



WAYS AND MEANS

CHAIRMAN KEVIN BRADY

HR 2824: *Increasing Opportunity through Evidence-Based Home Visiting Act* **Section-by-Section Summary**

The Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV) program is an evidence-based program that helps to improve the lives of families in at-risk communities, focusing on the first years of a child's life. Unlike most federal social programs, MIECHV funding is tied to real results. House Republicans have long called for more programs to follow this evidence-based approach to ensure limited taxpayer dollars are actually delivering the intended results and helping those most in need.

MIECHV is currently scheduled to expire in September of 2017, and the *Increasing Opportunity through Evidence-Based Home Visiting Act* provides a viable path to a fully paid for five year reauthorization to ensure families continue to get the help they need so children and their parents can better succeed.

Title I: Reauthorizing the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program

Section 101. Continuing Evidence-Based Home Visiting

- Continues the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting program (MIECHV) at the current-law level of \$400 million per year for FY 2018 through FY 2022.

Section 102. Continuing to Demonstrate Results to Help Families

- Requires states continue to show MIECHV is improving the lives of families by demonstrating improvements in at least four of six benchmark areas specified in law (current law only required states to demonstrate improvement in four of six areas in the first three years after the program was fully implemented—FY 2012 through FY 2014).
- Requires states to develop a plan to improve outcomes if the state fails to demonstrate improvement in at least four of six benchmark areas specified in law (current law only required states to develop an improvement plan if the

state failed to demonstrate results in four of six areas after the first three years after the program was fully implemented—FY 2012 through FY 2014).

- Clarifies that states need only measure and demonstrate improvements in the benchmark areas the home visiting programs selected by the state are intended to improve to reduce unnecessary tracking and reporting (instead of requiring the state to measure and demonstrate improvements in all areas regardless of whether the model is designed to impact those areas or not).

Section 103. Reviewing Statewide Needs to Target Resources

- Requires states to conduct a follow-up statewide needs assessment by FY 2020, and at least once every five years thereafter, to make sure states continue to review where home visiting services are most needed (current law only required states to conduct a needs assessment before receiving funds in FY 2011 as part of the first authorization of funding).
- Specifies the statewide needs assessment can be combined or coordinated with the assessment required to receive Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant funds to reduce duplication and increase program coordination.

Section 104. Improving the Likelihood of Success in High-Risk Communities

- Continues to require that states prioritize serving families in communities identified as most in need of home visiting services, while also allowing them to take into account community resources and other service delivery requirements that would contribute to the success of a home visiting program when determining where to deliver home visiting services within the state.

Section 105. Building Evidence to Increase Program Effectiveness

- Specifies three types of models that may be eligible for MIECHV funding:
 - (Current law) Models using a promising approach to improve benchmark areas that will be rigorously evaluated;
 - (Current law) Models that have been shown to produce statistically-significant outcomes in benchmark areas; and
 - (New language) Models that have been shown to produce significant, sizeable, and sustained outcomes in benchmark areas in multiple sites.
- Focuses research and evaluation on testing the replication of home visiting models with significant outcomes to determine if they can produce sizeable and sustained impacts in other settings.



Section 106. Measuring Improvements in Family Economic Self-Sufficiency

- Requires measurements of improvement in the “self-sufficiency” benchmark to again include measures of employment, earnings, and receipt of means-tested benefits to gauge the impact of home visiting programs on these outcomes (May 2016 HHS [guidance](#) eliminated work, earnings, and welfare receipt and counted only educational activities and health insurance coverage as the sole measures of “self-sufficiency”).

Section 107. Option to Fund Evidence-Based Home Visiting on a Pay-for-Outcomes Basis

- Allows states to fund home visiting services on a “pay-for-outcome” basis, where a state would be able to contract with providers so they only pay for services if a rigorous, independent evaluation confirms the services achieved the desired outcomes.

Section 108. Strengthening Evidence-Based Home Visiting through State, Local, and Private Partnerships

- Strengthens partnerships between the federal government and state, local, and private organizations by requiring a dollar-for-dollar match of federal MIECHV funds by FY 2022, mobilizing more resources to serve families in need of home visiting services.

Section 109. Data Exchange Standards for Improved Interoperability

- Adds language previously added to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Child Support Enforcement, Unemployment Insurance, and child welfare programs requiring the Department of Health and Human Services to develop data standards for home visiting programs that will help state agencies and the federal government more easily exchange information to ensure the integrity of programs and improve services for families in need, all while maintaining privacy standards.

Title II. Control Unlawful Fugitive Felons

Section 201. Revisions to Provisions Limiting Payment of Benefits to Fugitive Felons Under Title XVI of the Social Security Act.

- Prohibits SSI benefits to any individual who is the subject of: (1) an outstanding arrest warrant for a felony, or (2) an outstanding arrest warrant for violating a condition of prohibition or parole imposed under federal or state law, effective 1 year after enactment.



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