

Extends the Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting Program



As Part of the Home Visiting Coalition We Offer the Following Information:

What is the current level of funding for Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV)?

MIECHV is currently funded at \$400 million a year.

What is the increase you are asking for?

We are asking to double the annual funding for the program to \$800 million a year. However, the funding would not be doubled immediately but rather increased annually over the five-year authorization period until it eventually reaches \$800 a year.

How long will the reauthorization last?

Five years.

Is the reauthorization a time to make changes in the program?

It can be. But in the case of MIECHV, it works very well the way it is. Therefore, we are asking that the program remain unchanged, with additional funding.

How is the funding allocated or divided between the states?

Funding for MIECHV is allocated by formula. The formula is based on the proportion of children under five living in poverty in the community and takes into account the importance of maintaining stability through existing services. The funding goes to state, tribal and territorial entities, which then have their own systems for allocating resources to specific programs. Grantees must give priority to families living in at-risk communities as identified by a statewide needs assessment. Currently, every state and U.S. territory receives funding from MIECHV. For a list of current grantees under the formula awards, please see:

https://mchb.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/mchb/MaternalChildHealthInitiatives/HomeVisiting/MIECHV_Formula_Grant_Program_%28X10%29.pdf

If the program is reauthorized, does that guarantee it will be funded at the level it was authorized for?

Yes. This important program is reauthorized and appropriated at the same time.

What happens if MIECHV does not get reauthorized?

If Congress fails to act, no additional families would be served through MIECHV funds. Existing programs that rely on MIECHV funds for a portion of their programs would need to scale back and then completely reduce the services that are MIECHV-funded. The MIECHV-funded portions of the programs would close within six months to a year.

It's important to note that home visiting programs across the U.S. have many funding streams; home visiting is truly a partnership. There are local funds and local philanthropic dollars that support programs; some models also receive federal funding separate and apart from MIECHV. However, MIECV is a significant and important funding source.

Does anyone oppose continuing MIECHV?

MIECHV has strong bipartisan support and we fully expect the program to be reauthorized and the funding to be increased as requested. That does not mean it will be easy to get done but we are glad to know we have the support of House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady who has said that program "empowers parents to achieve better outcomes for themselves and their children." As with everything in our federal budget, the money has to come from somewhere and Congress will have to strike a balance between needs and available funding sources.

What committees in the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate are involved in reauthorizing MIECHV?

In the House, MIECHV will move through the Ways and Means Committee, which has primary jurisdiction. Of particular importance in the House is the Ways and Means Committee's Subcommittee on Human Resources. Here's a list of members.

Additionally, the House Energy and Commerce Committee has many powerful members who care about the program and who HVC members will want to keep informed and engaged in the reauthorization. Energy and Commerce also has jurisdiction over many related programs that also expire this year, such as the State Children's Health Insurance Program, better known as CHIP

In the Senate, the reauthorization will move through the Finance Committee, which has sole jurisdiction. Many members of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee will also want to be informed and active.