

## Frequently Asked Questions

HRSA-21-050 FY 2021 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)  
Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program Formula Awards  
April 2021

### Purpose

This Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document serves as a resource for MIECHV awardees in developing applications in response to the FY 2021 NOFO (HRSA-21-050). Awardees are advised to read [HRSA-21-050 NOFO](#) in its entirety for complete information.

### Additional Resources

- [FY 2021 Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#)
- [Technical Assistance Webinar](#) - A recording of the March 31 webinar outlining instructions and helpful hints to avoid common pitfalls.

### Table of Contents

- I. [Funding and Eligibility](#)
- II. [Application Submission](#)
- III. [Project Narrative](#)
- IV. [Budget](#)
- V. [Coordinated State Evaluation](#)
- VI. [Pay for Outcomes](#)

### I. Funding and Eligibility

#### 1. How much total funding is available for FY 2021 MIECHV formula grants?

In FY 2021, approximately \$342 million is available for awards to 56 eligible entities to deliver coordinated and comprehensive high-quality, and voluntary early childhood home visiting services to eligible families.

#### 2. Who is eligible to apply for the FY 2021 MIECHV formula grants?

Eligible recipients include all states and six territories and jurisdictions serving the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa. Nonprofit organizations receiving MIECHV Program - Formula funding in FY 2020 are also eligible to apply if the state for which they were funded to provide MIECHV services in FY 2020 does not apply.

#### 3. How much can eligible entities request?

Eligible entities may not request more than the total grant award ceiling but may choose to request less. Award ceiling amounts for each eligible entity were sent via the HRSA Electronic Handbooks (EHBs) to Program Directors and Authorizing Officials on March 23, 2021.

#### 4. How were award ceiling amounts calculated?

The following formula is applied to FY 2021 funding available to states, nonprofit organizations, and territories:

- **Need Funding**—Approximately one-third of the grant allocation available under this funding opportunity was distributed based on the proportion of children under 5 living in poverty as calculated by the Census Bureau’s Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE). The 2019 SAIPE data were used to the extent available, and these data may vary from previous year’s SAIPE data. The Puerto Rico Community Survey data were used as a proxy to determine need funding for Puerto Rico.

If applicable, the calculated amount was reduced by the proportion of the FY 2017 de-obligation amount to the total FY 2017 award, as reported to HRSA as of February 9, 2021.

There is a \$1.0 million minimum need-based award for recipients.

- **Base Funding**—Approximately two-thirds of the grant allocation available under this funding opportunity was proportionally distributed based on each recipient’s base funding portion of the FY 2020 formula grant award ceiling amounts.
- **Guard Rails**—In an effort to maintain stability, the total amount for which an applicant may apply was adjusted, where appropriate, to ensure that any available recipient funding does not fluctuate by more than 5 percent from the prior year award.

#### 5. When will awards be issued?

HRSA expects to issue Notices of Award prior to the project period start date of September 30, 2021.

#### 6. What is the period of performance?

The period of performance extends from September 30, 2021 to September 29, 2023.

Funds allocated for Pay for Outcomes (PFO) initiatives shall remain available for expenditure for not more than 10 years after the funds are made available.

## II. Application Submission

#### 7. Where can I obtain a copy of the FY 2021 NOFO (HRSA-21-050)?

Applicants can log into [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) to download a PDF of the NOFO from the Workspace.

#### 8. How do I submit my application?

HRSA requires applicants to apply electronically through Grants.gov using the SF-424 Workspace application package associated with this NOFO. Please follow instructions provided at <http://www.grants.gov/applicants/apply-for-grants.html>.

#### 9. When are applications due?

The application deadline is June 15, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time. HRSA suggests submitting applications to Grants.gov at least **3 days before the deadline** to allow for any unforeseen circumstances. Applications must be complete, within the specified page limit, and validated by Grants.gov under the correct funding opportunity number (HRSA-21-050) prior to the deadline to be considered under this notice.

#### 10. What is the activity code for this grant award?

The activity code for this grant is X10.

