



Voluntary Evidence-Based Home Visiting

Ohio's voluntary, evidence-based home visiting programs include the federally-funded Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program and the state-funded Help Me Grow program. Ohio's Help Me Grow program has 9,131 participants per year with an average participation of 1.2 years per participant. ⁱ For those who elect to participate in a home visiting program, providers regularly visit the homes of vulnerable families (typically once per month) starting while the mother is still pregnant and continuing through the first few years of the child's life. During this critical period of physical, emotional, and cognitive development for young children, parents receive support and guidance on how to create a safe, stimulating environment that promotes growth and learning. Voluntary, evidence-based home visiting programs allow motivated parents to learn how to succeed in their new role and provide children a healthy start with their first and most important teachers—parents. ⁱⁱ

THE CASE for VOLUNTARY EVIDENCE-BASED HOME VISITING

School Readiness:

- Increases scores on 1st-3rd grade math and reading tests by 25% ^v
- Decreases language problems by 68% ^{vi}

Family Health:

- Decreases instance of low-weight births by 48% ^{vii}
- Decreases number of major injuries before age 2 by 32.6% ^{viii}

Family Self-Sufficiency:

- Increases the likelihood of mothers to be enrolled in an education or training program by 5 times ^{ix}
- Decreases Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) payments by 5.6% for 12 years post-partum ^x

THE RETURNS:



**\$5.70 ROI PER
EVERY \$1 INVESTED**
IN EVIDENCE-BASED
HOME VISITING
PROGRAMS ^{iv}

THE BOTTOM LINE:

Ohio must increase investments in evidence-based home visiting to expand the number of families served and improve children's school readiness, family health, and self-sufficiency.

Recommendations from the Governor's Advisory Committee on Home Visitation

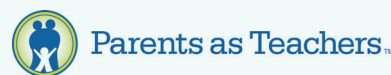
Just days after his inauguration, Governor Mike DeWine commissioned the Governor's Advisory Committee on Home Visitation to determine how to better serve Ohio families through the *Help Me Grow* program. The Committee's recommendations include:

- Make race and ethnicity foundational elements of the state's infant mortality efforts.
- Expand and streamline eligibility requirements so more at-risk families can be served.
- Create a central point of intake for all home visiting programs.
- Create a central data warehouse for all home visiting programs.
- Promote collaboration among healthcare payers, children's hospitals, birthing hospitals, and other community-based providers.
- Leverage the Medicaid program to reimburse for eligible services in a more cost-effective manner.
- Align Department of Medicaid infant mortality reduction funds to complement the *Help Me Grow* program.
- Increase the frequency of the Ohio Department of Health incentive payments.

Governor DeWine requested that the legislature double the funding of Ohio's home visiting programs, investing an additional \$50 million over the biennium into evidence-based home visiting programs, bringing the total state funding for home visiting to \$90 million over two years in order to triple the number of families served by the programs.

Ohio's *Help Me Grow* Program:

This voluntary home visiting program utilizes three evidence-based models:



Although there is slight variation within each model to provide services catered to individual family needs, the primary goals of all programs are to:

- Cultivate parents' ability to form strong, positive attachments with their children and to keep them safe
- Promote children's healthy physical, cognitive, and social-emotional development by monitoring their progress, guiding parents in recognizing their children's and their own needs, and accessing appropriate services
- Improve maternal and child health ⁱⁱⁱ

SOURCES

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- vii. [Lee E, Mitchell-Herzfeld SD, Lowenfels AA, Greene R, Dorabawila V, DuMont KA.](#)
- viii. [Miller, Ted R.](#)
- ix. [LeCroy, C.W., Krysik, J.](#)
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