



The Florida Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Initiative: Federal Reauthorization and Funding Is Critical

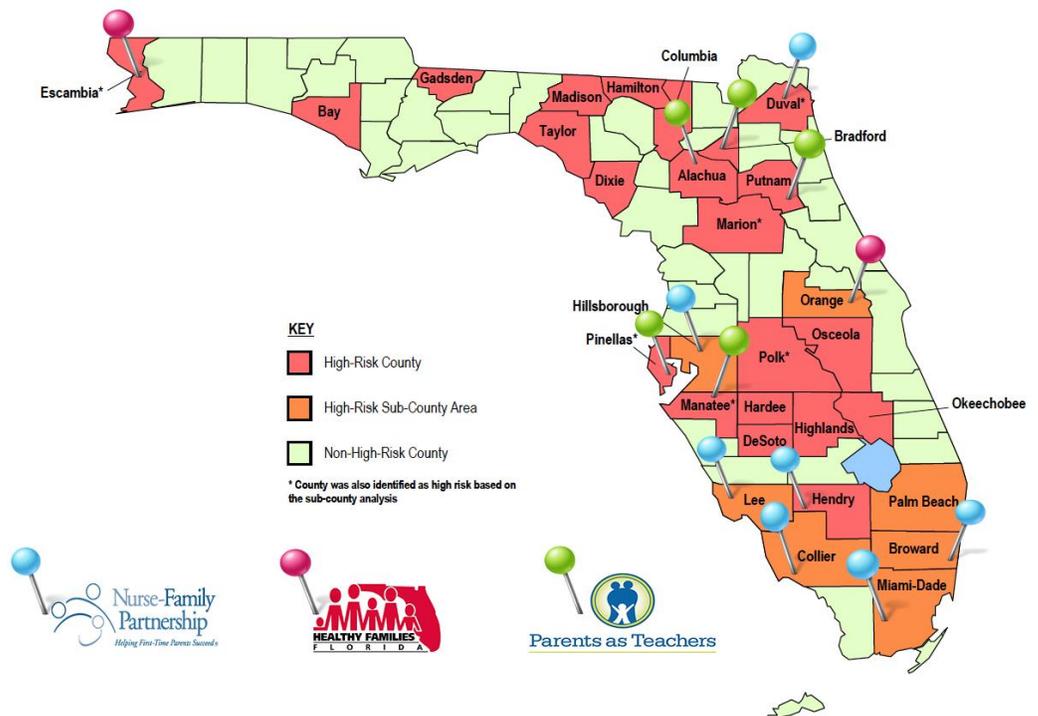
Reauthorization and **funding** of the federal Maternal, Infant & Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) in 2014 is **critical** to the future of Florida and the country.

Investment in children from birth to five and their families is **smart fiscal policy**. By coaching families raising young children to become better parents, we can **reduce public expenditures** on expensive remedial care and lower economic burdens on taxpayers. The MIECHV Initiative funds **proven programs** that leverage established community resources and work with families who seek help in a **trusted environment** — their homes. Because families ask for help, they are committed, want to do better and work hard to be **better parents**.

Learn more about how the Florida MIECHV Initiative is working in **your community** to support healthy, safe and nurturing families @ www.healthystartflorida/MIECHV.

Overview

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.



Funding

Florida received \$22 million in federal funding (FY 13 & 14) to establish and expand home visiting programs in high-need communities. Eleven sites, covering 14 of 29 eligible communities, were funded through a competitive process. Three proven models were selected for implementation by communities based on local needs: Nurse-Family Partnership, Parents as Teachers and Healthy Families Florida. Programs are implemented by local Healthy Start Coalitions, hospitals, federally-qualified health centers and other community-based organizations.

Accountability

Florida MIECHV is results-focused. Participant outcomes are being tracked in six areas: maternal and child health; childhood injuries, abuse and neglect; school readiness; domestic violence; family economic self-sufficiency; and coordination of services. The Florida Home Visiting Information System (FLOHVIS) is being used to gather the data needed to measure results.

Capacity-Building

Embedded in the state's Healthy Start system, Florida MIECHV aims to raise the bar on **all** services provided to expectant parents and their children age birth-5 through professional development, improved collaboration and coordination, continuous quality improvement, and measurement and monitoring of program impact. The initiative helps communities more effectively identify at-risk families, leverage funding and avoid duplication of services.

State Partners

- The Florida Association of Healthy Start Coalitions, Inc. – federal grantee
- The Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida – training & professional development
- The FSU Center for Prevention & Early Intervention Programs – training & professional development
- The USF Lawton & Rhea Chiles Center – state evaluation

About the Community-Selected Models

- The *Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP)* provides education and support to first-time mothers in low-income communities using specially-trained nurse home visitors. Families receive services starting in pregnancy through the child's second birthday. NFP is designed to improve (1) prenatal health and outcomes, (2) child health and development, and (3) families' economic self-sufficiency and/or maternal life course development (www.nursefamilypartnership.org).
- *Healthy Families Florida (HFF)*, nationally accredited by Healthy Families America, prevents child abuse and neglect by promoting healthy childhood growth and development, cultivating and strengthening positive parent-child relationships and improving family stability and self-sufficiency. Highly trained home visitors provide education and support to overburdened families at risk for adverse childhood experiences, including child maltreatment. Services begin prenatally or within the first three months after a child's birth and can last up to five years depending on the unique needs of the family. (www.healthyfamiliesfla.org).
- The goal of *Parents as Teachers (PAT)* is to provide parents with child development knowledge and parenting support, provide early detection of developmental delays and health issues, prevent child abuse and neglect, and increase children's school readiness. The PAT model includes one-on-one home visits, monthly group meetings, developmental screenings, and a resource network for families. Parent educators conduct the home visits using structured visit plans and guided planning tools (www.parentsasteachers.org).

For More Information

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