

Kansas Home Visiting

Home visiting started in local communities that wanted a better way to help families. Along the way, home visiting efforts have attracted support from private donors and local, state and federal governments because the research shows home visiting helps parents and improves outcomes for children, especially for the most vulnerable families.



Partnership:

Home visiting in Kansas receives funding from the federal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting program. In 2015, the state received a \$1.05 million formula grant and a \$9.4 million multi-year competitive grant.

In addition, Early Head Start programs receive funding from federal Head Start and the Child Care and Development Fund. Those funds are administered by the Kansas Department for Children & Families.

Parents as Teachers and Healthy Families America programs are administered by the Kansas State Department of Education. These programs receive funding from MIECHV, private philanthropies, and a state tobacco settlement known as the Children's Initiative Fund.

To date, Kansas has served 985 families through the MIECHV program. 577 families were served in fiscal year 2015 alone.

Families Served in 2015:

53% Single
35% Married
84% Low Income
43% Pregnant at Enrollment

33% Under 20 at Enrollment
17% Pregnant and Under 21 at Enrollment

65% Caucasian
24% Latino
14% African American
8% Native American

Services

Kansas operates the following evidence-based models:

- Early Head Start – Home Based
- Parents As Teachers
- Healthy Families America

Each model supports programs located in these four counties:

- Cherokee
- Labette
- Montgomery
- Neosho
- Wilson
- Wyandotte

Innovations in Infrastructure:

Kansas is using MIECHV funds to prioritize the development of its data collection system. Administrators standardized their benchmark measures so that each home visiting model collects data using the same metrics; this allows the state to collect aggregate data, evaluate, and report results efficiently.

MIECHV funds also allowed Kansas to initiate a state-level leadership group focused on data evaluation and continuous quality improvement. The University of Kansas manages the state's home visiting data system and provides annual reports on performance measures. This innovative system allows Kansas to provide services more effectively and demonstrate its success with data-driven evidence.

Finally, federal MIECHV dollars helped the state expand its county-based central intake systems. In rural southeastern Kansas, a centralized outreach and referral program across three participating counties is now helping at-risk families identify and coordinate the services they need.

Contact:

Debbie Richardson

Home Visiting Program
Manager

Kansas Department of
Health and Environment

785-296-1311

drichardson@kdheks.gov

www.kshomevisiting.org



Moving Forward:

Goals Identified in the
Kansas Home Visiting
Strategic Plan

1. Promote centralized intake and referral systems to ensure more families have the opportunity to access appropriate home visiting services and other family supports.
2. Improve state capacity and sustainability of quality home visiting services.
3. Establish an annual outcomes report of evidence-based home visiting programs across the state that contributes to data-driven decision making at local, state and national levels.
4. Effectively communicate the value and benefits of home visiting to improve access and capacity in Kansas.
5. Support further development of a skilled, knowledgeable, competent, and effective professional work force to deliver home visiting services.