

### **Child First**

<u>Child First</u> is an evidence-based, early childhood, two-generation, mental health model that works in the home with children and families. Child First takes a two-pronged approach, providing mental health services to the caregiver and child, while working within a broader system of care to connect them to comprehensive community-based services and supports.

# What is the model's approach to providing home visiting services?

Home visits take place twice per week during a month-long assessment period and a minimum of once per week thereafter. Services are provided for families and their children prenatally through 5 years old for approximately 6 to 12 months, but can extend beyond 12 months depending on a family's need.

Child First's service population includes the following:

- Children with emotional or behavioral concerns
- Caregivers with depression, PTSD, and other mental health concerns
- Families with low incomes
- Caregivers experiencing domestic violence or trauma
- Children experiencing abuse, neglect, or other trauma
- Families with a history of substance use or in need of treatment
- Families experiencing homelessness
- Children with developmental delays or disabilities

# Who is implementing the model?

#### **Home Visitors**

Child First was implemented by 226 home visitors in 2023. The model is implemented through a team-based approach, utilizing care coordinators (bachelor's level preferred) and master's level clinicians. Home visitors typically maintain a caseload of 12 to 16 families.

#### **Supervisors**

Child First was implemented by 47 supervisors in 2023. The model requires a master's degree in a mental health specialty with a license for supervisors.

# Where is the model implemented?



Child First operated in 35 local agencies across 6 states in 2023.

The NHVRC is a partnership of James Bell Associates and the Urban Institute. Support is provided by the Heising-Simons Foundation. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect the views of the foundation. For a detailed methodology, see the 2024 Home Visiting Yearbook.





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### Families Served Through Evidence-Based Home Visiting in 2023

