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

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:
$1,225,958 was awarded to the Wyoming Department of Family Services

Within Wyoming, MIECHV provided/served:
258 families
3,535 home visits
314 children

Wyoming MIECHV Program At-a-Glance

Rural: Albany, Fremont, Sweetwater
Urban: Laramie, Natrona

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

Parents as Teachers.

Wyoming Performance Highlights:

- **97.4%** of children enrolled in home visiting had a family member who read, told stories, and/or sang with them on a daily basis.
- **88.9%** of caregivers enrolled in home visiting were screened for intimate partner violence within 6 months of enrollment.
- **Supporting Early Language and Literacy:** A drive-through event was hosted where local police officers handed out books to families. Local implementing agencies have also received grants from local community partners for the purpose of buying books and dispensing them to families.

Family Needs

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

**In Wyoming:**

- **58.1%** of households were low income.
- **34.9%** of households reported a history of substance abuse.
- **27.9%** of households included a child with developmental delays or disabilities.

Potential Beneficiaries:

In Wyoming, an estimated 32,300 families could benefit from home visiting with sufficient funding.*

- **44%** of families met one or more priority criteria.
- **15%** of families met two or more priority criteria.

42,100 children could benefit from home visiting with sufficient funding.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child's Age</th>
<th>Infants &lt;1</th>
<th>Toddler 1-2</th>
<th>Preschool 3-5</th>
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<td></td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>50%</td>
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Wyoming Families Receiving Home Visiting

**Race:**

- White (86%)
- Multiple (4%)
- American Indian/Alaska Native (5%)

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

**Ethnicity:**

- Hispanic or Latino (23%)

**Child’s Age**

- Infants <1 (41%)
- Toddler 1-2 (49%)
- Preschool 3-5 (10%)

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

- Child <1: 20%
- Single Mother: 15%
- Parent with no high school diploma: 4%
- Pregnant woman or mother <21: 3%
- Low income: 20%

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