



Great Grants and Initiatives

Grantor: **The Colorado Trust**

Grantee or Initiative: **Invest in Kids**

Amount of Grant: **\$3.6 million** Period of Grant Award: **1999-2008**

The Colorado Trust invested \$3.6 million (1999 to 2008) in the Denver-based *Invest in Kids* (IIK). IIK is a nonprofit organization formed in 1998 to help improve the health and well-being of Colorado's children (prenatal to age 8), particularly those from low-income families, by advancing programs that work. The first program IIK chose to advocate throughout Colorado was the Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP).

The NFP, developed in the early 1990s with the help of an \$8.2 million grant from The Trust, provides nurses to visit low-income, first-time mothers at least twice a month from early pregnancy until their child's second birthday. Under this voluntary program, nurses help mothers improve their health and nutrition during pregnancy, learn effective early parenting skills, and reach goals like completing school and finding employment. Results to date indicate the NFP produces statistically significant improvements in women's prenatal health and infant health, especially when home visitations are conducted by nurses.

IIK acts as a catalyst and resource for communities interested in implementing the NFP by helping build a broad-based local coalition in support of the program and by providing technical assistance to support program implementation and ongoing program success. As a result of IIK's work, the Colorado General Assembly in 2000 passed the Nurse Home Visitor Act, allocating a percentage of the state's tobacco settlement proceeds to local communities to fund implementation of the NFP. Today, the NFP is serving more than 2,600 families in 52 of Colorado's 64 counties.