#### 11. What is the main difference between application submission requirements this year compared to last year?

This year, while the major components of the application remain the same, applications must be submitted through [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov). For the FY 2021 NOFO, there is an 80-page limit for application submissions, which includes all Appendices when printed by HRSA, except as specified. See Questions 13 and 14 below for more information on the page limit. Applicants are required to respond to all applicable prompts in the Project Narrative section, even if there are no changes from previous applications. There have also been changes to the required attachments compared to last year. Applicants should carefully review the NOFO in its entirety and ensure that they submit a complete application.

#### 12. Are there any major changes to program activities and expectations in FY 2021?

While program requirements and expectations in FY 2021 are largely consistent with those in FY 2020, there are some major changes that awardees should note. The major change to the FY 2021 program requirements and expectations include:

- key policy changes related to implementation of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, specifically, providing information about how to propose a Pay for Outcomes initiative, and requesting information about which communities applicants propose to serve in response to their current approved needs assessment update that was submitted by October 1, 2020;
- new programmatic policies related to the Home Visiting Budget Assistance Tool, and the new Coordinated State Evaluation approach;
- expectations for awardee engagement in certain activities such as operational site visits and technical assistance (TA); and
- other clarifications for certain program requirements and expectations.

#### 13. What is in a complete FY 2021 NOFO submission?

A complete submission includes 7 parts:

- 1) The first is completion of standard OMB form SF-424A Budget Information - Non-construction Programs. This form does not count toward the 80-page limit;
- 2) Project Abstract;
- 3) FY 2021 Project Narrative;
- 4) FY 2021 Budget;
- 5) FY 2021 Budget Narrative;
- 6) Program Specific Forms (not applicable for this program); and
- 7) Attachments, of which 7 are required for all applications, and others must be submitted as applicable.

**14. Which attachments are required? Which count towards the 80-page limit?**

The table below shows the required attachments and which count toward the 80-page limit. All other attachments are required as applicable. Please read the NOFO carefully to assess which additional attachments are required in your submission.

<b>Attachment</b>	<b>Required for all applicants</b>	<b>Counts toward 80-page limit</b>
<b>1.</b> Work Plan Timeline	Yes	Yes
<b>2.</b> At-Risk Communities	Yes	Yes
<b>3.</b> Local Implementing Agencies and Caseload of Family Slots	Yes	Yes
<b>4.</b> Period of Availability Spreadsheet	Yes	Yes
<b>5.</b> Maintenance of Effort Chart	Yes	Yes
<b>6.</b> Applicant Staffing Plan	Yes	Yes
<b>7.</b> Organizational Chart	Yes	Yes
<b>8.</b> Model Developer Documentation	No	Yes
<b>9.</b> Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility, and Voluntary Exclusion—Explanation of Inability to Certify	No	Yes
<b>10.</b> Indirect Cost Rate Agreement or Cost Allocation Plans	No	No
<b>11.</b> Proof of Nonprofit Status	No	No

**15. Is Attachment 10 (Indirect Cost Rate Agreement or Cost Allocation Plan) a required attachment this year?**

If your organization has an approved indirect cost rate agreement or cost allocation plan and will charge the MIECHV grant for indirect costs, the approved indirect cost rate agreement or cost allocation plan must be included with the application as Attachment 10. The approved rate used to calculate the indirect costs must also be reflected in the budget narrative.

### III. Project Narrative

**16. Do I need to address all of the instructions for the Project Narrative, even if nothing has changed since my last application?**

Yes. You should provide concise yet thorough responses to all applicable instructions in the Project Narrative section. Noting only that something has not changed since your previous funding application is not an adequate response.

17. Will the TA Resource Tables be made available again this year?

Yes. The FY 2021 MIECHV NOFO [TA Resource Tables](#) are available this year.

18. Do I have to use the templates included in the TA Resource Tables?

No. The FY 2021 MIECHV NOFO [TA Resource Tables](#) are for optional use. You can use templates of your own, if you wish, as long as they include the required information outlined in the NOFO.

#### IV. Budget

19. Are fees/dues related to membership in a professional or technical organizations an allowable expenditure under the MIECHV grant?

