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

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: $10,467,844 was awarded to the New Jersey Department of Health

Within New Jersey, MIECHV provided/served:

5,378 families
61,888 home visits
4,484 children

New Jersey MIECHV Program At-a-Glance


Evidence-based models providing MIECHV-supported home visiting services in New Jersey

New Jersey Performance Highlights:

- **86.2%** of children enrolled in home visiting had a family member who read, told stories, and/or sang with them on a daily basis.
- **80.3%** of caregivers enrolled in home visiting were screened for intimate partner violence within six months of enrollment.
- **76.7%** of caregivers enrolled in home visiting received an observation of caregiver-child interaction by the home visitor using a validated tool.

Family Needs

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

In New Jersey:

- **62.1%** of households were low income.
- **31.9%** of households reported a history of child abuse or maltreatment.
- **9.6%** of households included a pregnant enrollee under age 21.

Potential Beneficiaries:

In New Jersey, an estimated 460,600 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.

New Jersey Families Receiving Home Visiting

### Race*

- White (55%)
- Black (30%)
- Asian (2%)
- Multiple (11%)
- American Indian/Alaska Native (1%)

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

### Ethnicity*

58% Hispanic or Latino

### Child's Age*

- 46% Infants <1
- 40% Toddler 1-2
- 14% Preschool 3-5

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

- Child <1: 18%
- Single Mother: 21%
- Parent with no high school diploma: 5%
- Pregnant woman or mother <21: 2%
- Low income: 17%

References:

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