

Coaching Parents Saves Money

Voluntary home visiting programs yield a strong return on investment

When infants don't get a good start in life, it's costly to society in the long-term. The federal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program can save more than \$5,000 per family by helping at-risk parents become self-sufficient and support their child's development.

What is voluntary home visiting?

Voluntary home visiting is a program offered to at-risk pregnant women and new mothers. Parents who participate gain access to a qualified professional who provides home-based coaching on children's health and development during pregnancy and infancy.¹

An evidence-based program

The MIECHV program directs 75 percent of funding to programs that meet evidence-based standards, and 25 percent to programs that are undergoing rigorous evaluation.²

Home visiting outcomes:

Productive and independent families: A study of the Early Head Start home visiting program found a \$3,600 increase in at-risk mothers' average annual earnings.³ Meanwhile, a study of the Nurse-Family Partnership found welfare savings of \$14,500 per family over a decade.⁴



“ We're talking about a simple investment—coaching parents early on—that pays incredible long-term dividends.

— Douglas M. Baker, Jr.
Chairman & CEO, Ecolab Inc.

A strong return on investment: A cost-benefit analysis found that high-quality home visiting programs save \$5,000 to \$6,000 per family over a child's lifetime.⁵ One program, First Born, achieved savings by reducing costly emergency room visits by 33 percent.⁶

Engaged parents and school-ready children: The fastest period of brain development occurs during the first year of life, establishing "a sturdy or a fragile foundation" for everything that follows.⁷ As a result, early childhood programs can influence long-term outcomes.

For example, as a result of the Healthy Families America home visiting program, one-third fewer children needed special education in elementary school.⁸ Meanwhile, at-risk children who participated in the Abecedarian early education and home visiting program were four times more likely to complete

college and 42 percent more likely to be consistently employed at age 30.⁹

Reauthorize MIECHV

The Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program reaches **nearly 150,000 parents and children** in all 50 states. Without reauthorization, the program will expire in September and at-risk families will lose an important resource that provides short-term coaching to yield long-term self-sufficiency.

1 HRSA (n.d.) "HRSA's Federal Home Visiting Program."

2 Ibid.

3 Jones Harden et al. 2012.

4 Olds et al. 2010.

5 Washington State Institute for Public Policy 2012.

6 Kilburn & Cannon, Pediatrics 2016.

7 Harvard Center on the Developing Child 2015.

8 Caldera et al., 2007; DuMont et al. 2010.

9 Campbell et al. 2012.

To learn more about the benefits of home visiting programs, visit www.StrongNation.org/Home-Visiting

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