



Achieving Diverse Program, Policy and Systems Goals through Needs Assessment

National Home Visiting Summit - *January 30, 2020*

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Vision: Healthy Communities, Healthy People



Overview

- Maternal and Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting Program
- MIECHV needs assessment requirements
- Needs assessment to achieve goals
- State successes and examples
 - Connecticut Office of Early Childhood
 - Colorado Department of Human Services



POLL QUESTION 1: What best describes your role?

- Community Representative or Public Health Worker
- Family Representative
- Federal and/or State Funder
- Home Visitor
- Philanthropist or Policy Maker
- Local Program Leader/Supervisor
- Researcher
- State Leader
- Educator, Trainer or Technical Assistance Provider
- Other Stakeholder



POLL QUESTION 2: How familiar are you with the MIECHV needs assessment?

- Not familiar at all
“This is my first exposure to MIECHV needs assessment activities.”
- Slightly familiar
“I have a broad understanding of the MIECHV needs assessment requirements.”
- Somewhat familiar
“I am advising or hearing from teams working on a MIECHV needs assessment.”
- Extremely familiar
“I am part of a team contributing to a MIECHV needs assessment.”



MIECHV Program Background

Funding support provided to all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and five territories



Program Features

- Voluntary
- Evidence-based
- Support pregnant women and parents of young children



Aims

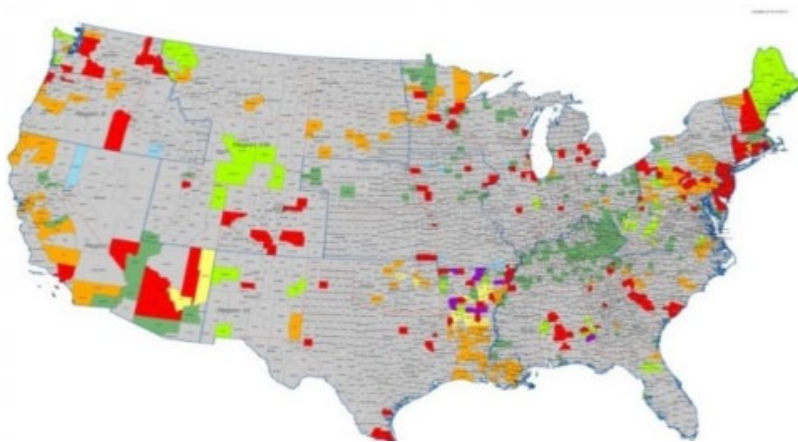
- Prevent child abuse & neglect
- Support parenting
- Improve development & school readiness
- Promote family economic self-sufficiency

MIECHV Program Background



In FY2018:

- 150,000 participants
- 888 US counties
- 930,000 home visits

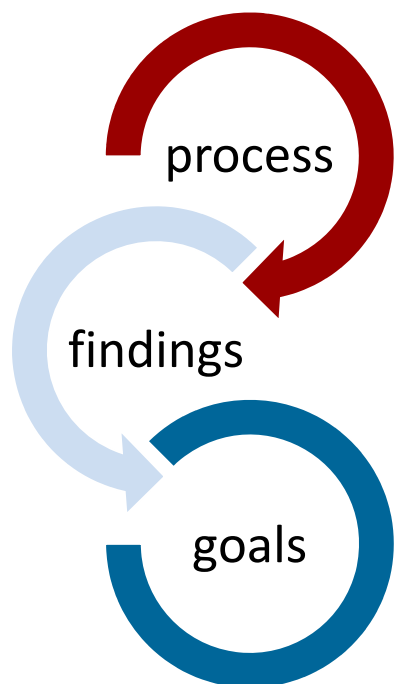


MIECHV Statutory Needs Assessment Requirements

1. Identify communities with concentrations of risk
2. Identify the quality and capacity of existing programs or initiatives for early childhood home visiting in the state
3. Discuss the state's capacity for providing substance abuse treatment and counseling services
4. Coordinate with and take into account other needs assessments in the state, including Title V MCH Block Grant, Head Start, and CAPTA



