



# HOME VISITING IN ILLINOIS

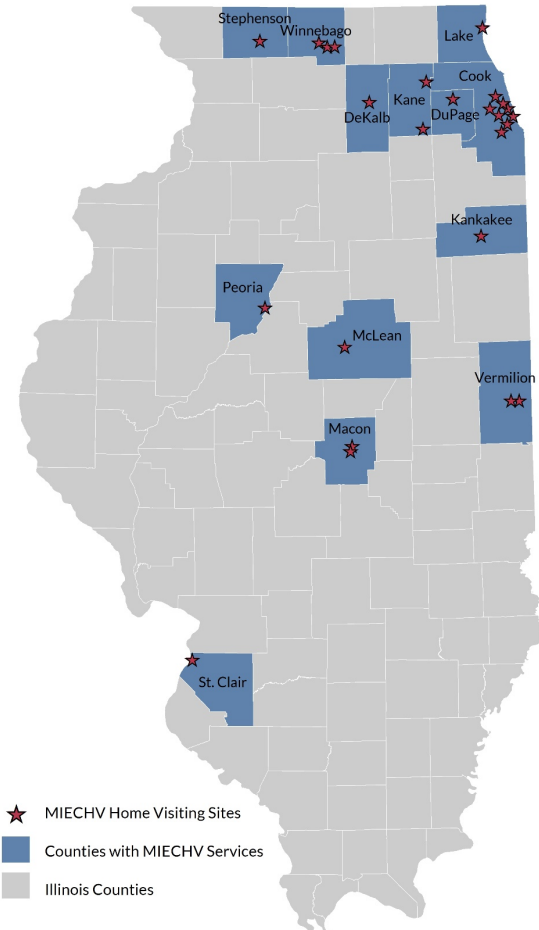
## Statewide Home Visiting Investments

The federal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program funds 26 sites in 13 communities in Illinois, and provides vital support for the early childhood infrastructure that all state home visiting programs share. Federal MIECHV funding, however, represents only 6.5% of the total investment Illinois has made toward home visiting services. In total, the state maintains over 300 programs and serves almost 29% of eligible children and families.

Illinois home visiting is supported by the following primary funders:

- Federal HRSA MIECHV Program
- Illinois Department of Human Services
- Illinois State Board of Education – Early Childhood Block Grant
- Early Head Start

Public funding for home visiting totals approximately \$140M and supports a network of over 300 programs across the state serving approximately 20,000 families per year. Illinois is committed to continuous improvement and innovation, and to addressing the state's diverse geographic and demographic realities.



## Empowering the Whole Family

Illinois has long valued evidence-based home visiting programs as an effective and efficient strategy for improving the life trajectory of expectant and new families who are at risk for poor health, educational, economic and social outcomes. Over the past three decades, Illinois has reflected this value by developing a robust statewide home visiting system that cuts across agencies and funding streams, reaching from the highest levels of government to the providers on the ground.



## An Illinois Mother's Story

Young mom Tanya is always available and ready to engage during her weekly home visits. She is eager to participate in parent-child activities in the home, and participates in weekly parent-child interaction group activities. Tanya graduated from high school with the honor of being an Academic All Star (G.P.A. 3.5 or greater)! She works part-time and started Community College. In addition to those great achievements, this young mom demonstrates a positive attitude towards parenting. Tanya is a strong advocate for her baby's learning and developmental opportunities. She and her little boy engage daily in play and literacy activities. Motherhood is a joyous, challenging and continuous learning adventure. As a home visitor with Teen Family Support, I am often amazed and awed by the commitment that teen moms are willing to make for their young child. I feel honored to be a supportive resource, as they discover the joy of parenting.

- MIECHV Teen Parent Support Worker

## Outcomes of Investments

Home visitors are trained professionals who work as in-home "parent coaches" with families on a no-cost, voluntary basis - starting in pregnancy and during the first three years of a child's life - to promote early learning, support healthy development, and prevent child abuse. Illinois uses two evidence-based home visiting models: Healthy Families and Parents as Teachers. These models are cost effective and known to improve child health and well-being. Last year in Illinois, MIECHV programs:

- Served families in 13 high-need communities
- Provided voluntary home visiting services to 1,195 families
- Completed 15,366 personalized home visits, reaching 1,322 historically underserved young children

FY21 benchmarks addressed a variety of key areas including healthy growth and development, safety in the home, school readiness, and child and maternal health and wellbeing. In Illinois:

- 91% of families engage in daily literacy activities
- 99% of visits included a screen asking caregivers if they had any concerns about their child's development, behavior, or learning
- 77% of children under age 1 were screened for safe sleep practices
- 93% of caregivers received intimate partner violence screening within 6 months of enrollment
- 41% of infants were breastfed for at least 6 months
- 80% of children were screened for developmental delays
- 87% of moms were screened for depression within 3 months of enrollment or delivery
- 70% received postpartum care within 30 days after childbirth

## Innovation: Coordinated Intake

Community-based coordinated intake (CI) and referral services are helping Illinois' historically underserved families identify and connect to home visiting, and other services and supports they need. CI provides a single point of entry for families to access local home visiting services that best fit their needs, as well as identify other supports such as primary care providers, childcare services, early intervention, and preschool programs.

### For more information:

State Contact: Lesley Schwartz (lesley.schwartz@illinois.gov)

State Website: [www.igrowillinois.org](http://www.igrowillinois.org)