



*Hundreds of Police Chiefs, Sheriffs,  
Prosecutors, other Law Enforcement  
Leaders, and Violence Survivors  
Preventing Crime and Violence*

**Testimony**  
**2016 Joint Legislative Hearing**  
**Health Committee**  
**Ontario County Sheriff Philip Povero**  
**January 25, 2016**

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Thank you, Members of the Committee, for giving me the opportunity to testify today.

I am Ontario County Sheriff Philip Povero. I am a co-chair of Fight Crime: Invest in Kids New York, an organization of 250 police chiefs, sheriffs, district attorneys and crime survivors across the State who support investments in proven prevention strategies.

I am here today to speak with you about the importance of funding maternal, infant, and early childhood home visiting. Only one program—Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP)— falls under the Department of Health’s purview. We are pleased that the Executive has proposed maintaining funding for NFP in its budget at \$3 million, but ask that you add \$2 million.

We also urge support from you—across budget tables—for the other three research-based programs operating in New York State: Healthy Families New York (HFNY), Parents as Teachers (PAT), and The Parent-Child Home Program (PCHP), Inc. Only one of those—HFNY—is currently funded through the Office of Children and Family Services.

During the summer and fall of 2015, advocates and representatives from each program met jointly with policymakers and will continue to meet, as a team, throughout the budget process period. As part of that group, Fight Crime: Invest in Kids feels strongly that New York State must invest in the full continuum of available services, which means funding all four programs. I have attached a chart that demonstrates what that continuum looks like.

Because we support all four programs, our budget request is as follows:

**Maintain \$27.3 million and invest an additional \$10.5 million in maternal, infant, and early childhood home visiting** to adequately fund a continuum of supports and services for families.

**Healthy Families New York (HFNY):**

- **Maintain \$23.3 million** in funding
- **Add \$4.5 million in new funding to:**
  - restore \$3.5 million to 2008 funding levels. This funding will cover increased capacity at existing sites, workforce development and local level service enhancements (mental health, fatherhood, community coordination).
  - \$700,000 to expand services in unserved areas (200 slots)
  - \$300,000 to support a site not currently funded.

**Nurse Family Partnership (NFP): Maintain \$3 million** for the NFP program for sustainability and add **\$2 million in new funding** for expansion in New York City and Upstate (\$500,000 in New York City to increase capacity by 75 slots; \$500,000 Upstate to increase capacity by 100-125 slots).

**Parents as Teachers (PAT): Invest \$3 million** in new funding to expand capacity to 1,000 families across the State.

**Parent-Child Home Program, Inc. (PCHP): Invest \$1.5 million** in new funding to expand capacity to 300 additional families across the State.

Some of you may wonder why a sheriff wants to talk to you about maternal, infant and early childhood home visiting. First and foremost, home visiting prevents child abuse. And because it decreases abuse, it also decreases the odds of an abuse victim growing up to be an abuser.

In addition, New York State has the fourth largest number of people living in poverty in the US. These children and families need your help. When a child is born into a family with low

resources, or into a socially disadvantaged environment, we can and—in the interest of public safety we must—provide programs that help that family, help that child, and make our streets safer.

We must invest now in home visiting programs... or we will continue to fight an uphill battle against abuse and poverty.

I thank you for your time and your consideration.