



Florida Association of Healthy Start Coalitions, Inc.

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MIECHV Reauthorized, Funded!

The federal Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program was reauthorized and funded for five years as part of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 signed earlier this month by President Donald Trump.

MIECHV provides funding to states and territories to support the implementation of evidence-based home visiting programs in designated high-need communities. In 2016-17, the program provided more than 22,600 home visits to nearly 2,000 Florida families, including 1,590 children under age three in 25 high-need communities and four contiguous areas.

Communities are implementing one of three models proven to impact outcomes for children and their families: [Nurse-Family Partnership](#), [Healthy Families Florida](#) and [Parents as Teachers](#). Florida's program is administered by the [Florida Association of Healthy Start Coalitions](#).

The program has been in limbo since the end of September when its authorization lapsed. Despite widespread bipartisan support, interim short-term budget resolutions failed to include home visiting. It came down to a nail-biter with the last minute addition of MIECHV, along with other key safety net and family-serving programs, in a bipartisan Senate budget proposal.

The final 2018 budget also included significant funding increases for the Child Care Block Grant and community health centers, as well as an additional

four years of reauthorization for the state Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).



MIECHV Sites, Partners Gather for Final Learning Session in Supporting Child Development



FL MIECHV sites and their local partners gathered in Cocoa Beach in January for the final learning session on the state Supporting Child Development CQI initiative. The session highlighted progress by the sites in increasing developmental screening and improving follow-up on low scores.

Dr. Anne Hogan set the stage with her presentation on the importance of relationships and their impact on child development. Dr. Michelle Duda focused on coaching and reflective supervision in supporting the work of home visitors with families. Participants also learned about using data to inform practice and what implementation science offers for sustaining change.

Story boards, created by local teams, offered an opportunity to "share selflessly." Local ECCS teams from Miami and Jacksonville joined the session and met with Early Steps staff to further collaborations.



Register Now for First 1000 Days Florida Summit

Registration opens March 1st for the **2018 First 1000 Days Florida Summit** September 26-28 at the Palm Beach Convention Center. The summit features national, state and community experts on health, social and early learning strategies for supporting families with children age 0-3.

Keynote speakers for the cross-sector, multi-disciplinary event include: **Sara Enos Watamura**, director of the Child Health & Development Lab and co-director of the Stress, Early Experience and Development Research Center at the University of Denver; **Kathryn Hirsh-Pasek**, the Stanley and Debra Lefkowitz Faculty Fellow in the Department of Psychology at Temple University and a Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution; and **Kate Rosenblum**, director of the Women and Infants Mental Health Program at the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Michigan. The summit will feature more than 40 workshops, as well as a **Showcase of Best Practices** featuring innovative community initiatives.

Check out the [conference website](#) to register or find out how to submit a poster abstract. Registration fee is \$150.



Focus on the Well-Child Visit

Regular well-child visits to a medical provider is a key strategy for ensuring the healthy development of young children. In 2017, 73% of children enrolled in MIECHV received the last recommended well-child visit. The [American Academy of Pediatrics \(AAP\)](#) developed a set of comprehensive health guidelines for well-child care, called [Bright Futures](#).

According to the AAP, well-child visits offer the following benefits to children and their families:

Performance Measure 4:
Percent of children enrolled in home visiting who received the last recommended visit based on the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) schedule.



- **Prevention.**

Children get scheduled immunizations to prevent illness. Parents can also ask about nutrition and safety in the home and at child care.

- **Tracking growth and development.** Parents can monitor their child's growth in the time since their last visit, and talk with their doctor about his development. They can discuss their child's milestones, social behaviors and learning.

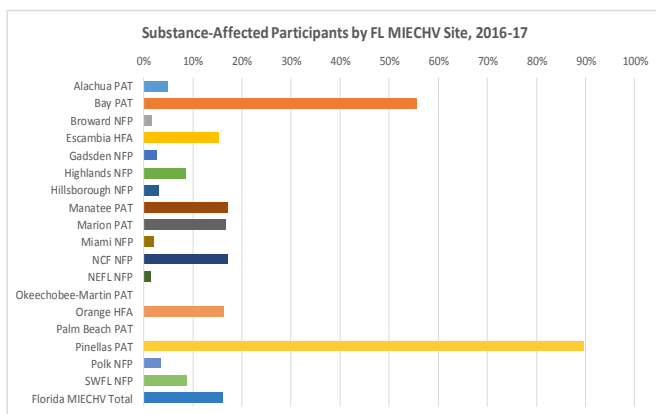
- **Raising concerns.** Parents should make a list of topics to talk about with their child's medical provider such as development, behavior, sleep, eating or getting along with other family members.
- **Team approach.** Regular visits create strong, trustworthy relationships among pediatrician, parent and child. The AAP recommends well-child visits as a way for pediatricians and parents to serve the needs of children. This team approach helps develop optimal physical, mental and social health of a child.

