



## Voluntary Evidence-Based Home Visiting

Ohio's voluntary, evidence-based home visiting programs include the federally-funded Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program and the state-funded *Help Me Grow* program. In 2020, 10,765 families were served by *Help Me Grow*<sup>1</sup>. For those who elect to participate in a home visiting program, providers regularly visit the homes of vulnerable families (typically once per month) starting while the mother is still pregnant and continuing through the first few years of the child's life. During this critical period of physical, emotional, and cognitive development for young children, parents receive support and guidance on how to create a safe, stimulating environment that promotes growth and learning. Voluntary, evidence-based home visiting programs allow motivated parents to learn how to succeed in their new role and provide children a healthy start with their first and most important teachers—parents.<sup>2</sup>

### THE CASE for VOLUNTARY EVIDENCE-BASED HOME VISITING

#### School Readiness:

- Increases scores on 1st-3rd grade math and reading tests by 25%<sup>5</sup>
- Decreases language problems by 68%<sup>6</sup>

#### Family Health:

- Decreases instance of low-weight births by 48%<sup>7</sup>
- Decreases number of major injuries before age 2 by 32.6%<sup>8</sup>

#### Family Self-Sufficiency:

- Increases the likelihood of mothers to be enrolled in an education or training program by 5 times<sup>9</sup>
- Decreases Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) payments by 5.6% for 12 years post-partum<sup>10</sup>

### THE RETURNS:



**\$5.70 ROI PER  
EVERY \$1 INVESTED  
IN EVIDENCE-BASED  
HOME VISITING  
PROGRAMS<sup>4</sup>**

### THE BOTTOM LINE:

*Ohio must increase investments in evidence-based home visiting to expand the number of families served and improve children's school readiness, family health, and self-sufficiency.*

## Budget Recommendation to Support Home Visiting

Governor DeWine made a bold commitment upon taking office to triple the number of families served in evidence-based home visiting. Ohio has made an incredible effort over the past two years to strengthen and expand evidence-based home visiting services through the implementation of a historic state funding increase in the state FY20-21 budget. While progress has been made, more pregnant women and young children need the lifeline that is home visiting now more than ever. Now is the time to lean into the goal of tripling the number of families served by evidence-based home visiting. This will require the maintenance of the historic investment seen during the last biennium, additional state investment to support growth, and the leveraging of additional federal resources.

In the FY22-23 proposed budget, the Ohio Department of Health has increased the *Help Me Grow* investment over the biennium by a total of \$1.9 million. The Ohio General Assembly must double down on critical efforts to serve more families with evidence-based home visiting by doubling the Governor's proposed increase through an additional \$1.9 million over the biennium beyond the current proposal. **The governor's proposal allows the program to serve an additional 500 children during the upcoming biennium. Doubling the governor's investment would allow the program to serve a total of 1,000 additional children during FY22-23.**

## Ohio's Help Me Grow Program

This voluntary home visiting program utilizes three evidence-based models:



Additionally, the state utilizes **Mom & Babies First**, Ohio's Black Infant Vitality Program:



Although there is slight variation within each model to provide services catered to individual family needs, the primary goals of all programs are to:

- Cultivate parents' ability to form strong, positive attachments with their children and to keep them safe.
- Promote children's healthy physical, cognitive, and social-emotional development by monitoring their progress, guiding parents in recognizing their children's and their own needs, and accessing appropriate services.
- Improve maternal and child health.<sup>3</sup>

## SOURCES

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