Yes. Organizational membership in business, professional, or technical organizations or societies are generally allowable costs, if paid according to an established organizational policy consistently applied regardless of the source of funds. Costs of membership in any country club or social or dining club or organization are unallowable. Costs of membership in organizations whose purpose is lobbying are also unallowable.

20. How should I budget for the All Grantee Meeting (AGM)?

You should budget for a total of two MIECHV AGMs in the Washington, DC area--one for each year of the two-year project period. For each AGM, you should budget for up to five people for five days. Meeting attendance is a grant requirement. If you want to bring more than five people, please consult with your HRSA Project Officer. You may budget any remaining FY 2020 formula funds, as applicable, to support the costs of one of these meetings.

21. How should I report the level of effort for home visitor personnel (e.g. full-time equivalent)?

For each LIA contract, you must provide a breakdown of costs, including the level of effort for home visitor personnel (e.g., full-time equivalent). Both of the following examples are allowable:

- Example 1: HV 1: 100%; HV 2: 75%; HV 3: 50%; or HV 4: 50%; or
- Example 2: 1 home visitor at 100% FTE; 1 home visitor at 75% FTE; 2 home visitors at 50% FTE.

As an option, you may choose to provide a listing of each home visitor personnel. Please note that HRSA reserves the right to request a more detailed, line item breakdown for each contract.

22. Must I propose FY 2021 formula funds to support continuous quality improvement (CQI) activities as part of my CQI Plan?

Yes. You must propose FY 2021 formula funds to support CQI activities. Proposed activities for CQI should align with your HRSA-approved CQI Plan.

23. What is the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (P.L. 116-260) and what are the implications for MIECHV?

On December 27, 2020, the President signed into law the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (P.L. 116-260). This bill provides for funding of the federal government for fiscal year 2021 and additional provisions to respond to the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency. Among many other provisions, the bill includes language specific to the MIECHV Program and home visiting's response to COVID-19. More information regarding these new provisions is available on [HRSA's website](#).

24. What is the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) and what are its implications for MIECHV?

The ARP was signed into law on March 11, 2021 and includes 150 million dollars in MIECHV Program funding to support continued response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. ARP funds will be distributed through a separate funding opportunity, and HRSA will provide additional information and instructions later this spring. You should not budget for activities related to ARP in your FY 2021 MIECHV formula application.

25. How should I consider the ARP as I plan my budget and activities for the FY 2021 Formula Awards?

ARP funds will be awarded and accounted for separately from your FY 2021 MIECHV formula funds. However, some of the allowable uses of funds outlined in ARP (see below) are similar to the new authorities provided to MIECHV awardees to assist in their response to the COVID-19 public health emergency through the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (P.L. 116-260), which is described in the NOFO and in FAQs on the MIECHV COVID-19 webpage. Therefore, you may wish to consider the allowable uses of funds identified in ARP as you plan your FY 2021 MIECHV formula budget and activities. Entities receiving MIECHV ARP funds are required to use these funds for the purposes listed below:

1. To serve families with home visits or with virtual visits, that may be conducted by the use of technological means, in a service delivery model;
2. To pay hazard pay or other additional staff costs associated with providing home visits or administration for programs;
3. To train home visitors employed by the entity in conducting a virtual home visit and in emergency preparedness and response planning for families served, and may include training on how to safely conduct intimate partner violence screenings, and training on safety and planning for families served to support family outcome improvements;

4. For the acquisition of technological means by families served by programs as needed to conduct and support a virtual home visit;
5. To provide emergency supplies (such as diapers and diapering supplies including diaper wipes and diaper cream, necessary to ensure that a child using a diaper is properly cleaned and protected from diaper rash, formula, food, water, hand soap, and hand sanitizer) to an eligible family;
6. To coordinate with and provide reimbursement for supplies to diaper banks when using such entities to provide emergency supplies; or
7. To provide prepaid grocery cards to an eligible family participating in the MIECHV Program to enable the family to meet emergency needs.

