



## Stronger Families. Brighter Futures.

ARKANSAS HOME VISITING NETWORK



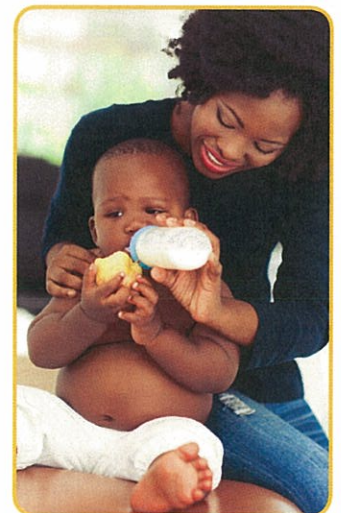
## AN INVESTMENT THAT BENEFITS US ALL.

Stronger Families Brighter Futures, also known as the Arkansas Home Visiting Network, is an organization committed to devoting the resources necessary to build healthier, happier and more productive families by focusing on enhancing parenting skills.

Frederick Douglass once said, “It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men.” With evidence of a 7 to 10 percent per year return on investment, based on increased school and career achievement and reduced crime rates, home visiting has proven its worth in Arkansas and around the nation.

## WHAT IS HOME VISITING?

Home visiting is a lot like it sounds — a network of programs in which families voluntarily sign up to participate. These services are offered by a variety of family-focused, culturally relevant programs that are primarily home-based. Home visits are provided regularly to expectant parents, parents with new infants, and parents with young children who have not yet entered kindergarten. These services are provided by trained and qualified staff and address such issues as maternal and child health, positive parenting practices, child development, safe home environments, resource and referral access, early literacy, and school readiness.



## THE DIFFERENCE HOME VISITING MAKES.

Even the most capable and well-equipped parent can need a hand now and again. Now imagine the challenges facing low-income families with limited time and less access to services and resources. Quality home visiting gives parents the insights and tools they need to raise healthier, happier kids. Home visiting has been proven to reduce problems including low-weight births; emergency room visits; and the rates of children in the social welfare, mental health and juvenile justice corrections systems. Beyond the obvious quality of life benefits for the participants, the impact on the community and the taxpayer is equally powerful — yielding considerable cost savings for states that implement and invest in such programs.



## PROOF THAT HOME VISITING WORKS.

Research continues to show conclusively that early engagement with families and expectant mothers yields more prepared parents and healthier kids. The Pew Home Visiting Campaign researches and promotes cost-effective investments in voluntary, high-quality, home-based programs for new and expectant families. Their research shows that home visiting programs have been proven to:

- Decrease the incidence of low birth weight babies by nearly half — saving states \$28,000–\$40,000 for each one averted.
- Cut instances of child abuse and neglect almost in half.
- Help children build critical pre-literacy skills and improve achievement test scores.

## FEDERALLY FUNDED. LOCALLY ADMINISTERED.

In 2011, Arkansas was awarded two federal MIECHV grants to help develop, expand and evaluate home visiting services in the state. We are doing that with these programs: Following Baby Back Home, Healthy Families America, HIPPY, Nurse Family Partnership and Parents as Teachers. This funding creates unprecedented collaboration among various home visiting providers and a unique opportunity to expand services to rural, small town and urban families while strengthening and sustaining a statewide network for sharing resources.

## BETTERING OUR FUTURE. AND THEIRS.

We believe every child in Arkansas deserves access to a coordinated system of evidence-based home visiting programs or services. Like any good investment, Stronger Families Brighter Futures will only increase its impact over time – growing in scope and reach to ensure more Arkansas parents and children succeed and more communities prosper.



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*All funding for this project is provided by the Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program of the Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services through the Arkansas Department of Health.*



## CONTINUING OUR MISSION. AND OUR MOMENTUM.

In just a few short years, Stronger Families Brighter Futures has done exactly that for the people of Arkansas — provided strength to parents and children in countless ways. Here is a look at where we are, where we've been, and where we are going.

**2008**

*AHVN is launched*

**2011**

*Arkansas was one of nine states awarded two Federal MIECHV grants*

**2011**

*AHVN partners with Arkansas Department of Health*

**2013**

*Home visiting legislation signed by Governor Mike Beebe*

**2013**

*With MIECHV funding, 1,642 additional families enrolled and 17,741 more home visits conducted*





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## **KATHY PILLOW-PRICE: BIOGRAPHY**

Dr. Kathy Pillow-Price serves as the Executive Director of The Arkansas Home Visiting Network. Dr. Pillow-Price holds a graduate degree in Early Childhood Education and has an earned doctorate degree in Educational Leadership. She has served in a wide variety of academic and programmatic roles in the area of early childhood and family development and previously worked at Lyon College as the Director of the Teacher Education program. Dr. Pillow-Price is the contracted representative from Arkansas Children's Hospital responsible for the overall implementation of the expansion grant received by the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) from the federal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program. In that role she organizes statewide efforts to expand, coordinate, and develop the network of home visiting programs throughout the state and assists with grant compliance, quality assurance, and evaluation of programs. She also represents Arkansas home visiting efforts at state and national conferences, meetings, and to other professional organizations.

Dr. Pillow-Price is an appointed member of both the Arkansas Early Childhood Commission and the Governor's Advisory Council on Gifted and Talented Education. She is a regular presenter at regional and national conferences and is published in her field. She consults on a regular basis with a number of organizations on other matters of curriculum development, leadership development, and early childhood services. She enjoys being active in advocacy work on behalf of children and families.



### **CONTACT INFO:**

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