

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

As authorized by the Affordable Care Act of 2010, Illinois is receiving federal MIECHV funds to:

- Expand or enhance one or more **federally-recognized evidence-based home visiting models**;
- Ensure that home visiting is **effectively connected** to community based organizations and services;
- Establish a system of **universal screening** and **coordinated intake** in target areas;
- Enhance or establish an **early childhood collaborative** in target areas.

The six Illinois communities receiving MIECHV formula funds are:

- Southside Chicago cluster (Englewood, West Englewood, and Grand Crossing)
- Cicero
- Elgin
- Rockford
- Macon County
- Vermilion County

In each community, a collaboration of local agencies is funded to implement MIECHV. These providers are using the following evidence-based home visiting models: Early Head Start (EHS), Healthy Families America (HFA), Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP), and Parents as Teachers (PAT). In each community collaboration, key staff roles include: Home Visitors, their supervisors, Coordinated Intake (CI) workers, and Community Systems Developers (CSDs).

For all six communities, key components of the Illinois MIECHV program include:

- **Strong Foundations training** for home visiting staff on **domestic violence, substance abuse, maternal depression, and development delays** (provided by the Ounce of Prevention Fund and others).
- **Linkages to medical homes** (coordinated by the Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics).
- **Infant Mental Health consultation** (provided by the Illinois Children's Mental Health Partnership, housed at Voices for Illinois Children).
- **4P's Plus substance abuse and other risk screening** (training and support provided by Dr. Ira Chasnoff).
- **Sustainability strategies** (beyond the MIECHV grant period).

Research, evaluation, and CQI are vital components of MIECHV, which has 6 federal benchmarks with 37 constructs.

Illinois MIECHV has three main research and data components:

- **Illinois benchmark evaluation** led by the Center for Prevention Research and Development (CPRD) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- **MIHOPE, a federal research project** including randomized control trials in the Southside Cluster, Elgin, Macon County and Vermilion County, led nationally by MDRC and conducted in Illinois by Mathematica Policy Research. (In the randomized trials, eligible families will either be referred to MIECHV home visiting services or another type of social service that does not include home visiting.)
- **CQI (continuous quality improvement)** at the state and local levels, coordinated by CPRD.

For more information, please contact:

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