



New Mexico: Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program

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The federal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting, or MIECHV, program affords New Mexico the opportunity to expand evidence-based home visiting services. MIECHV funding provides state administrators with resources to support the formation of a statewide home visiting system that is embedded within New Mexico's broader continuum of early learning services. The state found home visiting programs to be a driving force towards increased family support services within communities, which has helped to build community capacity and better serve at-risk families.

Success and innovation

Statewide centralized intake system

Coordination of services is an essential element of New Mexico's home visiting system, allowing programs to better identify families in need of services, connect families to the most appropriate home visiting model, and decrease duplicative efforts. The creation of the statewide Home Visiting Resource and Referral system also connects vulnerable families with other family support services and helps local home visiting agencies work together on shared promotional activities and referrals. Administrators stated that this essential component of the state infrastructure would not have been created without MIECHV funding.

Community capacity building

Competitive grant funding allowed New Mexico to prioritize support to four high-risk communities, identified as early childhood investment zones. The state hired a community capacity-building team to establish and support local stakeholder coalitions in these areas. Each coalition ensures that home visiting becomes embedded within the community and addresses gaps in the needed continuum of family support services. Coalitions review



New Mexico MIECHV at a glance

Total federal MIECHV funding:
\$1.2 million in formula grant funds annually and \$7.2 million in competitive grant funds

Lead agency:
New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department, or CYFD

Number of communities served:
five counties

MIECHV-funded home visiting models:
Nurse Family Partnership, or NFP, and Parents as Teachers, or PAT

Families served:
funding provides services for 370 families

community risk data and construct activity plans for addressing targeted risk factors. For instance, in an attempt to target high-risk pregnant teens, the coalition would work with local schools to connect expectant or new mothers with home visiting services.

Partnership with University of New Mexico's Center for Education Policy Research

The state contracted with the University of New Mexico's Center for Education Policy Research, or CEPR, to conduct evaluations of the statewide home visiting system. CEPR provides analysis of what the state is doing well and how to move the system forward, while also helping New Mexico maintain compliance with MIECHV requirements. CEPR also prepares the state's annual "Home Visiting Outcomes Report" required by state law.

Using technology to support professional development

Many of New Mexico's home visiting programs operate in high-risk, rural communities. To conserve travel time and fiscal resources, administrators use video conferencing to provide training and technical assistance to home visitors in hard-to-reach areas. This innovative use of distance communication helps the state provide professional development and support to home visitors and improve the quality of rural home visiting programs.

Web-based data collection system

To meet the reporting requirements of MIECHV and the state statute, which mandates similar reporting, New Mexico overhauled its data management system. The updated system supports the collection and reporting of data for all home visiting programs in the state—not just MIECHV-funded programs. New Mexico administrators enhanced the database with collection tools and procedures that allowed them to report on the indicators required by MIECHV and found that this system also enhanced their state reporting and accountability process.

Challenges

State administrators worked carefully to align MIECHV-funded home visiting programs with the state's existing programs during implementation. This was identified as one of the biggest challenges, as there was no specific guidance on the steps needed to build a statewide system. However, state administrators refined the state's standards-based home visiting system so that new evidence-based and existing promising practice home visiting models adhered to state and MIECHV requirements.

New Mexico MIECHV at a glance

**Additional funding
for home visiting:**
state general funds and
private philanthropy

**Identified risks
targeted by MIECHV:**
teen pregnancy; substance
abuse; poverty; domestic
violence; child health and
safety; and school readiness

Looking ahead

Evaluation and quality improvement

The state will continue to work with CEPR to improve quality in home visiting programs. Through analysis and evaluation of the state data, CEPR hopes to provide Children, Youth and Families Department, or CYFD, with a better understanding of how much home visiting programs cost and how many visits families should receive over an appropriate timeframe. Local coalitions also continue to guide best practices for successfully embedding home visiting programs within a system of family support services in a community.

Additional information

New Mexico's MIECHV program on the Children, Youth and Families Department's website: <http://cyfd.org/content/home-visiting>

For questions regarding New Mexico's MIECHV Needs Assessment and State Plan, please contact Jesse Leinfelder at Jesse.Leinfelder@state.nm.us.

Source: Interview with Jesse Leinfelder, early childhood program manager, Office of Child Development, New Mexico Children, Youth, and Families Department, September 2014.

“MIECHV brought us into the modern age.”
– New Mexico program manager

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.