

# Louisiana Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (LA MIECHV)

## About the Program

The Louisiana Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (LA MIECHV) program is a part of the Louisiana Department of Health’s Bureau of Family Health. LA MIECHV is a no-cost, voluntary program that provides family support and coaching to improve the health and well-being of pregnant women and parenting families with young children. Families are paired with registered nurses or parent educators who provide personalized education, guidance, and referrals to services to empower families to reach their goals. Nurses and parent educators work with families in their homes or the family’s preferred location. LA MIECHV implements two evidenced-based models, Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) and Parents as Teachers (PAT).

Services provided to participating families include:

- Health education and coaching
- Support in building positive parenting skills and caregiving confidence
- Help setting and reaching personal goals, such as returning to school or work
- Connection and referrals to services and community resources

Benefits of program participation include:

- Improved economic self-sufficiency
- Early identification of developmental delays
- Improved child health and development

## Who We Serve

Program eligibility requirements vary depending on which model is available where a family lives.

	Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP)	Parents As Teachers (PAT)
<b>Criteria for Eligibility</b>	Services and supports are provided to first-time moms and families from pregnancy until the child’s second birthday. <i>*Must be eligible for Medicaid, WIC, TANF, or SSI at enrollment</i> <i>*Must enroll before 29 weeks of pregnancy</i>	Services and supports are provided to Medicaid- eligible expectant or parenting families from pregnancy until the child enters kindergarten. <i>*Must be eligible for Medicaid, WIC, TANF, or SSI at enrollment</i>
<b>Parishes Services are Available</b>	NFP serves all parishes with the exception of Caldwell, East Carroll, Madison, Tensas, Union, West Carroll.	PAT serves the following parishes: Rapides, Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Claiborne, Caldwell, East Carroll, Franklin, Jefferson, Lincoln, Madison, Morehouse, Natchitoches, Orleans, Plaquemines, Ouachita, Red River, Richland, St. Bernard, Tensas, Union, Webster, & West Carroll.
<b>2021 Outcomes</b>	NFP served 4,128 families in CY 2021, providing 34,959 home visits.	PAT served 581 families in CY 2021, providing 6,322 home visits.

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## Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health

LA MIECHV’s home visiting services are augmented by its Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Team. Licensed mental health providers are embedded in each of the home visiting teams to provide consultation to home visitors around the social, emotional, and behavioral health challenges experienced by client families.

## What Do Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Specialists Do?

Through consultation, Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Specialists work with home visitors to support interactions that promote healthy relationships in families and strengthen parents’ efforts to nurture their child’s social and emotional development. They also work with home visitors to identify emerging problems in parent-child relationships, navigate mental health concerns in the family, and provide resources and referrals for additional support.

Consultation activities may include:

- Identification of individual and family problems and solutions
- Joint home visits for assessment/diagnosis and recommendations
- Help understanding mental health issues
- Help developing effective coping strategies
- Facilitation of referrals to resources in the community

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## LA MIECHV Outreach and Community Engagement

LA MIECHV is also augmented by its Outreach Team, which consists of Outreach Specialists in each region of the state. Outreach Specialists work within Louisiana communities to make connections with eligible families, increase program visibility and support, and build collaborative partnerships with providers and maternal and child health organizations in order to link families to LA MIECHV’s supports and services. Outreach Specialists promote the program to families and providers, ensuring that potential participants understand what the program is and how it can benefit them, and helping providers understand when, why and how they should refer patients to the program.

To contact your local Outreach Specialist, call the LA MIECHV office in your region. You can find local office contact information in the “Helpful Links from MIECHV” section of [PartnersForFamilyHealth.org/MIECHV](https://PartnersForFamilyHealth.org/MIECHV). It’s listed under [“How to Refer Your Patients & Clients.”](#)

## For More Information

Contact Susannah Boudreaux, MIECHV Program Manager, at [Susannah.Boudreaux@la.gov](mailto:Susannah.Boudreaux@la.gov).

To contact a home visitor near you, visit the Family Support and Coaching section of [PartnersForFamilyHealth.org](https://PartnersForFamilyHealth.org).

To learn more about the Bureau of Family Health, visit [PartnersforFamilyHealth.org](https://PartnersforFamilyHealth.org).

