Utah

The Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV Program) supports the Utah Home Visiting Program and provides voluntary, evidence-based home visiting services to at-risk pregnant women and parents with young children.

The MIECHV Program, which builds upon decades of scientific research, provides voluntary, culturally-appropriate, individually-tailored supports to families in their homes, including providing information about children’s health, development, and safety, and when appropriate, referrals to support services.

Through federal grants from the MIECHV Program, in fiscal year 2016, home visitors in Utah:

- Made 11,937 home visits to 2,005 parents and children in 1,184 families
- Enrolled 1,290 new parents and children to the program, or 64% of participants
- Served families living in communities in 9 counties across the state, or 31% of Utah counties, of which 1 county, or 11%, is rural

The MIECHV Program in Utah:

- Reported that between fiscal years 2015 and 2016, Utah increased the percent of mothers enrolled in the program who received information about their child’s learning and development from a standardized screening tool within 6 months of enrollment or delivery from 50% to 100%
- Reported that 100% of mothers who were identified as needing service received a referral to community resources within 6 months of delivery
- Developed a core competency standard for federal-funded home visitors

Like all MIECHV Program grantees, Utah uses evidence-based home visiting models that are proven to improve child health and to be cost effective. Utah leverages federal funds to implement the following models to serve children and families across the state:

- Nurse-Family Partnership
- Parents as Teachers

Counties with home visiting services funded by federal grants from the MIECHV Program (as of March 2017):

- **Rural county:**
  - Rich

- **Non-rural counties:**
  - Box Elder, Cache, Davis, Morgan, Rich, Salt Lake, Utah, Washington, Weber

Research shows that home visits by a nurse, social worker, early childhood educator, or other trained professional during pregnancy and in the first years of life improve maternal and child health, prevent child abuse and neglect, increase positive parenting, and enhance child development and school readiness.