



February 23, 2021

Dear Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation,

As members of the [Childhood Begins at Home coalition](#), a dedicated group of representatives from each of the six evidence-based home visiting models receiving state funding in Pennsylvania as well as other child advocacy groups, we urge you to support the \$150 million allocation for the Maternal, Infant, Early Child Home Visiting (MIECHV) program as proposed in the latest round of stimulus funding following a House Ways & Means Committee markup as part of the budget reconciliation process. These funds would support vulnerable expectant mothers and families with young children throughout Pennsylvania who need home visiting services now more than ever. Additionally, the funding would complement the flexibility Congress has already given MIECHV to use the dollars on an emergency basis to meet a range of needs for families, including phones or tablets, formula, diapers, and other supplies.

To date, previous action by Congress has not provided support for evidence-based home visiting and while these supports have remained active through the implementation of tele-visits during the pandemic, support for this funding is critical now to ensure the continuation of the assistance they provide to the over 17,000 families served in the state. MIECHV-funded home visiting programs are even more of a lifeline to families right now. Home visitors ensure families are connected to essential resources needed to support them during this crisis, such as access to food or housing assistance.

Pennsylvania home visitors are committed to preserving the invaluable relationships that have already been established between them and the families they serve, and to making sure families get the information and help they need to stay healthy and safe during this unprecedented crisis.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and urge your support of the \$150 million for evidence-based home visiting services to help vulnerable Pennsylvania children and families as part of a final stimulus package that passes the House of Representatives.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Kari King
President and CEO
Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children

Amy Malen
Assistant Deputy Director
Allegheny County Department of Human Services
Representing Family Check Up

Laura Stephany
Health Policy Director
Allies for Children

Julie O'Connor
Norristown Family Center Director
Carson Valley Children's Aid
Representing the Pennsylvania Family Center Network

Karen Shanoski
Family Support and Community Engagement Director and PAT State Office Director
Center for Schools and Communities
Representing Parents as Teachers

Bruce Clash
Pennsylvania State Director
Fight Crime: Invest in Kids

Sara Jann
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Maternity Care Coalition
Representing Healthy Families America

Jessica Lipper
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