About Home Visiting Programs
Home visiting gives pregnant women and families necessary resources and skills to raise children who are physically, socially and emotionally healthy and ready to learn. The program delivers families with voluntary, regularly planned and tailored home visits from professionals. Visits by a nurse, social worker, early childhood educator or other professional include health and wellness screenings, referrals to needed medical and social supports, parenting education and transition by age three into child development programs, such as Head Start or quality child care.

Home Visiting Improves Family Health, School Readiness and Self-Sufficiency
Home visiting reaches young families where they live and tailors services to meet individual needs. Participating in voluntary, evidence-based home visiting programs during pregnancy and the first years of life has been proven to improve maternal and child health, prevent child abuse and neglect, increase positive parenting and enhance child development and school readiness.

Evidence-Based Home Visiting Program Outcomes:

- **48%** Reduction in Child Abuse & Neglect
- **$1 Invested in Home Visiting Saves $5.70 in Future Costs for Families and Communities**
- **94%** of Kids Increased Language Scores
- **85%** of Kindergartners Ready for School
- **85%** Improvement in Family Economic Self-Sufficiency

Sources: Nurse Family Partnerships (2017); U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services (2016); Home Visiting Coalition (2017)
Home Visiting in Idaho

The Idaho Department of Health & Welfare manages a federal grant that funds home visiting programs in Idaho. Formally titled the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting program (MIECHV), the state offers evidence-based MIECHV programs in 12 counties to serve eligible women, infants, young children and their families.

Idaho MIECHV currently funds two program models in the state, Parents as Teachers and Nurse-Family Partnership. Last year, the Idaho MIECHV program served 628 families, including 704 young children. A total of 6,487 voluntary visits were conducted by professional home visitors.

Expanding Access to Home Visiting in Idaho

During the 2018 Legislative Session, local home visiting programs received $1.6 million in state funds. This allocation was a historic first for Idaho, as state dollars had never been invested in an early childhood program. Although this achievement is a major step forward, it was a one-time appropriation that will need to be made permanent next year.

Idaho Voices for Children supports ongoing state funding for home visiting and increasing access to evidence-based programs proven to prevent child abuse and neglect, increase family economic self-sufficiency, improve readiness for kindergarten and increase subsequent educational outcomes.