



What Would Happen if MIECHV Funding Doubled?

We asked states how they would use additional funding from the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV).¹ They reported that they would use the funding to serve more families, build infrastructure, create jobs, and generally strengthen their states and communities.

States would use the funding to serve more families.

"We have [local programs] that have waiting lists and could expand right now."—Wyoming

- ✔ Seventy-seven percent would serve at least twice as many families. The remainder would invest in infrastructure to serve more families more quickly.

"A solid foundational infrastructure exists so the majority of this funding would go to direct service."—Maine

- ✔ Half of the states would expand services to reach communities not currently served, including rural communities.

"Additional funds would be targeted to rural communities, an expensive effort but greatly needed, as resources in those communities are greatly limited."—Alaska tribal MIECHV organization

- ✔ States would adopt additional home visiting models or target services to reach specific populations.

"Doubling funding would allow us an opportunity to expand and to focus on providing prenatal-age 3 home visiting on a statewide basis."—Arkansas

States would use the funding to hire and train more staff, in order to serve more families —contributing to a stable, skilled workforce.

What is MIECHV?

Since 2010, Congress has invested \$1.85 billion through MIECHV to help states expand and implement evidence-based home visiting. MIECHV dollars contribute to service delivery and help build the infrastructure needed to sustain home visiting. These investments strengthen system integration and workforce development. Three percent of MIECHV funds are designated for tribal awardees.

MIECHV has expanded home visiting in key ways since FY 2012:

- ✔ Families served have more than quadrupled.
- ✔ Home visits have increased almost five-fold.
- ✔ Counties served have doubled.²

What is home visiting?

Early childhood home visiting is a service delivery strategy that matches new and expectant parents with a designated support person—typically a trained nurse, social worker, or early childhood specialist. Services are voluntary and provided in the family’s home or another location of the family’s choice, often reaching socially or geographically isolated families.

Why invest in home visiting?

- ✔ Early childhood interventions, like those supported by MIECHV, show a 13 percent return on investment.³
- ✔ Home visiting—
 - Reduces child maltreatment
 - Increases early language development
 - Increases academic achievement
- ✔ Parents in home visiting—
 - Have higher monthly incomes
 - Are more likely to be enrolled in school
 - Are more likely to be employed⁴

The NHVRC is led by James Bell Associates in partnership with the Urban Institute. For more information, contact info@nhvrc.org.

¹ Methodology: The NHVRC developed a survey to understand the potential effects of additional MIECHV funding. The Association of State and Tribal Home Visiting Initiatives (ASTHVI) emailed the survey to all MIECHV grantees (56 states and territories and 25 tribal organizations) in August 2017. ASTHVI and the NHVRC followed up with some recipients at the MIECHV All Grantee Meeting in Washington, DC, on September 6-9, 2017. The following states (23) and tribal organizations (3) responded to the survey: AK, AR, CO, CT, FL, IL, IA, KS, ME, MI, MN, NE, NC, NJ, NV, OH, OK, OR, TX, VT, WA, WI, WY, Southcentral Foundation, Lake County Tribal Health, and Native American Professional Parenting Resources. The NHVRC analyzed the responses using qualitative thematic coding.

² Health Resources and Services Administration. Maternal and Child Health Bureau. (2017). *Home visiting*. <https://mchb.hrsa.gov/maternal-child-health-initiatives/home-visiting-overview>

³ García, J. L., Heckman, J. J., Leaf, D. E., & Prados, M. J. (2016). *The life-cycle benefits of an influential early childhood program*.

Retrieved from <https://heckmanequation.org/resource/research-summary-lifecycle-benefits-influential-early-childhood-program/>

⁴ National Home Visiting Resource Center. (2017). *2017 Home Visiting Yearbook*. Arlington, VA: James Bell Associates and the Urban Institute. Retrieved from <https://www.nhvrc.org/yearbook/2017-home-visiting-yearbook/>