Achieving Diverse Goals through the MIECHV NA



- Identify needs assessment goals, questions, priorities, and intended uses
 - Consider needs assessment's contribution to broader assessment of MCH & EC landscape to shape new programs and investments
 - Support statewide planning for a continuum of services
 - Identify opportunities for collaboration with state & local partners to strengthen referral networks, community resources, and early childhood systems
- Understand current needs of families, children, and communities
 - Target HV services to communities with models matched to needs
 - Triangulate across data sources and gather new information
- Inform stakeholders about unmet needs for HV & other service gaps
 - Identify key stakeholders, anticipate their NA questions, and address them
 - Tell the story of state need and where MIECHV home visiting fits in
 - Leverage needs assessment coordination for ongoing partnership
- Empower family voices and engage LIAs, home visitors, and local partners
 - Elevate family leaders
 - Direct TA to support service delivery
 - Facilitate partnerships

An opportunity for HRSA to share and learn

Connecting with partners

- Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP)
- Preschool Development Grant
- Head Start State Collaboration Offices
- SABG Women's Services Coordinators
- Title V MCH Block Grant
- And many other:
 - Federal partners
 - Grantee groups
 - Stakeholders

Informing our work

- Needs, risks and assets across families, programs, communities, and states
- Unmet need
- Goals and priorities of states and communities
- Program monitoring
- Technical assistance and quality improvement
- Triangulating across MCH & EC programs
- Upstream efforts for population health & health equity
- Strategic planning
- Research and learning agenda
- Stakeholder engagement & coordination



Example: Coordinating Process across Needs Assessments

- Identify aligned goals across needs assessments
- Assemble team designated to work on more than one needs assessment
- Braid across funding sources for needs assessments
- Convene joint workgroups around shared topics of interest
- Collaborate on data collection and sharing, including KIIs & focus groups
- Triangulate, analyze data, and identify findings together
- Be a unified voice
 - Develop one needs assessment or joint products
 - Communicate and share findings together
 - Issue recommendations together



Example: Sharing the Story of Home Visiting Needs

Stakeholders

- State leaders, partners & legislators
- Early childhood advisory council and/or state early childhood offices
- Foundations
- Partners and stakeholders in the needs assessment process
- State agency staff
- Parent leaders & families
- LIAs and community partners
- Potential new partners

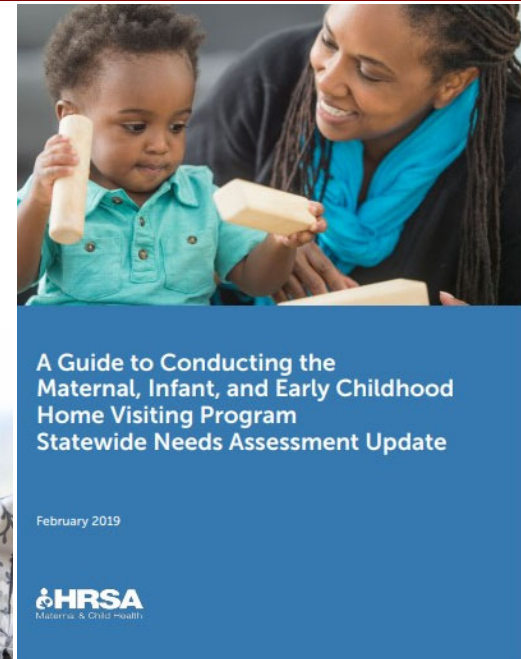
Share

- Multiple formats for NA products
- State & community meetings
- Presentations
- Media



HRSA Technical Assistance

- [MIECHV Needs Assessment Guide](#)
- [MIECHV & MCH Block Grant Needs Assessments Crosswalk](#)
- [Community Readiness Toolkit](#)
- Additional TA topics
 - Identifying community needs
 - Applying a health equity lens
 - Assessing HV quality & capacity
 - Discussing SUD treatment capacity
 - Coordination with other NAs



Contact Information

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Connecticut Office of Early Childhood

Twitter: https://twitter.com/CT_OEC

Website: www.ct.gov/oec





Vision

All young children in Connecticut are safe, healthy, learning and thriving. Each child is surrounded by a strong network of nurturing adults who deeply value the importance of the first years of a child's life and have the skills, knowledge, support and passion to meet the unique needs of every child.

Mission

To support all young children in their development by ensuring that early childhood policy, funding and services strengthen the critical role families, providers, educators and communities play in a child's life.