#### 26. Do I need to propose evaluation activities?

You are not required to conduct an evaluation of your home visiting programs, unless you implement one of the following:

- Promising approach - Per statute, recipients may expend no more than 25 percent of the grant awarded for a fiscal year for conducting and evaluating a program using a service delivery model that qualifies as a promising approach; or
- Pay for outcomes (PFO) initiative outcomes payments and evaluation - While there is no specific maximum amount you can propose for PFO evaluation activities, statute requires that the PFO initiative must not result in a reduction of funding for home visiting services as delivered by the recipient.

#### 27. How should I budget for the Coordinated State Evaluation (CSE) approach? Is there a minimum or maximum amount I can propose for evaluation activities?

Also see Questions 44 - 47 of this FAQ document for more information about the CSE approach.

If you propose any CSE activities (as described in the “Program Requirements and Expectations” in Section I of the [NOFO](#)), you must include a budget narrative and detailed line-item breakdown as part of the overall budget for evaluation expenses. These include, but are not limited to, costs associated with salary and benefits for staff working on the evaluation, contracts for external evaluators, data collection, travel, communication tools that share interim results with stakeholders, printing, supplies, equipment, etc.

Evaluation budgets for coordinated state evaluations (CSE) are considered tentative in the application because the specific evaluation designs, questions, data collection strategies, and analysis plans will be created after the award and in collaboration with fellow recipients and the national evaluation-coordinating center. These activities will be reflective of the planning phase of the CSE approach. HRSA recommends a minimum of \$100,000 and no more than 10 percent of the total requested budget for evaluation activities.

For CSEs, the budget is considered tentative because the specific evaluation designs, questions, data collection strategies, and analysis plans will be determined after the award and in collaboration with fellow recipients and the national evaluation coordinating center.

HRSA anticipates that you may need to rebudget following the start of the project period based on the outcome of the planning phase of the coordinated evaluation process. Furthermore, because recipients need to spend approximately the first 6 months engaged in planning, evaluation spending may vary over the period of availability. A finalized budget will be required in the evaluation plan due to HRSA after the evaluation planning process. Final budgets for all evaluations should be: 1) appropriate to the anticipated evaluation design and question(s); 2) adequate to ensure quality and rigor, and; 3) in line with available program and organizational resources.

Appendix A of the [NOFO](#) provides additional guidance for budgeting MIECHV funds for evaluation.

#### 28. How do I budget for a PFO initiative?

To submit a budget that includes a PFO initiative, follow the instructions beginning on page 48 of the NOFO. You may choose to budget a portion of your FY 2021 MIECHV award for a PFO initiative. The MIECHV PFO project/budget period is up to 10 years for the period of September 30, 2021 through September 29, 2031. MIECHV PFO funds must be obligated no later than September 29, 2031, and must be liquidated by December 31, 2031. If you have specific questions as you prepare your budgets, reach out to your Grants Management Specialist.

## V. Coordinated State Evaluation

#### 29. Can I continue a **previous** state-led evaluation?

No. You may not propose to continue a previous state-led evaluation with your FY 2021 award. If you intend to conduct a state evaluation with your MIECHV FY 2021 award, you must participate in the Coordinated State Evaluation (CSE).

#### 30. Is CSE required?

You are not required to conduct an evaluation of your home visiting program, unless you implement a promising approach, or a Pay for Outcomes (PFO) initiative. However, HRSA encourages recipients to conduct evaluations of their programs by participating in the CSE.

If you wish to conduct an evaluation with your FY 2021 award, you must do so following the procedures of a CSE (with the exception of promising approach evaluations or PFO evaluations), in one of the four priority topic areas, as described in the NOFO.

If you implement a model that qualifies as a promising approach, you are required to conduct a rigorous impact evaluation of the approach. Promising approach evaluations are separate from CSE and awardees with promising approaches are not required to coordinate with other awardees on their evaluation.

### 31. How were the topics for CSE identified?

Topics for CSE were determined by HRSA to reflect program evaluation priorities within MCHB and the MIECHV Program, federal partners, the research and evaluation field, models, and importantly, MIECHV awardees. HRSA engaged with stakeholders throughout the planning process, and stakeholder input was an important factor in prioritizing a list of candidate topics.

