



Michigan: Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program

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In Michigan, the federal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting, or MIECHV, program helped to create a more cohesive system of home visiting. Although Michigan already had a state home visiting infrastructure prior to MIECHV, the grant funds help connect and increase the capacity of existing programs. Additionally, Michigan administrators were able to use the results of the state's needs assessment to identify new communities in which to invest time and resources. As home visiting expands in Michigan, administrators are working on continuous quality improvement, or CQI, and demonstrating outcomes for families.

Success and innovation

Continuous quality improvement process and fidelity monitoring

Administrators directed a significant amount of their MIECHV efforts towards creating a robust CQI process, which includes establishing state and local CQI teams and utilizes a Plan-Do-Study-Act cycle to continually assess and work towards effective change. The state also provides training opportunities to home visiting programs in order to assist with their participation in CQI teams. Every quarter, administrators work with the Michigan Public Health Institute to evaluate data, track progress, and find areas for improvement. Michigan is conducting studies across models to identify the primary components of fidelity as a means of monitoring program quality and improving implementation.



Michigan MIECHV at a glance

Total federal MIECHV funding:
\$6.7 in competitive grant funds in 2014 and \$3.2 million in formula grant funds

Lead agency:
Michigan Early Childhood Home Visiting Initiative, Michigan Department of Community Health, or MDCH

Number of communities served:
11 communities

MIECHV-funded home visiting models:
Nurse Family Partnership, or NFP; Healthy Families America, or HFA; and Early Head Start-Home Visiting, or EHS-HV

Michigan home visiting conference

Michigan developed an annual conference that is open to home visitors, program administrators, and parents utilizing home visiting services. The conference offers an opportunity for home visiting professionals to convene, share learnings and insights, and develop their skills and knowledge base around various issues including: quality improvement, service delivery, and specialized screening, as well as many other topics.

Streamline access to services through Home Visiting Hubs

Michigan used MIECHV funds to pilot the use of Home Visiting Hubs around the state, which serve as centralized access points for families to find local home visiting services. Hubs allow for more streamlined service delivery and coordinated outreach to high-risk communities. Administrators are currently working with community partners at the local level to support the planning and implementation process.

Increased home visiting collaboration

Prior to MIECHV funding, Michigan had an existing home visiting infrastructure, but the programs were not well connected to each other or to the broader community of early childhood services. Michigan used MIECHV funds to integrate home visiting into a more unified system so that MIECHV is a component of the broader Michigan Home Visiting Initiative. MIECHV work is guided by an interdepartmental team at the state level and by local home visiting leadership groups that are part of Great Start Collaborative bodies at the local level. The Great Start Collaborative bodies engage local parents and partners who are invested in improving the lives of very young children and their families.

Challenges

Michigan indicated that data collection on the required benchmarks was a challenge for the local programs and state administrators, especially considering the large amount of data that must be tracked and reported. The process of expanding home visiting to targeted communities and populations was a challenge in some communities where home visiting was already operating and seen as universal services. State administrators have been considering strategies to conduct successful outreach and enrollment to support communities in a way that is respectful of families' needs.

Michigan MIECHV at a glance

Families served:

1,104 families

Additional funding for home visiting:

state appropriations and Medicaid

Identified risks targeted by MIECHV:

maternal and infant health; infant mortality; domestic violence; mental health; child maltreatment; school readiness; reducing crime; and ensuring access to services

Looking ahead

Dedicate additional resources to CQI

Michigan plans to dedicate more staff capacity and funds to the CQI process with the aim of achieving outcomes for children and families and improving the service delivery process. Michigan will develop additional CQI teams across the state and implement local system level CQI teams in addition to their state and local site-level teams.

Identify strategies for long-term sustainability

MIECHV administrators are currently working to identify strategies for sustainability. The state engaged a consultant to research additional sources of stable funding, and administrators are using this research to develop a list of funding strategies that will alleviate the unstable nature of grant funding.

Additional information

Michigan's MIECHV program: www.michigan.gov/homevisiting

Michigan's MIECHV Needs Assessment: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/homevisiting/Statewide_Needs_Assessment_Narrative_and_Appendices_434963_7.pdf

Michigan's MIECHV State Plan: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/homevisiting/Updated_State_Plan_434962_7.pdf

Source: Interview with Nancy Peeler, Michigan Home Visiting Initiative program director, Michigan Department of Community Health, September 2014.

“MIECHV has encouraged a lot of conversation about what home visiting is, what fidelity is, what an evidence base is.”
–Michigan state administrator

This profile was written as part of a larger study to identify how states are using Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting, or MIECHV, funds to advance state home visiting systems. For a summary report and additional profiles about home visiting, visit clasp.org or americanprogress.org.