

Illinois Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV)

Systems Development Initiative

Overview

The federally funded MIECHV Initiative, as implemented in Illinois with IDHS as fiscal agent and the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development (OECD) as the Program Lead are:

- Expand or enhance one or more **federally-recognized evidence-based home visiting models**;
- Ensure that home visiting is **effectively connected** to community based organizations and services;
- Establish a system of **universal screening** and **coordinated intake** in target areas; and
- Enhance or establish an **early childhood collaborative** in target areas.

The six communities funded through MIECHV are: Southside Chicago (Englewood/ West Englewood/ Greater Grand Crossing); Cicero; Elgin; Rockford; Macon County, and; Vermilion County. In each of these communities, a collaboration of agencies is funded to implement MIECHV. These providers use the following evidence-based home visiting models: Early Head Start, Healthy Families Illinois, Nurse-Family Partnership, and Parents as Teachers. In addition to home visitors and supervisors for these programs, key staff roles for MIECHV collaborations include Coordinated Intake (CI) and Community Systems Development (CSD) workers.

Coordinated Intake is a collaborative process that provides families with a single point of entry for home visiting programs within a community. CI workers serve as a hub for home visiting, assessing families' needs, referring them to an appropriate program, and tracking what happens to referrals. CSD workers engage new referral partners, establish MOUs, and develop or strengthen local early childhood collaborations.

Oak Park-River Forest, McLean-DeWitt-Piatt-Woodford, Peoria-Tazewell, and Stephenson Counties are now implementing Coordinated Intake as "voluntary communities" but do not have designated CSD staff. Evanston has also indicated interest in a pilot.

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Program Website:

<http://www2.illinois.gov/gov/OECD/Pages/MIECHVP.aspx>