The Positive Impact of Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) in Ohio

MIECHV provides federal funds to states, territories, and tribal entities for voluntary, evidence-based home visiting services. Home visitors meet with parents one on one from pregnancy through their child’s kindergarten entry to help lay the foundation for the health, education, development, and economic self-sufficiency of the entire family. Visits by caring, experienced professionals who provide families support and connections to needed resources and services can help families leverage their strengths so they can thrive.

Since 2013, MIECHV has been level-funded at $400 million annually and pre-pandemic estimates showed MIECHV reached only 3-5% of eligible families nationwide. As MIECHV is set to expire on September 30, 2022, reauthorization offers Congress the opportunity to provide additional investments that will enable home visiting programs to reach more families. The National Home Visiting Coalition, of which FFYF is a member, recommends a five-year reauthorization that would increase funding by $200 million annually (reaching $1.4 billion in FY2027); doubling the MIECHV tribal set-aside from 3% to 6% to reach more families in American Indian and Alaska Native communities; and continuing to allow virtual home visiting implemented with model fidelity as a service delivery option for families who choose it.

In FY21:
$7,711,212 was awarded to the Ohio Department of Health

Within Ohio, MIECHV provided/served:
2,178 families
25,557 home visits
1,914 children

Ohio MIECHV Program At-a-Glance

Evidence-based models providing MIECHV-supported home visiting services in Ohio include:

Parents as Teachers
Healthy Families America

Ohio Performance Highlights:

- 90.7% of children enrolled in home visiting had a family member who read, told stories, and/or sang with them on a daily basis
- 87.5% of mothers enrolled in home visiting received a postpartum visit with a healthcare provider within 8 weeks of delivery
- 86.6% of caregivers enrolled in home visiting had continuous health insurance coverage for at least 6 consecutive months

Family Needs

States tailor their programs to meet community needs, with priority given to certain populations listed in the law.

In Ohio:

- 87.0% of households were low income
- 16.8% of households reported a history of child abuse or maltreatment

Ohio Families Receiving Home Visiting

**Race**

- White (62%)
- Black (31%)
- Asian (2%)
- Multiple (4%)

Ethnicity

- 8% Hispanic or Latino

Child’s Age

- 39% Infants <1
- 38% Toddler 1-2
- 23% Preschool 3-5

Potential Beneficiaries:

In Ohio, an estimated 635,000 families could benefit from home visiting with sufficient funding.*

- 52% of families met one or more priority criteria.
- 23% of families met two or more priority criteria.

812,000 children could benefit from home visiting with sufficient funding.*

- 16% Infants <1
- 34% Toddler 1-2
- 50% Preschool 3-5

The estimated percentage of families who could benefit in Ohio met the following priority criteria:*

- Child <1: 20%
- Single Mother: 28%
- Parent with no high school diploma: 6%
- Pregnant woman or mother <21: 3%
- Low income: 27%

References:

- National Home Visiting Resource Center (NHVRC) 2021 Yearbook, MIECHV State Data Tables (FY2020) (*).
- HRSA Home Visiting Program Fact Sheets (*)