Home visitors play an important role in helping parents understand the importance of these visits and how to best use the time with their child's health care provider. The AAP has created a [series of questionnaires](#) for each visit to assist parents in getting the information they need to support their child's healthy development.

Home Visiting: Strategy for Supporting Families Impacted by Opioids, Substance Abuse

The nationwide crisis caused by the use and over-use of prescription and non-prescription painkillers—and its impact on the health and well-being of pregnant women and babies—has focused attention on the role of home visiting and its value in providing support services to expectant and new families.

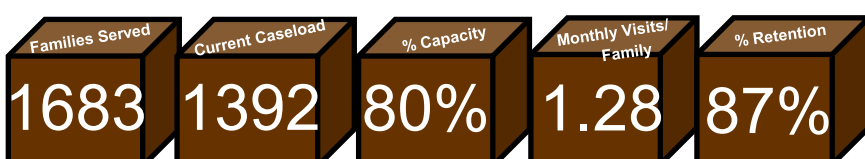
Families with a history of substance abuse or in need of substance abuse treatment are a priority population for receiving MIECHV-funded home visiting. In 2016-17, nearly 16% of families enrolled in Florida were impacted by substance use. According to the [First Five Fund](#), "Bringing an end to the opioid crisis will require a coordinated, comprehensive effort that is inclusive of home visiting, a highly effective, evidence-based early childhood intervention providing personal support for families from pregnancy through their children's first years of life." To date, strategies and resources to address the crisis have primarily focused on controlling supply and treatment for abusers, although changes to the federal [Child Abuse Prevention & Treatment Act \(CAPTA\)](#) and [Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act \(CARA\)](#) provide opportunities for identification in pregnancy and family support services after delivery. Florida is one of ten states receiving technical assistance from SAMHSA to address this crisis.



The MIECHV-funded PAT+ program in Pinellas has focused on substance-affected families since its inception. Nearly 90% of enrolled families are impacted by substance use. The program has garnered additional funding from Project LAUNCH and local sources to supplement MIECHV support. It works closely with [Operation PAR](#), a local treatment provider, to identify families and augment model interventions to tailor support and service needs. Operation PAR also provided staff training on Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) so they can advocate effectively for clients on methadone. It has also organized on-site group activities at the treatment center.

Last year, 134 moms on methadone treatment were served by the program with great results! According to PAT+ director [Linda Thielmann](#), (there was) "ZERO instance of impaired moms caring for children during the project year. While we can't attribute cause and effect, we believe the collaboration strengthened the support available to the clients."

MIECHV DASHBOARD



Source: Based on October, 2017—January, 2018 reports from four LIA cohorts (April, 2013, October 2013, October, 2015 and April, 2017).

Florida Awarded Incentive Funding to Expand, Establish Nurse-Family Partnership Sites

The Florida Association of Healthy Start Coalitions (FAHSC), which administers the state MIECHV program, was awarded \$1.1 million in incentive funding earlier this month to expand Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) programs in Hillsborough and Duval Counties, and establish a new regional NFP team on the Treasure Coast. The funding, provided through a special initiative of the NFP National Service Office, will cover one-third of program costs over a three-year period. Local sites were required to demonstrate the availability of match funding, as well as an ability to sustain the program. Funding will support a new five nurse home visiting team covering Brevard, Indian River, Martin and St. Lucie Counties, and the addition of nurse home visitors in MIECHV-funded programs in Tampa and Jacksonville enabling 200 additional first-time mothers to receive evidence-based home visiting services. Local Healthy Start Coalitions are coordinating program implementation.



Moving Beyond Depression Recognized By AMCHP

Moving Beyond Depression™, which offers in-home clinical therapy to mothers enrolled in home visiting programs suffering from perinatal depression, recently received a Best Practice Award from the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP) at its 2018 annual conference. The award honors especially innovative and effective practices in maternal and child health that have been successfully reviewed and accepted into the organization's **Innovation Station** since the previous conference.



Moving Beyond Depression™

FL MIECHV supported a five-site pilot of the program in collaboration with community mental health centers, and federal and state Healthy Start programs. The pilot project, as well as implementation efforts by the Healthy Start Coalition of Miami-Dade County, were featured in a panel presentation led by Dr. Robert Ammerman, program developer, at the conference. Moving Beyond Depression™ is an initiative of **Every Child Succeeds** at Cincinnati Children's Hospital.

In addition to this panel, FL MIECHV's work to pilot Coordinated Intake & Referral (CI&R) and its implementation in Hillsborough County was highlighted in a workshop. Three posters on MIECHV evaluation activities by the University of South Florida were also shared at the national conference.