Divisions and Programs

Commissioners Office

Preschool Development Grant B-5
Outcome Contracting
Head Start Collaboration Office
Research and Planning Office
2-Gen Initiative

Family Support Services

State and Federal Funded Evidence Based Home Visiting
IDEA Part C
Children's Bureau Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP)
Help Me Grow

Early Care and Education

Care 4 Kids
Child Day Care Contracts
School Readiness
Even Start
Smart Start

Quality

Workforce Development
Pyramid Implementation
QIS

Licensing

Family Childcare Homes
Childcare Centers
Group Child Care Homes
Youth Camps



Agency Strategic Plan
2016-2020

Unmet Need Study 2016-
2018

Early Care and Education
Action Sessions 2018

**MIECHV Needs
Assessment**
2019-2020

Preschool Development
B-5 Home Visiting
Listening Sessions
2019



MIECHV Identifying Needs and Risks



Used prior GIS analysis of child welfare reports with census data to identify preliminary list of high-risk communities.



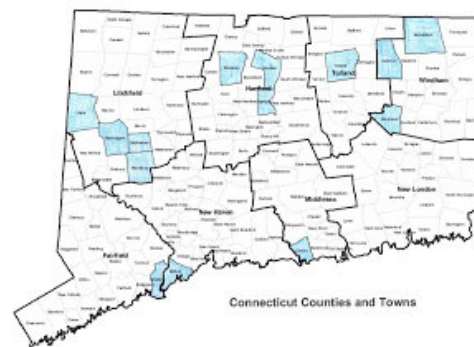
Identified representation from: urban, suburban (smaller towns), rural; and geographic diversity (eastern, Fairfield county, central, northwest corner)



Narrowed down to a list of poverty/maltreatment areas in the geographic and urban/rural categories



Additional targeted focus groups – fathers, mothers in substance use disorder treatment facility



Research Partner: University of Connecticut, School of Social Work
Technical Assistance Partner: Social Finance, Inc.

Internal Document Review to Identify Focus Areas: 50 Reports from community organizations, OEC, and other state agencies

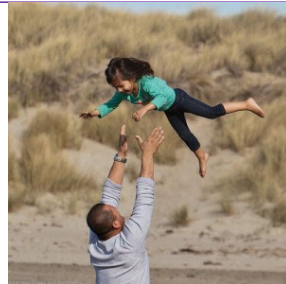
Focus Areas for Listening Sessions:

- Services Provided
- Awareness and Communication
- Intake, Referrals and Coordination
- Feedback and Data
- Meaningful Family Partnership and Respect

Child Maltreatment Prevention: A Planning Framework for Action

MIECHV Family Focus Groups

- Parents Engagement in Their Community
- Giving and Receiving Help
- Services Accessed



Family Focus Groups and Listening Sessions



MIECHV Family Focus Groups



- 12 focus group sites (English and Spanish offered)
 - Childcare, food, cash incentive
 - Urban, rural, 1 SUD Women's and Children treatment facility, 1 exclusive father focus group
- 115 parents (16% Spanish speaking)
- Home Visiting and non-Home Visiting families
- 22% fathers
- 45% report HS Diploma/GED or less
- 40% report income of less than \$1000 per month

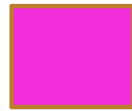




Preschool Development Grant B-5 Listening Sessions



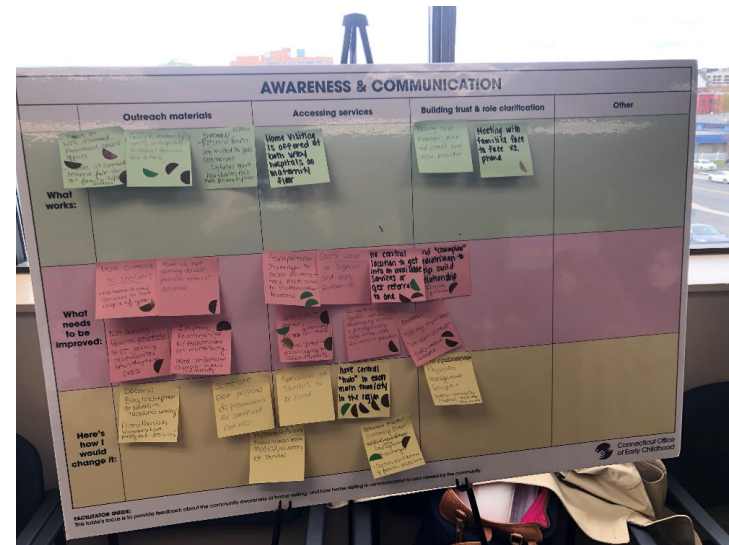
What works?



What needs to be improved?



