



**FAMILY
CONNECTS
INTERNATIONAL**

Family Connects International is committed to strengthening bonds for families with newborns and linking them directly to supportive community care resources through universal newborn nurse home visiting. Our vision is a world with equitable outcomes for each and every newborn.

2024 POLICY PRIORITIES

IMPROVING CARE DURING THE FOURTH TRIMESTER

Since 2018, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) has recommended that postpartum clinical visits occur within the first three weeks. However, most of those giving birth in the United States navigate the fourth trimester (the 12-week postpartum period) independently, waiting until 4–6 weeks postpartum to visit their medical provider. **As many as 40% of moms do not attend a postpartum medical visit at all**, and attendance rates are even lower among those who face barriers to health care access. As part of its recommendations, the **ACOG committee specifically mentioned nurse home visitors as alternative providers of this first postpartum visit during the fourth trimester**, citing research on outcomes from the Family Connects model of universal newborn nurse home visiting.

DRIVING SUSTAINABLE, INNOVATIVE INVESTMENTS IN FAMILY CONNECTS

We collaborate closely with our community partners to advocate for local investments aimed at implementing, sustaining, and expanding the reach of the Family Connects. FCI places a high priority on establishing relationships with federal, state, and local policymakers to jointly develop funding sources for local programming that encompasses both traditional and nontraditional avenues. **We emphasize the importance of a mixed funding model to ensure free visits for families as an integral component of a comprehensive range of family support programs**, with the goal of improving outcomes for children and families.

ALIGNING RESOURCES FOR AN OPTIMAL SYSTEM OF CARE

Our efforts in community alignment involve coordinating the organization and dissemination of resources, while also identifying gaps or deficiencies in resources, systems, policies, and processes to ensure improved accessibility for all families. We actively contribute to values of transparency and accountability through continuous quality improvement data reviews and discussions. We aim to collaborate across various systems within communities, including medical providers, doulas, lactation consultants, early childhood education professionals, and social services to achieve our shared goals. Public investments in Family Connects ensure that community resources are maximized.

SUPPORTING A THRIVING NURSING WORKFORCE

An essential service provided by FCI is the development of the nursing workforce. **Through our programs, we create a pipeline of nurses and nurse supervisors, offering career opportunities and establishing a well-educated workforce that serves both urban and rural communities.** In the FY 2022, we trained over 144 nurses within our network, and over the past five years, we have supported 629 nurses. FCI actively seeks innovative opportunities to advance investments in a robust nursing workforce to serve both urban and rural communities.