Topics were chosen that would: a) fill gaps in knowledge to further understand and improve home visiting service delivery; b) be generalizable; c) be feasible to plan, design, and implement in coordination with other MIECHV awardees; d) lead to actionable results and practice improvements; e) support, amplify, or build upon existing MIECHV-funded projects; and, f) be reflective of stakeholder interests.

### 32. Do I have to find my own collaborative partners for CSE?

No. You are not expected to find or form your own peer network. Based on awardees' responses in their FY 2021 applications, HRSA will coordinate the establishment and convening of the peer networks. Each peer network will be assisted by two TA specialists from the MIECHV Evaluation Coordinating Center (MECC).

### 33. What technical assistance (TA) is available to support CSE?

HRSA funds the MECC under that MIECHV Technical Assistance Resource Center (TARC). The MECC will provide comprehensive TA to awardees participating in CSE throughout the duration of the projects, including individual and group support. Two TA Specialists will serve as facilitators for each peer network, scheduling, convening, and facilitating the peer network meetings. The MECC has developed a [resource](#) summarizing their TA approach.

### 34. How big will the peer networks be? Do they have to be a certain size? Can there be multiple peer groups under one topic?

There will be one peer network for each CSE topic. The size of the peer networks will vary based on the number of interested recipients who propose to participate in CSE in their application. There is no set minimum or maximum number of participants. If adjustments need to be made based on peer network size, HRSA will work with those awardees to determine the most mutually beneficial next steps, such as joining other topics areas or identifying smaller sub-groups within a peer network.

### 35. Is there an opportunity to join CSE later?

If you wish to conduct an evaluation with your FY 2022 or FY 2023 award, you are encouraged to consider proposing to participate in the CSE with your FY 2021 award.

Recipients who may be interested in participating in the planning and co-creation of the evaluation, but may wish to delay implementing/conducting the evaluation until they receive their FY 2022 formula award should still propose to participate this year and budget funds to participate in the planning

process. Further guidance on how to budget funds for evaluation activities is located on pages 46-47 of the NOFO.

### 36. Will new CSE peer networks and/or topics be established after FY 2021?

HRSA does not expect to initiate new topics or peer networks in FY 2022 or FY 2023.

### 37. How much time will I have to plan and conduct CSE?

HRSA expects that peer networks will spend approximately the first 6 months of the FY 2021 period of performance planning and co-creating their evaluation activities. Evaluation activities can begin immediately following the planning phase, after receiving HRSA approval on your individual evaluation plan, or at the beginning of the FY 2022 period of performance. Evaluation activities can be conducted through the period of performance of the FY 2023 award (i.e., September 2025), subject to availability of funding, by applying to continue the evaluations with subsequent MIECHV formula awards.

### 38. What happens if I need to withdraw from the CSE?

Each recipient's evaluation will be considered a distinct state-led evaluation project, funded through their formula award, and each recipient will be responsible for completing the activities of their evaluation plan. Maximum impact and success of this new evaluation approach relies on peer network members acting in coordination and remaining committed to the projects.

In the event that you need to make a change to your planned activities, as specified in your application or HRSA-approved evaluation plan, you will need to work with your PO and GMS. Recipients are held accountable to the activities proposed in their application and may need to reimburse or re-budget funds should they not be able to complete proposed activities during the FY 2021 project period.

If a recipient in the peer network cannot complete their evaluation, HRSA expects that other members will still be able to complete their activities and that the withdrawal of a recipient will have minimal impact on the other recipients' individual activities. Evaluation activities conducted by each recipient will not be dependent upon other recipients completing their activities.

HRSA anticipates that future awards, subject to availability of funding (e.g., the FY 2022 and FY 2023), will serve to continue the CSE started in the FY 2021 project period. While you are encouraged to continue your CSE activities with future MIECHV formula awards, you are not required to. HRSA is allowing more time for states to plan and conduct evaluation under the new CSE approach (e.g., a 4-year evaluation timeline spanning multiple awards, instead of a timeline limited to the 2-year award).

### 39. Do evaluators participate in CSE planning and the peer network?

CSE should be recipient driven, beginning with recipients determining their evaluation needs within the priority topic area. In coordination with their peer network, recipients will decide the focus of the evaluation and the evaluation questions.

