



Florida Association of Healthy Start Coalitions, Inc.

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Year-End Review: FL MIECHV Sites Post Improvements

Statewide performance of FL MIECHV sites—an indicator of program impact — improved across most measures included in its 2018 annual report to the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA). Collectively, the state improved or maintained high performance levels in 15 of 19 reported measures from 2017 to 2018. Notable advances include:

- Tobacco Referrals increased from 35% to 91%,
- Daily Early Language & Literacy activities moved from 56% to 71%, and,
- Completed Depression Referrals went from 9% to 23%.

The annual performance report highlights program activities in six federally established benchmark areas: Maternal & Child Health; Child Injuries, Abuse & Neglect and ER Use; School Readiness & Achievement;



Domestic Violence; Family Economic Self-Sufficiency, and Coordination and Referrals. The 2018 submission continues progress posted in prior years in both performance and data completeness.

In FY 18, FL MIECHV faced its greatest challenges in working with families to achieve self-sufficiency, specifically primary caregiver education and maintaining health insurance coverage.

The statewide initiative supports the implementation of three evidence-based home visiting models (Healthy Families Florida, Nurse-Family Partnership and Parents as Teachers) in 25 high-need communities and four contiguous areas. These sites provided 29,220 home visits to 2,546 families in 2018, including 1,086 pregnant woman and 2,165 children. More than three-fourths of program participants had incomes below the federal poverty level.

2018 National Home Visiting Yearbook Offers Snapshot of Services, Families & Needs

The range and reach of home visiting – and its potential for impacting more families in need – is highlighted in the [2018 Home Visiting Yearbook](#), released recently by the [National Home Visiting Resource Center \(NHVRC\)](#). The report provides a snapshot of home visiting programs around the country, families benefiting from services, and unmet needs. Among the findings:



Evidence-based home visiting programs are available in all 50 states, as well as DC, five territories, 25 tribal communities and currently reach 53% of all counties.

In 2017, more than 300,000 families received more than 3.5 million home visits through these programs, including 81,000 families served by programs funded by the federal Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) initiative.

About 18 million additional pregnant women and families could benefit from voluntary home visiting services nationwide.

The yearbook features [state profiles](#), including demographic data on participants, as well as information about the models used to deliver services.

According to the report, models currently implemented in Florida include Child First, Early Head Start Home-Based Option, Family Check-Up, Healthy Families America, Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters, Minding the Baby, Nurse-Family Partnership, and Parents as Teachers. Statewide, 108 local agencies operated at least one of these models. These programs provided 310,000 home visits to more than 16,000 families in 2017.

Based on needs identified in the yearbook, an estimated 985,000 additional families in Florida could benefit from home visiting, including more than 640,000 infants and toddlers.

To provide context for the yearbook, NHVRC also released a [Home Visiting Primer](#) summarizing the history of home visiting, its evidence base, demonstrated impact on critical needs, and sources of funding.

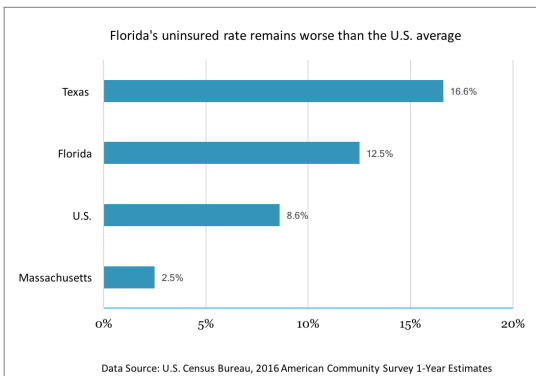
The 2018 Home Visiting Yearbook was produced by James Bell Associates and the Urban Institute.

Performance Measure 16: Health Insurance

Continuity of health insurance coverage is one of two indicators used to measure Family Economic Self-Sufficiency, one of six federal MIECHV benchmarks. It is a systems measure since it is impacted by multiple factors in addition to home visiting.

Although health insurance is most often thought of as a strategy for increasing access to health care, it also impacts a range of economic factors that keep low-income families in poverty. Studies of early efforts by selected states showed increased coverage led to higher credit scores, fewer bankruptcies and reduced delinquency on debt payments statewide.

