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

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:
$2,982,616 was awarded to the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare

Within Idaho, MIECHV provided/served:
537 families
5,789 home visits
547 children

Idaho MIECHV Program At-a-Glance

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

Idaho Performance Highlights:

- 94.2% of children enrolled in home visiting had a timely screen for developmental delays
- 87.4% of caregivers enrolled in home visiting were screened for depression within 3 months of enrollment or within 3 months of delivery

Missing Data: Completed a programmatic Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Project that reduced missing data in 16 of 19 MIECHV performance measures. This project strengthened relationships between Idaho MIECHV and the local implementing agencies (LIAs), and improved LIAs’ knowledge of data collection and management.

Family Needs

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

In Idaho:

- 68.4% of households were low income
- 19.1% of households included someone who used tobacco products in the home

Potential Beneficiaries:

In Idaho, an estimated 100,400 families could benefit from home visiting with sufficient funding.*

- 43% of families met one or more priority criteria.
- 14% of families met two or more priority criteria.

134,100 children could benefit from home visiting with sufficient funding.*

Idaho Families Receiving Home Visiting

Race*

- White (93%)
- Multiple (2%)

Ethnicity*

- 28% Hispanic or Latino

Child’s Age*

- Infants <1: 22%
- Toddler 1-2: 45%
- Preschool 3-5: 33%

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

- Child <1: 19%
- Single Mother: 13%
- Parent with no high school diploma: 5%
- Pregnant woman or mother <21: 2%
- Low income: 21%

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