

# Healthy Homes Program Expands to Reach Hundreds of Families

\$200,000 in New Grants Brings Home Visiting to Three New Counties in Washington State

## Keisha's Story: Early Support for a Happy, Healthy Family

When Keisha gave birth to her daughter, Elaina, she wanted to give her the best start but wasn't sure where to turn. With no family nearby, the challenges of being a new parent became overwhelming.

That's where early support stepped in. Keisha connected with a family support specialist who visited her home on a weekly basis. Sometimes they talked through routines at the kitchen table. Other times they read picture books together. With every visit, Keisha felt less alone. She grew more confident in her parenting choices, and Elaina hit every milestone. With the support from Start Early, Keisha was inspired to put Elaina in Head Start, and she went on to thrive. Keisha also grew her connections in her community and shared what she learned, broadening the effects of the program even more.

Stories like Keisha's show how early support strengthens families and why our mission matters. More than one million children enter kindergarten each year without the foundation they need to learn. Early childhood support for a single family has an undeniably positive ripple effect throughout the community, strengthening it at the most important level.

## Summer Fundraising Success

This summer, we secured more than \$200,000 in grants to expand the Healthy Homes program. The funds will be used to purchase new vehicles, hire new staff, and buy new training supplies. These investments enable our Healthy Homes program to expand across three new counties in Eastern Washington— Garfield, Ferry, and Columbia— giving hundreds of underserved families access to home visits.

## Program Impact: Benefits Beyond Childhood

Since the program began in 2008, over 50,000 families have taken advantage of our Healthy Homes program. Here at Start Early, we measure impact through not only the

number of lives that we reach, but the quality of the impact. Last year, we saw multiple benefits to local communities including:

- 12% increase in graduation rates
- 89% of children hitting developmental milestones
- 1,000+ community partnerships statewide
- 15% yearly funding growth since launch

Families who enroll in the program are more likely to access other programs like Head Start and Parenting Classes that build strong foundations in literacy, math, and social-emotional development.

## Partnerships Power Our Success

Our success is fueled by our partnerships within the community. Our Healthy Homes program expansion was also supported by:

- Foundations donating technology for training
- Local businesses hosting fundraisers
- Local libraries donating books for home visits

## How to Get Involved

At Start Early Washington, we believe every family deserves the support to raise healthy children. This expansion is a step toward making that possible for more families across our state. If you'd like to learn more about our work or become an advocate, you can:

- Email Program Director at [info@startearly.org](mailto:info@startearly.org)
- Visit [StartEarlyWA.org/HealthyHomes](http://StartEarlyWA.org/HealthyHomes) to learn more
- Donate directly to Start Early on our fundraising webpage.

We are grateful for your support to reach families like Keisha's. Together, we can bridge the opportunity gap and give every child, parent, and family the chance to thrive. With over 5 million children served, we're only getting started.