



The Home Visiting Program will expire on September 30th!

Home Visiting is a smart investment that makes real differences for families. Families rely on home visits for counseling and maternal health care.

America's families will suffer if the Maternal, Infant, Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV) expires.

The Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program connects young families with evidence-based support that provides parents with vital information and reinforces skills to help them raise healthy children. During home visits, professionals including nurses, social workers, and specially trained parents visit families of infants and young children in their home. They coach parents on a wide range of topics such as nutrition, safety, positive parenting techniques, and tracking developmental milestones. Home visits lead to reduced spending on government programs and increased earnings for both parents and children later in life. Thousands of families across the country voluntarily participate in home visiting programs to obtain support, connect to community resources, and build nurturing relationships with their children. **But, families will suffer the consequences if MIECHV expires.**

On September 30th, 2022, the MIECHV program will expire:

As many as

71,000 families

who receive home visiting services will be impacted.

A lapse in the MIECHV statute causes significant disruption to programs. During the last lapse in reauthorization in 2017:

- Many local agencies stopped enrolling new families pending completion of reauthorization.
- Home visiting staff working at the local and state level who worried about funding instability and their own job security, left to take other positions.
- Some agencies, particularly those operated by local governments, could not receive permission to fill open positions.
- Some states were unable to fill open MIECHV program administration positions.
- Some local implementing agencies left the MIECHV program due to funding uncertainties.
- Key projects to improve home visiting programs were disrupted. For instance, California was in the process of contracting for a new state data system when the statute lapsed. The state was unable to proceed with the work until the statute was reauthorized.

If MIECHV expires, America's families will suffer serious consequences:

1. Health outcomes for mothers and children will get worse.

Home visiting has an outsized and demonstrable impact on the wellbeing of mothers and children. In fact, the Healthy Families America home visiting programs found that participants had 48% fewer low-birthweight infants. If the program expires, programs such as this will suffer across the country and leave families without access to the help they need.

2. Childhood neglect will increase.

Among home visiting's most significant impacts is reducing childhood neglect. Participation in the Parents As Teachers programs was related to 50% fewer cases of suspected abuse and/or neglect. SafeCare, another MIECHV-funded home visiting program, reduced recurrence of child maltreatment by 26% compared to typical child welfare services.

3. Taxpayers will foot the bill.

Home visiting programs empower families to become economically self-sufficient by helping parents pursue career opportunities and providing support to help parents stay healthy and productive. The Nurse-Family Partnership has a benefit-cost ratio of up to \$5.70 per dollar invested.

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