

## The Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program

# Why a State Match Requirement is Bad for Children & Families

The Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting program (MIECHV) supports voluntary, evidence-based home visiting models in all 50 states as well as in many territories and tribal communities. MIECHV-funded models connect parents with trained home visitors, such as nurses, social workers, and educators, and have undergone scientific studies proving their effectiveness. Federally funded home visiting helps end multi-generational cycles of poverty and puts families on the path to good health, educational success and economic self-sufficiency.

**Home visiting works because it's not a one-size-fits-all federal program. Rather, each state is given the flexibility and freedom to design a program that meets the needs of its residents.**

Despite strong bipartisan support and decades of evidence that MIECHV-funded home visiting programs work, Congress allowed MIECHV to expire on September 30, and one proposal in Congress proposes to add a new state match requirement.

Nearly half of states are facing a budget shortfall this year, and state budgets must reflect the money in their coffers. Making MIECHV support contingent on a state's ability to match federal funds dollar-for-dollar will likely cause programs that are supporting families in some states to close.

1. **States may be forced to cut home visiting services in part or entirely**, causing local programs to shut down, home visitors to lose or leave their jobs, and families to lose the services they rely on. And once the home visitor-family relationships at the heart of home visiting – the very relationships that make it so successful – are lost, the damage will be irreversible.
2. **To meet the required funding match, states may cut other programs or services to divert money**, negatively impacting the very health, economic and education outcomes members of Congress are trying to improve through home visiting.
3. **A state match requirement will make MIECHV harder and more onerous to implement** as it increases reporting and decreases the flexibility and stability states need to meet the needs of children and families in their states.

## #RENEWMIECHV

THE CLOCK IS TICKING.



### Christine's Story

In October 2014, following the birth of her second child, Christine found herself in a hospital room feeling little self-worth and uncertain about the future.

When a representative from Healthy Families America, an organization that provides home visiting to help families thrive, came into her hospital room, she saw her knight in shining armor.

Since that day, thanks to the women, first Libby and then Sasha, who came to her house each week, Christine has enrolled in college, earned her first medical license as an Emergency Medical Technician and is on track to become a paramedic. She says, "I became a confident parent who had a better understanding of what I was doing. Home visiting gave me the routine my family needed."

***Christine's story is possible because MIECHV provides Oregon with the flexibility it needs to assess and to address the needs of its residents.***

