



Dannel P. Malloy  
*Governor*  
Nancy Wyman  
*Lt. Governor*

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD



Connecticut Office of  
Early Childhood

David Wilkinson  
*Commissioner*

### Memorandum

**To:** Connecticut General Assembly

**From:** Commissioner David Wilkinson, Office of Early Childhood

**Re:** 2018 Nurturing Families Network Report

**Date:** November 9, 2018

---

The Office of Early Childhood submits a report pursuant to Section Sec. 17b-751b of the Connecticut General Statutes. Section 17b-751b reads as follows:

**Sec. 17b-751b. (Formerly Sec. 17a-56). Nurturing Families Network.** (a) The Commissioner of Early Childhood shall establish the structure for a state-wide system for a Nurturing Families Network, which demonstrates the benefits of preventive services by significantly reducing the abuse and neglect of infants and by enhancing parent-child relationships through hospital-based assessment with home outreach follow-up on infants and their families within families identified as high risk.

(b) The commissioner shall: (1) Develop the comprehensive risk assessment to be used by the Nurturing Families Network's providers; (2) develop the training program, standards, and protocols for the pilot programs; and (3) develop, issue and evaluate requests for proposals to procure the services required by this section. In evaluating the proposals, the commissioner shall take into consideration the most effective and consistent service delivery system allowing for the continuation of current public and private programs.

(c) The commissioner shall establish a data system to enable the programs to document the following information in a standard manner: (1) The level of screening and assessment; (2) profiles of risk and family demographics; (3) the incidence of child abuse and neglect; (4) rates of child development; and (5) any other information the commissioner deems appropriate.

(d) The commissioner shall report to the General Assembly, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, on the establishment, implementation and progress of the Nurturing Families Network, on July first of each year.

If you have any questions, please contact Maggie Adair, Director of Government & Community Relations at 860-500-4415, or [maggie.adair@ct.gov](mailto:maggie.adair@ct.gov)

cc: House Clerk  
Senate Clerk  
Office of Legislative Research  
Office of Fiscal Analysis  
State Library

Phone: (860) 500-4412 · Fax: (860) 326-0554  
450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 301  
Hartford, Connecticut 06103  
[www.ct.gov/oec](http://www.ct.gov/oec)  
*Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer*

## 017 Program Report Card: Nurturing Families Network (Office of Early Childhood)

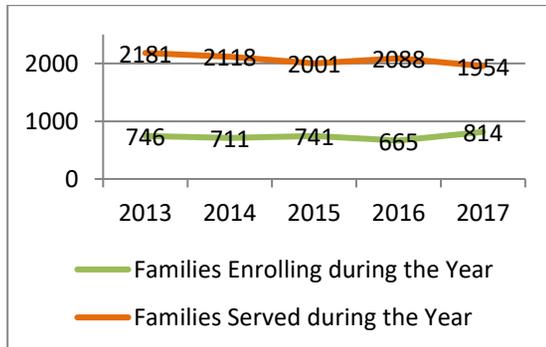
**Quality of Life Result:** Young children in Connecticut will have quality parental care that meets their needs and will be healthy, developmentally on track, and ready to learn.

**Contribution to the Result:** Improve parenting skills and reduce the likelihood of abuse and neglect.

Program Expenditures	State Funding	Federal Funding	Other Funding	Total Funding
Actual FY 17	10,230,306	225,000		10,455,306
Estimated FY 18	10,230,303	225,000		10,455,303

**Partners:** Nurturing Families Network infrastructure includes 38 sites operating within all birthing hospitals, and partners with dozens of public and private service centers. Programs use the evidence-based curriculum known as Parents As Teachers (PAT).

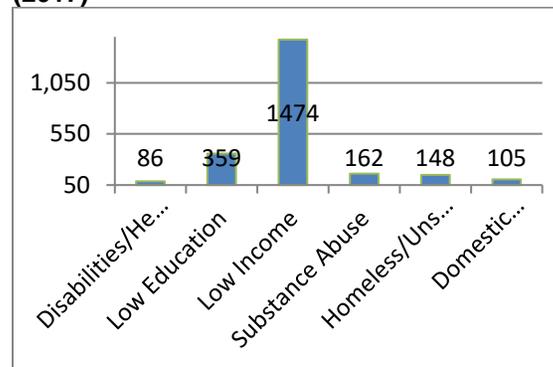
### How Much Did We Do? NFN Participation Rates: (2013 – 2017)



**Story behind the baseline:** This performance measure examines the volume of families enrolling in and served by Nurturing Families Network/PAT home visiting services each year. Although the number of families enrolling annually in home visiting services has steadily declined, from 746 families in 2013 to 665 families in 2016, there was an increase to 814 families in 2017. The number of families served in NFN home visiting in 2017 has declined from 2,181 in 2013 to 1954 in 2017.

