



# Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) in Illinois

## What is MIECHV?

The Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting program (MIECHV) facilitates collaboration and partnership at the federal, state and community levels to improve health and development outcomes for at-risk children through four evidence-based home visiting programs: Healthy Families, Parents as Teachers, Early Head Start Home Based and Nurse Family Partnership. The MIECHV program is one of several service strategies embedded in a comprehensive, high-quality early childhood system that promotes maternal, infant, and early childhood health and development and that relies on the best available research evidence to inform and guide practice.

## How is MIECHV Different from Other Home Visiting Funding?

MIECHV is a federal initiative designed not to sustain or continue existing traditional home visiting services in traditionally served areas, but to extend evidence-based model programs into underserved areas with a special focus on a high needs population set (please see priority populations below). The purpose is to test the impact of model-based home visiting on the lives of parents and children who are in most need of services but are often least able to get these services. While model programs have already been serving many families in these communities, some of the most vulnerable have been especially difficult to reach, due partly to a lack of services and partly to the challenges of recruiting and retaining these clients. MIECHV seeks to fill these gaps by especially targeting high needs families, where early identification and intervention can have the strongest impact.

## Who are the MIECHV Priority Populations?

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MIECHV was designed to expand services in these **priority populations**:

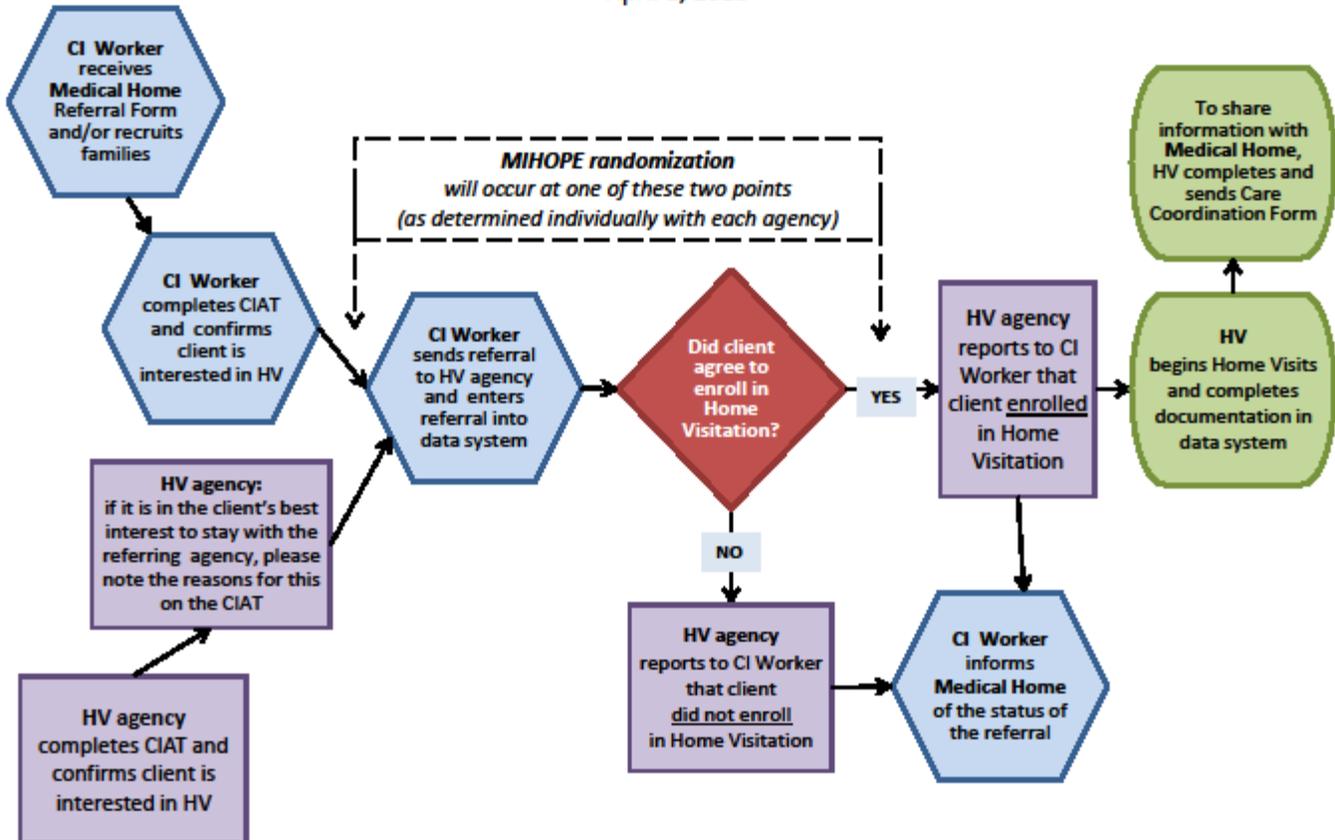
- ◆ Low income residents of communities in need of services;
- ◆ Pregnant women under the age of 21;
- ◆ Families with a history of child abuse;
- ◆ Families with a history of substance abuse;
- ◆ Families with users of tobacco products;
- ◆ Families with a history of, or with children with, low student achievement;
- ◆ Children with developmental delays or disabilities; and
- ◆ Members of the military.

