



The Purpose of this Newsletter

- To provide a platform for information sharing among home visiting organizations, professionals, and stakeholders regarding home visiting in Idaho
- To increase awareness about key issues in early childhood and home visiting
- To improve communication between home visiting programs and stakeholders

Inside this issue:

Home Visiting— What Is It?	1
What is the MIECHV Program?	1
Meet the MIECHV Program Staff	2
Trainings and Educational Opportunities	2
Important Terminology to Understand	2
Forecasted Funding Announcement for Tribal Home Visiting	3
Home Visiting Programs in Idaho	3

Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting in Idaho

Volume 1, Issue 1

March 2012

Home Visiting—What Is It?

Home visiting is a service offered in-home to support positive parenting, nurturing homes, and child development. Families voluntarily participate in in-home visits with a trained home visitor. Most often home visiting programs serve pregnant women, fathers, caregivers, and their children birth through 5 years of age. Many scientific studies have shown positive impacts of home visiting for children and families.

In a 2010 report published by Pew Charitable Trust, home visiting programs have been proven to:

- Decrease the incidence of low birth weight births by nearly half, saving states \$28,000-\$40,000 for each averted low birth weight birth;
- Reduce instances of child abuse and neglect almost by half; and
- Help children build critical pre-literacy skills and improve achievement test scores.

“Quality home visiting programs lay the foundation for children's healthy development and tax payers reap the benefit when many of our nation's costliest social problems—school failure, child abuse and the use of welfare—are prevented.” ([The Case for Home Visiting: Strong Families Start With a Solid Foundation.](#))

What is the MIECHV Program?

The Idaho Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program is supported by a federal grant and is administered by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare in the Division of Public Health. The MIECHV Program is designed to:

- identify and provide comprehensive services to improve outcomes for families who reside in target communities,
- improve coordination of services for target communities, and
- strengthen and improve the activities carried out under the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant.

According to grant requirements, each state MIECHV program must choose one or more home visiting models to implement from eight eligible evidence-based models to meet the needs of the communities and the state. The list of models and summary descriptions can be found at the [Home Visiting Evidence of Effectiveness](#) Web page.

After conducting a statewide needs assessment which included multiple levels of data analysis, the Idaho MIECHV Program identified four counties, Kootenai, Shoshone, Jerome, and Twin Falls, as target communities for initial implementation of this program. The Idaho MIECHV Program will contract with local organizations in these communities to deliver the following evidence-based home visiting models: Parents as Teachers, Early Head Start Home-Based, and Nurse-Family Partnership. The MIECHV Program anticipates service delivery to initiate mid-year in 2012. The needs assessment and current information about the Idaho MIECHV Program can be found at: www.homevisiting.dhw.idaho.gov

Meet the MIECHV Program Staff



Jacquie Daniel-Watson
Maternal and Child
Health Program
Manager



Laura DeBoer, MPH
MIECHV Program
Manager



Lachelle Smith, MPP
Americorps VISTA
EC3 Volunteer

Trainings and Educational Opportunities

Below are a few optional upcoming training and educational opportunities locally and nationally that may be of interest to you. Home visiting requires diverse skills to build relationships with families and facilitate participant empowerment and nurturing parenting. The trainings below reflect cross-discipline trainings that may provide critical skills for home visitors or home visiting organizations. *Listed trainings are for informational purposes and may not include all available and relevant trainings.*

[Strengthening Families Training Institute](#) – March 13-14, 2012 is sponsored by the Idaho Children's Trust Fund in Boise at the Riverside Conference Center.

[Various Trainings through IdahoSTARS](#) – including Stress Management for Child Care Providers on March 20th, Strengthen Parenting and Link Families to Services and Opportunities on March 31st, as well as many others. Click here for a complete [calendar of events](#).

[CDA in Home Visiting offered by the Council for Professional Recognition](#). The home visitor credential centers around competency standards that target outcomes such as strong relationships between parents and their children, safer and stimulating home environments for children, family self-sufficiency, and child well-being.

[Center on Disabilities and Human Development Webinar Series](#): Autism Spectrum Disorders, Idaho Project for Children & Youth with Deaf-Blindness, New Special Education Teachers, Title III-LEP. Webinars are free and air live. Register at Idaho Training Clearinghouse.

[Promoting Maternal Mental Health During Pregnancy](#)
NCAST Programs presents a 2-day training workshop in Seattle, Washington on April 16 & 17, 2012. [Registration](#) is now open for this highly regarded NCAST Workshop. [Space is limited!](#)

Important Terminology to Understand

A few definitions to bring you up to speed on [terminology related to effective practice](#).

Best practice: A practice that is known to produce outstanding results which may or may not be demonstrated through research.