**Trend:** ◀▶

### How Well Did We Do It? Families with High Needs Characteristics (2017)

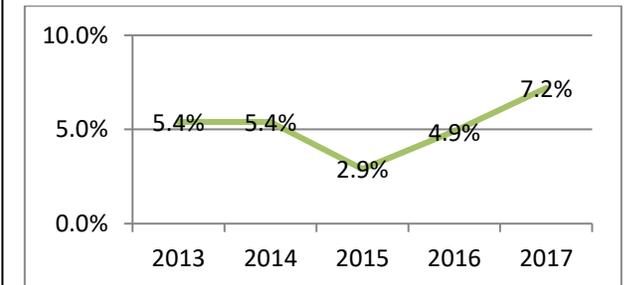


**Story behind the baseline:** Based on the annual report submitted to show model fidelity, presented above, show that families in the Parents as Teachers home visiting program have multiple high needs characteristics. Such characteristics include; parents with disabilities or chronic health conditions, low educational attainment (did not complete high school or GED), low income, history or current substance abuse, experiences homelessness or unstable housing, parent is involved in intimate partner violence.

**Trend:** ▶▶

### Is Anyone Better Off?

#### Early Identification of NFN Children with a Potential Delay on the Ages and Stages Questionnaire



**Story behind the baseline:** According to the CDC, approximately 13% of children are diagnosed with a developmental disability nationwide. The NFN program completes child developmental screens for all participating children using the Ages and Stages Questionnaire.

The figure above displays the percentage of children identified with a potential delay on the ASQ screen out of all children served in NFN for each year between 2013 and 2017. Each year, only a small percentage of the children show a “red flag” for a developmental delay. The rates for the past 5 years have ranged from 2.9% to 7.2%. In 2017, 86% of the children referred for further assessment received follow-up services.

**Trend:** ▲

## 017 Program Report Card: Nurturing Families Network (Office of Early Childhood)

*Quality of Life Result:* Young children in Connecticut will have quality parental care that meets their needs and will be healthy, developmentally on track, and ready to learn.

### **Proposed Actions to Turn the Curve:**

The Office of Early Childhood (OEC) is in the very early stages of looking at how to better align our state funded and MIECHV funded home visiting programs into a comprehensive state system. Currently there are state and federally funded home visiting programs throughout the state. Some areas have many home visiting programs, other areas have few or none. The programs function independently of one another, use several different evidence-based models and rely on a variety of intake processes to get referrals. OEC is looking to create a system that incorporates the following:

- Creates a family-centric service array that links families with the appropriate level, intensity, and duration of home-visiting programs in every community throughout the state using a variety of evidence based home visiting models.
- Identifies and implements a standardized intake processes to ensure families are referred to the appropriate model of home visiting program.
- Incorporates outcome and performance measures that will be used to inform future provider re-authorization eligibility and re-procurement competitiveness every three to five years. This cross-contract performance-based approach will be enhanced and reinforced within each contract by incentivizing positive outcomes for clients through outcomes rate card bonuses as well as by designing contracts for active contract management.

OEC is currently partnered with Social Finance, a nonprofit Pay for Success intermediary, through a federal grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service to develop outcomes-oriented contracts across OEC's home visiting portfolio. Through this grant, OEC has already implemented two outcome rate card pilots in which service providers receive bonus payments based on whether families achieve key home visiting outcomes, such as avoiding preterm birth, remaining free from child maltreatment or child injury, maintaining education or employment, and completing recommended medical care. The two pilot projects have spurred OEC to begin updating its data system to more closely track these outcomes, resulting in better tools for both providers and OEC staff to measure client outcomes. OEC intends to employ a similar structure for all the new contracts in future re-procurement, with further movement toward tying provider payment to performance. Social Finance as well as HV-IMPACT, a federal technical assistance center for home visiting, will assist OEC in the system redesign.

### **Data Development Agenda:**

In 2018, OEC began to utilize the Early Childhood Information System (ECIS) with other data systems to provide access to real-time administrative data across programs and models through the use of a single child identifier. ECIS is a secure online data system that enables OEC to collect data and information to make informed program and policy decisions affecting young children and families.

The privacy of young children and their families is a top priority for OEC. Only select administrators will have access to information about children in their own program through the ECIS. Select administrators from the Office of Early Childhood will also have access to the data statewide. Any sharing of information or reporting with other agencies will only be aggregate, de-identified information. This means data that is shared will not contain any information that is specific to one child or contain information that will allow a child to be identified.

Improved data collection systems will allow OEC to implement active contract management processes, setting providers up for success during their contract durations. Grounded in real-time data, active contract management involves regular collaboration between agencies and contracted service providers to monitor service delivery, problem-solve, and identify opportunities to improve outcomes for service recipients. Between procurement processes, this approach targets system-wide improvement by customizing contracts and incentives for service providers based on their historical performance, allowing for continuous improvement and ending engagements with underperforming organizations

From the data provided by the ECIS, the Office of Early Childhood, other early learning policy makers, families, educators, service providers and communities will be able to make data-informed, outcome-driven decisions on policy, practice and funding. Policymakers, early childhood providers, administrators, teachers, parents, funders, researchers, and the general public will benefit from having state-specific data for decisions, solutions and conclusions to inform individual choices, policy initiatives, and outcome-based programs to best serve the needs of children.