

Save First Connections & Family Home Visiting

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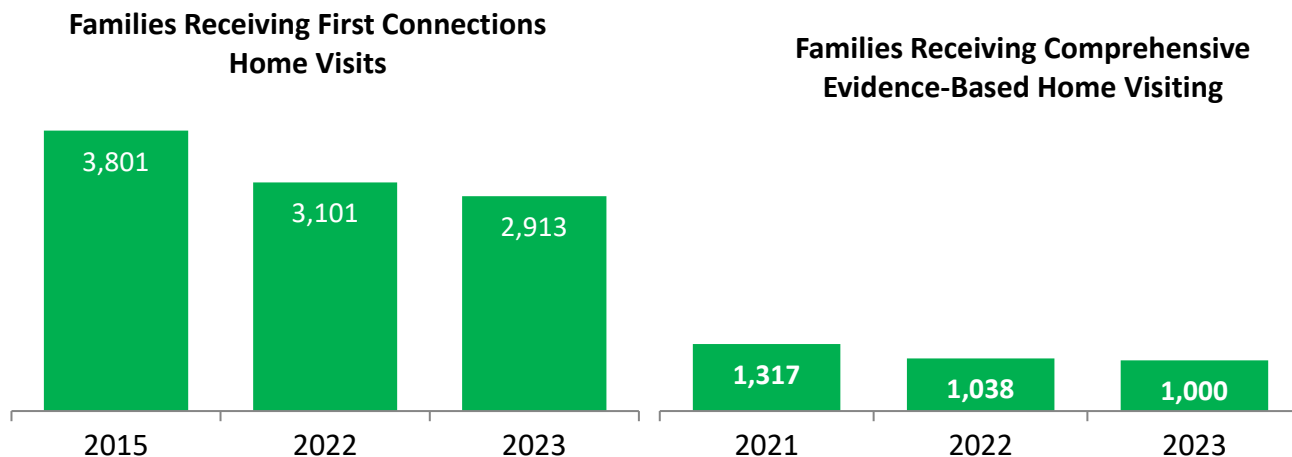


Right from the
Start

First Connections is Rhode Island's frontline home visiting service for families with newborns statewide. Currently delivered by four non-profit agencies, it is designed to identify babies' and families' needs as early as possible and connect them with services to address those needs, including mental health services, WIC, help with affordable housing, Early Intervention, and comprehensive evidence-based family home visiting programs.

Rhode Island's Evidence-Based Family Home Visiting programs (Early Head Start, Healthy Families, Nurse-Family Partnership, Parents as Teachers) **provide long-term, comprehensive services designed to help the whole family.** These programs follow rigorous research models that produce lasting improved outcomes for children and families including significant reductions in child maltreatment, language delays, and emergency room visits for accidents; and improvements in school readiness, maternal mental health, and parental education and employment.

Fewer Rhode Island Babies and Families Are Getting the Help They Need



Since 2015, the number of families served by First Connections has dropped by 23%. Since 2021, the number of families served by a comprehensive, evidence-based program has dropped by 24%.

The First Connections & Family Home Visiting 2024 bill will:

- 1. Make the long-needed (22 years!) rate increase permanent for the Rhode Island First Connections newborn home visiting program.** Prior to the temporary rate increase, First Connections programs had **an average operating loss of \$136.70 per visit**, causing a significant financial and staffing crisis that limits services for children and families.
- 2. Require the development of a plan to sustain and expand voluntary family home visiting services**, including meeting the **new state funding match requirements** for the federal Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting funds (\$800K in 2024, \$1.1 million in 2025, \$1.6 million in 2026, \$2.4 million in 2027), so that high-quality programs are offered to all families who could benefit.

City/Town	# Received First Connections Visit in 2023	# Enrolled in Evidence-Based Home Visiting on October 1, 2023
Barrington	10	7
Bristol	21	5
Burrillville	26	1
Central Falls	60	88
Charlestown	12	4
Coventry	78	26
Cranston	246	92
Cumberland	53	7
East Greenwich	21	3
East Providence	40	18
Exeter	11	2
Foster	9	1
Glocester	8	1
Hopkinton	16	6
Jamestown	5	1
Johnston	45	7
Lincoln	35	9
Little Compton	1	1
Middletown	33	9
Narragansett	18	3
New Shoreham	6	1
Newport	29	8
North Kingstown	49	6
North Providence	61	9
North Smithfield	18	3
Pawtucket	137	125
Portsmouth	15	3
Providence	1,188	365
Richmond	12	2
Scituate	15	0
Smithfield	15	2
South Kingstown	51	6
Tiverton	12	10
Warren	9	4
Warwick	178	40
West Greenwich	13	1
West Warwick	93	23
Westerly	59	33
Woonsocket	157	66
<i>Missing Residence</i>	<i>48</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Rhode Island</i>	<i>2,913</i>	<i>1,000</i>