Performance Measure 16:
Percent of primary caregivers enrolled in home visiting who had continuous health insurance coverage for at least 6 consecutive months



Between 2016 and 2017, the percent of primary caregivers with health insurance coverage for six continuous months during their enrollment in MIECHV home visiting decreased from 74% to 71%. Home visitors ask about coverage at every home visit, and inform families about options for accessing insurance and health care.

Despite progress over the last five years, families in Florida continue to face unique

challenges in obtaining affordable health insurance. The state ranks 46th among states in its uninsured rate (12.5%). This rate was 20% in 2014 prior to the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Open enrollment period for the federal Health Care Marketplace wrapped up mid-December. Florida remains one of 14 states that has not expanded Medicaid to cover additional low-income, working adults.

Home visitors can assist uninsured parents by sharing information on free or low-cost sources of care, including [Federally-Qualified Health Centers](#) and [voluntary clinics](#). Women who lose Medicaid coverage following delivery can also take advantage of the continued coverage for [family planning services](#) available under a state waiver.

State HV Group Reviews Initial CI&R Results

The state Home Visiting Advisory Group met in November and reviewed data on referrals and follow-up from the initial implementation of [Coordinated Intake & Referral \(CI&R\)](#). The group, made up of home visiting program representatives and state agency partners, pinpointed areas of concern, recommended potential solutions, and identified additional data needs. Participants agreed to form a subcommittee to develop a CI&R Quality Assurance Plan, and to reinforce the goals of



coordinating referrals as well as specific policy changes made to home visiting programs to reflect the new system for identifying and linking families to services.

New statewide marketing materials were also reviewed and revised. A report was provided on the state CI&R evaluation. Erin Hough, prevention specialist for the Florida Department of Children and Families, also discussed new federal requirements for the development of [Plans of Safe Care](#) for babies impacted by substance abuse and the role home visiting programs are expected to play in this process. The approach and tools used by the Flagler Volusia Healthy Start Coalition were shared by Dixie Morgese, Coalition Executive Director.

Miami-Dade Expands with NFP Incentive Funds

The Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) Alliance of Miami-Dade will expand to serve additional families in zipcodes with persistent disparities in birth outcomes thanks to funding from the NFP National Service Office and Healthy Start Coalition of Miami-Dade. The Florida Association of Healthy Start Coalitions (FAHSC), which

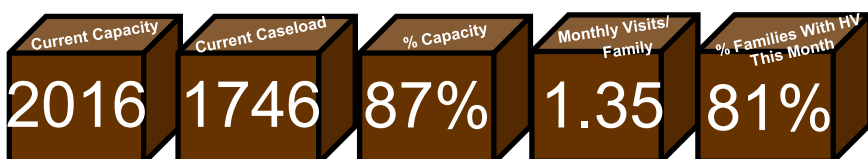


administers the state MIECHV program, was awarded an additional \$160,000 in NFP incentive funding this month to expand the site. Local match - covering two-thirds of the expansion costs - was provided by the Healthy Start Coalition. Two additional nurse home

visitors will be added increasing the site's capacity to 150 families.

FAHSC previously received incentive funding to expand MIECHV-funded 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, covers 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.

MIECHV DASHBOARD



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

New Place-Based Community Joins ECCS Project

The Town and Country neighborhood, located in northwest Hillsborough County, will join the [FL Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems \(ECCS\) initiative](#) in January. [Champions for Children](#) will lead efforts to promote development, and coordinate developmental screening and access to needed services, with a goal of improving the developmental skills of 3-year-old children by 25 percent from current levels by 2021. The initiative seeks to build a system of care in communities that involves health



care providers, agencies serving families with children ages 0-3, early learning providers, and families, and uses an equity lens in its work. FL ECCS Impact employs a collective impact approach and utilizes CQI methods to drive change at the community-level. Florida is one of 12 ECCS Impact grantees.

A significant proportion of Town and Country residents are Hispanic. Champions for Children and local partners are currently working with families in two elementary school attendance zones in the neighborhood to engage parents in *Growing Up Great in Town and Country*, an initiative that includes developmental screening and early literacy activities. Champions for Children implements two home visiting programs, Parents as Teachers and Healthy Families Florida, in Tampa.

