

# Congress Must Act Now to Reauthorize the MIECHV Program

Home Visiting in Pennsylvania

# What is Home Visiting?

Voluntary, evidence-based home visiting programs mentor parents and other caregivers raising children and provide supports to address substance use disorders, develop school readiness, improve maternal and child health, promote economic self-sufficiency, and reduce abuse and neglect.

## Who Benefits?

Backed by decades of research, evidence-based home visiting is a powerful and proven strategy to support low-income and under-resourced pregnant women and families with young children. Unfortunately, we can only reach a



fraction of the population with current dedicated funding. In Pennsylvania, only 5% of the pregnant women, children, and families who could benefit the most from evidence-based home visiting are receiving services.

#### How is it Funded?

There is no single primary funding source for evidence-based home visiting in states, including Pennsylvania. Our programs rely on a patchwork of federal, state, local, and private funding sources. The federal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program is an essential source of funding; however, it is set to expire on September 30th. Congress must act to reauthorize MIECHV before this deadline to ensure families across Pennsylvania can continue to receive vital home visiting services.

# Our Ask:

Childhood Begins at Home urges Congress to pass a bipartisan reauthorization bill to continue and expand evidence-based home visiting. The reality is that MIECHV is limited and insufficient to meet Pennsylvania's staggering unmet need, mainly because it has been flat-funded for a decade. Along with the National Home Visiting Coalition, we are seeking to scale funding by \$200M annually over the next five years to reach more families living in high-risk communities based on each state's most recent needs assessment.

#### **About Us:**

Childhood Begins at Home is a statewide campaign launched in 2017 to help policymakers and the public understand the value of evidence-based home visiting and support public investments in the programs. The campaign includes child advocacy organizations alongside the six evidence-based home visiting models operating in Pennsylvania that receive public (state and/or federal) funds to support their programs.





# Who We Are

























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