Children begin learning at birth. Social, emotional, and cognitive skills developed in the earliest years provide a foundation for achieving one’s fullest potential in school and life.

CHICAGO HOME VISITING PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

To support Chicago families to make the most of this window for early learning, the Center for the Economics of Human Development at the University of Chicago has established the Chicago Home Visiting Partnership Program. This ambitious outreach will support Chicago-area parents and their children from infancy to kindergarten entry.

This program will replicate a successful home visiting model, Preparing for Life for 100 families in the Chicagoland area, which includes: prenatal education, evidence-based parenting programs, monthly sessions with the trained home visitor, and resource connection for up to five years. The program will support children’s healthy development through facilitating parent-child activities and interactions that promote school readiness.

CEHD is looking to partner with a local social service organization that will engage and support 100 families using an adapted version of the PFL model.

Spheres of Influence: Families are the first and most important influence on a child’s development. Research shows that home visiting can be an effective way to support parents and caregivers in building skills in young children.
The implementation of the PFL model will be part of a research study designed as a randomized control trial. This research design will expand the understanding of the mechanisms that support skill development and promote children's potential. This project will be a partnership and collaboration between the study team at UChicago, the organization serving families, and the implementation team from PFL. Together, we will design a project that is both a well-designed research study and family-centered home visiting program.

Researchers on this study hope to continue data collection and analysis beyond the initial five-year period to measure the impact into childhood and adulthood. This means that this study has the potential to be a major contribution to the body of evidence that policymakers use in decision making for years to come.

Critical to the success of this work are the strengths of the three organizations partnering to build this program. PFL brings highly specialized early childhood knowledge and experience operating an urban home visiting program. The community partner will bring a direct connection to the community and an understanding of its needs as well as mechanisms for incorporating the community’s voice.

Finally, CEHD researchers, who have extensive expertise in early childhood program assessment and have studied home visiting interventions in Jamaica and China, will use advanced methods to analyze impact. Each partner is committed to learning from the community and adapting to the local context by listening directly to families and community members.

The community partner will be provided with:

- Funding for a home visiting program of at least 100 families for at least 5 years
- Opportunity to work with the PFL model to adapt the approach to local and community needs
- Opportunity to engage with CEHD on research design and promotion that will influence early childhood and family policy for the next generations.

**PROJECT TIMELINE**

**2022**
- Begin search for community partner
- Begin adaptation of program to community goals

**2023**
- Begin to recruit families for pilot program
- Begin pilot program
- Begin data collection and analysis

**2024 and Beyond**
- Continue serving families
- Continue data collection and analysis
- Conduct follow-up data collection every 2-10 years after program completion

For details on the partner selection process and the aims of this initiative, please see [http://cehd.uchicago.edu/homevisiting](http://cehd.uchicago.edu/homevisiting).

For more information, please contact cehdhomevisiting@uchicago.edu or call 872-212-4544.

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**PROJECT PARTNERS**

**Preparing for Life** is an evidenced-based, home visiting program designed to improve school readiness. PFL is a program of Northside Partnership, a community based non-profit established to support social and economic regeneration in Dublin City, Ireland.

The Center for the Economics of Human Development was founded in 2014 by Nobel Laureate James J. Heckman at the University of Chicago to identify and explore the circumstances under which people develop the skills to thrive and achieve their fullest potential. The center’s comprehensive research program seeks a thorough empirical understanding of human flourishing.

[cehd.uchicago.edu/homevisiting](http://cehd.uchicago.edu/homevisiting)