The Town and Country neighborhood joins Liberty City in Miami as an implementation site for the FL ECCS Impact initiative.

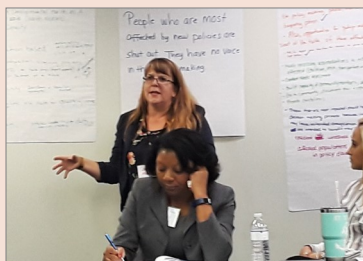
FL ECCS Impact Advisory Group Sharpens Focus

The [state ECCS Impact Advisory Group](#) met earlier this month in Tallahassee to craft objectives and strategies for addressing priorities in early childhood policies, data development, and the promotion of social-emotional development.

The group, which includes early childhood experts, policymakers, parents, and representatives from local implementation sites, participated in a racial equity exercise to frame its work and planning process.

Liberty City ECCS Coordinator Nicole Martin-Bynum presented on community initiatives to promote social-emotional development, and challenges faced by parents seeking services for their children.

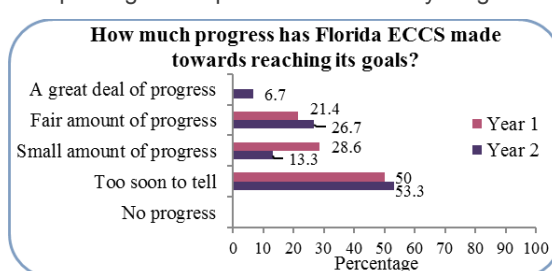
The group also heard updates on the selection of Town and Country in Tampa as the new ECCS site, and a new collaboration with [Project HOPE](#) (Harnessing Opportunity for Positive, Equitable Early Child Development), a multi-state effort led by [Boston Medical Center's Vital Village Network](#), [the BUILD initiative](#) and [Nemours](#), to address inequity in children's health and developmental outcomes. The state ECCS Advisory Group meets bimonthly to support local place-based efforts to promote early child development, developmental screening and access to needed services.



(Top) Dr. Jennifer Marshall presents strategies for data development.
(Bottom) FL ECCS Coordinator Ghia Kelly leads racial equity exercise.

Partner Survey: ECCS Project Continues Progress

The FL ECCS Impact initiative continues to make progress toward achieving its goal of improving development outcomes in young children by promoting coordinated



systems of screening and service delivery, according to a [survey](#) of state and community partners. [The Florida PARTNER Report: Collaboration Analysis for the ECCS State Leadership Network - Year 2](#), produced by the state evaluation team at the [University of South Florida](#), identified six potential

outcomes for the initiative based on survey results: improved communication among early childhood agencies and organizations; improved services for children and families in high-need communities; reduction of health disparities; increased knowledge sharing; public awareness of early childhood issues, and resources for professional development. Florida ECCS state partners most commonly identified their level of collaboration with one another as "cooperative" or "integrated" in the survey - an increase in the percentage reporting integrated activities between Years 1 and 2.

New IPV Training Aims to Strengthen HV Skills

New training, designed to increase the understanding and skills of home visitors in identifying and addressing Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) is now being offered at sites around the state. The three-day training will be held in Miami (January 7-9), Gainesville (January 14-16), and Lakeland and Marianna (January 30-February 1). The training was developed through a collaborative effort by FL MIECHV, [Healthy Families Florida](#) Training Institute, and the [Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence](#). Register for the free training through [MIECHV LMS](#).





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 (Top, L-R) Pinellas PAT+ recognized accomplishments, including Blanca Saucedo & family for perfect home visit attendance, at it's holiday gathering. (Above) Bay PAT hosted first post-hurricane holiday Group Connection. (Left and Below) Families gathered for Broward NFP event with Santa! (Right) MIECHV staff Carol Brady & Katie Hood sport their Ugly Sweater contest entries at FAHSC Holiday Party!



Congratulations to the 2018 Broward NFP graduates and their families! First-time parents completed the program which starts in pregnancy and continues until their child's second birthday.

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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