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

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:
$19,397,203 was awarded to the Texas Department of Family Protective Services

Within Texas, MIECHV provided/served:*
3,333 families
49,889 home visits
3,502 children

Evidence-based models providing MIECHV-supported home visiting services in Texas include:
- Healthy Families America
- Nurse-Family Partnership
- HIPPY USA
- Parents as Teachers

### Texas Performance Highlights:

- 88.9% of caregivers were asked if they had any concerns regarding their child’s development, behavior, or learning in postpartum home visits.
- 74.6% of children enrolled in home visiting had a family member who read, told stories, and/or sang with them on a daily basis.
- **COVID-19 Response:** The Prevention and Early Intervention division of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services worked closely with MIECHV grantees to shift all facets of home visiting programs to virtual formats. Additionally, programs distributed basic needs resources and information to families in need.

### Family Needs:

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

**In Texas:**

- 61.1% of households were low income.
- 5.2% of households included a pregnant enrollee under age 21.

### Texas Families Receiving Home Visiting

#### Race*

- White (88%) (blue)
- Black (9%) (brown)
- Asian (1%) (green)
- Multiple (<1%) (gray)
- American Indian/Alaska Native (<1%) (light blue)

*To protect confidentiality, race categories with less than 10 respondents have been omitted. Percentages may not add to 100%.

#### Ethnicity*

- 73% Hispanic or Latino

#### Child’s Age*

- 10% Infants <1
- 35% Toddler 1-2
- 55% Preschool 3-5

### Potential Beneficiaries:

In Texas, an estimated 1,749,000 families could benefit from home visiting with sufficient funding.*

- 51% of families met one or more priority criteria.
- 20% of families met two or more priority criteria.

2,319,700 children could benefit from home visiting with sufficient funding.*

- 16% Infants <1
- 35% Toddler 1-2
- 49% Preschool 3-5

### References:

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

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