Evidence-based: Programs or practices supported by research findings and/or demonstrated as being effective through a critical examination of current and past practices. Programs that are evidence-based have shown positive results for families and children in high-quality research design methodology such as quasi-experimental or randomized control trials. Evidenced-based programs include stringent standards for program replication, including implementation and monitoring.

Model fidelity: The manner in which a home visiting program model is implemented and conducted according to a set of practices and procedures to maximize the likelihood of achieving the results comparable to those achieved in research.

Promising practice: Activities and practices which do not yet qualify as evidence-based models, most often because have not been subject to high quality research and evaluation design methodology, but are believed to be effective because of positive program outcomes.

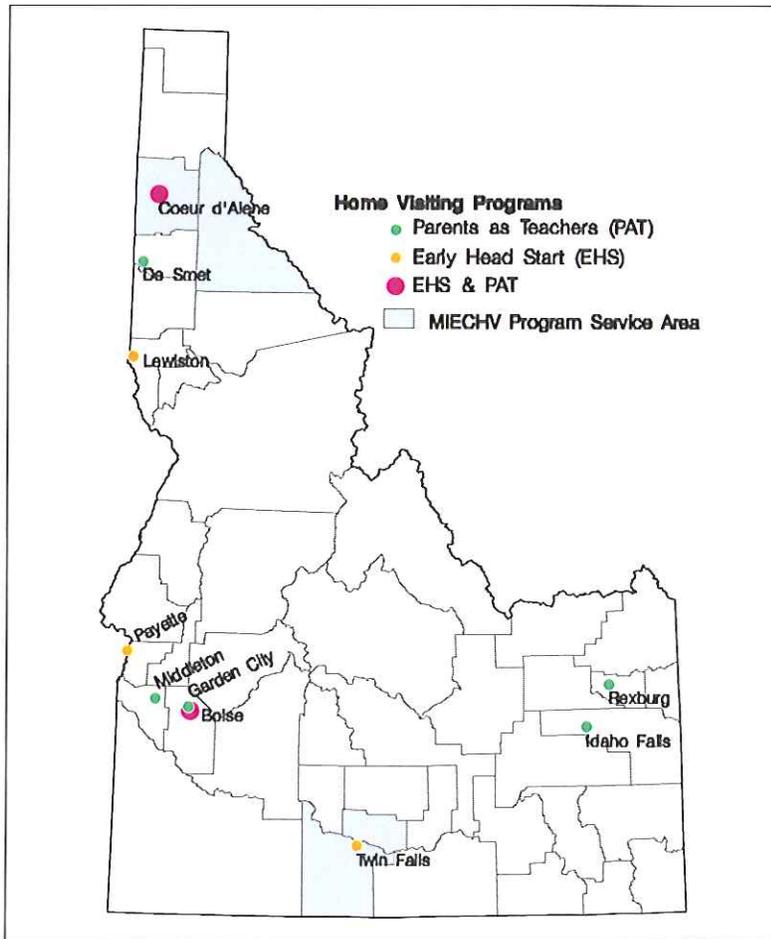
Research-based: A practice that includes techniques, activities, and programs that have been shown to be effective through various research design methodology.

Forecasted Funding Announcement for Tribal Home Visiting

The Office of Child Care at the Administration for Children and Families at the United States Department of Health and Human Services is forecasting a Fiscal Year 2012 funding opportunity for the Tribal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Grant Program under the Affordable Care Act ([Forecast information](#))

This forecasted funding opportunity announcement would provide Fiscal Year 2012 funds for the Tribal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Grant Program (THV). Funds will support 5-year demonstration grants (cooperative agreements) between ACF and Federally-recognized Indian Tribes (or a consortium of Indian Tribes), Tribal Organizations, or Urban Indian Organizations to conduct community needs assessments; develop the infrastructure needed for widespread planning, adopting, implementing, expanding, enhancing, and sustaining of evidence-based maternal, infant, and early childhood home visiting programs; and provide high-quality evidence-based home visiting services to pregnant women and families with young children aged birth to kindergarten entry. For more information contact: tribal.homevisiting@hhs.gov.

Home Visiting Programs in Idaho



This map depicts the home visiting landscape in Idaho as of December 2011. Local Idaho MIECHV programs are not indicated on this map, however, the target communities are identified.

We welcome feedback, comments, and suggestions.

We'd love to hear from you!

Do you have a story you want to share about a local home visiting program?

Do you have a question related to home visiting you would like answered?

Is there a topic you would like to see this newsletter address?

Other suggestions for the newsletter?

Send your items to Diane Prince at prnced@dhw.idaho.gov.

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE

Idaho MIECHV Program
450 W. State Street
PO Box 83720

Phone: 208.334.5930

Fax: 208.334.0614

E-mail: prnced@dhw.idaho.gov