Here's how I would change it



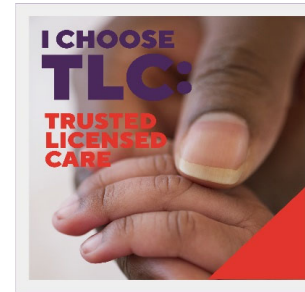
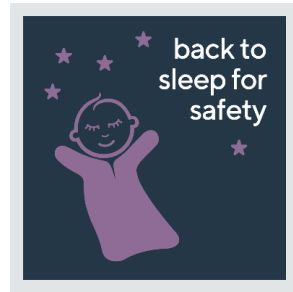
Re-Designed Website



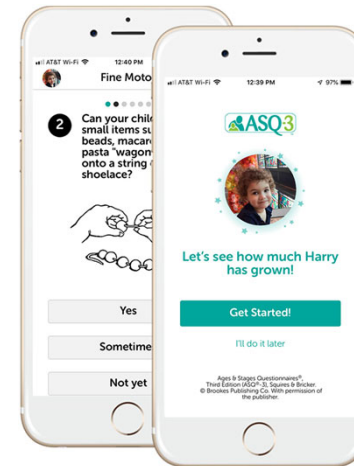
Family Cabinet



Public Health Campaigns



APP Based Technology



Supporting Families Through Cross Agency Initiatives

Department of Social Services
Department of Children and Families
State Department of Higher Education
Department of Labor
Department of Housing
2-Gen Initiative



Questions?



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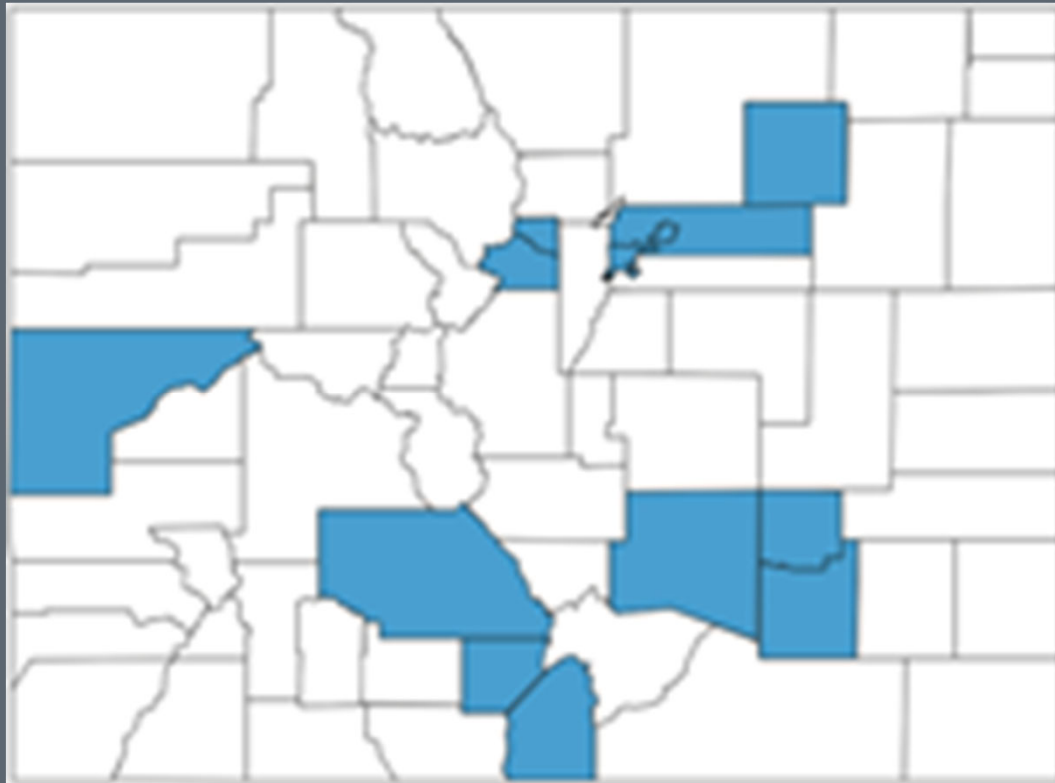


MIECHV Needs Assessment: State of Colorado



COLORADO
Department of Human Services

State of Colorado: High-Risk Counties



Colorado State Priorities: 2011 to Present

Objective 1: Identify counties with high levels of socio-demographic risk and high rates of poor maternal, infant, and child outcomes

Objective 2: Provide county-level data estimates and supports and services for the four system domains impacting early childhood outcomes: early learning; family support and parent education; social, emotional, and mental health; and health

Objective 3: Provide state and local agencies with guidance on how to use the data provided in the needs assessment to assess assets and resources in their community.



