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

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:
$3,025,084 was awarded to the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services

Within New Hampshire, MIECHV provided/served:

- 340 families
- 4,762 home visits
- 309 children

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

Healthy Families America

New Hampshire Performance Highlights:

- 91.3% of mothers enrolled in home visiting received a postpartum visit with a healthcare provider within 8 weeks of delivery.
- 80.0% of caregivers enrolled in home visiting were screened for depression within 3 months of enrollment or within 3 months of delivery.
- 89.8% of caregivers were asked if they had any concerns regarding their child's development, behavior, or learning in postpartum home visits.

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

In New Hampshire:

- 72.6% of households were low income.
- 49.0% of households reported a history of substance abuse.
- 7.3% of households included a pregnant enrollee under age 21.

Potential Beneficiaries:

In New Hampshire, an estimated 60,400 families could benefit from home visiting with sufficient funding.

- 42% of families met one or more priority criteria.
- 13% of families met two or more priority criteria.

New Hampshire Families Receiving Home Visiting:

- **Race**
  - White (87%)
  - Black (10%)

- **Ethnicity**
  - 6% Hispanic or Latino

- **Child's Age**
  - 50% Infants <1
  - 45% Toddler 1-2
  - 6% Preschool 3-5

The estimated percentage of families who could benefit in New Hampshire met the following priority criteria:

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