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Newsletter Issue 1

March, 2023



What is the Chicago Home Visiting Partnership Project?

The CHVPP is a home visiting program that promotes children's early development and families' capabilities by leveraging the skills and expertise of each of the three involved partners: Preparing for Life, Casa Central and the Center for the Economics of Human Development.

Beginning with a pilot rollout in mid-2023 with 10 families, the program will support families with regular home visits, prenatal education, and evidence-based parenting programming until the children enter kindergarten.

The full implementation program will be evaluated using a randomized control trial design that will assess child and family outcomes throughout and after the intervention to better understand the mechanisms of skill formation. The expertise of each partner will be crucial in designing a research study that is rigorous, equitable, and relevant.

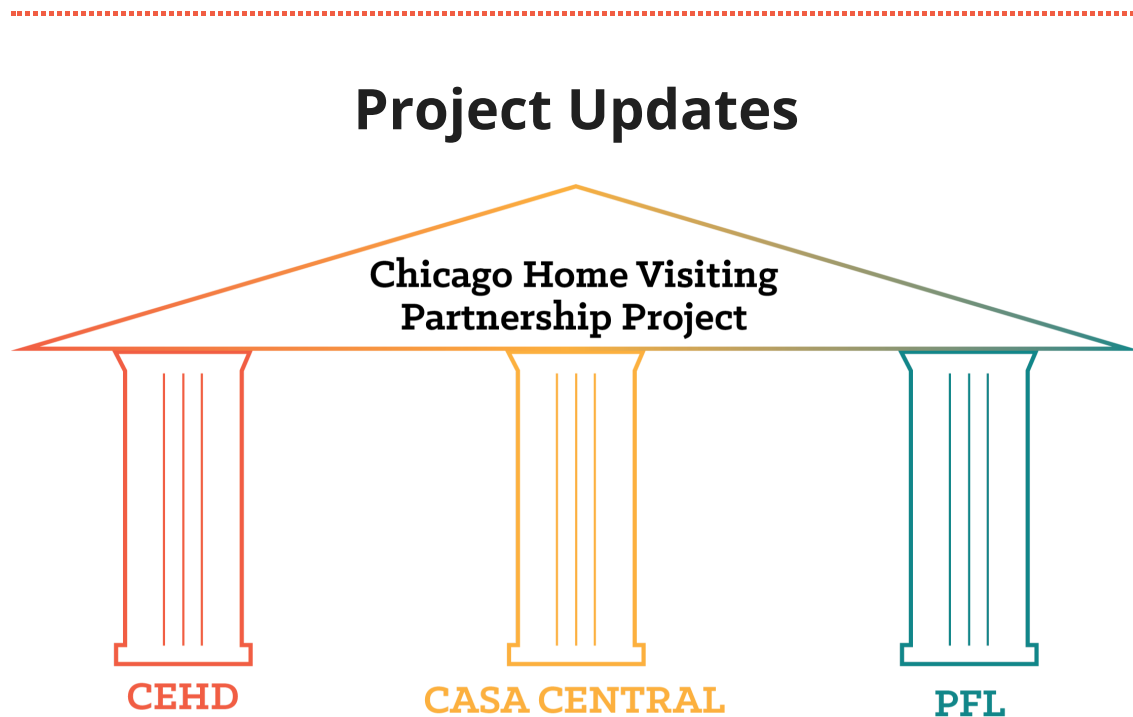
We Want to Hear From You!

When designing this new project, our team asks ourselves new questions all the time. We would love to hear from you - the experts - on some of our most pressing questions.

This week's questions: What are the most important qualifications or characteristics to look for when hiring a new home visitor and home visiting supervisor?

Poll results will be published in the next newsletter.

Take the Poll



Most of 2022 was spent selecting a partner to carry out the service delivery aspect of the project. In the fall, we extended an offer of partnership to Casa Central, which they accepted. We are delighted to be moving forward with our partners into the next phase of our implementation.

The partnership is currently focusing on building our relationships with community stakeholders, existing home visiting providers and families. **Our focus is to work with our community to build a program that is complementary to and not in competition with existing services.** We want to use our expertise and resources to be an asset to the community we will be serving.

Since forging this partnership, we have worked together to adapt the PFL curriculum for a broad American audience. Further work is being done with Casa Central to translate curriculum and materials into Spanish and to ensure that the curriculum resonates with our target population in the Back of the Yards

and Bridgeport neighborhoods. These linguistic and cultural adaptations are fundamental to ensuring that our future families will be able to see themselves in our materials.

The Project Needs a New Name!

CHVPP was always meant to be a placeholder until the full partnership was in place.

What do you think we should call ourselves? Send suggestions to Becky Casper

Harles: rtharles@uchicago.edu.

We're Hiring!!

Do you know an enthusiastic, bilingual (English/Spanish) person who would be interested in joining our team as a home visitor or home visiting supervisor? We are in the process of recruiting, hiring, and training home visiting staff. These individuals will also have the opportunity to help design our research study and adapt our curriculum. Travel and professional development opportunities will also be available.

Refer a candidate to us and if they are hired on to the project, we are offering a \$250 gift card donation to your organization!

If you would like to refer a candidate to us, please contact Becky Casper Harles (rtharles@uchicago.edu) for details.

Team Member Spotlight



Isela Serna, Director of Home Visiting, CASA Central

Isela Serna has served as Director of Home Visiting at Casa Central in Chicago's Humboldt Park neighborhood since 2019, overseeing and supporting an amazing team of home visitors who work with parents of young children across Chicago.

What makes you most excited about this partnership?

I'm so excited about this project. I've worked in home visiting in some capacity my entire career and have developed such a passion for it. Home visiting allows us to meet families where they are, quite literally, and to build on the many strengths that each family has. I'm

looking forward to building and supporting a strong, reflective, dedicated staff team and continuing to build on the great collaboration and teamwork of this project!

Resources for Advocates

Did you know that the Heckman Equation has resources available showcasing the economic importance of investing in early childhood? Visit heckmanequation.org to download slides, infographics and more!

Fun Facts!

- Babies are born with all the brain cells they will ever have, but their brains will double in size during the first year of life.
 - Children who are exposed to multiple languages from a young age have been shown to have better problem-solving skills and more creative thinking.
 - Infants can distinguish between different languages, and are born with the ability to distinguish all the sounds used in all languages. However, this ability diminishes after the age of 1.
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Helpful Links

- [CHVPP Home page](#)
 - [We're Hiring! Job postings](#)
 - [Press Release](#)
 - [Casa Central Website](#)
 - [Preparing for Life Website](#)
 - [Center for the Economics of Human Development Website](#)
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The Center for the Economics of Human Development explores the circumstances under which people develop the skills to thrive and achieve their fullest potential. The Center's research program seeks a thorough empirical understanding of human flourishing to equip policymakers with evidence to reduce inequality by promoting opportunity.

Preparing for Life is an early intervention program designed to support parents and children at each stage of development from conception to the day they start school. Based in North Dublin, PFL works in partnership with parents to provide a comprehensive set of evidence-based services including home visiting.

Casa Central is one of the largest Latino social service agencies in the Midwest. Since 1954, Casa Central has delivered evidenced-based, award-winning programming in response to the needs of the Latino community.



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