



Evidence-Based Home Visiting In Pennsylvania

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What is evidence-based home visiting (EBHV)?

Home visiting programs recognize parents are children's first teachers, but sometimes even parents need help. In home visiting, nurses and other trained professionals visit families with infants and toddlers to provide parent education and support and promote their children's health, well-being, learning and development. "Evidence-based" refers to home visiting models whose services and supports are proven effective by research evidence in aiding a child's healthy development.

What state and federally funded EBHV models exist in Pennsylvania?

Pennsylvania is able to serve at-risk children and families with an array of needs through:

- *Early Head Start (EHS)* - Enhances the ability of low-income families to meet the developmental and early learning needs of their children at home.
- *Healthy Families America (HFA)* - Strengthens families with children at-risk of child abuse due to histories of trauma, violence, mental health issues and substance abuse.
- *Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP)* - Pairs first-time, low-income mothers with nurses to improve maternal/child health, school readiness and other life outcomes.
- *Parents as Teachers (PAT)* - Builds the capacity of parents to care for their children, while promoting school readiness and healthy child development.

How is EBHV state and federally funded?

Some EBHV models in Pennsylvania are state funded - with PAT and NFP receiving support through the state budget (approximately \$2.4 million and \$12 million respectively in FY 2013-14). PAT historically has received federal funds totaling \$6.6 million. Federal funding has begun playing an increasingly important role in recent years. A portion of NFP services in Pennsylvania has been reimbursed through Medicaid (totaling \$2.5 million in FY 2013-14), but further Medicaid drawdown (as other states have done) can help maximize use of available federal funds. In 2010, a significant federal expansion of EBHV funding occurred through the federal *Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV)*, authorized under the Affordable Care Act. Pennsylvania received \$13.7 million in MIECHV funds for 2013-14. As a result, more children and families are now being served through the expanded array of EBHV models noted above.

How many children was Pennsylvania able to serve in 2012-13?

EBHV Models	EHS	HFA	NFP	PAT
Children Served Under MIECHV Expansion	152	225	1130	877
Total Children Served	4,286	225	5,002	10,942

What communities have publically funded EBHV services?

All but two of Pennsylvania's 67 counties (Potter and Warren) have at least one EBHV program, and 56 counties have two or more programs supported with state and/or federal funds. Despite the number of counties with programs, there is much unmet need for EBHV services. Determining unmet need is a challenge, given models vary in the population served. However, we estimate nearly 19,000 mothers/babies would be eligible for NFP and nearly 97,000 children ages 0-2 would be eligible for EHS alone.

What is needed moving forward?

Pennsylvania must maintain its commitment to funding EBHV as a means to improve outcomes of its most vulnerable citizens. The MIECHV Program provides states with \$1.5 billion over five years for EBHV services. Pennsylvania needs Congress to reauthorize the MIECHV Program or it will expire in 2015. President Obama's 2014 budget proposal requested the program expand, beginning in 2015, to \$15 billion over 10 years.