Colorado State Priorities: 2011 to Present

Successes

- Informing document to guide:
 - State and local early childhood professionals
 - Office of Early Childhood
 - Policymakers
 - Service providers
 - Statewide family council



Colorado State Priorities: 2011 to Present

Successes

- Cross-sector partnerships:
 - Head Start
 - Early Childhood Leadership Commission
 - Title V
 - Preschool Development Grant
 - CDHS's Family Voice Council



Colorado State Priorities: 2011 to Present

Successes

- MIECHV Innovation Grant “Working Together”



Looking Forward: 2020 and Beyond

Gaps

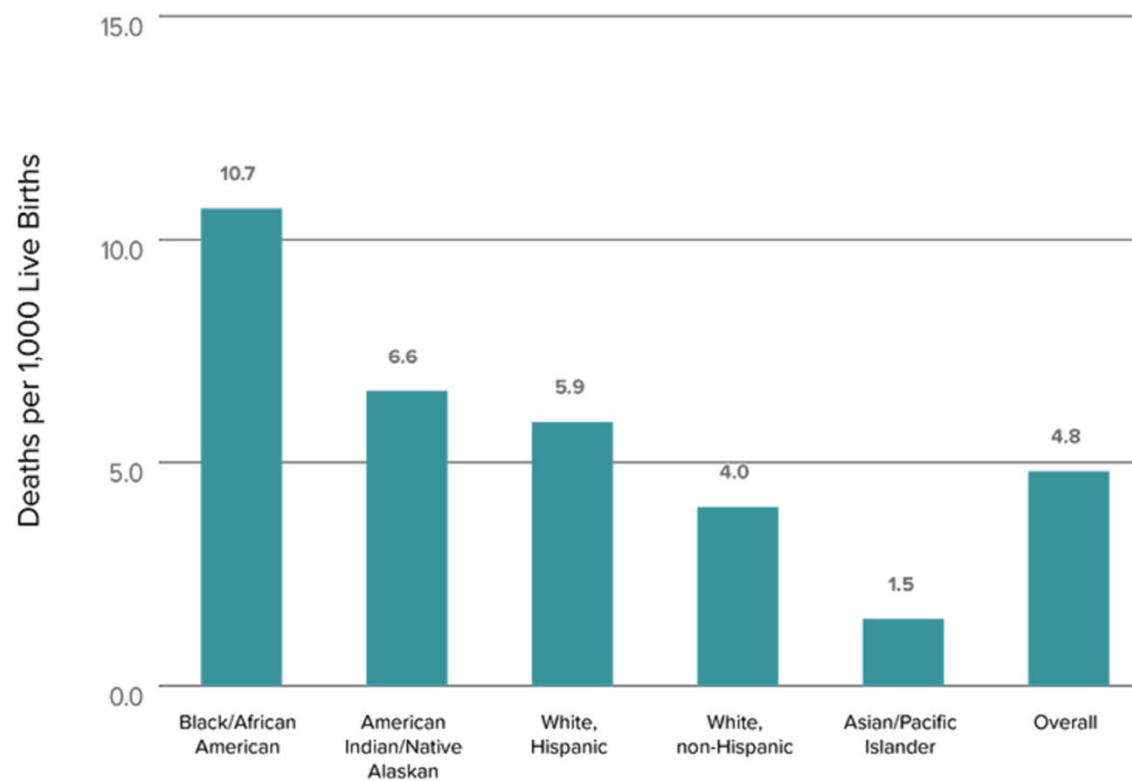
- High-risk counties
 - Changing demographics
 - Isolation
 - HV Vacancies

- Disparities
 - Maternal mortality & morbidity
 - Infant mortality
 - Ethnicity is largest indicator



Looking Forward: 2020 and Beyond

Infant mortality rates by race/ethnicity in Colorado, 2016



Looking Forward: 2020 and Beyond

Working with HRSA

- What is best for Colorado's families?
 - Replicating and updating 2011's work
 - Go beyond high-risk county designations
 - Support work in African-American communities
 - Connecting work with Preschool Development Grant



Questions? Comments?

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Small Group Discussion

1. How do you plan to use the results of the MIECHV needs assessment to improve outcomes for children and families?

2. What policy, program and systems goals will the MIECHV needs assessment help you address?

3. What needs assessment innovations would you like to share?

4. What strategies can be used to engage family leaders and family voices in the MIECHV needs assessment?





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