Recipients may use in-house evaluation staff or contracted evaluators to carry out the evaluation. Depending on each recipient's needs, they may find it useful to include contracted evaluators in the planning phase to support planning and co-creation of the evaluation.

Recipients are expected to continue to participate in the peer network alongside any contracted evaluators throughout the project. Recipient's contracted evaluators are hired to address the needs of the recipient, but they should not dictate the direction or goal of the evaluations. Evaluators can provide their expertise and recommendations to increase the success of the evaluation, but ultimately evaluator participation must be directed and monitored by the recipient.

See the Tip Sheet for tips on [Working with an External Evaluator: The MIECHV Program](#)

#### 40. Will home visiting model developers be involved?

Model developers have expressed interest in being involved in the planning for CSE activities. The specific level of involvement and participation from models will be determined in collaboration with HRSA, the MECC, the peer networks, and the model developers.

#### 41. How aligned do individual evaluations within a single peer network need to be?

The goals of CSE include: aligned evaluation designs across recipients, aligned measurement strategies across recipients, shared learning and collective impact across recipients, pooling or sharing of evaluation data across recipients (as appropriate and feasible), and the ability for generalizability and comparability of evaluation findings across evaluations. There are a variety of ways that peer networks could achieve these goals through their coordinated evaluation activities. Discussions among the peer network will involve the development of a shared agenda and the co-creation of specific evaluation questions and designs reflective of recipients' interests and the defined content areas.

Recipients within the peer network will need to align their evaluation work, but each recipient will also have the opportunity to add additional aspects, such as individual questions or measures in order to examine issues that may be unique to their program. With planning and coordination, recipients can find the appropriate balance of overlap, alignment, and flexibility to address important evaluation questions.

#### 42. How is CSE different from national evaluation projects, such as the Maternal and Infant Home Visiting Program Evaluation or Home Visiting Career Trajectories?

HRSA and the Administration for Children and Families fund several national evaluation projects through federal contracts with research institutes. The projects are initiated, directed, and monitored by the Federal government and conducted under contract by the research institutes.

CSE is funded through a recipient's MIECHV formula award. Recipients are responsible for planning, budgeting, monitoring, and conducting the evaluation, often via contract to a third-party evaluator with the knowledge, skills, and experience to conduct rigorous evaluation of the MIECHV Program.

For tips on developing rigorous evaluations, see the evaluation brief, [MIECHV Program: Ensuring Quality Evaluations](#).

#### 43. What is the relation between CSE and other formula-funded evaluation activities?

##### **Promising Approach Evaluation**

- Recipients implementing a promising approach are required to conduct a rigorous impact evaluation of the approach. Evaluations of promising approaches are separate from CSE. Evaluations of promising approaches are not required to fall within the topics of CSE. Recipients with promising approaches are not required to coordinate their evaluation with other recipients.
- If recipients are interested, and the topic is relevant, recipients with promising approach evaluations may join peer networks for shared learning, but HRSA does not intend nor expect promising approach evaluations to participate in CSE.

##### **PFO Evaluation**

- Recipients with PFO initiatives are required to conduct third-party PFO evaluations to determine whether the PFO initiative has met its proposed outcomes. The goals and technical requirements for PFO initiatives and CSE are different. PFO evaluations are not required to fall within the topics of CSE. PFO evaluations must meet all the requirements as outlined in the PFO Supplemental Information Request. A recipient can do both, but the two projects are distinct.

#### 44. How should I plan to design and conduct a multi-year CSE across multiple MIECHV awards?

Evaluation activities will still be budgeted and planned within specific award periods and funds. If you have overlapping MIECHV awards supporting your CSE, you should be careful to properly plan and account for which activities are being funded through which award. At the end of the FY 2021 period of performance, you might not have analysis of data or results to report, but rather might have progress to date. You should take care to plan and track project milestones throughout the period of multiple awards to ensure proper and timely progress to stay on track to complete the complex evaluation with final results and reporting by the anticipated project end date (with activities ending no later than the end of the FY 2023 award [September 2025]).

