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



Nurse-Family Partnership<sup>®</sup> (NFP) offers significant benefits to the families it serves and significant cost savings to society and government funders. Based on a review and analysis<sup>1</sup> 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 California, it can produce the following outcomes:

- Smoking in pregnancy  $\sqrt{24\%}$
- Pregnancy-induced hypertension ↓32%
- Closely spaced births (15 months postpartum) ↓36%
- Emergency department use for childhood injuries  $\downarrow$  33%
- Full immunization 个13%
- Language delay  $\sqrt{39\%}$

- First pre-term births  $\downarrow$  15%
- Infant mortality  $\sqrt{46\%}$
- TANF payments ↓7% (13 years post-partum)
  - Person-months on Medicaid \$\sqrt{8%}\$ (15 years post-partum)
  - Costs if on Medicaid ↓9% (through age 18)



## NFP's Cost Savings and Return on Investment

At a total average cost of **\$14,580 per family in California** (over an average enrollment of 554.2 days,<sup>2</sup> present value at a 3% discount rate, see Figure 1), Miller's model predicts that by a child's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday:

- State and federal cost savings due to NFP will average **\$28,137 per family served** or **1.9 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 \$63,836 per family served
  - This yields a **4.5 to 1** benefit-cost ratio for every dollar invested in Nurse-Family Partnership.
- <sup>1</sup> 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: 12/22/2018).
- <sup>2</sup> In California, the average cost to serve a family for a year is \$9,602 (2017 dollars).

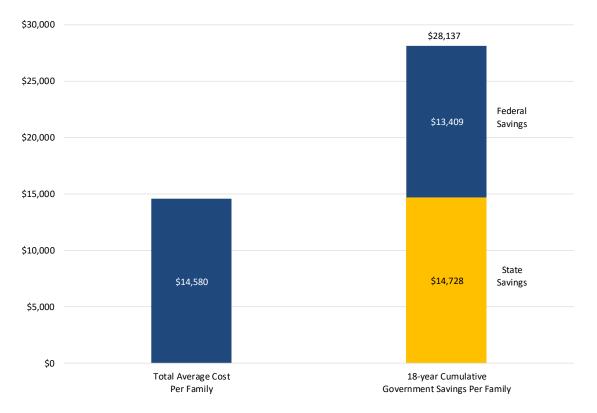


Figure 1: Total Average Per-Family Cost and Estimated Government Savings of Nurse-Family Partnership Implementation in California (Present Value at a 3% Discount Rate)

Nationwide, Medicaid will accrue 60% of the government cost savings per family served by NFP. If Medicaid fully funded NFP in California, each level of government would reap Medicaid savings that exceed its share of undiscounted NFP costs when the child was age 10. By the child's 18th birthday, Medicaid would recoup \$1.30 per dollar invested (undiscounted).

