

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

# Why a State Match is Bad for Georgia's Children & Families

The Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program supports voluntary, evidence-based home visiting models in Georgia and every state as well as many territories and tribal communities. Home visiting breaks multi-generational cycles of poverty and puts families on the path to good health, educational success and economic stability.

Despite strong bipartisan support and decades of evidence that MIECHV-funded home visiting programs work, Congress allowed MIECHV to expire on September 30. One funding renewal proposal would undermine Georgia's home visiting program by imposing a dollar-for-dollar state match.

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### Georgia may be forced to cut home visiting services if required to match federal MIECHV money.

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The state match requirement works by limiting the state's use of their MIECHV grants to 50 percent of the home visiting services supported by MIECHV. States must come up with the other half of the money needed to provide MIECHV services.

**To meet the required funding match, Georgia may be forced to cut other programs or services,** to divert money to meet the match. This "rob Peter to pay Paul" approach is likely to negatively impact the health, education and well-being of Georgia's children and families.

**Georgia may be forced to cut existing non-MIECHV-funded home visiting programs to divert funding to MIECHV-supported home visiting,** potentially leaving thousands of children and families without home visiting services. Georgia should not be penalized for implementing home visiting programs in communities across the state in a way that meets the needs of its residents.

**If Georgia is unable to meet the match, the state may be forced to cut MIECHV 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 program – the very relationships that make it so successful – are lost, the damage will be irreversible.

**Even if Georgia meets the state match, the imposition of the requirement will restrict the flexibility the state has to do what is needed for its residents.** Currently, Georgia has the freedom to invest in and implement early childhood programs, including home visiting, in a way that best serves Georgia's children and families. The state match will prevent Georgia from helping residents in communities across the entire state by placing new restrictions on how the money is used for home visiting.



### What Rep. Buddy Carter said about home visiting in Georgia after seeing how it works first hand:

*"It's good to see that you see the value in prevention and investing early. Sometimes it's hard for us (in government) because sometimes (programs like these), it's the first place we start with cuts, which costs us down the road."*

Source: [The Brunswick News](#)