Home Visiting Helps Native Families Thrive

Additional funding would allow for new investment in evidence-based, culturally relevant home visiting in Tribal communities.

The evidence is clear: home visiting is improving health outcomes and accelerating equity for Tribal families.

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, or specially trained parents visit families of infants and young children in their home, coaching parents on a wide range of topics such as nutrition, safety, positive parenting techniques, and tracking developmental milestones.

A key piece of MIECHV funding goes to Tribal home visiting programs in American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) communities. These providers offer culturally relevant, evidence-based services tailored to Tribal families and communities. Tribal MIECHV programs enable early identification and intervention that improve health outcomes; strengthen connections to primary care providers; educate families about early development and learning; and facilitate the navigation of community-based systems of support. But, existing resources only reach 25 out of 574 federally recognized tribes and Tribal organizations.

In 2020, Tribal MIECHV grantees served 3,315 families.

There are 574 federally recognized tribes, but the current set-aside only has money for about 25 of them to be funded.
MIECHV expires on December 16, 2022, leaving many Tribal families without reliable access to home visiting services.

The Tribal set-aside is insufficient to meet the need for home visiting services in Tribal communities.

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, tribes must compete for this limited pool of resources. Long-standing inequities faced by AIAN communities have been significantly amplified by the pandemic, underlining the need for increased funding. Increasing the Tribal MIECHV set-aside would help develop and strengthen Tribal capacity 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.

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