Nurse-Family Partnership: Outcomes, Costs and Return on Investment in Vermont



Nurse-Family Partnership® (NFP) offers significant benefits to the families it serves and significant cost savings to society and government funders. Based on a review and analysis¹ of more than 40 NFP evaluation studies, including randomized controlled trials, quasi-experimental studies and large-scale replication data, Dr. Ted Miller of the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation predicts that when NFP achieves scale in Vermont, it can produce the following outcomes:



- Smoking in pregnancy ↓23%
- Closely spaced births (15 months postpartum) ↓22%



- Emergency department use for childhood injuries ↓31%
- Full immunization ↑12%
- Language delay ↓37%



- First pre-term births ↓14%
- Infant mortality ↓43%



- TANF payments ↓7%
 (9 years post-partum)
- Person-months on Medicaid ↓7% (15 years post-partum)
- Costs if on Medicaid ↓4% (through age 18)







NFP's Cost Savings and Return on Investment

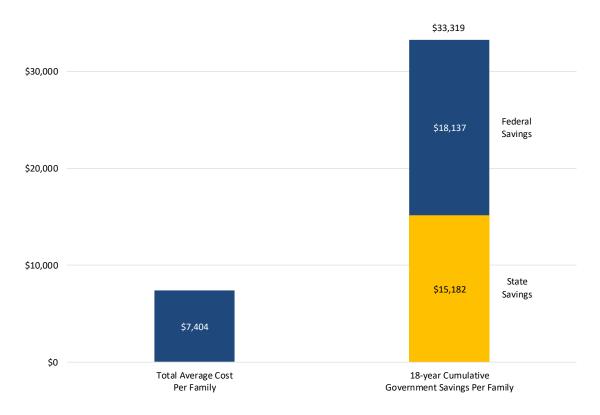
At a total average cost of **\$7,404 per family in Vermont** (over an average enrollment of 446.1 days,² present value at a 3% discount rate, see Figure 1), Miller's model predicts that by a child's 18th birthday:

- State and federal cost savings due to NFP will average \$33,319 per family served or 4.5 times the cost of the program.
- Analyzing broader savings to society, Miller takes into account less tangible savings (like potential
 gains in work, wages and quality of life) along with resource cost savings (out-of-pocket payments
 including savings on medical care, child welfare, special education, and criminal justice) to calculate:
 - NFP's total benefits to society equal \$48,249 per family served
 - o This yields a **6.5 to 1** benefit-cost ratio for every dollar invested in Nurse-Family Partnership.

¹ Miller, T.R. (2015). Projected outcomes of Nurse-Family Partnership home visitation during 1996-2013, USA. *Prevention Science*. 16 (6). 765-777. This fact sheet relies on a state-specific return on investment calculator derived by Dr. Miller from published national estimates to project state-specific outcomes and associated return on investment. The calculator is revised periodically to reflect major research updates (latest revision: 3/27/2017).

² In Vermont, the average cost to serve a family for a year is \$6,156 (2015 dollars).

Figure 1: Total Average Per-Family Cost and Estimated Government Savings of Nurse-Family Partnership Implementation in Vermont (Present Value at a 3% Discount Rate)



Nationwide, Medicaid will accrue 62% of the government cost savings per family served by NFP. If Medicaid fully funded NFP in Vermont, each level of government would reap Medicaid savings that exceed its share of undiscounted NFP costs when the child was age 4. By the child's 18th birthday, Medicaid would recoup \$3.80 per dollar invested (undiscounted).

