

# America's Families Are Raising Our Future

***Home Visiting makes us stronger.***

## **The time to expand funding for evidence-based home visiting — for our families and communities — is now.**

Home visiting supports expecting parents, caregivers, and those with young children who may face increased health risks or barriers to success. Families participate in home visiting programs to learn new skills and better prepare to raise children. Home visitors also connect families to a range of available supportive services in their communities that help them thrive. The Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program is a vital part of efforts to level the playing field by building on families' strengths to help them through adversity. Families across the country voluntarily participate in home visiting programs to obtain support, reduce stress, and build nurturing relationships with their children. The benefits of MIECHV-funded home visiting include:

Improvements in maternal and infant health

Reduction in crime and domestic violence

Increased family economic self-sufficiency

Prevention of child injury, abuse, neglect, and maltreatment

Increased school readiness and achievement

Follow-up care through successful referrals

# MIECHV expires on September 30, 2022.

MIECHV expires on September 30, 2022. Congress must act before this deadline to ensure that families across the country continue to receive essential home visiting services. The Home Visiting Coalition urges Congress to pass a bipartisan reauthorization bill to continue and expand home visiting with three critical priorities:

## 1. Increase MIECHV funding by \$200 million annually, up to \$1.4 billion, to reach more families and better support the workforce over the next five years.

Despite MIECHV's reputation as the "gold standard" for evidence-based policymaking, funding has remained flat over the past decade, limiting its reach to less than five percent of eligible families each year. The impacts of the pandemic exacerbated the economic and health challenges faced by families across the country. Moreover, a lack of funding adjustments over the past ten years means the program's dollars simply do not go as far as they did when the program was created. Recent statewide needs assessments have identified additional high-risk communities that would benefit from MIECHV programs, but this will require additional funding. Expanded resources would address critical workforce challenges while providing competitive wages to these vital providers, the overwhelming majority of whom are women.

## 2. Double the Tribal set-aside from *three* percent to *six* percent to reach more families in Tribal communities..

MIECHV currently provides a set-aside for Tribal communities that offers grants for Tribal organizations to develop, implement, and evaluate home visiting programs in American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) communities. However, Tribes must compete for this limited pool of resources. Long-standing inequities within AIAN communities have been significantly amplified by the pandemic, underlining the need for increased funding. Increasing the Tribal MIECHV set-aside would help develop and strengthen Tribal capacity to support and promote the health and well-being of families through home visiting, while strengthening cooperation and connections between programs that serve Tribal children and their families.

## 3. Continue to allow virtual home visiting with model fidelity as an approved option for service delivery to families.

In 2020, the pandemic necessitated the widespread deployment of virtual home visiting. The virtual option meets families where they are while supporting workforce and family retention. Home visiting programs find that providing families with virtual visits as an option *in addition to* traditional in-home visits best promotes family choice, improves families' comfort, and supports continued service delivery during disruptions like illness and severe weather. The Home Visiting Coalition also supports continued evaluation of the benefits and implementation of virtual home visiting.

## About Us

The Home Visiting Coalition (HVC) is a diverse group of organizations committed to the well-being of children, working to continue and expand federal support of home visiting to strengthen families in communities across the country. The Home Visiting Coalition grounds its work in promoting the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV), a federal grant program to states, territories, and Tribes that supports evidence-based early childhood home visiting for families from pregnancy through kindergarten entry.

