

REFERENCE TITLE: appropriations; nurse-home visitor program

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-fifth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2022

HB 2782

Introduced by
Representative Wilmeth

AN ACT

ESTABLISHING THE NURSE-HOME VISITOR GRANT PROGRAM; APPROPRIATING MONIES.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Department of health services; nurse-home visitor
3 grant program; requirements; annual report;
4 delayed repeal

5 A. The nurse-home visitor grant program is established in the
6 department of health services. The department shall award the grant
7 monies to at least one eligible organization to provide nurse-home
8 visiting services for a three-year period, including assessments and
9 screenings, care coordination, case management, preventive education and
10 counseling, nurse-delivered interventions and referrals to health and
11 human services, educational or job development resources, and other
12 appropriate supports, to first-time, low-income, expectant mothers who
13 voluntarily enroll before the third trimester. The nurse-home visiting
14 services shall be available through the second birthday of children born
15 to participating new mothers.

16 B. Organizations that are eligible to receive a grant pursuant to
17 this section include public or private entities, nonprofit organizations,
18 county or other local government entities and tribal nations.

19 C. When determining which organizations shall be awarded monies
20 through the grant program, the department shall give preference to
21 organizations that meet all of the following:

22 1. Are working and providing services in this state.

23 2. Can demonstrate either delivery as of December 31, 2021 or
24 capacity to begin delivery, within ninety days after receiving the grant
25 award, of a service delivered by registered nurses that meets the criteria
26 established by the United States department of health and human services
27 for an evidence-based early childhood home visiting service delivery
28 model.

29 3. Limit program enrollees to first-time expectant mothers who
30 voluntarily enroll before twenty-eight weeks of their pregnancy.

31 4. Provide services to program enrollees and their children from
32 early prenatal enrollment through the child's second birthday.

33 5. Employ nurses that have received a bachelor of science in
34 nursing degree or higher to provide services.

35 6. Provide services in the enrollee's home, via telehealth or at
36 another location as directed by the enrollee.

37 D. An organization that receives monies pursuant to this section
38 shall submit to the department of health services data prescribed by the
39 department, which may include client demographic information, regarding
40 services and referrals that meet performance benchmarks developed by the
41 United States health resources and services administration for
42 evidence-based nurse-home visiting that addresses all of the following:

43 1. Improvements in maternal and newborn health.

1 2. Reduction of child injuries, child maltreatment and emergency
2 department visits for accidental injuries.

3 3. Improvements in school readiness and achievement.

4 4. Reduction of crime or domestic violence.

5 5. Improvements in family economic self-sufficiency.

6 6. Improvements in coordinating and referring other community
7 resources and supports.

8 E. The nurse-home visiting services delivered under the grant
9 program shall be delivered:

10 1. To voluntary participants with their consent.

11 2. In a location and method preferred by participants, which may
12 include in the participant's home, via telehealth or in another
13 nonclinical setting.

14 F. On or before February 1, 2023 and each year thereafter, the
15 department shall report to the appropriations committees of the senate and
16 the house of representatives all of the following:

17 1. The number of grants awarded under the program, the recipient
18 organizations and number of participants expected to be served.

19 2. The number of participants newly enrolled.

20 3. The extent to which each grant recipient made monthly visits to
21 enrolled participants.

22 4. Other data and information related to measures of health and
23 well-being of participants and their children participating in the
24 program.

25 G. This section does not prevent the department from identifying
26 performance measures consistent with those reported by the department to
27 the United States health resources and services administration for
28 delivery of evidence-based nurse-home visiting services supported in whole
29 or in part by federal maternal, infant and early childhood home visiting
30 services.

31 H. This section is repealed from and after June 30, 2026.

32 Sec. 2. Appropriations; department of health services;
33 nurse-home visitor grant program; exemption

34 A. The sum of \$2,300,000 is appropriated from the state general
35 fund in each of fiscal years 2022-2023, 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 to the
36 department of health services for the purposes of administering the
37 nurse-home visitor grant program for the delivery of evidence-based
38 nurse-home visiting services.

39 B. The appropriations made in subsection A of this section are
40 exempt from the provisions of section 35-190, Arizona Revised Statutes,
41 relating to lapsing of appropriations. Any unspent monies remaining on
42 July 1, 2026 shall revert to the state general fund.

1 Sec. 3. Legislative findings and intent

2 The legislature finds that new mothers, in order to adequately care
3 for their newborns and young children, often benefit from voluntarily
4 receiving professional assistance and information. Without this
5 assistance and information, a first-time mother may develop habits or
6 practices that are detrimental to her health and well-being and to the
7 health and well-being of her child. The legislature further finds that
8 inadequate prenatal care and inadequate care in infancy and early
9 childhood often inhibit a child's ability to learn and develop throughout
10 childhood and may have lasting, adverse effects on the child's ability to
11 function as an adult. The legislature recognizes that the implementation
12 of a United States department of health and human services-accredited
13 evidenced-based nurse-home visiting program for first-time mothers, which
14 is ranked as "well-supported" in the federal title IV-E prevention
15 services clearinghouse for in-home parent skill-based services under the
16 family first prevention services act as of January 1, 2022, provides
17 educational, health and other resources for first-time mothers from early
18 pregnancy through the first two years of their infants' lives and has been
19 proven to significantly reduce the risk of preterm birth, the amount of
20 drug use, including nicotine and alcohol use, and abuse by first-time
21 mothers, the occurrence of criminal activity committed by mothers and
22 their children under fifteen years of age, and the number of reported
23 incidents of child abuse and neglect. The program has also been proven to
24 reduce the mother's need for other forms of public assistance and to
25 increase the mother's educational attainment and employment.