While MIECHV providers should continue to serve all families that fall within their home visiting models' criteria, communities should pay extra attention to recruiting and filling MIECHV caseloads with these priority populations.

## About Coordinated Intake

MIECHV Coordinated Intake Flow Chart

April 1, 2013



In MIECHV communities, Coordinated Intake (CI) serves as a hub that links families with local home visiting services. As shown in the flow chart above, referrals to home visiting can be generated from outside agencies, CI workers, or from home visiting programs. Agency self-referrals are allowed: a home visiting program may generate a referral to its own program, as long as it completes the Coordinated Intake Assessment Tool (CIAT) and sends the CIAT to CI for processing. Referrals can be generated solely through CI workers, through each home visiting agency (including internal or self-referrals), or through a combination of the two. Regardless of the referral source, all referrals must be processed by CI, and all referrals received by CI workers will be sent to the appropriate home visiting program within 48 business hours.

The state’s vision is for all communities statewide to have a local CI as the single point of entry to home visiting services. To this end, we have started working with a few non-MIECHV counties on a voluntary (unpaid) basis to pilot CI in their communities. If you have any questions, please contact Joanna Su at OECD, [joanna.su@illinois.gov](mailto:joanna.su@illinois.gov).

## Professional Development Resources

### Innovations in Quality: Illinois Home Visiting Summit

The inaugural statewide Home Visiting Summits in April were a resounding success! Over 600 home visitors participated in the two summit locations: April 2, 2013 in Naperville and April 5, 2013 in Bloomington. The Summits were sponsored by the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development, Illinois State Board of Education, Illinois Department of Human Services, Positive Parenting DuPage, and the Ounce of Prevention Fund.

Participants spent the day in breakout sessions discussing a variety of topics related to quality in home visiting. At the Summits, the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development and the Center for Prevention Research and Development (CPRD) of the University of Illinois presented highlights of the statewide Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) plan for home visiting in Illinois. The CQI plan will be piloted in MIECHV communities, with the long-term goal of embedding it into the Illinois home visiting system.

Participants were also introduced to Illinois' new Birth to Three Early Learning Guidelines, address topics including: social and emotional development; language development, communication, and literacy; physical and motor development; and cognitive development. For details, please visit: <http://www.illinoisearlylearning.org/standards/>.

The information gathered from the summits will be published in a white paper (report) to help inform best practices in home visiting in Illinois.

#### **Training Opportunity: Symposium on Child Trauma in the Public Sector**

July 18-19, 2013

Northwestern University, Chicago

For more information, please contact Lynn Steiner at [lynn-steiner@northwestern.edu](mailto:lynn-steiner@northwestern.edu).



## Ongoing Webinars

### Illinois Early Learning Council

The state's Early Learning Council (ELC) hosts periodic webinars on topics of interest to the ELC and the broader early learning community. Links to past webinars and the schedule of upcoming webinars are available at <http://www2.illinois.gov/gov/OECD/Pages/EarlyLearningCouncil.aspx>.

### Pew Home Visiting Campaign

The Pew Home Visiting Campaign holds webinars throughout the year. Details for upcoming webinars and recordings of past events can be found here:

<http://www.pewstates.org/research/featured-collections/home-visiting-webinars-85899379346>



## Mother and Infant Home Visiting Program Evaluation: The Hope of MIHOPE

### What is MIHOPE?

The Mother and Infant Home Visiting Program Evaluation (MIHOPE) is a legislatively mandated, large-scale evaluation of the effectiveness of home visiting programs funded by MIECHV. It includes four evidence-based models: (1) Early Head Start-Home Visiting, (2) Healthy Families America, (3) Nurse-Family Partnership, and (4) Parents as Teachers. A lottery-like process, also known as random assignment, will be used to select which families to enroll in home visiting services. Those selected for home visiting services will form the program group. Those not selected will be referred to alternative services and will form a comparison group. The research team will monitor both groups over time.

### What are MIHOPE's goals?

- ◆ To estimate the effects of MIECHV home visiting programs across a wide range of outcomes, and study the variation in how programs are implemented.
- ◆ To provide federal and state policymakers and others with valuable information about whether and how home visiting programs improve outcomes for children and families.

