number of home visiting programs in New York State, only Healthy Families New York (HFNY) currently receives state funding.
- HFNY serves more than 5,000 families a year in some of New York's highest need communities, with a proven track record of better outcomes for children in high-risk families:
  - 50% of families receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits upon entering the program are no longer in need of those services
  - 81% are enrolled in a job training or education program by the child’s first birthday
  - 57% of participants under age 21 have received a high school degree or GED by the child’s first birthday
- HFNY recoups its expenses in the first year. It currently employs nearly 500 people in 39 communities across the state.

Impact of Budget Cuts on Federal Funding

- Any cuts would disqualify New York State from applying for millions in federal aid for home visiting because the state is required to show a Maintenance of Effort in order to draw down federal funding. That MOE is approximately $23 million.

Impact of Budget Cuts on Child Abuse

- Child maltreatment has increased nearly 26% since 2000. Research shows that it increases during times of economic stress.
• These cuts amount to a 40% reduction in child abuse prevention spending over three years.