

## WHAT WE DO

We provide national, state and community advocates with sound policy information and outreach strategies with a goal of promoting greater investment in effective home visiting services for children and families in need across our nation. The Community of Practice convenes at least quarterly for webinars and discussions on pressing topics and keeps members informed through advocacy alerts and resources shared on the Early Childhood Connector.

## 2021–2022 ADVOCACY & POLICIES PRIORITIES

This year, CoP activities focused on priority issue areas identified by attendees at the 2021 National Home Visiting Summit. We appreciate the support and insights provided by our webinar presenters, thought leaders and CoP members in contributing to the success of the CoP in 2021.

### Funding Strategies to Support Home Visiting

With more states exploring opportunities to expand the reach of home visiting by braiding multiple funding streams, the CoP explored state experiences leveraging various federal funding streams for home visiting services.

In April, California and Massachusetts shared lessons learned from building TANF as a funding stream for home visiting. At the following webinar in June, New Mexico and Illinois' experiences advocating for Medicaid coverage of home visiting and doula services were paired with expert insights from Kay Johnson of Johnson Consulting Group. Advocates are essential to making the case for sustainable funding for state home visiting systems.



### Advancing Equity through Program Administration & Parent Leadership

How can states and communities advance racial equity through home visiting? This question drove the August webinar, where key presentations touched on strategies in use by the Family League of Baltimore B'More for Babies Coalition in developing and implementing a racial equity framework to address issues identified by agencies, families and home visiting staff.

The CoP also heard how Massachusetts' MIECHV program has applied a racial equity lens in program planning and the establishment of a racial equity data road map. Building on CoP interest in tapping into parent leadership in advocacy, Talethia Edwards, grassroots organizer, parent leader, advocate, and coalition builder, kicked off the new year with dynamic conversation with parent leaders and advocates about the important role parents play in home visiting advocacy and policy and shared important insights on the “dos and don'ts” of parent engagement.



## MIECHV REAUTHORIZATION

Throughout the 2021 CoP run, MIECHV reauthorization remained front and center as advocates started to gear up for September 2022, when MIECHV's authorizing statutes expires shortly before the midterm election. Our October webinar featured a deep dive into MIECHV reauthorization, with expert insights from the National Home Visiting Coalition on the Congressional environment and timeline for advocates working to ensure an on-time five-year reauthorization in September 2022. State advocates shared tips on connecting with members of Congress in virtual visits, and CoP participants brainstormed key challenges and opportunities to strengthen the MIECHV program, which were shared with the National Home Visiting Coalition to support their work around major reauthorization policy priorities.

## LOOKING AHEAD

The CoP is excited to continue its focus on parent leadership and will be releasing a series of short video trainings on Parent Advocacy to support parent leaders in identifying and building their advocacy skills. As advocates dive into MIECHV reauthorization, the CoP is available to offer tips and resources to support advocacy and outreach activities. Advocates can always brush up on tips for virtual and in-person legislator visits with our Advocacy 101 five-part series designed to be a skill-building tool for members advocating at the state and federal level. Find it on Start Early's YouTube channel!

