

Illinois MIECHV Fact Sheet (Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting)

What is MIECHV?

MIECHV is a partnership of federal, state, and local government agencies, and community-based organizations. The main goals of the Illinois MIECHV program are:

- to improve health and development outcomes for at-risk children through evidence-based home visiting programs, and
- to develop a comprehensive early childhood system in MIECHV communities.

Which communities are participating in the Illinois MIECHV program?

1. The Southside Chicago cluster: Englewood, West Englewood, and Greater Grand Crossing
2. Cicero
3. Elgin
4. Rockford
5. Macon County
6. Vermilion County

What is a Home Visiting program?

A Home Visiting program uses trained home visitors to provide direct services to pregnant women or children from birth to age 5. Home Visiting services are free and voluntary. There are NO charges for the services, and families can choose to accept or decline these services. All Home Visiting services are confidential.

What is an evidence-based Home Visiting program model?

An evidence-based Home Visiting program model is one that is based on theory and has shown a positive effect on child development. The evidence-based Home Visiting program models used in Illinois are:

- Home-based Early Head Start (EHS) – serving low-income pregnant women and families with children from birth to age 3.
- Healthy Families America (HFA) – serving at-risk families with children from birth to age 5.
- Nurse-Family Partnerships (NFP) – serving first-time low-income mothers from pregnancy until the baby turns two years old.
- Parents as Teachers (PAT) – serving families with children from birth to age 5.

Who are the Home Visitors?

Home Visitors are professionals who have received background checks as well as extensive training in subjects related to child development and family strengthening.

What Happens During a Home Visit?

The Home Visitor will bring information about issues that you help select, as well as give you ideas about activities and interactions that you may want to try with your child. The Home Visitor will model activities with you and your baby to stimulate attachment and development. The visits last about an hour. The Home Visitor only needs a place to visit; a living room or kitchen table will work just fine. Home Visitors want the visit to be enjoyable for you and your child.

How often will Home Visitors come to see me?

The scheduling of home visits (weekly, bi-weekly or monthly) depends on your family's situation and the Home Visiting program model that is being used. These visits will be planned in advance, in coordination with your family's schedule.

What additional services will be part of this program?

Our trained Home Visitors will work with you to connect you to services that meet your situation and needs, such as parenting classes/support groups, health care services, counseling, child care and preschool, or developmental services. Our goal is for Home Visiting to serve as a central hub that connects families to a comprehensive range of early childhood services.

For more information, please contact:

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