


Councilmember Zachary Parker



Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau



Councilmember Charles Allen



Councilmember Janeese Lewis George



Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.

A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

1 To extend health insurance coverage through Medicaid, the DC HealthCare Alliance Program,
2 and the Immigrant Children’s Program to cover and reimburse eligible home visiting
3 services.

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5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
6 act may be cited as the “Home Visiting Services Reimbursement Act of 2023”.

7 Sec. 2. Definitions.

8 (a) “Evidence-based home visiting program” means a program that:

9 (1) Supports expectant parents, parents, or legal guardians with infants, toddlers,
10 and children between 3 and 5 years of age, primarily in the home;

11 (2) Provides access to individualized and culturally-competent health, social, and
12 educational services through weekly or monthly home visits to promote positive child health and

13 development outcomes, including healthy home environments, healthy birth outcomes, and a
14 reduction in adverse childhood experiences; and

15 (3) Conforms to a home visitation model that has been in existence for at least 3
16 years and:

17 (A) Is research-based and grounded in relevant empirically-based
18 knowledge; (B) Has demonstrated program-determined outcomes;

19 (C) Is associated with a national organization, institution of higher
20 education, or other organization that has comprehensive home visitation program standards that
21 ensure high quality service delivery and continuous program quality improvement; and

22 (D) Meets U.S. Department of Health and Human Services criteria for
23 evidence of effectiveness as determined by a Home Visiting Evidence of Effectiveness review or
24 meets substantially equivalent criteria for evidence of effectiveness as determined by a credible,
25 independent academic or research organization.

26 (b) “Home visiting services” means services provided by a home visitor through an
27 evidence-based home visiting program in the program participant’s home or, where indicated as
28 appropriate by the home visiting program, in a community setting or virtually, including:

29 (1) Pregnancy education;

30 (2) Child development education;

31 (3) Diet and nutritional education;

32 (4) Stress management;

33 (5) Sexually-transmitted disease (STD) prevention education;

34 (6) Tobacco use screening and cessation education;

35 (7) Alcohol and other substance misuse screening and counseling;

- 36 (8) Depression screening;
- 37 (9) Postpartum depression education;
- 38 (10) Domestic and intimate partner violence screening and education;
- 39 (11) Breastfeeding support and education;
- 40 (12) Guidance and education with regard to well woman visits to obtain
- 41 recommended preventive services;
- 42 (13) Maternal-infant safety assessment and education;
- 43 (14) Counseling regarding postpartum recovery, family planning, and needs of a
- 44 newborn;
- 45 (15) Assistance for the family in establishing a primary source of care and a
- 46 primary provider;
- 47 (16) Parenting skills, parent-child relationship building, and confidence building
- 48 (17) Child developmental screening at major developmental milestones from birth
- 49 to two years old;
- 50 (18) Facilitation of access to community or other resources that can improve
- 51 birth-related outcomes such as:
- 52 (A) Transportation;
- 53 (B) Housing;
- 54 (C) Alcohol, tobacco, and drug cessation;
- 55 (D) the Women, Infant, and Children Program;
- 56 (E) the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; and
- 57 (F) Intimate partner violence resources;
- 58 (19) Monitoring for high blood pressure or other complications of pregnancy; and

59 (20) Nursing assessment of the postpartum mother and infant.

60 (c) “Home visitor” means a trained individual who provides home visiting services,
61 primarily in families’ homes.

62 (d) “Medicaid” means the medical assistance programs authorized by title XIX of the
63 Social Security Act, approved July 30, 1965 (79 Stat. 343; 42 U.S.C. § 1396 et seq.) and by D.C.
64 Official Code § 1-307.02, and administered by the Department of Health Care Finance.

65 (e) “Postpartum” means the time after delivery when maternal physiological changes
66 related to pregnancy return to the nonpregnant state, which may last for as long as 12 months
67 after delivery.

68 Sec. 3. Medicaid reimbursement for home visiting services.

69 (a) By October 1, 2024, health insurance coverage through Medicaid or the DC
70 HealthCare Alliance and the Immigrant Children’s Programs shall cover and reimburse eligible
71 home visiting services; except, that no Medicaid payment shall be made until such time that the
72 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services approves the Medicaid state plan amendment
73 described in subsection (b) of this section.

74 (b) (1) Within six months after the effective date of this act, the Department of Health
75 Care Finance (“DHCF”) shall submit for approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid
76 Services an amendment to the Medicaid state plan to authorize the Medicaid payments described
77 in this section.

78 (2) While preparing the Medicaid state plan amendment application, DHCF shall:

79 (A) In consultation with organizations providing home visiting services and other
80 relevant entities, establish processes for billing and reimbursement of home visiting services,
81 including:

- 82 (i) Setting competitive reimbursement rates;
- 83 (ii) Developing program support and training for home visitors to facilitate
- 84 billing; and
- 85 (iii) Assessing the viability of incentive payments to home visitors whose
- 86 clients attend postpartum appointments with a medical provider.

87 (B) In consultation with the Department of Health and other relevant entities,

88 issue rules to determine eligibility for reimbursement by Medicaid, the DC HealthCare Alliance,

89 and the Immigrant Children’s Program.

90 Sec. 4. Fiscal impact statement.

91 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal

92 impact statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975,

93 approved October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

94 Sec. 5. Effective date.

95 This act shall take effect after approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the

96 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as

97 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December

98 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of

99 Columbia Register.