Congressional Action
Related to the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program
(As of March 6, 2018)

Reauthorization
• On February 9, 2018, as part of the US Congress’ bipartisan budget bill (Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018), the MIECHV Program was reauthorized for five years at level funding of $400 million per year with the policy changes that were in the Grassley-Menendez legislation (S. 1829), see below for a description of that bill. Read the full text of the law or to read the MIECHV specific provisions see Sections 50601-50607, which start on page 165 in the link. A summary of the MIECHV related provisions of the law is also available.

Action taken in September
• On September 19, 2017, in a bipartisan effort led by Senators Grassley (Iowa) and Menendez (New Jersey) S. 1829 was introduced in the US Senate. S. 1829 would extend the MIECHV Program beyond its current expiration date of September 2017 for five years (FFY2018–2022) at the current and flat funding level of $400 million per year. S. 1829 does not include the state match provision included within HR 2824 (see below). Full text of the bill.

• On September 13, 2017, the House Ways and Means Committee of the US House of Representatives passed, on a partisan vote, HR 2824, which reauthorizes the MIECHV program for five years at level funding of $400 million per year. While this hearing was an important step and the bill was improved from drafts released in June (see below), the bill includes a problematic state funding match requirement. HR 2824 will now move to the full House of Representatives for further consideration and may be debated and voted upon in the last week of September. Read more information about the hearing.

• Anticipated next steps include: Consideration of HR 2824 and S. 1829 in their respective chambers of Congress; negotiation of the differences between the bills; and agreement on a single version of the legislation to be sent to the president for signature, probably as part of a larger package of legislation.

Action taken in March–July
• On July 28, 2017, Democratic members of Ways and Means Committee, led by Representative Danny Davis (Illinois’ 7th Congressional District), and the Energy and Commerce Committee of the US House of Representatives introduced HR 3525: The Home Visiting Works Act. HR 3525 would extend the MIECHV Program beyond its current expiration date of September 2017 for five years (FFY2018–2022) with an increase in funding eventually reaching $800 million per year, would exempt MIECHV funds from sequestration, and would increase from 3% to 6% the funds set aside for the MIECHV Tribal program. Read the full text of the bill.

• On June 8, 2017, Republican members of the Ways and Means Committee in the US House of Representatives introduced HR 2824: Increasing Opportunity through Evidence-Based Home Visiting Act. HR 2824 extends the MIECHV Program beyond its current expiration date of September 2017 for 5 years (FFY2018–2022) at the current and flat funding level of $400 million per year, and makes other changes to the MIECHV Program. Read the full text of the bill and a section-by-section summary.
In the US House of Representatives: On March 15, 2017, the Human Resources Subcommittee of the Ways and Means Committee held a hearing on MIECHV. This hearing was the official first step in Congress' process to reauthorize MIECHV. Information on the hearing, including a video recording and written testimony, is available.

- The hearing examined a range of home visiting models, reviewed how states operate and fund programs, and highlighted how an evidence-based home visiting program can produce positive outcomes for children and families.
- The hearing also highlighted Illinois in two ways. First, Representative Danny Davis, who is the ranking Democratic member of the Human Resources Subcommittee, talked about the positive outcomes of home visiting services and shared his reflections on how MIECHV has benefitted his congressional district. Second, Diana Rauner, the President of the Ounce of Prevention Fund and the Co-Chair of the Illinois Home Visiting Task Force, testified about Illinois’ experience with MIECHV and how MIECHV is a vital component of Illinois’ home visiting system.

*Front row: Beth Russell (NFP home visitor), Rosa Valentin & Angelica (NFP mother & daughter), Eric Bellamy (Children’s Trust of South Carolina), and Diana Rauner (Ounce of Prevention Fund).

*Standing: Ranking Member Danny Davis (IL), Chairman Adrian S Smith (NE), Rep. Jason Smith (MO), and Rep. Dave Reichert (WA).*