New Institute Aims to Support Home Visiting Staff

The new **Institute for the Advancement of Family Support Professionals** is creating a national framework for assessing the core competencies of home visitors and other family support professionals with a goal of offering certification and professional development tailored to meet individual needs. The framework includes ten domains, culled from an examination of competencies developed by states and other organizations. The Institute currently offers free, online training to support the competencies. The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) awarded the states of Iowa and Virginia an innovation award for initial development activities. A personalized Career Compass is planned to assist users in identifying professional development needs. Dr. Christine Chiricos, FSU Center for Prevention & Early Intervention Policy (CPEIP), Anna Cismesia, Manatee PAT supervisor, and Bridgers Smith, NEF NFP nurse home visitor, participated in the selection and testing of questions for a planned national competency assessment leading to certification.

Institute
for the Advancement of
Family Support Professionals



NewboRN Program Offers Universal Home Visiting

Every mom delivering in Alachua County will soon be able to receive a home visit from a nurse following hospital discharge — thanks to the NewboRN Home Visiting Program (NHVP). A collaborative effort involving local hospitals, Healthy Start and other health and social service agencies, the new program is funded by the county commission.

The visit will include an assessment, as well as assistance with breastfeeding, safe sleeping, how to soothe a crying baby, the importance of parent-infant bonding, and many other issues that parents may need help with. Family Partners will provide information and enroll families in the hospital and assist with any service needs.



The program, which begins March 1st, is modeled after a similar nurse home visiting program in Martin and St. Lucie Counties. **Healthy Start of North Central Florida Coalition** will coordinate the program. The Coalition administers FL MIECHV-funded PAT programs in the region. For more information contact **Julie Moderie**.

FL Home Visiting Staff Attend National Summit

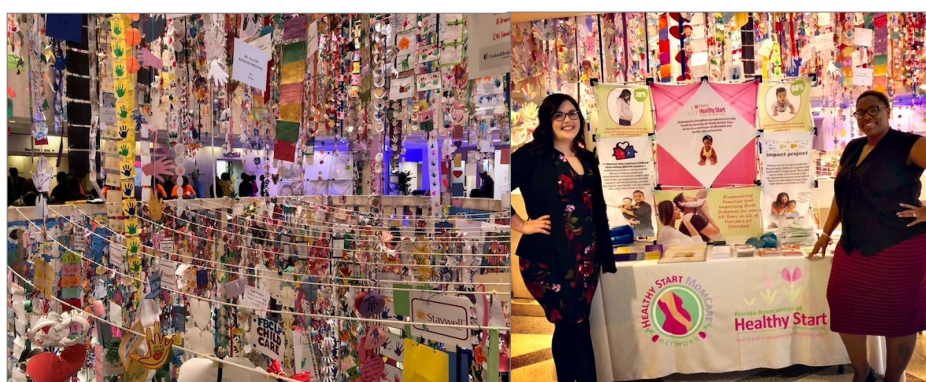


Florida was well-represented at the National Summit on Quality in Home Visiting Programs held recently in Washington DC! Attendees from local sites included Elaine Schreiber, Southwest Florida NFP; Manoucheka Chery, Judith St. Louis, Diana Lara, Beverlie Mitchell, Dianaser Bermudez, Akilah Corbett, and Jogeily Jean-Baptiste, Broward NFP; Amanda

McDavid and Jennifer Fowler, Bay Parents as Teachers; Beverly Butler and Tracy Claveau, NEF NFP; and, Sarah Donaldson, Lynn Marshall and Idalmy Rios, Highlands NFP. The most popular sessions? *A Global Perspective on Home Visiting* and *Lemonade for Life: Using ACEs to Build Resiliency!*



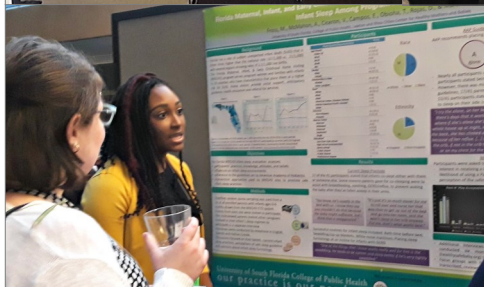
Supporting Child Development Final Learning Session January 18-19 Cocoa Beach



2018 Children's Week January 21-26 Capitol



2018 AMCHP Conference February 10-15 Washington DC



ABOUT FLORIDA MIECHV

Florida is implementing the federal Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Initiative through a public-private partnership. Led by the Florida Association of Healthy Start Coalitions, Inc., the goal of the initiative is to improve health & developmental outcomes for at-risk children through evidence-based home visiting programs. State implementation partners include the Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida, FSU Center for Prevention & Early Intervention Policy, and USF Lawton & Rhea Chiles Center.

For more information contact Carol Brady, Project Director, cbrady@fahsc.org or visit www.FLMIECHV.com.



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