



January 8, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Collaboration between Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) and Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV) Programs Encouraged at the State and Local Levels

**TO:** WIC State Agency Directors  
All WIC State Agencies

MIECHV Administrators/Grantees  
All MIECHV Local Agencies

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) are partnering to encourage State and local agencies and grantees operating the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for WIC and MIECHV to collaborate and develop shared strategies for improving maternal and child health outcomes.

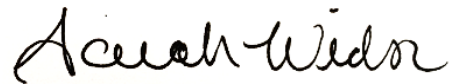
The WIC Program serves to safeguard the health of low-income pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women, infants, and children up to age five who are at nutritional risk by providing nutritious foods to supplement diets, information on healthy eating including breastfeeding promotion and support, and referrals to health care. The MIECHV Program supports home visiting for pregnant women and parents with children up to kindergarten entry living in communities at-risk for poor maternal and child health outcomes and offers families the necessary resources and skills to raise children who are physically, socially, and emotionally healthy and ready to learn. Individually, each program makes a meaningful impact on the lives of women, children and families in need. Together, WIC and MIECHV collaborative efforts can serve to enhance the positive impact on participants.

State and local WIC and MIECHV programs are well positioned to collaborate as both programs share a common goal of improving health outcomes for similar populations. At the federal level, FNS and HRSA have re-established an interagency partnership through regular meetings and communications to identify opportunities to share and promote promising practices across programs. In addition, FNS recently dedicated a page on the WIC Works website, which provides information on the MIECHV and Tribal MIECHV programs for WIC professionals: <https://wicworks.fns.usda.gov/resources/maternal-infant-and-early-childhood-home-visiting-program> and <https://wicworks.fns.usda.gov/resources/tribal-home-visiting-program>.

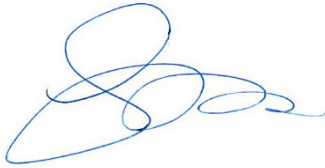
We encourage State and local WIC and MIECHV agencies and grantees to establish or expand similar partnerships with a focus on leveraging and enhancing existing services. State and local program agencies and grantees may share resources and best practices for reaching families and engage in regular communication with the goal to identify opportunities for cross-program referrals and coordination. The enclosure includes contact information and resources to help facilitate and support State and local collaboration.

Thank you for your partnership and commitment to improving maternal and child health outcomes, and for sharing promising practices with your FNS regional office and HRSA project officer.

Sincerely,



Sarah Widor, Director  
Supplemental Food Programs Division  
USDA Food and Nutrition Service



Cindy Phillips, Director  
Division of Home Visiting and Early  
Childhood Systems  
HHS Health Resources and Services  
Administration

Enclosure

Enclosure

**MIECHV Resources**

Home Visiting Program State Fact Sheets:  
<https://mchb.hrsa.gov/maternal-child-health-initiatives/home-visiting/home-visiting-program-state-fact-sheets>

MIECHV Program Brief:  
<https://mchb.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/mchb/MaternalChildHealthInitiatives/HomeVisiting/pdf/programbrief.pdf>

MIECHV Technical Assistance resources on maternal depression, breastfeeding, family engagement, and other maternal and child health topics:  
<https://mchb.hrsa.gov/maternal-child-health-initiatives/home-visiting/miechv-program-ta>

Home Visiting Collaborative Improvement and Innovation Network (HVCoiIN 2.0) Breastfeeding Fact Sheet:  
[https://hv-coiin.edc.org/sites/hv-coiin.edc.org/files/DDS\\_90-Day-Testing-Cycle.pdf](https://hv-coiin.edc.org/sites/hv-coiin.edc.org/files/DDS_90-Day-Testing-Cycle.pdf)

**WIC Resources**

WIC Program Contact Information:  
WIC State Agencies should reach out to their Regional Office contact for further information.

WIC State Agency Contact Information:  
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/contacts?f%5B0%5D=program%3A32>

WIC Prescreening Tool:  
<https://wic.fns.usda.gov/wps/pages/preScreenTool.xhtml>

WIC Publications and Resources:  
<https://wicworks.fns.usda.gov/resources>

WIC Breastfeeding Resources:  
<https://wicbreastfeeding.fns.usda.gov/>