Resolution

ORDER NO. 2026-0378
DATE: April 7, 2026
STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF DALLAS §

BE IT REMEMBERED, at a regular meeting of the Commissioners' Court of Dallas County, Texas, held on the 7th day of April, 2026, on a motion made by Dr. Theresa M. Daniel, Commissioner of District 1 and seconded by John Wiley Price, Commissioner of District 3 the following Resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, Early childhood home visiting is a proven, evidence-based service model that pairs expectant parents and caregivers of young children with trained professionals who guide, coach, and support families through the most critical years of child development; and

WHEREAS, Home visiting is a powerful two-generation strategy, strengthening parent-child relationships, increasing parental confidence, and reducing risks of maltreatment. The model is supported by research showing a 48% reduction in substantiated abuse and neglect among families participating in evidence-based programs; and

WHEREAS, Public education systems are structured to support children only from ages 3–18, leaving a critical gap in services for infants and toddlers during the most rapid period of brain development; and

WHEREAS, Children ages 0–5 make up over 180,000 young residents, 7% of the Dallas County population. Yet, only 37% of children under age 3 receive developmental surveillance, and fewer than 1 in 5 (19.2%) receive both structured screening and surveillance, despite early detection being essential for long-term success; and

WHEREAS, Home visiting programs ensure that early developmental delays are identified, monitored, and addressed, producing a documented return on investment of $1.80 to $5.70 for every dollar spent. This investment means as children meet developmental milestones families avoid costly interventions later in life; and

WHEREAS, Home visiting programs connect families to vital supports, including mental health services, child-development education, and community resources—that are proven to prevent child abuse, strengthen family stability, and reduce long-term public expenditures; and

WHEREAS, The significant cost savings are realized for counties through healthier births, safer homes, and reduced system involvement even though home visitors are underpaid which undermines the complexity, emotional labor, and community impact of their work; and

WHEREAS, Research shows that home visitors who receive recognition, support, and competitive compensation are more productive, more engaged, more likely to remain in their roles, and more likely to deliver the high-quality services that families depend on; and

WHEREAS, Home visitors strengthen entire communities by promoting healthy pregnancies, healthy babies, safe and nurturing homes, optimal early learning, academic readiness, and the long-term well-being of both children and parents

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dallas County Commissioners Court does hereby recognize **April 20-24, 2026, HOME VISITOR APPRECIATION WEEK IN DALLAS COUNTY.** Together with the **CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND HOME VISITING SUPPORT WORKGROUP** we call upon all citizens, legislators, other elected officials, community agencies, religious organizations, medical facilities, schools, and businesses to expand their support for and investment in high-quality home visiting programs that strengthen families, promote healthy child development, and build a stronger, safer, and more resilient community for all who live here.

DONE IN OPEN COURT on this the 7th day of April, 2026.

Clay Lewis Jenkins
County Judge

Dr. Theresa M. Daniel
Commissioner, District 1

Andrew Sommerman
Commissioner, District 2

John Wiley Price
Commissioner, District 3

Dr. Elba Garcia
Commissioner, District 4