### What is the scope of MIHOPE?

MIHOPE expects to include about 12 states and will enroll approximately 5,100 at-risk families that are expecting a baby or have an infant up to six months old. MIHOPE field researchers have begun enrolling study participants in Illinois, Michigan, Nevada, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. Five more states (California, Georgia, Kansas, Oregon, and Washington) have been federally approved for potential inclusion in the study. In Illinois, MIHOPE has chosen 14 MIECHV agencies across 4 communities. The goal is to enroll 800 Illinois families over the next 2 years.

To watch a short video that explains MIHOPE, please visit <http://www.mdrc.org/mihope-%E2%80%93-overview-programs-and-practitioners>. For more information, please contact Lesley Schwartz at OECD.

## Benchmark Data Collection for Illinois MIECHV

To ensure that Illinois is meeting our federal benchmarks, we have contracted with the Center for Prevention Research and Development (CPRD) at the University of Illinois. The benchmark evaluation will be conducted by Dr. Peter Mulhall (Principal Investigator), Matthew Poes (Research Coordinator), six field data collectors, and other CPRD staff. The field data collectors will coordinate with home visitors to collect measures and assess families at three time periods (at 2-4 weeks, 1 year, and 2 years post-enrollment). Each parent will receive a gift card for each data collection period.

As of April 30, we have collected baseline data collection from nearly 200 families across all six MIECHV communities: Southside Chicago Cluster (Englewood, West Englewood and Greater Grand Crossing), Cicero, Elgin, Rockford, and Macon and Vermilion Counties. Every MIECHV home visitor should be in regular contact with their community's field data collector to schedule home visits for data collection. If you have questions, or are unsure of the process to schedule a data collection visit, please contact Matthew Poes at [mpoes@illinois.edu](mailto:mpoes@illinois.edu) or 217-333-3231.



## **MIECHV Benchmark Highlight: Improvement in Maternal and Newborn Health – Connecting MIECHV to Health Care Providers**

One of MIECHV’s legislatively mandated benchmarks is to improve maternal and child health. This includes increasing the proportion of our families who receive the number of recommended prenatal and well-child visits. To address this priority, the Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (ICAAP) is working with Illinois Health Connect (IHC) to conduct outreach and education to more than 300 medical homes whose service areas cover the six MIECHV communities. Using messages and materials developed in conjunction with MIECHV, ICAAP and IHC are educating medical providers about the benefits of home visiting, and how to refer families through MIECHV Coordinated Intake.

ICAAP has also been working with input from our Community Systems Developers, Coordinated Intake Workers, Supervisors, and Home Visitors to develop a Care Coordination Protocol. This includes a form for health care providers to refer families to Coordinated Intake, and a form for Home Visitors to coordinated care and share information with health care providers. We encourage all MIECHV providers to use the ICAAP procedures and forms, since medical homes are already used to similar forms that were developed for care coordination with the state’s Early Intervention program. We are in the process of translating these forms into Spanish.

For more information on this project, including the protocol, forms, and a web-based training on home visiting and care coordination with medical homes, please visit <http://illinoisAAP.org/projects/early-childhood-development-initiatives/home-visiting/>. If you have any questions, or if you would like to provide feedback, please contact Elise Groenewegen at ICAAP at [egroenewegen@illinoisAAP.com](mailto:egroenewegen@illinoisAAP.com).

### **Health Insurance Exchanges**

Starting in 2014, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) will result in over 20 million people enrolling in private insurance coverage through health insurance marketplaces (or exchanges). These private plans, called “Qualified Health Plans” (QHP’s), must meet standards for inclusion of “Essential Community Providers” (ECPs) in their provider networks. ECPs serve predominantly low-income, medically underserved populations. For more information, please visit: <http://www.nashp.org/sites/default/files/ecp.tips.connect.marketplace.plans.pdf>.

### **Breastfeeding Campaign: It’s Only Natural**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Office on Women’s Health is excited to announce the launch of a new breastfeeding campaign! *It’s Only Natural* helps African American women and their families understand the health benefits of breastfeeding — not just for babies, but for moms too. The campaign’s website is available at [www.womenshealth.gov/itsonlynatural](http://www.womenshealth.gov/itsonlynatural), and includes video testimonials as well as information on overcoming myths and challenges.

## About the Newsletter

We created this MIECHV newsletter in response to our providers' requests for a centralized source of program updates. We plan to issue newsletters every 1-2 months. We welcome your feedback for improvement; please send your comments and suggestions to Ebony Hoskin at [ebony.hoskin@illinois.gov](mailto:ebony.hoskin@illinois.gov).

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## Upcoming Events

### Quarterly MIECHV Providers' Calls

Friday, June 7, 2013, 10:00—11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, September 25, 10:00—11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, December 3, 10:00—11:30 a.m.

### Coming Soon:

### Illinois Home Visiting Website

Be on the lookout for an email that will link you to a new [www.bigmarker.com](http://www.bigmarker.com) site created by the Ounce of Prevention Fund. The site will include MIECHV and other home visiting documents and resources.

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