

VOTE

for OHIO KIDS



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

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

THE RETURNS:

\$5.70 ROI PER EVERY \$1 INVESTED

IN EVIDENCE-BASED HOME VISITING PROGRAMS ^{iv}

**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

A Commitment to Quality Home Visiting

Local communities have embraced home visiting and are working to supplement the state's funding with their own support of local programs to increase the accessibility and quality of home visiting. Cuyahoga County's *Invest in Children*, for example, has made home visiting a key investment to ensure the development of safe, healthy children and effective parents and families.



Building on Evidence to Enhance Quality:

One of Ohio's most innovative programs, *Every Child Succeeds*, builds upon the sound foundations of evidence-based home visiting to provide enhanced, supplemental services by highly trained staff. From the beginning, this program has been based on strong science demonstrating that a nurturing and stimulating environment in the first three years of life promotes brain growth, cognitive development, social skills, and emotional and behavioral health. In FY 2016, with its committed public/private partnership, *Every Child Succeeds* served 1,734 families in Ohio and averaged 14 visits per family each year. ^{xi}

Ohio's Next Governor Should:



Invest in evidence-based home visiting to reach the most at-risk children and families in order to improve children's school readiness, family health, and self-sufficiency.

Sources

- i. Ohio Legislative Service Commission. "Early Childhood Programs." 7 February 2018. Unpublished report.
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- iii. [The Pew Charitable Trusts](#)
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- v. [Olds DL, Kitzman H, Hanks C, et al.](#)
- vi. [Lowell DI, Carter AS, Godoy L, Paulicin B, Briggs-Gowan, MJ.](#)
- vii. [Lee E, Mitchell-Herzfeld SD, Lowenfels AA, Greene R, Dorabawila V, DuMont KA.](#)
- viii. [Miller, Ted R.](#)
- ix. [LeCroy, C.W., Krysik, J.](#)
- x. [Miller, Ted R.](#)
- xi. [Every Child Succeeds](#)

Presented by:



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