

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: THE HOME VISITING PROGRAM



Idaho Voices for Children

May 2018

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.



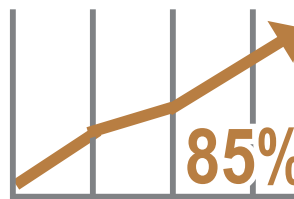
Home Visiting Improves Family Health, School Readiness and Self-Sufficiency

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:



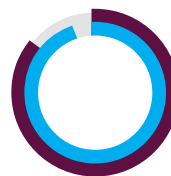
**Reduction in
Child Abuse
& Neglect**



**Improvement
in Family
Economic
Self-Sufficiency**



**\$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**

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.

In 2017, Home Visiting Supported Families and Communities Across Idaho



**Idaho
Families
628 Served**



**6,487 Visits Conducted
by a Nurse, Social
Worker or Educator
Across Idaho**



**Services Offered in
All Seven Public
Health Districts**



**Services are
Voluntary and
Locally Managed**

Source: Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, Division of Health (2018)

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.