

As Introduced

136th General Assembly

Regular Session

2025-2026

H. B. No. 885

Representatives Brennan, Humphrey

Cosponsors: Representatives Synenberg, Piccolantonio, Upchurch

To enact section 5180.23 of the Revised Code to
require the Children and Youth Advisory Council
to develop a plan to establish a universal home
visiting program for parents and caregivers of
children and to name this act the Family Home
Visits Act.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That section 5180.23 of the Revised Code be
enacted to read as follows:

Sec. 5180.23. (A) As used in this section:

(1) "Eligible family" means a family that may receive
evidence-based home visiting services under the universal home
visiting program established in accordance with the plan
required under division (B) of this section, including the
following:

(a) A foster caregiver of a child in a planned permanent
living arrangement;

(b) An adoptive parent of a newly adopted child of any
age;

<u>(c) A new family, friend, and neighbor care provider;</u>	19
<u>(d) A pregnant or postpartum inmate who maintains parental rights.</u>	20 21
<u>(2) "Family, friend, and neighbor care provider" means an individual who is caring for a child other than the individual's own child in a home setting and who is not licensed as a caregiver, including a kinship caregiver, as defined in section 5180.50 of the Revised Code, or a child care provider.</u>	22 23 24 25 26
<u>(3) "Home visiting program" means an evidence-based home visiting model that is proven to improve child health and to be cost effective, as measured by the "Home Visiting Evidence of Effectiveness (HomVEE)" review established by the United States department of health and human services.</u>	27 28 29 30 31
<u>(4) "Planned permanent living arrangement" has the same meaning as in section 2151.011 of the Revised Code.</u>	32 33
<u>(B) (1) Not later than one hundred days after the effective date of this section, the children and youth advisory council established under section 5180.04 of the Revised Code shall develop a plan to implement a universal home visiting program for eligible families. The council shall submit the plan to the director of children and youth, and the director shall publish the plan on the department of children and youth's internet web site and, in accordance with section 101.68 of the Revised Code, submit the plan to the general assembly.</u>	34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42
<u>(2) The plan may include the following:</u>	43
<u>(a) Expansion of existing programs that offer home visiting, including the help me grow program established under section 5180.21 of the Revised Code, or the establishment of a new program to offer universal home visiting;</u>	44 45 46 47

<u>(b) Proposed applications for federal and private grant</u>	48
<u>funding;</u>	49
<u>(c) Recommendations regarding pay for success and social</u>	50
<u>impact bond programs;</u>	51
<u>(d) Any other programs or actions the council identifies</u>	52
<u>that would result in the efficient expansion of home visiting</u>	53
<u>service offerings, including seeking opportunities to expand</u>	54
<u>home visiting to foster caregivers of children in planned</u>	55
<u>permanent living arrangements, new adoptive families, and new</u>	56
<u>family, friend, and neighbor care providers;</u>	57
<u>(e) Establishment or expansion of home visiting programs</u>	58
<u>for pregnant and postpartum inmates who have maintained parental</u>	59
<u>rights.</u>	60
<u>(3) The plan shall do the following:</u>	61
<u>(a) Target expansion of home visiting by at least twenty</u>	62
<u>per cent annually over a five-year period;</u>	63
<u>(b) Specify actions the department of children and youth</u>	64
<u>may take in accordance with the plan that do not require</u>	65
<u>legislative action;</u>	66
<u>(c) For actions that require legislative action, specify</u>	67
<u>what actions are needed, including appropriation requests.</u>	68
<u>(C) Not later than sixty days after the council submits</u>	69
<u>the plan, the department of children and youth shall begin to</u>	70
<u>implement the actions identified under division (B) (3) (b) of</u>	71
<u>this section.</u>	72
<u>(D) Not later than one year after the effective date of</u>	73
<u>this section, the department of children and youth shall develop</u>	74
<u>and execute an outreach plan to notify new family, friend, and</u>	75

neighbor care providers of their eligibility for home visiting 76
programs. 77

(E) Not later than one hundred twenty days after the 78
effective date of this section, the director of children and 79
youth, the director of job and family services, and the director 80
of health shall adopt rules to establish processes for automatic 81
enrollment of eligible families in the universal home visiting 82
program through the central intake and referral system operated 83
by the department of children and youth under section 5180.22 of 84
the Revised Code. 85

(1) The processes shall include enrollment through the 86
following mechanisms: 87

(a) A checkbox or similar mechanism on forms related to 88
filing a birth certificate where a parent may consent to enroll 89
in a home visiting program; 90

(b) A checkbox or similar mechanism on forms related to 91
foster care or adoption where an eligible foster caregiver of a 92
child in a planned permanent living arrangement or new adoptive 93
parent may consent to enroll in a home visiting program; 94

(c) A checkbox or similar mechanism on forms related to 95
postpartum care and annual pediatric and gynecological exams 96
where an expectant parent, parent, guardian, or custodian may 97
consent to enroll in a home visiting program; 98

(d) A checkbox or similar mechanism on any integrated 99
application for public assistance benefits and services provided 100
by the state where an expectant parent, parent, guardian, or 101
custodian may consent to enroll in a home visiting program. 102

(2) After an individual consents to enroll in the 103
universal home visiting program, the department of children and 104

youth shall ensure that consent is entered into the central 105
intake and referral system, shall cross-reference information to 106
the extent possible to determine the individual's eligibility, 107
and shall contact the individual to discuss any additional 108
information needed and, if eligible, how to complete enrollment. 109

Section 2. This act shall be known as the Family Home 110
Visits Act. 111