

America's Families Deserve More

Home Visiting is a demonstrated success but it only serves a fraction of families in need.

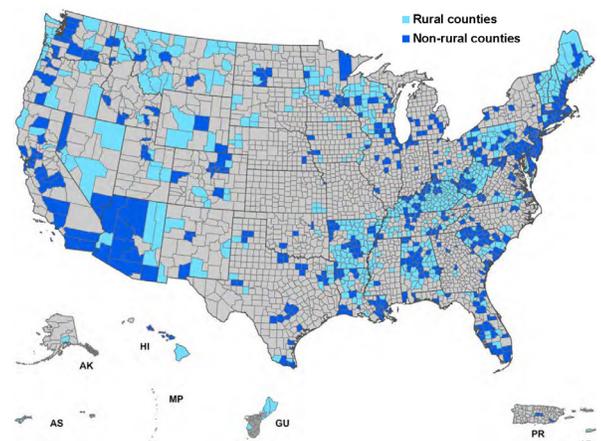
Despite MIECHV's clear impact, this program has not received an increase in funds in over a decade. New investments would serve more families and meet current workforce needs.

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 of infants and young children in their home, coaching parents on a wide range of topics like nutrition, safety, positive parenting techniques, and tracking developmental milestones.

Giving children a better, healthier start through home visiting has a measurable return on investment. Home visits lead to reduced spending on government programs and increased earnings for both parents and children later in life. MIECHV has also been proven to increase positive outcomes such as fewer preterm births and pediatric emergency room visits, increased kindergarten readiness for children, and economic stability for mothers. But since its creation, MIECHV has received no funding increases. MIECHV's evidence-based strategies work, **but the program is only serving a small fraction of the nation's counties and less than five percent of eligible families each year.**

Counties where MIECHV Households Receive Services

Figure 1: Counties where MIECHV Households Receive Services



MIECHV-funded home visiting serves urban and rural communities in equal measure. However, there is significant need not being met: MIECHV only reaches 27% of rural counties and 41% of all urban counties, leaving hundreds of communities and thousands of households without access to these critical services.

MIECHV's funding has remained static for the last decade, **which means in real terms, despite the success MIECHV home visiting has demonstrated, the program has lost more than a quarter of its annual spending power since it launched.**

Despite MIECHV's reputation as the "gold standard" for evidence-based policymaking, current funding limits its reach and capacity to serve more families and better serve those families who already rely on MIECHV-funded home visiting. Connecting more families to home visiting services will lead to better outcomes for the entire community.

Home visitors are trained and dedicated professionals, such as social workers, early childhood educators, and nurses. MIECHV funding is essential to sustain and grow this trusted workforce, and to better serve the families who depend on them. 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 to support themselves and their families, and instability in the workforce negatively impacts the services families receive and the positive impacts home visiting produces.

MIECHV requires additional funding to meet the needs of families and the workforce. If funding were increased, more families would be assisted across the country.

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.



nationalhomevisitingcoalition.org