

America's Families are Raising Our Future

Home Visiting makes us stronger.



Expanding funding for evidence-based home visiting is critical for our families and communities.

The Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program connects young families with evidence-based support that provides parents with information and reinforces skills to help them raise healthy children. During home visits, professionals including nurses, social workers, early childhood educators, and specially trained parents visit families in their home, coaching parents on a wide range of topics such as nutrition, safety, positive parenting techniques, and tracking developmental milestones. Giving children a better, healthier start through home visiting has a measurable return on investment. Among other results, home visits lead to reduced spending on government programs and increased earnings for both parents and children later in life. Additional benefits of MIECHV-funded home visiting include:

Improvements in maternal and infant health

Reduction in crime and domestic violence

Increased family economic self-sufficiency

Prevention of child injury, abuse, neglect, and maltreatment

Increased school readiness and achievement

Follow-up care through successful referrals

MIECHV expires on September 30, 2022.

MIECHV has been serving families across the country for many years, but this important program expires on September 30, 2022. The pandemic exacerbated the economic and health challenges faced by families across the country, but funding limitations constrain the program's ability to serve communities, leading to the following impacts:

1. Disruption of services for families and home visitors.

Despite MIECHV's reputation as the "gold standard" for evidence-based policymaking, funding has remained flat over the past decade, limiting its reach to less than five percent of eligible families each year. A lack of funding adjustments over the past ten years means the program's dollars do not go as far as they did when the program was created, and recent statewide needs assessments identified additional high-risk communities that would benefit from MIECHV programs. Limited funding also presents workforce challenges. Home visitors, the overwhelming majority of whom are women, do not receive competitive wages which can lead to difficulties with recruiting and retaining a skilled workforce. Low compensation prevents home visitors from earning salaries that support themselves and their own families, and instability in the workforce negatively impacts the services families receive and the positive impacts home visiting produces.

2. Tribal communities lack necessary resources.

MIECHV currently provides a set-aside for Tribal communities that offers grants for Tribal organizations to develop, implement, and evaluate home visiting programs in American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) communities. However, existing resources only reach 25 out of more than 600 federally recognized tribes and Tribal organizations. Long-standing inequities faced by AIAN communities have been significantly amplified by the pandemic, underlining the need for increased funding. Current funding levels limit the capacity of Tribal MIECHV programs to support and promote the health and well-being of families through home visiting, while strengthening cooperation and connections between programs that serve Tribal children and their families.

3. The flexibility of virtual home visits could be lost.

In 2020, the pandemic necessitated the widespread deployment of virtual home visiting. Home visiting programs find that providing families with virtual visits as an option in addition to traditional in-home visits best promotes family choice, creates flexibility for families and providers, improves families' comfort, and supports continued service delivery during disruptions including illness, incarceration, lack of transportation, and severe weather.

About Us

The Home Visiting Coalition (HVC) is a diverse group of organizations committed to the well-being of children, working to continue and expand federal support of home visiting to strengthen families in communities across the country.