#### 45. Is extra funding available to support CSE?

No. CSE, like funding for state-led evaluations to date, must be budgeted from your formula award. Recipients conducting evaluations do not receive additional funding for evaluation. Although there is no additional funding, evaluation is an important component of the MIECHV Program that can lead to better understanding of the populations served, program strengths and areas of improvement, systems level supports, and outcomes of service delivery. Coordinating with other states on priority evaluation topics could lead to rich, actionable, and generalizable knowledge to improve service delivery.

#### 46. Should I budget beyond the FY 2021 award in my application?

No. You should only budget for activities that are planned to be funded by the FY 2021 award and that will take place in the FY 2021 period of performance (September 30, 2021 through September 29, 2023). HRSA expects that recipients will use approximately the first six months of the award period planning and co-creating evaluation designs with their peer networks, in biweekly virtual meetings. Once

evaluation plans are approved by HRSA, evaluation activities can begin. Peer networks will continue to meet virtually on a monthly basis to ensure coordination and share lessons learned. Recipients should budget for up to two (2) in-person meetings for two (2) project staff during the period of performance.

47. What happens if the evaluation design planned by the peer networks requires additional costs than I initially budgeted in the FY 2021 application?

You will submit your full, itemized budget with your evaluation plan, which is due after the evaluation planning phase occurs within peer networks (HRSA expects that this will take approximately the first six months of the award period). If budgeted costs are not adequate to meet the requirements of the evaluation, you should work with their GMS and PO, as you may need to re-budget within the contractual line item or submit a Prior Approval Request, depending on the situation.

You are not required to conduct the exact same evaluation activities as your peers. Variation in the scope and focus of each individual evaluation is expected. You will not necessarily be spending the same amount as other recipients within their peer network.

As a reminder, in Appendix A of the NOFO HRSA suggests that recipients consider a minimum of \$100,000 and ceiling of 10% of the total award, per project period, to conduct a CSE. Recipients who have conducted an evaluation before should use past experience as a guide. You may also find it useful to reference [Profiles of State-Led Evaluations: The Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program—Fiscal Years 2014–2018 \(2nd edition\)](#) to see the range of past MIECHV state-led evaluations' scope and cost.

48. If I have an FY 2020 evaluation, can I also participate in coordinated state evaluation? Will TA support for the FY 2020 evaluation still be available?

Yes, and yes. The regional TA Specialists will continue to support you with FY 2020 evaluations. You may also propose to conduct CSE and will begin working with your topic-specific TA Specialists on coordinated evaluation once the FY 2021 project period begins. (See [MECC resource](#))

## VI. Pay for Outcomes

49. I'm interested in conducting a PFO initiative feasibility study. Do I need to submit a PFO Supplemental Information Request Response?

No. If you propose to budget MIECHV funds for only a feasibility study, you are not required to submit a response to the MIECHV Pay for Outcomes Supplemental Information Request (PFO SIR). A PFO SIR Response is only required if you are proposing to budget MIECHV funds for a PFO initiative – which includes outcomes payments and evaluation. Please refer to Appendix C for detailed instructions for what should be included in a MIECHV PFO feasibility study.

50. Is there a limit on the amount of funding I can propose for a PFO initiative?

You may use up to 25 percent of the grant for outcomes payments related to a PFO initiative. You may also choose to budget MIECHV funds apart from the 25 percent limit on outcomes payments to support other activities needed to implement a PFO initiative. MIECHV funds designated for implementing a PFO initiative may support costs associated with conducting a feasibility study; conducting a PFO evaluation; reporting costs associated with PFO; and costs associated with administration of the PFO initiative. However, in submitting such proposals, recipients must demonstrate, as required by statute, that **the PFO initiative will not result in a reduction of funding for home visiting services that you as the recipient deliver** as compared to the year prior to the initiation of the PFO initiative.

51. Where can I get a copy of the PFO Supplemental Information Request (SIR)?

HRSA will publish the final PFO SIR on the [HRSA website](#) when available.

52. Is additional funding available for a PFO initiative?

No. No additional funding is available for those recipients proposing a PFO initiative.