

Protecting Children, Helping Parents

Voluntary home visiting programs build strong families

The Bible teaches God created the family to be the primary place for educating a child on how he or she is to live. Paul wrote that those of us who are experienced in parenting should coach the younger ones (Titus 2:3-4). Voluntary home visiting programs positively impact parental engagement, health outcomes, and families financially.

What is voluntary home visiting?

The federal Maternal Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program provides young, at-risk, pregnant or new mothers with the opportunity to receive home-based coaching from a nurse or trained health professional during pregnancy into the early years of the child's life.¹ Three-quarters of MIECHV funding goes towards evidence-based home visiting programs, and one-quarter goes towards promising programs that are undergoing rigorous evaluation.²

Strengthening families through:

Increased parental engagement: Studies of the Nurse Family Partnership have shown that having an experienced nurse to coach parents resulted in more stable relationships for mothers, fewer childhood injuries and a 50 percent reduction in child abuse and neglect.³



 **We have a moral obligation to offer guidance to young parents who simply aren't prepared for the challenges of raising children.**

— Dr. Stacy Spencer,
Pastor of New Direction Christian Church

Increased economic benefits: High-quality home visiting programs result in a return on investment to society of \$1.89 for every dollar spent as a result of reduced costs for child protection, K-12 special education and grade retention, and the criminal justice system.⁴ Families also experienced increased annual earnings of \$3,600 from home visits through Early Head Start, which connects young mothers with education and job opportunities.⁵

Positive health outcomes: Through home visits, nurses provide young mothers with the guidance they need to improve their prenatal health, resulting in a healthier baby. One home visiting program, Every Child Succeeds, found a 60 percent reduction in the infant mortality rate for participants compared to the control group.⁶

Reauthorize MIECHV to strengthen families

Home visiting follows a biblical model laid out in Titus 2:3-4: older women, training younger women to love their children.

We urge leaders and policymakers to support investments in effective parent coaching programs that will strengthen families by renewing MIECHV before it expires in fall of 2017.

1 HRSA 2017.

2 Ibid.

3 Olds et al. 1997 and 2010.

4 WSIPP 2016.

5 Jones Harden, B., et al. 2012.

6 Donovan et al. 2007.

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

Shepherding the Next Generation

Evangelical pastors and ministry leaders calling for biblically-based and effective approaches to strengthen families and communities

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